

February 9 through February 15, 2023

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

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☆ WHIDBEY ISLAND CENTER for the ARTS PRESENTS

SUSAN HILL'S

# THE WOMAN IN BLACK

ADAPTED BY  
STEPHEN MALLATRATT

DIRECTED BY DAVID MAYER

FEBRUARY 17 - 25 | [WICAonline.org](http://WICAonline.org) | box office: 360-221-8268



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"Isle of Love" concert p. 8

## WICA prepares to share the mystery of "The Woman in Black"

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

There's nothing like a good mystery and Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley is getting ready to share some haunting moments on stage with its production of "The Woman in Black," opening Friday, Feb. 17 and running through Feb. 25.

Based on the 1983 novel by Susan Hill, "The Woman in Black" tells the story of a small English town haunted by a woman in black. It was adapted for the stage by Stephen Mallatratt and has played on London's West End for more than 30 years. The original book has also been adapted for small- and large-screen movies, but it is the stage play that has endured.

"The Woman in Black," which has been described as a gothic horror story, is directed for WICA by David Mayer and features actors Robert Hall, Ethan Berkley, Jacq Babb and Grace Webb. It has also been timed to coincide with Langley's Murder Mystery Weekend, which falls later this month.

"As a Victorian Gothic thriller, we thought it would be a great deal of fun for all the adventurous souls who are playing the Langley Murder Mystery weekend," said Deana Duncan, WICA's executive artistic director. "The beauty of 'The Woman in Black' is that at its core this is a story of the haunting of one man. How one major scare in our life can live with us forever. It's psychological, fun, thought provoking, eerie and beautiful."

"We looked at multiple mysteries but landed on this ghostly work, as it had much more meat on its bones than most," said Mayer. "It boasts incredibly lush imagery and an emotional story that truly cares about its characters. I also relish the challenge of scaring an audience in live theater. I believe it requires a multi-faceted effort in subtlety and tension. And this play opens its doors to just that."

For the most part Mayer said his interpretation of the play follows the playwright's original script. But it has been a challenging production to stage.

"This play tightly grips Gothic Victorian romanticism. I wanted to give audiences as much of that as I could without making that transform the story," he described. "That's not where the 'wow' factor should be. So the special effects here are curated to keep the experience feeling older, and in a way, more plausible."

"The ties of lights, sound and choreography are many and crucial," Mayer continued. "The sound itself becomes its own character in a way, but it cannot take the audience out of the story. And the story involves a play within a play. So, I walk a tightrope of abstraction and realism. This may



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

Who is "The Woman in Black" and why does her specter haunt a small English town? Actors Ethan Berkley and Grace Webb had some spooky fun in a TikTok video promoting the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts' production, which opens Friday, Feb. 17.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

Cast and crew get the feel of a new haze machine at a recent rehearsal for Whidbey Island Center for the Arts' production of "The Woman in Black," opening Friday, Feb. 17 in Langley.

be the biggest difference in director visualization when putting on 'The Woman in Black.' The play has been mounted with intricate sets and props and with practically nothing at all. I hope what the designers and I have chosen will pull audiences in and make them feel a part of it."

Duncan said the addition of a new haze machine to amp up the atmosphere, lends a soft, misty fog-like impression to the look of the stage.

"That, combined with stark, dark, and highly saturated light as well as the elevated classic speech, made me feel like I was watching a BBC mystery being filmed," she said of a recent rehearsal. "It was entrancing."

As community theaters everywhere continue to recover from the pandemic, Duncan said that has meant choosing projects with smaller casts and working with a smaller crew in general.

"We have a smaller team of staff and volunteers and putting on these shows requires an extraordinary amount of time and dedication," she said. "We are still choosing smaller shows in order to actually be able to do them."

But a small cast doesn't mean it's a small story or small production. One actor portrays several characters as he shares the story of "The Woman in Black." Mayer said he has been thrilled with how the actors have pulled the story together.

"Certain roles have a humongous line load," he said. "Another requires intense physical discipline to tell their story in movement and in stillness. Each has taken ownership of this great responsibility with stunning brilliance."

Robert Hall, the actor who plays multiple characters, said "The Woman in Black" is a great story that is beautifully written. He shared a bit about what he considers as he approaches a role like this one.

"I start with the script," he said. "What's the situation the person is in? Where are they? What kind of relationships are involved? What have they been through and where are they going? What do they want? I also take a good look at their language, what words they choose. There's a rhythm there in their words and sentences. And I always try to stay open to the other actors and what I'm getting from them, the director, the set, the costumes, etc."

As an actor himself, Mayer said playing multiple characters is a gargantuan task for an actor, one that Hall has handled well.

"Not only must he differentiate [between characters], but [stay] within the trappings of his over-arching character, the man whose story simply must be told and is not confident he's the person for the job," Mayer described. "Robert worked with a dialect coach, and there are slight clothing changes for each character. But it largely falls on his shoulders to carry the audience through, evoking backstory and intent in little time, and he succeeds mightily."

"The Woman in Black" opens Friday, Feb. 17. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. There will be a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, and two pay-what-you-will performances on Thursday, Feb. 16 and 23. WICA Star tickets for evening shows are \$45, standard tickets are \$30. Matinee performances are \$35 for a WICA Star ticket and \$25 for a standard ticket. Go to wicaonline.org for information and to purchase tickets.

"WICA is dedicated to creating powerful shared spaces and this play speaks directly to that mission," Duncan said. "To sit in this little gem of a theater space and enjoy a fun and spooky ghost story together motivates all the work and choices."

"Who doesn't like a mystery? Add to that the trappings of old England for yum-factor," Mayer said. "But rather than just being shown a diorama, what if you're there, living it? The story provides very relatable situations of people faced with loss. What if those demons become real? And what hand do we play in that? I think audiences will have fun and still leave the theater with something meaningful."

## Whidbey Islanders are invited to dine With Magsy

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

An Oak Harbor woman has come up with a unique brunch and supper club idea and hopes Whidbey Island residents will take her up on her invitation to dine at her home.

A communications and event strategist for small businesses, Margaret Croom and her husband, Mike, moved to Whidbey Island from Texas at the start of the pandemic in 2020, at a time when it was particularly difficult to meet people. Her new venture, called With Magsy, is an invitation-only supper and brunch club that seeks to bring people together.

"My husband and I are foodies – big time foodies," she said. "We make sure to eat local and cook local. I'm not someone who goes to national chains. And I love to host."

The idea for dining With Magsy is fashioned after similar ventures found in large cities.

"It's not a restaurant, it's a supper club," she said. "It's a way to meet all kinds of people and enjoy food together. Brunches will always be hosted

See MAGSY continued on page 8

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# WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

## ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Excessive spending in recent days may have you feeling nervous about your finances, Aries. In addition to bills, you could be waiting to be reimbursed. Be patient.

## TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may have been working so hard you haven't had time to spend with family and friends lately. Clear your calendar and make some time for recreation.

## GEMINI – May 22/June 21

This week you may lock yourself behind closed doors and enjoy some alone time for a change, Gemini. Relax with a good book or binge watch some television.

## CANCER – June 22/July 22

A friendship could be tested when you get into a quarrel over money, Cancer. You each have different philosophies on spending. Try to see both sides.

## LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Philosophy and religious principles are of interest to you lately, Leo. Explore the metaphysical and dive into these subjects with all of your energy.

## VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you could be longing for a vacation, so why not make it happen? If you've socked away some cash, put it towards a trip to recharge and relax.

## LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Make an effort to reconnect with someone you have known a long time who has become absent from your life. Resolve to maintain this connection in the years ahead.

## SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Honest communication can take you through a rough patch you might be having with your romantic partner, Scorpio. Speak openly and honestly to resolve the issue.

## SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Keep your eyes focused on the future, Sagittarius. It's easy to dwell on what happened in the past, but that won't matter much in the grand scheme of things.

## CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

A miscommunication could find you spending money you just don't have right now, Capricorn. This may be an instance when you need to seek a professional to sort it all out.

## AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a project that has been on the calendar for some time finally gets completed. It has been a long time coming, but the results are better than you expected.

## PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Go through some old photos and reminisce, Pisces. It can be a quiet way to spend a day or two and enjoy the memories.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEB. 5: Darren Criss, Actor (36)

FEB. 6: Charlie Heaton, Actor (29)

FEB. 7: Chris Rock, Comic (58)

FEB. 8: Jaden Hossler, Singer (22)

FEB. 9: Michael B. Jordan, Actor (36)

FEB. 10: Elizabeth Banks, Actress (49)

FEB. 11: Jennifer Aniston, Actress (54)

WHIDBEY ISLAND CENTER for the ARTS PRESENTS

# Isle of Love

## Whidbey Island Orchestra

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Coupeville Lions Club

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100% of proceeds for scholarships for seniors in Coupeville School District



# Bits & Pieces

## City of Oak Harbor Provides Update on Purple Lights

The City of Oak Harbor's contractor is in the process of replacing the streetlights that look purple around the city.

In October 2022, the city provided a video on the city's Facebook page in response to questions about why some streetlights look purple. According to the manufacturer, the original coating de-laminated from the LED causing the lights to appear purple.

Per Public Works Director Steve Schuller, "There were no safety concerns with the streetlights. The public was curious about the color choice, prompting city staff to provide more information about the color and what staff was doing to correct it in the future."

Currently, there are over 1,000 streetlights in the City of Oak Harbor. Light poles are owned and operated by the city and Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Some of these lights with the purple hue were installed in 2016, and others in 2019 using a grant from the State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).

"When city staff started researching the issue, they found multiple cities in the United States and Canada were experiencing the same issue. However, due to the warranty, we had to schedule the repairs with the vendor and wait our turn," said Schuller.

Based on the response on social media, it appears the community is excited about the repairs.

[Submitted by Sabrina Combs, City of Oak Harbor]

## New Executive Director to Join the Goosefoot Team

Whidbey Island resident Elise Miller has joined Goosefoot Community Fund as its new executive director.

Goosefoot's previous leader, Sandra Whiting, is retired from Goosefoot after 10 years of leading the economic and community development nonprofit organization.

Miller has over 25 years of experience leading nonprofits, in addition to having served as board member and advisor to many others. Her previous positions

have included: the founding executive director of the Jenifer Altman Foundation, a private foundation in the Bay Area; founder and director of the national Institute for Children's Environmental Health; and co-founder and director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, an established program of Commonweal, which is a 40+ year old center in California with programs in health and healing, education and the arts, and environment and justice.

Most recently, Miller served as interim executive director for Hedgebrook, the noted international women writer's retreat center on south Whidbey. After wrapping up there in Spring 2021, she decided to become a certified leadership coach. She started Cedar Wise Coaching in 2022, to assist nonprofit leaders in achieving success in social change professions. Shortly afterwards, she came across Goosefoot's job announcement for a new executive director.

Miller couldn't pass up this opportunity to serve her own community. "Having lived on Whidbey since 1998, I've been an ardent admirer of Goosefoot's innovative efforts to address many of south Whidbey's most pressing challenges." She continues, "I couldn't be more delighted and honored to serve in this capacity—and to get to work with Goosefoot's exceptional staff and board to strategically tackle the next set of priorities."

The Goosefoot staff and board look forward to welcoming their new leader. "Elise brings the perfect combination of experience and personality to the table," according to Chris Salomone, board president. "Leaders with skills in strategic planning, fundraising, and financial analysis—combined with a heart-centered style of leadership—are what's made Goosefoot the success it is today. We are thrilled our new executive director will continue in this tradition."

In her free time, Miller enjoys taking advantage of the many outdoor activities available in the Pacific Northwest and is also a dedicated triathlete. She has been a practitioner of Vipassana meditation for over 35 years, starting when she was a journalist in India for a year after college. Miller lives in Freeland with her husband, Dan Neumeyer, and their son, Ravi.

[Submitted by Marian A. Myszkowski, Goosefoot]

## Whidbey Island Gem Show

The Whidbey Island Gem Show will be held at The Center in Oak Harbor Saturday and Sunday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The center is located at 51 SE Jerome St. There will be numerous vendors, children's activities, a silent auction, door prizes, lapidary

demonstrations, and, back by popular demand, the rock slab station. Club members will showcase their unique work in multiple display cases throughout the room. Promoting an interest in geology and lapidary work to the public, especially young children and young adults, is an essential part of the show. Club members want to make sure their knowledge is passed on to future generations.

The Whidbey Island Gem Club started in 1938 and has grown to over 100 members. Anyone 14 or older can join. Family membership is also available. Monthly meetings occur the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM in The Center.

Multiple libraries on the island will be showcasing members' collections of rock specimens and lapidary work the first two weeks of February. Please take the time to look at the unique rocks and fossils that were formed millions of years ago. The club hopes to see more people attending meetings and using the rock shop.

[Submitted by Peggy Shashy]

## Navy Aircraft to Fly Over Super Bowl LVII

By Commander, Naval Air Forces Public Affairs

Three U.S. Navy tactical aircraft squadrons will conduct an integrated flyover at the conclusion of the National Anthem during Super Bowl LVII at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., Sunday.

The flyover formation will include two F/A-18F Super Hornets from the "Flying Eagles" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122, an F-35C Lightning II from the "Argonauts" of VFA-147, and an EA-18G Growler from the "Vikings" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129. These aircraft represent the strike and electronic attack capability of the "Carrier Air Wing of the Future," providing advanced technology and enhanced flexibility to our military combatant commanders. VFA-122 and VFA-147 are based at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore, Calif.; VAQ-129 is based at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. The squadrons will stage and depart from nearby Luke Air Force Base.

The flyover also commemorates 50 years of women flying in the U.S. Navy. In 1973 the first eight women began flight school in Pensacola, Fla., and one year later six of those eight women, titled "The First Six," earned their Wings of Gold. Since then, women have served, operated and led at every level of Naval Aviation.

Lt. Katie Martinez, a Naval Flight Officer assigned to VFA-122, looks forward to representing Naval Aviation at one of the world's most-watched events.

"It's not a feeling I can even put into words," said Martinez. "It doesn't get

bigger than the Super Bowl, and I am humbled and honored to be able to participate with my friends and fellow Naval Aviators as part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The fifth-generation strike fighter F-35C Lightning II integrates advanced stealth technology into a highly agile, supersonic aircraft that provides unprecedented battle-space awareness, versatility and survivability. The F-35C, which is the Navy variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, sets new standards in weapon system integration, maintainability, combat radius and payload that bring formidable multi-mission power projection capability from the sea.

Entering fleet service in 1999, The F/A-18 Super Hornet, has earned a reputation as the backbone of the Navy's carrier air wing and a workhorse within the fleet, continuing its key strike fighter role against the advanced threats of the 21st century. Designed to meet current Navy fighter escort and interdiction mission requirements, the Super Hornet maintains fleet air defense and close air support roles, as well as an increasing range of missions, including in-air refueling.

The EA-18G Growler is a variant in the F/A-18 family of aircraft that combines the proven Super Hornet platform with a sophisticated electronic warfare suite that performs a variety of functions including communications jamming and countermeasures.

[Submitted by Mike Welding, Public Affairs Officer, NAS Whidbey Island]

## Coupeville Lions Announces Return of Scholarship Auction

Coupeville Lions President, Sandee Allen, announces the return of the Scholarship Auction Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Oak Harbor Elks Club. This year's event is resuming after a two year COVID hiatus and will feature a dinner catered by prominent area chef, Andreas Wurzrainer, as well as a lively auction of exciting, fun experiences conducted by auctioneer Dale Sherman.

The Scholarship Auction will continue the 17-year tradition of supporting Coupeville area high school seniors who wish to further their education with \$30,000 of scholarships per year funded through the Lions. Allen praised the Coupeville community for stepping up during the pandemic to continue to support students even without a live event.

All the proceeds of the auction will go towards 2023 scholarships. Tickets are available on the club's website, www.CoupevilleLions.org. For those unable to attend, donations to the scholarship fund may also be made through this website.

[Submitted by Deanna Rogers, Coupeville Lions Club]

PHONE: 360-682-2341

FAX: 360-675-2162

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1131 SE ELY STREET | PO BOX 1098 | OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277

Publisher.....	<b>Eric Marshall</b>	Contributing Writers
Editor .....	<b>Kathy Reed</b>	<b>Kathy Reed</b>
Marketing Representative .....	<b>Noah Marshall</b>	<b>Tracy Loescher</b>
Graphic Design .....	<b>Teresa Besaw</b>	<b>Helen Mosbrooker</b>
Production Manager .....	<b>TJ Pierzchala</b>	<b>Shannon Bly</b>
Circulation Manager.....	<b>Noah Marshall</b>	<b>Melanie Hammons</b>

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**Wednesday, February 15  
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# Life Tributes

## Rodolfo Saplan Gelacio



It is with heavy hearts we bid a final farewell to Rodolfo Gelacio, affectionately known as Rudy. He passed away peacefully Jan. 15 at home with family at his side. Rudy gave cancer the best fight he could, living eight years past his initial Stage 4 diagnosis of six months. He was 75 years old.

Rudy was born in Camiling, Tarlac, Republic of the Philippines. He grew up on a farm with six siblings. He spent his early days planting vegetables and sugar cane, making molasses, and taking care of animals like chickens, pigs, and goats. Rudy, along with his dad and brother, Willie, loved playing and singing music. They started a band and frequently performed at parties and family gatherings.

Rudy was a hard worker who inspired his family. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1966 at age 18. In forging a career in the military, Rudy created a better life for his family by bringing his parents and siblings to America. He spent a total of 26 years in the Navy, ultimately retiring as a Chief Petty Officer Dec. 31, 1992.

Rudy spent most of his career as an aviation mechanic. He also served as a Master at Arms. His job took him around the world, with postings at Naval Air Station Cubi Point in the Philippines, the Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn., NAS Miramar, Calif., NCC Pearl Harbor, Naval Air Facility Midway Island, Naval Air Station Barbers Point, and Naval Base Okinawa. His final posting was at NAS Whidbey Island.

Rudy was immensely proud to have served on five sea duty tours and an overseas tour. He was well-decorated, too. Over the course of his career, Rudy earned the Good Conduct Award (5th Award), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon (4th Award), the Navy Achievement Medal, the Pistol Sharpshooter Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), and the Vietnam Service Medal (2nd Award).

Rudy found a sense of purpose and belonging in the military. He also found love. One day, while stationed at NAS Miramar, Rudy attended a friend's barbeque, where he met the most beautiful woman. He asked her to Disneyland for their first date for a magical beginning to their 46 year journey of marriage and raising their two daughters, Ella and Priscilla. Following his retirement, Rudy earned his Marine Technology Certificate from Skagit Valley College.

After the passing of his first wife in 2018, Rudy found love again. He met his current wife at a grief class at St. Augustine's Church in Oak Harbor. He and Aida shared a storybook romance, with joy and laughter that was infectious to others.

The couple tied the knot in St. Augustine's Prayer Garden July 4, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They were married by Father Paul Pluth and spent their honeymoon in their RV on the beach at Ocean Shores. This past summer, the lovebirds took a belated honeymoon trip to Hawaii. They were joined by the extended Gelacio family in Nimitz Beach, Honolulu, creating lasting memories.

Rudy had many hobbies, but what mattered to him most was family. He was selfless with his time and money to help ensure their happiness and success. He was a loving caregiver to his late mother-in-law, Betty Letrondo. The family will be forever grateful for his decision to allow Betty to continue to live in her Penn Cove home until her final days.

Rudy also loved to fish with friends and his grandchildren. He taught them how to drive the boat, find the best fishing spots, and drop crab pots. Rudy was an all-around outdoorsman. He especially enjoyed camping and taking RV trips. If he wasn't on the boat or RV, Rudy was fixing cars, doing projects around the house, or researching information on his iPad.

Rudy will forever be known as Papa Toppins for the countless hours he spent helping the family at Toppins Frozen Yogurt. If there was a problem to solve, Rudy was on it. In 2019, Rudy helped secure the purchase of the 110-year-old Roller Barn to return the building to the community.

Rudy was all about supporting those closest to him. He served as auditor of the Filipino American Association of Oak Harbor, was an active parishioner at St. Augustine's (Santa Cruz de Mayo and Simbang Gabi), and joined the Knights of Columbus, John O'Brien Council 3361.

Rudy also loved to sing karaoke. For one of his final performances in Hawaii, he sang 'My Way' by Frank Sinatra. At the end, Rudy said, "I will play this at my grave, I did it my way." Yes, Rudy, you definitely did it your way, and we all admired every moment of it.

Rudy is preceded in death by his first wife, Florence J Gelacio; mother, Felicidad S. Gelacio; father, Florentino Q. Gelacio; and oldest brother, Wilfredo Gelacio. He is survived by his wife, Aida L. Martin-Gelacio; daughters, Ella M. MacDonald (Derrick) and Priscilla A. Croft (James); and grandchildren Jacob C. Boyes (Shawna), Megan M. Croft and Michael A. Croft. He is also survived by his siblings, Ceferina Leano (Leonardo) of Hawaii; Erly Aquino (Romy) of Hawaii; Orlando Gelacio (Marydee) of the Philippines; Loreto Gelacio (Nita) of Las Vegas; Delia McVay (Thomas) of Florida; and his extended Letrondo-Martin family.

A viewing will take place at St. Augustine's Church, 185 N Oak Harbor St., Oak Harbor today (Thursday) at 1 p.m., with a service to follow at 2 p.m. A reception will follow at Wallin Stucky Funeral Home, 1811 NE 16th Ave. in Oak Harbor.

A graveside service and military honors will take place at Tahoma National Cemetery, 18600 SE 240th St., in Kent, Wash., Friday at 12:30 p.m.

**Life Tributes can now be found  
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# What's Going On

## Sea Shanty & Pub Songs with Johann

Friday, February 17, 7:00PM  
Penn Cove Taproom, Coupeville

Join us for Sea Shanty and Pub songs led by Johann. Learn the tunes and belt away! No cover. For more information, call 360-682-5747 or visit [www.penncovebrewing.com](http://www.penncovebrewing.com).

## Ever Green Film Screening

Saturday, February 18, 11:00AM  
Fritz Cornell Nordic Hall, Coupeville

You are invited to view the film *Ever Green*, about community commitment and actions to keep Whidbey Island a special place and the important role of Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) to help make this happen. The Nordic Hall is located at 63 Jacobs Rd.

## Ride with a Guide Coffee Shop Tour

Friday, February 24

Take fare-free Island Transit to visit unique, locally-owned coffee shops in Coupeville, Bayview and Greenbank. Sample their tasty treats. Play Transit Trivia and win prizes on the way. To RSVP and get details email [Travel@IslandTransit.org](mailto:Travel@IslandTransit.org) or call 360-678-9536.

## Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below  
Cost: Free

### The Buzz About Bees

Thursday, February 16, 4:00PM  
Oak Harbor Library

Lisa Phillips discusses how to identify honeybees, bumblebees, wasps, hornets, and their nests. Learn about beekeep-

ing and how to extend the bee feeding season.

## Meetings & Organizations

### Coupeville Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

Thursday, February 9, 6:00-7:30PM  
Virtual meeting

Learn about the preliminary results of the sea level rise assessment and share your input to help guide the next phase of the assessment. Please register in advance to receive the meeting link and additional meeting details: <https://bit.ly/coupevilleslr-meeting>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joshua Engelbrecht at [assistantplanner@townofcoupeville.org](mailto:assistantplanner@townofcoupeville.org) or 360-678-4461 ext. 104.

## Classes, Seminars and Workshops

### Medicare 2023 "Reboot"

Thursday, February 16, 12:30-2:00PM  
The Center at Oak Harbor, 51 SE Jerome St.

There have been major changes to Medicare in recent weeks that may reduce your costs and increase your benefits almost immediately. If you want to change your Medicare Advantage Plan, access a prescription plan that covers your insulin costs, determine whether revised eligibility for low-income assistance can work for you, we will cover all of this and more. Offered by SHIBA, a program of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner and Island Senior Resources. No registration required.



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# Valentine romance comes to the "Isle of Love"



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts  
Whidbey Island Orchestra will share its Valentine's Day program, "Isle of Love," Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at South Whidbey High School in Langley.

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Sometimes choosing that perfect Valentine for one's sweetheart can be hard. Flowers and chocolates, while always a perfectly good option, might seem uninspired or deemed too caloric by the recipient. If only there was a unique, romantic and non-fattening treat to share on Valentine's Day.

Whidbey Island Orchestra may have just what the love doctor ordered! The group is offering a Valentine's Day concert Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at South Whidbey High School in Langley. This

one-night-only performance of "Isle of Love" is sponsored by Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, which is providing technical and ticketing support to the orchestra. Tickets to "Isle of Love" may be purchased at the door or in advance at wicaonline.org.

This Valentine's Day concert is the second for Whidbey Island Orchestra, following a successful, sold-out event last year. Organizers are hoping to ramp up the romance once again Tuesday evening for a Valentine-loving audience.

"This is, after all, a perfect date night on Whidbey Island, and not fattening either," said Cynthia Morrow, WIO conductor and executive director. "We are presenting a chamber orchestra program with strings, piano, flutes and percussion. This worked well last year to create the lush, romantic sound we're going for."

Morrow said WIO's chamber ensemble is not limiting to its sound and it has incorporated some interesting additions to the program.

"We're playing some Beatles tunes, classic rock, Latin, and are featuring two brilliant young dancers and a vocalist who sings Scottish songs and plays harp, accompanied by a fiddle, cello, and piano," she described. "The orchestra will also be performing two evocative songs by Sondheim, 'No One Is Alone' and 'Send In The Clowns.'"

The concert, Morrow said, is about love in its infinite variations, which helped her to choose

appropriate compositions to be featured in the program.

"Because Whidbey Island is in so many ways an 'Isle of Love,' so warm, so inclusive, so diverse, I wanted to do William Hofeldt's 'She Will Hang the Night With Stars,'" she explained. "Written for string orchestra, the piece is based on a long letter written by Oscar Wilde while he was imprisoned in England in 1897 for the crime of homosexuality. It speaks of the price paid for love, and the forgiveness of Mother Nature – so beautiful!"

Morrow said WIO drummer/percussionist Steve Buff helps move the orchestra from style to style, as does pianist Joy Tjoelker, who first joined the group at Christmas. An extra special addition to the program are the Scottish vocals.

"Laurie Monahan is a professional singer of early and authentic world music who recently moved to Whidbey Island after a vibrant career that has taken her around the world," Morrow added. "She will be treating us to lilting ballads and rousing songs that celebrate the many aspects of love in ancient Scotland. Isn't it amazing who shows up here? We are so happy to introduce her to the audiences of Whidbey Island!"

Adding to the artistic celebration of the evening are performances from two young dancers, according to Morrow.

"Whidbey Island Orchestra is a community nonprofit, and a large part of our mission is to

bring the joy of music to our island," she said. "We also want to highlight the many sources of the musical arts to be found here. One of these is dance. The 'Isle of Love' concert is featuring 16-year-old Tabitha Metts, who danced the role of Clara in this year's Whidbey Island Dance Theatre's 'Nutcracker,' and Dade Glaser, who played the prince. They will be performing a lyrical ballet to 'Somewhere In Time' and a Latin mambo in 'Begin the Beguine.' We're excited to have this talented pair give physical expression to our music through their unique choreography."

With members ranging in age from 9 to 86, Morrow said the program offers a broad range of music, which should enable the audience to find plenty to love about Whidbey Island Orchestra's Valentine's Day concert.

"'Isle Of Love' is full of surprises for everyone," she said, adding her response to the question of what makes music romantic. "For some of us, it's music that evokes memories of when we were young and dating or in love. It can be the lyrics, or the melody, or a lush string sound that sets a mood. We've tried to program music from every decade, starting back in the 1940s, to give everyone a chance to remember what it was like when they first fell in love."

Find more information about Whidbey Island Orchestra at whidbeyorchestras.org. Tickets to Tuesday's "Isle of Love" concert may be purchased at the door or in advance at wicaonline.org.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Orchestra  
Special guest vocalist Laurie Monahan will perform Scottish love songs at Whidbey Island Orchestra's Valentine's Day concert, "Isle of Love," Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at South Whidbey High School in Langley.

## MAGSY continued from page 2

and made by my husband and me. Sunday suppers are going to be prepared by local, on-island chefs. People can come to our home, eat with the chef, talk with the chef. The first dinner will happen March 19 and will be based on a New Orleans menu. Every supper will be thematic."

Here's how it works: The brunches and suppers are private, invitation only, once-a-month events. One has simply to sign up on Croom's website, withmagsy.com, and email addresses will be selected at random. When an email is selected, the recipient has two days to accept the invitation. The invitation includes the option of bringing a "plus one." Cost of brunches is \$75 per person, dinners are \$150 per person. A portion of the proceeds from each event will be donated to Whidbey Island nonprofits that help women and girls.



Photo Courtesy of With Magsy  
Mike Croom will serve as a chef for many of the once-a-month brunches at With Magsy, a new brunch and supper club started by Margaret Croom that offers guests a chance to win a spot to share a gourmet meal with the couple in their home, along with other lottery guests.

Croom said when one attends a With Magsy dinner, expect a multi-course meal with wine and champagne and/or cocktail pairings. Brunches include coffee, tea, craft cocktails, charcuterie boards and small plates.

"We like to cook, we like good food," Croom said. "We like to try things. My husband loves to cook."

Croom said they plan to source as much of the food and wine as possible locally.

While supper clubs like this are not unusual for metropolitan areas, Croom believes this is the first time something like this has been offered on Whidbey Island. She said it's something different that people will enjoy, based on what she's seen when dining out locally.

"Since things started opening up, we have been to all the locally owned restaurants on the island," she said. "They're always full. That's the main reason [I think this will work]. Local restaurants are full, people go to the farmers markets, there are so many farms here and many that don't have booths at the farmers markets go through the food hub. Since all these places are always packed, we felt this would work here."

The fact Whidbey is a smaller, island community has only strengthened her belief in the idea.

"This is my first foray into living in a smaller community," Croom said. "There are things you can ask and you can call on people that you normally wouldn't be able to get through to on the phone because it is a small community. When you're in a smaller community and only work with people locally, it's easier to see what goes on and what's available here."



Photo Courtesy of With Magsy  
Eggs Florentine could be one of the selections at a brunch With Magsy, a new brunch and supper club started by Oak Harbor resident Margaret Croom. The private events are by invitation only, but anyone is welcome to add their email to the monthly drawings.

Croom said she has the ability to host people at her home inside or outside (when the weather is appropriate) and said they may even have some unexpected surprises, if one pays attention to the website.

"We are also going to be doing some pop-up sunrise breakfasts," she said. "It depends

on the weather in the summer. My husband loves breakfast. It would be one of those things where people would just put money in the jar and bring their own chair. We'll be cooking out on our veranda."

Croom hopes potential guests won't be intimidated by the idea of dining with people they don't know, but rather, hopes they'll be



Photo Courtesy of With Magsy  
Margaret Croom and her husband, Mike, are Oak Harbor residents with a unique supper club idea called With Magsy. Those interested can sign up for random email lottery drawings to be a guest at one of their monthly brunches or suppers.

intrigued by experiencing something new and delicious.

"If you love great food, if you love communal dining, if you love to meet people you don't know, then you'll love With Magsy," she encouraged. "It's informal, casual. I don't want anybody to be intimidated by that. You might be eating fancy food, but you can eat fancy food and dress informally."

"Everyone is welcome," Croom continued. "My husband likes to say, 'anything you do is all about the experience.' Don't be held back by the fact you don't know me or the other people. It's just another experience in life. Don't let that hold you back."

Find more information and sign up for the email lottery at withmagsy.com.



Romance is in the air come Valentine's Day. Though chocolate, oysters and honey are often seen as aphrodisiacs, there is no evidence to back up such perceptions. However, Healthline reports that fenugreek, saffron, red ginseng, and pistachios might boast the properties often associated with aphrodisiacs.

People have been eating pistachio nuts since 6,000 B.C. Pistachios improve blood cholesterol and stimulate better blood flow throughout the body. They're also tasty, which makes them a worthy addition to Valentine's Day recipes, such as this one for "Pistachio Cardamom Cheesecake," courtesy of the American Pistachio Growers. It's a rich, creamy, vegan no-bake dessert to share with that special someone.

**PISTACHIO CARDAMOM CHEESECAKE** (6 servings)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 20 Biscoff® cookies, crushed                               | 3 teaspoons masala chai spice                        |
| 16 ounces vegan cream cheese, softened at room temperature | 1 teaspoon lemon juice                               |
| 2/3 cup organic white sugar                                | 3 tablespoons roasted and salted pistachios, crushed |
| 9 ounces coco whip (vegan whipped topping)                 |  |

1. Blitz Biscoff cookies in food processor. Press into the bottom of six 8-ounce ramekins. Set aside.
2. In a food processor or blender, add softened cream cheese, lemon juice, sugar, and chai spices.
3. Transfer cream cheese mixture to a mixing bowl and gently fold in coco whip. Do not over mix; you want it to be light and airy.
4. Pour mixture into prepared ramekins.
5. Chill in fridge for an hour to set before serving.
6. Garnish with crushed pistachios.



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2-10-2023 THRU 2-14-2023  
**AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (PG-13)**  
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 2:45PM & 6:30PM  
**KNOCK AT THE CABIN (R)**  
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 3:15PM & 7:00PM  
**80 FOR BRADY (PG-13)**  
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 3:45PM & 7:30PM  
**CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY!**  
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Produced by Jaime Montoya

Feb 3 - 19, 2023  
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Tickets and Box Office  
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[www.whidbeyplayhouse.com](http://www.whidbeyplayhouse.com)

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**Valentine's Weekend**  
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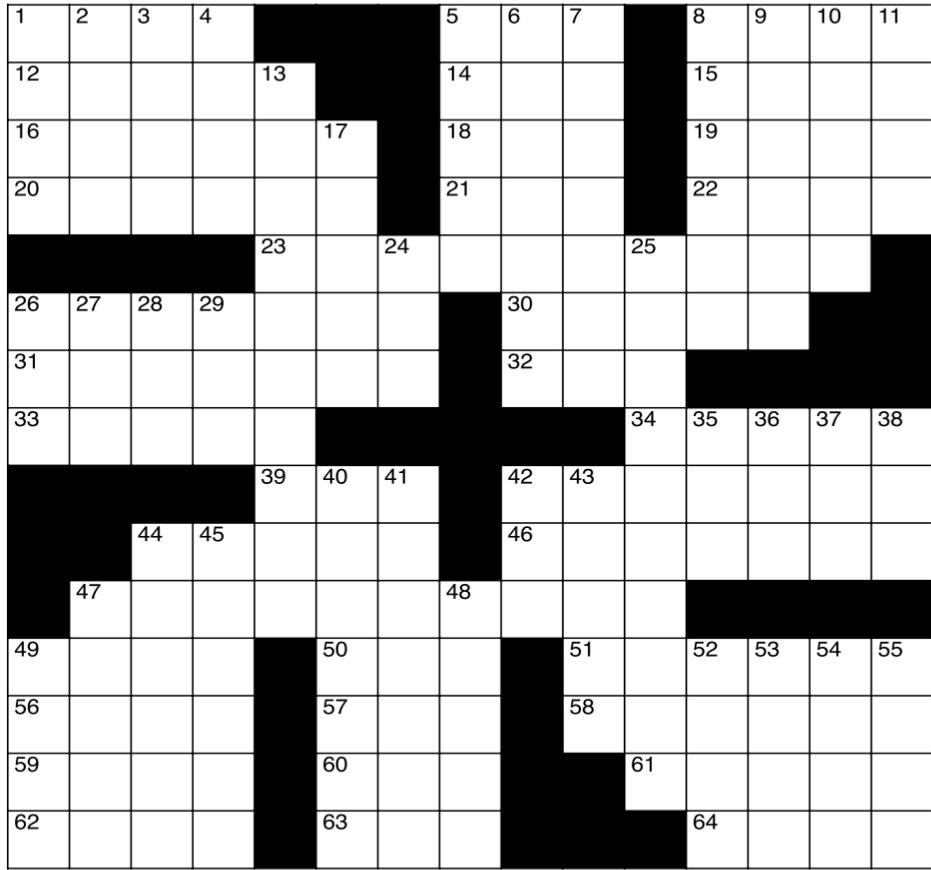
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# Crossword Puzzle



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. River in Tuscany
- 5. A way to represent
- 8. Rocker's guitar
- 12. Civil Rights group
- 14. Brew
- 15. Scratch
- 16. W. Asian country
- 18. The Eye Network
- 19. Clarified butter
- 20. Part of the Cascade Range
- 21. Downwind
- 22. A way to steer
- 23. Loop
- 26. Not ingested
- 30. Swampy coniferous forest
- 31. Musician
- 32. Signing
- 33. Containing iron
- 34. Part of a theorem or proof
- 39. Veterans battleground (slang)
- 42. Of enormous proportions
- 44. Italian city
- 46. Come before
- 47. Balm
- 49. Undergarments

50. Male parent

- 51. Ropes
- 56. Ear part
- 57. Investment vehicle
- 58. Dictator
- 59. Cain and \_\_\_
- 60. A type of code
- 61. Border river along India and Nepal
- 62. It's what's for dinner
- 63. Consume
- 64. Christian \_\_\_, designer

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cuckoos
- 2. Skin issue
- 3. City in central Japan
- 4. Sorrels
- 5. Twinned diamond
- 6. Canadian province
- 7. Monetary units
- 8. Head honcho
- 9. Goddess of wisdom
- 10. Part of a play
- 11. Get rid of
- 13. Applicant
- 17. Bowling alleys have many

24. Explosive

- 25. "The Say Hey Kid"
- 26. Ultrahigh frequency
- 27. No (Scottish)
- 28. Make a mistake
- 29. Credit card term
- 35. Keyboard key
- 36. Woman (French)
- 37. In the middle of
- 38. Score perfectly
- 40. Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- 41. Deadly disease
- 42. A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- 43. Belch
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. "In \_\_\_": separate from others
- 47. Examine extensively
- 48. Adjust
- 49. Tattle
- 52. Actor Pitt
- 53. Gulls
- 54. Within
- 55. Exceptionally talented performer

Answers on page 11

## YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Thurs, Feb. 9</p> <p>North Isle H-49°/L-40° Cloudy with PM Wind</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-40° Cloudy</p>	<p>Fri, Feb. 10</p> <p>North Isle H-48°/L-42° Windy and Rainy</p> <p>South Isle H-48°/L-41° Breezy and Rainy</p>	<p>Sat, Feb. 11</p> <p>North Isle H-49°/L-44° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-46°/L-42° Showers</p>	<p>Sun, Feb. 12</p> <p>North Isle H-52°/L-45° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-47°/L-44° Showers</p>	<p>Mon, Feb. 13</p> <p>North Isle H-51°/L-38° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-37° Showers</p>	<p>Tues, Feb. 14</p> <p>North Isle H-48°/L-30° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-46°/L-29° Showers</p>	<p>Wed, Feb. 15</p> <p>North Isle H-40°/L-34° Showers with Sunbreaks</p> <p>South Isle H-38°/L-33° Showers with Sunbreaks</p>
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# OUR Community

## An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What has been your most memorable Valentine's Day, and why?



**Debbie Wallin, Oak Harbor**

My most memorable Valentine's Day occurred about 25 years ago. In the middle of a busy workweek for both of us, my husband of 27 years surprised me with diamond earrings on Valentine's Day. He had kept back his year-end bonus so he could give me something nice. When I told a co-worker the next day, she nominated him for husband of the millennium. We are now at almost 52 years of marriage, and he can still occasionally surprise me.

**Covina O'Brien, Oak Harbor**

Tim and I were married Feb. 19, 1983. We never really celebrated Valentine's Day due to our anniversary being the same week. But we exchanged cards and he buys me a bouquet of carnations. Tim has always made it up by making our anniversary extra special. We go somewhere nice and for each year we are married, he gives me a red rose. This year there will be 40 red roses sprinkled with baby's breath!



**Amber Jordan, Freeland**

My most memorable Valentine's Day was in 2020. My now husband and I were celebrating the holiday just a little bit early due to conflicting work schedules. It was the Friday before and I knew we had our date night planned, but he told me that he had a surprise for me when I got home. When I arrived, he had roses all over our living room, our favorite song playing, and a love note on top of a new dress telling me to change, close my eyes, and then let him know when I was ready. I did as instructed, and when he told me to open my eyes, he was down on one knee, and asked me to marry him. We've been married coming up on two years and welcomed our first child last summer. I don't know if he will ever be able to top that Valentine's Day!

**Marilee Paddock, Oak Harbor**

Valentine's Day really began for me on my wedding day 46 years ago and has continued 365 days a year ever since. Notes left on the mirror or hidden in a drawer so when I opened it a special message would be there signed by my hubby, have been a common find. Each time I find one they warm my heart. Glances across the room, a smile or wink to follow and a kiss goodbye whenever we leave have never changed. And the best of all is, I still get those butterflies just like I did on my wedding day so long ago.



## CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...7.1

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order  
Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order  
Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

	6			4				
	3	9		8	2			
	1		3					4
		6	9	7		2	3	
	9						5	
5	7		1	3	9			
9				1		6		
		1	6		8	9		
			8				3	

Answers on page 11

# Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email [classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto:classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lions clubs are volunteers serving our community through various projects. Come and visit us at one of our meetings – both meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. North Whidbey Lions meet at noon at the VFW Post, 3037 Goldie Rd. in Oak Harbor. Oak Harbor Lions meet at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 155 NE Ernst St. in Oak Harbor. LIONS motto is "WE SERVE." This is an opportunity to help your neighbors and have fun doing it.

Think you may be pregnant? Stop by Whidbey Island Women's Clinic for free pregnancy testing. We are also here to support our community with diapers, formula, baby clothes, and more. All our services are free. Open Tue and Thu, 10am-4pm, and Wed, noon-7pm. Located at 670 SE Midway Blvd in Oak Harbor.

Be the difference in a child's life and become a foster parent today! Service Alternatives is looking for caring, loving, and supportive families to support foster children. 425-923-0451 or [mostermick@servalt-cfs.com](mailto:mostermick@servalt-cfs.com)

The Whidbey Island community is encouraged to try out the paddling sport of dragon boating with the Stayin' Alive team. Our team's mission is to promote the physical, social, and emotional benefits of dragon boating. It has been shown to be especially beneficial to cancer survivors. Practice with us for up to 3 times for free. Life-jackets and paddles provided. Saturdays at the Oak Harbor Marina, 8:45am. Contact [njlish@gmail.com](mailto:njlish@gmail.com). More info at our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Island Shakespeare Festival is seeking new members to join our board of directors. We're looking for people who are passionate about high-quality live classical theater and can devote time and energy to support the work of Island Shakespeare Festival's important cultural, social, and fiscal position on Whidbey Island. Our current needs include individuals with backgrounds in the following areas: human resources, donor relations, finance, as well as other skills related to overseeing a performing arts organization. Board members are asked to provide input and feedback to the Board and staff of ISF,

attend one full board meeting per month, serve actively on board committees, and attend activities and events sponsored by ISF. Women and persons of color strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact [jeff.natter@island-shakespearefest.org](mailto:jeff.natter@island-shakespearefest.org).

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County (BBBSIC) is actively seeking new member(s) for its board of directors. Join the board's exciting array of professionals! BBBSIC is seeking individuals who are committed to defending the potential of youth in our community through their time, skill sets, and influence in the community. To complement the existing board, candidates with expertise in accounting, law, nonprofit management, networking, or fundraising are of particular interest. Committed to diversifying its board to better represent our community, BBBSIC encourages BIPOC and LGBTQIA community members to inquire. Please contact [admin@bbbsislandcounty.org](mailto:admin@bbbsislandcounty.org) for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Islands. Volunteers primarily include medical and public health professionals but other volunteers who have no healthcare backgrounds are also utilized. MRC responds to local emergencies such as natural disasters and public health emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us at Island County MRC website for application and information.

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, look no further! When you volunteer at one of the Habitat for Humanity of Island County stores, you are helping local families attain decent, affordable housing. Income from the stores is vital to giving families a path to homeownership. We need people who can commit to help out in our Oak Harbor or Freeland store at least two-hours per week. Schedules are flexible. Our friendly volunteers provide customer service, help with receiving donated household items and furniture, and maintain the store. We also need drivers and driver helpers who will professionally represent Habitat as they pick up donated items using

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our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272. Mother Mentors needs volunteers! Oak Harbor families with young children need your help! Volunteer just a couple of hours a week to make a difference in someone's life! To volunteer or get more info, email [wamothermentors@gmail.com](mailto:wamothermentors@gmail.com) or call 360-321-1484.

**JOB MARKET**

Whidbey Watershed Stewards seeks an enthusiastic individual to serve as our EDUCATION COORDINATOR. The education coordinator leads the operation, development and promotion of the environmental education program for Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The education coordinator is responsible for creating and teaching a curriculum that is supportive of the mission, goals and objectives of Whidbey Watershed Stewards. Whidbey Watershed Stewards is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization located on south Whidbey Island. We work with the Island County community to promote environmental stewardship, habitat enhancement, and natural science based environmental education for all ages. We seek to inform and engage people to be a catalyst for positive actions in order to ensure the vitality

of our land, watersheds, and nearshore for the people and environment of Puget Sound. One of our primary activities is to provide spring and fall outdoor education sessions at the Rene Neff (a.k.a. Maxwellton) Outdoor Classroom to K-5 classes from the South Whidbey School District and other nearby schools. Lessons focus on hands-on, natural science activities and are taught by volunteer instructors and the education coordinator. The job type is part time/seasonal based on the school year and three weeks of summer day camp. Approximately 850 hours per year. Hourly rate is \$22 to \$25 depending on applicant's experience. Interested candidates should review the position's job description on the WWS website: [www.whidbeywatersheds.org](http://www.whidbeywatersheds.org) - and submit a resume, cover letter and three references to [whidbeywatersheds@gmail.com](mailto:whidbeywatersheds@gmail.com) with subject line Education Coordinator Search. Candidates must also be able to pass a full police clearance with background check and provide proof of COVID vaccinations. For further information, please call Marie Bergstrom at 253-298-1362. The position will remain open until filled. It is anticipated the person selected will begin work ASAP and preferably no later than March 1. (2)

**No Cheating!**

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7	6	5	2	1	4	3	8	9
4	3	9	7	6	8	2	1	5
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8	4	6	9	5	7	1	2	3
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3	5	1	6	4	2	8	9	7
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