

September 28 through October 4, 2023

FREE

Whidbey Weekly

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Whidbey Island



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Cider Festival provides a spirited taste of Whidbey

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The Whidbey Island Cider Festival is back and brimming with fun and flavor for everyone. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, folks can enjoy tastings of cider, beer, mead, wine, spirits and even kombucha, plus free entertainment, food for purchase, children's activities, guided tours and other activities at Pacific Rim Institute (PRI) in Coupeville. Tasting tickets are \$40 in advance (<https://brownpapertickets.com/event/6048476>) or \$45 at the door. Tickets are for cider and spirit tastings only – there is no cost to attend the rest of the festival. (whidbeyisland-ciderfestival.com) PRI is located at 180 Parker Road.

The Cider Festival, which began in 2017 and was interrupted by the pandemic for a few years, is a fundraiser for Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship, an organization that helps teach communities how to live more sustainably while preserving and enhancing the natural ecosystem.

"This year's proceeds will go towards enlarging the Native Plant Center, where the Golden Paintbrush and other plants native to coastal prairies are grown," organizers of the event said in information furnished to *Whidbey Weekly* via email. "PRI – a jewel of Central Whidbey Island – passionately strives to protect and restore its 175-acre site consisting of forest, savanna and threatened glacial outwash prairie which contains a rare, undisturbed five-acre native prairie remnant." (pacificriminstitute.org)

There will be several educational activities throughout the day, including a prairie tour at 11 a.m. with longtime volunteer Gary Piazzon, a tour of the Native Plant Center at 2 p.m. with PRI Restoration Technician Mosa Neis, an apple pressing booth, information on Native American history and culture on the prairie, plus Dan Vorhis and Lisa Phillips will have information all about apple trees and bees, respectively. Children's activities will include face painting and a scavenger hunt and there will be entertainment throughout the day, including a 4 p.m. performance by Whidbey's own Shifty Sailors.



John Dier Photo Courtesy of Pacific Rim Institute
The Whidbey Island Cider Festival celebrates the harvest and the island's agricultural bounty with interactive cider pressing, food, children's activities, live entertainment and more. The festival itself is free, but a ticket is required to taste the hard ciders and other beverages featured by cideries and distilleries.

But the main attraction of the day is likely to be the tastings. There are nine cideries/distilleries participating in the festival, and offerings range from hard cider to beer, wine, mead and more. This year, more than half of participating businesses are from Whidbey Island.

"The demand for hard cider and the growth of the cider industry is pretty evident with just our island alone," said Lindsay Krug, with Driftwood Hard Cider Co. in Langley. "We were the only cidery representing Whidbey Island in 2019 and now we are lucky to have additional amazing cideries on Whidbey Island, with, I'm sure, more on the way."

Driftwood Hard Cider Co., founded in 2017 by Jake and Lindsay Krug, not only produces its cider locally, the main ingredient is grown here as well.

"Our 100-plus-year-old orchard in Langley is the core of our cidery," Krug said. "For many years, these fruits were the source of our family's award-winning apple/pear wine made under the label of our sister company, Spoiled Dog Winery. Our love of a good, hard cider allowed for a natural transition of extending our passion for winemaking to include cidermaking. We personally prune, maintain, and harvest all of the apples from our orchard. We make three different hard ciders, all available for tasting or purchase in our tasting room (shared with Spoiled Dog Winery)."

"We look forward to pouring for our local Island community alongside neighboring producers and highlighting the bounty of Whidbey Island," said Mike Huffman, general manager of Whidbey Island Distillery, which has been recognized for producing some of the finest spirits in the world.

"We will be featuring our Bunker Rye Whiskey," Huffman continued. "The whiskey uses barley grown at the Bishops Family Farm at Ebey's Prairie, right down the road from the event. We will also feature our award-winning berry liqueurs, distilled from locally produced wine."

Making a first appearance at the Whidbey Island Cider Festival is Hierophant Meadery, a family-owned business that makes botanically infused mead, which is a honey-based alcoholic fermentation.

"Hierophant means, 'to show or reveal what is holy or sacred,'" explained Michelle Scandalis, who owns Hierophant Meadery with Jeremy Kyncl. "The Hierophant Meadery brand depicts the honeybee as the Hierophant. We believe the honeybee should be revered, as the declining population of honeybees and wild pollinators most certainly reveal to us that change is needed in the way things are done in our food system. We use a lot of botanicals in our meads. This is a true historic style called 'Metheglin.'"

Other participating cideries include Misfit Island Cider of Langley, Greenbank Farms Cidery, Penn Cove Brewing Company of Coupeville, Kombucha Town from Bellingham, Sisters Cider House from Bainbridge Island and 2 Towns Ciderhouse from Corvallis, Ore. Again, tasting tickets are necessary to try the many varied alcoholic products being offered. Several different food vendors will also be available for onsite purchases.

"We are so glad the Whidbey Island Cider Festival is back," said Krug. "We have had many visitors to our tasting room over the years that first tasted our ciders when they attended the festival in 2019. They make a point to continue to support local and that is so appreciated. We have a very small production compared to some of the other cideries, so this type of event is a great way to let people know we are here and also have a variety of hand-crafted ciders in one place to try that they may otherwise not know about."

"Local events like this allow us to connect with our local community," Huffman said. "This offers us the perfect opportunity to promote our brand, tell our story, enable us to sample our products outside our tasting room, and for those attending, to taste samples from several local producers at one location."

"We have many customers who have never tried mead before or have had a mead somewhere that was super sweet and not to their liking," Scandalis said. "Events like the Cider Festival are wonderful opportunities to meet people and make mead enthusiasts of them with our sparkling cider-like and/or drier white wine-like meads. We love our neighboring craft beverage producers and look forward to spending time at a very Whidbey-centric charitable event. We also love Pacific Rim Institute, their grounds, and the work they do."

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John Dier Photo Courtesy of Pacific Rim Institute
The Whidbey Island Cider Festival is back! Those interested in purchasing a tasting ticket will get a complimentary glass and can sample different beverages from nine different cideries and distilleries, six of them from right here on Whidbey Island. The Cider Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Pacific Rim Institute in Coupeville.

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Island 911

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

9:36 am, NE Narrows Ave.

Requesting contact referencing finding a glove and wrench attached to her vehicle. Suspects someone is trying to damage the vehicle. Unknown suspect.

2:28 pm, SE Dock St.

Advising male in blue Volkswagen bug parks in front of location and naps in vehicle, but then leaves when school is out.

7:37 pm, SW Beeksma Dr.

Reporting party advising his neighbor violated an order by "provoking" his animals.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

4:07 am, W Crescent Harbor Rd.

Advising of horse walking in the middle of the road.

9:24 am, NE 8th Ave.

Reporting party advising purchased vehicle, but now previous owner is stating he needs more money before giving reporting party a bill of sale.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

10:32 am, SE Barrington Dr.

Reporting party is calling from Tennessee; requesting call in reference to local woman using her name.

3:19 pm, SE 9th Ave.

Reporting party is seeing a van driving around the parking lot erratically; has hit parked vehicles.

3:25 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising got into an argument with his mother; threw a rock and has run off.

3:35 pm, SW Heller St.

Caller advising multiple juveniles are in the park climbing on the building and smoking vape pens; five total seen, ranging from third graders to high school age.

4:34 pm, NE Midway Blvd.

Advising two male subjects, one black male and one white male, are behind the building; advising they

are acting "goofy" and smoking something.

4:48 pm, NE Midway Blvd.

Reporting party advising male at location is making people nervous.

5:16 pm, SR 20

Caller advising two people in front of the store are acting high; lighting cigarettes and then throwing them on the ground and running around.

5:40 pm, SE Barrington Dr.

Advising subject admitted to murdering someone on Whidbey Island in 2005; reporting party has no additional information; fourth party reporting.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

10:06 am, SR 20

Advising husband walked to area from Acorn Motor Inn, just called reporting party stating he was lost.

6:03 pm, SE Ireland St.

Advising "Dude is constantly driving on front yard, getting close to house," driving vehicle in yard, currently present.

6:18 pm, NE Midway Blvd.

Caller is concerned about the sparks from the axe-throwing business sharpening their knives.

7 pm, SR 20

Advising white male, skinny, hood, short sleeve gray shirt, brown pants and shoes, is throwing shoes at the Oak Harbor sign.

Friday, Sept. 22

12:13 pm, SR 20

Reporting party states she is a resident at location and was late on her paperwork and now the owner is pointing at her in her face.

Saturday, Sept. 23

8:23 am, NE 10th Ave.

Advising of male with pants down at bus shelter.

Report provided by OHPD & Island County Sheriff's Dept.

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

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

Volume 15, Issue 39 | © MMXXIII Whidbey Weekly

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JOIN OUR TEAM NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS

Island Transit is hosting a Job Fair at the
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Bits & Pieces

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

This November, the voters of the Oak Harbor School District will elect directors for the school board. For the first time in recent memory, all five director positions are up for election. The candidates who stand out, in my opinion, are those who have had varied educational backgrounds, and consequently, appreciate the innate value such experiences bring to one's life.

In the case of Jessica Aws, her formal college experience started with Running Start at Green River Community College when she was a senior in high school. She then received a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology with a minor in history from the University of Washington. Two years later, she received a Master of Arts degree in medieval archeology from the University of York in England. Three years following that endeavor, she received a Master of Science degree in library and information sciences from Syracuse University.

Jessica's formal education is a real asset to her understanding of what it takes to be academically successful. One of her goals as a school board director has been, and continues to be, to ensure every child in the Oak Harbor school system receives the tools they need to realize their potential and thrive in their learning efforts. Given her many educational accomplishments, I invite voters to join me in re-electing Jessica Aws this coming election. For more information about her and her campaign, please visit <https://aws4ohsd.com/>.

Kathryn Ridle
Oak Harbor, Wash.

Help Give Whidbey's Youngest a Lifetime Advantage

Imagine every child under age five on Whidbey Island having the opportunity to grow their own home library of high-quality books, igniting their love of reading and preparing them for success upon entering kindergarten. This dream is a reality for more than 1,000 young children on Whidbey, and you can play an important role in putting more books into the hands of our earliest learners.

Imagination Library of Whidbey Island, a local program partner of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, strives to send a new book every month to Whidbey Island children from birth to age five. Created in 1995 by renowned entertainer and philanthropist Dolly Parton, the Imagination Library has a proven track record of promoting positive home literacy environments and increasing vital early literacy skills. Early reading is critical for every child.

Since Dolly's special visit to Washington last month, the program experienced significant growth in the number of children signed up to receive their free monthly book - a 25 percent increase across our state. Whidbey Island has already enrolled over 1,100 children since December 2022.

As the program surges in popularity and impacts an increasing number of children, more funds must be raised to keep the momentum.

It's Imagination Library of Whidbey Island's promise, along with its legislative and program partners, to make sure every child under five experiences the magic of books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. While incredibly grateful for the \$2 million secured during the last legislative session to fund 50 percent of the cost of books and mailing for all registered children, it simply is not enough to support the increasing number of young children enrolling in the Imagination Library.

Whidbey's earliest learners need your help! The good news? A donation of just \$30 guarantees monthly delivery of a carefully selected book to a young child for an entire year. How many children can you and/or your business or community organization sponsor? The goal is to raise \$15,000. To sponsor a child today, visit: bit.ly/imaginationlibrarywhidbey.

[Submitted by Jessie Gunn, Executive Director, Whidbey Community Foundation]

Larsen Encourages Northwest Washington Students to Compete in 2023 Congressional App Challenge

Challenge Open To All Middle and High School Students Who Live or Attend School in Washington's Second District

Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) is encouraging all middle and high school students who live in or attend school in Washington's Second Congressional District to compete in the 2023 Congressional App Challenge (CAC). The annual challenge runs through Wednesday, Nov. 1. Students can sign up to participate and read the full competition rules at www.congressionalappchallenge.us/students/.

The Congressional App Challenge is an opportunity for students to create programs or apps for any platform, including desktop/PC, web and mobile, to collaborate, invent and learn coding and computer science skills. Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four. Students can only enter the competition once.

"Washington continues to be a leader in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with more than 260,000 students enrolled in career and technical education statewide," said Larsen, whose office has participated in the CAC every year since its founding in 2013. "I have seen the creativity of students in classrooms across Northwest Washington firsthand and look forward to seeing that creativity shine through in this year's submissions."

Students have until 9:00AM PST Wednesday, Nov. 1, to register and enter, but CAC organizers recommend students register early to receive extra support and tips. Larsen will announce a district winner in December and invite the winner to the #HouseofCode Capitol Hill Reception in Washington D.C. at a date to be decided. Winning apps will be electronically displayed in the U.S. Capitol and on the CAC's house.gov website.

Last year, Azul Rangel and Sydney Vo from Mariner High School in Everett won the district's Congressional App Challenge with their WordToASL app.

For more information about the CAC, visit www.congressionalappchallenge.us/. Additional questions can be directed to Grace Kurfman in Larsen's office at Grace.Kurfman@mail.house.gov or 425-252-3188.

[Submitted by Joseph Tutino, Rep. Rick Larsen's Office]

Vancouver Hosts Washington State's Annual RevitalizeWA Conference in October

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Vancouver's Downtown Association are pleased to announce RevitalizeWA

– Washington's annual statewide conference focused on the continued care of place through historic preservation, placemaking, and economic development, brought to you by the Washington Trust and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation – is taking place in Vancouver Oct. 4-6.

RevitalizeWA offers conference attendees an opportunity to both dip a toe into the world of Main Street and dive deep into its economic development and preservation principles. This year's conference features more than 50 unique learning experiences, including field sessions that will take attendees into downtown Vancouver's innovative small businesses, inspiring preservation stories, dynamic and beautiful street-scape work, and bold, forthcoming infrastructure projects.

Arienne True, the 2023-2025 Washington State Poet Laureate, will present this year's keynote address during the opening plenary at 4:30PM Wednesday, Oct. 4, which will be open to the public. In her keynote, Arienne, who describes historic preservation as near and dear to her heart, will dive into what it means to feel a sense of place, care about a place, and act on that care.

The Excellence on Main award ceremony the evening of Thursday, Oct. 5, will feature exceptional stories from across the state – everything from remarkable entrepreneurship projects to brick-and-mortar rehabilitations to community partnerships.

The Washington Trust is honored to have Vancouver's Downtown Association join in hosting this conference and welcoming participants to their vibrant, vivacious downtown community, as this is an opportunity to showcase how community care has made Vancouver a great place to live, work and play. Participants will be attending special events and workshops at venues all over downtown Vancouver including the Kiggins Theatre, Providence Academy, city hall, the Vancouver Community Library, and many others.

With 300 registrants (and counting) and a focus on creative venues and local businesses, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and Vancouver's Downtown Association anticipate major local economic impact for downtown Vancouver. At RevitalizeWA 2022, which was hosted in Wenatchee, conference attendees' and organizers' local spending at hotels, restaurants, venues and retail shops generated an estimated \$168,794 for the host city.

Conference registration is \$250, with additional fees for individual field sessions. For more registration information and conference details, please visit preservewa.org/revitalizewa.

[Submitted by Lydia Felty, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation]

Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation Elects Eight New Board Members

The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation board is pleased to announce the appointment of eight new members from Snohomish and Island counties. The foundation is the philanthropic arm of Sno-Isle Libraries. Guided by a board of directors, it helps extend the library district's reach by supporting library programs, services and events, funding demonstration libraries in communities with limited library service, and investing in capital improvements throughout the library district.

"Doubling the size of our board with broad representation from Island and Snohomish counties is a big leap forward," said board President Luke Distelhorst. "The Foundation is poised to receive a record amount of donations and bequests this year. Our board will continue to fundraise and advo-

What to know about HSAs and FSAs

Paying for health care can be challenging — but are you taking full advantage of all the resources available to you?

You might have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), so let's look at both.

An HSA is a personal savings account used to pay health care costs. If you're enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an HSA. You aren't taxed on the money you put into this account or on the earnings generated from your contributions, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs such as deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. And there's no "use it or lose it" provision with HSAs — the money stays in your account until you use it. In fact, you can carry your HSA with you all the way until retirement, when you can use the money to pay for qualified expenses that Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) doesn't cover. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,850 to an HSA, or \$4,850 if you're 55 or older; for family coverage, you can put in up to \$7,750.

It's important to keep in mind that your HSA's tax benefits only apply when your withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs. If you use the money for non-qualified expenses, it is considered taxable income, and you may also face a penalty of 20% on the amount withdrawn. However, once you turn 65, you can use your HSA funds for any purpose without a penalty, though the withdrawals will still count as taxable income.

Now, let's turn to the Flexible Savings Account. An FSA may be available to you if you get health insurance through your employer. And because you fund your FSA with pretax dollars, your contributions can reduce your taxable income. (In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,050 to an FSA.) Your employer may also choose to contribute to your FSA. Once your account is funded and active, you submit claims with proof of your medical expenses, along with a statement that these expenses aren't covered by your plan, and you can be reimbursed for your costs.

It's helpful to have a good estimate of your yearly medical expenses for a Flexible Savings Account. That's because an FSA generally needs to be spent before the end of the plan year — if you don't use all the money, you can only carry over some of it and any remaining balance is forfeited. (You can carry over up to \$610 from 2023 into 2024.)

You can't contribute to an HSA and a traditional FSA in the same year. But if you have an HSA, you might be able to use what's known as a Limited Purpose Flexible Spending Account (LPFSA) for dental and vision expenses. You'll need to check with your plan to see if this option is available.

Managing your health care expenses should be a key part of your overall financial strategy — so consider putting an HSA or FSA to work for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Jeffrey C. Pleet,
CLU®, ChFC®
Financial Advisor

630 SE Midway Blvd.
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-679-2558
jeffery.pleet@edwardjones.com

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

cate for the library district as we grow the impact of philanthropy on Sno-Isle Libraries' programs and the communities we serve."

Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation welcomes:

Curtis DeClue is a practicing attorney. Before moving to Washington, he served as the presiding judge for Indiana's 9th Judicial Circuit and as a special master in the federal courts. In Indiana, he served as a library board trustee and a board member of several nonprofit organizations. Currently, he provides judicial administration consulting to courts and justice agencies around the U.S. and works with the U.S. Agency for International Development on advising foreign countries on rule of law and judicial administration matters, including projects in Egypt, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, and currently Ukraine. DeClue is a resident of Camano Island.

Nick Hamden is a program manager and content designer for the Production and Industrial Engineers sector at Boeing in Everett, Wash. Previously, in Houston, Texas, he served as a math teacher for middle and high school students and as geophysicist for an oil service company. Hamden is a resident of Oak Harbor.

Eleanor Howell-Shryock is a children's librarian and library advocate. They are excited to work closely with Snohomish and Island counties community members to build support for library programs. Howell-Shryock is a resident of Marysville.

Nicolas Kadir Jensen is a fifth-generation Washingtonian raised in the Tulalip and Stanwood-Camano areas. Nicolas obtained their B.A. in political science from Western Washington University and a Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs degree from the University of British Columbia. As a nonprofit leader, Nicolas raised over \$1.4 million for small nonprofits, oversaw the enrollment of almost 20,000 Washingtonians into health care coverage under the ACA, and served as

the board chair for the largest queer health agency in Western Canada. Currently, they work in Seattle as a community engagement and strategic communications consultant for public sector agencies. Jensen is a resident of Everett.

Naomi Johnson has worked closely with businesses in the community as a tax accountant and business advisor since moving to Snohomish County in 2015. She has experience in financial and strategic planning and sits on her company charitable committee. She is an avid reader and looks forward to helping others get the opportunity to find this passion too. Johnson is a resident of Everett.

Frank Kwan has an extensive background in media, education and communications. He has been on the National PTA's board of directors, a communications consultant for k-12 schools, and a founder of the Asian American Journalists Association. He is a longtime active supporter of community and education organizations, an emeritus member of the University of Southern California's Alumni Association board of governors, and an Emmy-winning journalist. Kwan is a resident of Oak Harbor.

Brianne Nevill is a dedicated professional in the commercial real estate industry, specializing in affordable housing solutions. Beyond her career, she actively contributes to her community by volunteering for various nonprofit events and cherishes quality time spent with her loving family. Nevill is a resident of Mill Creek.

Joyce Zhou is a senior marketing manager for Accolade, a local healthcare technology company. She has previously held leadership roles at local nonprofits, including development director for Asian Counseling and Referral Service. She has previously served on nonprofit boards for a community newspaper and education organization. Zhou is a resident of Edmonds.

These eight new members join board Pres-

ident Luke Distelhorst, Vice President Jeanne Thorsen, Secretary Sami Postma, Rim Benoud-Schmitz, Heather Croteau, Sonia Siegel Vexler, and board of trustees Liaison Susan Kostick, as members of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation board of directors. Board members serve terms of three years and can serve up to three consecutive terms.

Learn how you can become involved and support the foundation at sno-islefoundation.org.

[Submitted by Katie Leone, Marketing and Communications Manager, Sno-Isle Libraries]

Local Business News

Financial Advisor River Powers of Edward Jones Receives CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (TM) Certification

Financial Advisor River Powers, of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Oak Harbor, has received the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER(TM), or CFP®, certification, granted by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP board).

Becoming a CFP® professional expands a financial advisor's knowledge base in the following areas:

- Financial management
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- Retirement savings
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In addition to the education and examination components of certification, River also has committed to abiding by the CFP® board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

River completed her professional program at University of California, Berkeley.

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USEFUL ITEMS FOR THE ANGLER

The items a fisherman could carry with them while on a one-day fishing trip or a week on the water could be endless. It would be nice if we could carry two of every lure color and size along with us but that's simply unrealistic in most cases. However, there are some things that will come in handy for just about every fishing adventure.

In years past, fishermen carried a metal or plastic tackle box of various sizes with them to the riverbanks, lakes or the boat. If the area you were going to fish was/is free of brush and un-obstructed, like a lake shore, the tackle box was the perfect thing to use. Most boxes had dividers to keep things organized by color and size, plus when closed, it had a flat surface which was a great place to set your hot coco, coffee or cold beer on while you waited patiently for the fish to bite. But if you're breaking through thick brush to get to the river's edge or you need two hands to climb over logs, boulders or blown down trees, the tackle box could get cumbersome, and be in the way of timely progress; but fishermen are tenacious so we make things work.

Many useful things have been added to tackle carrying apparel and devices over the last 30 years, things that probably got their start from the old Plato beginnings that say, "necessity is the mother of invention." I grew up fishing in Idaho but have spent the last 28 years fishing here in northwest Washington and want to share a list of useful tools, gadgets and gear that have made my time out fishing over the years a little less frustrating.

- **Backpack:** A basic medium size adult backpack is a great place to start. One with a large main pocket and a couple smaller ones on the front is all most of us will need, especially for quick trips. And if some thought has been put into it, most of the helpful items will fit into the backpack.
- **Head Lamp:** A good light source to get us "to and from" in the dark is a must! First light can be the best bite of the day so getting to the honey-hole may require us to trek in the dark. A small flashlight will get the job done but I like to have both hands free. Some headlamps I own can burn through the batteries pretty quickly so some extra batteries should be with you.
- **Fish Rag:** Using a fish rag to wipe your hands after catching a fish instead of your clothes will make your spouse happy and keep the dog from gnawing at your pants leg. Carry a kitchen size towel attached to a shower curtain hanger on the outside of the backpack; you can remove it and attach it as needed.
- **Shallow Organizers:** These plastic organizers had to come from the sewing community; they've always had the small compartmented boxes for sewing thread. These shallow boxes are lightweight, usually see-through, and fit very well in the large backpack pocket.
- **Plastic bags:** Fill a single, one gallon zipper seal-style bag with one medium garbage bag, three gallon bags, three quart bags and three or four pairs of

latex gloves. The latex gloves will keep you from getting "pink finger" if you will be handling dyed salmon roe. Plus, you can use the rubber fingers to make a basic swimming/twitching lure in the field.

- **Multi Tool:** The multi tool you carry does not have to have every tool known to man, but it should consist of at least a few of the basic tools. A knife, a Phillips and flat head screwdriver, and the ability to transform into a pair of pliers (pointed pliers similar to needle-nose). A multi tool made of stainless steel is what I look for; they might be a bit more money, but they will last and function longer, especially in the saltwater environment.
- **Braid Scissors:** Braided line has become very popular over the years but it is very tough stuff. Forget about biting through it with your teeth like monofilament. If you have nothing else, you can shear it between two round rocks or use a piece of glass or other crude edge lying around to saw it. Don't spend big dollars on the specialty braid scissors, go to the school section of the store and buy a pair of the kids scissors – they cut braid like butter, and are very affordable. Attach one of the finger holes to a large key-ring style split ring and a neck lanyard and you have a ready-to-use device.
- **Seamstress Ruler:** These rulers come in a variety of colors and are generally made of very durable material; the number graduates are very resilient to wetness and frequent handling; they are soft and can be easily folded for storage.
- **Small First Aid kit:** Hooks are sharp, braided lines can cut fingers, and blackberry bushes are sure to find a way to draw blood. Build your own kit if you can't find one that meets your needs; assorted sizes of Band-Aids, white medical tape, and antiseptic gel placed in a Ziploc bag is what I carry. If you are badly injured, it's time to leave the woods.
- **Miscellaneous:** Depending on how heavy you want to make your backpack, here are a few other items to consider carrying. Cell phone (unless you don't want to be bothered by work); current fishing regulations; BIO drinking straw or a small bottle of water; beef jerky; pen or pencil; baby wipes or TP; hook file; and possibly a spare reel prefilled with line. Like I mentioned in the beginning, the list is endless, but it doesn't take too many trips out before you learn the most useful, every-trip items.

The peak Pink salmon (humpy's) season has ended in the saltwater and they have traveled into the local rivers. Coho should be on your saltwater radar now, or consider bank fishing in the Skagit River for a last chance pink bite. Chinooks are basically closed everywhere and once again, the longtime Blackmouth season we once enjoyed has been restricted for the year 2023/2024. Keep casting for what is open and good luck out there! Here is my email. Feel free to drop me a note or a fish story: tfishmonger@gmail.com.

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What's Going On

Live Music: Mike Gallion

Friday, September 29, 7:00-9:00PM
Penn Cove Taproom, Coupeville

Mike's 12 string electric guitar produces a unique sound. He is influenced by the Pacific Northwest rock genre of the 60s. Also folk music such as Bob Dylan and Gordon Lightfoot songs are popular with Mike. No cover. For more information, call 360-682-5747 or visit www.penncovebrewing.com.

Emergency Preparedness Fair

Saturday, September 30, 10:00AM-2:00PM
North Whidbey Middle School, Oak Harbor

Event booths will provide important information about being prepared for a disaster. Come learn valuable skills and win a prize. Free event for all ages. Located at 67 NE Izett St., visit www.islandcountywa.gov/754/september-preparedness-fair for more information.

Garden Club 100 Year Celebration

Saturday, September 30, 1:00-4:00PM
Smith Park, Oak Harbor

The Oak Harbor Garden Club is hosting a community open house to celebrate the club turning 100 years old. There will be displays, music by local favorite, Kick Brass, and a dedication of a plaque to mark 100 years of service, plus a few more surprises.

Island Transit Job Fair

Friday, October 6, 10:00AM-2:00PM
Oak Harbor Library

Island Transit is hiring bus drivers with a \$2,000 sign-on bonus. Bring your resume - be prepared to fill out the application and take the video test. Snacks will be provided. RSVP encouraged by calling 360-678-7771. Walk-ins welcome. For more information, visit www.islandtransit.org/ employment.

Sportsman's Swap Meet and Charity Match

Saturday, October 7, 9:00AM
Central Whidbey Sportsman's Association, Coupeville

Buy/sell guns and outdoor gear - FFL on site. Charity Shoot to benefit WAIF. This is a fun novelty shoot and trap shoot, with turkeys awarded to the first and second place finishers. Bring your own shotgun and/or pistol (.22 recommended) - loaners available. There will be divisions for juniors and women. Donations of pet food for WAIF encouraged. More details at cwsa-online.org, tables for swap meet contact Richard Morgan 425-750-5444 or team-nascarfan@hotmail.com. Located at 397 Safari St.

Shred-It Fundraiser

Saturday, October 7, 10:00AM-2:00PM
Whidbey Island Bank, Freeland

Securely dispose of your personal and financial records. Licensed and bonded shredding company. Paper only, staples okay. Minimum donation is \$5 per bankers box or bag; \$10 for oversized box or bag. All proceeds benefit Soroptimist International of South Whidbey Island programs and scholarships. The bank is located at 5590 S Harbor Ave.

Nordic Folk Fest

Saturday, October 7, 10:00AM-4:00PM
Nordic Hall, Coupeville

Featuring Norwegian Elkhounds, Fjord horses, Nordic food demonstrations, wood carving, weaving, a Nordic cafe, bake sale, kids' troll den and games. Open to the public. The Nordic Hall is located at 63 Jacobs Rd.

Fall Dinner and Auction

Saturday, October 7, 5:00PM
Oak Harbor Elks Lodge
Tickets: \$75 per person

Honoring Dale and Liz Sherman, proceeds benefit the Island County Historical Society Museum. Social hour starts at 4:00PM. Purchase tickets online at www.islandhistory.org/auction-2023 or call 360-678-3310. Your ticket price includes admission and one tasty dinner, dessert and two drink coupons.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below
Cost: Free

An Afternoon with Peter Ali

Saturday, September 30, 2:00-3:30PM
Coupeville Library

Peter Ali has inspired and comforted many through his music and sharing for more than a decade. Peter performs and teaches flute playing and flute making through various Native American tribal programs, schools, public libraries and other venues. No registration required.

Empowered Aging: Advanced Care Planning

Tuesday, October 3, 2:00-3:00PM
Freeland Library

Participants will learn about end-of-life paperwork such as advance directives, durable power of attorney for health care and portable orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST). Class provided by Hospice of the Northwest and all materials/resources are free of charge.

Water Storage and Treatment

Wednesday, October 4, 2:00-3:30PM
Coupeville Library

Have you ever wondered if you would know how to treat and store water properly in an emergency situation? Bill Swander is a part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and has served as the president of the Camano Preparedness Group as well as being a HAM operator.

Religious Services

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2:00PM
St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods Episcopal Church, Freeland

In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, this event is for all beloved animals with whom we share our lives. If you are unable to bring your pet, bring a photo for the blessing. Those who bring pet ashes to spread will gather at the Pet Spreading Garden at 2:45PM. WAIF will be present, accepting donations of dog or cat food. All animals and humans are welcome.

Caring For God's Creation-Climate Change and Faith

Sunday, October 1, 3:00PM
St. Hubert Catholic Church, Langley

Featuring Jeff Renner, Emmy Award winning meteorologist, science/environmental journalist, renowned speaker, devout person of faith. This inter-faith event is presented by the St. Hubert Church Green Team. Reception to follow. The church is located at 804 3rd St.

Meetings & Organizations

Deaf Social - Flying Fingers

Friday, October 6, 6:00-7:00PM
Langley United Methodist Church

Parking located across the street at 3rd St/Anthes Ave. We celebrate birthdays, casual gathering. Some people sign, others do not use signs, but have impaired hearing. We share food. For further information, contact Susan Ishikawa, teacher of deaf at 360 221-0383 or email sisoleil973@yahoo.com.



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Monday, Oct. 2 - Volleyball vs Lynden 7:00PM
Tuesday, Oct. 3 - Girl's Soccer vs Lakewood 7:00PM
Friday, Oct. 6 - Football @ Mount Vernon 7:00PM

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Oak Harbor Garden Club celebrates a century of service

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Try to picture this – a century ago, the population of the city of Oak Harbor hovered somewhere around 400. The only way on or off the island was by boat because the Deception Pass and Canoe Pass bridges had yet to be built; they weren't completed until 1935. Even the U.S. Navy didn't arrive on Whidbey Island for another 18 years.

Yet it was in 1923 when a group of Oak Harbor women came together over what today might seem like a tiny thing: the construction of a sidewalk. When Mrs. Walter Elliot saw cement being poured for a sidewalk in front of the town's bank, she approached the mayor, Hill Barrington, and asked why the walkway wasn't being extended to the high school. His reported reply was, "Mrs. Elliot, that is something for you women to do."



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
The towering Garry oak trees of Smith Park in downtown Oak Harbor were once in danger of being cut down, but for the efforts of the Oak Harbor Women's Improvement Club, which later became the Oak Harbor Garden Club. The park is now listed on the Washington Heritage Register.

And so began the Oak Harbor Women's Improvement Club, the precursor to today's Oak Harbor Garden Club. The group is celebrating its 100th anniversary in October and will mark the occasion with a community celebration Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Smith Park in downtown Oak Harbor. There will be guest speakers, music by Kick Brass, cake to enjoy and there will be several informational displays depicting the important role this organization has played in the history and horticulture of Oak Harbor over the last century.



"We're also going to unveil and dedicate a plaque which says, 'Oak Harbor Garden Club, established 1923. Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow,'" said Kathy Chalfant, the club's current president. "We are inviting the public! We'd like to have people come and celebrate a hundred years. And the city is declaring October 'Oak Harbor Garden Club Month.'"

Members say records from the early years of the club are scarce, but they have been able to piece together a lot of its history due in part to an account written in 1962 by club historian, Hazel Koetje, for the group's 39th anniversary, and in which the story of the sidewalk, told above, was recounted. It turns out that sidewalk paved the way for a long list of projects, including fighting to preserve what is now Smith Park and its stand of native Garry oak trees, which has just been added to the Washington Heritage Register.

"Honestly, I don't think anybody can really comprehend how much the club has done," said Helene Valdez, longtime member and part of the garden club's leadership team. Valdez was among a small group of members who met with Whidbey Weekly last week in Smith Park to talk about the upcoming celebration and the organization's accomplishments, which are many.

"The men said, 'you get together and make



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
Members of the Oak Harbor Garden Club gather at a corner of Smith Park in downtown Oak Harbor, where they have installed a small plot of native plants and where a special plaque commemorating the group's 100 years of service will be unveiled during a community celebration Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Pictured from left are Kathy Chalfant, Robin Boyle, Helene Valdez and Kathy Harbour.



Photo Courtesy of Helene Valdez
This photo from 1923 shows Dorothy Dobbs Maylor Boyer, one of the founding members of the Oak Harbor Women's Improvement Club, which later became the Oak Harbor Garden Club. The group celebrates its 100th anniversary with an open house in Smith Park Saturday in Oak Harbor.

it happen,' and so they made a civic club and made it happen," Chalfant said. "They started the library, they paid the librarian, I mean, the amount of stuff they did was amazing."

"And they paid for a clinic, for a physician and a nurse to come here," chimed in member Robin Boyle. "All the matriarchs of Oak Harbor have been a part of this, so it's just cool."

"Most of the women in the garden club are strong women and when people say 'Oh, no, no, no,' then they don't give up," said Kathy Harbour, another longtime club member. "It's very impressive to me."

"They did so much, I mean, really they did. And so have we, we've continued on," Valdez said. "The whole purpose has been for Oak Harbor's benefit, and it's still true."

"It's interesting the number of things the garden club has done," Chalfant said. "They've done stuff around the police department, they did something around the Chamber of Commerce, they did something around Tennis Learning Center, which is now Heller Fire Station, the entry signs on both ends of the city, things around the Whidbey Playhouse. And if it was too expensive, they got 10 other organizations to join in with them. I read some of these early things and I go, 'Wow.'"

The group's name was officially changed to the Oak Harbor Civic Garden Club in 1946 and it later became the Oak Harbor Garden Club. Today the group helps maintain the blue

flowerpots lining Pioneer Way in the historic downtown area and to commemorate its centennial anniversary, thousands of daffodil bulbs were planted earlier this year, promising a bright burst of color in the spring. The group's annual garden tour and tea is always a popular fundraising event as well.

Like any group, the garden club has had ups and downs in membership over the years. Leaders are pleased to say it has come back strong after the pandemic and has reached its goal of having 100 members for its 100-year celebration. The club meets at 9 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the First United Methodist Church.

"We have a short business meeting and then we have a great program," said Chalfant. "We want to have fun. If we're not having fun, then why do it? That's what I think is keeping it going. Now people are inviting their friends. It's got momentum."

"We also try to have great program," Boyle said. "I think that's a draw. And I like the camaraderie. I've met some really fun people. I enjoy going to the meetings."

"Every month is something new," agreed Valdez. "It could be about conservation one month or how to do a floral arrangement, or any number of things. You can find something that you like. Everybody can shine."

"Everybody's needed," added Harbour.

Learn more at oakharborgardenclub.org.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
Oak Harbor Garden Club members Kathy Harbour, left, and Helene Valdez look through old newspaper clippings featuring garden club members and club activities during a meeting last week in Smith Park. The club celebrates its 100th anniversary in October and is holding an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in Smith Park.

The Vikings are Coming...
Nordic Folk Fest
Saturday, Oct. 7
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Recipe of the Week

MEAT SUBSTITUTIONS FOR VEGETARIAN DINING



Making the transition to a vegetarian lifestyle can be made easier by doing it gradually and investigating foods that can substitute for meat in popular recipes. Pretty much anything can be made with plant-based ingredients, including burgers. Here are some plant-based options to include in vegetarian dining.

Mushrooms can add a meaty taste because they are rich and earthy. They can be the main ingredient in stroganoff or ground up to make burger meat.

Tofu is a popular meat substitute. This soy-based protein comes in different firmness levels, and it takes on the flavor of sauces and accompanying ingredients. Tofu can be used in stir-fries, smoothies, tacos, and more.

People who avoid soy can consider **seitan**, which is a vital wheat gluten product. It has a texture similar to chicken and takes on seasonings and spices well. Try marinating and grilling seitan as you would other meats.

Part of the legume family, **beans** are high in fiber as well as vitamins and minerals. Beans can be used as a substitute for ground meat in chili or quesadillas.

Fans of pulled pork can give **jackfruit** a try. This tropical fruit mimics the texture of barbecue. It's almost impossible to tell the difference when the fruit is slathered in sauce.

From crusts to rice substitutes, **cauliflower** is revolutionizing various normally starch-based dishes. However, when cooked the right way, cauliflower also can be used in lieu of meat in dishes.

If cauliflower piques your interest, consider this recipe for "Cauliflower Picatta," courtesy of One Green Planet

CAULIFLOWER PICATTA (Serves 4)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 head cauliflower, cored | 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice |
| Olive oil for cooking | 1 to 2 tablespoons capers |
| Salt and freshly ground black pepper | 4 paper-thin slices lemon |
| 2 shallots, finely minced | 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley |
| 1 cup sliced mushrooms | 2 teaspoons chilled vegan butter (optional) |
| 1/3 cup dry white wine | |

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Place the cauliflower on a cutting board, cored side down and cut it into 1/2-inch slices, as if you were cutting a loaf of bread.
2. Arrange the cauliflower slices on a lightly oiled baking pan (you may need more than one) and season with salt and pepper to taste. Drizzle with a little olive oil and roast until tender and nicely browned, about 30 minutes, turning once with a large metal spatula about halfway through. While the cauliflower is roasting, make the sauce.
3. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the shallot and saute for 3 minutes, then stir in the mushrooms, if using, and cook 2 minutes longer. Add the wine, lemon juice and capers and cook, stirring, until the liquid reduces slightly. Just before serving, add the parsley and lemon slices, then stir in the vegan butter, if using, stirring to melt in the sauce.
4. To serve, arrange the cauliflower on plates and spoon the hot sauce on top. Serve hot.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

A project you thought would be done quickly is taking more time than expected to be completed. Don't fret over it too much, as things will work out in the end.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

There are just a few obstacles that you need to get past before it is smooth sailing for a bit. Use these roadblocks as learning opportunities as you go along.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

When someone approaches you saying they have a good deal for you, there are certain questions you should ask before moving ahead. It's important to get all the facts.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Others might start asking questions about your whereabouts if you take too many days off from your job. While you don't necessarily have to explain yourself, it's helpful if you do.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

If someone already has made up their mind about something, it's unlikely that you will be able to change their way of thinking in one day. Keep at it if it means that much to you.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

If you really ponder how you have been interacting with others, have you been completely honest? You might think you're getting away with something, but others see the truth.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Money is a major driving force behind a lot of decisions, but it shouldn't be the only one. You may be taking on too much if you are working yourself to the point of exhaustion.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

You continue to roll with the punches, despite things not going your way just yet. Don't worry, your break is out there. The timing is just off for now.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You might be the topic of conversation this week, as others are all figuring out what they can do to be in your good graces. Try not to play favorites in this instance.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

No one knows which side of you they will get during an interaction. That can make business or family interactions challenging. Try to be more open.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You have been managing a lot of extra tasks and could be feeling the added stress from the work. Tune out for a few days to rest yourself and restore your mind to calm.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you want to be everyone's friend and go along with any plan that comes your way, but you might have to be a little bit more firm in your choices moving forward.

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THE CREATOR (PG-13)
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 1:30PM, 4:10PM & 7:00PM
EXPENDABLES (R)
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 1:45PM, 4:25PM & 7:15PM
PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (PG)
FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 2:00PM, 4:40PM & 7:30PM
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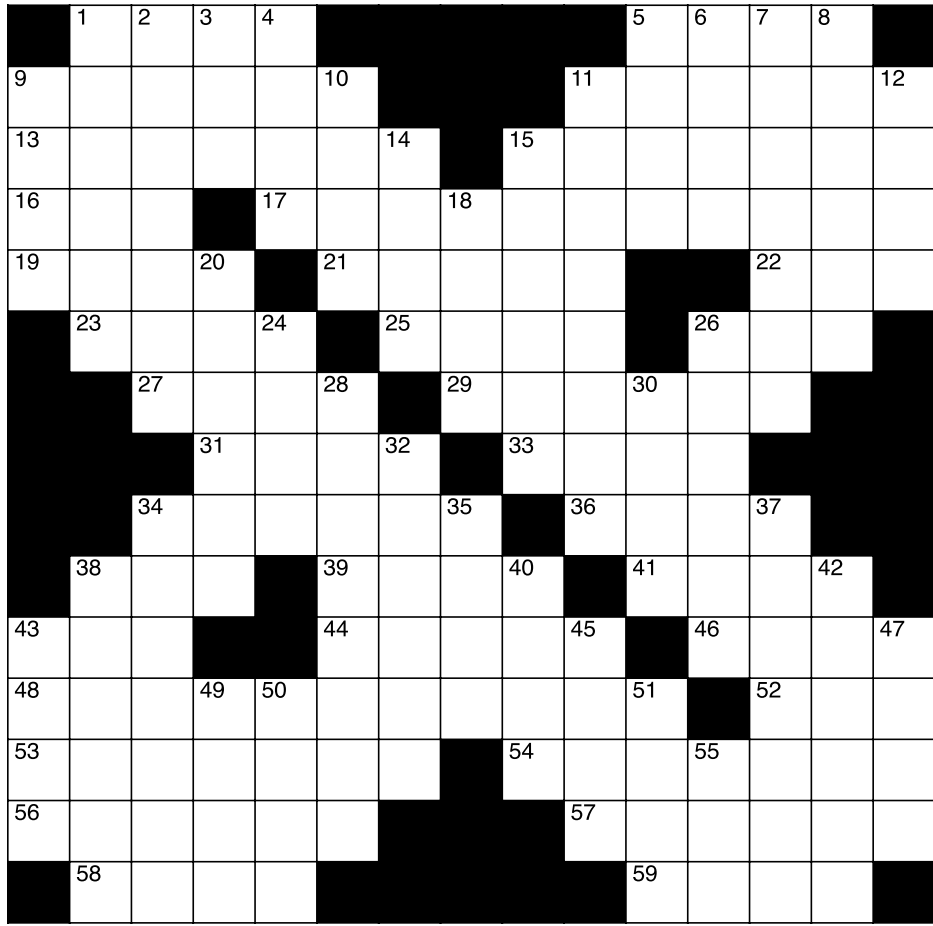
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No coolers, no outside alcohol or drugs. Our Snackbar will have all your food needs and those that are over 21+ we will have the Tavern open! We hope to make this a fun event!



Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ___"
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote
- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one

43. South American plant

- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster Bison
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions

- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun

Answers on page 11

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Thurs, Sept. 28</p> <p>North Isle H-60°/L-49° Rainy and Drizzle</p> <p>South Isle H-60°/L-48° Rainy and Drizzle</p>	<p>Fri, Sept. 29</p> <p>North Isle H-60°/L-48° Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-60°/L-49° Showers PM Sunbreaks</p>	<p>Sat, Sept. 30</p> <p>North Isle H-59°/L-46° Mostly Sunny</p> <p>South Isle H-59°/L-48° Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>Sun, Oct. 1</p> <p>North Isle H-62°/L-49° Partly Sunny</p> <p>South Isle H-61°/L-49° Mostly Sunny</p>	<p>Mon, Oct. 2</p> <p>North Isle H-61°/L-50° Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-62°/L-50° Rain</p>	<p>Tues, Oct. 3</p> <p>North Isle H-62°/L-49° Mostly Cloudy and Windy</p> <p>South Isle H-63°/L-48° Showers</p>	<p>Wed, Oct. 4</p> <p>North Isle H-60°/L-49° AM Rain PM Showers</p> <p>South Isle H-61°/L-46° AM Rain PM Showers</p>
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OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the most amazing adventure you have ever experienced?



Maryann Bast, Coupeville

In 2001 I went on one of the great adventures of my life with my husband, riding the luxurious Orient-Express train from Beijing to Moscow. Accommodations were wonderful, the dining car was glamorous and the food superb. Everything was going well, but this was a trip with a twist! One morning the tour guide came to us in tears explaining that the U.S. had been attacked. It was Sept. 11, 2001. At our next stop, Almaty, I was surprised by the empathy of the Russian people who touched their fists to their hearts in sympathy when they saw us and left bouquets of flowers at the American Embassy. Huge screens in the lounge showed us the planes hitting the Twin Towers. This is a memory I will never ever forget.

Kent Kieselbach, Oak Harbor



The year after my retirement I was included with my daughter, son-in-law and daughter-in-law for a trip to Africa. I flew to Vancouver, British Columbia, to catch my plane to Toronto, Ontario, then on to San Paulo, Brazil. I had an eight-hour layover, then flew at night to Johannesburg, South Africa. We all came together in Johannesburg to visit a lion sanctuary. We got to pet a hand-raised cheetah and 15-month-old lion cubs. We then flew to Maun, Botswana, to meet our guide and travel to our first campground in the Okavango Delta. We viewed our first elephants within 20 miles of the airport. Four days in the delta area, then off to the Chobe National Park. Here we awoke before sunrise to find six lions walking around our tents. We then traveled to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The next morning, we crossed to Livingston, Zambia, and sat 18 inches from the edge of Victoria Falls. We then returned to Zimbabwe to fly to Cape Town, South Africa. Here we got to walk around Tabletop Mountain and visit the Cape of Good Hope. This was truly an adventure of a lifetime.



Barry Meldrum, Oak Harbor

I haven't really experienced the kind of adventures that a person would write a book about. However, an experience I have lived through recently, which certainly had an impact on me and my future, was the application process to come to the U.S. My wife and I married in 2019, in Canada, some months before the pandemic and the shutting of the borders. At the time, we expected the process to be simple enough. Cut to 2020, 2021 and everything is shut down. Government agencies are at a standstill and the flow of traffic across the border has all but ceased entirely. Filling out the paperwork also turned out to be an exercise in determination. Finding every address I have ever lived at since my 16th birthday, and every employer for the past 20 years, was a challenge for me. At last, I got the okay to proceed with the medical exam, and then the interview in Montreal. And then more waiting. All in all, it was quite an adventure, and a steep learning curve. It wasn't until December of 2021 that I finally was welcomed into the U.S. Certainly not an adventure I want to repeat anytime soon!

CAN DO SUDOKU!

On a scale from 1 to 10...5.3

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

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

Answers on page 11

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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.

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. More info at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NorthPugetSoundDragonBoatClub?ref=hl

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Is Christmas time your favorite time of the year? Do you love sharing the Christmas Spirit with others? Santa is looking for help for the 2023 season to bring joy to adults and children of all ages! We will work together with photographers, private businesses and several nonprofit agencies in the Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Anacortes area as we spread joy for the holidays! Please contact Santa at santadaveoh@gmail.com.

com with your questions or to express your interest in helping during this rewarding time of year! (1)

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 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

How'd you do?

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

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 our trucks. Please call either store for more information. Oak Harbor: 360-675-8733, Freeland: 360-331-6272.

College student? Student of history? History buff? Opportunities are available to spend constructive volunteer hours at the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum. Go to www.pnwnam.org and click on "Volunteer" or just stop by and introduce yourself.

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 or call 360-321-1484.

JOB MARKET

Branch Business Services, Inc. in Coupeville is looking to add to an additional member to our bookkeeping staff primarily performing data entry of accounts receivables and payroll hours daily and perform a variety of basic office and clerical tasks. Applicant must be a self-motivated individual with the ability to multitask and have great time-management skills. This position requires a professional attitude and appearance, ability to be resourceful and be proactive when issues arise and have excellent organizational skills. Qualifications would include dependability, good work ethic, QuickBooks software and basic knowledge of Microsoft Office software, high school or equivalent, vacation, 401K, etc. If you are able, please hand deliver your resume to Branch Business Services, Inc., 404 S Main, between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Full-time, \$16.50 - \$17.50 per hour during training. Expected 40 hours per week. (1)

Island Transit is Hiring! If you are looking for a solid career with great pay and benefits including two retirement plans, we are hiring. Visit www.islandtransit.org/employment to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal

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LOST: Top section of fishing pole while fishing off the beach between Island County Parks Driftwood Park and Coupeville ferry. If found you can reach me at rlawler@hotmail.com. Reward (1)

ANIMALS/SUPPLIES

If you or someone you know needs help in feeding pet(s), WAIF Pet Food Banks may be able to help. Pet Food Banks are located at WAIF thrift stores in Oak Harbor (465 NE Midway Blvd) and Freeland (1660 Roberta Ave) and are generously stocked by donations from the community. If you need assistance, please stop by.

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