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Whidbey Island Orchestra **Conducted by Cynthia Morrow**

A Merry Little Christmas

December 15, 2023 7:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Church Freeland

December 17, 2023 3:00 pm **Island Church** Langley

www.WhidbeyIslandOrchestra.org

Donations are encouraged and much appreciated!



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Whidbey Weekly

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Whidbey Weekly



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LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 20, 2023

Enjoy sounds of the season with Whidbey Island Orchestra

Whidbey Island Orchestra invites everyone to tune out the hype and tune in for some holly jolly good music at its "A Merry Little Christmas" concerts

Programs will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland and at 3 p.m. Sunday at Island Church in Langley. The concerts are free to attend, but donations are welcome.

There will even be an extra special guest appearance at each concert, which adds an extra touch of holiday magic, according to WIO Executive Director and Conductor, Cynthia Morrow.

"The whole purpose of the Christmas concerts is to get everyone, all ages, all mindsets, in the mood to celebrate this wonderful holiday season, and to set the stage for Santa's visit at the very end of the program," she said. "Last year a little girl came up to the podium at the end of the concert with tears in her eyes and whispered in awe, 'I believe I've just seen the real Santa!' It was worth everything we put into making this holiday event happen every year for that one, perfect moment."

Morrow said the key to a fun holiday concert is to provide a little something for everyone, which is reflected in some of the selections to be featured at these weekend performances.

"There are nostalgic classics, such as 'White Christmas,' 'Christmas Waltz,' 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,' and 'The Christmas Song' by Mel Tormé," she described. "The entire string section will perform, for the first time, a rarely heard 16th Century carol, 'On This Day Everywhere,' sure to transport our audience to those long-ago Christmases of the European Renaissance. We're also excited to add some new arrangements to our



A very special quest will make an appearance at the end of each of Whidbey Island Orchestra's holiday concerts this

holiday repertoire, 'A Vaughn Williams Christmas,' featuring hauntingly lovely English carols, as well as 'The German Carol Festival,' full of the 19th Century songs we've all come to know and love, such as 'O Tannenbaum' and 'Silent Night.'"

Before the pandemic, Whidbey Island Orchestra had been doing an audience sing-along, which Morrow said they are happy to bring back this year, along with other surprises.

"We are delighted to have seven talented young dancers from Island Dance Studio in Langley performing 'Parade of the Wooden Soldiers' with us," Morrow said. "Their unique choreography has been created and donated by Daunne Zinger of Luigi Jazz Studio. Daunne is also one of two lucky people whose winning bid at this year's WIO Gala entitles them to conduct 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' with the orchestra. Daunne will conduct on Sunday at Island Church. Our other lucky winner is well-known singer/songwriter Joann Quintana, who will be leading the orchestra in 'Rudolph' on Friday night at Trinity Lutheran."

For the first time since the pandemic, Whidbey Island Orchestra is back at full capacity.

"We are so delighted to have our brass and woodwind sections back this season after several years during which the COVID pandemic kept us playing with only strings, piano, and percussion," said Morrow. "WIO's Horn Trio, consisting of Nancy Happe, Jeff Jacobsen and Dianne Vars, will



open the second half of the program with two pieces by Mendelssohn and Mozart, Gabriela Garza, our wonderful quest conductor, and I keep trying to create concert programs that utilize the full-throated sound of the orchestra by choosing pieces that engage every section."

Morrow said something good did spring from the pandemic restrictions of the past few years, and audiences will get to hear that, too.

"Because the strings spent so much time playing together week after week for a few years, it has led to the formation of our new string chamber orchestra, Skylark, consisting of our elite string players, piano, and percussion. Skylark will be featured for the first time in our Christmas concerts, playing a goose-bumpy arrangement of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem.' This group has three first violins, three second violins, three violas, four celli, bass, piano and percussion. We specialize in playing string quartets and string orchestra works in a small orchestra format. I conduct and also play violin or viola as needed."

Whidbey Island Orchestra is a nonprofit, pay-to-play organization made up of amateur local musicians. Planning for programs begins long in advance and requires some finesse.

"Planning programs is a delicate balancing act between fast and slow pieces, keeping a theme in mind while making sure the ensemble, made up of amateur local musicians, can play it comfortably," described Morrow. "It must challenge us but not be ridiculously difficult because we have four regular programs a year and need time to learn it with weekly rehearsals. Gabriela and I usually plan almost a year ahead in order to be sure of finding appropriate music.

"Although we're a pay-to-play orchestra, our youth members play for free," she continued. "We also give youth scholarships every year, mentor and encourage them by placing each young player with an adult member of their section, and when they're ready, they are invited to perform with the orchestra as soloists. We are a community non-profit, but we truly appreciate every donation, no matter how big or how small, as we try to provide opportunities in the arts for our friends and neighbors who love to play, and to our kids in a school system that no longer supports orchestral music on South Whidbey."

Learn more about Whidbey Island Orchestra and find out about upcoming performances at whidbeyislandorchestra.org and check out "A Merry Little Christmas" programs this weekend.

ENJOY "PETER AND THE WOLF" AND MORE SATURDAY

Saratoga Orchestra of Whidbey Island is offering two-for-one fun this weekend, as it presents its annual community celebration, "A Very Merry Whidbey Christmas," at 2 p.m. Saturday at Coupeville High School.

"In 2015, the orchestra began programming 'Peter and the Wolf' as part of our annual holiday concerts and it has become somewhat of a tradition," said Larry Heidel, Saratoga Orchestra's executive director. "Prior to this, we had presented a sing-along 'Messiah' for many years and when we were discussing the program for this year, we said, 'Why not do both?' This

See **SOUNDS** continued on page **8**

Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Orchestra Cynthia Morrow will conduct Whidbey Island Orchestra at two holiday concerts this weekend – Friday in Freeland and Sunday in Langley. The concerts will feature the full orchestra and includes everything to make it "A

Merry Little Christmas.'







TUESDAY, NOV. 28 10:12 am, SW Erie St.

Reporting party said they were trespassed from location; took a battery to Auto [sic] to have it tested and they won't give it back; reporting party disconnected when put on hold for multiple calls.

10:20 am, NE Whitney Dr.

Caller has property to turn over; advising he had stolen the property and is attempting to return it.

10:33 am, SE Barrington Dr.

Caller requesting to speak to a Sergeant; advises every time he leaves town, everyone leaves with him.

10:37 am, SW Erie St.

Subject is passed out by stop sign at the entrance to SR 20: maroon

11:41 am, SW Mulberry Pl.

Caller advising five days ago saw a tall male, slender, dark hair, shaved, coming down the stairs; reporting party did not recognize him from complex; was twitching and looked anxious.

3:47 pm, SE Pioneer Way

Reporting party advising female wearing blue coat and pink bag came into the store, screamed at the employees and called them "fat b****s."

4:03 pm, NW Hyak Dr.

Advising wife went for walk around 12:30 pm and has not returned; usually gone an hour.

4:46 pm, SW Erie St.

Male subject standing in "drive lane" in front of store; elderly, dark plaid pajamas, looked confused.

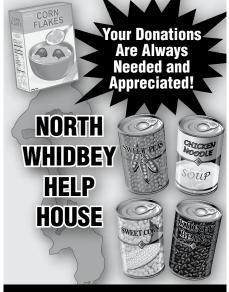
6:21 pm, SE Jerome St.

Advising subject just walked through reporting party's driveway; shined a flashlight into the house.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29 4:40 am, N Oak Harbor St.

Reporting party advising a "tweaker" left and is yelling; saying is going to kill and shoot someone; said they have a knife.

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



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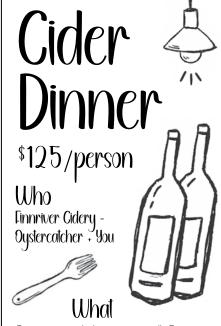
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Join us for a fabulous evening with Finnriver cider maker Andrew Buers and Oystercatcher chef Ben Jones for a 5 course tasting menu featuring hand selected cider pairings! 21. only.

When

Saturday, December 16th. Reservation available from 4pm-8pm.

How

Make reservations at www.oystercatcherwhidbey.com Tickets for this event will be prepaid.

Where

Oystercatcher 901 Grace St. NW Coupeville

OYSTERCATCHER

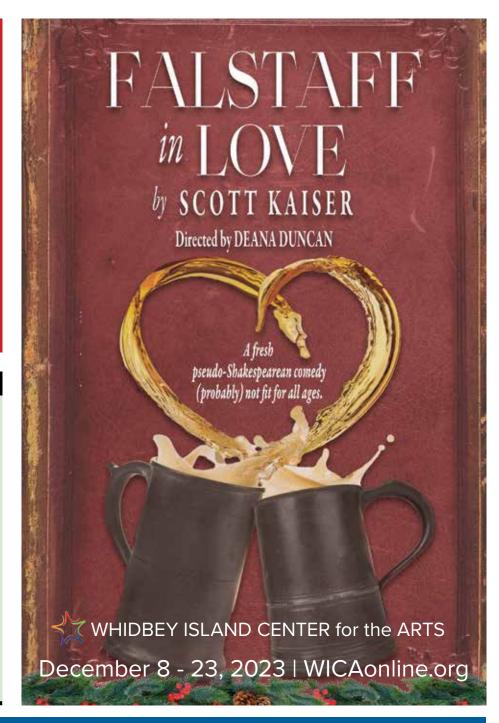




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Shannon Bly Melanie Hammons LOCALLY OWNED



What's Going On

All entries are listed chronologically, unless there are multiple entries for the same venue or are connected to a specific organization (such as Sno-Isle Libraries) in which case all entries for that venue or organization are listed collectively in chronological order under one heading.

Shop Out for Kids

Thursday, December 14, 11:00AM-5:00PM Aqua Gifts, Coupeville

Stop by for some great holiday shopping. Aqua Gifts, located at 2 Front Street NE, will donate a portion of the day's sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation which provides an extra measure of support to students through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund.

Winter Spiral

Thursday, December 14, 4:00-5:30_{PM} Whidbey Island Waldorf School, Clinton

Come experience the spiral of light. This symbol of the turning of the year from the longest night and shortest day back out into the growing light. On your own or with family and friends. Bring your lantern or your candles. Children very welcome. Whidbey Island Waldorf School is located at 6335 Old Pietila Rd. For more information, call 360-341-5686 or visit www.wiws.

Christmas Village

Friday, December 15, 4:00-7:00рм Saturday, December 16, 12:00-7:00PM Sunday, December 17, 12:00-7:00_{PM} Monday, December 18, 4:00-7:00PM Tuesday, December 19, 4:00-7:00pm Wednesday, December 20, 4:00-7:00PM Thursday, December 21, 4:00-7:00PM

Friday, December 22, 4:00-7:00_{PM} Saturday, December 23, 12:00-7:00PM Blue Fox Drive In, 1403 N Monroe Landing Rd

A free community holiday event. Visit Santa and his elves, petting zoo, holiday crafts, and games.

Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue Santa Neighborhood Tours

Friday, December 15 Holmes Harbor, North Bluff

Monday, December 18 Lagoon Pt, Dines Pt, Honeymoon Bay

Thursday, December 21 Race Rd, Shangri La, Admirals Cove

Neighborhood tours start around 5:30PM each night. All dates subject to weather conditions. Please see www.cwifr.org to track Santa's whereabouts and more specific route information. CWFR will be accepting non-perishable food bank donations. Please call 678-3602 or visit www. cwfire.org for further details.

The Nutcracker

Friday, December 15, 7:00PM Saturday, December 16, 2:00 & 7:00рм Sunday, December 17, 2:00PM South Whidbey High School Auditorium,

Our community comes together for Whidbey Island Dance Theatre's 31st annual "The Nutcracker." This year, Callahan Dobmeier takes the role of Clara, Tabitha Metts plays the Forest Queen, Melyssa Smith reprises the role of the Nutcracker with Tay Pitts as the Rat King, Lars Larson returns as Herr Drosselmeyer, and Yarrow Batiste plays the Snow Queen. For tickets

at visit www.onthestage.tickets/show/ whidbey-island-dance-theatre/64f76b1. SWHS Auditorium is located at 5675

Christmas at the Museum

Saturday, December 16, 1:00-4:00_{PM} Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum.

Come share your wish lists and take photos with Santa. Included is free admission to the museum. Featuring honored veteran and author, Peter Hunt, who will be available to chat and autograph all five of his books, including: "Angles of Attack, an A-6 Intruder Pilot's War" and "Blue Water: Born a Pisces, Poseidon has always been my God." The museum is located at 270 SE Pioneer Way. For more information, visit www.pnwnam.org.

A Very Merry Whidbey Christmas

Saturday, December 16, 2:00-4:00_{PM} Coupeville High School, 501 S Main St.

Saratoga Orchestra presents a fun and festive celebration. Information and tickets at Eventbrite.com.

Solstice Under the (WICA) Star!

Thursday, December 21, 7:30-9:30_{PM} Whidbey Island Center for the Arts,

A Concert of Winter music featuring vocalist Ada Faith-Feyma with special guests, Trio Improviso: Linda Vogt, Violin; Andre Feriante, Guitar; and Sheila Weidendorf, Piano. Celebrate the season with music and starshine on the WICA mainstage. For tickets, visit tickets.wicaonline.org.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events See schedule below

Cost: Free

Winter Walks Close to Home

Friday, December 15, 1:00pm Oak Harbor Library

Sunday, December 17, 2:00PM Freeland Library

Meet Maribeth Crandell, the author of Hiking Close to Home. She'll show slides and offer advice about winter walks on Whidbey, Fidalgo and Guemes Islands. As winter weather reduces access to the high country, we can still find local trails full of wonder. With over 70 trails to choose from, she'll suggest the driest for typically wet weather, where to get out of prevailing winds, and which trails offer shelters, restrooms and nearby shops that serve hot drinks for cold hikers. There are trails for pedestrians, equestrians and those on wheels, year round, and close to home.

Nurturing Nature: Plankton Party Friday, December 15, 4:00-5:00рм Oak Harbor Library

Join Island County Natural Resources staff to learn about the world of marine plankton and why they are so important for our planet. Together we will explore the weird world of plankton, view live water samples, and design and build your very own plankton species to take home with you! All ages welcome. Adult caretakers must be present for the duration of the program.

Reading Magic with Jeff Evans

Wednesday, December 20, 10:00-11:00AM Oak Harbor Library

Wednesday, December 20, 3:00-4:00PM Freeland Library

Come help magician Jeff Evans return an overdue book and see what makes a library card like a magic wand. Curious George appears to perform the "World Famous Banana Trick." You'll see jaws drop when Jeff shows how reading helps solve the puzzling Rubik's Cube.

The Reptile Lady

Thursday, December 21, 10:00-11:00AM Coupeville Rec Hall, 901 Alexander St.

Join in and interact with reptiles from all over the world in this educational and fun event with the Reptile Lady, April Jackson. For kids of all ages and their caregivers.

WHAT'S GOING ON CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Checks can be sent to: Gifts from the Heart, PO Box 155, Coupeville WA 98239

Questions call: 360-672-5502



FREELAND.STORAGE@GMAIL.COM for more information.





Your journey to the **Washington State GOP Convention** begins with **precinct caucuses** hosted by the Island County Republican Party!

ISLAND COUNTY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:00 am (Doors open at 9:15 am)

Camano Island: Elger Bay Elementary School 1810 Elger Bay Road, Camano Island, WA 98282

North Whidbey: Hillcrest Elementary School 1500 NW 2nd Ave, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

South Whidbey (& Precincts 154, 155, 171): South Whidbey Assembly of God 5373 Maxwelton Road, Langley, WA 98260

Help Craft the Republican Party Platform! Elect Delegates & Alternates to the 2024 Island County Republican Convention!

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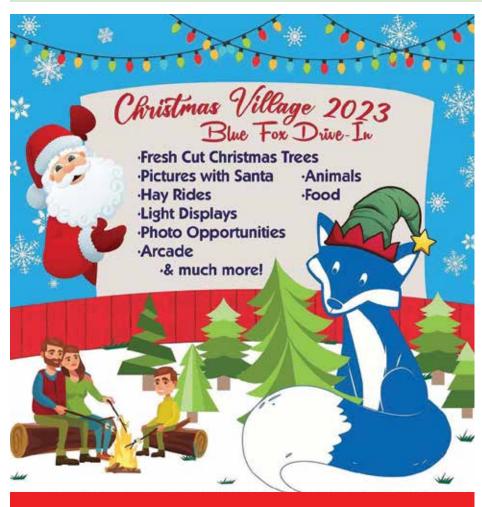
Habitat for Humanity of Island County











Dates: December 15-23 Times: Saturdays & Sundays, 12-7pm; All other dates 4-7pm

1403 N Monroe Landing Rd • Oak Harbor 360-675-5667 • www.bluefoxdrivein.com



Community Carol Sing Seasonal Favorites 5pm Sun., Dec.17 **Christmas Eve** 10am, 5pm and 9pm 3rd & Anthes

> 360-221-4233 lumc@whidbey.com Find us on Facebook



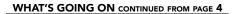
www.oakharbormainstreet.org





Whidbey Weekly





Religious Services

Holy Communion- Advent III

Sunday, December 17, 8:00 & 10:30_{AM} St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods, Freeland

St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods will celebrate the Third Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion at both services. We'll light candles on the Advent wreath and sing hymns that look toward the promise of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Godly Play for children, which invites discovery and wonder around Biblical stories, the Church year, and worship, is offered at the 10:30AM service. All are welcome. The church is located at 5217 Honeymoon Bay Rd.

Filipino Christian Fellowship

Sundays, 2:00PM Meets at Church on the Rock, 1780 SE 4th Ave., Oak Harbor. www.ohcfellowship.com

Unitarian Universalist Sunday Service

Sundays, 10:00AM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Freeland

All are welcome. Values-based children's religious exploration classes and childcare will be provided. Visit www.uucwi.org for more information. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation building is located at 20103 Highway 525, two miles north of Freeland.

Unity of Whidbey

Sundays, 10:00AM 5671 Crawford Road, Langley

If you're one of the "spiritual but not religious" people who question their childhood faith or are looking for something more, Unity of Whidbey may feel like a homecoming. Unityofwhidbey.org even offers a Zoom link to attend online.

Whidbey Quakers

Sundays, 4:00-5:00_{PM} Unitarian Universalist Congregation,

Whidbey Island Friends Meeting (also known as Quakers) meet in silent worship and community, with occasional spoken messages, every Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist building. For more information, contact Tom Ewell at tewell@whidbey. com or go to www.whidbeyquakers.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Worship, 10:00AM

Sunday School to age 20, 10:00AM Wednesday Testimony Meeting, 2:30_{PM}

Christian Science Reading Room

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11:00AM-2:00PM

The church and Reading Room are located at 721 SW 20th Court at Scenic Heights Street, Oak Harbor. Call 360-675-0621 or visit cs-oh-wa.com for more information. Services and Sunday School are also held at 10:30AM on South Whidbey at 15910 Highway 525, just north of Bayview and across from Useless Bay Road; testimony meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month

Galleries & Art Shows

"This Looks Like Fun" Annual **Holiday Show**

Saturday, December 16, 10:00AM-5:00PM Sunday, December 17, 10:00AM-5:00PM Coupeville Rec Hall, 901 Alexander St.

Low stress shopping: clay, wood, glass, fiber, jewelry, photography, and painting.

Meetings & Organizations

Whidbey Island Genealogical **Searchers Holiday Party**

Tuesday, December 19, 1:00рм Oak Harbor Lutheran Church

Join us for genealogy stories, music, caroling, socializing and good food. All are invited to attend. Membership not required. For more information, email whidbeygensearchers@gmail.com. The church is located at 1253 NW 2nd Ave.

Al-Anon

Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30AM Online

If a friend or relative has a problem with alcohol, you can find solutions for yourself at Alanon. For more information, visit https://wa-al-anon.org

Al-Anon Group

Every Tuesday, 5:30-6:30_{PM} Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, 1253 NW 2nd Ave.

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon group can help. Call Randy at 360-914-8084 for meeting information.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Numerous locations

For a list of local meetings visit www. district46aawa.org or call 888-360-1564 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous

Every Tuesday, 6:30рм The Senior Center, Mount Vernon

All are welcome. The Senior Center is located at 1401 Cleveland Ave. For further information, please call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous at 1-800-222-5542.

Whidbey Weekly

Every Wednesday, 6:00-7:00PM Langley United Methodist Church

NAR-ANON family groups are worldwide for those affected by someone else's addiction. The church is located at 301 Anthes Ave.

Van Rides to the Seattle VA

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Call to sign up or for additional information. Spouses and caregivers can ride with the veteran. Eligibility for VA healthcare is

a benefit to many veterans. Professional counseling services are confidential and available at no cost. Call 360-221-0746. If you have questions about the WVRC and services available, call 360-331-8081 or email at WhidbeyVRC@gamil.com or send a request and get information from the website: www.WhidbeyVRC.org.

Weekly Veteran Support Groups Women Veterans and Spouses

Mondays, 5:00-6:00_{PM} Mixed group, Veterans

Tuesdays, 5:00–6:00рм

Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, Langley

Join anytime. If you have questions about the WVRC and services available, call 360-331-8081 or email at WhidbeyVRC@ gmail.com or send a request and get information from the website: www.WhidbeyVRC.org.



LOCALLY OWNED

Whidbey Weekly

Calling all creatives! Third annual wearable art show seeks artists

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

The Center in Oak Harbor is asking all those interested to consider entering its third annual Wearable Art Show, which will be held April 20, 2024. The event is a fundraiser for the Oak Harbor Senior Center Foundation and is done in conjunction with the Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation Department. The deadline to apply to enter the show is March 15, but there are several upcoming events to help answer any questions artists may have.

Dubbed "an unexpected runway show with flair," the Wearable Art Show is a fashion show highlighting the fun of working with repurposed materials. Those who enter don't have to have a background in fashion design, they just have to have an idea. Participating artists are asked to create a complete ensemble that will be worn in the culminating fashion show in April

The first two wearable art fashion shows asked artists to incorporate a theme, such as feathers or foliage, but this time artists have free range.

"We decided to remove the theme and allow artists to follow any inspiration or ideas they may have," said Liz Lange, recreation manager



Photo Courtesy of The Center, Oak Harbor

Model Lona Lange works on her makeup before the start of the 2023 Wearable Art Show at The Center in Oak Harbor. Organizers of next year's fashion show are looking for artists to create one-of-a-kind ensembles using recycled or repurposed materials. for the City of Oak Harbor. "We wanted to open those doors and not limit creativity. The only 'theme' would be in utilizing repurposed materials – how they are used is up to the artist."

Participating artists need no experience – everyone is encouraged to enter. It doesn't cost anything to enter, although artists do pay for their own materials, one of the reasons repurposed or reused materials are encouraged. Students are also encouraged to participate and the first 10 student entries will receive a \$100 participation award per ensemble and 10 volunteer hours.

"We see this as an opportunity to bring our youth into community events, to help them be engaged in the community and give them an opportunity or outlet to show their skills outside of the classroom or school setting," explained Lange. "It"s real-life experience for students and its also about that aspect of getting involved in community events featuring intergenerational contact."

Those who decide to participate can model their creations themselves, provide their own models or organizers at The Center can provide models. Members of Miss Oak Harbor and Mr. Oak Harbor royalty will be available to model ensembles.

Duncan Chalfant, president of the Senior Center Foundation board, said he has already begun working on his entry.

show your work."

"I have an idea I'm working on," he said. "It's all about the fun. I'm on the eclectic side of things; I usually get a good laugh out of what I do. I kind of like to do projects anyway, and this is something I can do in my spare time, so it's a good thing. The most fun, though, is the night of the event, when you actually get to

Lange said she entered an ensemble for the first time last year, and was pleased and surprised with how it all came together when her daughter modeled it on the runway.

"I had never done anything like this before," she said. "I had never created wearable art or any kind of art and never classified myself as an artist. But I loved the process of it – seeing the fabric and materials, the journey of discovery was so fun. Even if I could barely sew – there was a lot of glue and staples – it was so fun to see the pieces coming together. It didn't turn out as I originally envisioned, but it made me realize I have more skills and abilities than I thought I had."

For those who are interested in creating a wearable art ensemble, there will be a Meet and Greet gathering at The Center at 7 p.m. Jan. 11.

"It's an informal time to talk, chat, have a good time," Chalfant said. "Folks might need ideas or have questions about materials. Then on Feb. 10, there is the Crafters Swap at the Oak Harbor Library. A lot of people showed up last year and were able to pick up a lot of their materials. Then on March 14, we'll do another artist check in to see how everybody is doing."

"If folks need additional support or are stuck in the process, this is a great opportunity and it

aligns with our entry deadline," said Lange. "It's not too late for people who have decided they want to enter, even if they missed the first Meet and Greet."

All of this, of course, is to raise money to help support the Oak Harbor Senior Center Foundation. While The Center is part of Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation, the funding it receives from the city covers the cost of the building and staff. Program fees, membership fees and money from the foundation help fund everything else. Organized

nizers feel the Wearable Art Show will become a main source of funding in the future.

"One of the most important things the foundation does is provide a scholarship program," said Chalfant. "We can provide financial help for people who can't afford a membership or perhaps a local trip. We can help with up to \$120 per person, per year. When there are 1,000 people there, that's a lot.

"Most of the people who participate in The Center's programs have a good time," he continued. "We want to make sure everyone has a good time. Financial ability shouldn't be a limiting factor."



Photo Courtesy of The Center, Oak Harbor

Model and creator of her ensemble, Jamie, prepares to go on stage earlier this year at the Wearable Art Show — An Unexpected Runway Show with Flair, held at The Center in Oak Harbor. Organizers of the third annual Wearable Art Show are looking for all those interested in creating a unique ensemble for the 2024 show.

The foundation also administers the Gifts of Connection program, which provides gifts to people who are isolated or at home.

"We could be the only visitor they get this holiday season," said Lange, who noted the importance of the programs The Center provides for older adults. "Whether it's an exercise class or playing pinochle, it all really comes down to our focus on fall prevention and overcoming social isolation," she continued. "Both are top public health issues for older adults and Island County has a higher percentage of these issues. Social isolation descends quickly into mental decline. So a lot of important work is happening to keep people independent, healthy and engaged."

The final application deadline is March 15. All those interested can scan the QR code included here or find all information and applications online at ohscfoundation.org. Tickets for the April 20 fundraising event will likely go on sale near the end of February or the beginning of March. This event has sold out in the past, so those interested in attending are encouraged to buy their tickets early.

SOUNDS continued from page 2

year's 'Messiah' will be represented by three sing-along choruses, including of course, 'Hallelujah!'"

All those interested in brushing up on the music and warming up their vocal chords are invited to come early at 1 p.m. for a brief run-through. Music for the choruses, which include "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child is Born" and "Hallelujah Chorus," is available to download at sowhidbey.com.

Saturday's concert will also include some special guests.

"This year's guests are the lovable The Shifty Sailors, who are such a delight for the audience," shared Heidel. "We're also excited to have the magnificent Troy Chapman and his Django jazz trio, The Hot Club of Troy, join us to put a bit of swing into the program. What's especially fun is the trio will feature Eric Vanderbilt-Mathews and Keegan Harshman, two musicians that

were involved with Saratoga Orchestra when they were local high school students."

application to participate in the 2024 Wearable

Art Show at The Center in Oak Harbor.

Heidel said orchestra members always look forward to performing this holiday concert.

"We love the community aspect of this concert," he said. "The program will feature a very eclectic mix of music and have a wide appeal – something for everyone. We are in hopes that lots of families attend to come to experience Karl Olsen telling the story of 'Peter and the Wolf;' singers will love the 'Messiah' sing-along and jazz lovers will love The Hot Club of Troy putting their spin on tunes from the season."

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors/military. Students 17 and younger are free. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at sowhidbey.com or at bayleaf in Coupeville, Click Music



Photo Courtesy of Saratoga Orchestra

Anna Edwards will lead Saratoga Orchestra of Whidbey Island in a performance of "Peter and the Wolf" Saturday at 2 p.m. in Coupeville. The concert will also include a community sing-along and special guests, The Shifty Sailors and Troy Chapman and the Hot Club of Troy.

in Oak Harbor or Moonraker Books in Langley. Tickets are also available at the door.







BROADCASTING SKAGIT VALLEY CARDINALS AND OAK HARBOR WILDCAT HOOPS



Pre-game show 15 minutes prior to all start times.

Mon., Dec. 18 OHHS Girls' Basketball vs Mount Vernon Christian 7:15pm
Wed., Dec. 20 OHHS Girls' Basketball vs Anacortes 7:15pm
Thurs., Dec. 21 OHHS Girls' Basketball vs Marysville-Pilchuck 7:15pm

***Stream opens 60 minutes for all sports

www.soundsportsnet.com





Cupcakes are diminutive, hand-held treats that come in a variety of flavors and styles. Each December, the humble cupcake gets its own day of celebration (December 15), but people know well that cupcakes are enjoyed throughout the year, particularly during birthdays and other special occasions.

It may seem like there is no way to reinvent the cupcake, but "Sticky Cinnamon-Walnut Spirals" marry the best of cinnamon rolls with the convenience of a muffin/cupcake tin preparation to form a flavor-packed product that can either be breakfast, brunch or dessert. Try this recipe, courtesy of "Small Sweet Treats" (Gibbs Smith) by Marguerite Marceau Henderson, to elevate your cupcake game.

STICKY CINNAMON-WALNUT SPIRALS (Serves 6)

1/2 cup dried currants

- 1 cup hot water
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from 17.3-ounce package), room temperature
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest

1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

- 1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Place currants in a bowl and pour hot water over top to cover. Steep for 15 minutes and then drain off excess water. Cool currants to room temperature.

Roll out the pastry on a work surface. Brush the pastry with the melted butter. Combine the orange zest, walnuts, brown sugar, cinnamon, and reserved currants in a bowl. Spread the mixture evenly over the pastry. Roll up jelly-roll

style, loosely. Place seam side down and cut into six slices, each about 2-inches wide.

Brush the interior of the muffin tin with the remaining tablespoon of melted butter and sprinkle with sugar. Place the cut slices of pastry into each muffin cup. Bake on the middle rack of a preheated 400°F oven for 22 to 25 minutes until golden brown and puffed. Allow to cool for a minute or two before removing from muffin pan.

Note: This recipe easily can be doubled. Just use two sheets of pastry, double the filling, and use a 12-cup muffin tin.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you may be interested in unusual art forms or creative things in nature, Aries. Therefore, try to enjoy outings that may bring you to exhibits by local artists or craft

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, an old friend may come to visit for the holidays and you can rekindle your relationship after many years. Even though it's been some time, you'll be glad to see one another.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

An unexpected invitation comes your way, Gemini. It may include a short trip to visit someone or a brief vacation to a place

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

New career opportunities are available to reawaken your ambition, Cancer. You might come across some possibilities this week that you hadn't imagined.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

The excitement of making arrangements for a journey may actually excite you more than the trip itself. However, once you get to the destination, your enthusiasm will grow.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

After a visit from a friend or family member who you haven't seen in a while, long-forgotten memories are recalled. This will be an interesting trip down memory lane.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

This week you may learn something new that you never realized about your spouse or current partner, Libra. It can be exciting realizing wonderful things about the one you love.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, exciting new developments will arise in your career. A solution may come to light or plans you've been making will suddenly come to fruition.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Your desire to travel may have awakened a new interest in you, Sagittarius. This could inspire you to make plans to visit far off lands in the year to come.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Welcomed, but unexpected communications from a close friend could come your way, Capricorn. This may segue into a journey or some social occasion.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may desire to keep your distance from certain individuals, but they manage to find you anyway. Keep things cordial until you can once again move on.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You are receptive to new ideas, Pisces, and that may mean you could relocate for a new and promising career. Keep all of your options open.







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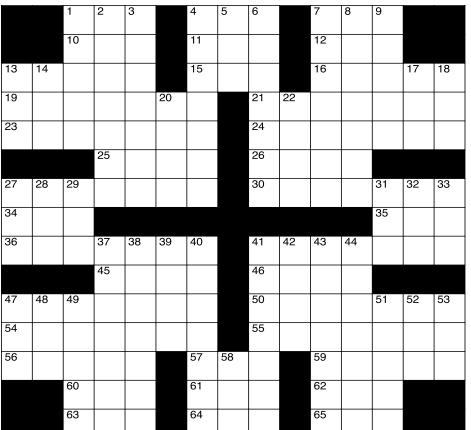


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CFOSSWOF



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: __ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state

- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed

- 18. Marry
 - 20. __ up: intensifies
 - 22. Body of water
 - 27. People of southern Benin
 - 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
 - 29. Snag
 - 31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 - 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. __ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil ___, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

Answers on page 11

OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the coolest gift you have ever received?



Levi K., 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The best Christmas present I have ever got is my Nintendo Switch OLED. One reason I say this is, the Nintendo Switch is portable and easy to carry. Another reason I say this is because you can have (depending on the game) up to eight people playing at one time. Not only can you play games on it, you can also get YouTube and Netflix on it. You don't have to have a TV to play because it is so small and portable. If you have two sets of controllers you can play with one set while the other set of controllers charges on the Switch. The Switch allows me to play video games with my brother

while my dad watches TV. That is why I think the Nintendo Switch is the best Christmas

Emma W., 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The best gift that I have ever received was my cat, Walter. After our cat, Pepper, passed away, I had been asking my mom and dad every way I knew how to get me a cat. On my Christmas list, on my birthday, and a bunch of other ways, and this lasted for three years. When I was 9, my mom said that she was going to run some errands and when she got back, she texted my dad to bring me outside to the car. I asked, "What did you get?" My dad opened the car door and there was my new cat, all scruffy from the shelter but white as a snowball. It was the best surprise in the world!



Thank you for choosing me to do this and to share this experience with others.



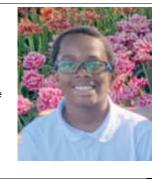
Samantha Kate V., 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The coolest gift that I ever received was the book "Elena of Avalor" from the Disney animated series. Even though I do not read this book anymore, I still cherished it, because the book was given to me by my late grandma and her first name is "Elena" and the book also includes a cool little necklace inside! This special book is about a sister's promise. Elena had promised her sister that she would be there on the way to the invention fair but her invention fell on the ground and needs to be fixed. Elena makes a promise to her sister that she will be back to give her sister a tool to

help her fix her invention. Instead, the Royal Visitors are there and Elena gives them a tour instead of going back. Elena remembers the promise and runs off with the tool to go help her little sister's invention work again! The book and the necklace are still in my possession so I can always remember my grandma.

Z'jeziah H., 5th grade, Oak Harbor

The coolest thing I got for Christmas is an Akatsuki Cloak with a necklace that goes with it. The cloak is black with red clouds, and the necklace has one pendant that is a singular red cloud. The characters that have the cloak are basically villains in the TV show, Naruto. When I have it on, it feels like I'm in the show.



SUDOKU

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

Answers on page 11

1			9			3		
	9	5		3				
4	1		2					6
		6					8	4
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					9	8		2
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YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, Dec. 14 H-48°/L-40° South Isle H-47°/L-39 artly Sunny

North Isle H-50°/L-41° Partly Sunny South Isle H-51°/L-39°











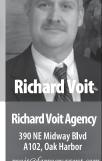


Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

Auto · Home Life • Business Call: (360) 675-1598 Se Habla Español





GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

Winter Barn Sale: Wednesdays-Saturdays, 9am-6pm, beginning Nov. 1 and continuing through the holidays, 3475 Day Road, Greenbank. Tools, warm clothing, antiques and collectibles. 360-900-4713 (2)

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 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 nilish@gmail.com. More info at our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/

NorthPugetSoundDragon-BoatClub?ref=hl

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at 420patientnetworking@ gmail.com. Local Whidbey Island help.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, identity theft, fraud, human trafficking, home invasion and other crimes not listed, Victim Support Services has advocates ready to help. Please call the 24-hr Crisis Line 888-388-9221. Free service. Visit our web site at http://victimsupportservices.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer for Island Shakespeare Festival! Many hands help keep the island's only outdoor classical summer theater going and growing! Can you help? There are many opportunities throughout the year to join the ISF family as a volunteer. These opportunities are a great way to get acquainted with the organization. • Distribute Ad Packets and Posters for our Summer Season • Production: Help set up Henry the Tent/Help with scenic painting, props, or costumes • Front of House: Usher, gate, greeter, sell snacks • House an Artist: Actors/Designers need free housing June-Sept./Or partial summer • Loan a Vehicle: Actors are housed on various areas of the island and need loaner cars; can you help? • Work at the Bard's Boutique: This fun and easy volunteer job is at the Bayview Cash Store and requires only a few hours

How'd you do?											
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7	5	3	8	2	6	4	1	9			

per week. • Become a Board Member: Development/Outreach/Special Skills. Please contact Angelica, angelica. metcalfe@islandshakespearefest.org, if interested in volunteering.

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 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

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 employment opportunity employer.

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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

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US Postal Mail

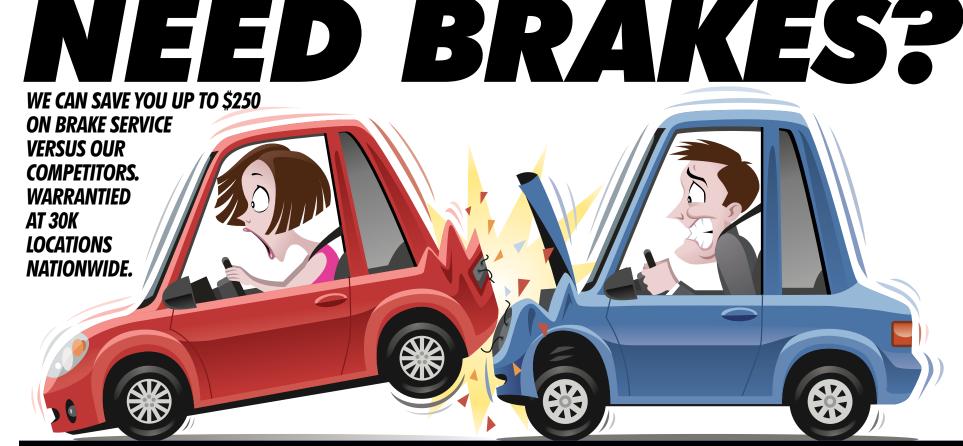
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