

December 21 through December 27, 2023

FREE

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John 3:16

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Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
Peggy Gibson stands in the middle of her collection of Department 56 Dickens' Village pieces. Gibson has about 100 miniature houses and hundreds of other pieces that make up her Christmas village.

Oak Harbor woman has one Dickens of a Christmas village

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Peggy Gibson loves the story of "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. She believes her interest in it sprang from her love and enjoyment of old holiday movies, including "A Christmas Carol," "It's a Wonderful Life," "White Christmas" and "Miracle on 34th Street," to name a few.

Gibson has put her love for Dickens' classic tale on full display in her Oak Harbor home. Her collection of Department 56 Dickens' Village series of miniature houses fills one room completely and spills over into another – and that's not even her whole collection.

"Right now, I think there's 97 houses out, but that doesn't include the horses, the people, the trees, any of that," she said during a private tour of the village last week. "If you were to add all those together, I'm going to estimate I have about 450 pieces."

It's a lot of pieces to put together every year and Gibson, who is 75, said this is likely the last year she'll put the village out.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
The buildings and people may be made of porcelain, but they make Peggy Gibson's Department Dickens' Village come to life. Gibson has a collection of nearly 100 houses and more than 450 pieces when figurines, accessories and trees are added.

"What used to take me a couple of days to set up, now takes me about five days," she said, admitting she only ever really set it all up for her family and friends.

"I do it for my own personal pleasure and my family," she shared. "I think this year I did it because it's probably going to be my last year decorating like this. When my family came up year before last and all my grandchildren and daughters were here, that was pleasurable and I really wanted to do it. This year I just pretty much did it for myself. And then after I did it for myself, I thought, 'Why don't I just have a holiday gathering and invite some people over?'"

Gibson, who has been collecting the houses for more than 30 years now, was kind enough to invite *Whidbey Weekly* over for a guided tour of the holiday village, where she shared the story of how her little village got started.

"I'm going to say I probably started in about 1989 when I got my first piece," she said. "The only reason I say that is my mom and dad moved up here in 1987. My aunt was already up here. She was the one that got my mother interested in it and then mom started right off with me."

The Department 56 miniature villages are highly collectible. Only a few new pieces are introduced to its various themed collections every year. Each piece is hand painted. After a few years in production, molds are broken and pieces are retired, adding to their collectability. Gibson keeps careful records of her collection.

"I keep an inventory of everything," she said. "I list how much I paid for each piece, where I got it and how much it's valued at when I do the inventory."

"I've been very fortunate," Gibson continued. "My mother decided to give me some retired pieces, which got me started. One time I was going by this yard sale and here were some of the cars my husband collects, so I pulled over to check it out and here were these Department 56 Dickens' Village pieces. She was only asking \$10 for them with the boxes (which makes them more valuable). I looked at the lady and said, 'Do you know what you have here? I don't want to take advantage of you.' She said,

See DICKENS continued on page 12

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Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

12:19 pm, SE Pioneer Way

Reporting party states they are requesting female who was just in the store be trespassed; female has now left. Was being rude when the store didn't do what she wanted.

5:05 pm, Mobius Loop

Subject is at location; wants papers served; "weird beret old man hat," black jacket and pants.

5:14 pm, W Whidbey Ave.

Advising of threatening text messages from coworker stating will "gut reporting party like a stuck pig."

5:53 pm, SW Erie St.

Advising customer left bag behind, called the store, states there is a handgun in the bag; will be returning for the bag.

7:13 pm, NE Ernst St.

States daughter had a vape in the couch and reporting party found it; daughter is 17 years old and took the vape out of reporting party's pocket, did it "forcefully."

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

9:56 am, SR 20

Reporting party advising their car hit a seagull; deceased is in a bag on the sidewalk.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

3:37 am, SR 20

Reporting party woke up and everything in his room was arranged in groups; looks like someone wore his clothes.

MONDAY, DEC. 11

11:43 am, SW Barrington Dr.

Caller advising male has been coming into neighborhood and honking horn in the middle of the night.

3:04 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising female has been in the bathroom for about an hour, playing music; reporting party advising bathroom is locked.

4:29 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising that a male got a haircut and then ran without paying.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

7:40 am, NW Dory Dr.

Reporting party advising let dogs outside at 6 am and neighbor was throwing things over the fence at the dogs.

4:15 pm, SW Erie St.

Reporting party advising he wants to file a report in regard to money he left at location and was now stolen.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

12:46 am, NW Dory Dr.

Advising an old friend of husband's came to location; husband did not come outside; friend got mad and used his car to push their car up the driveway? [sic]

10:15 am, Sw Loerland Dr.

Loose goats on Loerland.

10:21 pm, SW Erie St.

Advising subject has been trespassed from location; has been going to location several times; reporting party calls him "half pants."

11:37 pm, NW Dory Dr.

Caller states neighbor next door is antagonizing her dogs; a couple of days ago, he threw eggs at them.

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

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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

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Bits & Pieces

Drive Safely on Washington Roads this Holiday Season Enhanced patrols on roads and highways has begun

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) is asking Washingtonians to have a happy holiday season by traveling safely and responsibly on all roads and highways.

Law enforcement agencies across the state including Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Fern- dale PD, Lynden PD, Oak Harbor PD and Everson PD, will have an increased presence on roads over a period from Dec. 13 to Jan. 1 to help remind everyone to drive safely. Patrols will be monitoring traffic for instances of impaired driving. Last year, 740 people died on Washington roads, with more than half of those fatalities involving alcohol or drug impaired driving.

Impaired driving due to alcohol or drug use is the top risk factor in fatal crashes. It is also preventable. Impairment begins at a lower blood alcohol concentration (BAC) than the current .08 legal limit. Reduced small muscle control (including eye focus), impaired judgment, and reduced alertness begin at .05 BAC. Before someone reaches .07 BAC, their crash risk has doubled.

Jack Fletcher is a safe-driving advocate whose life was changed by an impaired driver. In July 2014, he was hit head-on by a driver whose BAC was twice the legal limit. "I was hit head-on by a drunk driver. I was placed in an induced coma for five days and woke up to a new reality. I don't ever call my crash an accident because accidents aren't preventable. This was very preventable."

"Most people drive sober, but the small number of people who drive impaired pose a serious risk to themselves and to all of us on our roads," said Mark McKe- chnie, WTSC External Relations director. "Everyone plays a role in making our roads safer. Talking with those closest to us and setting a safe example is a great way to get started."

Everyone can help prevent impaired driv- ing. WTSC offers some advice for holiday revelers before they get behind the wheel:

- Designate a sober driver before drinking
- Pre-plan the trip home by scheduling a rideshare or cab pick-up
- Arrange for family or friends to stay the night after holiday festivities
- Use public transportation
- Call 911 if you see or suspect someone is driving impaired

Public policy can also prevent impaired driving fatalities. This coming year, the Washington State legislature will consider lowering the BAC limit for operating a motor vehicle from .08 percent to .05 percent to accurately reflect when impair- ment really starts. More than 84 percent of people on the planet live in countries with BAC limits of .05 percent or lower because these limits effectively reduce the number of crashes and prevent traffic fatalities.

[Submitted by Sabrina Combs, Executive Services Administrator, City of Oak Harbor]

Island Transit Finalizes Land Acquisition to Strengthen Sustainable Transit Initiatives

Island Transit is pleased to announce the successful finalization of a strategic land acquisition adjacent to the Coupeville

operating base. This significant milestone, accomplished Dec. 15, marks a crucial step forward in Island Transit's mission to transi- tion to zero-emission vehicles and foster a more sustainable transit future.

The newly acquired parcel will assist in Island Transit's zero emission transi- tion moving from traditional diesel- and gas-powered vehicles to cutting edge zero-emission technologies. This initiative underscores the agency's dedication to providing accessible, convenient, safe and environmentally sustainable bus services for the community.

"This land acquisition is an important step for Island Transit as we continue to advance our goals of environmental stew- ardship and forward-thinking transit solu- tions," said Todd Morrow, executive director of Island Transit. "It enables us to further integrate zero-emission vehicles into our fleet and solidify our commitment to creating a cleaner, more sustain- able transit system for the benefit of our community."

As part of its ongoing efforts, Island Transit has already made strides in transitioning its fleet away from fossil-fueled vehicles. The agency has incorporated five battery elec- tric vehicles into the rideshare program and 10 Lightning eMotors battery elec- tric vehicles (E Ford 350EL) to support on demand services in addition to the 18 alternative fuel vehicles already in use. The agency has also installed solar panels on its operating bases.

Island Transit continues to support a sustainable, clean transportation future with renewable energy solutions.

To learn more about all Island Transit's projects, please visit www.islandtransit.org/projects.

[Submitted by Selene Muldowney-Strat- ton, Marketing & Communications Officer, Island Transit]

Skagit Valley College Receives Donation from Subaru-U to Enhance Automotive Program

Skagit Valley College's Automotive Tech- nology program received three state-of- the-art vehicles from Subaru-U, a division of Subaru of America, this fall.

The vehicles – 2022 Subaru Ascent, 2023 Subaru Outback and 2022 Subaru Cross- trek – will help to provide hands-on learn- ing experiences for students that align with industry standards.

In addition to the vehicle donation, Suba- ru-U is offering SVC students exclusive access to online factory training. This initiative aims to provide students with a well-rounded education, integrating theo- retical knowledge and practical skills for enhanced job market competitiveness.

"Courses through Subaru University cover more than just mechanics," said John Dunn, Subaru Technical Training Education Manager. "Students also have the ability learn about sales or parts."

Collaborating with Subaru of America and local Subaru dealerships in Skagit County and surrounding areas, the program also offers students the opportunity to engage in internships during their studies and secure employment post-graduation.

The strategic partnerships forged with Subaru-U and local dealerships provide students with a holistic educational experi- ence integrating classroom instruction with real-world industry exposure.

"I always call our program a roadmap to success," said Dunn.

This donation will allow students to acquire the skills necessary for successful intern- ships and entry into the automotive work- force upon graduation.

"These vehicles will benefit our students

for the next 10 years," said Aaron Klesick, instructor and department head of the SVC automotive technology program. "We are incredibly grateful to Subaru-U for commit- ment to our students' education and their future in the automotive industry."

About Subaru-U

Subaru-U fosters a distinctive collaboration among Subaru of America, retailers, and accredited secondary and post-second- ary schools endorsed by the ASE Educa- tion Foundation. By integrating Subaru's Web-Based Training (WBT) into the exist- ing curriculum, students can complete essential entry-level training for Subaru technicians. Additionally, students have the option to undergo a Subaru Level 2 Instructor Led Training Test-out, enhancing their training.

For further information about Subaru-U, visit subaru-u.com.

[Submitted by Sofia Poulton, Communica- tions and Social Media Manager, SVC]

Grants Awarded to Preservation Projects Across Washington Washington Trust for Historic Preser- vation Announces 2024 Valerie Sivinski Fund Grant Awards

Each year the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation provides grants through the Valerie Sivinski Fund to organizations and community groups engaged in historic preservation across the state. Founded in 1976, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote sustainable and economically viable communities through historic preservation. The Valerie Sivinski Fund grant program embodies the mission of the Washington Trust by supporting preservation projects where they really happen...at the local level.

Named in memory of Valerie Sivinski, a beloved former board member of the Washington Trust who served as president in the early 1990s, the Fund was estab- lished in 1997 with the first grants awarded in 1998. Since its establishment, the Fund has awarded more than \$230,000 in cash grants and building assessment services to nearly 200 projects across the state to local organizations and historic preserva- tion advocates.

Recipients of the 2024 Valerie Sivinski Fund grant awards were publicly announced Dec. 12, at the Washington Trust's annual Sivinski Holiday Benefit, held at the Stim- son-Green Mansion, their landmark head- quarters. All proceeds from the benefit go to support the grant program. The 2024 grants were awarded to the follow- ing 10 organizations in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, with a total of \$20,000 awarded:

South Whidbey Historical Society: In support of its development of a long-term plan to preserve the historic Langley Road Log Cabin. The cabin on South Whidbey Island in unincorporated Island County reveals new early logging history involving the founder of Langley as well as the histo- ries of the Coast Salish Snohomish Tribe on South Whidbey.

Fox Island Historical Society: In support of research and development of public signage about Native American intern- ment on Fox Island. The Fox Island Museum is embarking upon a long-term project to provide a series of perma- nent, weather-proof educational markers along the perimeter of the museum park- ing lot. These markers will be available whether the Museum is open or not and will provide visitors with important points of Fox Island's history and culture.

Ritzville Downtown Development Associa- tion: In support of replacing the motor that

Avoid tapping into retirement savings early

If you want to make a big purchase, such as a new car or a piece of property, or you were faced with a large, unexpected expense, such as a major home or auto repair, would you have the funds readily available? If not, you might look at what may be your biggest pool of money — your 401(k) or IRA. But should you tap into these accounts well before you retire? Maybe not — and here's why:

- **Less money in retirement** – The more money you invest in your retirement accounts, and the longer you keep it invested, the more you'll probably have when you need it most — when you're retired. Consequently, taking out sizable amounts from these accounts before you retire could be costly, as it would disrupt the benefits of compounding that can be achieved by holding investments for the long term.

- **Possible bump into higher tax bracket** – The money you take out from your traditional IRA and 401(k) is taxable in the year of withdrawal. So, if you withdraw a significant amount of money at once from your traditional IRA or 401(k), you could be pushed into a higher tax bracket, at least for one year.

- **Tax penalties** – If you take money out of a 401(k) or traditional IRA before you turn 59½, you could face a 10% tax penalty, although some exceptions exist. Penalty-free withdraw- als can be made for several reasons, including for education and medical expenses, first-time purchase of a home (up to \$10,000), after the birth or adoption of a child (up to \$5,000) and more (see irs.gov/taxtopics/tc557). With a Roth IRA, which is funded with after-tax dollars, you can withdraw contributions — but not earnings — at any time, for any purpose, without incurring penalties.

Given these issues, how can you avoid dipping into your retirement accounts when you're faced with a financial need?

One possibility is to take out a loan from your 401(k). Unlike a 401(k) withdrawal, a loan is neither taxable nor subject to tax penalties. Also, the interest you pay on a 401(k) loan goes back into your account. Still, a 401(k) loan has its drawbacks. If you leave your job, you'll likely have to repay the loan in a short period of time and if you don't have all the money to repay it, the loan will be considered in default, so you'll owe taxes and the 10% penalty if you're younger than

59½. But even if you don't leave your job and you do repay the loan, you'll still have taken away money that could have potentially kept growing within your tax-deferred account. As mentioned above, as your money compounds, you'll want to minimize disrup- tions.

Building an emergency fund is another way to gain access to cash. Such a fund should contain at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. It can take time to build a fund of this size, so it's never too soon to start putting away money for it. To avoid the temptation of dipping into your emergency fund, you'd ideally keep this fund separate from your daily spending accounts.

Explore all your options before tapping into your IRA or 401(k) early. Keeping these accounts intact as long as possible is one of the best moves you can make to help build your future retirement income.

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

BITS & PIECES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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STILL TALKING

By Eileen Brown, 1941-2014



Christmas...a time to share what we have most of with those who have the least. The story below is part fact, part fiction. It has become a tradition to run it at Christmas. My late mother, also named Eileen, was a beautiful woman with a troubled life. She died at age 40. My late brother traveled around the world as a Navy diver and later, as a civilian diving and oil rig supervisor. What follows is best described as a wished-for dream where we reunite briefly. I clearly recall riding a streetcar to Marshall Field's in Chicago, clutching a too-small coat closer to keep myself warm. It's a story about a family fallen on hard times who, through the kindness of strangers, finds that glad tidings can come to even those without hope.

The Kindness of Strangers

By Eileen Brown

"Christmas," said the mother to an empty room. She knew there was hardly money to pay the rent and buy groceries, let alone toys or a new coat for her girl.

Outside, a bitter Chicago wind made ghostly sounds as an elevated train rumbled past, its occupants huddled together for warmth.

A single bulb hung over the little girl's bed where she read her book in the dim light, poking her nose under the covers to keep it warm. The radiator was cold.

And where was that boy? She last saw him run through the alley with his friends. She needn't have worried. He had a good head on his shoulders and seldom got into trouble.

Neighborhood children often went through the trash looking for beer bottles to return to the taverns for a few pennies. Maybe he'd earn a few cents today. Still, it would not be enough.

She hated to be pitied, this mother alone with two children and no money in a big city full of families in dire circumstances.

Growing up, she heard her relatives denounce people who took charity, claiming they'd never stoop so low. "We're too proud!"

Perhaps she could take her children downtown to see the pretty storefronts. The boy had collected enough bottles that week to earn streetcar fare, so they bundled up in scarves and hats and headed to State Street.

As it had every Christmas, the star at Marshall Field was a welcoming beacon to shoppers. Angel hair and twinkling lights filled the window displays and reflected in the children's eyes. Not much point going in to see Santa, thought the mother, but the children pleaded, weakening her resolve.

It took some time for the line to wind down and suddenly Santa was asking the little girl what she wanted him to bring her.

"A dolly, please," she said, giving him a shy smile. She blushed as Santa hugged her and said he'd see what he could do.

It was the boy's turn. Surely he'd ask for a BB gun or bicycle, but his answer to Santa's question caught onlookers by surprise.

"All I want for Christmas is for someone to give my mother a job," he said.

This was not the usual response and Santa was silent for a moment.

Then Santa pressed on, asking, "Don't you want any toys or candy for yourself?"

The boy shook his head indicating "No."

"Well, if that ain't the darndest," said a voice from the crowd.

The mother blushed, and at that moment, she had never looked more radiant. Her boy beamed back at her.

"Let's go, children," she called. "We have to get the streetcar home before dark."

"Wait a minute, ma'am," called a man's voice. In his dark suit and wire-rimmed glasses, he looked like an orchestra conductor, waving his long, slender arms above the shoppers.

The mother did not hear him. The three continued to the escalator down to the main entrance.

"You over there with the boy and girl. Wait, please," came the voice again.

He caught the boy's eye as they were almost at the revolving door. Outside, a small band played, a bell clanged and pocket change clinked into a metal kettle. Then the breathless man was at their side.

"Excuse me, madam, but I am in charge of the portrait studio here at Marshall Field," he explained. "I wondered if you would sit for some photographs for us to use in our advertising. If I may say so, you resemble those classic English beauties portrayed on castle walls."

She blushed and was about to say no.

"There! That's it," he said. "That lovely smile will grace streetcars up and down Michigan Avenue to be seen by people from around the world, if only you'll say yes."

One look at her children told the mother they wanted her to accept the man's offer.

"How much would the pay be," she asked timidly.

When he told her, she flushed again and said, "I'd be proud to accept your offer." The deal was set.

The studio manager took her name and address and told her when to return. Store professionals would do her hair and makeup, and even provide pearls and a gown to wear.

For a moment she was lost in thought, but her mind quickly returned to Christmas.

"When will I get paid," she whispered. The studio manager looked at her and the children and pulled something out of his pocket. He scribbled quickly and handed her a voucher.

"If you will take this to the cashier's cage, you can have part of your salary in advance today," he said. "Will that do?"

The mother hugged him and said, "You've made me very happy."

When the family returned home, a crumpled paper sack waited at their front door. Who left it, they wondered.

"Let's go," she called as the children struggled to remove their boots, clogged with snow and ice. Inside, all eyes were on the brown bag as it sat on the kitchen floor.

"I'll open it," said the boy.

"That's fine," said the mother, "but be careful."

In went his hand and out came a gray sweater with a white reindeer leaping off the chest. It was a few sizes too large for him, but he'd be kept warm for several winters. He laughed at his good fortune as his head popped out of the neck hole.

There was more. He reached in again. The girl got excited when she saw the spine of a book emerge.

"Black Beauty!" she exclaimed. "Is it for me?"

Just as he was about to throw the bag away, the boy heard something rattle as he shook it.

He brought out two tortoise shell hair combs and handed them to his mother.

"Here, mother! These will look fine in your hair when you have your portrait taken."

She hugged him and then the girl. The room became warm and bright with the sounds of their laughter.

The mother's heart felt light as she set on the teakettle. Things do look their darkest before the dawn, she thought.

Humming to herself, she thought of another family long ago who received the kindness of strangers on Christmas Eve.

The promise of Bethlehem, of new hope, was reborn that night in Chicago.

Hold your loved ones close and have a very Merry Christmas.

Most recently published December 2022
Whidbey Weekly. God Bless you, Eileen.

We miss you.



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BITS 'N' PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

operates the stage curtain at the historic Ritz Theater, protecting the movie screen and allowing the stage to be used for live events and presentations. The Ritz Theater has been used almost continuously as a movie theater since its construction in 1937. The original 1937 movie curtain was removed in 2020, and a new curtain was installed in 2023.

E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust: In support of hosting author and historian David Buerge for a series of lectures on area indigenous histories, in advance of developing a Duwamish interpretive trail. As the only private Olmsted estate in Washington open to the public, visitors to Dunn Gardens in Seattle have the unique opportunity to witness the evolution of garden design in the Pacific Northwest. The lectures are a component of the

organization's broader initiative to focus on pre-Olmsted (1915) history.

Mason County Historical Society: In support of its restoration of original exterior elements on its headquarters, the historic Shelton Public Library and Town Hall building. The building was built in 1914 and since 1990 has been home to the Mason County Historical Museum, which shares the history of the region with visitors.

Bayside Housing & Services: In support of its project to repaint the exterior of the historic Starrett House, which will be used for workforce housing. The lavishly appointed Starrett House was built in 1889 in the Gothic and stick architectural style. The choice of colors for repainting will be guided by the Port Townsend National Landmark Historic District Approved Color Palette.

Northport Historical Society: In support of building upgrades to the Northport Welcome Center, built in 1901 as the Croft Boarding House. Originally built as a family home when Northport was a booming smelter town, this is one of the few structures in Northport remaining from this time. Since 2017, the property has been undergoing restoration and conversion into a museum and welcome center for the Northport Historical Society.

Schooner Martha Foundation: In support of assessing and planning for restoration of the historic Schooner Martha's cabin top and house. Since 1997, Martha has been used for youth and adult sail training. The cabin and top house add to the structural integrity of the vessel and will ensure that Martha can continue to be used in the future.

South Pierce County Historical Society: In support of its work to research

and document the historic Eatonville Tofu House. Erected by the Eatonville Lumber Company sometime between 1910 and 1915, the building may be the last existing domestic building in western Washington used by members of the Japanese-American community that worked in the area during the steam logging era.

City of Wenatchee: In support of a proposed historic context study surveying the city's Mid-Century Modern architectural assets. The contextual background and surveys derived from this study will be used by the city to identify areas or properties that could potentially become a new historic district.

To see or download images of the award-winning projects, please visit the Washington Trust's website: <http://preservewa.org/sivinski>

[Submitted by Washington Trust for Historic Preservation]

Have A Safe & Merry Christmas
From Safe Harbor Agency

Mary Elizabeth Himes
360-675-6663
mary@safeharbor-whidbey.com
www.safeharbor-whidbey.com

#mamabearinsurancelady

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Island Senior Resources
14594 WA-525 • Langley
360-321-1600
WWW.SENIOR-RESOURCES.ORG

What's Going On

Christmas Village

Thursday, December 21, 4:00-7:00PM
Friday, December 22, 4:00-7:00PM
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

Thursday, December 14
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.

Solstice Under the (WICA) Star!

Thursday, December 21, 7:30-9:30PM
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Langley
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.

Ring in New Year 2024

Sunday, December 31
The American Legion, Oak Harbor
Festivities begin with hors d'oeuvres at 8:00PM. Live music with Marty Malloy and the Moontans begins at 8:30PM. Midnight champagne toast and breakfast. \$20 per person, members and guests. For more information, call 360-675-2411.

Upcoming Sno-Isle Library Events

See schedule below
Cost: Free

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.

LEGO® Block Party

Wednesday, December 27, 2:30-4:00PM
Coupeville Library
Create with LEGO® at the library! Build independently or with others. We'll provide the LEGO®; you provide the imagination. This is a drop-in program designed for ages 5 and up.

Crafternoon and Board Games

Thursday, December 28, 2:00-3:00PM
Oak Harbor Library
Enjoy a family friendly afternoon of crafts and board games! Choose from our selection of board games, card games, and party games or bring your own to share.

Religious Services

St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods

Sunday, December 24
9:30AM: Advent 4 Service with Holy Communion and music
3:30PM: Carol Sing
4:00PM: Festive Service with Holy Communion and music
7:00PM: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion and music
Monday, December 25, 9:30AM
Service with Holy Communion and music
5217 Honeymoon Bay Rd, Freeland

For more information, call 360-331-4887, email staugs@whidbey.com or visit www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Sunday Service, 9:30AM
Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24, 7:00PM
Christmas Day Service
Monday, December 25, 9:30AM
590 N. Oak Harbor Street
For more information, visit www.concordiaaokharbor.org or call 360-675-2548.

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.

Christian Science Church, Oak Harbor

Sunday Service & Sunday School, 10:00AM
Wednesday Testimony Meeting, 2:30PM
Reading Room
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
11:00AM-2:00PM

Christian Science South Whidbey

Sunday Service & Sunday School, 10:30AM
Wednesday Testimony Meeting, first
Wednesday, 7:00PM
The Oak Harbor church and Reading Room are located at 721 SW 20th Court at Scenic Heights St. Call 360-675-0621 or visit cs-oh-wa.com for more information. South Whidbey is located at 15910 Highway 525, just north of Bayview and across from Useless Bay Rd. Call 360-321-4080 for more information.

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EATING A FISH IN SECRETY

Normally it is a glorious occasion to catch a fish in the presence of 200 of your best friends while fishing in the Puget Sound. Normally it is a thrill to see a legal fish come over the gunnels and into the fish-box of your buddy's boat and enjoy the celebration that follows. The fish I am referring to is chinook salmon, especially during summer salmon season.

However, there is another very tasty, satisfying fish that is often caught by salmon fishermen that is not celebrated with high-fives and drinks all around; rather, it is tossed back overboard with a "don't come back" expression, and sometimes loathed by anxious recreational and commercial salmon fishermen. Meet the Spiny dogfish shark. When this fish comes over the gunnels it's kept on the down low and fishermen look around with a funny level of embarrassment. This is the fish you don't even whisper to your salmon buddies that you are going to eat! Until the true goodness of the dogfish is revealed through deep frying, you will almost have to keep the fantastic feast a secret.

The average Puget Sound dogfish grows to four or five feet in length, but in deep parts of the arctic waters they can reach an incredible 16 feet. I think I'm satisfied with a four-foot shark in my boat for now. Plus, the older any fish is, the more heavy metal (mercury) retention is possible. Shark meat is extremely good when cleaned and cooked properly, just like any other fish you would catch and care for. While stationed at Naval Air Station Mofett Field in Mountain View California, my family and I would dine at a local seafood restaurant.

Thresher shark was on their menu and a shark steak dinner was just what the doctor ordered. It was incredibly good. When I started fishing the Puget Sound in the early 1990's I hooked into a dogfish while salmon fishing, and not knowing their less-than-appealing reputation, I thought about those great shark dinners and kept the dogfish. I took it home and processed the fish much like I would a catfish from the Snake River in Idaho, by removing the skin and carefully removing the upper and lower loins from the bone and cartilage. After a quick rub of seasoning, I placed the flakey, white portions of fish in a hot skillet with a little butter and olive oil. It wasn't long before my wife ran to the kitchen and said, "What on earth are you cooking?" I hated to admit it, but the aroma coming from the kitchen was enough to send the family cat scurrying into the next room. Needless to say, my first attempt to enjoy dogfish did not turn out so well. For years after that I made no attempt to catch and cook the little man in the gray suit.

Then one day, knowledge overcame the smell of failure. I found a book that shed light on why the dogfish had the odd smell while cooking, and better yet, how to make the wonderful loins of protein desirable to the entire family. Dogfish have no vent to release the small amounts of urine (urea) from their bodies, so it leaches out through pores in their skin, which makes them retain this

form of amino acid longer than other fish and gives them their unpleasant aroma and taste. The good news is with a little fresh water, lemon juice or vinegar, and time, the urea in the beautiful fillets of the dogfish can be removed. Here is the proper soaking process needed for the fillets before you attempt to cook:

- Weigh or closely estimate the total weight of the loins.
- Place loins in a shallow casserole-type dish.
- Add fresh, clean water until the loins are just covered.
- Add 1 Tbsp of lemon juice (fresh or bottled) or cider vinegar for each pound of fish.
- This is the most critical step: Place the soaking fish in the refrigerator for a recommended 24 hours, (minimum of 12 hours).
- Remove the loins from the soak and rinse with fresh water.

The dogfish is now ready to enjoy! You will find the acid from the lemon juice or vinegar has removed the urea and also added some firmness to the delicate white fish. The fish can be used as you would any other white fish in soups and stews, chowders, gumbos, and even sprinkled cold in salads, and of course my family's favorite, battered and deep fried to a golden brown, served with French fries and a cold beverage of choice. It is now up to you, the successful fisherman, to decide how and when you are going to risk it and serve "doggie" to your salmon buddies. Or will you continue to eat this wonderful, plentiful year-round option in secret?

Overall, despite the short summer Chinook seasons we were given, this year of fishing was great. There were lots of pink salmon and coho caught in the saltwater and the rivers provided some extended chances at these fish. Shrimp, crab, and halibut opportunities were pretty decent and the weather was cooperative for the most part. I hope for all fishermen this upcoming year that the co-managers of our fisheries remember it is "not a privilege to fish in this state, it is a right." The Good Lord blessed my family and friends with safe fishing trips, and some smoked salmon this year and I hope he blessed your families as well. Be safe out there and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



How can you resist a tasty plate of dogfish like this?



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Make a Difference

By Barbara Bennett
Chair, Island County Marine Resource Committee

DIFFICULT DECISIONS: WHEN THE SEA THREATENS TO FLOOD

Island County experienced several high "King Tides" in December of 2022; some of these tides were paired with extremely low barometric pressure which added up to two feet of storm surge to the already high tides. The first floors and septic systems of many shoreline homes, businesses and other structures in Island County and throughout Puget Sound were flooded. For many shoreline property owners, last year's flooding event generated unexpected urgency in short- and long-term planning.

If you are a shoreline property owner in Island County, you can make a difference by the decisions you make and the actions you take to manage and steward the shorelands you own. Your decisions have the potential to move our shorelands toward increased human safety, infrastructure resilience, and ecological health.

Ultimately, you must make plans that conform with County policies, best suit your situation and take into consideration stewardship of unique and important shorelands.

Recognizing the difficulty and importance of the decisions shoreline property owners need to make, and the costliness of expert services, the Island County Shore Friendly Program provides free, non-regulatory technical expertise and incentive programs to assist marine shoreline property owners with these difficult decisions. (See contact information at end.)

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions with summary responses and references.

Will flooding like we experienced in December 2022 happen again?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the flooding of December 2022 is a sample of new patterns of extreme local events that combine extreme tides with extreme storms and compound sea-flooding with upland stormwater flooding. These are different from past patterns and are expected to continue and intensify into the foreseeable future. (See references at end.)

What are my responsibilities as a shoreland owner and steward, and as a neighbor?

Your management of your shoreline property impacts your neighbors – both human and animal. Shore management is complicated and often requires the help of a specialist, such as a coastal geomorphologist, to determine strategies that will conserve the ecological value of the shoreline and address owner goals.



What are options to safely manage my shoreline structures and steward my land?

NOAA predicts that shoreline properties will experience steadily intensifying extreme flooding events, periodic uphill stormwater flooding and gradual encroachment (or squeeze) from rising tides. The Island County Shore Friendly Program provides non-regulatory technical expertise and incentive programs to assist shoreline property owners in sorting out possible strategies. (See contact information at end.)

Long-term Strategies which focus on future safety, resilience and financial security include:

- Moving a structure to a different location away from the water's edge (it's remarkably possible and not as expensive as you may think), or
- Decommissioning (demolishing and removing) a structure that will no longer be used; or
- Returning your shoreline to as natural a state as possible and setting structures back far enough to allow the beach to adapt to changing conditions (which is what beaches do best).

Short-term Strategies which focus on on-site accommodations include:

- Elevating a structure to accommodate seawater rise and fall below the structure. This may be successful for a number of years and risks underestimating the necessary elevation for safety and protection in extreme events; or
- Installing a shoreline bulkhead, also called a sea wall or armoring, is another short-term strategy.

HOWEVER: Property owners must apply for a permit to install a bulkhead because shoreline armoring has many negative consequences for human safety and resilience and for shoreline stewardship. The State of Washington directs all jurisdictions to require every applicant wishing to install a bulkhead to first demonstrate that armoring is the only alternative to protecting structures on the property.

Even if permissible for your property, installing a bulkhead:

- Is a short-term, temporary and high-maintenance solution to a long-term problem;



- Can trap stormwater, seawater and debris behind the wall, creating a "bathtub" effect that blocks drainage away from property;
- Increases wave energy, which scours the shorelands below, undermines the toe of the bulkhead itself and, ultimately, causes failure;
- Redirects wave action and erosion on to neighboring properties;
- Interrupts shoreline access;
- Interrupts shoreline, intertidal and subtidal ecosystems, and
- Damages, rather than protects, Puget Sound and its sea life

A question Shore Friendly Program will ask you to consider: "What are your short and long-term goals for your shoreline property?"

Whether your island home is a treasured inheritance, an investment, or simply your retirement home, your answer to this question will determine your next steps and timeframe. You may want think about involving others in these decisions, such as family members or coastal experts.

The Shore Friendly Program is available to assist your planning:

Island County Shore Friendly Program
www.islandcountywa.gov/365/Shore-Friendly-Program
Ann Prusha, Program Coordinator
360-678-2347
A.Prusha@islandcountywa.gov

References re: New extreme patterns:

- www.nationalacademies.org/news/2021/10/climate-change-and-a-new-normal-of-extremes
- www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/climatology/NWCR

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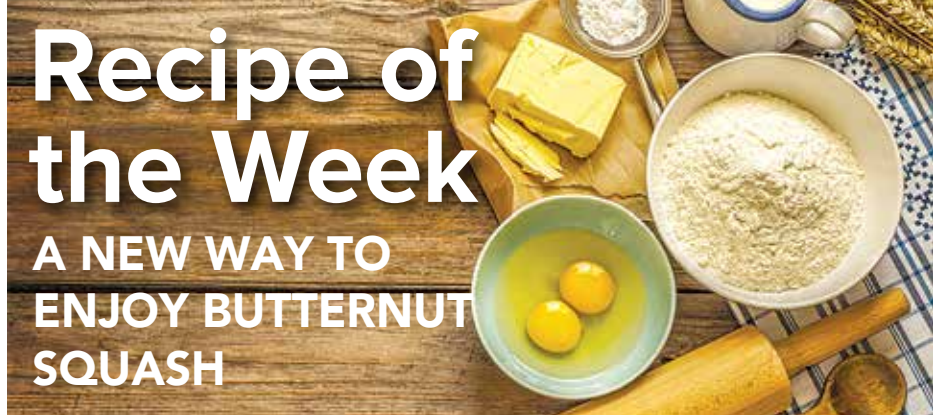
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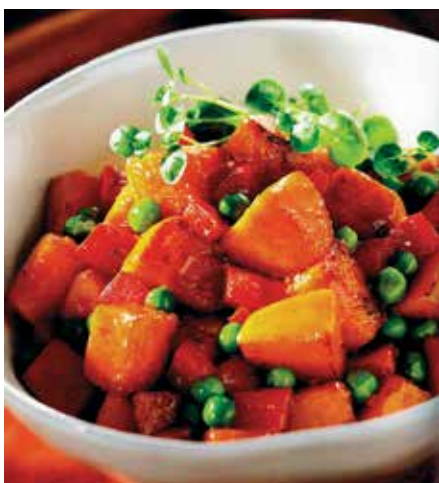
Many foods are inextricably linked to certain growing seasons. For example, most people seldom eat juicy watermelon before or after summer, as this juicy, refreshing fruit seems tailor-made for long, warm days. The same can be said for other produce, including squash. While zucchini and yellow squash are decidedly summer fare, acorn squash, spaghetti squash and butternut squash seem much more at home when the chilly weather arrives. That might be why these squashes are commonly featured in holiday dining, which dominates the third quarter of the year.

There are many different ways to prepare butternut squash, with some of the most popular including soups and casseroles. However, this versatile gourd, which cooks quickly when cut into chunks and produces a lush texture, can be a colorful winner in other presentations — including stir-fry. This recipe for “Butternut Stir-Fry with Peppers and Peas” offers a new take on the familiar butternut squash. Serve it as a side dish for the holidays or any time you desire subtle, Asian-inspired flavors. Enjoy, courtesy of “300 Best Stir-Fry Recipes” (Robert Rose) by Nancie McDermott.

BUTTERNUT STIR-FRY WITH PEPPERS AND PEAS (Serves 4)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 2 tablespoons vegetable oil | 1/3 cup frozen tiny peas |
| 1 tablespoon chopped fresh ginger root | 2 tablespoons water |
| 2 cups cubed peeled butternut squash (1/2-inch cubes) | 3 tablespoons barbecue sauce |
| 1/3 cup diced red bell pepper | 1 teaspoon salt |

1. Heat a wok or large deep skillet over high heat. Add oil and swirl to coat pan. Add ginger and toss well, until fragrant, about 15 seconds.
2. Add squash and spread into a single layer. Cook, undisturbed, for 1 minute. Toss well. Cook, tossing often, until squash is browning lightly around edges, 2 minutes more.
3. Push squash aside and add red pepper and peas. Scoop squash on top of vegetables. Add water, pouring in around sides of pan.
4. When everything is sizzling away, add barbecue sauce and salt. Cook, tossing once or twice, until vegetables are tender and evenly coated with sauce, 1 to 2 minutes more. Transfer to a serving plate. Serve hot or warm.



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FRIDAY – THURSDAY: 1:45PM, 4:15PM & 7:15PM

MIGRATION (PG)
FRIDAY – THURSDAY: 2:00PM, 4:30PM & 7:30PM

WONKA (PG)
FRIDAY – THURSDAY: 1:30PM, 4:00PM & 7:00PM

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
People may not be available this week to get together, and that is perfectly fine by you, Aries. Solitude is just what you can use right now after a busy stretch.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, expect a delay or two this week as those who you are expecting simply keep you waiting and it’s very frustrating. This will be a lesson in patience for now.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, you may envision a plan in your mind, but now it is up to you to move it from your thoughts and into the reality of coming to fruition. It will take a little time.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, give yourself some time to have fun and play around. The inner child in you needs the opportunity to explore and try new things. You’ll have plenty of chances.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
This week may bring many different feelings to the surface, Leo. You may not be ready to explore all of your deep emotions just yet, but you can start by being honest with others.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, empathy may inundate you this week, as you are in tune with the feelings of many different people. Others will appreciate your thoughtfulness in the days to come.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
You have many chores on your list but things keep pulling you in different directions, Libra. If you can’t focus on something difficult, try a creative pursuit.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may find if you look ahead that there are really no pressing matters on your calendar. This gives you the perfect opportunity to have an outing and enjoy yourself.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Past memories could put you in a funk, Sagittarius. Rather than dwell on what may have happened, think about the future in your control.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Focus your energy on ideas this week, Capricorn. You might not be changing the world, but each innovation you think up will have a positive impact.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, do not let moments of self-doubt derail you. Now more than ever, you need to believe in yourself. Think of this as a test that you can ace.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, if you do not like what you are or where you are going right now, you have an opportunity to make any changes you want. This may be the ultimate resolution.

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DICKENS continued from page 2

'Yeah, I'm getting rid of it because I'm getting a divorce and I don't want it.' I said, 'Okay, I'll take 'em all.' And just recently at a thrift store, there were hundreds of pieces – I think somebody had a store – so I had to buy some more. And then I bought some from a lady who just wasn't putting hers up any more and she needed the money, so that's how I've come across them. Most of mine have either been given to me or I've been blessed to find a good sale on it or something."

Gibson's good fortune in finding her pieces has led to a very impressive display indeed. In the main room of her display, three long tables each hold three rows of village houses. There are cobblestone streets, trees and fluffy white snow. Each tiny home is lit up from within by an individual light, and arranged much as an English Victorian village might have been back in the day. Figurines help bring the minia-

ture town to life as well, depicting characters engaged in various aspects of daily life, such as shopping, driving wagons, enjoying a drink or working.

"If you take your time to walk through it, it will walk you through the story of 'A Christmas Carol,'" she said, beginning our tour of the fictional town, pointing out interesting homes and people. "This is where the story begins, in the rich part of town. This is Dursley Manor. You can see the train's going through town right now, so you see the conductor, the guy loading the luggage and the people getting ready to get onto the train."

As the tour progresses, "visitors" head past the Christmas tree lot, past a farm and its animals, and over a bridge into the "poor" section of town.

"This is where Bob Cratchit lives; there's Tiny Tim on his dad's back," Gibson noted. "Here this guy is putting out new straw. Now we come to downtown, which is the 'better' part

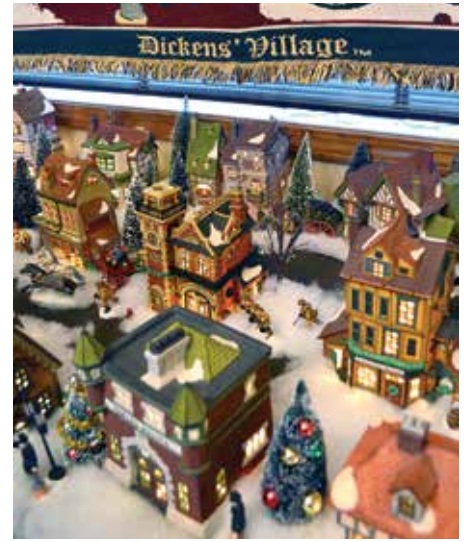
of town, so you've got your surgery there, your quilting, antiques and music stores here. This is the coffee house. Why they're sitting out in the cold having their coffee, I don't know. I guess they know what the snow is like and they're enjoying it!"

The village of course includes the home of Ebenezer Scrooge and the office of Scrooge and Marley. All of the ghosts of Christmas, as per Dickens' tale, are there as well. Gibson's favorite piece? Victoria Station.

"I love this piece, I think it's gorgeous," she said. "But I like them all. You have to really take your time to see it. And I have stayed true to the story."

Gibson said if this truly proves to be the last year for her Dickens Village, her two daughters will get her collection, enabling them to carry on the family tradition.

Whatever holiday traditions your family holds dear, perhaps the Dickens' character, Tiny Tim, sums it up the best: "God bless us, every one!"



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly
Peggy Gibson has been collecting Department 56 Dickens' Village pieces for more than 30 years. Her display features over 400 pieces and takes about five days to set up.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Thank you for dining local!

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The employees would like to thank our customers for their patronage in 2023.

We look forward to serving you in the coming year!

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Thank you to our 2023 sponsors, donors and community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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St. Augustine's
In The Woods

Episcopal Church

All Are Welcome!

Saturday, December 24th
9:30 a.m. Advent 4 Service with Holy Communion and music
3:30 Carol Sing ~ 4:00 p.m. Festive Service with Holy Communion and music
7:00 p.m. Candlelight service with Holy Communion and music

Sunday, December 25th
9:30 a.m. – Service with Holy Communion and music
5217 Honeymoon Bay Road, Freeland • 360-331-4887
staugs@whidbey.com • www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org

Life Tributes



Jacqueline "Jackie" Vannice



Jacqueline "Jackie" Vannice was called to be with the Lord Nov. 28, 2023, surrounded by her family after a short, but intense battle with leukemia. She was born July 20, 1949 to James Rodney, Sr. and Ethel (Robertson) Vannice at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island hospital in Oak Harbor. At that time her family lived at Lake McMurray, Wash., where she spent her early years surrounded by her mother's extended family. Lake McMurray remained one of her favorite spots for the rest of her life and she loved being there with her cousins and family.

Her father was a Navy man and when Jackie was in second grade they moved to Oak Harbor to be closer to her dad's work. She spent the rest of her elementary school years and three years of high school in Oak Harbor. In 1966, Jackie's father was assigned to Atsugi, Japan where she

spent her senior year, graduating from Zama High School in 1967. Jackie spent time working in Tokyo as a model and also for a film dubbing company as a script girl. She enjoyed the job and even appeared in a film called "The Green Slime."

In 1968, she returned to the U.S. and her journey led her to Minneapolis, Minn., where she worked for a radio/television station and then became a flight attendant for North Central Airlines. A couple of years later, she went to work at an ice-making machine company. Her desire to return to flying took her to Northwest Airlines in 1976. In 1978, the NWA pilots went on strike and she was immediately furloughed and re-hired by North Central Airlines. The many airline mergers of that time led her to work for successor airlines and eventually back to Northwest Airlines.

During her time as a flight attendant, she became an instructor and also the employee assistance program manager for Memphis-based flight attendants, helping them with drug and alcohol issues.

In 1988, Jackie met her sweetheart, Marc Zahrt, a Northwest pilot, while working. They were married in 1993 at the Callaway Gardens in Georgia.

In 1990, Jackie achieved her long held goal of becoming a mother with the adoption of her beloved daughter, Elizabeth. This was, by far, the most treasured event in Jackie's life.

Between having a newly adopted daughter and moving from Memphis, Tenn., to Atlanta, Ga., Jackie left her employee assistance position, but continued to fly until her retirement from Northwest Airlines in 2004.

In 1999, the family moved to Oak Harbor to be closer to Jackie's parents and extended family.

By the time she retired from Northwest with 28 years of flying, she was already heavily involved in Island County 4-H. First as a parent, then club leader, leader's council president and ultimately as the 4-H Program Coordinator for the county. She absolutely loved all the 4-H'ers and enjoyed seeing them advance and succeed with their projects. She served as coordinator for several years before retiring from there. She and her husband moved to Mount Vernon in 2019 but she still went back to help Island County 4-H for a couple periods. She finally set that aside in 2020.

Jackie was involved with the Whidbey Island Genealogy Society, serving as president for several terms. She also served on the museum board in Coupeville. She was one of those people that was actively engaged and made a community enjoyable.

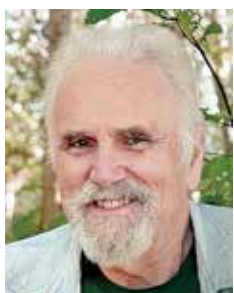
Never one without a goal or interest, Jackie's most recent endeavor was the buying and selling of vintage and antique furniture and accessories. She got a lot of joy out of finding bargains at garage and estate sales, sprucing them up with Marc's assistance, and reselling them at her spot at "The Spare Room" in Stanwood, Wash.

Jackie has always been an incredibly special person, lighting up a room as soon as she walked in, and was loved by so many people of all ages. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten, especially by her family. She is survived by her husband Marc; daughter Elizabeth Roth (Andrew); stepson Christopher Zahrt; stepmother Doris Vannice; special niece Jamesa Treadwell (Kevin) and family; brother James R. Vannice, Jr. (Christine); uncle Richard L. Vannice; and many wonderful cousins, nieces, nephews and their families.

A celebration of life will be held Jan. 13, 2024, at 11a.m. at the Wallin-Stucky Funeral home in Oak Harbor.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hospice Northwest of Mount Vernon.

Carl Edward Leonard II



Carl Edward Leonard II was born on Christmas Day 1945 in Lorain, Ohio to Carl Edward Leonard and Helen (Veres) Leonard. He died peacefully Nov. 29, 2023, after a short illness, surrounded by his beloved family.

After losing his mother at the young age of 8, Carl spent much of his time with his grandparents. Carl's love of nature and the woods was nurtured during this time by his grandfather, who was an excellent woodworker, who had immigrated from Hungary through Ellis Island. His grandparents used to have campfires by the barn for the grandchildren, helping them roast small bacon slabs while telling stories and singing.

Carl loved music and played several instruments including guitar and French horn. He moved to California with his father when he was in high school and joined his school's marching band in the Rose Parade. Carl also learned to surf at this time and spent many hours riding the waves. After college, Carl worked at McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach. He then moved to the Pacific Northwest to spend more time outdoors and in particular, the woods. He was intrigued by computers, which became his career later in life as a software designer and programmer. Carl worked in the IT department in the Oak Harbor School District for over 20 years.

Carl had a big heart and a kind spirit. He was also very smart and quite funny, often seeing reality in a way that was 45 degrees different from others. He enjoyed taking his tractor and chain saw into the woods to clear new paths, cut firewood and care for the forest. Carl instilled his love of the woods in his friends, children, and grandchildren with nature walks. His grandchildren loved "helping" drive the tractor.

Carl is survived by his wife of 28 years, Mary Ellen O'Connor; stepdaughter, Linnane (Jeff) Armstrong; his ex-wife, Sara Bowdoin-Jones; daughter, Geneva (Bo) Oseguera and son Forrest (Robyn Stevens) Leonard; his ex-wife, Mary Jo Waluck-Leonard; stepdaughters Danielle (Paul) Crownover and Jodi (Brad) Todd. Carl loved all of his grandchildren: Connor, Finn, Bowdoin, Brooklyn, Emily, Hannah, Grace, Michaela, Alex, Ashley and Taylor; and his great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his older brother John (Barbara) Leonard and John's four sons and 10 grandchildren.

Carl's infectious smile and easy-going nature will be dearly missed. A memorial service for family and friends will be held in the spring.

Mary Pierzchala



Mary Pierzchala passed away in her home at age 78. She was born Aug. 15, 1945 to Anthony and Hellen Cappabianco in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Cappabianco family moved to Orlando, Fla., when she was very little, where she spent her formative years.

After Mary graduated from Maynard Evans High School in 1964, she met and married Valentine Pierzchala. Mary and Val moved to Oak Harbor in 1965, and then returned to Oak Harbor in 1976 after being stationed in California.

Mary loved her country and the church; she served both God and country with a fervency and level of commitment we should all aspire to. Mary worked for the Navy as a civil servant for 25-plus years, retiring from the supply department as a supervisor. Mary's highest award was a Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Mary started attending St. Augustine's in the early 80s. She was the sacristan for nearly 20 years. She continued to serve at St. Augustine's in other capacities until her health prevented her from attending in person. Mary had a tremendous love of animals, especially horses and dogs. She spent many years grooming, breeding and showing dogs, particularly miniature schnauzers. She also had a creative flair with a penchant for ceramics.

She took great pride in her work, whether it was pet grooming, for the Navy or for the church community. She will be greatly missed by many.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Dominic "Sonny" Cappabianco, her ex-husband Val, her grandson Mitchell, her parrot Phenix and a multitude of dogs. She is survived by her three boys: James, Michael and Matthew, as well as six grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

A celebration of life will be held at Wallin Stucky Funeral Home in Oak Harbor Dec. 27 at 1 p.m. Please send donations to WAIF in lieu of flowers.

James Reverdy Allender, Jr.



Rev Allender, 92, passed peacefully into Heaven, July 9, 2023, to be with his Lord and Savior.

He was born Sept. 18, 1930 in Porterville, Calif., to Amelia and James Reverdy Allender, Sr. He was the middle son of five boys. Rev grew up loving aviation and flying. He earned his private pilot's license by age 16, hitchhiking 50 miles each way to the airport. After graduating from high school in California, he attended UW in Seattle and graduated with an Aeronautical Engineering degree.

After graduating, he worked as a Flight Test Engineer for the Air Force at Edwards AFB, Calif.

Rev joined the Air Force in 1957 and went to the Aviation Cadet program at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas. After graduating, he continued with advanced training in jets. He was assigned to Hamilton AFB, Calif., to the F-104 83rd FIS. During his check ride, he had to bail out in San Francisco Bay. Several months later, he had to bail out again due to engine failure. He met his future wife, Carol, "by accident" as she was the secretary at the Flight Surgeon's office. He actually asked her to go flying. They were married August 19, 1961.

Rev was sent to Homestead AFB, Florida to fly the F-104 to guard/protect the east coast during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He then was sent to Goose Bay Labrador, Canada; next Webb AFB, Texas; and then to Edwards AFB, CA. He worked on the SR-71 (Blackbird) as a Flight Test Engineer in stability and control and acquired some flight time in the SR-71 and earned a place in the "Mach Three Plus" club.

In 1970, Rev was sent to Vietnam to fly the Cessna O-2 as a Forward Air Controller (FAC). He received the "Distinguished Flying Cross" medal while flying a mission in Vietnam. He was involved with many humanitarian efforts. Rev returned to the U.S. and was reassigned to Edwards AFB to the Test Pilot School. Later, he was sent to Seattle, Wash., to work with the Air Force and Boeing on the AWACS project.

When Rev retired from the Air Force, he went to work for Boeing. He worked as a Flight Test Engineer on the 767. Then he worked as an engineer on the MX Missile project. Next, he became a flight crew instructor on the 747-400, training pilots from other countries to fly in the 747-400 simulator. He traveled to several countries training international pilots.

He also obtained his A&P Mechanics license to work on planes and continued to teach private flight instruction, including aerobatics and mountain flying.

In his long flying career, Rev got to fly many different aircraft both in the Air Force and in private flying. Some of the Air Force planes included the T-28, T-34, T-33, F-86, O-2, F-101, F-102, and his favorite, the F-104. He also flew many civilian planes. He really loved the experience of flying the SR-71 Blackbird.

Rev had many interests including church, missions, photography, hiking, sailing, kayaking, fishing, but most of all, flying, especially his Cessna 140. He loved being around airplanes, which led him to volunteering as a docent at the Heritage Flight Museum at the Skagit Airport. He cherished the staff and volunteers there.

Rev is remembered as the most loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and faithful friend. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters Deborah (Larry) Johnstone, Lori (Jeff) Nemes, Janet (Meshak) Drew; grandchildren Josiah (Hallie) Nemes, Isaac, Janiece, Aarik and Chayla Nemes, Brennan, Elijah and Gabriel Drew; and future great-grandchild.

His strong faith in God was the motivation behind everything he did in his adventurous life. He will be remembered for his kindness, gentleness, integrity, humility, great sense of humor, and for being a faithful friend. His life impacted so many, and he will be greatly missed by all.

A memorial service was held July 29, 2023 at Family Bible Church in Oak Harbor, Wash., and burial with military honors was held Aug. 8, 2023 at Tahoma National Cemetery, in Kent, Wash.

If you would like to make a contribution in Rev's memory, please consider:

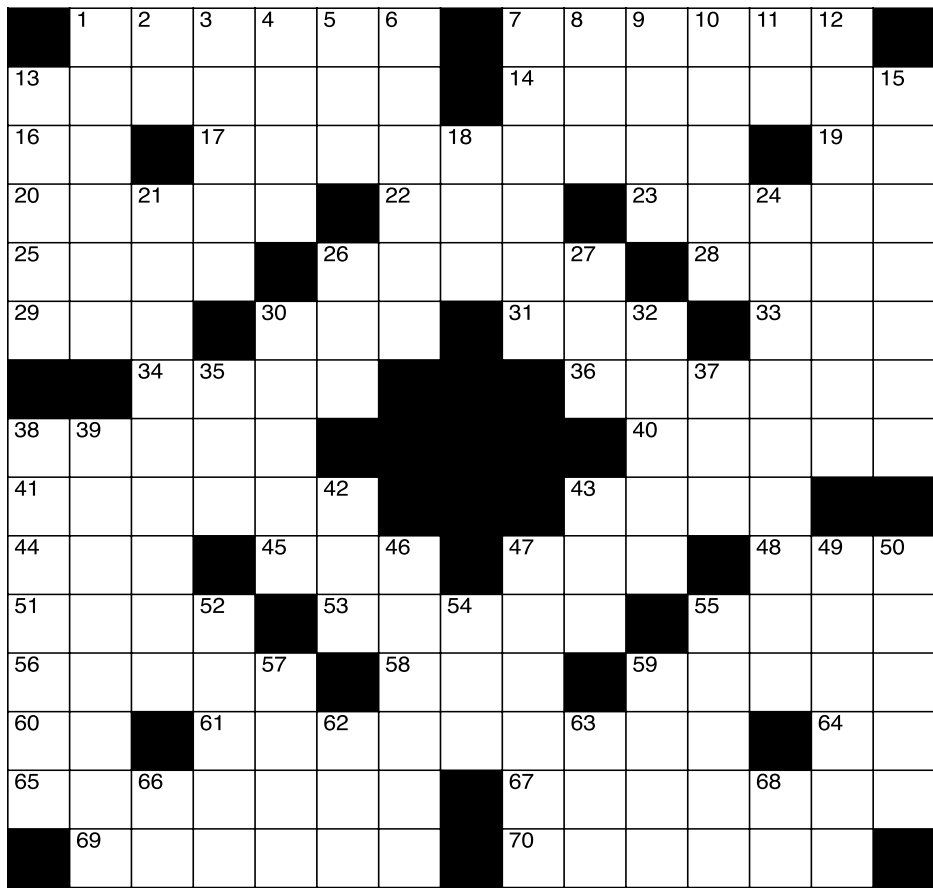
*Family Bible Church (designate "Missions"), Oak Harbor, Wash.

*Heritage Flight Museum, Burlington, Wash.

*MATA (Missionary Aviation Training Academy), Arlington, Wash.

Life Tributes can now be found online at www.whidbeyweekly.com

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Government lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan

- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction

- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

Answers on page 15

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Thurs, Dec. 21</p> <p>North Isle H-52°/L-42° Cloudy</p> <p>South Isle H-50°/L-40° Cloudy</p>	<p>Fri, Dec. 22</p> <p>North Isle H-51°/L-43° Cloudy</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-42° Cloudy</p>	<p>Sat, Dec. 23</p> <p>North Isle H-50°/L-42° Cloudy</p> <p>South Isle H-50°/L-41° Cloudy</p>	<p>Sun, Dec. 24</p> <p>North Isle H-52°/L-45° Mostly Cloudy</p> <p>South Isle H-50°/L-43° Partly Sunny</p>	<p>Mon, Dec. 25</p> <p>North Isle H-52°/L-41° Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-41° Rain</p>	<p>Tues, Dec. 26</p> <p>North Isle H-49°/L-44° AM Showers PM Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-49°/L-42° AM Showers PM Rain</p>	<p>Wed, Dec. 27</p> <p>North Isle H-50°/L-43° Rain</p> <p>South Isle H-48°/L-42° AM Showers PM Rain</p>
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OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What special meaning do the upcoming holidays have for you?



Jennifer Ward, Oak Harbor

The upcoming holiday season is a reminder to me of the countless gifts of life. Family, traditions new and old, and opportunities to make memories. It is a time to renew the spirit of believing – each in our own special way. As an adult I'm reminded the holiday season is a time of celebration highlighting our values that bring friends and family together year after year. The holidays are a time that helps us reconnect through togetherness, gratitude, and generosity. Finally, this time of year allows us to pass our traditions down to our children so that they may carry them on when they have a family.

Marilee Paddock, Oak Harbor

The holidays involve decorating my home, spending time with family and friends, exchanging gifts and sharing special meals and traditions while waiting for Christmas (which literally means Christian Mass which was actually shortened to Christmas). It's about watching the glimmer in your grandchild's eyes taking in all the magical splendor around them, helping those who are a little less fortunate, appreciating your family members, singing Christmas carols, baking those wonderful goodies, attending Mass on Christmas Eve and not taking one minute or person for granted. Most importantly for me, it's about the birth of God's Son– Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope, joy and tradition and how we celebrate all that is good in the world.



Julie Trobaugh, Oak Harbor

I love Christmas, I love giving to people and spending time with those I love, but each year I get to spend time working with Operation Christmas Child, preparing gift-filled shoeboxes intended for children all over the world. These boxes carry the ultimate gift – the gospel of Jesus Christ. To be able to come together with hundreds of volunteers to share Jesus' love with people around the world is such a blessing! I grew up moving from place to place and not always having family around and then I joined the Navy and spent more than 30 years doing the same. Even in all of that, I was so blessed to be surrounded by friends and family wherever I was. Sharing Jesus with the children of the world seems like a perfect way to share the blessing I been given.

Bobbi Bradley, Coupeville

What has been on my thoughts during this holiday season is how many people are struggling in the world due to global conflicts. It's hard not to widen my daily thoughts and prayers for them.

I feel quite blessed that my husband and I found our home on Whidbey Island almost 18 years ago. Living here has surrounded me with an amazing group of friends. I love this small island community of ours and all of the unique gifts it offers. I feel like I have more than I deserve this holiday season and hope, in some way, I have made a difference in a few people's lives by being their friend and supporter.



CAN DO 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

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	7							2
	1	2				5		7
7			1	3				
						1	2	
				4			6	

Answers on page 15

Community Bulletin Board

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

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Life • Business**
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Se Habla Español



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Richard Voit Agency
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A102, Oak Harbor
rvoit@farmersagent.com



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 (1)

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 njlish@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://victimsupport-services.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 per week. • Become a Board

How'd you do?

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

Member: Development/Outreach/Special Skills. Please contact Angelica, angelica.metcalfe@islandshake-spearefest.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.

WORK WANTED

Caregiver/Nursing Assistant: Professional, dependable, honest. Hospice and after surgery care OK. Call or text Jackie at 425-985-1659 or email jl-3@comcast.net (1)

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

No Cheating!

	R	A	B	B	I	S		S	A	L	I	N	E	
M	A	D	E	I	R	A		A	B	A	L	O	N	E
A	B		A	N	A	L	O	G	I	Z	E		D	A
H	I	N	D	S		A	U	G		E	A	G	E	R
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A	C	R	I	S						W	U	N	D	T
B	R	A	V	E	D				M	A	I	D		
R	U	T		T	A	R			P	O	N	H	U	S
E	S	O	P		B	A	S	A	L		T	O	N	E
A	A	R	O	N		P	I	P		S	A	G	E	R
S	D		S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L		A	U
T	E	H	E	R	A	N			S	A	R	C	A	S
	S	E	R	A	P	E			T	R	I	A	G	E

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Cookware: New Duo Nova Instant Pot multi-use pressure cooker, never used, serves 6 or more people. Features 8 one-touch settings and 7 functions: pressure cooker, steamer, saute pan, slow cooker, rice cooker, food warmer and yogurt maker. \$99. To inquire, please leave a voice message at 360-675-4352 (0)

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.

WANTED

Cars, Trucks, RVs, Motorcycles, Vans and Equipment Wanted. Premium for complete running or vintage vehicles. Cash paid for most others. Expert, fast removal. Free estimates. TJ's Recycling, 360-678-4363

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US Postal Mail Whidbey Weekly
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Oak Harbor, WA 98277

E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone..... 360-682-2341
Fax 360-682-2344

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$10/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000 and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. **Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.**

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always

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Most cars up to 5 qts. 5W20, 5W30, 10W30. Other grades extra. Some filters cost extra. Vehicles with Skid Plates may be extra. Plus \$1 Environmental Disposal Fee.

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- Retrieving Codes
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Labor Includes

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- Tire Rotation
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- Inspect Exhaust System
- Check Charging System
- Test Ignition Cables
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starting at

Flushes Radiator, Engine Block, Heater Core & Hoses to -35° below.

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4 cyl

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6 cyl

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8 cyl

*Plus Parts

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- Inspect/Replace Distributor Cap & Rotor
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