

January 11 through January 17, 2024

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

Your Source For "What's Happening" On Whidbey Island

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NEWS • ISLAND 911 • CALENDAR • PUZZLES

COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS



WHIDBEY ISLAND CENTER for the ARTS PRESENTS

## January 17 - 21

- Bringing Up Baby
- His Girl Friday
- Shall We Dance
- What's Up Doc?
- Victor Victoria
- Adam's Rib
- The Art of the Score
- The Hudsucker Proxy

# SEVEN FILMS

ONE CONCERT, COUNTLESS LAUGHS



WHIDBEY ISLAND  
FILM FESTIVAL

[whidbeyislandfilmfestival.org](http://whidbeyislandfilmfestival.org)

# Whidbey Weekly

# NEWS



Learn the History of Fiber Arts  
p. 6

www.whidbeyweekly.com

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JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17, 2024



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Film Festival  
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts box office associate Kevin Drake practices his roller skating skills for the introduction to the film showing of "Shall We Dance," which has a famous roller skating dance number. "Shall We Dance" is one of seven films being shown at the Whidbey Island Film Festival, Jan. 17-21. Drake is also practicing with the new WICA popcorn machine, which will offer bottomless popcorn to festival attendees.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Film Festival  
The classic 1940 film, "His Girl Friday," starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell, will be shown Thursday, Jan. 18 as part of the Whidbey Island Film Festival collection of screwball comedies. The festival opens Jan. 17 and will continue through Jan. 21 at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

States; our goal is to not only honor the restoration of these films through exhibition, but to educate audiences about the themes and reasons they were made."

Duncan said the social satire and wacky plot twists of these particular films were brilliant in the ways in which they allowed the filmmakers and actors the opportunity to comment on society in a way the censorship boards of the time couldn't control.

"The films were original and funny, but also had so many double entendres that the writers and performers were getting away with, making social comments that the censorship board could not cut," said Duncan. "For example, in 'Bringing Up Baby,' when Cary Grant says, 'I just went gay all of a

FILM continued on page 5

## Start the new year with a laugh

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley will be bringing lots of smiles to the island, as it presents a five days of screwball comedies for everyone's enjoyment, part of the sixth annual Whidbey Island Film Festival, starting Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Tickets to individual movies are now on sale (whidbeyislandfilm-festival.org) and some festival passes are still available through the WICA box office (360-221-8268 or tickets@wicaonline.org). Cost for tickets ranges from \$15 to \$25; passes are \$125 to \$150 and include admission to all featured films. A special Art of the Score concert will take place Sunday, Jan. 21; concert tickets are \$30 for a standard ticket, \$45 for a WICA Star ticket. (Visit wicaonline.org for details on WICA Star tickets.)

Deana Duncan, WICA's executive artistic director and co-curator of the Whidbey Island Film Festival, said 2024 seemed like a good year for a few good laughs.

"Life has become so serious, and the new year seemed like a great time to kick off a journey through some of the best comedies of all time," she said. "With their witty banter and madcap antics, the goal is to have fun, together! The Film Society of Screwball Comedy in Palm Springs helped inspire our festival."

So, just what turns a comedy into a screwball comedy? There are several specific traits for this film genre, but Duncan's WIFF co-curator, James Hinkley, outlined the basics.

"A screwball comedy is a specific type of film that ridicules the typical romances of Hollywood's golden era," he said. "It invariably involves a 'battle of the sexes' between two characters either at odds with each other, or one of them scheming to make the other one fall in love. The dialogue is always fast and clever and is heavily influenced by film noir. Screwball comedies always show-case strong, confident woman protagonists who propel the stories forward."

"Really great comedy has this serious underbelly to it," added

Duncan. "Looking at the history, development and evolution of the screwball comedy film genre causes us to look at the social, economic, and political environment of the United States and Hollywood in particular. These films feature very farcical situations with a combination of slapstick and fast-paced repartee, but they also show the struggle between economic classes and generally feature a self-confident, and often stubborn, central female protagonist."

WIFF's lineup of seven classic films spans six decades, with selections ranging from 1937 ("Shall We Dance," starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers) to 1994 ("The Hudsucker Proxy," starring Tim Robbins and Paul Newman) among others, including "Bringing up Baby," made in 1938 to "What's Up Doc," made in 1972. There's also "His Girl Friday," from 1940, "Adam's Rib," from 1949 and "Victor Victoria," from 1982.

"The classic screwball comedies were made mostly during the '30s and '40s, but they continue to pop up in every decade," Hinkley said. "For example, 'What's Up Doc?' is an homage to the Howard Hawks/Cary Grant films, and 'Victor Victoria' is a re-make (turned musical by Henry Mancini) of a 1930s German screwball film."

Story line, director, actors and dialogue were all considered when curating this particular collection of films for WIFF 2024. The ability for new audiences to see these films on the big screen for perhaps the first time and to experience the community that comes along with a shared experience is what helps make the Whidbey Island Film Festival special, said Duncan.

"Movies are meant to be a community experience; they were made to be watched with others," she said. "When we share this experience, when we all erupt in laughter, or are silenced by a shared expression, we leave the theater talking to each other."

"Great art, classic film included, has the power to connect us," Duncan continued. "Exposure to art helps us engage in experiences and understand life's stories. These stories and these artists can and will reach audiences in powerful ways. We need social experiences to enrich and impact our lives. There are few classic film festivals in the



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Film Festival  
"What's Up Doc," the 1972 film featuring Barbara Streisand and Ryan O'Neal is one of seven screwball comedies that make up this year's Whidbey Island Film Festival. The movie will be shown Saturday, Jan. 20 at 12:30 p.m.

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# Island 911

Seriously, we do not make this stuff up!

## Friday, Dec. 29

### 9:57 am, W Whidbey Ave.

Reporting party states they gave credit card information to company and realized now it was fraud; requesting a call.

### 10:20 am, NE Harvest Dr.

Caller states they are being harassed via phone by daughter.

### 12:14 pm, NW Redwing Dr.

Advising of white male in his 20s with gray jeans, black sweatshirt with knife in his back pocket, is laying in people's yards like he is casing the neighborhoods.

### 1:49 pm, NE 10th Ave.

Caller advising a group of four people is outside; one person was approved to come in at 8:30, but didn't show up until just now; family is with her and they are angry that there is no bed available.

### 2:05 p.m., NE Goldie St.

Advising of vehicle prowling; occurred a week ago.

### 4:13 pm, SW Barlow St.

White male with black beard and red beanie is yelling at vehicles and brandishing a knife.

### 7:41 pm, SW Barrington Dr.

Male subject is throwing things in the street and yelling into traffic; possibly smoking something.

## Saturday, Dec. 30

### 12:06 am, SE 8th Ave.

Caller states "they" are banging and vibrating the entire floor; states they think things are being destroyed in the apartment.

### 12:07 am, SE Pioneer Way

Reporting party advising there were people at Off the Hook that looked younger; last seen 20 minutes ago; reporting party advising didn't ever get verification on actual ages.

### 12:54 am, SE 8th Ave.

Reporting party states in the same apartment she just called about, subjects are slamming things; are slamming around and is hearing female screaming.

### 11:52 am, SW 6th Ave.

Advising of gold SUV and old, red Toyota circling apartments and alley; subjects are arguing outside of reporting party's apartment for the last 15 minutes.

### 12:05 pm, NE Goldie St.

Caller is looking for her dog's collar; would like to know if law enforcement took it.

### 4:41 pm, SE Ely St.

Advising a teenager is walking northbound on Ely St. with pants down; naked rear end showing.

## Sunday, Dec. 31

### 8:23 pm, N Oak Harbor St.

Advising subject walked into reporting party's yard and is messing with the reporting party's dog.

### 10:02 pm, SW Swantown Ave.

Reporting party advising two vehicles appear to be racing in the area; last seen one minute ago; one was a white Mustang.

### 10:18 pm, SE 8th Ave.

Reporting party advising [subject] at location is out of control and breaking reporting party's stuff outside; smacked reporting party.

## Monday, Jan. 1

### 12:23 am, SW Mulberry Pl.

Reporting party advising of alarm going off on a vehicle for the last half hour.

### 12:49 am, SE 8th Ave.

Advising loud music is coming from neighbor's house; was told that fireworks are allowed, but unknown about the regular noise ordinance.

### 9:48 am, SW Fairway Pt.

Reporting party advising dog got out last night; wanting to know if it was picked up.

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

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# Bits & Pieces

This is called "levy compression" and impacts SWFE's ability to provide emergency services. The fire district is considering asking voters to reset the fire levy rate, known as a levy lid lift, from \$0.81 to \$1.20 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

A levy lid lift requires voter approval and the community will have an opportunity to provide feedback before a final decision is made by the Board of Fire Commissioners to place a measure on the ballot sometime in 2024.

"We believe it is critical for our community to understand how we are funded and the service challenges we are facing," Walsh said. "We report to you and look forward to having this important conversation."

Learn more at [www.swfe.org](http://www.swfe.org). Fire Chief Nick Walsh also welcomes questions at 360-321-1533 or [chief@swfe.org](mailto:chief@swfe.org).

[Submitted by Fire Chief Nick Walsh, Whidbey Fire/EMS]

## State ferries hosting virtual meetings Jan. 17 and 18 with updates on service, fleet status

Attendees to receive an overview of new Service Contingency Plan

SEATTLE – Washington State Ferries will share updates on its system-wide service during two upcoming virtual community meetings.

The 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, and 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, online meetings will also include an overview of the recently released Service Contingency Plan (PDF 834KB), which outlines how WSF will add service as vessels and crewing become available. Deputy Assistant Secretary Nicole McIntosh will lead the meetings in coordination with the Ferry Advisory Committees, appointed representatives of ferry-served communities who advise WSF.

Both meetings will cover the same material and are designed to give participants the option to join on Zoom when it best fits their schedule. Most of the time will be devoted to answering questions from participants. People can participate from a laptop, desktop or mobile device.

"Our biannual community meetings are an opportunity to update the public on current issues and most importantly, giving customers an opportunity to ask questions directly to management," said McIntosh. "Our recently released Service Contingency Plan is a roadmap for adding service for the next couple of years and we look forward to hearing feedback on it and discussing other issues important to our passengers."

Advanced registration for meetings required

- Register for 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17
- Register for 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18
- Video recordings will be available to view online the day after each meeting on WSF's Community participation page.

People who do not have broadband service can find free, temporary internet access locations online.

### Service Contingency Plan

WSF's Service Contingency Plan provides a transparent outline of how it plans to add service – sometimes temporarily – when it has the available vessels and crewing to do so. The plan also details how WSF intends to make service decisions during unplanned and/or emergency disruptions as it manages maintenance of an aging 21-boat fleet with schedules that currently require at least 15 vessels to be in operation.

WSF, a division of the Washington State Department of Transportation, is the largest ferry system in the U.S. and safely and efficiently carries tens of millions of people

a year through some of the most majestic scenery in the world.

For the latest service updates, sign up for rider alerts and track each ferry using the real-time map online.

Contacts: Ian Sterling, communications, 206-714-1556  
WSF media hotline, communications, 206-402-8070

Service Contingency Plan: [wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/WSF-Service-Contingency-Plan-2024.pdf](http://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/WSF-Service-Contingency-Plan-2024.pdf)

Register for 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17: [us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjz9sSfOCTVqm4z6NWN8gZw#registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjz9sSfOCTVqm4z6NWN8gZw#registration)

Register for 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18: [us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjz9sSfOCTVqm4z6NWN8gZw#registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjz9sSfOCTVqm4z6NWN8gZw#registration)

Community participation page: [wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries/about-us/community-participation](http://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries/about-us/community-participation)

Temporary internet access: [commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/](http://commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-state-drive-in-wifi-hotspots-location-finder/)

WSF: [wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries](http://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries)

Rider alerts: [wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/RouteAlerts/](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/RouteAlerts/)

Real-time map: [wsdot.com/ferries/vessel-watch/default.aspx](http://wsdot.com/ferries/vessel-watch/default.aspx)

[Submitted by Washington State Department of Transportation]

## Consider a Family Meeting to discuss Estate Plans

At some point, you'll want to share your estate plans with your loved ones — and the first step in this process may be to hold a family meeting.

The best time to hold this meeting is when you're still in good mental and physical shape, and the enactment of your estate plans may well be years away. But what topics should you cover?

Consider these main areas:

• Your wishes — and those of your family. Use this meeting to introduce your estate plans and, in a basic sense, what you hope to accomplish with them — leave money to your family, support charitable groups and so on. You'll want to emphasize that you want to be equitable in what you leave behind, but there may be issues that affect this decision, such as disparities in income between grown children or an allowance for a special-needs child. But you'll also want to listen to what your family members want — and you might be surprised at what they tell you. Consider this: More than 80% of the millennial generation would rather know their parents are financially secure throughout their retirement, even if this means that their parents will pass on less money to them, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study.

• Estate planning documents — At the time of your family meeting, you may or may not have already created your estate planning documents, but in either case, this would be a good time to discuss them. These documents may include a will, a living trust, financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney and possibly other arrangements. At a minimum, you'd like to give a general overview of what these documents mean, but at an initial family meeting, you don't necessarily have to get too detailed. For example, you might not want to talk about specific inheritances. This is also an opportunity to inform your loved ones of the professionals involved in your estate plans, such as your attorney and your tax advisor.

• Roles of everyone involved — Not only does a comprehensive estate plan involve moving parts, such as the necessary documents, but it also includes actual human beings who may need to take on different roles. You will need an executor for your will and, if you have a living trust, you'll need a trustee. Even if you choose to serve as the initial trustee, you'll still need to identify one or more successor trustees to take your place if you become incapacitated, or upon your death. Plus, you'll need to name people to act as your power of attorney for health care and finances. Choosing the right people for these roles involves thought and sensitivity. Obviously, you want individuals who are competent and reliable, but you also need to be aware that some family members could feel slighted if others are assigned roles they feel they could

do. By being aware of these possible conflicts, you can be better prepared to address them.

Here's one more suggestion: Let your family know that this initial meeting doesn't mean the end of communications about your estate plans. Encourage your loved ones to contact you with questions whenever they want. You may need to hold additional family meetings in the future, but by laying the initial groundwork, you will have taken a big first step in establishing the legacy you'd like to leave.

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



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FILM continued from page 2

sudden,' is the first use by a major star in a major movie to imply something other than 'happy' — it was a groundbreaking moment in cinematic history, if you catch it."

WIFF is also happy to bring back its Art of the Score concert on the last day of the festival, Jan. 21, which will feature Gloria Ferry-Brennan on violin, Hinkley on cello, and Sheila Weidendorf on piano, playing selections of works made popular from this year's films.

"The original idea of doing these Art of the Score concerts was to showcase the scores of films from the festival," Hinkley described. "But, as this year's group of films have less in terms of musical scores (some are mostly assembled soundtracks, which is more typical of comedies), this year we are focusing on the collaboration of filmmakers and composers that we're

calling 'A Game of Pairs.'

We'll be exploring partnerships like Alfred Hitchcock/Bernard Herrmann, Steven Spielberg/John Williams, Blake Edwards/Henry Mancini, and more. I think the audience will enjoy seeing how these directors work with their composers to create a new, unique world for every film they make together."

A full WIFF schedule is available online at whidbeyislandfilmfestival.org.

"Don't miss the opening night red carpet experience with photos and champagne and never-ending popcorn," encouraged Duncan. "We aspire to make our programs accessible and inclusive for all; we are now offering a 'Pay What You Will' component to all films. You can stay home for the rest of the winter. Dress up a little, come see some great films, eat the best popcorn in town, and laugh a lot. We need it!"



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Island Film Festival  
Classic screwball comedies, the theme for this year's Whidbey Island Film Festival, often feature strong female protagonists and madcap adventures. A prime example is "Adam's Rib," starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, which will be shown at the WICA main stage Sunday, Jan. 21 at 12:30 p.m.

# What's Going On

## Popsie's 2024 Super Mario Tournament

Going on Now through March 24  
Popsies, 851 SE Pioneer Way #101, Oak Harbor

Join the fun and get your lap on this list! One lap per day. New track each week. Top speeds will be announced Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in store and on social media.

## Family Storytime

Thursday, Jan. 11  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Coupeville Library, 788 N Alexander St, Coupeville

Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and creative activities together as a family to prepare the wonders of reading. A play time or art activity may follow. For children ages 18 months to 5 years, and their caregivers.

## Line Dancing Lessons

Thursday, Jan. 11  
8 - 9:30 p.m.  
Orlando's Bar + Southern BBQ, 656 SE Bayshore Dr., Oak Harbor

Join us for a line dancing lesson at Orlando's Southern BBQ. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a beginner, our instructor will have you two-stepping and boot-scooting in no time. Picture this: the savory aroma of slow-cooked ribs wafting through the air, the infectious music, and the joyous laughter of a community coming together to dance. It's more than just a lesson; it's an unforgettable evening of good food, great company, and the chance to master those classic line dance moves.

## Ski Shuttle to Mt. Baker

Saturday, Jan. 13  
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Base access required  
Convergence Zone, NASWI - 3535 N. Princeton, Bldg 2510, Oak Harbor

Enjoy a day on the slopes up at Mt. Baker and let the MWR do the driving.

Adults \$35, Liberty Eligible \$30, Children \$30. Fee includes transportation only.

Register at MyFFR9924008W: <https://myffr.navyaims.com/nw.html>.

## Tortellini Pasta Class with Renée Blair

Saturday, Jan. 13  
Starting at 5:30 p.m.  
Wildly Beloved Foods, 6348 Frost Ave., Clinton  
Class Admission: \$95

Learn to make this iconic and beloved northern Italian stuffed pasta completely from scratch, using the finest ingredients, in this two-hour class. Taste what we make in class, plus take home the rest of your pasta creation to enjoy at home. Expect a fun, hands-on and delicious experience which will leave you inspired to keep making pasta. Includes pasta tasting and wine pairings. \*Eggs, dairy, and pork will be used in class.

## Whidbey Unplugged

Saturday, Jan. 13  
Starting at 6 p.m.  
Bailey's Corner Store, 7690 Jewett Rd., Clinton  
Admission: \$20

Join us Saturday for an event of acoustic music! Lauren Flynn and Aniela Marie Perry (World Record Holder for Cello Playing) of Seattle Rock Band Buried Blonde, play an acoustic set. Singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist Christina Atteberry performs an upbeat repertoire with inventive guitar rhythms. Pent Up offers a high energy acoustic performance to close out the night. Come early if you're hungry; the kitchen is open until 7p.m. Learn more about this event and more at whidbeyunplugged.com.

## Live Music at Geez Skateshop

Saturday, Jan. 13  
Doors open at 6 p.m., Music starts at 7 p.m.  
749 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor

Admission: \$10 Come Listen and Support Abzero, KITCALICO, Dirty Biter, Second Line and "BANGTAIL," a wild horse, for their only performance. All Ages are welcome. Advisory: Strong Language may be heard; listen with care. Parking Advisory: No Horses, please.

## Kick Off 2024 at Wicked Teuton Brewing Company

Saturday, Jan. 13  
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
71341 SW Barlow St., Oak Harbor

Join us for a brew or two and kick off the new year with some fun!

## Monday Bites! Wine & Live Music

Monday, Jan. 15  
4:30 - 7 p.m.  
Dancing Fish Vineyards  
1953 Newman Rd., Freeland

Bekah Bee returns to Dancing Fish to bring harmony and percussion to the legendary Philip Van Seters guitar. Reservations highly recommended to ensure seating availability with first come, first served community tables. Wine is available for purchase by glass or bottle. Make reservations online at dancingfishvineyards.com.

## Trivia at Wicked wh!teFish61 Teuton

Tuesday, Jan. 16  
6 p.m.  
Wicked Teuton Brewing Company, 1341 Barlow St., Oak Harbor

Join us for weekly trivia. Teams can be up to six people. Different topics each week!



## WHIDBEY ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL

Whidbey Island Film Festival  
Jan. 17 - 21  
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts - 565 Camano Ave. Langley

A one-week film festival featuring a curated list of Screwball Comedy films.

Individual tickets on sale now. Passes still available through the WICA box office:

[tickets@wicaonline.org](mailto:tickets@wicaonline.org) | 360-221-8268

## IT'S BASKETBALL SEASON!



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- Wed, January 10th - SVC Womens Hoops at Shoreline  
Tipoff 5:00pm
- Wed, January 10th - SVC Mens Hoops at Shoreline  
Tipoff 7:00pm
- Fri, January 12th - OHHS Boys Varsity Hoops vs. Mt. Vernon  
Tipoff 7:15pm
- Frid, January 12th - SVC Womens Hoops vs. Olympic  
Tipoff 2:00pm
- Sat, January 13th - SVC Mens Hoops vs. Olympic  
Tipoff 4:00pm

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# New exhibit puts the fabulous in fiber arts

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Who remembers the advertising campaign for cotton, which proudly dubbed the material as "the fabric of our lives?" A new exhibit opening Friday at the Island County Historical Museum in Coupeville has taken that old phrase and expanded upon it in a truly unique way. An opening reception for several of the artists featured in the display entitled, "Fantastic Fiber Through the Ages," will be held Friday at 4 p.m. at the museum. The exhibit is a collaboration between the museum and the Pacific NorthWest Art School in Coupeville, the first time the two entities have worked together to create a display.

"The fiber artwork exhibited literally comes from all over the world, the U.S. and locally," said Lisa Bernhardt, executive director of Pacific NorthWest

Art School, who referenced a pair of boots, a backpack and garments which come from a Ukrainian felter who lives in Cypress. "Other fiber work, including quilts and felted jewelry, comes from our school's nationally known faculty. Other fiber work has been produced by our incredibly talented local fiber creatives."

"I've always been interested in fiber arts because there's just so many different, beautiful things that you can do," said Patti Holm, collections manager and archivist for the museum. "I started thinking about what would be a good way to bring the community back into the museum to show that it's not just about history, that there's community here. This exhibit is some of everything."

Fiber arts encompass a whole spectrum of materials, both natural and synthetic, including, but not limited to, cotton,



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly  
The "Lady's Manual of Fancy Work," by Mrs. Pullman, dates back to 1868 and as Island County Historical Museum's collection manager Patti Holm points out, helps illustrate the role fiber arts have played in our lives throughout history.

linen, wool, hemp, yarn, felt, ribbon, string, rayon and much more. Holm said just putting this exhibit together has been an educational experience. "I've learned about stuff I never even knew existed," she said. "When I think about fiber arts I immediately go to quilting and crocheting, but there's wool felting and basket weaving and rock wrapping, which I didn't even know was a thing. Another technique, called kumihimo, is the braiding of 16 different strands. It's an ancient Japanese technique that's still used today and it's beautiful."

"We wanted to show people that fiber art isn't just aesthetic, it's not just something you hang on a wall, but it's also something that people used hundreds of years ago," Holm continued. "Because fiber art is the baskets that indigenous people here used to live and cook with and it's the clothes that they wore. For the pioneers that came, it's the shawls that they knitted to stay warm. Fiber arts is not just decorative things to hang on the wall and look pretty, it's everything that's down to the core of who we are as a culture."

Holm said she particularly wanted to showcase some of the museum's collection of indigenous baskets.

"The indigenous people's lives here, at least, revolved around cedar and basket-making," she said. "That was their everyday thing. Young girls, from probably the age of 5, started to learn how to weave baskets so by the time they were old, they were experts. They could create tightly woven baskets that were watertight and could be used over and over again and they were traded; they had monetary value."

Holm said the exhibit will also include information on different kinds of plants and how they were used to dye fabrics and other materials. She said they are pleased to be able to show the work of so many different artists and even give them the chance to share their craft through demonstrations, the first of which will be held Saturday, Jan. 20.

"We're really excited because we're going to have demonstrations at least on a monthly basis, hopefully twice a month, where artists will come in and demonstrate and the public is welcome to come in and watch," she said. "They'll just have to watch the website for the days and times. The first one will be Jan. 20 and it will be on felting. It's gorgeous."

Bernhardt noted that national contributors to the exhibit will also share their expertise through the art school for those who want to learn more about it.

"All these artists will be teaching workshops for the Pacific NorthWest Art School in 2024," she said. (pacificnorthwestart-school.org)

The museum, located at 908 NW Alexander Street in Coupeville, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Go to islandhistory.org to learn more and discover when the Fantastic Fiber Arts demonstrations will be held. The display is expected to remain up through the end of May.

"I'm hoping when people come in, they can learn a new appreciation for our connection to nature, our connection to creativity, to imagination, to spirit, and to our past," said Holm.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly  
This Norwegian spinning wheel was brought to the U.S. via steam ship and is now part of a new exhibit of Fantastic Fiber Through the Ages at the Island County Historical Museum in Coupeville. The exhibit opens Friday and will remain open through May.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly  
The term fiber arts is commonly associated with weaving, knitting, sewing or crocheting, but it also includes creative endeavors like rock wrapping, all of which will be on display starting Friday at the Fantastic Fiber Through the Ages exhibit at the Island County Historical Museum in Coupeville.



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly  
The boots shown here, as well as the bag in the background, are examples of felting and are the work of a Ukrainian fiber artist who now lives in Cypress. These pieces are on display at the Island County Historical Museum in Coupeville, in collaboration with Coupeville's Pacific NorthWest Art School.

# Recipe of the Week

## TREAT YOURSELF TO TEMPURA



Tempura is a crispy and tasty Japanese dish. Like bamboo shoots, sansai, or mountain vegetables, are found in regions of Japan and Korea, and are known for their bitter taste. When preparing this recipe for "Spring Mountain Vegetable Tempura" from Takashi Sugimoto and Marcia Iwatate's "Shunju New Japanese Cuisine" (Periplus), foodies may be able to find sansai at an Asian market; otherwise, substitute other bitter greens and vegetables, such as dandelion, mustard, endives, scallion, and more.

### SPRING MOUNTAIN VEGETABLE

#### TEMPURA

(Sansai no tempura)

Serves 4

8 taranome (angelica tree shoots), about 3 ounces

8 urui (hosta shoots), about 1 ounce

8 nobiru (red garlic), about 1 ounce

8 fukinoto (unopened buds of Japanese butterbur), about 2 ounces

8 young green, tea leaves

8 kogomi (fiddleheads), about 1 1/2 ounces

8 koshiabura (unopened buds of the *L. acanthopanax sciadophylloides* tree), about 1 ounce

4 cups vegetable oil

1 cup all-purpose (plain) flour, for dusting

Natural sea salt to taste

#### BATTER

1 egg yolk

2 cups iced water

2 cups all-purpose (plain) flour, sifted and chilled

1. Remove any browned or discolored sections from the vegetables.

2. To prepare the batter, beat the egg yolk thoroughly with the iced water. Add the chilled flour. Stir briefly with thick chopsticks, but do not mix to a smooth batter, as tempura batter should always contain lumps of flour. Place the bowl with the batter over a larger bowl filled with ice water to keep the batter cold.

3. Pour the vegetable oil into a saucepan until it reaches 6 inches in depth and heat to 325 F. Spread flour for dusting in a baking pan or a flat, shallow container. Lightly dust each vegetable with a coating of flour.

4. Carefully dip in the batter and deep-fry. Turn the vegetables occasionally so that they are evenly fried. Once lightly browned and they float quickly to the surface when pushed down with chopsticks, remove from the oil with a slotted spoon. Gently shake above the pan to remove any excess oil and drain on paper towels. Serve immediately with some natural sea salt.



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### MOVIE SHOWTIMES 01-12-2023 THRU 01-16-2024

MEAN GIRLS (PG-13)

FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 1:30PM, 4:00PM, & 7:00PM

WONKA (PG)

FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 1:45PM, 4:15PM, & 7:15PM

MIGRATION (PG)

FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 2:00PM & 4:30PM

NIGHT SWIMS (PG-13)

FRIDAY - TUESDAY: 7:30PM

CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

COMING SOON: 1/19 "I.S.S.," & 2/23 ORDINARY ANGELS

## Now Showing!

Friday, Jan. 12 thru Sunday, Jan. 14

MIGRATION (PG)  
TROLLS 3 (PG)



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## WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, if resolutions seem slow-going, give it time to get into a groove and become part of your routine. You can handle anything when you put your mind to it.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, there is a lot going on in your life at the moment, and you may need to accept that you can't do it all alone. Start farming out tasks to people you trust.

### GEMINI - May 22/June 21

How will you know if you can do something unless you give it a try, Gemini? Be adventurous this week, whether it is enjoying a new ethnic cuisine or trying a new activity.

### CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, you may have a few plans on the horizon but aren't sure how to get started. Just like walking, take it one step at a time and soon you'll find that you're on your way.

### LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may think you're being humble and putting others' needs before your own this week. But if you look a little deeper, you may discover you have room to improve.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you commit to something, follow through this week. Others are counting on you for your portion of the work and letting them down now is not an option.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Health issues may have you taking inventory of your habits, Libra. It's a new year and the perfect time to start to make changes for the better. Ask for help if you need guidance.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

You're not one for being bashful about things, Scorpio. But something could occur this week that leaves you a little red in the face and perhaps wanting to hide in the shadows.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Someone new in your life is causing all types of changes to your schedule, Sagittarius. You're not quite sure if you enjoy it or not right now. Stay the course and wait to see.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you will not make inroads with family or friends if you continue to play the victim. You must own up to any mistakes you've made and start making amends this week.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes the best defense is remaining quiet and letting others dig themselves into a deeper hole, Aquarius. Others will see your positive efforts for all they are.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Think about planning a getaway in the next month or so, Pisces. It doesn't have to be a grand voyage. Even a weekend retreat can be a way to rest and recharge right now.





# OUR Community

## An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

As a volunteer at Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation (WAIF), what brings you joy?



**Michael Szemplinski, Oak Harbor**  
Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation (WAIF) is a wonderful organization to volunteer for! The staff and other volunteers are very friendly and motivated by the mission. Their constant support motivates me to go help socialize animals and clean around the shelter. There are so many cute cats and dogs that aren't featured on the website yet when you volunteer. Once they are ready for adoption, it's fun to watch them pop up on the Facebook page with their "forever" family.

**Michelle Meyer, Freeland**  
I volunteer at WAIF as a dog kennel cleaner and dog walker. When I clean kennels, I feel good knowing I've helped keep their confined living spaces clean and comfortable. When I walk dogs, it makes me happy just to see how excited they are to be dogs for a while, sniffing and playing and stretching their legs. For me, there is no greater joy than earning the love and trust of these very appreciative pups. When they thank me by rolling over for a belly rub, it brings happy tears to my eyes. Since I can't take them all home like I want to, this gives me chance to bring them a little joy when I can. I always get back so much more than I give when I volunteer at WAIF!



**Marty Beidler, Oak Harbor**  
Every moment of my time at WAIF is filled with joy! When I check in for my volunteer work in the morning, my first joy is seeing new names on the "Recently Adopted" list. Greeting other volunteers as we go about our work puts a smile on my face. Observing the dedication of the staff as we work on the morning cat care tasks together is inspiring for me. They always take time to give each cat a little special attention and are sensitive to their individual needs. I enjoy meeting new cats and seeing them make the transition from feeling scared and alone to the joyful outcome of being chosen for a forever home. It makes me happy to be able to contribute to such a well-run nonprofit organization where the management, staff and volunteers work together to support pets and their people.

**Nan Peterson, Oak Harbor**  
The cats! Most of them come from sad circumstances – their owner died, moved, divorced or didn't want them anymore. Some are rescued from the street. They are sad and afraid. We spend time helping them feel loved and secure. There's nothing better than to watch a cat come out of its shell, start to play again and lose its fear of people. I sometimes get attached to a cat, but am always happy to see them go to a good home. Judy (who manages the Freeland Cat Cottage) does a great job of working with adopters. She loves all the cats and feels responsible for finding them the best home. I enjoy working with other volunteers and have made friends with several of them – a bonus, since I'm new to the island.



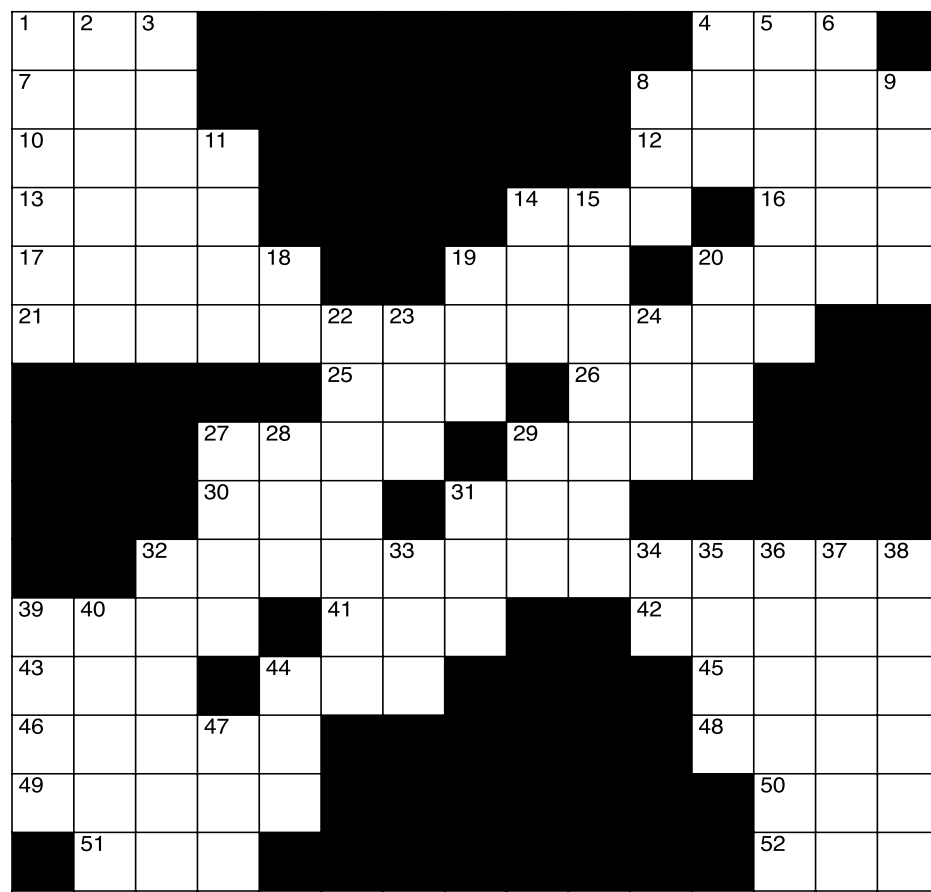
"Seeing a cat named Mercedes finally get adopted was a bittersweet moment at the shelter. He was a cuddly cat with very specific needs that got a great home."  
If you would like to volunteer for WAIF to see more cats like Mercedes get adopted, please contact Tre Frampton at 360-678-8912 or go to the website. (waifanimals.org)

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## 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

# Crossword Puzzle



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
  - 4. Ceramic jars
  - 9. Monetary units
  - 14. Alias
  - 15. "Superman" actor
  - 16. Britonic tribe
  - 17. Shorten
  - 18. LA Dodgers manager
  - 20. Hoarded
  - 22. Theatrically portray
  - 23. Noah's grandson
  - 24. Dependent
  - 28. Peyton's little brother
  - 29. Cools the house
  - 30. Principle part of
  - 31. Type of wrap
  - 33. Peels
  - 37. Commercial
  - 38. Make an attempt
  - 39. Arrange in steps
  - 41. U. Utah athlete
  - 42. Old English
  - 43. Trade
  - 44. Nostrils
  - 46. Ticket seller \_\_Hub
  - 49. Of I
  - 50. Institute legal proceedings against
  - 51. Takes apart
  - 55. Doorway
  - 58. Long int'l river
  - 59. Trailblazing athlete
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Batflower genus
  - 2. Predatory seabirds
  - 3. Fish farm
  - 4. Arrangements
  - 5. Go in advance of others
  - 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
  - 7. "\_\_ Maria"
  - 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
  - 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
  - 10. Vinegary
  - 11. To this
  - 12. Explosive
  - 13. Female sibling
  - 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
  - 21. Type of hoop
  - 24. About Holy Father
  - 25. Academic environment
  - 26. Extremely angry
  - 27. Surrenders
  - 31. Swiss mountain pass
  - 32. Sharp mountain ridge
  - 34. Erases
  - 35. Spielberg's alien
  - 36. Absurd
  - 40. Dorm worker
  - 41. Used to make pesticides
  - 45. The sister of your father or mother
  - 47. A way to let know
  - 48. Can't produce much vegetation
  - 52. Small streams
  - 53. Folk singer DiFranco
  - 54. Weights
  - 56. Start over
  - 57. Black Sea resort city
  - 59. Wimbledon champ
  - 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
  - 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
  - 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
  - 63. Of or relating to ears

Answers on page 11

### YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

<b>Thurs, Jan. 11</b> North Isle H-39°/L-19° Rain and snow	<b>Fri, Jan. 12</b> North Isle H-25°/L-15° Mostly Cloudy	<b>Sat, Jan. 13</b> North Isle H-32°/L-27° Cloudy	<b>Sun, Jan. 14</b> North Isle H-40°/L-30° Mostly Cloudy	<b>Mon, Jan. 15</b> North Isle H-34°/L-24° Mostly Cloudy	<b>Tues, Jan. 16</b> North Isle H-38°/L-31° Cloudy	<b>Wed, Jan. 17</b> North Isle H-43°/L-38° Rain
South Isle H-38°/L-16° Rain and snow	South Isle H-25°/L-17° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-28°/L-25° Cloudy	South Isle H-37°/L-31° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-33°/L-22° Mostly Cloudy	South Isle H-36°/L-30° Cloudy	South Isle H-41°/L-37° Rain

Answers on page 9



# Community Bulletin Board

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

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

Medical Marijuana patients unite; If you need assistance, advice, etc. please contact at [420patientnetworking@gmail.com](mailto: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 Member: Development/Outreach/Special Skills. Please contact Angelica, [angelica.metcalfe@islandshake-spearefest.org](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bbbsislandcounty.org) for more information.

The Island County Medical Reserve Corps (ICMRC) is a local network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of communities on Whidbey and Camano Islands. Volunteers primarily include medical and public health professionals but other volunteers who have no healthcare back-

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grounds 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.islandtransit.org/employment) to apply. Island Transit is a drug and alcohol free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer.

**HOUSEWARES**  
 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

### No Cheating!

E	S	S					B	S	S						
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**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**

Art, Antiques & Collectibles. Cash paid for quality items. Call or text 360-661-7298  
 Was your Dad or Gramps in Japan or Germany? I collect old 35 mm cameras and lenses. Oak Harbor, call 970-823-0002

**Always buying antiques, collectibles, sporting goods, tools, garden equipment, furniture, vehicles, tractors and boats. Cash paid at loading out. 45**

**years experience. 360-678-5888 or text 360-969-1948.**

**FOR SALE**  
 Lots of 20 Richard Simmons Exercise DVDs w/ Tonin' Cords, Ab Bar and Stretch Band. \$30 OBO. Call Jan @ 360-678-9319.  
 Rare Richard Simmons Pump & Sweat Stair Climber w/ VHS Tape. \$50 OBO. Call Jan @ 360-678-9319.

Sanyo 19" Digital LCD HD TV w/ Remote. \$40 OBO. Call Doug @ 360-678-9319.

**Charming 1939 Buick Roadmaster: New upholstery, new valves, new brakes. Good shape, some repair needed. \$16,500. Best offer considered. JL-3@comcast.net or can text 425-985-1659**

**Hew'd you do?**

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**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

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**Telephone .....360-682-8283**

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LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

MAKES THE HEART GROW STRONGER

### A Word with our Publisher:

Running a newspaper in any capacity is serious business.

While I am someone that believes they're capable of walking straight into a fire, in this arena the fire burns. My note to self is - "The only way out is through."

I cried a few times this week, no shame in it. My heart, and my soul is willing to go through any tribulation to make this paper last, especially because our readership is genuine.

This past Wednesday, my husband and I packed the kids in the van with ample snacks and delivered *Whidbey Weekly* to over 100 locations on the Island. In some of these locations, like Payless Foods, we drop as many as 700 copies off. By Thursday afternoon, I started to receive calls from locations needing more. By Saturday at 11 p.m., I'd dropped off 200 more copies to various locations on the island.

I have just a dozen more, and we've promised those copies to our friends and family who support us from afar.

Thank you for those that took the time to learn a little more about me and my family with last week's Note from the Publisher. The outpouring of support from our Whidbey community has been a delight to see in action:

Writers checking in, offering their ideas and plans.

Graphic designers, ready and eager to honor our advertisers with updated designs which suit the community they know so well.

I even received an inquiry from an esteemed website designer offering means of automation on our webpage so we can better serve all of you.

Most importantly, thank you to our advertisers for putting their intentions in supporting our paper, too. This paper is currently purely advertiser-supported; it pays the bills and keeps the lights on. As we work to further develop our advertising stream, we will directly be able to afford more content for all of you.

As we find our bearings in creating this publication, mistakes will happen. Last week, in a pit of last-minute desperation, I sent out our paper for publishing without getting a final proofing from our editor. I've promised Kathy that will never happen again.

I'm also wildly grateful for her direct feedback, making sure we truly recognized all of the areas that needed improvement for her to want to persevere alongside us, too. This week, Jacob and I managed to get most of the bits and pieces together in eight hours less time than it took us the week before...I also neglected to sleep a couple times, but nevertheless, I consider it a win; and I'll take all the wins I can get.

Below you'll see we've taken the time to reprint last week's Our Community section. It was published incorrectly, and that was my fault. Taking the leap and calling out my mistakes on a public forum like this is unnerving, but as the publisher, it's the best thing I can do. Honesty matters. Mistakes happen. Always do the best you can do.

- Samantha Joy



## OUR Community

### An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What was the best book you read last year?



**Cora Verdoes,**  
Oak Harbor

I really enjoy reading. It could be mystery, biography, fiction, or maybe my favorite, historical fiction. One book that surprised me was, "The Only Woman in the Room," by Marie Benedict. It is the story of Hedy Lamarr, described as a stunning beauty and a stunning mind. It will draw you into her life in Europe during World War II and then in the U.S. as a Hollywood actress and inventor. This book will discount many stereotypes.

**Tylar Walker,**  
Clinton Library

"Yellowface", by R.F. Kuang, is my favorite read of 2023. After reading only a few chapters alone, I checked out the audiobook so my parents and I could experience the tense and thought-provoking novel together. As we follow the journey of June Hayward, a seemingly unsuccessful author who steals a manuscript after the death of its author, Athena Liu, the novel explores critical themes of diversity and representation in society, social media, and the publishing industry. The story's dark and witty tone had us rooting for June to make better choices, only to witness her veer down a sadder and darker path. Kuang's virtuoso craft blended with (in a similar vein of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart") an unreliable narrator haunted by guilt and ill decisions, made "Yellowface" my most gripping read of the year.



**Gabe Harshman,**  
Langley

The best book I read in 2023 was "Boy's Life," by Robert McCammon. This semi-autobiographical tale takes place in the 1960s in Alabama. It leans into the mythology we create around the experience of growing up, past the magic of childhood and well into the territory of magical realism. In a world that includes ghosts and a literal river-monster, it's the shadows that haunt our hearts that pose the greatest danger. In a world that is always changing, kindness and courage are the only ways forward. This is one of those books that defies genre; it is equal parts mystery, autobiography, historical fiction, fantasy and horror. It is an amazing piece of literature, with beautiful prose and I'm glad I finally read it.

**Victoria Powell,**  
Oak Harbor

My 2023 book club favorite was "Local Woman Missing," by Mary Kubica. As an avid fantasy and science fiction reader, I wasn't sure about how I would enjoy a mystery/crime thriller. With its dark situations, "Local Woman Missing" was difficult to continue reading in many scenes due to the detailed descriptions, which seem to hold one's attention entirely on each twist and turn. Once I began reading, I was captivated by the imagery, the characters, and their plights. Without spoiling the storyline, the novel toggles among several characters in this small town and it is only by finishing the book that it will lay out the entire story of these missing women. ...Or does it?



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