March 7 through March 13, 2024

Whidbey Weekly

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

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WHIDBEY PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS THE LARAMIE PROJECT

By Moises Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

DIRECTED BY
SHELBY MONTOYA

PRODUCED BY ERIC GEORGE



DISCLAIMER: There is adult heavy content and language.

Parental discretion is advised.

PERFORMANCES: MARCH 8, 9, 10 730 SE MIDWAY OAK HARBOR EVENINGS: 7:30 PM 360-679-2237

W W W . W H I D B E Y P L A Y H O U S E . C O M

THE LARAMIE PROJECT IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATIST PLAY SERVICES 440 PARK AVENUE SOUTH. NEW YORK, NY 10016. PHONE: 212-683-8960 FAX: 212-213-1539 WWW.DRAMATIST.COM

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Whidbey Weekly Market Market



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MARCH 7 - MARCH 13, 2024

OHHS students bring passion project to Whidbey Playhouse



Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Reporters surround a hospital official, depicting part of the media frenzy that occurred following the 1998 hate crime against 21-yearold Matthew Shepard, who later died from his injuries. The scene is part of "The Laramie Project" a limited, three-night production opening Friday at the Whidbey Playhouse in Oak Harbor. Pictured from left are: Dana Rivo, Hadley McCulloch, Graham Ray, Eclipse Garrett, Ashley Mendoza, Ethan Johnson and Grace Jones.

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

"The Laramie Project" is not a feel-good play. It is many things at once. It is frank. It is real. It is sometimes uncomfortable. It is passionate. It is heart-breaking. It is important. It is the kind of theater that can allow hard conversations to happen. It is a play that lets us examine how, as a society, we treat one another, and whether we have more work to do.

It is also the latest production of the Whidbey Playhouse in Oak Harbor, with a limited, three-night run at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Due to its subject matter and language, this play is not suitable for young children – parents should use discretion. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at whidbeyplayhouse. com.

"The Laramie Project" is an American play written in 2000 by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project. It is a docu-drama, based on hundreds of interviews conducted by Kaufman and fellow theater group members with residents in and around Laramie, Wyo., following the murder of gay University of Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard, in 1998. Two men, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, were charged with Shepard's murder and are both serving two consecutive life sentences for the hate crime.

The play is directed for the Playhouse by Shelby Montoya. The cast, all of whom play multiple roles, is almost entirely made up of students from the Oak Harbor High School Drama Club, who wanted to perform the play at the high school after seeing it at a drama festival last year. However, the school's principal refused to allow the group to perform it at the school.

"This upset the students, especially because this high school has performed shows like 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' 'All My Sons,' and 'Radium Girls,' just to name a few," said Montoya. "Those shows included the dark topics of suicide, racism, and radium poisoning. So, to say that the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard was too much for their school was a slap in the face to them. They took the matter to the school board and unfortunately were told [the board] could not force the principal to let them perform the show.

"Immediately after hearing about this, Matt Montoya, my father, called me and said, 'What are we going to do?'" she continued. "I am the children's director at the Whidbey Playhouse and have worked with these same students on previous productions and I was in the drama program when I was in high school. I told my dad that I thought we could get our local theater to let the kids perform the show there; we just needed a donor for the rights. He imme-

Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly Graham Ray, left, and Ethan Johnson play Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, the two men who killed Matthew Shepard in 1998 in "The Laramie Project," on stage Friday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at the Whidbey Playhouse in Oak Harbor. diately jumped on the opportunity and offered to pay for the rights for as many performances as we could do."

"I wanted to do this for these high schoolers," said Matt Montoya, the only non-student in the cast. "These young adults are the future, and they did everything they could to perform this show at the high school. Their passion about the subject matter is what made me want to help put this show on for them. It has been incredibly rewarding to work with these students. We all stand behind the purpose and meaning of this show."

This production is not part of the regular Playhouse season; rehearsals and performances have been worked in between two other shows. Whidbey Weekly attended a rehearsal last Friday, along with several members of the Oak Harbor Public Schools' board and administration. The district provided the following response via email when asked about the situation.

"The Oak Harbor Public Schools prioritizes fostering a dialogue that promotes healthy and safe learning environments for each and every student. Through student voice and input, we can continue to improve and cultivate positive school cultures that empower our youth to have confidence to succeed in our schools and in life. District and school administrators met with the students throughout the decision-making process."

Those cast members who responded to questions all said they are pleased to be able to share the play and its message with the greater Oak Harbor community.

"This is an important play for people to see/hear as it tells a really important story," said Adriana Froman. "The significance of a community coming together regardless of their differences, trying to make change and prevent an event like this from ever happening again. It reminds the audience that we all come from many different backgrounds and cultures and it is useful that we take this into account and look beyond our own personal views."

"I decided to be a part of this production because I knew it was the right thing to do," said "Ray" Graham Ray. "It addresses the critical problems in our society that affect too many people for it to be ignored. We live in a world where people are murdered for things they can't control and living as themselves, and being part of this show makes me feel like I'm part of the solution."

Other cast members drew comparisons between Laramie and Oak Harbor.

"Both are tightly knit towns where issues are dealt with more internally rather than on a larger scale," said Void Gibson, who joins the cast while home on spring break from college in Missouri. "At times Oak Harbor can be very isolated but everyone has similar experiences and it can be very jarring (although important) when we're reminded of the world and people that exist just outside of Whidbey.

LARAMIE PROJECT continued on page 6

Whale of a celebration: Langley Whale Center marks 10 years

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

March is celebration month for the Langley Whale Center, part of the nonprofit Orca Network. The center is marking its 10th anniversary with activities all month long and will hold a birthday party Saturday, March 16 to commemorate its first decade.

"Langley Whale Center will be open extended hours, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., on March 16," shared Stephanie Raymond, Orca Network's program coordinator. "Beginning at 11 am, a program of special Science Talks from Orca Network founders, staff and board members, story times with Sage and Debora, and a Langley Whale Center Anniversary Video begins. Throughout the day there will be face painting, kids' craft activities, and 20 percent off all Langley Whale Center merchandise."

For those who may not be able to stop in for the party organizers have put together a 10th anniversary scavenger hunt for young visitors to enjoy throughout March.

"The scavenger hunt is best suited for younger guests, with four simple but engaging questions for guests to answer as they explore Langley Whale Center exhibits," explained Raymond. "Two different sets of questions will be available for 'Jr. Naturalists' and 'Whale Experts,' depending on age. When all four questions have been answered, successful hunters can exchange their question sheet for a special 10th anniversary token. It is designed to be completed in a short amount of time."

The anniversary celebration has been a perfect opportunity to look at how far the Langley Whale Center has come in its first 10 years.

"From humble beginnings in a small, leaky building shared with two other businesses, we have moved twice, always getting a little closer to Whale Bell Park, into the lovely space we have today," she said. "A whole separate children's room was created, decorated with a beautiful mural featuring the marine mammals and other creatures of the Salish Sea. One of the highlights of the current layout is the Ocean Listening Booth, which allows visitors to listen to recordings from local hydrophones and is dedicated to the memory of Whale Center docent Pat Price."

Last year, the center welcomed more than 28,000 visitors and had over 1,300 visitors in one day during the recent Langley Mystery Weekend. Raymond said a lot has changed over the past decade, stressing it is the center's dedicated volunteers from all over Whidbey Island and the mainland that help current manager ,Katie Watkins, and assistant managers, Trevor Snow and Lucy Miller, maintain and staff the whale







Photo Courtesy of Cindi Rausch Photography

Here on Whidbey Island, whales are the stars of the show, like orca T124D, whose name is Field. This Cindi Rausch photo was taken in Saratoga Passage. The Langley Whale Center, celebrating its 10th anniversary this month, is a great place to learn about the orca and gray whale populations who visit Whidbey Island every year, sometimes putting on spectacular performances.

center, whose mission remains unchanged with time.

"Langley Whale Center is part of Orca Network, with the mission of connecting people with whales of the Pacific Northwest," said Raymond. "By raising awareness about these whales, and the importance of providing them with healthy and safe habitats, we find ways for people to work together to protect the rich, beautiful, diverse habitats and inhabitants of the Salish Sea. Langley Whale Center is a showcase for our Whale Sighting Network, Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Toki's Legacy, and education and advocacy programs, where trained docents and staff are eager to introduce visitors from all over the world to our incredibly cetacean and pinniped neighbors."

The overriding desire of all visitors is, of course, to catch a glimpse of these Salish Sea dwellers.

"People want to know where the whales are and if they are visible off of Whale Bell Park, we will put up a sign on the door and take binoculars down to the water to help people spot them," said Raymond. "It's always so rewarding to help someone spot a whale for the first time, and it's one of the things our staff and volunteers love best about working at the Langley Whale Center."

While more than satisfied with the progress made in its first 10 years, Raymond said there are already plans in the works to start

"We have some exciting new exhibits in progress, including a gray whale pectoral fin skeleton and an interactive exhibit about Toki's Legacy," she shared. "Lolita/ Tokitae/Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut was a whale from the L-pod family of the endangered southern resident killer whale population, who was captured in Penn Cove in 1970 and spent her life in a tiny tank at Miami Seaguarium. Orca Network was among many groups and individuals working hard to return her to her native waters, but she sadly passed away last August before that dream could become a reality. Langley Whale Center hosted a vigil in her honor and will create a new interactive exhibit to tell her story and encourage visitors to get involved in ways to help her family, who is still alive in the wild. That's what Toki's Legacy is all about.

"We also hope to increase our youth programing and offer junior docent opportunities," Raymond continued. "And in the whale world, there is always new information, so keeping our exhibits up to date and our docents trained on current events is an ongoing process."

The Langley Whale Center is located at 105 Anthes. The center is currently operating on its fall/winter schedule and is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Watch for updated spring/summer hours and find more information online at orcanetwork.org/langley-whale-center.



Photo Courtesy of the Langley Whale Center

Susan Berta and Howard Garrett, founders of Orca Network, were all smiles 10 years ago when the Langley Whale Center first opened its doors. The center will hold a special anniversary celebration Saturday, March 16.





Dune: Part Two (PG-13): 1:30PM, 4:15PM & 7:30PM b Marley: One Love (PG-13): 1:15PM, 4:00 PM & 7:00PM Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG): 1:30PM, 4:30PM & 7:15PM **CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**

Coming: 3/15 "Arthur The King 3/22 "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empir





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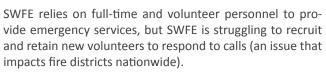






Board of Fire Commissioners to meet on fire levy resolution

The South Whidbey Fire/EMS Board of Fire Commissioners will meet Thursday, March 14 to discuss a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the Aug. 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Station 36/district administration office, 5579 Bayview Road.





Revenue from the current fire levy is not keeping up with costs to provide emergency services. The fire district needs more full-time personnel, in addition to volunteers, to respond to emergencies, and some of SWFE's fire engines and apparatus have reached the end of their usable lives and need to be replaced to ensure service reliability when responding to calls.

"We need to hire more full-time firefighters to keep up with call volumes and reduce response times," Fire Chief Nick Walsh said. "Our current response time is 15 minutes on average. This is a concern because every minute counts to improve outcomes for fire and medical emergencies."

If approved by voters, the fire levy lid lift will fund two more firefighters per day to reduce response times for fire and EMS calls to 10 minutes or less on average, and staff a third station in the southeast part of the district to decrease response times by an average of five minutes. The lid lift will also fund firefighter training programs and replacement of aging fire engines and equipment to ensure service reliability when responding to calls.

SWFE prefers to pay cash for the capital items instead of borrowing money through a bond, which costs taxpayers more in interest payments. The fire levy lid lift would continue this cost-saving measure.

SWFE is considering asking voters to reset the fire levy from \$0.81 to \$1.20 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The \$0.39 lid lift would cost an additional \$19.50 per month for the owner of a \$600,000 home.

Learn more at www.swfe.org. Fire Chief Nick Walsh also welcomes questions at 360-321-1533 or chief@swfe.org.

[Submitted by South Whidbey Fire/EMS]

Pruning for high fruit production

Gary Ingram will teach an on-site class on pruning fruit trees Saturday at 10 a.m. at the South Whidbey Tilth campus. In this workshop, he will discuss tree physiology; when and how pruning apple, pear, peach, fig, plum, cherry and others differ; organic pest and disease control; fertilization and how to make a fruit tree reach maximum productivity in just a few years. Bring sharp pruners and a small pruning saw if you want hands-on experience.

Ingram spent 15 years working in the Seattle area as an arborist and managed and trained other arborists and plant care workers. He currently has 10 or so clients on Whidbey Island. In addition to



35 years of experience working with trees and shrubs, Gary earned an ISA Certified Arborist credential in 2002, and has been teaching pruning classes for South Whidbey Tilth since 2005.

The two hour workshop begins at 10 a.m. at the South Whidbey Tilth campus, 2812 Thompson Road on Hwy. 525, Langley. The cost is \$5 for Tilth members and \$15 for non-members. Please dress for the weather. No preregistration necessary. If you have questions, contact education@southwhidbeytilth.org or call 360-579-2890.

Consider becoming a member of this community of farmers, gardeners and eaters at https://www.southwhidbeytilth.org/join.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, South Whidbey Tilth]

Whidbey's Orca Network receives Maritime Washington National **Heritage Area Award Grant**

Eight organizations across Washington State are receiving funding for projects that support our region's maritime heritage by creating engaging, accessible, and interesting opportunities for residents and visitors alike to learn about the incredible water-based stories of our region.



Since time immemorial, people have settled along

the saltwater shores of what is today Washington State, supported by the rich maritime resources for food, shelter, inspiration, trade, and transportation. Today, Washington's shores continue to serve as home to many vibrant maritime cultures, and these grants will help to share their stories.









This first round of grants from the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area supports organizations throughout the region in their work to interpret maritime heritage. Washingtonians rely on community institutions like museums, seaports, nonprofit organizations, local governments, Tribes, and regional educational facilities to interpret history and culture. Beyond simply providing information, interpretation connects us with stories and places in an accessible, meaningful, and connected way. These grants will support that goal and help visitors and residents to learn more about Washington State's maritime heritage.

Maritime Washington is awarding over \$60,000 in total funding to the Burke Museum, the Harbor History Museum, Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, KMRE/Kulshan Community Media, Orca Network, and Westport South Beach Historical Society for a wide range of interpretive work. These projects will include physical spaces, vessels, podcasts, interactive displays, and signage available to the public. Two additional technical assistance awards—valued at \$30,000—are granted to the City of Anacortes Museum and the Southwest Seattle Historical Society to facilitate strategic planning for future interpretive projects.

The Maritime Washington National Heritage Area is thrilled to announce this grant opportunity, the first round of the new Maritime Washington Grant Program. "We're proud to be able to support such wonderful organizations and their important work to share Washington State's diverse maritime stories," said Program Director Alex Gradwohl. "We received many fantastic applications for this funding, demonstrating both the breadth of wonderful stories to be interpreted along our shores and the need for additional resources to bring these initiatives to life."

Maritime Washington will open an additional round of grant funding this spring and encourages all those engaged in celebrating, maintaining, and sharing our state's maritime heritage to subscribe to its bi-monthly newsletter to stay informed of upcoming opportunities. For more information, please contact Maritime Washington staff at mwnha@preservewa.org.

[Submitted by Maritime Washington National Heritage Area]

Whidbey Audubon shines a light on moths

Become a moth-er! says lepidopterist David Drop-

Whidbey Audubon Society will host Droppers at its monthly meeting Thursday evening, March 14.

"There is so much more to moths than anyone realizes, a world more!" says researcher Droppers. He will explain how becoming a moth-er and catering to the night-shift pollinators in the garden, means you'll also be "setting the dinner plate" for our birds. There is much to learn about these unique insects and the role they play in our ecosystem.

David Droppers has been teaching courses on topics from birds to butterflies to trees to microorganisms for a variety of groups, including college biology



The public is welcome to attend this free program presented both in-person and online. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation meeting house, 20103 State Route 525 in Freeland. Doors open at 7 p.m. for socializing, a brief meeting is at 7:15 and the program begins at 7:30. To attend virtually via Zoom, register on the Whidbey Audubon website, whidbeyaudubonsociety.org.

[Submitted by Susan Prescott, Whidbey Audubon Society]

WAIF Achieves Historic Milestones in 2023

Whidbey Animals Improvement Foundation (WAIF) saw its highest animal intake in nearly five years, with 676 dogs and cats passing through its shelter doors in 2023.

Compared to 2022, cat surrenders to WAIF increased by 38.6 percent last year, and dog surrenders increased by 49 percent. Stray cat intakes showed an increase of 54.8 percent, while the intake of stray dogs decreased by 15 percent.



oto Courtesy of Whidbey Audubon

Lepidopterist David Droppers will be the

guest speaker at the regular Whidbey

Audubon Society meeting Thursday,

Despite this surge of incoming animals, WAIF achieved its highest live release rate in 14 years, at 96.9 percent, handily surpassing the 90 percent threshold required to be considered a no-kill facility.

Adoptions at WAIF are on the rise, with 2023 seeing 458 companion animals placed with loving families—a 67 percent increase over 2022 and its highest number of adoptions in several years. According to Shelter Animals Count, a nonprofit organization that provides a national database for shelter animal statistics, to which WAIF submits its monthly numbers, around 6.5 million animals entered shelters across the country in 2023—roughly the same number as in 2022. Yet shelters nationwide are operating at or above capacity, with more animal intakes than adoptions taking place.

BITS continued on page 6



Wednesday, Feb. 14 12:43 pm, NW Cathlamet Dr.

Reporting party advising vehicle has been parked in front of location since 7 am.

1:50 pm, E Whidbey Ave.

Caller advising a large amount of water is coming out of somewhere in the area.

4:36 pm, SR 20

Male subject wandering; not on the road; just looks transient.

7:09 pm, NW Almond Loop

Reporting party advising there are multiple vehicles parked the wrong way on the sidewalk.

Thursday, Feb. 15 8:23 am, SE Barrington Dr.

Advising neighbor's dogs bark when reporting party leaves her house.

9:23 am, NW Cathlamet Dr.

Caller advising vehicle reported yesterday is still at location; subject is now in the

12:26 pm, SR 20

Party advising of lane travel, white or gray

2:23 pm, SR 20

Reporting party states vehicle is swerving; vehicle is a silver Honda Civic.

8:11 pm, SE Barrington Dr.

Caller wanting to know if brother was taken to hospital.

11:17 pm, SE Midway Blvd.

Reporting party advising they heard what sounded like a pop or an explosion from the alleyway next to Unit 4.

Friday, Feb. 16 3:39 am, Larch Dr.

Reporting party advises next door neighbor has left dog outside all night.

8:45 am, SE 8th Ave.

Party requesting call in reference to surrendering firearms; would not answer direct questions.

8:57 am, SW Barlow St.

Caller reports money missing from bank account.

11:54 am, SR 20

Advising of subject face down in grass.

1:36 pm, SW Erie St.

Caller advising of person with dark clothing and long hair "acting crazy."

2:57 pm, SW Erie St.

Report of male smoking at bus stop.

4:10 pm, NW Roeder Dr.

Party requesting call. Wants to know if there's anything to be done about a dog.

8:48 pm, SR 20

Reporting party advising there is a male inside the dumpster and a possible crystal substance near it.

9:37 pm, SW Looking Glass Loop

Caller states earlier today she was in the garage with the door open; male staying at house across the street was washing his vehicle in the driveway and was staring at

Saturday, Feb. 17 3:34 pm, N Oak Harbor St.

Party requesting call referencing whether he has the legal ability to go to location to get his cats; he was evicted two weeks ago.

Sunday, Feb. 18 5:18 pm, SR 20

Report of male subject seen waiving [sic] his arms around; had pants around ankles.

8:33 pm, SE Barrington Dr.

Reporting party advising that she was told law enforcement showed up at her house yesterday for a welfare check; she wanted to advise she is okay.

10:16 pm, SE Jensen St.

Report of blue pickup truck and Camaro and other vehicle honking and revving

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



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BITS continued from page 4

There are countless ways the Whidbey Island community can support WAIF and its mission. Supporters can adopt, foster or sponsor a shelter animal; shop at WAIF thrift stores in Oak Harbor and Freeland; or become a WAIF volunteer. Volunteers donated 5,173 hours of labor at WAIF's animal care facilities in 2023, the highest number of volunteer hours in 19 years. But prospective volunteers shouldn't be deterred by these high numbers; dogs and cats thrive on one-on-one attention, especially in a shelter environment. More volunteers are always needed.

Island residents can also support WAIF by donating to it's pet food bank or making a monetary donation at waifanimals.org/donate. Generous donations from community members over the years have allowed WAIF to expand our capacity and programs and improve the quality of care provided to animals.

WAIF is more than a shelter—it provides essential services to pet owners through its programs. Last year, WAIF provided medical assistance to 112 low-income pet owners, its highest number in at least eight years. WAIF also spayed or neutered 368 animals at its shelter—over three times as many animals as in 2022!

View WAIF's complete 2023 adoption statistics at waifanimals.org/about/adoption-statistics and learn more about its programs at waifanimals.org/programs.

[Submitted by Karina Andrew, WAIF Communications and Event Coordinator]

Volar, Flamenco en Vivo comes to Bayview Community Hall

Seattle-based Flamenco dancer Savannah Fuentes and singer/ multi-instrumentalist, Diego Amador Jr., direct from Seville, will present Volar, Flamenco en Vivo at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 at the Bayview Community Hall in Langley. Volar means to fly in Spanish. It represents our basic human need to feel free, to spread our wings, to make our own choices, and to reach our highest potential, not just for ourselves, but for every living being.

Savannah and Diego have forged a unique artistic partnership, performing throughout Washington, Oregon, and California since 2019. Diego comes from the legendary Amador family, famous for fusing Flamenco with blues, jazz, and salsa music. Diego is a powerful singer as well as a sublime guitarist. He also plays piano, bass, and percussion. Volar is a unique blend of authentic Spanish Flamenco music and powerful innovative dance. This event is part of an extensive tour.



Savannah Fuentes, Flamenco dancer and producer, is the only touring artist in the Pacific Northwest region with deep connections to Flamenco culture, presenting "... Real Flamenco, straight and stunning," (Regina Hackett, Seattle Post Intelligencer.) She has independently produced and danced in over 500 performances and workshops featuring internationally recognized Spanish Flamenco artists, including Diego Amador Jr., Saray Munoz, and Jesus Montoya.

General admission tickets are \$27, VIP seating is \$42 per person; \$20 for students; and \$12 for children. They may be purchased at savannahflamenco.ticketleap.com/ whidbey-island-volar-flamenco-en-vivo-2024/ and are also available at ticketleap.com and savannahf.com.

Bayview Community Hall is located at 5642 Bayview Road, in Langley.

[Submitted by Savannah Fuentes]



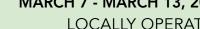
First Church of Christ, Scientist · 721 SW 20th Ct. Oak Harbor

Sunday 10:00 - 11:00 Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30

God is Love - I John 4:16 cs-oh-wa.com 360-675-0621

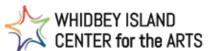
Reading Room Tues - Thurs 11:00 - 2:00

Christian Science Services · Sunday School · Reading Room





Whats Going On!



Whidbey Repertory Festival

March 7 – 17, Times vary Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave., Langley

Whidbey Repertory Festival (WRF), a collaboration between Island Shakespeare Festival and Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, is about creating a space where our companies can delve deeper into what it means to be human from our own experiences and continue to figure out what it means to do theater right now. It is a space where we can come together as organizations and as a community to grow, learn, and inspire. This Festival will occur over two weekends, from March 7-17, and will feature five theater shows. Find more at wicaonline.org.

Pop-up Book Sale

Friday, March 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta Dr.

Find your next read or that favorite CD from your youth at the Oak Harbor Friends of the Library Pop-Up Book Sale! Hundreds of gently used children's and adult books, CDs and DVDs are available at bargain prices. All proceeds benefit the Oak Harbor Library. The sale will be held in the Oak Harbor Library entrance lobby.

Piano Concert: Fabio Menchetti

Friday, March 8, 5 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1050 SE Ireland St., Oak Harbor

Indulge in the timeless beauty of classical music as world-renowned pianist Fabio Menchetti showcases his virtuosity. This curated piano concert invites you to embark on a journey through the harmonies of celebrated composers evoking emotions and transporting you to a realm of musical splendor. Entrance is free for everyone, donations are accepted and encouraged. www. fabiomenchetti.com

Star Party

Friday March 8, 7 p.m. Fort Nugent Park, 2075 SW Fort Nugent Rd., Oak Harbor

Explore the night sky and view distant galaxies, planets and nebulas at this free, public Star Party hosted by the Island County Astronomical Society (ICAS). No telescope is needed and people of all ages are welcome to attend. Be sure and dress warmly and note the event will be canceled if the weather is cloudy. For more information, contact Bob Scott at ICAS President@outlook.com or visit us on the web at: www.icas-wa.org.



"The Laramie Project" Friday, March 8 @ 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9 @ 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10 @ 7:30 p.m. *Adult content and language/Parental discretion advised Whidbey Playhouse, 730 SE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor

"The Laramie Project" presents a deeply complex portrait of a community's response to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man living in Laramie, Wyo. In a series of poignant reflections, the residents of Laramie react to the hate crime and surrounding media storm with anger, bewilderment and sorrow. The play portrays the seismic and deeply personal impact Matthew's death had on this small town while also demonstrating the power of the human spirit to triumph over bigotry and violence. Tickets are available online at whidbeyplayhouse.com.

"A Doll's House, Part 2"

Fridays, March 8, 15, 22 @ 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, March 9, 16, 23 @ 7:30 p.m. Sundays, March 17 and 24 @ 4 p.m. OutCast Productions Black Box Theater, Whidbey Island Fairgrounds, Langley

In the final scene of Henrik Ibsen's 1879 groundbreaking masterwork, "A Doll's House," Nora Helmer makes the shocking decision to leave her husband and children and begin a life on her own. This climactic event-when Nora slams the door on everything in her life—instantly propelled world drama into the modern age. In Lucas Hnath's "A Doll's House, Part 2," many years have passed since Nora's exit. Now, there's a knock on that same door. Nora has returned. But why? And what will it mean for those she left behind? Outcastproductions.net



South Whidbey Tilth

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. South Whidbey Tilth, 2812 Thompson Rd., Langley

In this workshop, Gary ingram will discuss tree physiology; when and how pruning apple, pear, peach, fig, plum, cherry and others differ; organic pest and disease control; fertilization and how to make a fruit tree reach maximum productivity in just a few years. Bring sharp pruners and a small pruning saw if you want hands-on experience. cost is \$5 for Tilth members and \$15 for non-members. Please dress for the weather. No preregistration necessary. If you have questions, contact education@southwhidbeytilth. org or call 360-579-2890.

Bird Walk

Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bowman Bay boat launch parking lot, **Deception Pass State Park**

Explore Deception Pass State Park and discover some of the common, and not so common, species of birds that call the park home. Each walk, created in conjunction with the Whidbey Audubon Society, is an exploration of a different

WHATS GOING ON continued on page 7





Enjoy tastes from local wineries, breweries & restaurants Tickets \$90 - Available at www.oakharbormainstreet.org Fundraiser for Historic Downtown Oak Harbor Projects

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LARAMIE continued from page 2



"Sometimes that reminder can appear as the constant inflow of Navy families coming to live here for a few years before being sent somewhere else but there are times when we need something like this," they continued. "Something that reminds us the hurt and hate can build beneath the surface if we aren't careful and if we aren't doing our best to make sure that we're welcoming of unfamiliar people or ideas. I think at its core, what people should take from 'Laramie' is the importance of respect and dignity towards your fellow person, even if you do or don t agree with every aspect of them."

"I believe it is important for people to see this show and hear the message it gives, because 'The Laramie Project' unveils the hate and homophobia that every small town has, including our own," said Ethan Johnson. "The show provides the experience and outcome of what comes from hate. Everyone should know how that feels to others. I had an immediate, strong reaction towards the play and story. Being a young gay man, as well as having an older brother who is gay, I felt such a surreal connection to the show. After watching, I knew that I had to get this show onto a stage, and to tell this story to Whidbey Island."

Despite being based on a horrendous event, cast members said the play offers a path forward, a message of love and hope.

"'The Laramie Project' shows how this terrible act was able to bring together so many people regardless of sexual orientation, religion, personal beliefs, etc.," said Ashley Mendoza. "A large amount people have lost their lives due to how much hate

people hold in themselves. It's very important that people understand the grief and pain it can cause to many. I firmly believe that this show is a huge eye opener to why people should fight against hate and dis-

"This play reveals the subtleties and nuances within a real-life horror story," said Eclipse Garrett. "It allows the audience to experience every possible point of view within a tight-knit community in rural America. It's important for people to realize not only the truth of what hatred can do to a person or a town, but what love can do. Take a good dose of unyielding, undying love, keep an open mind, and empathy will come with time, as it must for everyone."

"People should see this play," said Ray. "It doesn't matter if you don't wanna get sad, or if it's 'not your cup of tea.' People need to see this show so that shows like these aren't necessary. The idea that everyone needs to love everyone should never be shocking or unheard of. No matter how you look at it, love should come first."

"The Laramie Project" opens at the Whidbey Playhouse Friday with a limited run through Sunday. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at whidbeyplayhouse.com.

"I think everyone needs to see this story," said Shelby Montoya. "No matter their views, I think every single person in the world should see it. Honestly, it has taught me SO much. I have realized that America isn't the big melting pot people want to say it is. There is still racism, homophobia, and all kinds of discrimination in our world and it's really unfortunate. The change starts

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Kathy Reed/Whidbey Weekly

Eclipse Garrett plays a law enforcement officer interrogating murder suspect Aaron McKinney (Graham Ray) in "The Laramie Project," based on the 1998 murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo.





WHATS GOING ON continued from page 5

area of the park. Walks are a great opportunity for birders of all levels. Practice bird identification skills, explore unique bird habitats, and learn from other birders. Bring your own snacks, water, weather-appropriate clothes and hiking boots/shoes and binoculars and/or scopes if you have them; there will be a few on hand to borrow.

Friends of the Library Book Sale Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.

Book sales are held in the library's meeting room on the second Saturday of each month. Hundreds of books for all ages are available by donation, or, fill a bag for \$20.00! Cash, check, credit or debit cards, and Venmo are all accepted. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Freeland Library. Volunteers are welcome to help set up the Friday morning before the sale or to help with the sale itself. Please call 360-331-7323 for more information.



Shop Out for Kids

Sunday and Monday, March 10-11, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

A Touch of Dutch, 11 NW Front St., Coupeville

A Touch of Dutch will donate a portion of the day's sales to the Coupeville Schools Foundation, which provides an extra measure of support to students through teacher grants, college scholarships and the Promise Fund. Learn more at 4coupevilleschools.org.

LEGO® Block Party

*Monday, March 11, 3:45-5 p.m.*Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander
St

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.

Coupeville Job Fair

Tuesday, March 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Coupeville Rec Hall, 901 Alexander St.

If you are looking for a job or considering a career move, come to the job fair to see what opportunities are out there. If you are looking for employees, contact the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce to find out how to participate in this free

For more information, call 360-678-5434 or info@coupevillechamber.com.

Medicare Coffee Hour

Tuesday, March 12, 1 p.m.
The Center in Oak Harbor, 51 SE Jerome
Street

If you are among the 12,000 Americans who are turning 65 every day in 2024, or if you decided that your days of working past your 65th birthday are making way for retirement, you likely want to know about Medicare. Join SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) for a free, comprehensive workshop that explains Medicare enrollment, costs, benefits, and all related insurance options. We will share information about prescription coverage and income eligibility for financial assistance. Let's

talk. We look forward to meeting you, answering your questions, and sharing a cup of coffee!

Dark Colors, Bright Lives: Ravens, Crows and Jays

Tuesday, March 12, 3-4:30 p.m.

Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St.

Smart, dynamic and always intriguing, the corvids are vibrant members of our local bird life. Learn to identify the various species found in Washington, where they live and how they make a living. The program will detail what sets them apart from other birds and will give you a new appreciation for these fascinating creatures.

Advance Care Planning

*Thursday, March 14, 2-3 p.m.*Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta Dr.

Join an expert from Hospice of the Northwest for a presentation about Advance Care Planning. Advance Care Planning ensures your goals, values, and preferences are known, not only at the end of life, but if you become unable to communicate those desires due to illness or injury. Participants will learn about Advanced Directives, Health Care Durable Power of Attorney (HCDPOA), and POLST (Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). All documents are provided free of charge.

South Whidbey Board of Fire Commissioners

Thursday, March 14, 5:30 p.m.

Station 36, 5579 Bayview Road, Langley

The South Whidbey Fire/EMS Board of Fire Commissioners will meet to discuss a resolution to place a fire levy lid lift on the Aug. 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The community is encouraged to attend. Learn more at www.swfe.org.

Whidbey Audubon Society: Become a

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.
Online & Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, 20103 SR 525, Freeland

Lepidopterist David Droppers will be the featured speaker at the regular meeting of the Whidbey Audubon Society, noting there is much more to moths than meets the eye. The public is welcome to attend this free program, presented both in-person and online. Doors open at 7 p.m. for socializing, a brief meeting is at 7:15 and the program begins at 7:30. To attend virtually via Zoom, register on the Whidbey Audubon website, whidbeyaudubonsociety.org.

Family in Nature: Leaf Detectives

Friday, March 15, 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 9:30-11 a.m. Deception Pass State Park, 41229 SR 20, Oak Harbor

Why do leaves come in so many different shapes and sizes? Bring your little investigators to come find out. Nature based learning through games and crafts for families with children ages 2-5 (preregistration required). Family in Nature programs are offered in partnership with the Deception Pass State Park, Deception Pass Park Foundation, and the Fidalgo Nature School. Programs are scheduled for 90 minutes and are designed with fun and highly interactive experiences for the whole family. Register in advance at Eventbrite.com.

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WAIF Langley:

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Sno-Isle Library @ Community Center
Chamber of Commerce
Sweet Mona's
Whidbey Donuts
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Whidbey Repertory Festival is unique collaboration



Michael Brosilow Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Repertory Festival "Gender Play" is one of the shows featured at the 2nd annual Whidbey Repertory Festival, which starts tonight at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley and runs throughout this weekend and next. WRF is a collaboration between WICA and the Island Shakespeare Festival.

By Kathy Reed Whidbey Weekly

Two of Whidbey Island's biggest forces in theater have joined together for a second year to present a truly groundbreaking event.

The 2nd annual Whidbey Repertory Festival begins tonight at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley and will continue through this weekend and next with a mix of performances and shows. Times and shows vary from day to day, so go to wicaonline.org for details and tickets.

A joint effort of WICA and the Island Shakespeare Festival, the Whidbey Repertory Festival (WRF) is a unique collaboration which allows each organization the opportunity to stretch their programming boundaries.

"We're grateful and proud to partner with WICA for this project," said Olena Hodges, ISF executive artistic director. "We get to bring some of the best parts of both organizations together, and work together to deepen our community connections. It's a very important partnership and one I hope continues to grow."

"ISF and WICA had talked for years about collaboration, but it took a pandemic and some changes to strongly held beliefs to get us both to the table with open minds and hearts," said WICA Executive Artistic Director Deana Duncan. "Olena [Hodges] spotlights empathy and I fight for authentic heartfelt stories...together that is a powerful mission for our little festival. Together we can keep momentum for this partnership; given the space, time, and money to

In true repertory fashion, there are multiple opportunities to see the various productions featured during the festival. While there is no overall theme, per se, most of the performances this year feature solo artists.



Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Repertory Festival "American Dream Show" is one of several featured performances during the Whidbey Repertory Festival. The collaboration between Whidbey Island Center for the Arts and the Island Shakespeare Festival starts tonight in Langley and runs through March 17. "This was the original idea from 2023 and we've held on to it," said Duncan. "There is something starkly powerful about one voice cutting through to tell us a story."

"Most of the performances are live," Hodges described. "'Fleabag' is the only film event. 'After the War Comes the Dishes,' 'Gender Play,' and 'The Miss American Dream Show' are all solo performances, and there's also a live book reading and talk-back. I'm excited for the unique, eclectic lineup of events."

Both Duncan and Hodges said the content for this year's festival is edgy, something that will push audiences and perhaps expand their world view.

"When we met to discuss favorite artists and ideas, we realized we were both leaning into edgier pieces," Duncan said. "I'm super excited to be bringing back Jennifer Rawlings, an award-winning filmmaker and comic who has traveled to war zones around the world and fiercely carries the stories of the women impacted. I'm also very excited to be showcasing a local artist - award winning photojournalist Richard Frishman – for a conversation and release of his newest book, 'Ghosts of Segregation.' Throughout a 35,000-mile journey around the United States, Richard photographed and documented the racism he witnessed. The book has just been released and the festival is our chance to hear from and speak directly with the artist."

"I'm proud that WICA and ISF are using this festival to expand the limits of our programming and have put together a series of events that will entertain, enlighten, titillate, challenge, and inspire our community," said Hodges. "I'm particularly excited to bring 'Gender Play' to our community. ISF funded the initial development of this piece, and we held a reading at ISF prior to the Chicago world premiere. It feels full circle to finally share a fully realized production with our community, who supported this project virtually during the pandemic and through its Chicago run."

In partnership with National Theatre Live, the festival will also feature a screening of the R-rated film "Fleabag." The one-woman show, written and performed by Phoebe Waller Bridge and directed by Vicky Jones, inspired the BBC television series "Fleabag."

"This is a unique opportunity for audiences to experience stories they may not otherwise have any awareness of," Hodges said. "Solo performance can be hard to program into a 'regular' season but is such a vibrant and expressive form of storytelling. I'm really excited that it's become the key feature of the WRF. This festival is also

important because it's an opportunity for artistic risk-taking. Again, it can be hard to program some of the themes we'll see during the festival, because as WICA and ISF continue our post-pandemic emergence, we have delicate budgets to remain aware of. That impacts some of our programmatic choices. WRF means we can test out some potentially edgier pieces and offer our audiences something new."

"WRF is the only repertory festival in our region that I'm aware of," Duncan shared. "But I think what's extraordinary is that two completely different theatre companies are working together to create a combined festival. I'm not seeing that anywhere else in the country. This idea that sharing space, money, vision, artists, and audiences can help both organizations as well as the communities they serve is groundbreaking.

"The programming is sharp, edgy, funny, and raw," she continued. "These aren't artists you're normally going to see. And by attending, you are showing support for artistic collaboration and shared resources. If you support either or both of these organizations outside of the festival, please show up to support them together! If you're new to either organization, this is a great way to see a lot of varied work in a short amount of time!"

There is a pay-what-you-will component to each of the shows offered, so money will not be a barrier to attending, according to Duncan. Festival schedules, passes and single-event tickets are still available online at wicaonline.org and "bottomless" popcorn will be available by donation throughout the festival.

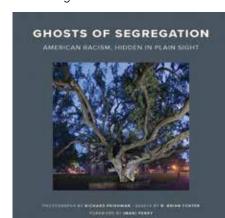


Photo Courtesy of Whidbey Repertory Festival
The book "Ghosts of Segregation" by local artist and
award winning photojournalist Richard Frishman
is being featured as part of the Whidbey Repertory
Festival, taking place this weekend and next at
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts in Langley.





One of 7 Local Fiber Artists Available for Viewing at

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Opening Night:

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Tamales are a traditional Mesoamerican dish made of a masa dough and fillings, and then steamed in a corn husk or banana leaves. While tamales certainly are delicious, the time-consuming nature of making them may compel some to avoid preparing them at

This recipe for "Chicken Tamale Pie" offers the flavors of tamales in a single-pan dish. Try it, courtesy of "30-Minute Meal Prep" (Sourcebooks) by Robin Miller.

CHICKEN TAMALE PIE SERVES 4

- (8.5 -ounce) box corn muffin mix (such as Jiffy)
- 1/3 cup milk
- tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- teaspoons taco seasoning
- 1/2 cup corn, canned, fresh or frozen (thawed if frozen)
- 1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Coat a 9-inch pie plate or oven-safe skillet (such as cast iron) with cooking spray.
- 2. In a large bowl, whisk together the corn muffin mix, milk, butter, egg, and taco seasoning. Fold in the corn. Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan, and smooth the surface. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until a wooden toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean or with moist bits clinging to it.
- 3. Meanwhile, in a large skillet or saucepan, combine the chicken and 3/4 cup of the enchilada sauce. Set the pan over medium heat and warm the mixture through.
- 4. Using the end of a wooden spoon or spatula, poke holes all over the cornbread in the pan. Pour the remaining enchilada sauce into the holes. Top the cornbread with the chicken mixture. Top with the cheese.
- 5. Bake for 5 minutes, until the cheese melts.
- 6. Top with fresh cilantro, and serve.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, if you notice you have been running into obstacles as you work to achieve your goals, you may want to step back and try to figure out another course of action.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, an offer that notes your efforts and achievements comes your way. Do not let this immediately go to your head, but enjoy the fruits of your labors.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Lately your willpower has been weak, Gemini. If diet plans are getting sidelined by your inability to stay on track, you may want to enlist a buddy to keep you motivated.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take a break when you can because there is soon to be a whirlwind of activity coming in your direction. Enjoy down time while it is still available to you.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, exercise caution so that your actions are not misinterpreted. You do not want others thinking you are doing things for the wrong reasons. Try to lighten up and be positive this week.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

This week you could find yourself being the center of attention at a gathering with friends or family, Virgo. Use the opportunity to get your thoughts out there and

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you will need to pick a course and stick with it, especially over the next few days. There is a lot of temptation out there but if you don't commit you'll never get things done.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Arguments that have been slowly building up may come to a head this week, Scorpio. Your best bet is to stay out of the fray by keeping your distance and avoiding commentary.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it is possible that someone new you will meet this week can become a close friend who sticks with you through thick and thin. Look for this person in the days to come.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, now might be a time to figure out how to reduce some stress, especially if you find that people are avoiding you as of late. A change in attitude is all it takes.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

You might be ready to delve into the next chapter of a relationship, Aquarius. Figure out what means the most to you and move those priorities to the forefront.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Inspiration comes your way this week, Pisces. You will have plenty of time to do anything you want to put your mind to. Start making that running list of ideas.

Whidbey >> SeaTac Shuttle

cups shredded, cooked chicken

cup red enchilada sauce, divided

or a blend of cheddar and Jack, or

Fresh cilantro leaves (whole or

Mexican cheese blend

chopped) for serving

cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese,

NAS/Oak Harbor Coupeville

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	5:25PM	5:30PM	5:40PM	6:00PM	6:15PM	6:30PM	6:40PM	6:45PM	6:50PM	7:05PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	9:15PM

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	10:15PM	10:45PM	11:30PM	12:30AM	12:35AM	12:45AM	12:55AM	1:05AM	1:20AM	1:35AM	1:45AM	1:55AM	2:00AM	

NAS BEQ-NAS Whidbey NGIS-NAS Gateway Inn

OH Hotels-Oak Harbor Hotels

FRL-Freeland

GBK-Greenbank LNG/CL-Langley/Clinton BAY-Bayview PAE-Paine Field Airport

SEA-SeaTac International Airport SEA Hotels-SeaTac Area Hotels

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A Word with our Publisher



Freedom of Performance

My high school experience was far from normal. I was fortunate enough to make it into one of Las Vegas's hidden gem magnet programs: Las Vegas Academy of Performing, Visual Arts, and International Studies; Las Vegas Academy (LVA) for short. Pardon the dated 1980s reference, but I essentially attended FAME.

In 2004, Las Vegas Academy (LVA) Theater chose to perform "The Laramie Project" during my sophomore year. While art school students tended towards taking the intellectual route and escaped acts of bullying within our peer student body, violent threats were being sent via mail and fax to our school, protesting the upcoming performance.

One opponent, the Westboro Baptist Church, planned to travel from Topeka, Kan., to organize a formal protest if our school chose to push through with the performance. As their onslaught of violent sentiments continued flowing in through the airwaves, our students and faculty recognized we were essentially doing something dangerous, even in the 2000s.

Talks of cancelling the performance began to brew. As positions sided, some parents unenrolled their kids and even faculty members left. I personally did everything possible to make sure my parents weren't too aware of the commotion, in fear they would unenroll me too. Like the visions shared in a book, performances like "The Laramie Project" paint a picture. In this play, the picture is violent. Grotesque. Surreal. And sadly, very true.

In May 2004, Las Vegas Academy chose to premier the show to the public. In kind, Westboro Baptist Church carried through with its plans to protest. On opening night, tensions were at their highest. Over two dozen police officers were positioned, parting a sea of opposition, some on horseback, some on bicycle.

Across the street from our theater doors, around two dozen strangers with picket signs and vexing voices stood. While in our school's defense, hundreds of Las Vegas community members, local politicians, church leaders, and Las Vegas Academy student body, staff, and parents were present to rally in our performers' protection. The demonstration ran just under an hour, and as more Las Vegas community members stepped up to the plate, the opposition disbanded.

All that over a play? Yes.

After living through it, I understand any school opposing this performance. While I believe we've evolved beyond what I witnessed in 2004, the possibility still exists.

Fostering Inclusivity in this Newspaper:

We work to make sure this paper is all-inclusive.

Free speech is more than a privilege, it is a right.

For those who feel elements of our vast Whidbey community are missing between these lines, we are eager for your feedback and thoughts.

For those in need:

We have listed support hotlines, local resources, and weekly soup kitchens in our Community Board.

We hope to see this community board grow as you, our readers, utilize this as your space to contribute to our newspaper. The \$12 per column inch for selling items or promoting your events is an excellent contribution towards making this paper sustainable. If you're a business or organization hoping for something larger within the paper, recognize these types of contributions are what helps our paper grow.

Running a Free Newspaper:

For some, especially in my own generation, the newspaper is a nostalgic vessel you thumb through with coffee. For others, it's kindling for the fire once they've finished this week's Island 911. We may be blinded by the fast-paced and climactic content of the information age. To me, all the information on the wires and in print is equally important. Our inspiration comes from the citizens who read this paper cover to cover, circle the events they want to see, and share their copy with their friends once their turn is complete.

From the inside, Jacob, Kathy and I are in a constant scrimmage. New content emailed in Important content on a public website. Endless content currently not in the paper, floating around through the internet-ether everywhere.

Community Directive: Recentralize information in the free press as the de facto archive for where information should be.

My Personal Directive: Make submissions easier for everyone.

A month or so ago I started a GoFundMe to share with our friends and family. Contributions to this fundraiser support us four-fold:

- I. To sustain and build the paper while we gather more advertising.
- II. To jumpstart funding critical website updates to allow easy online submissions.
- III. To afford us the ability to set up a booth at the events we sponsor,
- so we can gather your feedback in person.
- IV. To afford us the means to hire additional sales, accounting, and distribution employees.

If you're reading this as a local business owner or as a nonprofit board member, talk to who you need to about advertising in our community newspapers:

All volunteer searches should filter through this paper.

All help wanted ads should filter through this paper.

All event promotions and fundraisers should filter through this paper.

Statistics vary for how much a business should spend on advertising annually; the wisest ones are clocking in at close to 15 percent of their annual revenue.

For advertising, reach out to advertise@whidbeyweekly.com.

For Community News, What's Going On submissions, and Letters to the Editor, reach out to Kathy at news@whidbeyweekly.com.

For classified ads in our community board, reach out to classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com.

Lastly, to contribute to our fundraiser, follow to:

www.gofundme.com/f/help-fund-our-community-newspaper

Thank you for supporting our community newspaper. Now, let's turn it up a couple of notches, together.

-Samanthajoy Goodman (Fatlan)

Telephone: 360-682-8283

Email: Samantha@whidbeyweekly.com

Add me on Social Media: Facebook.com/samdmc

Instagram: @selah_sn4rk

www.gofundme.com/f/help-fund-our-community-newspaper

If every reader donated just \$5.00 we would meet our goal.

Checks can be mailed to:

Whidbey Weekly PO BOX 1398, Oak Harbor, WA 98277



Island Times

Thank you for supporting these *always free* community newspapers.



CAN DO			5	7	4				
CHIDOKHI					3	6	9	1	
SUPURU!					5				
Every row of 9 numbers		7				2			8
must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order	4	8							
Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order		9	2		6				
Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9						1		9	3
5	3				8				6
Answers on page 15	7			4					



Joseph Lloyd Wesley Lippo



Joseph Lloyd Wesley Lippo, born July 8, 1969 in Wyandotte, Mich., to Joseph and Doris Lippo, passed away Feb. 21, 2024.

Joe married Connie Sue Hayes Nov. 22, 1997. He was a very proud veteran. He served 20 years in the Navy from 1987, when he graduated from Mount Carmel High School, until his retirement in 2007. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Intelligence Studies from American Military University.

During his career in the Navy, Joe was involved in 800 missions in seven foreign wars. Joe had several posts in various places including Moffet Field in California, Kadena Naval Air Station in Okinawa, Japan (where his twins Joey and Skyylynn were born) and Whidbey Island, where he permanently settled. During his career he was awarded the Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, among

Joe's diverse interests included rowing, hockey (both playing and cheering for his favorite Red Wings team), motorcycle rides and participating in the Navy shooting team where he garnered numerous awards. Joe was very active in his local community. He proudly and actively supported his children's endeavors attending their tennis, baseball, hockey, basketball and dance events.

Joe is survived by his wife, Connie; children Joey Lippo, Skyylynn Lippo, Daryl Skvarla, Corrin Skvarla; grandchildren Jonathan, Addilyn, Aiden, Ariya, Paisley, CarliRae; parents Doris Lippo, Joseph and Sue Lippo; siblings Michael (Jennifer) Lippo, Christopher (Kate) Lippo. Nathan (Laura) Lippo, Emilie (Shawn) Roper; aunts, uncles, cousins, military family and too many friends to count.

He was preceded in death by his nephew, Joshua.

Joe was laid to rest at the Great Lakes National cemetery in Michigan on March 6, 2024. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to a heart disease/diabetes awareness organization such as the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association. Please visit his memorial wall at https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/JOSEPHLLOYDLIPPO/a5e4e4

We choose to feature our Local Life Tributes and Obituaries at no additional charge.

Please send details to:

OBITUARIES@WHIDBEYWEEKLY.COM





SPRING SPORTS ARE BACK!



Broadcasting Oak Harbor High School Athletic



Stream opens 60 minutes before all sports

MON 3/11 - BASEBALL **MSVL-GETCHELL @ OHHS** FIRST PITCH 4:00 PM

TUES 3/12 - GIRL'S FASTPITCH CASCADE @ OHHS **FIRST PITCH 4:00 PM**

TUES 3/12 - BOY'S SOCCER STANWOOD @ OHHS **START TIME 7:00 PM**

WED 3/13 - BASEBALL OHHS @ CASCADE FIRST PITCH 4:00 PM

THURS 3/14 - BOY'S SOCCER **MT. VERNON @ OHHS GAME STARTS 7:00 PM**

www.soundsportsnet.com

Habitat For Humanity of Island County Oak Harbor Location

New Donation Hours: Monday - Saturday From 10:30am until 3:00pm (or until full)

*We cannot guarantee acceptance of any items without seeing them in person. *We do not accept items that are damaged or in need of repair. *All donated items must be accepted by a Habitat for Humanity associate or volunteer.

No Dumping allowed on property

Thank you for your support. For more information or to set up a pickup, please call 360-675-8733



Habitat for Humanity

www.islandcountyhabitat.org



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FREELAND • 1592 Main Street • 360.331.6272 OPEN: Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm southstore@islandcountyhabitat.com



13 16 18 19 24 25 28 32 39 43 49 53

CLUES ACROSS

60

- 1. database management system
- 5. medical procedures
- 11. __ clapton, musician
- 16. exert oneself

12. defender

- 17. indicates position
- 18. quay 19. atrocities
- 24. a way to address an adult man
- 25. ends
- 26. unable
- 27. taxi
- 28. gratuities
- 29. a famous train station
- 30. japanese persimmon
- 31. sours
- 33. beneficiary
- 34. baseball official
- 38. confused situation
- 39. unworldly
- 40. yemen capital
- 43. type of soil
- 44. beloved beverage -cola
- 45. lying down
- 49. angeles
- 50. fail to amuse
- 51. collapsible shelter

- 53. commercial
- 54. taste property
- 56. lordship's jurisdictions
- 58. it cools your home
- 59. dismounted
- 60. charge in a court of
- 63. one less than one
- 64. spoke
- 65. famed garden

CLUES DOWN

- 1. show a picture of
- 2. small sultanate
- 3. unfortunate incident
- 4. a way to ski
- 5. abba ___, israeli pol-
- 6. observed
- 7. "westworld" actor harris
- 8. belonging to me
- 9. shoelace tube
- 10. takes to civil court
- 13. early multimedia
- 14. produces anew
- 15. horse races
- 20. of i
- 21. equally
- 22. changes color
- 23. a place to stay
- 27. town in galilee
- 29. mathematical figure

- 30. klingon character
- 31. they ___

63

65

- 32. atomic #58
- 33. showed up extinct
- 34. loosen grip
- 35. unpleasant smell
- 36. innermost membranes enveloping the brain
- 37. esteemed college "league"
- 38. partner to pa
- 40. small american rail
- 41. a salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. sodium
- 44. military figure (abbr.)
- 45. lighted
- 46. paid to get out of
- 47. all of something
- 48. ohio city
- 50. more abject
- 51. a radio band
- 52. scientific development (abbr.)
- 54. monetary unit
- 55. scored perfectly
- 57. a punch to end a fight
- 61. the golden state (abbr.)
- 62. the beehive state (abbr.)

Answers on page 15

Community An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What brings you joy and fulfillment?



TJ Pierzchala

Oak Harbor

My greatest joy was/is watching my two sons grow up to be decent human beings and responsible young adults. I love watching them thrive in the journeys they have chosen for

Besides my kids, I enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends, whether it be dinners together, hiking, attending an event, going on adventures or just sitting around a camp-

fire. Building those relationships and friendships is important. I love helping in my Taekwondo school and volunteering with Boy Scouts of America (both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA). The youth in both of these organizations give me hope for our future generations. I love seeing them learn and succeed. Finally, I love training in Taekwondo myself. It helps me spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally.

Kim Bailey

Clinton

Thank you for the opportunity to answer this question! It has made me stop and think what is most important in my life! Joy and fulfillment; there are many, many things and people that

Owning Pickles Deli has brought me so much joy and fulfillment through creating healthy, beautiful sandwiches and salads that nourish our community; serving and creating relationships with all types of people from different back grounds;



creating jobs and having the opportunity to teach people valuable life skills; feeding the less fortunate. We created a community funded program that allows anyone to get a sandwich, sit down, relax and reset.

Personally, [I get joy and fulfillment] being in the mountains – skiing and breathing in the fresh air; being on the water - paddle boarding and looking at the sea life; and cooking creating healthy meals using organic, local ingredients.



Devon Webber

Oak Harbor

The thing that brings me the most joy and fulfillment is my relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To know that He has paid the price for all my sins and He calls me His son. I am in no way a perfect person, far from it, but He loves me just as I am and wants to show His love through my life. There have been times in my life that difficult situations have happened and I know that He is there with me through it and gives me wisdom and guidance in those situations. He is constantly revealing His love to me as I read

the Bible. As a result, I try to live my life to please Him in all that I do.

Mary McCleod

Langley

In October 2022, I was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. In December of 2022, I had surgery to remove my right breast. In January 2023, I met my oncologist. The first thing my doctor says to me is how important it is to keep my life as normal as possible, to keep doing the things that bring me JOY. I tell him that I am an artist, and creating art not only gives me joy, but is important for my mental health. He agrees and asks me questions about my art. I show him some photos on my phone. Clearly, I feel like this doctor is hand picked for me.



I create an art journal called "My Warrior Journal." I share this journal with my doctor and explain this journal symbolizes my warrior spirit that will carry me through this breast cancer journey.

During my treatment, I received a book of poetry from a friend. In this book is a poem called "For a friend on the Arrival of illness," by Irish poet John O'Donohue. As I ponder my breast cancer journey, I believe it happened for a reason. In O'Donohue's poem, 'May this illness shape a new space in your heart to embrace this illness as a teacher who has come to open your life to new worlds. May you learn to use this illness as a lantern to illuminate the new qualities that will emerge in you." I am a teacher and look forward to how I can use this illness to teach others. I emerge from my experience a new creature with a sense of rebirth. I am full of JOY for new art to be created and look forward to new adventures in my life.

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

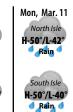
North Isle H-47°/L-39°

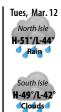
North Isle H-48°/L-42° South Isle H-46°/L-37 H-47°/L-41°

Cloudy













MARCH 7 - MARCH 13, 2024 15 COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

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Vintage Trek 110 Aluminum Frame Road Bike. 56cm. Made in the USA. Royal Blue. Very Good Condition. \$150. Call Keri, 360-632-6364

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Maine Coon Cat Please call: 360-331-5284

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Coupeville Farmers Market is looking for volunteers for our 45th consecutive season! If you want to help support your local market and have interest in volunteering either on a market day for set up/ tear down or helping in a different capacity we would love to talk to you. Please email us whidbeyfarmersmarket@ gmail.com if you would be interested in learning more about volunteering with the market!

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. Please

contact Angelica, angelica. metcalfe@islandshakespearefest.org, if interested in volunteering.

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 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-

SHELTERS/HOUSING

CADA Emergency Shelter -Confidential crisis shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking. This is NOT a homeless shelter. Office: 360-675-7057 Crisis Line: 360-675-2232 Toll Free: 800-215-5669

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9 8 7

6

6

Island County Housing Support - 105 NW 1st St., Coupeville 360-678-8284 For homeless or at risk of losing housing. Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ryan's House for Youth -19777 SR 20, Coupeville 360-331-4575

For at-risk adults ages 18-24

- Whidbey Homeless Coalition - Serving Island County 360-900-3077
- -The Haven Overnight Shelter: Night-to-night shelter for up to 30 individuals. Must follow check-in rules and must register Mon-Fri between 4 and 4:30 p.m. at SPiN Café, 1241 SW Barlow St., Oak Harbor. - House of Hope Emergency Housing, Langley 360-708-4533 Temporary shelter for families and adults at severe risk of homelessness; to apply, contact the Housing Support Center or call the number above.
- Oxford Houses Recovery housing oxfordhouse.org -Men:360-246-4101
- Women & Children: 360-682-5773

RESOURCES

Basic Food Benefits Community Services Office: 275 Pioneer Way #201, Oak Harbor 877-501-2233

Food Banks:

-Gifts From the Heart, 203 N Main St., Coupeville 360-672-5502

Distribution on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m. -Good Cheer, 2812 Grimm Rd., Langley 360-221-4868 Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

-North Whidbey Help House, 1091 SE Hathaway St. Oak Harbor 360-675-0681 Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (5 p.m. on Tuesdays) Closed 12-1 p.m.

Island Church of Whidbey Soup Kitchen: 503 Cascade Ave., Langley 360-221-0969 Tues & Thurs 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

SPiN Café: 1241 SW Barlow St., Oak Harbor Daily, 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

St. Anthony's Soup Kitchen: 804 3rd St., Langley 360-221-5303/sthubert@whidbey.com Tuesday orders for home; Wednesday kitchen meals 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

HUB After School: 301 Anthes Ave., Langley 360-221-0969

Food and activities for middle and high school youth. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 2-6 p.m., Wed 1-6 p.m.

Ryans House for Youth: Food, fun, support

-19777 SR 20, Coupeville 360-331-4575

Drop-in center for adults ages 18-24; Daily 6 a.m.- 8:30 - 35 SE Ely St., Oak Harbor

360-682-5098 Drop-in center for youth ages

12-21; Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Whidbey Island Nourishes: Serving South Whidbey 360-221-7787 / winourishes@ whidbey.com

- School Year Meal Program: For families with school-aged children to 18 within S Whidbey School District can choose weekend groceries or ready-to-eat sack lunches; Delivery on Thursday
- Self-serve Program: Youth and others in need can request a sack lunch from Good Cheer food bank, Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Women, Infants & Children

-Oak Harbor/North Whidbey: 1791 NE 1st Ave. Mon-Thurs 360-240-5554 Text: 360-544-2239

-Langley/South Whidbey: 5475 Maxwelton Rd. Thurs Only 360-221-8880 Text: 360-544-2238

-Camano Island: 127 N East Camano Dr. Mon Only 360-544-2633



Weekly

Oak Harbor

P.O. box 1398

Island Senior Services: meals@senior-resources.org

- Meals on Wheels: Email or call 360-672-6416 for home-delivered meals by
- -Frozen Take-Out Meals: Call 360-321-1600 Mon, Wed, Fri to arrange pickup
- -Brookhaven Community Meals: 150 4th St, Langley Thurs, 5-5:45 p.m.
- -Leo's Place Community Meals: 14594 SR 525, Bayview Hot lunches Mon, Wed, Fri 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sack Lunches Tues 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Have you ever been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon may be for you. AL-ANON: Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30 Oak Harbor Lutheran Church Library 1253 NW 2nd Ave. There is help and hope: Contact for more info: Danielle 360-840-7181 or Randy 360-914-8084

MEMORY CAFÉ Every 1st and 3rd Tues of the Month 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church 1050 SE Ireland Street Oak Harbor, WA. Join our bimonthly gathering for people with memory loss and their family to enjoy a time of fun, conversation, music and laughing (and snacks). This is a dementia friendly setting. For information: 360-720-4535

CRISIS LINES

2-1-1 or 877-211-9274: 24/7 confidential referral to crisis programs and services statewide; wa211.org

9-1-1: Call for threats to life, fire, accident or crime -Non-emergency lines: Oak Harbor Police Department-360-279-4600 -Island Communications Dispatch (ICOM) - 360-679-9567 -Langley Police Department -360-321-4400 Island County Sheriff's Office - 360-678-4422

9-8-8: Suicide and crisis lifeline, free & confidential - 741-741: 24/7 Crisis Text Line -800-584-3578: 24/7 Northwest Washington Crisis

- 360-678-7880: Island County Behavioral Health

Services

866-789-1511: Recovery help; warecoveryhelpline.org

800-215-5669: CADA 24/7 confidential domestic violence crisis support; 360-675-2232; text LOVEIS to 22522

866-488-7386 Trevor ect: 24/7 support for LGBTQIA2S+; text 678.678

> Your ad here. \$12 For any sales or business listings.

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

Whidbey Weekly **Classified Department** PO Box 1398 Oak Harbor, WA 98277

E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com Telephone......360-682-8283

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 \$12/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.

No Cheating!

for lunch

Help Wanted Volunteer Weekly Meetings How'd you do? 8 8 G 6 8 \forall L 9 8 G \forall 9 8 7 6 L ŀ G 8 7 6 3 8 9 ŀ 9 2 6

> L 7

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- Reset Check Engine Light
- Up to 1 Hour Diagnostic
- 12 month/12,000 mile warranty

Safety Inspection

Labor Includes

- Scope & Scan (Retrieving Codes, Reset Check Engine Light)
- Brake Inspection
- Tire Rotation

- Inspect Belts & Hoses
- Inspect Exhaust System Check all Fluids

- Test Ignition Cables
- Tire Rotation & Balance
- Inspect Suspension
- Check Charging System Test Anti-Freeze

Radiator Flush & Fill

starting at

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

Brake Flush \$89.95, Clutch Flush \$89.95, Power Steering Flush \$89.95, Front Diff Flush \$89.95, Rear Diff Flush \$89.95. Transmission Flush \$89.95, Transfer Case Flush \$89.95, Final Drive Flush \$89.95 Manual Transmission Flush 89.95

Computerized TUNE-UP Special

*Plus Parts

- Check Compression
- Clean/Replace Spark Plugs & Air Cleaner Scope & Scan
- Inspect/Replace Distributor Cap & Rotor
- Check Charging System
- Inspect Ignition Cables

 - Adjust Timing & Idle Speed
 - Safety & Brake Inspection

Brake Reline Special

2-Wheel Front Brake Reline or 2-Wheel Rear Brake Reline starting at

- H Raybestos Brake Shoes
- Machine Drums
- Rebuild Wheel Cylinders
- Adjust Parking Brake
- Bleed & Adjust System
- Road Test Vehicle
- 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty Road Test Vehicle

- Install Raybestos Disc Pads Machine Front Rotors
- Repack Wheel Bearings
- Clean-Lube Sleeve & Bushings
- New Seals
- Bleed & Adjust System
- 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty Semi-Metallic Extra

BRAKE PARTS AVAILABLE Most Cars · HD Shoes

GAINING TRACTION. EARNING TRUST. DELIVERING EXCELLENCE.



TRACTION BUILT FOR THE

TOUGHEST TERRAIN



CAPABILITY



FOR ADVENTURE



TODAY'S PICKUP TRUCKS



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