

July 31, 2025 - August 6, 2025

FREE

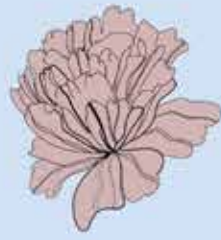
Whidbey Weekly

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AnneMarie Schweiger



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There's More Ado (AT THE ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL)

Theater Review by Jim Sovanski, Whidbey Weekly



Brandon Dion Gregory (he/him) as Giorgio #3 Jacqueline Youm (she/they) as Teresa in "Anima" directed by Emily Lyon at Island Shakespeare Fest through Aug. 30 in Langley. **Michael Stadler photo**

Programming a theatrical festival has to be a challenging job. Especially if one of the shows is Shakespeare's classic comedy "Much Ado About Nothing." Do you contrast or counterprogram? Go even lighter or darker? Striking a balance is a trick, and the Island Shakespeare Festival brain trust has pulled it off. The uniformly outstanding ensemble delivers a stellar experience and wonderful counterpoint to the classic Shakspeare work.

As this year's companion show to Island Shakespeare Festival's (ISF) superb production of "Much Ado About Nothing," is the little known but powerful play "Anima" (Her Soul) by Italian playwright Amelia P. Rosselli. Anima masterfully tells the story of 19th Century Italian painter Olga De Valeris, fearlessly played by ISF founding member and Executive Artistic Director Olena Hodges. It follows Olga as she finds herself at a crossroads, defined by her need to come to terms with her painful past and hopeful future while making a fateful decision.

Despite being written over 125 years ago, Anima is as relevant today as if it had been written last year and proves the adage that "the more things change, the more they stay the same." To quote translator from the original Italian script, Natalia Costa-Zalessow, "...the problems it presents remain valid today: The trauma of rape and the concept that a successful marriage be based on mutual respect, common interests and a spiritual understanding of each other's 'soul.'"

ISF's production partner on Anima is Expand the Canon, an organization that to quote their mission statement, "... uncovers and uplifts classic plays by women & underrepresented genders, and advocates for their production."

This is their third collaboration with ISF. Judging from this outstanding production, the partnership really works. I, for one, am looking forward to future productions.

Anima Director and Expand the Canon Artistic Director, Emily Lyon explained the connection with ISF. "I love working with Island Shakespeare Festival!. Olena is a wonderful artist and a really dedicated, thoughtful administrator. I'm really impressed by the ethos with which she is committed to leading her company and it is so nice as a fellow Artistic Director to find a company that has value alignment in that way."

"I fell in love with Anima the first time I read it," Lyon continued. "It is a story that is, unfortunately, a really relevant and present experience for many women and femme folks. The story of how you reclaim your agency and sense of self after being a victim of abuse and assault, is a really powerful conversation to have and transformation to watch. I also loved the complexity, the humanity, the language of [Anima]. It's so fabulous to have a female painter, a female artist, as our protagonist who gets to go on a journey of choosing to empower herself, and she does it beautifully."

Bringing Olga to life, Olena Hodges excels. Her dynamic performance explores Olga's journey from the depths of despair leading to quiet acceptance of the joys of the unexpected. She shared her thoughts, "... to have the honor of presenting a play that deals so empathetically with sexual assault and the lasting scars those experiences leave, makes me proud. The themes are still so relevant. It is an honor to know that people in our audience will relate to Olga's experience, and will hear a reminder of the value they still have, the agency and autonomy they still embody.



Olena Hodges (she/her) as Olga and Cianna Castro (she/her) as Marietta in Island Shakespeare Festival's "Anima" by Amelia P. Rosselli and directed by Emily Lyon (she/her). **Michael Stadler photo.**

It's so important."

This sentiment is echoed by the excellent Brandon Dion Gregory, who plays Giorgio Mauri, one of Olga's suitors. "I don't think there are enough women voices in our society and industry. This role gives me a chance to take on the incredible challenge of investigating a male character from the mind of Amelia Pincherle Rosselli, of exploring the humanity of his story from the soul of director Emily Lyon, and of sharing the stage and experience with the Whidbey community from the heart of ISF's executive artistic director and lead actress Olena Hodges."

As the other man competing for Olga's heart and soul, Matt Koenig shines as the conflicted Silvio Vettori struggling with his feelings, as he tries to process and accept Olga's heartrending story.

Jacqueline Youm as Teresa, delivers a delightful performance. "In Anima, my character Teresa is very complicated when it comes to her relationship with her children and society. It is very delicious and fun to play. Anima is such a beautiful story of finding oneself through unconditional love and I really appreciate Olga's journey through it all."

A singular beauty of theater festivals

is the additional education aspect available. As an adjunct offering to the show, on Thursdays and Sundays at 5 pm, 'Shakes and Bakes' offers a slice of a fresh-baked Whidbey Pie and bills itself as "...your pre-show slice of insight! This 25-minute event is created to prepare you and your party for your evening ahead. We will cover the major characters and themes of the evening's performance, so that you can watch with confidence." And the pie is delicious!

"Anima" (Her Soul) at the Island Shakespeare Festival (ISF), 5476 Maxwellton Rd, Langley continues Wednesdays to Sundays through August 31st, alternating performances with its companion show, Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" (reviewed in last week's Whidbey Weekly.) ISF operates on a pay-what-you-will model because they believe theater should be for everyone—no exceptions.

For tickets and more information, visit: islandshakespearefest.org.



Matt Koenig (he/him) as Silvio and Hannah Nguyen (she/her) as Graziana in Amelia P. Rosselli's "Anima" at Island Shakespeare Fest in Langley. **Michael Stadler photo**





History Corner

Sponsored by:
Island County Historical Society Museum
908 NW Alexander St, Coupeville

PIONEERING WHIDBEY CAR FERRIES

By Lee James

Did you know that wooden car ferries were built on the beach in Clinton?

In the early 1900s, "Mosquito Fleet" passenger steamboats were numerous and stopped at small communities. With the rise of car ownership, and no other way onto the island except by boat, the need quickly arose for Car ferries. The first car ferries were existing steamboats that were converted to carry cars. These steamboat conversions were usually not "drive-through," so a turn-table kind of arrangement might be installed to get the cars turned around and headed off the boat.



So, it is remarkable that a new idea washed up to the shore at Clinton. Five car ferries were mostly built on the beach at Clinton. Our 1919 story features two ferry companies owned by two different families. One of the families did the ferry building, and both families went on to independently operate ferry companies.

The first dedicated ferry company, Sound Ferry Lines, was established in Edmonds by Olaf Joyce and his four brothers. But he switched over to Clinton as he saw opportunity. He wanted to serve Mukilteo and Everett with a new kind of ferry boat.

Joyce partnered with Howard Bartlett Lovejoy and his Whidbey Island Transportation Company located in Coupeville. The Lovejoy family was long established in steamboat operation and construction. Going into car ferries was new to them. Joyce convinced Howard (H.B.) that it was the future.

Joyce met another car ferry visionary who came to Whidbey Island who could do the building. The man was Willis Nearhoff, who had come from Indiana to Clinton. Nearhoff had acquired his boatbuilding skills in Seattle working in the shipyards during the construction boom brought about by WWI government contracts.

Nearhoff was commissioned by Joyce to build the car ferry Whidby. The ferry boat Whidby was an all-wood gas-powered propeller boat 58-feet in length. The hull design is worth mentioning since it was an innovation at the time. Cars could drive on at one end and off the other.

Nearhoff built a ferry for his company at the same time the Whidby was being constructed for Joyce. The wooden vessels were similar, but Nearhoff's vessel, the Central, was a foot longer and a foot wider than Joyce's Whidby.

A few years later, Whidbey Island Transportation, called for a new and bigger car ferry. Whidbey II would carry 25 to 30 cars. This ferry looked very much like we think of ferry boats today. The resulting competition severely strained the relationship between the two gentlemen operating side-by-side out of Clinton. The bigger Whidbey II cut into Nearhoff's livelihood. They just couldn't work it out. Old-timers in Clinton reported a dramatic fist fight outside the Clinton Progressive Hall.

In 1924 the whole thing ended up in court. The question was, which governmental authority had jurisdiction over ferry service on Puget Sound? Nearhoff argued that counties were the proper regulator. Whidby Island Transportation Company argued instead that for any cross-sound ferry operation, the state has jurisdiction. Whidby Transportation Company won.

Thus began a long process, taking years. It was in 1951 that the state took over the ferry service for pretty much all of Puget Sound. Who would have thought today that Clinton would help to set the stage for a large debate about what works best for ferry operations across Puget Sound?

The historical museum in Langley is now part of Island County Historical Society! To learn more about Maritime history on South Whidbey, stop by the museum at 312 Second Street in Langley, Thursday-Saturdays from 1-4PM.






Images courtesy of ICHS from top to bottom: Whidby Island Ferry, HB Lovejoy 1919, Whidbey Car Ferry The Central II




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THE BAD GUYS 2 (PG)
2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM

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9/12 "DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE"

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Whidbey Weekly

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Get ready for the fall migration!

Register now for 3 online sessions

- Tuesdays, August 12, 19 & 26 at 7:30 pm
- Followed by an in person field trip on Saturday, September 6
- Cost \$100

whidbeyaudubonsociety.org

Learn to identify shorebirds such as sandpipers, plovers and oystercatchers.



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BITS & PIECES

Shellfish Safety Update

The following areas are now closed for the recreational harvest of all species of shellfish due to biotoxin (excluding crab or shrimp - clean crab well and do not consume the guts and butter):

- Saratoga Passage, including Penn Cove and Holmes Harbor

The following areas remain closed for the recreational harvest of butter and varnish clams only due to biotoxin:

- Port Susan
- Possession Sound



^Butter clam



^Oyster

Important!

Always check the Washington State Department of Health's Shellfish Safety Map immediately before and after you harvest shellfish. The information found there supersedes any information in this bulletin. For more information about recreational shellfish harvesting, including crabbing, please visit the recreational shellfish website.

For the most updated information on recreational shellfish harvest beach statuses, please see the following website: www.fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html.

Now Showing!

July 31 - August 7

The Bad Guys 2 (PG)
&
Fantastic 4: First Steps (PG-13)



Box office, SnackBar, Arcade & Tavern open at 4pm.
First movie starts at 7pm.

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Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute 2025 Brings the Orchestra World to Whidbey Island

The orchestral spotlight shines on Whidbey Island this summer as the Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute (PNWCI) returns for its ninth annual session, August 4-9, 2025. Hosted in the charming seaside town of Langley, the six-day intensive workshop draws orchestra conductors from around the world for a week of musical growth, collaboration, and performance.



Led by internationally acclaimed conductor, composer, and lecturer Diane Wittry, along with Dr. Anna Edwards, Music Director of Whidbey's Saratoga Orchestra, the program offers immersive training and podium time with a professional-level ensemble in an inspiring Pacific Northwest setting.

The week culminates in a celebratory Summer Festival Concert, open to the public, on Saturday, August 9 at 2:00 PM at the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA). The concert will showcase PNWCI's 2025 Conducting Fellows leading the Saratoga Orchestra in a dynamic program including Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, Edward Elgar's Serenade for Strings, W.A. Mozart's Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro" and others. A pre-concert chat with the participating conductors will begin at 1:15 PM.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at www.wicaonline.org or by calling 360-221-8262.

For more information about the Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute and the Saratoga Orchestra, please visit www.sowhidbey.com or call 360-929-3045.

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What's Going On!

ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: ANIMA

Now through August 30
Island Shakespeare Festival Stage, 5476 Maxwelton Rd, Langley

Written by Amelia Pincherle Rosselli and directed by Emily Lyon, Anima is a rarely staged 1890s drama following painter Olga de Velaris as she navigates the pressures of passion, reputation, and survival in Rome's art world. Presented outdoors at the Island Shakespeare Festival, this evocative performance explores selfhood, connection, and the limits of expression.

Performances run select evenings and Sunday matinees through August 30. Reservations range from \$18 to \$60.

ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Now through August 31
Select dates and times
Island Shakespeare Festival Stage, 5476 Maxwelton Road, Langley

Island Shakespeare Festival presents Much ADO About Nothing by William Shakespeare, directed by Chad Dexter Kinsman. Beatrice and Benedick battle with wit and love, while Hero faces betrayal and redemption in this sharp, joyful comedy about deception, honor, and self-discovery. Performed outdoors at the Island Shakespeare Festival Stage.

Showtimes vary; reservations recommended.

MAKE A MONSTER

Friday, Aug. 1, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St.

Kids and tweens can create their own huggable monsters using fabric scraps and simple stitches. Supported by the Friends of the Langley Library.

DEAF SOCIAL – FLYING FINGERS

Friday, Aug. 1, 5:30 p.m.
Langley United Methodist Church, Fireside Room

Join this social group to practice fingerspelling names, numbers, and greetings in a friendly environment. Participants celebrate holidays and birthdays together and share food. Parking is available across the street at 3rd Street and Anthes Avenue. For more information, contact Susan at 360-221-0383 or sisoleil973@yahoo.com.

SUMMER NIGHTS SERIES: DUO DREWS

Friday, August 1, 5–7 p.m.
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave, Langley

Enjoy live music under the tent with Duo Drows as part of WICA's Summer Nights Series. This happy hour event features great tunes and community gathering in an outdoor setting.

BUSKERS ON THE CORNER: STEVE JOHNSON

Friday, August 1, 5:30–6:30 PM
Pop-Up Plaza Stage, Pioneer Way & Dock Street, Oak Harbor

Enjoy live music downtown as part of this weekly Friday series. Steve Johnson performs blues-inspired originals and classic covers to help you wind down the work week. Presented by the Oak Harbor Main Street Association, Oak Harbor Music Festival, and Whidbey Weekly.

SUMMER NIGHTS SERIES: PUFF 'N SCRUB

Saturday, August 2, 5–7 p.m.
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave, Langley

Join Puff 'n Scrub for a lively evening of music and entertainment outdoors at WICA. The Summer Nights Series continues with local talent and a festive atmosphere.

LANGLEY: FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

Saturday, August 2, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Downtown Langley

Enjoy a festive evening strolling through Langley's galleries, open late for the First Saturday Art Walk. Meet local artists and explore new installations at multiple venues including:

- Artworks Gallery, courtyard at 221 Second Street
- Lasher Gallery at WICA, 565 Camano Avenue
- Museo Gallery, 215 First Street
- Rob Shouten Gallery, 101 Anthes Avenue
- Whidbey Art Gallery, 220 Second Street

A great way to experience local art and community spirit.
Presented by Langley galleries.

TUESDAY CONCERTS IN THE PARK — DOCTOR SAVAGE

Tuesday, August 5, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
South Whidbey Community Park, 5495 Maxwelton Rd, Langley

Enjoy a free evening of funk, soul, and R&B with Doctor Savage as part of the South Whidbey Parks and Rec annual Concerts in the Park series. Bring a picnic, blanket, or lawn chair and join the community for great music outdoors.

Sponsored by Whidbey Telecom.

WATERFRONT WEDNESDAY BUSKER SERIES — COUPEVILLE WHARF

Wednesdays, August 6,
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Coupeville Wharf, Coupeville

Enjoy free live music featuring local artists every Wednesday through August 27 at the entrance of Coupeville Wharf. This vibrant series brings a variety of musical talent to downtown Coupeville, providing a lively midweek boost for the community.

Additional Lineup:

- August 13 — Marcus Raymond
- August 20 — Deceptive Cadence
- August 27 — A Total Fiasco

Sponsored by the Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association.

BAYVIEW CORNER STREET DANCES PRESENTS: RUBATANO MARIMBA

Wednesday, August 6
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Bayview Cash Store, 5603 Bayview Road, Langley

Enjoy heartwarming Zimbabwean-style marimba music featuring Tanya Boyd, Audrey Neubauer, Kerry Holland, and special guests from Zimbabwe. Free family-friendly event. Refreshments available. Picnic dinners welcome. Rain or shine.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: LADY A

Wednesday, August 6
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Windjammer Park, 1600 S. Beekma Drive, Oak Harbor

Oak Harbor Music Festival presents this free outdoor concert series at Windjammer Park. Enjoy an evening of music, community, and sunset vibes with Lady A. Bring your lawn chair and dance barefoot in the grass. All ages welcome.

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By Tracy Loescher

SALMON ROUND-UP

We are well on our way to the peak of salmon season. The Five species that return to the Puget Sound each summer will soon begin to overlap one another as the months pass by (I am not including spring chinook in this group). This means that the potential to hook into more than one species is very likely. Let's take a quick look at the order in which the salmon will arrive and the potential overlap of the migration runs:

Sockeye salmon began showing up in June, unlike their cousins they do not spend a lot of time in the saltwater, from my experience they waste no time heading for the inland rivers (primarily the Skagit and Baker rivers,) the Skagit River will be our first serious opportunity to hook into a sockeye. July 10th through July 20th is when the biggest numbers of returning salmon will be in the river. The next opportunity to hook into a sockeye is in Baker Lake off of Hwy-20, thousands of adult sockeye are transported from a catch/trap facility on the Baker River to the main body of Baker Lake, the lake can get a little crowded with boat traffic during the season but it can be great fishing.



<Sockeye in spawn phase

Chinook salmon will be here in late June and early July, the recreational saltwater season is extremely short and almost criminal if you ask me! 3 to 4 days out of 365 is all we get. For those that are able to get off work to fish the tail-end of the week or get that magical Saturday fishing is generally very good. The odds are slim that during the saltwater overlap a sockeye will be caught while targeting chinook.



<Chinook in spawn phase

Pink salmon will be dominating the saltwater from the end of July through the first couple weeks of September, pinks return to the Puget Sound (odd years only) by the millions! Whether you're fishing from the beaches, or from a boat, the fishing will be hot-and-heavy, and don't be surprised if you see a few chinook being caught during the pink horde. I love pink years and it is a great time to take young anglers and beginner salmon fishermen out for a chance at their first salmon.



<Pink in spawn phase

Coho salmon are right in the heels of the pink salmon, mid-August through late September is when the largest numbers of coho will be migrating along the shores of Whidbey Island. Now there are three species of salmon cursing the same areas of saltwater, and now is the time when a fisherman could hook into any one of the three. During this time is when different color lures will attract the different fish, blues, greens, or yellows for coho and chinook and pink for the pinks, however, I have seen all three species caught on the color pink.



<Coho in spawn phase

Chum salmon are the last species to arrive in our local waters, I feel chum are almost as finicky to catch in saltwater as are sockeye, about 5 years ago a group of us were fishing in Marine Area-9 down towards lagoon point and we noticed a small school of fish breaking the surface of the water and swimming in a circular pattern. They were porpoising in close proximity to each other and at first we thought they must be pink salmon, we cast our lures in around the school but they would spook, dive under, and surface in another location, we chased after the small school and eventually foul-hooked one of the fish. To our surprise they were chum salmon, we released the foul-hooked chum and as quickly as they had appeared they were gone, and to this day I have never seen schooling chums again. It was fascinating that there were so many of the chum bunched together but were not interested in biting. The school of chums didn't give us the time to experiment with different colors or types of lures that they may have been interested in so I would not rule out the opportunity of hooking a chum in saltwater.



^Chum in spawn phase

It's unfortunate that the state fishing regulations are so convoluted and chopped up with different species you are allowed to retain and when, consequently you might hook a dozen salmon on a day of fishing and only be able to keep 1 out of 5 species. I have said it many times before "I love to salmon fish" so I grit my teeth and enjoy what opportunities we are allowed. I always give my active pro-fish input to the State of Washington during open public opinion windows, and will continue to do so until greater common sense dominates fish politics in Olympia, in hopes that future generations of salmon fishermen are less restricted.

Summer is here and now is an exciting time to be a salmon fisherman! Get out on the water when you can, take our young anglers with you, be safe and GOOD LUCK!!

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Whidbey Veterans Resource Center's mission is to connect, educate, and serve Veterans, their families and communities.

Established in 2009, the Whidbey Veterans Resource Center (WVRC) continues to fulfill its mission to connect, serve and educate veterans. Located at the South Whidbey Community Center (SWCC) in Langley the staff and volunteers welcome veterans, their family members and friends to partake of the services offered. Some offerings include assistance with accessing Veterans Administration (VA) healthcare, military service-connected compensation, transportation to the VA hospital in Seattle, peer support groups and confidential counseling.

The Veterans Resource Center was started as a drop-in center by community veterans and Judith Gorman and Perry McClellan on behalf of their son Orrin McClellan. Orrin was discharged from military service in 2006. He had difficulty adjusting to civilian life after combat in Afghanistan and was unable to find support with the transition. Frustrated and concerned at the lack of services his parents took matters into their own hands to find help not only for their son but other veterans as well.

Expanding needs for veterans' assistance resulted in Whidbey Veterans Resource Center outgrowing its original location. In 2014 the office moved into a larger space in the lower level of the American Legion Hall. Home Depot and Puget Sound Energy contributed funds to remodel the area, making it a welcoming place for all veterans.

In 2018 Whidbey Veterans Resource Center moved to the current location in Langley. The center provides a safe portal through which veterans can build resiliency, access information and benefits assistance including family and community life. WVRC is developing a digital newsletter sent to over 2,000 recipients. Contact the Veterans Resource Center if you would like to receive the newsletter and upcoming events.

The community center campus is owned by South Whidbey School District. SWCC is a place for families, schools and community to collaborate, learn and celebrate. It provides a central location for people to work and organize together for the benefit of the community. Whidbey Veterans Resource Center is located on the back of the main campus at 723 Camano Avenue, Room 403, Building C. Best access and parking is of the corner entrance at Cascade and Camano Ave.

Information on office hours and other services available from WVRC can be obtained by visiting www.whidbeyvrc.org, emailing whidbeyvrc@gmail.com or calling 360-331-8081

Founding partners of Whidbey Veterans Resource Center, Judith Gorman and Perry McClellan, have published a book by their late son, Orrin. Entitled A Soldier's Journal: Last Supper to No Goodbye the books at the WVRC. Any proceeds beyond reprinting and distribution for sharing Orrin's Journal will go to help heal the effects of war on veterans, their families, and their communities.

WVRC Center Activities:

- Mondays at 3:30 - Women Veterans & Spouses Group
- Tuesdays at 5pm - Mixed Veterans Group
- 'Ride Link' Van Shuttle to Seattle and Everett VA Medical Centers for Veterans. Spouses and caregivers can ride as well. Call the WVRC for a reservation.
- Veterans with Parkinsons & Caregivers Support Groups – call for info
- Confidential Counseling by local credentialed counselors - call for info for a referral. Multiple insurances, TriCare, and VA Community Care accepted.
- Benefits and Claims Assistance by appointment – (360)-331-8081

Drop-in hours:

- Mondays 10:00 to 1:30
 - 10:00 to 2:00 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month
 - Thursdays 10:00 – 2:00
- WVRC is recruiting - we need Volunteers to be open for more hours.*

Upcoming events - Mark your calendar!

- August 6 at 11am - Veterans/Seniors Preparedness Info Session
- August 14 at 9am - Community Resource Network meeting – online
- September 20th - Annual Community & Veterans Picnic 12:00 – 3:00pm
- 50+ Resources Fair – Sept. 24th 10:00 – 2:00, The Center, Oak Harbor

Veterans' options in Medicare Open Enrollment Information Sessions –

- Info available at the Picnic – Sept 20th
- Saturday, Oct 11th 12:00 -1:30 Oct 11 - WVRC Meeting Room
- Sunday, Nov 9th 12:00 – 1:30 pm - WVRC Meeting Room

Are You Ready and Prepared with Needs and Supplies During An Outage or Disaster!? Individual & Neighborhood Preparedness Information

Seniors, Veterans & Caregivers – Planning for Power Outages, Wind, Ice, Earthquakes – Be more Prepared! Disaster Preparedness Info Sessions – considerations for seniors, disabled and caregivers.

- Info at the Picnic Sept 20th – 12:00 – 3:00 4632 Tompkins Rd, Langley WA

Disaster Preparedness Info Sessions – considerations for seniors, disabled and caregivers

- Aug 5th 4 - 7 pm Langley Rd, Sports Fields, hosted by SW EMS
- Aug 20th 11:00 – 1230 Individual – Family Caregivers - Disaster Preparedness Info Session at the WVRC in Langley SWCC
- Aug 25th 11:00 – 1230 Neighborhood Networking for Disaster Preparedness – Local Program Presentation - Info Session at the WVRC in Langley SWCC
- Sept 29th 11:00 – 1230 Neighborhood Networking for Disaster Preparedness – Local Program Presentation - Info Session at the WVRC in Langley SWCC
- Oct 1st 11:00 – 1230 Individual – Family Caregivers - Disaster Preparedness Info Session at the WVRC in Langley SWCC
- Nov 9th WVRC OPEN HOUSE 10:00 – 3:00 Benefits Information, Medicare Enrollment info @12:00
- VETERANS DAY Nov 11th

Whidbey Veterans Resource Center is a 501 c3 non-profit tax-exempt organization located at 723 Camano Avenue, Room 403, Building C, Langley, Washington. Information on office hours and services available from WVRC can be obtained by visiting www.whidbeyvrc.org, emailing whidbeyvrc@gmail.com or calling 360-331-8081. Individuals, groups and companies can donate in support of the Veterans Resource Center by visiting www.whidbeyvrc.org or mailing donations to WVRC, PO Box 85, Freeland, Washington 98269

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AUGUST ON WHIDBEY Family Guide

By Amy Hannold

SUMMER FAIR FUN BEYOND

WHIDBEY: Enjoy your fair favorites at the Stanwood-Camano Fair, August 1-3 (stanwoodcamanofair.org) and the Skagit County Fair, August 7-10 (skagitcounty.net). If you're up for a longer drive, the Northwest Washington Fair, in Lynden is August 7-16, (nwwafair.com). Later in August, the Evergreen State Fair, in Monroe, is August 21 to September 1, (evergreenfair.org). Fair season in Washington closes with the Washington State Fair, August 29-September 21 (Thefair.com).

SUMMER PLAYScape: Make new friends with families with children ages birth to five this summer. Mother Mentors of Whidbey Island will be hosting Wednesday playdates each week through August 20, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., in both Langley and Oak Harbor. Visit Mothermentors.org/playscape to learn more about the fun opportunities to connect. The Summer Playscape locations are:

Playscape North
Whidbey Presbyterian Church
1148 SE 8th Avenue, Oak Harbor

Playscape South
South Whidbey Elementary South Campus
5476 Maxwellton Road, Langley

STEP TOGETHER FOR THE KIDS:

Steps (formerly Toddler Learning Center) is a nonprofit organization providing in-home early support services for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with developmental delays on Whidbey Island, Anacortes, & San Juan Islands. A 5K "Rock 'n' Stroll" fun run/walk is being hosted on Saturday, August 30 to support the organization's services.

Dress up as your favorite rock star and bring the family to join the fun at Windjammer Park in Oak Harbor. Costumes of leather, lace, bandanas, giggles, smiles, tutus, crowns, big hair, glitter are welcome. Strolling, walking, running, skipping, hopping – and especially dancing is encouraged to cross the finish line. After checking in at 9 a.m. you'll, enjoy kids' activities, face painting, photo booth back drops, and more.

Strollers, tricycles and fur babies are permitted on the paved course which follows the waterfront out to Catalina Park at the Marina and back to Windjammer Park. At the end of the 5k, there will be snacks and refreshments. Registration is \$30 for ages 12 to adult, \$15 ages 5-11 and ages 4

and younger are free. Runsignup.com/Race/WA/OakHarbor/StepsROCKnROLLSTROLL or Takingstepstogether.org.

AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST

CRIME: "National Night Out" is a free, crime-prevention, community-connecting event with emergency vehicles on display, demonstrations, lots of free activities and more. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Windjammer Park in Oak Harbor and in Langley at the South Whidbey Sports Complex, also from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A WEEKEND OF INSPIRING

CREATIVITY: Over 40 artists across Whidbey Island will have their studio doors open for you to see how they create during the free Whidbey Working Artists Summer Open Studio Tour, August 16 and 17, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each artist demonstrates a different medium including sculpture, watercolor, print, fine woodworking, hand-blown glass, hand-thrown pottery, acrylic, oil, fiber, jewelry, photography, encaustic and mixed media. Be inspired by these artists as you discover what it takes to follow a passion for making art. View a tour map and brochure at Whidbeyworkingartists.com.

A NEW HOME FOR NAVAL AIR

MUSEUM: The community is invited to the Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum's new home at 545 Ault Field Road, Oak Harbor, for a Ribbon Cutting and Flag Ceremony, on Thursday, August 21 at 11am. The new location is scheduled to open on July 30 is the "soft" opening, where the public will be welcome ahead of the ceremonial day. The hours will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Pnwnam.org and Facebook.com/pnwnam.

ARLINGTON'S SKYFEST AND

AIRPORT COMMUNITY DAY: Anything that involves humans and machines in the air is the focus of Skyfest on Saturday, August 16. Airplanes, hot air balloons, warbirds, drones, classic car show, laser show, and more. See balloons glow, vintage aircraft, military vehicles and equipment, and a classic car show. Advance online "carload" style tickets only, no sales at the gate: Arlingtonflyin.org. On Sunday, August 17, the Arlington Airport hosts their Community Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring fly-overs, flight simulators, bouncy house, helicopter tours and more. Arlingtonwa.gov/240/Airport-Events.

CLINTON'S LIBRARY FRIENDS

CELEBRATE: A little library opened in Clinton 25 years ago, its existence has been a partnership of the Friends of the Clinton Library, Island County, Sno-Isle Libraries, and countless individual community members. Enjoy hotdogs, cake and family-friendly activities on Saturday, August 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sno-isle.org/locations/Clinton.

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS OF NOTE:

- Free Concerts in the Park with South Whidbey Parks and Recreation: Tuesdays, August 5 and August 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Lawn chairs/blankets and picnics welcome. Swparks.org/concerts.
- Free Sounds of Summer Concert Series at Windjammer Park: Wednesdays, July 30 to August 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Lawn chairs and picnics welcome. Facebook.com/OHMusicFest, Oakharborfestival.com/summer-concerts.
- Anacortes Arts Festival: August 1-3, AnacortesArtsFestival.com.
- Coupeville Arts & Crafts Festival: August 9-10, CoupevilleFestival.com.
- Meerkerk Gardens Bluegrass Festival: August 9, Meerkerkgardens.org.
- Living History at Fort Casey State Park, August 30-31, on Saturday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday, Facebook.com/FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks.
- And, for Labor Day Weekend, the Oak Harbor Music Festival, August 29-31, oakharborfestival.com.

SUMMER FUN BUCKET LIST: DON'T MISS THESE SUMMERTIME FAVORITES!

- Explore your local libraries for events and to complete the summer reading program. For military families, the NASWI Library has one too!
- Blue Fox Drive-In has their new go-cart track, movies, concession stand and an arcade all open 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week! Also check out the Lion's Club Flea Markets held there on Saturdays July 26, August 2-23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bluefoxdrivein.com and E-clubhouse.org/sites/whidbeyisland, wilclions@gmail.com.
- Kids are bowling free through the summer at Oak Bowl, and at the NASWI Convergence Zone, via Kidsbowlfree.com.
- Oak Harbor's Roller Barn hosts roller-skating on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays., Therollerbarn.com.
- Whidbey's State Parks have all sorts of outdoor fun, with Deception Pass Park also offering "Junior Ranger" events, Parks.wa.gov/find-activities/event-

- calendar.
- Shipwreck Shores Splash Park at Windjammer Park in Oak Harbor from 10 am and 8 pm daily.
- Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum in Everett, (Flyingheritage.org) and Heritage Flight Museum in Burlington, (Heritageflight.org).
- Skagit Kids Museum of Burlington, (Skagitchildrensmuseum.net) and the Imagine Museum of Everett, (Imaginecm.org).

Answer the question, "Mom, Dad – What Can I Do Today?" at WhidbeyIsland.MacaroniKid.com, you'll find a daily calendar of local activities, events and short-drive destination ideas for all ages. On Facebook, find events for all ages at Facebook.com/groups/whidbeyislandeventsandmore.

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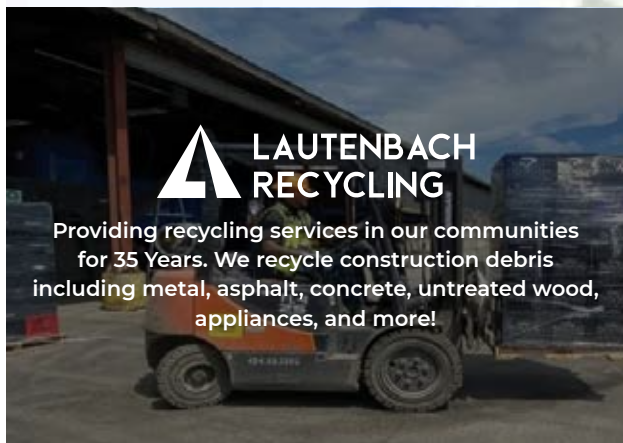


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Country-fried or chicken-fried are terms given to breaded and deep-fried poultry and meat. In fact, chicken-fried steak is an institution in the American south, where thinly sliced cuts of cubed steak are prepared in this way and served with country gravy and biscuits. There's not much room for improvement in this classic... or is there?

In "Best-Ever Steak Fingers," chicken-fried steak gets a makeover into easily picked up finger foods tailor made for dipping in a savory sauce. They are perfect for picnics and meals on the go. Dig in, courtesy of "Lord Honey Traditional Southern Recipes with a Country Bling Twist" (Pelican Publishing) by Chef Jason Smith.

Best-Ever Steak Fingers

(Makes 6 servings)

Ingredients

- Veggie oil for frying
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose steak seasoning, divided
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 4 pounds beef cube steak

Dipping sauce:

- 1 cup mayo
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons yellow mustard
- 1 package dry Italian salad dressing
- 2 tablespoons dried dill

Instructions:

Pour 1 inch oil into a large cast-iron or other thick-bottomed skillet. Turn heat to medium low. Place the flour in a shallow pan. Sprinkle half the steak seasoning over flour, and mix together.

Cut steak into 1-inch strips. Add the rest of the steak seasoning, rubbing into each piece. Turn heat to medium on skillet. Place each strip in the flour mix, then into the milk and egg mix, then back into the flour. Shake off excess and place each strip on a plate. Repeat until all strips are coated.

Sprinkle a few drops flour over oil. If it sizzles, it's ready to fry. Using tongs or a fork, place strips side by side in hot oil. Don't crowd the pan, or it will cool the oil.

After about 2 to 3 minutes, when strips start to brown on bottom, turn over. When second side is brown, remove and place on a cooling rack that has been set on a cookie sheet. Set the sheet in the preheated oven. Repeat until all fingers are cooked.

In a bowl, whisk together all dipping sauce ingredients.



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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, creative fire burns bright this week. The 1st may bring a flash of inspiration or a bold romantic opportunity. Don't hesitate—express yourself freely and enjoy the spark without overanalyzing.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, home is your anchor now. The week favors nesting, recharging, or making changes to your living space. A family conversation may need your calm presence—be the steady voice in the room.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, your calendar may fill quickly with conversations and short trips. Around the 3rd, news or an offer could arrive that moves a plan forward. Stay alert—something small leads to something big.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, this is a powerful time to reassess your budget or spending habits. A decision made around the 2nd helps set you up for long-term stability. Know your worth—and charge accordingly.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, your season continues to dazzle. With the Sun lighting up your sign, this is your week to stand out. A fresh beginning or personal milestone may arrive around the 1st—own it proudly.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, rest and retreat will do wonders now. You're wrapping up a cycle, so take time to reflect. A message from the past—or your own intuition—may arrive around the 4th with uncanny timing.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, collaboration is your sweet spot this week. Whether reconnecting with old friends or making new professional contacts, you're magnetic. A team project may gain surprising momentum on the 5th.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, your ambitions are rising and the universe is backing your hustle. A career move or public opportunity around the 2nd deserves your full attention—don't downplay your achievements.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, the big picture is calling. Travel, teaching, or diving into a new idea could bring the perspective you've been craving. Say yes to the adventure around the 3rd—it might just shift your direction.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, trust and transformation are themes this week. The 1st may bring an important conversation or realization around a shared resource or emotional bond. Be open, even if it's vulnerable.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, relationships are highlighted now. Whether strengthening an existing bond or welcoming a new one, you're being invited to show up more fully. The 5th is perfect for heartfelt connection.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, focus on refining your daily rhythms. The small habits you adjust now will support your bigger dreams. Health, work, or time management shifts around the 4th could bring surprising ease.



Astrology for July 31 - August 6 2025

Mars enters Libra, Relationship Themes Rising

On **July 31**, the Sun conjuncts Mercury retrograde in Leo at 9°. This is a pinnacle moment in the Mercury retrograde story that began on July 17. The Sun brings to light some information, a concept previously hidden, a message out of the blue. On or around this day the past may come calling. Does it really have anything new to say? It will be wise to move slowly through this assessment and avoid jumping to quick conclusions. This can highlight the ways in which our communication patterns are dysfunctional, outdated, or inauthentic. Watch for people putting on a show with their words, performance and insincerity. A focus on past or recurring issues in matters of the mind, perspective, and ways of thinking. Being misunderstood or our words being misinterpreted is very likely. No matter what situation unfolds today, it will likely be revisited with more clarity in the days following Mercury's station direct on August 11.

On **August 1**, Venus in Cancer squares Saturn and Neptune retrograde in Aries at 1°. This amplifies the conflicts in our partnerships, emotional centers, and private/family/home life. Venus in Cancer desires safety, security, and emotional transparency. Saturn and Neptune retrograde in Aries are calling for internal self reflection on the ways in which we take action on our desires. This square creates a tension that connects these two themes. Where are we disconnected from our own inner life, keeping us blocked from moving forward in our outer life? Where in our relationships do we long for emotional security, but have not taken the appropriate action to build that foundation within our own self? These questions seem to really bubble up today. There can be a feeling of restriction, frustration, confusion, and especially on the heels of yesterday's Sun/Mercury retrograde meeting, reevaluation of patterns and agreements within partnerships. The vibe is heavy and challenging, hard to find a flow. Don't try to figure it all out today. Wait for Mercury to go direct. Instead, look at the issues and lay them out on the table with humility. Honestly look at them. Take time to step away from tense interactions, breaks for self-reflection - not escapism. Workable solutions will arise in time.

On **August 6**, Mars enters Libra until September 22. Although there are beautiful manifestations of this placement, this puts Mars in detriment, the farthest away from the sign of its rulership, Aries. Mars can have a more difficult time getting things accomplished while in the sign of Libra, but will have more diplomacy and the capacity to consider multiple perspectives before taking action. Although not exact until next week, Mars is in a favorable position, forming a powerful air grand trine with Pluto retrograde in Aquarius and Uranus in Gemini, while at the same time, holding a challenging square aspect to both Saturn and Neptune retrograde in Aries. Mars in its first days of Libra can have us feeling activated and enthused to tackle issues and frustrations through conversations and one-on-one confrontations. It may take some time to find solutions, but we are motivated to find them through discussion, research, and social exchanges. Mars in Libra, the sign that rules Venus, notoriously activates relationship matters, and this may very well be the arena for our motivations at this time. We are actively discussing the terms of agreements in both business and pleasure, weighing options, and looking for fair action for all parties involved. Remember to communicate with yourself this week, not just with the people around you. The opinions of others can be louder than usual. Don't let them drown out your soft inner knowing.

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Bring your questions! Visit readingsbynoa.com to book your session or gift a friend.

Noa is an astrologer and artist based in Austin, Texas with a love for nature, live music and the occult. She has been practicing astrology for 10 years and is dedicated to making astrological concepts more widely accessible and useful for navigating everyday life.

Book a session with Noa by sending an inquiry below:

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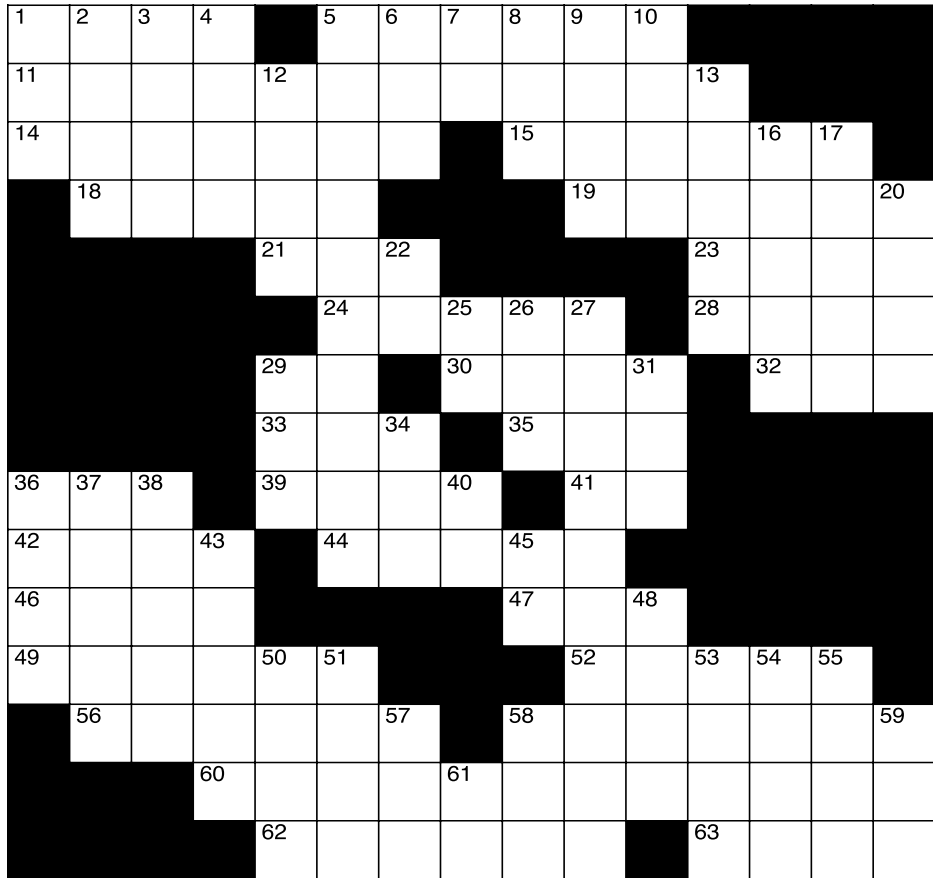
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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular potato snack
5. Guards the Pyramids
11. Furnish anew
14. Herb
15. Preoccupy the mind continually
18. The lowest adult male singing voice
19. NATO commander (abbr.)
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Notions
28. Lump in yarn
29. Indicates position
30. Lose hold of
32. Hindu honorific
33. Former OSS
35. Electronic data processing
36. Cost per mile
39. Snake-like fish
41. They start the alphabet
42. Taylor Swift's tour
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Scarlett's home
47. Of he
49. Ohio city
52. Breakfast item
56. An evening party
58. ___ Falls
60. Linked together
62. Mythological spirits
63. Small Eurasian deer

CLUES DOWN

1. Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man
2. Flavoring
3. Notion
4. Bundy and Fenwick are two
5. Qualities of sound
6. One who gets paid
7. Expresses surprise
8. O.J. trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Shield bugs genus
12. Container for shipping
13. Upper body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
20. Volcanic island in Fiji
22. Commercial
25. ___: denotes past
26. They ___
27. Confraternities
29. A way to gain a point
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Badgers group
37. Sailing boat
38. ___ Polo, explorer
40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
43. Frankish law code
45. Exclamation of surprise
48. Groan
50. It presses clothing
51. Do not allow
53. Gelatinous substance
54. Common Japanese surname
55. Present in nature
57. Electronic countermeasures
58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
59. Commercials
61. News agency

Answers on page 11

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Thurs, July 31	Fri, Aug 1	Sat, Aug 2	Sun, Aug 3	Mon, Aug 4	Tues, Aug 5	Wed, Aug 6
North Isle H-70°/L-57°	North Isle H-71°/L-58°	North Isle H-69°/L-57°	North Isle H-70°/L-55°	North Isle H-68°/L-55°	North Isle H-70°/L-57°	North Isle H-73°/L-57°
South Isle H-75°/L-57°	South Isle H-74°/L-59°	South Isle H-71°/L-58°	South Isle H-71°/L-55°	South Isle H-70°/L-55°	South Isle H-72°/L-57°	South Isle H-75°/L-58°



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

For what are you most grateful?



Sharon Lewis,
Oak Harbor

There are many things for which I am grateful. I am living a blessed life (and I know it). Friendship is at the top of my "grateful" list.

My most enduring and trusted friendship happens to be with my sister. We laugh about silly adventures. We cry about misfortunes. We share ideas and plans. We uphold one another in times of trial. And, of course, we argue; but always overlook the other one's foibles.

Both Sister and I know the other is faithful, honest, supportive and are confident she will always be there in times of sorrow and need.

I pray that each of you reading this has at least one friend such as mine.

Mark Lucero,
Coupeville



As a grief counselor and the founder of Pathways Counseling in Coupeville I am full of gratitude for the clients I serve. Every time someone walks through my office door for the first time I am reminded of the courage it takes to do the work of healing after a life altering loss. It is a sacred privilege to be invited to walk beside someone through some of the darkest days of their life. Every day, my clients exhibit the courage and hope needed to survive and thrive after profound loss. Grief is not a failing or a disease. To grieve is human and it is a natural response to loss that happens because we are blessed to form deep loving connections. My clients inspire me so much and I am very grateful to them all.



Maryann Bast,
Freeland

First I am grateful for being adopted into a loving family when I was two years old. I was always told that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to. That belief has always helped me. As an Occupational therapist my most unusual experience was when a referral came in to stimulate a comatose patient over 50 years ago. I read up on it and took different textures (feathers light sandpaper, various aromas and kept talking to the lady and telling her what I was doing. After the 3month referral ended, there had been no response. About 6 months later I was in an elevator with a nurse from ICU & another lady. We talked for a bit and then the nurse turned to the other lady and said, do you know who this is, pointing to me. The woman answered slowly, she was just regaining her speech "yes that's the woman who used to hold mustard under my nose!" It confirmed my belief that anything is possible.

Joyful Saying of the Week

We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.
-Joseph Campbell

Answers on page 11

SUDOKU

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	7	4						9

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FREE ESTIMATES!

At Hilltop Service Center we only repair and replace parts that are needed. We will not oversell or install unnecessary parts. We are highly trained brake technicians, not high pressure sales people.

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

Diagnostic Scope & Scan

\$89⁹⁵

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

Safety Inspection

\$89⁹⁵

- Labor Includes**
- Scope & Scan (Retrieving Codes, Reset Check Engine Light)
 - Brake Inspection
 - Tire Rotation
 - Inspect Belts & Hoses
 - Inspect Exhaust System
 - Check Charging System
 - Test Ignition Cables
 - Tire Rotation & Balance
 - Inspect Suspension
 - Check all Fluids
 - Test Anti-Freeze

Radiator Flush & Fill

starting at **\$89⁹⁵**

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

\$79^{95*} 4 cyl

\$89^{95*} 6 cyl

\$99^{95*} 8 cyl

- Check Compression
- Clean/Replace Spark Plugs & Air Cleaner
- Inspect/Replace Distributor Cap & Rotor
- Check Charging System
- Inspect Ignition Cables
- Scope & Scan
- Adjust Timing & Idle Speed
- Safety & Brake Inspection

*Plus Parts

Brake Reline Special **FREE** Brake Inspections

2-Wheel Front Brake Reline or 2-Wheel Rear Brake Reline starting at **\$119⁹⁵**

- DRUMS**
- 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

- DISCS**
- Install Raybestos Disc Pads
 - Machine Front Rotors
 - Repack Wheel Bearings
 - Clean-Lube Sleeve & Bushings
 - New Seals
 - Bleed & Adjust System
 - Road Test Vehicle
 - 3 Year or 26,000 mile Warranty

Raybestos
The Best in Brakes
LIFETIME BRAKE PARTS AVAILABLE
Most Cars - HD Shoes Semi-Metallic Extra

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GAINING TRACTION. EARNING TRUST. DELIVERING EXCELLENCE.



WILDPEAK M/T
MAXIMUM OFF-ROAD TRACTION BUILT FOR THE TOUGHEST TERRAIN



WILDPEAK A/T3W
ALL-TERRAIN, ALL-WEATHER RUGGED CAPABILITY



WILDPEAK A/T TRAIL
RUGGED CROSSOVER CAPABILITY ENGINEERED FOR ADVENTURE



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RUGGED ALL-SEASON DURABILITY BUILT FOR TODAY'S PICKUP TRUCKS



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PEAK PERFORMANCE INSPIRED BY ENTHUSIASTS



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