

December 19, 2025 - December 25, 2025

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The Whidbey Veterans Resource Center is a local, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, located in the South Whidbey Community Center in Langley WA. Contact us at whidbeyvrc@gmail.com or (360) 331-8081

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AT WHIDBEY WEEKLY, WE BELIEVE IN RECYCLING – AND THAT INCLUDES OUR DELIVERY VAN. IF THE FRAME IS SOUND, WE BELIEVE A VEHICLE DESERVES TO BE RECONDITIONED AND KEPT ON THE ROAD FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW ENGINE ON OUR FAITHFUL 2003 OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE. THE COST OF PARTS AND LABOR IS ESTIMATED AT \$8,600 OUT THE DOOR.

THIS PURCHASE IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING OUR LOCAL NEWS IN PRINT ACROSS WHIDBEY. THOUSANDS OF READERS PICK UP THEIR FREE COPIES EVERY WEEK FROM LOCATIONS ACROSS THE ISLAND – AND THIS VAN MAKES THAT POSSIBLE.

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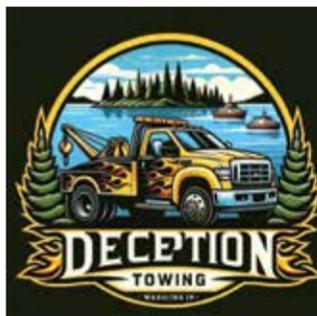
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BITS & PIECES

City of Oak Harbor Receives Washington State Auditor's Stewardship Award (SASA)

The City of Oak Harbor has been awarded the State Auditor's Stewardship Award, recognizing the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency in managing public resources.

Between August and late October 2025, the City underwent its annual financial audit conducted by the State Auditor's Office (SAO). During this period, the City's finance team collaborated closely with state auditors to review the accuracy of financial transactions and reporting, federal grant management, and other City processes. The audit concluded with exceptional results.

The award is presented to government entities that demonstrate excellence in financial management, maintain clean audit results, and exhibit strong internal controls. It also recognizes a proactive commitment to improving operational practices and working cooperatively with auditors to safeguard public funds.

"I'm incredibly honored that our City received this award, it's incredibly validating for all of the hard work that the finance team and other key members put in throughout 2024 and 2025," said Ashley Ramos, City of Oak Harbor Accounting Manager and audit lead.

The City earned the award for its outstanding responsiveness and collaboration during the audit process, especially while managing the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. The finance team was also commended for leadership in advancing financial reporting and best practices.

Key participants in this year's audit included David Goldman, Deputy City Administrator & Finance Director; Ashley Ramos, Accounting Manager; Chas Webster, Financial Planning & Operations Manager; Wendy Horn, Grants Administrator; Heidi Childs, Senior Accountant, Rachel Steckle, Human Resources Generalist & Payroll; Sandra Place, Administration Manager; Philip Esqueda, Capital Project Manager; Tony Slowik, Police Chief; and Tammy Glover, Records Specialist.

The City also extends its appreciation to Adrian Gonzales, Staci Baier, Kimberly Schmal, Emma House, Julie Nester, Macalle Finkle, Marianne Ledgerwood, Stephanie Lee-Saunders, Mayor Ronnie Wright, and Mayor Pro Tempore Tara Hizon for their invaluable support throughout the audit process.

The City of Oak Harbor will continue its dedication to financial excellence and transparency principles that ensure the responsible use of public funds and continued trust within the community.

Embrace service to strengthen Whidbey

Service has long been part of Whidbey Island's character. For many who have worn a uniform—active duty, veterans, first responders, and their families—service comes more naturally, shaped by discipline, camaraderie, and shared responsibility. But the privilege of serving isn't limited to those with a uniformed tradition. It belongs to all of us.

Community service doesn't require grand gestures or philanthropic funds. It happens in the simplest acts: cooking a meal for someone who's struggling, helping a neighbor get to an appointment, visiting a resident in a care facility, or stepping in when a family needs support. These small moments build trust, connection, a stronger sense of belonging and often a renewed sense of purpose.

For those who haven't yet experienced the fulfillment of helping a neighbor, the invitation is wide open. Personal, volunteer service is a powerful force—one that strengthens community far more than any program or grant. Every act of kindness sends a ripple outward.

Let's encourage each other to show up, get our hands dirty, and care for one another in tangible ways. Service isn't merely a duty; it's an opportunity to grow together and shape the kind of community we all want to live in.

Bottom line: Everyone can serve. And when we do, Whidbey becomes a better, more compassionate place for all of us.

George Saul

Board Member, Whidbey Community Foundation; Oak Harbor, WA

Mukilteo/Clinton ferry service to be suspended midday for nine days for construction in early 2026

Closures start after morning commute with service resuming in time for afternoon commute

Washington State Ferries will begin in-water work at the Mukilteo ferry terminal in January 2026 to repair and reposition a key ferry landing structure. The work requires shutting down ferry service during midday for four hours over nine days. It will also affect overnight schedules in January and February.

Midday schedule changes

- Jan. 6, 8, 9, 13, 16 and Feb. 3, 4, 6, 9, ferry service will pause from:
- 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Clinton
- 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Mukilteo

Late-night schedule changes

- Jan. 19-23, 26-30 and Feb. 16-20, overnight sailings will be adjusted:
- Last sailing from Clinton: 11:30 p.m.
- Last sailing from Mukilteo: 12:15 a.m.

Weather and fog could affect this schedule. Workers must have good visibility while driving piles so marine mammal monitors can have a clear view to watch for protected species that may enter the area. This would cause a temporary work stoppage.

If dates change due to weather, marine mammals or other unexpected reasons, WSF will share alternate dates online schedule and through rider alerts and on X and Bluesky. Find more details about the schedule in this Travel Alert Bulletin.

Onboard drop-in sessions

WSF staff will hold two drop-in sessions to answer your questions about this project. Join us in the Galley and ask all your ferry questions.

- Dec. 18, 2025 – Departing from Clinton: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 30, 2025 – Departing from Mukilteo: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



LITTLE BIG FEST WINTER SOUL-STICE
Saturday, December 20, 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Clinton Hall, Central Avenue, Clinton
Celebrate the Winter Solstice with live music, woodfired pizza and DJs, including a classical guitar set by Zach Van Lue, a full band set by Seattle's Panda Conspiracy and a closing vinyl DJ set, with tickets available in advance.

WINTER SOLSTICE WALK AT MEERKERK GARDENS
Sunday, December 21
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
3531 Meerkerk Lane, Greenbank

Experience the beauty of nature at the darkest time of year on this guided walk through the curated gardens and legacy forest, highlighting evergreens, wildlife, colorful berries and rhododendrons in bloom. Reservations required; \$15 adults, free for children under 13. Dress for weather in warm layers, water-resistant shoes, hats and gloves. Walks may be cancelled due to high winds.

BIO-GLOW AND SEA LAB WITH SOUND WATER STEWARDS
Monday, December 22, 2 to 4 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St, Coupeville

Learn about bioluminescence in the world's oceans and the Salish Sea, use microscopes to view plankton, and explore a special bioluminescent tent in this drop-in program for all ages; children 11 and younger must be accompanied by a caregiver. Free.

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<u>18</u> 7:30	<u>19</u> 7:30	<u>20</u> 2:00 & 7:30	<u>21</u> 2:00

STREAMING TIMES

<u>20</u> 2:00 & 7:30	<u>21</u> 2:00
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These Boxing Days: The week between the holidays
 BY CHARLES LAFOND ISLAND FUNDRAISER, POTTER, AUTHOR, AND ESSAYIST

Boxing Day is an English tradition that has ancient Roman and medieval roots. Historically, it was the day after Christmas when tradespeople or servants would be given boxes of leftover food and discarded gifts by their employers, and then given the day to visit family.



What I have noticed, however, is that what follows Christmas and other December holidays is a massive deflation of energy. There is this buildup of expectations and exhaustion, which then bursts the day after Christmas. People are tired from all the hard work of the holiday, and then families are confined together for a week, often drinking too much and feeling frustrated that life doesn't quite turn out as they had hoped. People get on each other's nerves, and the house is either deathly silent for those alone or loud with others' frayed nerves.

So here are a few things to keep in mind when navigating tensions in the "boxing days" (double-entendre intended) between Christmas and New Year's:

1. The real world is full of egos, busy managing their power -play the game, you have no other choice. But you do have the choice of taking off the boxing gloves and working to make peace by assuming good intent, or reading.
2. Humans developed over millions of years with a bias toward threats. We survived to pass on our genes by assuming negative intent and by being ready for a fight. So make time for quiet each day. Go for a long walk and sit quietly, alone. Regroup if or when people in the house get on your nerves. You can't change them, but you can change your own response to them.
3. "Emotional silencing" is when your silence is the price you pay for peace. Your words may challenge others' rhetoric at best, or inspire their gaslighting at worst. Good people make space for your voice. Find them.
4. A narcissist (one out of six humans) finds it hard to apologize. They will say something like "I'm sorry for whatever upset you." That's not an apology, that's deflection. If someone hurts your feelings, tell them, but tell them in the morning, when you are both rested.
5. Good people never ask you to shrink, especially if they are making room for them to step in and puff themselves up. You have fought battles nobody sees. Claim your voice.
6. You may be in conversation with someone whose childhood wound you cannot heal. Trust your gut. It's your "second brain" both emotionally and neurologically.
7. You don't have to trade your authenticity for approval. Be authentic and remain vulnerable - a very challenging, but effective combination.

We cannot control how others show up in the world, be they friends, family, or co-workers. We can only do the hard work of managing ourselves rather than changing everyone around us. I wish others would do what I want, say what pleases me, and behave the way I would like them to behave. But that's not how life works. We can only manage the blood and bone within the shoreline of our skin. A native American story best describes this:

Once upon a time, a boy complained to his grandmother that the people in the village were annoying, his family members were demanding, the Chief made bad rules, the dogs were playing with other children, and his parents were not paying attention to him.

She kissed his forehead, smoothed his hair with a smile, and said,

"I know these things seem true to you, little one, and some are, but you cannot fix the whole world. All you can do is fix yourself.

All you can do is calm yourself.

Anger is fear turned inward. What you can do when facing disappointment is to face it with peace inside yourself.

You see, little one, if you choose to cover the entire world with deerskin so that your feet are not hurt on thorns, sticks, and stones, you will kill millions of deer. But if you just make yourself some moccasins, your feet will be protected."

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Island Angler

THE LORE OF SPORTFISHING

By Tracy Loescher

FISH AND FLOODING

Now that we have experienced about 45 days in a row of light to heavy rains in the area and river flooding is inevitable, what are the bad, and the good effects major flooding can have on salmon in our rivers? One might think there are only negative results on salmon from flooding, true it is hard on them but remember flooding is a natural occurrence and the salmon have made it through many many floods up to this point. I'm going to cut right to the bone and start with the bad/ugly part of flooding. Along with the total loss of seasonal salmon, and salmon habitat, there is the possibility that there will be loss of family homes and property.



Whole seasonal, freshly spawned eggs are washed out from their gravelly redds and destroyed, in-turn greatly reducing returning numbers of adult salmon, especially chum salmon who tend to spawn late during flood seasons. Trees that once lined the river's edge and help cool the water with shade are up-rooted and washed into the river, the sand and soil from the river banks and giant root balls get deposited on top of clean gravel bars (spawning grounds) burying eggs and habitat. Cut banks that help hide fish from predators are stripped away, rocky points that slow the river's current giving fish the opportunity to rest are dislodged and washed away, and soft back eddy waters that were good holding areas for weary fish traveling upriver to spawn are many times filled in with sediment and replaced with fast moving water. Giant log jams build up that literally change the path of the main river channel; extremely high water grabs chemicals and debris that is swept up from low lying flat lands and mixed into the river water; and once reliable, productive fishing holes are gone.



Most of my river fishing and flood water changes that I've seen first

hand have been on the mighty Skagit River. I have seen four feet in diameter, by six feet long sections of thick walled concrete drain pipe that were once buried six feet underground, and sticking out of the face of a high riverbank have been washed free and now lying on the river's edge, not just one section, but as many as three, that's approximately twenty feet of high riverbank simply gone from one season from the next! I've seen forty feet tall by three feet in diameter Fir and Alder trees stripped from the soil and lying like "pick-up-sticks" on the river's edge. During the flood of 2021 two complete homes located in the little town of Lyman were washed into the river, chewed up like they had gone through a "chipper shredder." In this same Lyman area giant boulders the size of cars that were placed in the river for erosion control by the Army Corp of Engineers many years ago were dispersed and completely gone.

Extreme heavy Flooding creates major

changes in the river system and things can look pretty rough and bad for a couple years afterwards, the habitat and fish have taken a nasty hit, however, just like in wrestling "for every move there is a countermove" and Mother Nature will slowly begin her countermove to help repair the damage. This is where the good things associated with a flood start to happen; the big beaver dams have been flushed away allowing salmon to spawn in new productive areas, log jams and root balls have slowly created pockets of soft deeper water for fish to hide in, long finger-like gravel bar islands have been deposited throughout the river that now act as natural spillways adding oxygenated water to the river plus creates white rippled (frog) water along their edges so fish can hide along these gravel bars in shallower water.



Boulders that the thundering water rolled and tumbled underwater have come to rest together creating "boulder gardens"; these concentrated boulders are now underwater backstops for moving water, allowing salmon, trout, and steelhead to rest behind them and sometimes spawn next too. Newly exposed grass roots and other plants have become good estuaries for fry and smaller fish to use as cover from predators. Worms, larva, and bugs of many types are exposed to the river and the fish will take full advantage of this new smorgasbord of food. Trenches and channels that were once too shallow to hold adult fish have been dredged out and deposited with a thin layer of sand, gravel and sometimes timbers becoming serious fishing holes that should not be passed up by fishermen. Island braids appear that have been split away from the main river bank by the chiseling water which will create new fish habitat and can become shaded areas adding to cooler water temps and protective cover channels for schools of snappy salmon and steelhead. Fallen trees that the flood flushed downriver and have come to rest in deeper soft, slow waters eventually become waterlogged and settle; root balls keep one end off the bottom which make perfect hiding areas for adult coho who love sunken timber.



There is no doubt that serious flooding takes its toll on the rivers and its

residents but just as a wildfire can bring new life to grasses, flowers, and wildlife; given time the aftermath of flooding can in many ways help the river renew and rejuvenate itself. Recovery time is the hardest part of the flood for me, it means having patience, and being prepared to go back to the drawing board to find the good fishing spots again. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Christmas, and remember to thank the Good Lord for this year's fish

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 Festive Service with Holy Communion & Choir
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 Special Music and Congregational Carols

Thursday, December 25th

9:30 a.m.
 Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 28th

10:30 a.m.
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 through scripture, poetry and songs.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Your focus sharpens as the year winds down. Career or long-term goals come into view, and your leadership stands out. Midweek reflection helps you see how far you've come—celebrate your progress.

TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 21)

A sense of adventure stirs your spirit. Whether it's a spontaneous trip or a mental deep dive, expansion is calling. Venus brings peace and warmth to relationships just in time for the holidays.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 21)

Transformation is your theme. A meaningful conversation or emotional revelation helps you shed old worries. Financial or personal renewal sets the stage for a stronger start to the new year.

CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Partnerships take center stage. Cooperation is key—work and personal alliances flourish when you lead with empathy. By the weekend, balance returns through laughter and shared plans.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Productivity flows easily. You're wrapping up projects and clearing clutter, both physically and emotionally. Health or work routines stabilize—small victories feel extra satisfying.

VIRGO (Aug 24 – Sept 22)

Your creative energy glows this week! Express yourself through writing, art, or simple joy. Someone's admiration reminds you that your dedication and heart inspire others more than you realize.

LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Home becomes your haven. A sentimental week brings family connections and comfort. Redecorate or host a cozy gathering—love and laughter refill your energy beautifully.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

Your words carry weight. A message you send or receive could spark a new direction. Stay open to learning something unexpected—it may guide your next personal step.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Finances and self-worth get a positive boost. You're finding new confidence in your skills and choices. Venus enhances charm—expect compliments or unexpected appreciation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

Your season begins! The Sun enters Capricorn, bringing fresh motivation and focus. Set intentions now for the year ahead—success grows from the steady foundation you're building.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

A quiet, introspective week helps you reset before the new year. Listen to intuition and rest when needed. By the weekend, inspiration stirs—your next big idea begins to form.

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Friendships and community light your week. Shared joy and collaboration bring fulfillment. Someone may reach out with support or opportunity—say yes, it could lead to something lasting.

Now Showing!

Thursday, December 18 Single Feature:
 Avatar Fire And Ash (PG-13)

Friday-Sunday, Double Feature:
 Avatar Fire And Ash & Predator Badlands (PG-13)

Monday, December 22 Single Feature:
 Avatar Fire And Ash

Box office, SnackBar, Arcade & Tavern open at 4pm.
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Readings by Noa



Astrology for December 19-25 2025

New Moon in Sagittarius 28°, A VERY Active Solstice Sky, Welcome Capricorn Season

December 19, brings the new Moon in Sagittarius at 28°. It features a square to Neptune at the height of its power in Pisces at 29°. This energy is calling for us to face long standing illusions and aspects of escapism that we conveniently skip over cycle after cycle hoping for different results. The ruler of this new Moon is Jupiter retrograde in Cancer, prompting a quiet internal reflection and emotional inventory about what it is that is truly calling to us. Jupiter in a square to Chiron retrograde in Aries (exact on December 21), will tug at both our heart strings and vulnerabilities around self-worth and self-respect, how we go after the things that truly matter to us. How we protect the things that we hold dear. We may get a glimpse of topics related to what we've been healing this year from a new vantage point. New perspectives and considerations. As the new Moon is generally a time for planting seeds and setting intentions, and both Sagittarius and Jupiter desire to expand through experiences, this is a potent new Moon for vision boards, channeling dreams and visions of our next explorations. What is something you are ready to explore now? What is it that you would like to learn more about? A field of study? A higher certification? What feels like home to you? What places would you like to travel? Perhaps an ancestral land? Sagittarius strives to derive meaning from its experiences. This is a time to note what big ideas mean something important to us and make a commitment in a practical direction.

On **December 21,** the Sun moves into Capricorn until January 19. Welcome Winter Solstice! The Sun shines a spotlight on the Capricorn area of our birth charts and shifts the focus toward practical matters. During the Winter season, we are more concerned with conservation of energy and resources, more focused on long-game and legacy. Capricorn energy is about commitment and consistent work over time. Coming off of the recent new Moon, we may all be pondering more deeply about our goals and creating methodical plans to reach them. Mars is already in Capricorn at this time, so there is a lot of momentum in this part of the sky. A great time to be channeling the energy into your deepest commitments. We can move mountains.

Also on **December 21,** Venus in Sagittarius squares Saturn in Pisces at 25°. This is a reality check in matters of love, relationships, and finances. Venus in Sagittarius brings up topics around personal freedom, freedom of exploration and experimentation. Venus in Sagittarius can be particularly spendy, especially on a a VIP admission, course of study or a plane ticket. Saturn in Pisces reminds us that there are limits. This is a moment where we can find that our belief systems are outdated and need an upgrade to be more aligned with who we have grown to become through the bumpy ride of 2025. It may reveal important discrepancies between business or romantic partners around life philosophies, spirituality, or religious differences. This confrontation seeks to get clear about whether we can continue to grow together in relationships. Whether our visions for the future have enough overlap to adequately tend to our moral and spiritual callings, both in the relationship and individually. Do we share similar beliefs? Do we have similar values? Necessary adjustments will be addressed based on your findings.

On **December 24,** Venus in Sagittarius squares Neptune in Pisces at 29° and then enters Capricorn until January 17. Early in the day, we have another relationship and money moment that could be challenging. The promises made. The potential deal to close. The invitation to a great investment opportunity. Is it real or is it fantasy? By late in the evening, Venus enters Capricorn joining the Sun and Mars in desiring sure-bets over fickle maybes. Creative projects and relationship desires lean towards healthy ROI and commitment. Who is long-game material? Are they telling you, or are they showing you? Take off the rose-colored glasses. Rent will still be due.



Tarot from Camano

with Tiffany FitzPatrick



December 19th – December 25th : King of Pentacles Reversed

True riches are not measured in the material. And yet when the physical reality holds there is a cost to simply existing, especially at a time where so many are experiencing such lack, it can feel supremely difficult or even callous to feel the expectation to look past the scarcity and survival, to look deeper and see the richness in ourselves, in our lives, separate from the price tag. Awareness and gratitude toward lessons learned through adversity can feel infuriating, especially if still in the grip of said adversity.

While seemingly cliché advice calls on you to count your blessings and let your heart be enveloped with the true spirit of the season, this week's card minutely amends and recalibrates the suggestion. Gift yourself a little time to look over your year and specifically take note of what you've learned, what you allowed

yourself to release, any even small steps you made toward goals, dreams, purpose. Regardless of whether you've been trained to recognize and celebrate them as such, every single item on this list you've compiled is an achievement, an accomplishment, a success. In death-by-a-thousand-cuts style, this year has asked you, "Are you willing to receive the life you desire by way of relinquishing the life and self you've held?"

Who were you last December? Have you stepped toward the version of yourself holding the dreams you envision, even in incremental degrees? In seeing your progress, how or who would you like to continue walking toward in the year to come? Your future self is eager to meet you.

This week's card quietly, yet confidently, asserts that sometimes the practical calls for the impractical. And it's in trusting that faith in yourself that you are most richly rewarded. The King of Pentacles embodies earthly pleasures and luxury and tangible abundance. And in his reversed stance, he is not indicating loss of such, but rather invites you to see the sumptuousness that is required to exist within a thing desired or acquired for it to have nourishing value. In accepting this regal invitation, you not only open your eyes to more of the abundance that exists around and within you, you also welcome in more resources.

~Xo, Tiffany

Cards are drawn from the classic Rider Waite Smith tarot deck.

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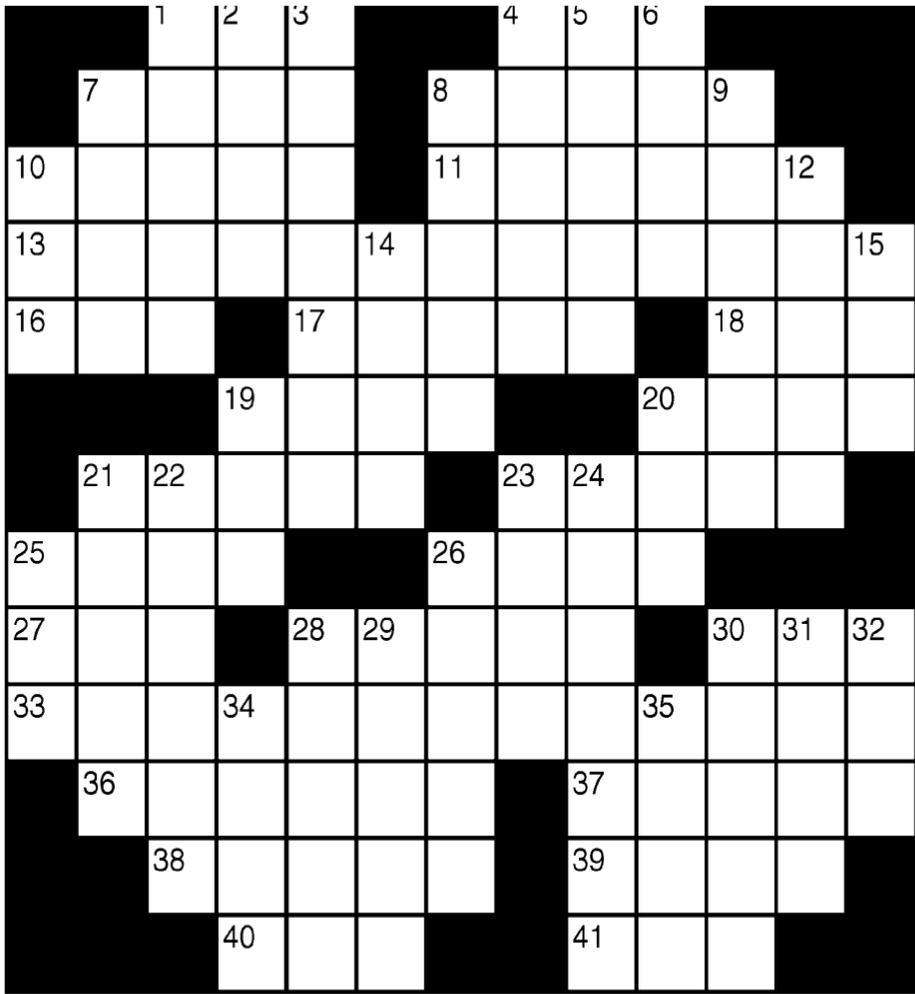
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CLUES ACROSS

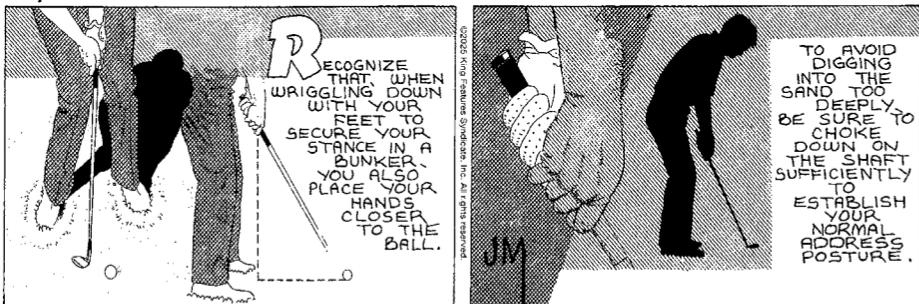
- 1 Train alternative
- 4 Tease
- 7 Former frosh
- 8 Wyoming's -- Range
- 10 Valerie Harper sitcom
- 11 Eventually
- 13 Play dough?
- 16 Observe
- 17 Concepts
- 18 Sailor
- 19 Peevish fit
- 20 Hardy lass
- 21 Winner's gesture
- 23 Seaboard
- 25 Sneaky laughs
- 26 Mediocre
- 27 Actress Gasteyer
- 28 Flinch, say
- 30 Gratuity
- 33 Work week start, for many
- 36 Some Algonquians
- 37 Smidgens
- 38 Where the action is
- 39 Family
- 40 Chang's brother
- 41 Solo in space

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Trailblazer Daniel
- 2 High hairstyle
- 3 Giving form to
- 4 Uganda neighbor
- 5 Things
- 6 Nitwit
- 7 Loafer, for one
- 8 Apartment sign
- 9 City on the Loire
- 10 Apt. divisions
- 12 Breadmaking need
- 14 Norse god
- 15 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 19 Serena, to Venus
- 20 Eastern "way"
- 21 Snake poison
- 22 "The Woman in Me" singer Twain
- 23 Couturier Chanel
- 24 African bird
- 25 Scene stealer
- 26 "The Metamorphosis" protagonist
- 28 Asian noodles
- 29 Gawking at
- 30 Giant
- 31 -- uproar
- 32 Film ratings
- 34 Challenge
- 35 The Big Easy acronym

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Fri, Dec 19	Sat, Dec 20	Sun, Dec 21	Mon, Dec 22	Tues, Dec 23	Wed, Dec 24	Thurs, Dec 25
North Isle H-45°/L-41°	North Isle H-45°/L-41°	North Isle H-45°/L-42°	North Isle H-46°/L-42°	North Isle H-46°/L-41°	North Isle H-44°/L-41°	North Isle H-46°/L-42°
South Isle H-45°/L-41°	South Isle H-45°/L-42°	South Isle H-46°/L-42°	South Isle H-46°/L-42°	South Isle H-46°/L-41°	South Isle H-45°/L-41°	South Isle H-47°/L-42°

OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week
 By Helen Mosbrooker

What is the best gift you have ever received?



Kate Mistler,
 Oak Harbor

Best gift I ever received is a tie between moving to Whidbey Island and becoming the Affiliate Director for I Support the Girls-Whidbey Island. I grew up in Kirkland and lived on Camano for 34 years and never ever had the same feeling as the first time I drove across the Deception Pass Bridge. It was like coming home, safe and peaceful. And working with people who are like minded and want to do something good for others in this island community is an indescribable gift. Nothing tangible can ever come close to the feeling I have when you look someone in the eye and see the thankful relief they feel because you have been allowed to make their world a little better and them to stand a little taller with dignity.



Greg Delano,
 Oak Harbor

The best and most meaningful gift I have ever received was a simple heartfelt creation from my son for Father's Day. The ultimate collectible! A custom made Pokemon card, designed just for me. The card features a pixelated illustration of me standing next to my son in an outdoor setting. He carefully considered every detail, from the hit points to my unique ability "Dad Jokes". I was never much into Pokemon until he came along, and this token of affection perfectly captures his creativity and the special bond we share. While the real value of Pokemon cards can be immense, the sentimental value of this specific card is truly priceless. The bottom of the card reads "Dad you are my ultimate Trainer: Happy Father's Day."



Diane Trepanier,
 Oak Harbor

My sister and I usually do not exchange gifts but one year she was having an engraved pie server made for her mother-in-law and decided to make a teaspoon engraved with the word 'Joy' on it for me. This is the best gift that I have ever received. I use it every morning at breakfast, searching high and low if it isn't in the drawer and hand washing it if it ended up in the dishwasher. This beautiful spoon reminds me of my sister and the bond we share and the joy we have during our adventures. It also leads to me contemplating about the joy I have in my life and reminds me to find joy in whatever my day holds.

Dear readers and friends,
 What a privilege, What a blessing, What a joy, it has been to me to write this column for five and a half years. That said, I am writing this to share with you, my friends, December 31st will be my last column.
 I will be moving to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to live close to my daughter, Tammy Ferguson. What an adventure! I have bought a house in Carolina Forest on an Arnold Palmer golf course .8 miles from Tammy. It looks promising that I will be writing a column - "Our community and beyond", for the Carolina Forest Chronicle.
 That said, what an opportunity for you, one of my readers to continue to provide a service and bring joy to our community!
 If you would like to be blessed and experience the joy that I have experienced over these 5 1/2 years, please call me at 360-320-1810 and we can talk.

Weekly SUDOKU

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		8			4		2	
	1		5	7			6	

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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