

January 2, 2026 - January 8, 2026

FREE

# Whidbey Weekly

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

NEWS • BITS • WHATS GOING ON • PUZZLES

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# Let's Keep it Going for WHIDBEY! THANK YOU!



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.

We're asking for financial support from all who are able to contribute:

Send checks or money orders to:  
Whidbey Weekly  
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Or donate through our ongoing GoFundMe by scanning the QR code.



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Publisher.....*Samantha Goodman*  
Editor.....*Jacob Goodman*

### CONTRIBUTE TO WHIDBEY WEEKLY

**PRESS RELEASES**.....*editor@whidbeyweekly.com*  
**ADS & WHAT'S GOING ON**.....*advertise@whidbeyweekly.com*  
**OBITUARIES**.....*obituaries@whidbeyweekly.com*  
**OUR COMMUNITY**.....*hmosbrooker@icloud.com*  
**CLASSIFIEDS**.....*classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com*  
**PUBLISHER**.....*samantha@whidbeyweekly.com*  
**CIRCULATION**.....*jacob@whidbeyweekly.com*

### Contributing Writers

*Jim Sovanski  
JoAnn Hellmann  
Merrick Parnell*

### Contributing Columnists

*Helen Mosbrooker  
Charles LaFond  
Tracy Loescher  
Noa  
Tiffany FitzPatrick  
Island County  
Historical Society  
Museum  
Whidbey Veterans  
Resource Center*

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# BITS & PIECES

## Festival Celebrates the American Story Told Through a Century of Classic Film

Film history will once again grace the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) mainstage January 8-18 with the seventh annual Whidbey Island Film Festival (WIFF). The only purely classic film festival in Washington State, the two-week run will feature the enduring charm of screen legends Charlie Chaplin and Steve Martin and will pull at the heartstrings with impactful storytelling in films like Fried Green Tomatoes. The lineup, curated by James Hinkley, captures work, community, reinvention, struggle, music, and imagination in the 11 classics curated to represent this year's theme—Americana: The American Story Told Through a Century of Classic Film.

"We invite you to come out of the cold and enjoy wonderful community in Whidbey's art hub," says WICA Executive Artistic Director and WIFF Co-Curator Deana Duncan. "Each year we literally roll out the red carpet for our patrons, bringing Hollywood to Langley and providing a space to celebrate generations of film classics."

Produced by WICA, WIFF brings in movie lovers from Whidbey and beyond to enjoy iconic classics how they were originally meant to be seen—on the big screen. The festival will kick off with a red carpet opening party and will feature a signature cocktail and bottomless popcorn. The audience-favorite Art of the Score concert will return on January 17, featuring festival Co-Curator James Hinkley playing alongside Whidbey icons Sheila Weidendorf and Gloria Ferry-Brennan. Patrons will also experience other programming, including a film talk led by Scarecrow Video's Jonathan Marlow on January 10. On January 11, WICA Costume Designer Randon Pool will lead a discussion on The Art of Illusion and the clothes we wear to deceive the world. Pool will be joined by actors Gail Liston and Charlie Walsh, two familiar faces to the WICA stage, for a visual demonstration using clothing as a tool to alter reality. On January 16, WICA's Production Director Honza Kourimsky will lead attendees in movie night trivia, a free event in Zech Hall for patrons to enjoy classic cinema moments and fun prizes, while January 18 will bring to WICA the taste of Southern comfort classics.

### 2026 Festival Lineup

#### WEEK 1 | January 8-11

**Thursday, January 8**

• *Modern Times* — 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 9**

• *The Music Man* — 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, January 10**

• *The Last Picture Show* — 1:00 p.m.

• **Talk: An American Retrograde: From The Grapes of Wrath to The Last Picture Show and Back Again** — 3:00 p.m.

• *The Grapes of Wrath* — 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 11**

• **Talk: The Art of Illusion: The Clothes We Wear to Deceive the World** — 12:30 p.m.

• *The Sting* — 1:00 p.m.

• *Pennies from Heaven* — 7:00 p.m.

#### WEEK 2 | January 15-18

**Thursday, January 15**

• *Ragtime* — 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 16**

• *Movie Night Trivia* — 5:30 p.m.

• *The Road to Wellville* — 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, January 17**

• *Matinee* — 1:00 p.m.

• *Art of the Score* — 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 18**

• *Fried Green Tomatoes* — 1:00 p.m.

• *The Secret's in the Sauce: A Fried Green Tomatoes Meal* — 4:00 p.m.

• *Cradle Will Rock* — 7:00 p.m.

As the weather becomes colder, WICA invites patrons to come inside and experience the stories within these films that continue to resonate. To learn more and to purchase tickets or festival passes, visit [whidbeyislandfilmfestival.org](http://whidbeyislandfilmfestival.org).

### Dinosaurs amongst us are birds

Whidbey Audubon Society is hosting an online program with researcher Kim Adelson at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 8. Virtually all paleontologists now agree that birds evolved from dinosaurs, and even more strikingly, they also go so far as to argue that birds are, in fact, living dinosaurs. The flood of new data coming from newly discovered fossil beds — primarily from China and eastern Europe — has only solidified that position. Come learn about the structural and behavioral similarities between birds and the more "classic" dinosaurs they evolved from. This is a technical talk with an emphasis on anatomy and not recommended for small children. Adelson guarantees that you will not only be surprised as to how dinosaur-like birds are, but also how very bird-like dinosaurs were. You will never think about T. Rex in the same way again!

The public is welcome to attend this free event. Please register on the events page of the Whidbey Audubon Society website, [whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-list/online-general-meeting-and-program-dinosaurs-amongst-us](http://whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-list/online-general-meeting-and-program-dinosaurs-amongst-us). You will receive a Zoom link to the program. Mark your calendar and tune in.

Kim Adelson was a professor of psychology for almost 30 years; she has won teaching awards at three different universities. Before she switched fields so as to focus on behavioral and intellectual evolution, she earned a master's degree in evolutionary biology. Paleontology has been one of her avocations since she was a child who wandered the halls of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. She is an avid birder and is the Vice President and Education Chair of the South Sound Bird Alliance (formerly the Black Hills Audubon Society); she is also the Southwest Region representative to Audubon Washington.

^Photo by Karen Westphal: A green heron chick with similar form as a dinosaur.

<Photo of Kim Adelson, presenter:



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## ICHS Annual Meeting

The ICHS Annual Meeting is Saturday, January 17, 1:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church Fireside Room, Freeland, WA

Our speaker this year will be Kay Knott.

Kay Knott is an elder in the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. She was raised in the Skagit Valley receiving her BA from Western Washington University. She is a parent and grandparent and served a foster parent for 15 years.



*Kay Knott, whose name means "Holy Weaver," embodies her identity through her work as a community bridge builder. With over three decades of experience in various roles, Kay has dedicated her life to fostering healing and creating connections between diverse communities.*

**Kay Knott  
Elder Upper  
Skagit Tribe**

She served as the Executive Director of the Inter-tribal Housing Authority, Directed the Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and the Director of Youthnet. She established and ran a Pregnancy and Parenting Teen program. She served on the Indian Child Welfare Advisory Board for ten years and a board member for the National Housing Authority.

Kay works with Paths to Understanding to develop Let's Go Together, a program to invite people of diverse traditions and cultures into relationship. She works to prepare groups and organizations for relationship with Indigenous communities.

Kay will be speaking about the challenges that Coast Salish Peoples are facing and how community members can be good allies.

We'll also be voting on new board members and giving updates on what was accomplished in 2025. We hope to see you there and have your input and your presence as we look forward to the new year.

## Oak Harbor Man Arrested for Arson

On December 24, 2025, at approximately 12:09 p.m., Oak Harbor Fire Department personnel responded to a report of an apartment fire in the 600 block of SE Ireland Street in Oak Harbor.

Shortly after fire crews arrived on scene, Oak Harbor Police received a report of a suspicious male who had been observed running from the area of the apartment that was on fire. Officers located the individual in the 300 block of Ely Street, where he was detained without incident.

The male was identified as Eric Turner, 32. Preliminary investigation determined that the fire originated inside Mr. Turner's apartment and was intentionally set. At the time of the fire, at least one neighboring apartment was occupied, placing residents at risk.

Based on the investigation, Mr. Turner was arrested and booked into the Island County Jail for Arson in the First Degree.

"I want to sincerely thank North Whidbey Fire, NAS Whidbey Fire, and Whidbey Health EMS for their immediate assistance and continued support. The strong partnership we share is critical when we are faced with fires or multiple emergencies. In those moments, lives and properties are on the line, and our ability to work seamlessly together makes all the difference for the communities we serve," said Oak Harbor Fire Department Fire Chief, Travis Anderson

This incident remains under investigation with the Oak Harbor Police Department and the Oak Harbor Fire Department. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact the Oak Harbor Police Department at (360) 279-4600.



## A Weekend of Jazz Rock Alchemy to Open in January at WICA

Two nights of reimagined blues and rock classics that blend jazz, groove, and fusion will open at the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) on January 2 for the first ever ReShaped series in Langley. Guitarists Troy Chapman and Honza Kourimsky will bring to the WICA campus a weekend celebrating the music of icons J.J. Cale and Eric Clapton, reinterpreted with improvisation, rhythm, and soulful energy—a delightful take on upbeat classics, reimagined for the WICA audience.

Programming kicks off with a **January 2** performance at 7:30 p.m. featuring TC Ryder and The Groovetones. With a stellar core of musicians, TC Ryder—also known as Whidbey's own Troy Chapman—Greg Beck, Brad Thomas, John Stawarz, and David Malony will delight audience members with "a heapin' helpin' of the best grooves ever to come out of the Southwest." According to the group, "you'll feel the deep groove from your toes on up, and maybe even sing along with a chorus or two."

On January 3 at 7:30 p.m., Kourimsky, a Czech-born guitarist and composer, will bring to the stage his fusion project Riding With The King, which first debuted in Scotland. An electrifying reinterpretation of Eric Clapton's legendary catalog through the lens of jazz, funk, and soul, Riding With The King is a performance that bridges improvisational depth with the emotional heart of Clapton's music. A previous Scottish Jazz Awards and Peter Whittingham Jazz Award nominee, Kourimsky's work has been featured on BBC Radio 3, Jazz FM, and RFI France. He'll be joined by an outstanding ensemble of local and regional talent: Keegan Harshman (bass), Roy Gabelein (drums), Grant Neubauer (piano), and Seattle saxophone legend Alex Dugdale, recipient of multiple Earshot Jazz Awards. Special guests include violinist Gloria Ferry-Brennan, violist Marena Salerno Collins, vocalist Audrey Stangland, and guitarist Troy Chapman.

For Kourimsky, this powerhouse lineup of Riding With The King "blends expressive solos, lush harmonies, and groove-driven energy to honor Clapton's timeless music in a bold, contemporary style."

In addition to the performances, Kourimsky will host an Improv Lab: A Practical Workshop for Guitarists on **January 3** at 11:00 a.m. Open to all levels, this workshop provides attendees with a hands-on session focused on rhythm, harmony, melody, scales, phrasing, and building your improviser voice. Attendees will explore improvising over blues and rock forms, how to outline and hit chord changes, and how to intentionally play outside without losing the thread.

Tickets for ReShaped are selling quickly, with fewer than half still available for purchase. To learn more about the events and to purchase tickets, visit [wicaonline.org/reshaped](http://wicaonline.org/reshaped).

## Small sit at Hidden Beach to see birds

Whidbey Audubon Society is hosting a quiet field trip from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, January 5 in Greenbank. The trip will focus on diving ducks (goldeneye, bufflehead, scoters) and other marine birds. No walking for this field trip just sit or stand and watch the birds. Bring a chair if you want one. The trip leader will have one scope to share, please bring one if you have one. Participants are free to come and go as they please during the two hour "sit". There is a flat paved parking area with room for 10 or more vehicles. The directions to Hidden Beach start from North Bluff Road north of Greenbank, turn east onto Neon Drive, then left on Cranes Landing Drive and then slight left on Hidden Beach Drive, which ends at the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. The closest restroom is the Greenbank Farm. There is no fee. Any questions, please contact the trip leader, Madrone Ruggiero at [poultrypalace@yahoo.com](mailto:poultrypalace@yahoo.com).

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On Setting systems rather than goals for the new year:

BY CHARLES LAFOND ISLAND FUNDRAISER, POTTER, AUTHOR, AND ESSAYIST

For years I tried to make New Year's Resolutions, and every year they lasted until the appearance of the first daffodils. They never stuck.

Perhaps I'm just not dedicated or disciplined enough. In my 20's I was an executive with the YMCA of Greater Richmond. We balanced our budget on the premise that we would see a huge surge in memberships in January, only to need to reduce the towels order by March when those Resolutions-makers trailed off from using the YMCA (and yet never stopped paying the monthly autopay dues!) In other words, we budgeted for their resolutions in January AND for their inevitable disinclination to keep them by March.

In my third book I outlined this theory: annual resolutions don't work, but daily decisions do. So here it is so that you don't need to buy another book!

The key to making changes in one's life is not to set goals but to establish and then protect systems.

If I set a goal to lose 20 pounds by June and plan to do so by running 5 miles a day and eating a ketogenic diet, then I am setting myself up for failure. That's setting goals.

However, setting systems will work because it's a daily, prompted choice and not an annual goal. A system for this desire to lose weight and eat healthily is not to place a goal in June but to place a system that sets one up for success. Taking this same example of weight loss, some systems one could set up to become healthier might include:

DAILY...

1. Set running shoes and outfit on the counter by the coffee machine.
2. Purge the house of processed foods.
3. Make a fresh vegetable run every other day to keep good food choices readily at hand.
4. Remove all pastas and sweets from the house.
5. Fast from alcohol.
6. Walk 20 minutes after each meal
7. Get 9 hours of sleep.

So, instead of setting goals way off over 12 months such as "lose 20 pounds," set daily practices that get you to a goal so that every day you are making systemic choices rather than looking down a long calendar only to get there not having lived out the systems that achieve those goals.

Rather than setting lofty goals in January, just schedule a day alone in silence (a retreat in a forest, a walk on a beach, a day in a cabin, a few hours by a fire in a hotel lobby, even a long drive alone) – spend time alone, without your iPhone on, and in silence. Watch your thoughts. They will tell you what you actually want.

There are no solutions, only tradeoffs. Every day we get up and fall down, get up and fall down, get up and fall down. But having systems set up in your life that point to and encourage THE DAILY acts that contribute to the annual hopes, is the best way to make change in one's life.

- Want to write? Put the computer or notebook and pen where you go EVERY DAY at 6:00 to write, with an egg timer set for an hour or two.
- Want to make a friend? Set up a weekly chat for 2-3 hours and always show up.
- Want to learn to paint? set up the easel in front of the TV and make TV your reward for the daily lesson.
- Want to learn an instrument? Place it on your dinner table where you pass it five times a day.
- Want to clean the house? Place the vacuum cleaner, dust cloth, Pledge, cleaning solvent and sponge in a pile on the floor where, tomorrow, you need to bend over and move it in order to ignore it.

I used to deal in annual goals, but managing daily SYSTEMS, works better for me.

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# What's Going On!

## COZY CRAFTERNOON

Friday, Jan. 2, 2-4 p.m.  
Langley Library, 104 Second St.

All ages are invited to slow down and enjoy a cozy afternoon of creativity. Craft supplies, games, puzzles and warm beverages will be provided, and participants are welcome to bring a project or game to share. Supplies provided by the Friends of the Langley Library.

## RESHAPED: A WEEKEND OF JAZZ-ROCK ALCHEMY

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 2-3

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave., Langley

Two nights of blues and rock classics reimagined through jazz, groove, and fusion. Guitarists Troy Chapman and Honza Kourimsky lead an all-star lineup celebrating the music of J.J. Cale and Eric Clapton with bold improvisation and soulful energy.

Friday: TC Ryder & The Groovetones explore the laid-back, irresistible grooves of J.J. Cale.

Saturday: Honza Kourimsky's Riding With the King delivers fresh, jazz-infused takes on Eric Clapton favorites.

A guitar workshop focused on developing personal style and improvisation is also part of the weekend. Weekend passes available.

## LANGLEY FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

Saturday, Jan. 3 | 5-7 p.m.  
Downtown Langley

Stroll through downtown Langley and enjoy an evening of art, conversation, and community. Galleries stay open late with new exhibitions, artist meet-and-greets, and a festive atmosphere perfect for a winter evening walk.

## STEAM SUNDAY: CODE IT

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2-3 p.m.  
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.

Kids ages 5-13 are invited to explore coding concepts through hands-on play with Botley the Coding Robot, Code-a-Pillar and Ozobots. This monthly STEAM program encourages curiosity, problem-solving and creativity through interactive activities. Supported by the Friends of the Freeland Library.

## TODDLER STORYTIME WITH REBECCA

Monday, Jan. 5, 10-11 a.m.  
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.,

Toddlers and caregivers are invited to jump, bounce and explore stories, music and movement designed to nurture early literacy. A playtime follows the storytime.

Additional dates:

Mondays, 10-11 a.m.: Jan. 12 and 26; Feb. 2, 9 and 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

## LEGO® BLOCK PARTY

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2:45-4 p.m.  
Coupeville Library, Meeting Room  
788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Create with LEGO® at the library. Build independently or with others using materials provided. This is a drop-in program for ages 5 and up.

Additional date:  
Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2:45-4 p.m.

## FAMILY STORYTIME

Thursday, Jan. 8, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Coupeville Library, Meeting Room  
788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family to support early literacy. A playtime or art activity may follow.

Additional dates:  
Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Jan. 15, 22, 29  
Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26  
March 5, 12, 19

## FLYING FINGERS DEAF & HOH SOCIAL

Friday, Jan. 9, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Langley United Methodist Church at Fireside Room, Third St & Anthes Ave.

We are a group of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing ASL learners. Enjoying conversations, practice signing and a surprise part is sharing in goodies. Watch for posters that lead you into Fireside Room, back section of church.

## DROP-IN TECH HELP

Thursday, Jan. 8, 10-11 a.m.  
Freeland Library  
5495 Harbor Ave.

Get one-on-one help accessing library digital resources, including e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming media and online learning tools. Bring your device for help getting started or for basic troubleshooting. No registration required.

Additional dates:

Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.  
Jan. 22, 29  
Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26  
March 5, 12, 19, 26

## HYGGE HIDEAWAY

Thursday, Jan. 8, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Langley Library, 104 Second St.

Settle in for a cozy afternoon of conversation, candlelight, simple crafts and warm tea. Bring a project you are already working on or enjoy an easy hands-on activity provided by the library. Open to adults and teens.

Additional

dates:  
Thursday, Feb. 5, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Thursday, March 5, 3:30-5 p.m.

## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Friday, Jan. 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Langley Library, 104 Second St.

Share books, songs and creative activities designed to help preschoolers build early literacy skills. A short playtime or art activity may follow.

Additional dates:

Friday, Jan. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Jan. 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Jan. 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Feb. 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Feb. 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Feb. 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, Feb. 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, March 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, March 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Friday, March 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## FANDOM FRIDAY

Friday, Jan. 9, 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Langley Library  
104 Second St.

Tweens and teens are invited to bring their favorite fandom and connect with others who share their interests. Whether it's gaming, music, books, anime, DnD, or something entirely your own, this casual hangout offers conversation, simple crafts, and snacks in a welcoming space. Snacks provided by the Friends of the Langley Library.

## LOONS AT DECEPTION PASS

Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-noon  
Deception Pass State Park, 41020 SR 20,  
Oak Harbor

Join the Whidbey Audubon Society for a free birding field trip to observe red-throated loons feeding in the outgoing currents at Deception Pass before they migrate north to breed. A Discover Pass is required.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Saturday, Jan. 10, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.

Browse hundreds of books for all ages during the Friends of the Freeland Library's monthly book sale, held in the library meeting room. Books are available by donation, or fill a bag for \$20. Proceeds support library programs, services, and

materials. Cash, check, cards, and Venmo accepted. Families welcome.

Additional dates:

Second Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Feb. 14; March 14; April 11; May 9; June 13; July 11; Aug. 8; Sept. 12; Oct. 10; Nov. 14

## READ TO JOE THE THERAPY DOG

Saturday, Jan. 10, 11:00 a.m.-noon  
Freeland Library 5495 Harbor Ave.,

Children are invited to read aloud to Joe, a friendly and patient certified therapy dog. Reading to a dog helps build confidence and strengthen reading skills by providing a calm, nonjudgmental audience. Intended for elementary-age readers, though all are welcome to stop by and say hello.

## WHIDBEY BRIDAL EXPO

Saturday, Jan. 10 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.,  
Freeland Hall, 1515 Shoreview Drive,  
Freeland |

Calling all brides-to-be. Plan your dream wedding at the Whidbey Bridal Expo, hosted at historic Freeland Hall overlooking Holmes Harbor. Meet Whidbey Island wedding professionals, explore entertainment options, discover florals and décor, and sample catering offerings.

Admission is free. This is a 21-and-over event. A raffle drawing will be held at 1 p.m. Sampling, giveaways and products for sale will be available. Hosted by Bootleg & Bridle Mobile Bar Services.

## SONGS OF FREEDOM WITH DANA LYONS

Saturday, Jan. 10 | 2-5 p.m.  
Whidbey Institute, Thomas Berry Hall  
6449 Old Pietila Road, Clinton

Renowned singer-songwriter Dana Lyons returns for an inspiring afternoon of music and storytelling. Known as an "environmental troubadour," Lyons shares songs from across America highlighting unlikely alliances working for democracy and care for the planet. Suggested donation \$15-25; no one turned away for lack of funds. Limited seating.

Additional dates:  
Feb. 14; March 14; April 11; May 9  
All dates run 11:00 a.m.-noon

## THE ART OF AWE AND WONDER: REHEARSING RESILIENCE

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2-6 p.m.  
Whidbey Institute, Sanctuary at the Heartland, 6449 Old Pietila Road, Clinton

This participatory workshop invites adults to explore awe and wonder as everyday practices of resilience through movement, music, and creative expression. Guided by expressive arts facilitators Marta Mulholland and Ruth Yeo-Peterman, participants will reconnect with inspiration, build creative community, and collaborate in short arts-based pieces for shared reflection and celebration. Suggested donation \$20-\$40.

## STORMING THE SOUND

Friday, Jan. 23, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Skagit Valley College, 2405 East College Way, Mount Vernon

Environmental educators from across the North Sound region are invited to gather for a day of learning, collaboration and inspiration hosted by Sound Water Stewards. The event features keynote speaker Chris Morgan and focuses on understanding challenges facing regional ecosystems and communities, while sharing ideas and goals for a healthier future.

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- Military & Spouse-Friendly Employment
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By Tracy Loescher

#### PREMONITION AND PLANNING

It's the New Year and now is the time to be prepared for the upcoming seasonal fishing and here is why. If you are like me and have used a specific color lure, or have a favorite natural bait, or an irresistible squeeze bottle of fish scent that have proven themselves to catch fish time after time and you have extreme confidence in these items, you will quickly become very attached to this tackle. However, companies are bought and sold, legacy knowledge can start to fade, and building materials can change. Unfortunately that once common reliable tackle color or type has been replaced or is no longer available. This is nothing new, tackle tends to change over time but it can be frustrating when it happens.

Many times that magic lure will not show itself for a long time after you originally bought it, it could be when you finally pull it free from the bottom of the tackle box or one of your little anglers look at you and say "what about this one?" No matter how it is discovered its fish catching value becomes priceless! Then the unthinkable happens, that magical lure is lost in a fish's mouth, it gets snagged up and broken off on a deep river root ball, or you could have lost track of it during the off season.

No matter how it disappeared you will now be on a mission to replace it, and finding yourself searching countless tackle shops, surfing the web like a madman, and potentially paying a crazy high price if you do happen to find one, I have firsthand experience here. I'm hoping to help steer you clear of this painful situation. This is when premonition and planning abruptly kicks in, why, because it was the only one you had.

Here are some tips on how to keep ahead of "sorry that lure is no longer available":

- Always buy a minimum of two, most of us have young anglers anyway, and two lures in the water can help put fish in the cooler.
- Pick up that proven lure in different sizes, trust me salmon, trout, and steelhead will still trigger on subtle size changes (it's the same color and basic shape).
  - Look closely on the package to see if it is a limited edition, usually it will be a limited color scheme or pattern. I think companies often test the consumer base to see how well it sells before going whole hog!
  - **"75 anniversary Limited edition color."**
  - Coordinate with a supplier or local business to buy in bulk, sometimes if a large enough order is placed the manufacturer will make a special run. My fishing buddies and I did this with a salmon trolling flasher color we loved that we couldn't find anymore. There were enough of us that fished with them. We just divided up the cost among all of us.
- Try to contact the lure manufacturer to see if they will deal directly with you. Keep in mind larger companies will probably decline due to it's not cost effective for them to make just a few. However smaller manufactures are more willing to push out smaller orders, and might consider making a run of a color scheme you have in mind.
- Visit the oldest tackle shops you can find in town while traveling, they could have some of those discontinued magical lures still on the pegs. Remember it's not just tackle shops that carry fishing tackle, boat shops, general stores, and many convenient stores will have small end of the isle (end caps) with a variety of gear.



**"75 anniversary Limited edition color."**



**This place has got to have one.**

- The most exciting option is to make it yourself if possible, with all of the crafty fishermen out there and today's endless crafting supplies, lure making supply stores and catalogs, a person may not have to rely on retail lures. One thing to consider here is start-up cost, in the beginning gathering up all of the parts needed could get a little pricey. But hey, just skip the drive thru cups of coffee for a couple weeks and you might have enough to get started.

**Rabbit fur for lure making.**

Having the forethought (premonition) of a lure going away for good, and planning for that day by stashing three or four of your favorite lures and gear away could someday make you the only fisherman that landed fish that day.

As of January 2026, the city of Oak Harbor (Oak Harbor Marina) will begin its fifth year of managing the Salmon Enhancement and Recovery Program. This program acts as an outdoor classroom for Whidbey Island residents where people can learn about the life cycle of our Pacific salmon and be part of the larger recovery effort to increase the number of salmon returning to the Puget Sound. Volunteers are always welcome to help feed and monitor the juvenile salmon for the short four month period we have them here in Oak Harbor. If you have questions or would like more information on the program, contact me at [tlfishmonger@gmail.com](mailto:tlfishmonger@gmail.com) or contact the Oak Harbor Marina at 360-279-4575.

## What Military Families Should Know When Choosing Childcare on Whidbey Island



Submitted by Ashish Batwara

A few months ago, a mom came to tour our center the week after arriving on Whidbey Island. Her husband had already reported to the base. She had two toddlers, a house full of boxes, and no idea where to start with childcare. "I just need to know my kids are safe so I can breathe," she told me.

That conversation stuck with me because it captures what so many military families feel when they get here. Finding childcare isn't just checking a box. It's finding a partner you can trust during one of the most demanding seasons of your life.

After more than ten years working with young children and their families, here's what I'd tell any parent navigating this search.

### Look for consistency first

Military life is unpredictable enough. The last thing you need is a childcare center that closes unexpectedly because they're short-staffed.

When you tour a center, ask directly: "How often have you had to close in the past year?" A well-run program will have a clear answer. You also want to know if they maintain their teacher-to-child ratios even when someone calls in sick. That tells you they've built in backup plans rather than running on the bare minimum.

### Know your subsidy options

Many military families don't realize they may qualify for help paying for childcare. MCCYN, which stands for Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, helps eligible families afford civilian care when on-base options don't work for them. Washington State also offers DSHS subsidies through the Working Connections program for families who meet income guidelines.

Not every center accepts these because the paperwork is substantial. Ask specifically whether providers participate and whether they have experience with the enrollment process. It makes a real difference.

### Ask about the people, not just the space

It's easy to be impressed by a beautiful facility, but the people caring for your children matter far more than the décor. Ask about staff credentials. Teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Education bring training in child development, age-appropriate learning, and recognizing when something's off.

Ask about turnover too. When teachers leave frequently, it disrupts the attachments children form. Centers that invest in their staff tend to keep them longer, and that stability shows up in how your child experiences their day.

### Think beyond cameras and locked doors

Security matters, but real safety is about more than hardware. Yes, look for secure entry systems with individual door codes. Exterior cameras around the building add accountability. But also ask about supervision ratios, emergency plans, and how staff communicate with parents throughout the day.

A center that sends you photos and updates through an app isn't just being nice. They're showing you they have nothing to hide.

### Understand what "curriculum" means for little ones

When you ask about curriculum, listen for approaches that follow children's interests rather than rigid lesson plans. For infants and toddlers, play-based learning isn't a lack of structure. It's how young children actually develop language, motor skills, and social understanding.

Ask how learning gets documented and shared with you. Good programs will show you examples and explain how everyday activities connect to developmental goals.

### Trust what you notice

During your tour, watch how teachers interact with the children already there. Are they at eye level with kids? Do they respond warmly when a child needs something? Does the room feel calm or chaotic?

Your gut matters. If something feels off, it probably is.

### Finding your partner

Military families give a lot to this community and this country. You deserve childcare providers who understand the unique pressures you face and genuinely want to support your children's growth.

Take time to visit multiple centers. Ask the hard questions. And when you find the right fit, you'll know. You'll finally be able to breathe.

Nidhi Gupta is the Owner and Director of Nurture with Care Kids Academy, with over 10 years of experience working with children. The academy serves families at their two Oak Harbor locations. Learn more at <https://nurturewithcarekidsacademy.com>.



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# Life Tributes

## Chelsea Raven Bonacello 02/11/1952 – 12/09/2025

Chelsea Raven Bonacello, born Candice Maria Pflaum, was born on February 11, 1952, in Detroit, Michigan to Richard Joseph Frederick Pflaum and Laurel Elaine Rhodes Pflaum. She had two sisters, Elizabeth and Robyn.

As a young adult she attended school and obtained a master's degree from Cal Arts, in California. Later she also became certified in home-healthcare and performed this service off and on after certification. She also became a Journeyman painter, and painted grand Victorian Homes on Whidbey Island, in Western Washington state, where she lived for many years. She was the business owner of Island Pride Painting and painted these beauties with the aid of cherry pickers to reach high and scaffolding to be safe. She employed several other people as her business grew.

First and foremost, she was an artist and musician. Drawing and painting with great sensitivity always and playing her cello in orchestras with soulful, mellow sounds.

She changed her name legally from Candice Maria Pflaum to Chelsea Raven Bonacello in 1977. The last name to reflect her joy in the cello and the first and middle for other personal reasons. As an artist most of all, she needed a name to reflect her personal spirit. For years when younger, she did "live" alternative theatre with very special friends. This satisfied her spirit in a very special way, like nothing else.

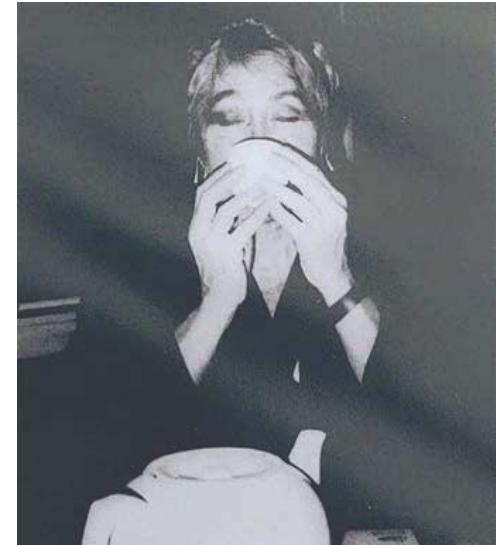
Chelsea Raven Bonacello, born Candice Maria Pflaum, lived a full, creative life practicing many arts and many skills. We are all so very proud of the courageous and creative life she lived.

We cannot end this memorial without mentioning a very, very important focus of her life. Chelsea was very active in the Feminist Movement and Gay Rights from the early 1970's throughout her life. It has always been of supreme importance to her.

Chelsea had many, many people in her life who loved her and who had good reason to appreciate her. She is missed so much more than we can say.

Chelsea died in her home, asleep in her bed, of natural causes, on December 9th, 2025. She's with God, whoever we conceive her or him to be.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and condolences at [www.whidbeymemorial.com](http://www.whidbeymemorial.com).



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

### ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

The year begins with determination and focus. Mars fuels new goals, and your energy feels unstoppable. Just pace yourself—steady progress beats quick bursts. A midweek insight sharpens your plans.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 21)

You're craving expansion—travel, new learning, or a bold shift in mindset. Venus brings harmony in relationships and optimism in outlook. Follow what feels inspiring, not just familiar.

### GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 21)

This week brings introspection and transformation. Old habits lose their hold as you clear emotional space for growth. By the weekend, a small decision could bring lasting confidence.

### CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Relationships deepen under gentle cosmic light. You're ready to build stronger bonds through honest dialogue. A partnership—personal or professional—proves more supportive than expected.

### LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

New routines fuel success. Structure brings peace, and organization sets the tone for 2026. Friday's energy boosts motivation—recognition comes when you balance ambition with kindness.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 – Sept 22)

Creativity and romance blossom! A joyful start to the year invites you to express your unique style. Someone's admiration reminds you that your quiet effort never goes unnoticed.

### LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Home is where your heart recharges. Spend time with loved ones and restore balance before work demands pick up. Weekend energy encourages grounding through beauty and simplicity.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

Your voice carries power this week. Communicate your ideas with confidence—others are ready to listen. Travel, meetings, or short projects go especially well under midweek stars.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Finances and priorities align. You're reassessing what truly adds value to your life. Smart budgeting and thoughtful planning strengthen your foundation for the year ahead.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

It's your moment, Capricorn! The Sun highlights your sign, bringing visibility and fresh motivation. Step into leadership roles with confidence—your steady approach inspires trust.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

Take things slow and listen to your inner rhythm. Rest, reflection, and quiet creativity help you prepare for big moves later this month. Clarity grows from calm.

### PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Friendships energize you! A group effort or shared vision takes shape early in the week. Collaboration brings joy—and may even lead to an exciting opportunity.

# Readings by Noa

*Astrology for January 2 - 8 2026*

**Full Moon in Cancer 13° and Venus/Mars Conjunction in Capricorn**

On **January 2**, Chiron stations direct in Aries at 22°. This pulls a lot of focus toward our healing journeys, the progress we've made on addressing old wounds, and the confidence we have cultivated in these areas since late July 2025. What have you had to look at and feel through more deeply during this time period? Especially topics related to self-respect, self-assertion, impulsivity, ego imbalances and connection to true desires? Chiron direct amplifies the vibrant and very present emotions of tomorrow's full Moon in Cancer. It asks us to get vulnerable with ourselves and others and in all matters of the world, to take care. How are you caring for yourself? For your inner life?

On **January 3**, the first full Moon of the year arrives powerful and bright. In its home sign of Cancer at 13° and in a trine to the North Node in Pisces at 10°, feelings are loud and strong. They are pulling at us to pay attention to them today. Something in the Cancer area of your birth chart is complete now. (Visit [readingsbynoa.com](http://readingsbynoa.com) to book a reading.) The full Moon illuminates emotional results of past actions and cycles. The Cancer/Capricorn axis will make us aware of the adjustments required to balance public vs. private or work vs. home life. The Moon opposes the Sun/Venus/Mars in a Capricorn conjunction, roping in themes around commitments and care in relationships. What are you committing to? Are you including a commitment to yourself? What responsibilities are complete or need attention now? What does emotional integrity mean to you? What direction feels aligned for you now? The truth of our feelings are alive. Can you feel them in your body? Where? Allow your intuitive nature to guide you now. This is a pivotal moment in a powerful week.

On **January 6**, the Sun conjuncts Venus in Capricorn at 16° and on January 7, Venus conjuncts Mars in Capricorn at 18°. January 5-10 might be described as a very magical pocket of time, as Sun/Mars/Venus all conjunct exactly on January 9. The spotlight of the Sun amplifies how the cosmic lovers are getting along. How we are getting along. Through the lens of Capricorn, we are more interested in the practicality and endurance of our most beloved connections and how to strengthen their foundations. This transit will be amplifying ambition and the goals that we have both in our personal lives and public legacies - and especially in regards to romantic pursuits. We can be more open to love, more social, more driven to pursue our desires and creative projects. This is a potent time to invest in something you believe will have a solid ROI, whether physically, financially, socially, or emotionally. Overall, this is a very fortunate time, and we would all do very well to utilize it responsibly. Making offers or accepting offers could be happening now. Meeting important people. Take action on something that matters to you. What do you want to grow? Move in that direction and make an offering on the altar of your desires under this sky. Know and commit to your boundaries, your values. Say yes.



**January 2nd – January 8th :  
Nine of Cups**

And so the new year begins. Your resolutions are written, and even those that have sworn off the tradition tuck a few intentions close to the vest. Determination will persevere far for many, but others find themselves meeting the frustration of resistance in pursuing certain goals. Resistance which continues to firm up against your progress throughout the week, like concrete setting.

This hold is not a matter of willpower forcing submission to your new routine. This week's card is your quiet invitation to listen to the resistance. Which is quite different than blind obedience, but rather, to what is the resistance drawing your attention? Are your resolutions in your own best interest, or are they what you believe is expected of you? Are

your goals in alignment or controversy to what your body, your soul, your heart truly needs of you?

You can have nearly anything you desire, except that which would help you to betray or abandon yourself. You're not lazy. You're conflicted. Ask yourself what's holding you back, ask again, and again, deeper, then address what you hear, lovingly.

It's only ever you against you, bb. But the only way to 'defeat' your personal Bowser is to get him, or rather you, on your own side. Dare to dream, big and outlandish. Yes, about what you want from these next twelve months, but also beyond. And then ask yourself why you cannot have what you want. Through this inquiry you're provided a series of equations to resolve to move the needle ever closer to your goals.

Now you know how to adjust the scope on your future, but your stubbornness and your vice grip are like an anchor on the sea floor while raising the sails. If your hands are already full of past treasures you've been unwilling to release, you'll not be able to take hold of all you've been wishing and calling forth. Do the paperweights bring you joy? Are they guiding you toward who you're becoming? Unload all that is combatting the wind at your back. You do not need to bear the weight of the library for the stories to always walk with you. ~Xo, Tiffany

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

Discover more at: <https://linktr.ee/tiffanyfitzpatrick>

Cards are drawn from the classic Rider Waite Smith tarot deck.  
Receive your own detailed reading by emailing me at: [tiffanyfitzpatrickco@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanyfitzpatrickco@gmail.com)

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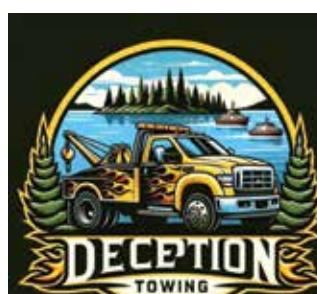
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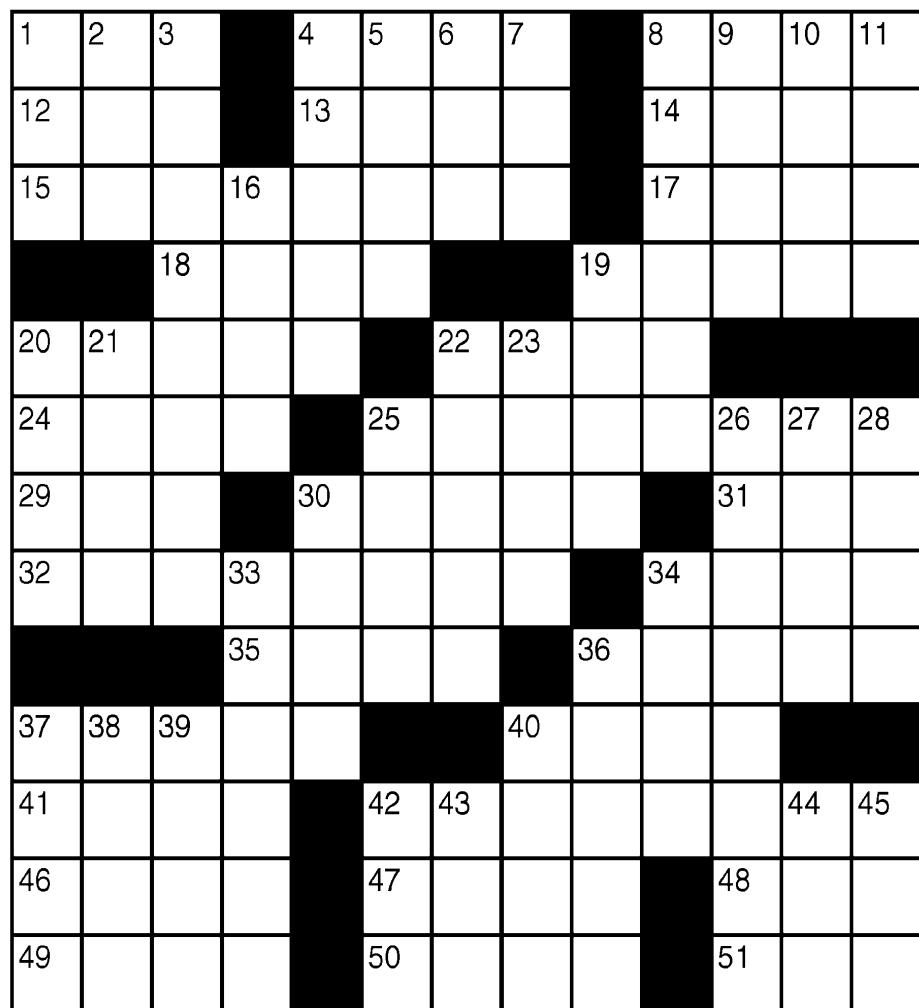
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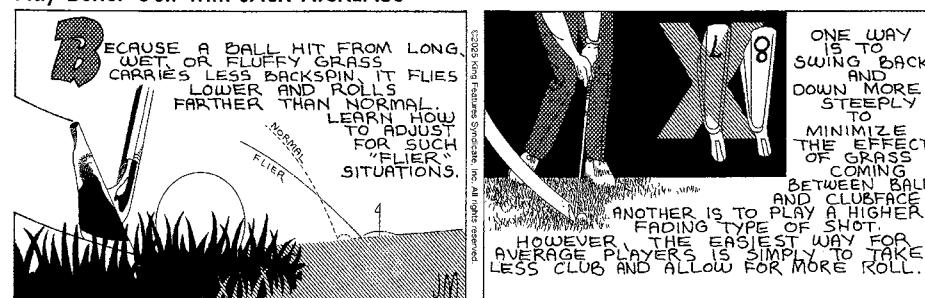
**CLUES ACROSS**

1 Ship's sail  
4 Some TVs  
8 Corned beef recipe  
12 Terre Haute sch.  
13 Greek vowel  
14 Iso-  
15 Flop  
17 Pop's sister  
18 Coated with gold  
19 Is boastful  
20 Forest clearing  
22 Satiate  
24 Partially mine  
25 Screwdriver type  
29 -- Lanka  
30 Warning  
31 Compass dir.  
32 Sailing challenge  
34 Wound cover  
35 Breaks down  
36 Piles  
37 Pink hue  
40 Seniors' org.  
41 Each  
42 Unexpected gain  
46 Story  
47 Shoppe descriptor  
48 24 horas  
49 Building wings  
50 Yale students  
51 Conclude

**CLUES DOWN**

1 Skippy rival  
2 "This -- stickup!"  
3 Sofia's land  
4 Rummage (through)  
5 Stallion-to-be  
6 -- standstill  
7 Plopped down  
8 Fireplace part  
9 Water color?  
10 Crooned  
11 Chart toppers  
12 Pot covers  
13 Cigar remnant  
14 "Holy cow!"  
15 Entice  
16 Secluded spots  
17 Cooking fat  
18 Move like a butterfly  
19 Adventure  
20 Now, in a memo  
21 Society newbies  
22 Missing GI  
23 Curtains  
24 Lowly worker  
25 Devil's domain  
26 Blanchett of "The Aviator"  
27 Milky gem  
28 Sandwich bread  
29 "The King --"  
30 Misery  
31 Under the weather  
32 Architect Maya  
33 Young fellow

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Answer on page 11

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Fri, Jan 2	Sat, Jan 3	Sun, Jan 4	Mon, Jan 5	Tues, Jan 6	Wed, Jan 7	Thurs, Jan 8
North Isle H-48°/L-44°	North Isle H-51°/L-45°	North Isle H-50°/L-44°	North Isle H-46°/L-40°	North Isle H-47°/L-41°	North Isle H-46°/L-39°	North Isle H-46°/L-4p8°
South Isle H-49°/L-45°	South Isle H-50°/L-46°	South Isle H-49°/L-44°	South Isle H-45°/L-39°	South Isle H-45°/L-39°	South Isle H-44°/L-38°	South Isle H-44°/L-38°



# OUR Community

## An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What are you most looking forward to in 2026?



### Marilee Paddock, Oak Harbor

As I look ahead to 2026, I want to focus on nurturing my health and well-being so that I can show up fully in every part of my life. I hope to be truly present with my family, listening deeply, offering support, and sharing moments of joy and understanding. I want to approach others with kindness, patience, and compassion, giving my time and energy to help those who need it. Above all, I want to live with intention—making choices that reflect my values, fostering meaningful connections, and treating each day as an opportunity to grow, care, and contribute. I hope this year will be defined by presence, love, and thoughtful action, as I strive to live more fully and meaningfully in every moment.



### Antonio Barber, Oak Harbor

In 2026, I'm most looking forward to being fully present for my family and continuing to live with purpose. After losing both of my parents, my perspective has completely shifted. I no longer wait for the "right time" to make memories or say what needs to be said, I do it now.

I'm excited to keep building the life they would've been proud of, from being a better husband and father to growing the dreams I once put on hold. Every day feels like a chance to do something meaningful, whether that's coaching my kids, finishing my education, or just sitting still and being grateful.

2026 isn't about chasing more, it's about embracing what matters most.



### Talia Toni Marcus, Langley

I am looking forward to open group gatherings. Mornings at the Island Athletic Club, Musical Luncheons at the Monday Open Table Langley United Methodist Church, Presentations at The Sno-Isle Libraries & Game Nights, Church Services, kids school performances, Art Walks, Welcome the Whales Parade, Meals & Events & Exercise Classes given by Senior Resources of Island County, The Renaissance Faire, The Island County Fair, and playing violin with the sizzling Whidbey Community Choir concerts in Oak Harbor and volunteering with Re-purpose Whidbey and other Whidbey Prepares organizations. Joy in Community.



### Mark Lucero, Coupeville

It is Christmas day as I write my answer to this question. It is a season of darkness with the hope of returning light. What I most look forward to in 2026 is that our hopes as a community and as a nation will be realized. I hope that new light will reveal to us that our common bonds and shared values far outweigh our differences. I hope for a robust return of civil discourse and meaningful conversation with each other. I hope for a spirit of cooperation between us as we find creative solutions to the very real challenges facing us. I hope we will once again trust the guiding stars of generosity, gratitude, and compassion. I look forward to the demise of cynicism and the return of hope. May it be so.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate    ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer on page 11



THANK YOU FOR READING WHIDBEY WEEKLY | REDUCE ➔ REUSE ➔ RECYCLE



# Let's Keep it Going for WHIDBEY! THANK YOU!



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.

We're asking for financial support from all who are able to contribute:

Send checks or money orders to:  
Whidbey Weekly  
P.O. Box 1098, Oak Harbor, WA, 98277

Or donate through our ongoing GoFundMe by scanning the QR code.

