

January 16 - January 22, 2026

# Whidbey Weekly

FREE

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

Locally Owned • Locally Operated

NEWS • BITS • WHATS GOING ON • PUZZLES

COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS

## *In the Bleak* **Midwinter**

*chamber music of reflection and repose*

23 January | 7:00 pm

Debussy  
Schubert  
Bruckner  
Poulenc  
Vaughan Williams

UUCWI  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of  
Whidbey Island  
20103 SR525 - Freeland

*Suggested Donation - \$25*



Information

[www.sowhidbey.com](http://www.sowhidbey.com)



# Whidbey Weekly NEWS



www.whidbeyweekly.com

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

JANUARY 16 - JANUARY 22, 2026

## Everyone Refers to CADA

Compiled by Samantha Goodman | Whidbey Weekly



What happens when a community builds its domestic violence response around a single door—and that door starts to narrow?

When someone on Whidbey Island discloses domestic abuse—whether to a church, a county office, a shelter, or a community organization—the response is remarkably consistent.

They are referred to CADA.

CADA was established to provide crisis support services for residents of Island County. Since 1979, the organization has served Whidbey Island by offering assistance to individuals experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and other forms of interpersonal harm. The organization operates on the principle that no one should have to navigate a crisis alone. Its programs are designed to provide confidential support, safety planning, and practical assistance to people facing traumatic situations. Services are built around collaboration, informed choice, and respect for the needs and circumstances of each individual seeking help. CADA maintains a 24-hour crisis hotline and provides support throughout Island County. The organization works to remain accessible to community members in moments of immediate need, as well as during longer-term stabilization and recovery.

Whidbey Weekly contacted several churches, county human services staff, behavioral health administrators, homelessness service providers, and regional shelters. Without exception, domestic violence and sexual assault cases were either referred directly to CADA or described as being outside the scope of the organization's primary mission. This consistency is not accidental. It reflects how domestic violence response has been intentionally centralized on Whidbey Island over decades. CADA's crisis hotline provides medical and legal

advocacy, and manages the only domestic violence shelter in Island County.

The concern lies not in CADA's role, but in how much the system relies on it.

Everyone relies on CADA—and CADA is being asked to do more with fewer resources.

### The scale of the work—and the limits

In the most recently completed fiscal year (July 2024–June 2025), CADA served:

- 438 domestic abuse survivor
- 124 sexual assault survivors
- 411 after-hours crisis line calls
- Emergency shelter is available for up to nine families at a time, with each family able to stay for a maximum of 90 days. The shelter is consistently at full capacity.
- 131 individuals seeking shelter who were unable to be placed

These numbers understate the pressure. Each shelter bed costs approximately \$60,000 per year to operate. Even when every bed is continuously occupied, demand far outpaces capacity. Halfway through the current fiscal year, CADA has already served 530 clients, equaling last year's total—with a staff of four. A year ago, the organization had nearly double that staffing.

CADA's leadership describes the work as "bearing witness"—sitting with survivors, affirming that what they are experiencing is real, and helping them calibrate what a healthy relationship looks like. This is not crisis intervention alone. It is sustained, relationship-based advocacy.

And that is exactly what has become harder to fund.

### When the grants still exist—but can't be used

Over the past year, CADA lost approximately 25 percent of its operating budget, with more reductions anticipated. Its budget fell from just under \$1 million to roughly \$689,000, even after securing

\$89,000 in private foundation grants. The funding losses are not simply about fewer dollars. They are about new constraints.

Across federal agencies and state pass-through funders, grant language has tightened. Organizations now report that they cannot:

- Use terms such as sexual assault, interpersonal violence, or gender-based violence
- Engage in advocacy as a named activity
- Serve LGBTQ clients using certain grant funds
- Maintain full client confidentiality without collecting immigration or citizenship data

In effect, grants still exist—but only if organizations are willing to stop naming abuse accurately and limit who they serve. For CADA, that makes many grants functionally unusable.

### The referral loop

What has become apparent is not only a question of funding, but of structure. Across Island County, domestic abuse and violence cases are consistently directed to the same place:

- Churches refer individuals to CADA
- County staff refer individuals to CADA
- Homelessness service providers refer individuals to CADA
- Island County's own website directs related inquiries to CADA

CADA remains available through its crisis hotline and support services. However, limited shelter capacity and staffing constraints mean that some individuals seeking housing or immediate placement are turned away—not because services have ended, but because there are no additional options within the existing system.

Other organizations across Whidbey and Fidalgo Island serve populations with overlapping needs. Many report that a significant portion of their clients have experienced prior unsafe or destabilizing situations. However, their missions and funding structures differ:

- Some organizations rely primarily on local churches and individual donors
- Some focus on short-term financial assistance, such as rent, utilities, or basic needs
- Some operate larger shelters but must triage intakes and rely on short-term hotel placements
- Some are less affected by recent funding changes because they do not receive federal support

These organizations play an essential role in the community. However, none provide the same combination of crisis response, coordination with medical and legal systems, and confidential emergency shelter that CADA offers.

As a result, individuals seeking help for these concerns are often directed back to the same organization—sometimes repeatedly—because no parallel, specialized system exists within Island County.

### Behavioral health: adjacent, but not equivalent

County behavioral health administrators acknowledge the overlap but stop short of ownership. Domestic violence is often framed as adjacent to behavioral health rather than integral to it. Media inquiries are redirected up administrative

chains. Protocols exist, but responsibility is diffuse. The result is that domestic violence response floats between systems—criminal justice, behavioral health, housing, nonprofit advocacy—without being fully claimed by any of them. CADA, meanwhile, is expected to hold it all.

### Community generosity is not a substitute for public responsibility

CADA's leadership notes that community fundraising efforts have been strong—more than \$120,000 raised last year, with similar projections this year. These contributions help sustain services, but they are not positioned to replace large-scale public funding reductions tied to crisis response and emergency support.

Several church-supported organizations on Whidbey Island operate primarily through local contributions, often totaling tens of thousands of dollars annually. These funds allow them to provide important, targeted assistance, but they are not structured to support continuous or countywide crisis response. Larger agencies maintain broader fundraising efforts and manage multiple grant sources. Even so, they acknowledge uncertainty as county and state budget decisions approach, particularly for services connected to emergency housing, stabilization, and crisis intervention. Taken together, these conditions point to a shared challenge: sustaining crisis response services requires stable, predictable funding that extends beyond community donations alone.

### The risk we are quietly accepting

When a single organization serves as the primary point of access—and demand exceeds capacity—the effects are often unseen.

- Response times lengthen.
- Immediate placement becomes less available.
- Some individuals disengage from seeking help altogether.
- Meanwhile, unsafe situations continue without intervention or support.

Whidbey Island has built a system where one organization is expected to carry the weight of an entire category of harm—and that system is now under strain. The question facing the community is not whether CADA should exist. It is whether we are willing to acknowledge what happens when the only door we point people to is not receiving the adequate funding to hold them all...

---To Be Continued

This series will continue in next week's issue of Whidbey Weekly, available Friday, Jan. 23, with a closer look at funding structures, service capacity, and long-term sustainability.



# BITS & PIECES

## Public Health Alert: Possible Measles Exposure

On January 8, 2026, the Snohomish County Health Department issued an alert regarding confirmed measles cases in the region. Most importantly for our community, a potential exposure occurred on the Mukilteo-Clinton Ferry on December 30, 2025, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

What you should do: If you traveled on the ferry during this time or visited other listed locations:

Check your vaccination status.

Monitor for symptoms.

Contact your healthcare provider AND Island County Public Health at (360) 678-2301. You can find our Communicable Disease contact info here: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/305/Communicable-Disease>

Measles is highly contagious and can stay in the air for up to two hours. Please help us protect Island County by sharing this alert widely.

Find the full list of exposure sites and health guidance in the official release here: <https://www.snohd.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/902>

\*UPDATE as of 1/9/2026: Please note the family did not disembark from the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry onto Whidbey Island; at present, no other Island County locations are being flagged.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Hearts & Hammers Community Fundraising Dinner

North Whidbey Hearts & Hammers, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to strengthening our community by repairing homes for local families who are physically or financially unable to do the work themselves, invites the public to a special Fundraising Dinner at Living Word Church. All proceeds will directly support home repairs and upgrades for neighbors in need throughout North Whidbey Island.



Join Us for an Evening of Food, Community, and Impact

The fundraising dinner will take place at Living Word Church, located at [insert address], featuring a night of delicious food, uplifting community spirit, and opportunities to learn more about how Hearts & Hammers helps local homeowners. Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to our mission, this event is a great chance to connect with friends and neighbors while making a real difference.

### Why It Matters

North Whidbey Hearts & Hammers brings together volunteers and donors to help repair homes for residents who are unable to take on essential maintenance and repairs on their own. The organization is entirely volunteer-run, from board members to skilled workers, and relies on community support to purchase materials and supplies. While we have minimal operating costs, the vast majority of every donation goes directly toward building materials and home repairs that help families live safely and independently.

In addition to supporting critical repairs like painting, yard work, decking, flooring, and more, attendees will have the opportunity to meet volunteers, learn about upcoming workdays (including our 6th annual Workday on May 16, 2026), and find out how they can get involved through volunteering or sponsorship.

### Event Details:

- **Date:** February 07, 2026
- **Time:** 06:00 PM
- **Location:** Living Word Church, Oak Harbor, WA

Bring your friends and family — your participation helps ensure that neighbors can continue to live with dignity in the homes they love.

About North Whidbey Hearts & Hammers

Founded on the simple idea of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," North Whidbey Hearts & Hammers organizes volunteers to repair and maintain homes for homeowners who are unable to do the work due to physical or financial limitations. The annual Workday and ongoing volunteer efforts strengthen our local community, one home at a time.

## Habitat for Humanity of Island County Celebrates Home Dedication in Freeland

Habitat for Humanity of Island County is proud to announce the completion of its Holmes Harbor home in Freeland and will host a Home Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. to celebrate this milestone with the homeowner, volunteers, partners, and community supporters who helped make it possible.

The Holmes Harbor home represents the power of partnership and community investment in creating affordable homeownership opportunities in Island County. Supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP), Community Frameworks, and generous local donors and volunteers, this project brings a new, safe, and affordable home to a local family.

"This home is the result of months of dedication, teamwork, and shared commitment to strengthening our community," said Lori Stahl, Family Services Manager at Habitat for Humanity of Island County. "A home dedication is more than a ribbon cutting, it's a moment to honor the volunteers, partners, and supporters who helped make this possible and to celebrate a family beginning a new chapter."

Home dedications are a long-standing Habitat tradition, symbolizing the completion of a build and the beginning of homeownership. During the ceremony, attendees will hear reflections from Habitat staff and partners and celebrate the homeowner's journey to homeownership.

Community members, volunteers, donors, and media are invited to attend and share in this celebration.

Event Details: What: Holmes Harbor Home Dedication Ceremony When: Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Where: 4966 Spearview Place, Freeland, WA

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Island County or how to support affordable housing locally through volunteering, donating, or partnering, visit [www.islandcountyhabitat.org](http://www.islandcountyhabitat.org) or contact [resource@islandcountyhabitat.com](mailto:resource@islandcountyhabitat.com)

# Warm your soul with a Winter Stroll

January 24, 2026 • 2-5PM

Stroll the participating downtown Oak Harbor merchants for cider, hot tea, cocoa & treats!



[www.oakharbormainstreet.org/events](http://www.oakharbormainstreet.org/events)



## KEEP THIS NEWSPAPER GOING CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

Whidbey Weekly

**WHIDBEY WEEKLY**  
PO BOX 1398, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Thank you for supporting these *always free* community newspapers. Coming soon, new looks, more content, and more resources for you!



Scan Here to make a one-time donation to our community newspaper. Thank you!

PHONE: 360-682-8283

WHIDBEYWEEKLY.COM



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

Contributing Writers

Jim Sovanski  
JoAnn Hellmann  
Merrick Parnell

### 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 Columnists

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

Volume 18, Issue 03 | © MMXXVI Whidbey Weekly

PUBLISHED and distributed every week. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. The Whidbey Weekly cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services supplied by advertisers in this publication. Articles, unless otherwise stated, are by contribution and therefore the Whidbey Weekly is not in a position to validate any comments, recommendations or suggestions made in these articles. Submitted editorial is NOT guaranteed to be published.

DEADLINES: The Whidbey Weekly is a submission based editorial with contributing writers. Please feel free to submit any information (please limit to 200 words) that you would like to share with the Whidbey Weekly. You may submit by email to editor@whidbeyweekly.com, postal mail to PO BOX 1098, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, check back in next week's issue. Submitted editorial is NOT guaranteed to be published. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date. For more information, please visit www.whidbeyweekly.com.



WE'RE HIRING!



APPLY NOW TO BE A RECREATION LEADER

Join our growing team and turn the vision of new, innovative recreational programs into reality! If you have a passion for sports, the arts, inspiring play or promoting well-being, you belong on our team.



TEACH CLASSES



BE A SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR



HELP RUN NEW SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND LEAGUES



PROVIDE FUN, SAFE SPACES FOR ALL



FOR MORE INFO:  
WWW.OAKHARBOR.GOV  
(360) 279-4580

YOUR ROLE IN BRINGING SMILES TO YOUR COMMUNITY IS WAITING!



APPLY TODAY AT: WWW.GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM/CAREERS/OAKHARBOR

### Community Arts Center Looks Ahead to the Next Three Decades

For nearly 30 years, the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) has been an arts hub in Langley, Washington, bringing music, theatre, visual art, dance, and the humanities to the island. In May of this year, WICA will be celebrating three decades on Whidbey, an anniversary that will acknowledge the grassroots work that brought the organization to this moment, and the efforts to continue that for the next three decades.



"30 years ago, the dream that is the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts took flight—it was the culmination of a community collaboration of artists, city and school district leaders, founders, and funders," says WICA Board Vice Chair Kathy Wilson. "These 30 years have produced bold and innovative programming, magical experiences and a commitment to partnerships with other nonprofits in support of their work. We are setting the stage for the next 30 years of inspiration in this precious place we call home. Your support makes this all happen."

In preparation for the celebrations later this year and to ensure the sustainability of the arts organization into the future, WICA is embarking on a comprehensive and strategic renovation, set to begin in January.

"WICA has been a beacon for the arts for decades," says Executive Artistic Director Deana Duncan. "During that time, we've grown as an organization, both in our programming and in the organization's physical space. As we look ahead to what the future of the arts looks like in this region, we recognize the need to continue to grow and adapt—ensuring WICA remains an integral part of our community. This begins with a renovation that will take WICA into the next three decades."

The renovation, which will begin after the curtain closes on the Whidbey Island Film Festival on January 18, will include:

- New flooring in the lobby and new carpet throughout the lobby and Mainstage
- New paint throughout the lobby and Mainstage
- A refreshed lobby space
- New Mainstage seating

A new stage floor, stage curtains, and acoustic paneling in the Mainstage

The new theatre seating, which will replace the 30-year-old chairs in the Mainstage, will upgrade the patron experience with a new look and feel that will elevate the space. Patrons are invited to take part in a new chair campaign, with naming rights available for the seating. To learn more about this, contact WICA's Development Manager Rachel Cook at Rachel.Cook@WICAonline.org.

WICA will remain open throughout the renovation, with programming moving to the organization's black box theatre, Zech Hall. Throughout February, the Local Artist Series will bring in a fresh lineup of community favorites, sharing everything from jazz to acoustic sets within the warm and welcoming Zech Hall space. In addition to the Local Artist series and other community events, WICA's production of Murder on the Links will open on February 20 in Zech Hall for a three-week production run. Within the intimate setting of Zech Hall, patrons will experience an up-close look at theatre in this Hercule Poirot mystery by Stephen Dietz. Directed by Lani Brockman, recently of WICA's The Cake and Fiddler on the Roof, this witty take on Agatha Christie's iconic detective will leave viewers wondering whodunit up until the very end.

In March, WICA's Mainstage and lobby will reopen with an evening performance by Whidbey Island Orchestra, the first programming event scheduled for the renovated spaces. Celebrations will continue into May, with the anniversary weekend featuring The Rural Characters and Heggnes Valley Band on May 14 and 15 followed by Whidbey Island Orchestra events May 16 and 17. On May 28, WICA will be welcoming GRAMMY-winning bassist, composer, and bandleader Christian McBride & Ursa Major to the Mainstage with music that spans jazz, R&B, hip-hop, pop, and classic traditions. The first half of 2026 will be impactful at WICA, with the organization focused on ensuring it remains an essential part of the fabric of our community.

"As we prepare to celebrate 30 years of outstanding performances and art, we look back with gratitude for those who put their heart and soul into making WICA so great," says WICA Board Chair Peter Ehrlichman. "We thank all those who are supporting our center for the arts at this time, ensuring it remains the gem of South Whidbey for years to come."

To learn more about WICA's upcoming programming, renovation updates, and 30th Anniversary celebrations, visit [WICAonline.org](http://WICAonline.org).

### Conservation District Hosts 3rd Annual Great Whidbey Seed Swap, a Free Community Connection Event

Whidbey Island Conservation District will host its third annual Seed Swap on Saturday, January 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST, bringing together hundreds of community members for a free event focused on sustainable living, food security, and meaningful connection.

The community gathering invites growers of all skill levels to exchange seeds, learn from local educators, enjoy live acoustic music, contribute to food banks, and learn to repair clothing. The event, which has steadily grown since its inception, draws attendees from across the region to participate in voluntary conservation efforts that support locally grown food, sustainable living, and engaging in the food systems.

Seed Swap participants are encouraged to bring seeds to exchange, but bringing seeds is not required to join the event. Seed envelopes will be provided to take seeds home. A selection of seeds will also be donated from High Mowing Seed Company and Deep Harvest, as well as a variety of heirloom seeds grown on Whidbey for generations.

The food pantry table encourages attendees to bring unopened, non-perishable items that don't require refrigeration for community members to take as needed. No prepared foods will be accepted. Additionally, Whidbey Island Menders will provide free, on-site clothing repairs - for example, fixing holes, covering stains, darning socks and other small repairs. Individuals are asked to bring no more than two items for the mending volunteers. Whidbey Menders provides services and education for fabric repair but cannot help with hemming, tailoring, or alterations at this time.

The accessible event space ensures all community members can participate in this celebration of sustainable living and local connection. No registration is required, and all activities are free of charge.

### The Great Whidbey Seed Swap



Sunday, January 25th  
11am to 3pm

at YMCA Camp Casey  
1276 Engle Road

Bring seeds to share, clothes to repair,  
and non-perishable items for shelves that are bare

Parking is available across Engle Rd  
or along the road inside Camp Casey



Register at [whidbeycd.org/events](http://whidbeycd.org/events)



# What's Going On!

## FRIENDS OF THE COUPEVILLE LIBRARY POTLUCK BUSINESS MEETING-NEW DAY & TIME!

Sunday, January 18th from 12-2pm  
Coupeville Library Meeting Room  
788 NE Alexander St.

Join us and bring a friend and dish to share! All are welcome to attend to hear the Friends news about: 2025 wrap-up, plans for 2026 and volunteer opportunities! We look forward to seeing you there!

## 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.

## STATE PARK FREE DAYS

Monday, Jan. 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Washington State Parks (Whidbey & Camano Islands)

Enjoy free day-use entry and parking at Washington state parks on designated Free Days—no Discover Pass required. Whidbey and Camano islands offer exceptional opportunities for hiking, beachcombing, wildlife viewing, and fresh air, including access to Deception Pass State Park.

## 2026 Free Days Schedule

- March 9 — Billy Frank Jr.'s Birthday
- March 19 — State Parks' Birthday
- April 22 — Earth Day
- June 6 — Free Fishing Weekend
- June 7 — Free Fishing Weekend
- June 19 — Juneteenth
- Aug. 9 — Smokey Bear's Birthday
- Sept. 26 — National Public Lands Day
- Oct. 10 — World Mental Health Day
- Nov. 11 — Veterans Day

Free days apply to day-use parking only; other fees and activities may still apply.

## 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.

## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER: CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Friday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island  
20103 SR 525, Freeland

A reflective evening of chamber music and spoken word offering stillness and renewal after the holiday season. Featuring seasonal works by Debussy, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Holst, Bruckner, Schubert, and others, performed by Whidbey Island musicians in an intimate setting.

Suggested donation: \$25  
All are welcome.

## WAYS OF WHALES WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Coupeville High School Performing Arts Center  
501 S. Main Street, Coupeville

Join Orca Network for its annual Ways of Whales Workshop, a full-day gathering focused on whales, marine ecosystems, and conservation in the Salish Sea. The program features presentations from regional experts on orcas, humpback whales, harbor porpoises, salmon recovery, and whale sighting networks, along with a panel discussion on salmon success stories.

Lunch is available on site, and the popular silent auction returns with online and in-person participation options.

Cost: \$50; \$40 for students and seniors.

## AUDITIONS: WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 24-25 | 1-3 p.m.  
Whidbey Playhouse Star Studio  
730 SE Midway Blvd., Suite A, Oak Harbor

Whidbey Playhouse will hold auditions for Women Playing Hamlet by William Missouri Downs. Auditions will include cold and prepared readings from the script. Scripts are available for checkout through the box office.

The production opens April 10 and runs weekends through May 3. Rehearsals begin the last week of January and will be held in person up to four times per week. Please bring a headshot and résumé if available, and be prepared to share any scheduling conflicts.

## RENT

Starting Jan. 30 through Feb. 22  
730 SE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor

Whidbey Playhouse presents the groundbreaking rock musical following a group of artists in New York's East Village as they pursue love, creativity and connection in the face of uncertainty. Contains mature themes and is recommended for adult audiences. Tickets \$25.

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY

*Tracing Life Through the Salish Sea*  
**Florian Graner - Opening Keynote Speaker**  
*marine biologist, international filmmaker, ocean advocate*  
*"Orca Eco-cultures and What They Tell Us"*

**elin kelsey - Closing Keynote Speaker**  
*international speaker on science-based hope, author, educator*  
*"How to be Hopeful: Empowering Practices to Overcome Despair and Act for Climate Justice"*

8:00 am - 4:00 pm | Cost \$70 | Registration Required

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

Coupeville High School on Whidbey Island

## Includes Elective Classes:

### Elective Class Topics - Our Marine Environment

Bluff Geology · Cartography by Kayak · Stream Anatomy · Invasive Green Crab · Salmon Conservation · River Otters · Sea Star Comeback · Pigeon Guillemots · Butterflies · Seabirds as Sentinels · Ocean Acidification · Marine Vegetation · Storm Water Mitigation · Global Warming & Pinnipeds · Indigenous Storytelling & Stewardship · Marine Science Degrees · and more...

## A One-day University for All Presented by Sound Water Stewards

Correlating field trips available on Sunday, February 8, 2026  
<https://www.soundwatersuniversity.org>



Sound Water Stewards - a 501(c)(3) non-profit

## Imagination Cove

Children's Museum

WHERE PLAY & LEARNING THRIVE

Mala Sooknanan

Jaylynn Sybrant

PARTY POPS

Whidbey Yard Cards

INDOOR PLAY - PARTY SUPPLIES - YARD CARDS - BALLOON BAR

CRAFTS - STEM KITS - USBORNE BOOKS - CUSTOM APPAREL & DECOR

230 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-246-4676

# Everyone is a Reader.

## Audiobooks. eBooks.

## Graphic Novels.

## FREE with your library card.



Get started today!



sno-isle.org/GetACard



WHIDBEY IN MIND | TURN ME INTO A SEEDLING POT





LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Imagination Cove Children's Museum

# Parents' Night Out

Join us for Parent's Night Out at the Imagination Cove Children's Museum!

Ages 5+ Pizza will be provided for dinner.

Dates: 1/15, 2/13 Magic Show, 3/17 St. Patrick's Day  
4/22 Earth Day, 5/14 Movie Night

5pm-7:30pm

Admission: \$40 (1st child)  
Additional sibling \$20ea  
Members discount \$30

- Reserve now: [www.imaginationcovecm.org](http://www.imaginationcovecm.org)
- Contact us: [info@imaginationcovecm.org](mailto:info@imaginationcovecm.org)
- Call: 360-246-4676



scan to sign up



By Tracy Loeschner

## WINTER STEELHEAD "THE FISH OF A THOUSAND CASTS"

During the winter/spring months of January through April returning winter steelhead fishing is on the top of countless anglers list. The steelhead (rainbow) trout is in a class of its own, many fishermen have an unrelenting drive to catch steelhead. If you have ever fished for rainbow trout in a lake or stream you know the fierce fight that is naturally built into these fish. As a whole the average freshwater rainbow trout are one to two pounds, they have beautiful spots and bright coloring on their bodies. These one to two pound fish are great fun to catch on a medium to light action fishing rod. Now imagine that scrappy fighting fish weighing in at 18 to 25 pounds, that's the steelhead! Now you're going to have to switch to a medium heavy or heavy action fishing rod in an attempt to tame this incredible fish. Why is the name steelhead attached to this rainbow trout?



While in saltwater the rainbow trout develop a brilliant gunmetal grey head, their polished metallic head is all part of the chrome and white torpedo like body, these colors provide perfect camouflage for them in the pacific ocean. I believe when they are in this ocean color condition is when people often place the steelhead in with the salmon family, however, they are still very much in the trout family.

< Beautiful chrome steelhead



Other things to admire about steelhead versus salmon is most of them will continue to feed while migrating to their spawning spots, and they do not perish after spawning in their home rivers. They do change colors in the river from the bright chrome and white to a beautiful display of dark green and red, and are known as "kelts" while in this phase of life.

< Spawning colors (kelt)

Once they have spawned, nature pulls them back towards the saltwater, and on their journey back to the salt they become even more ravenous feeders, putting on the pounds that were lost during the spawn, by the time the fish re-enters the saltwater, they will have transitioned back to their chrome and silver color pattern. This aggressive feeding while traveling both up and down the river can be a time where the angler's odds of hooking the steelhead are greatly increased. I fished the Skagit River quite often for hatchery winter steelhead from 2005-2013, during this time the hatchery steelhead were not plentiful but if we put our time in on the river we would generally catch one or two rod bending fish. Hooking the fish was not the problem, the problem was finding them, a thousand casts could be made before a fish was finally hooked. Along with casting for steelhead we had good success with back trolling plugs from a driftboat, this method allowed us to cover large stretches of the river and seek out the steelhead that were hiding in the boulder gardens, cut-banks, and fast/slow water seams. "Dr Death", metallic copper, and the "Clown" color patterns produced the most fish, but we also hooked fish on spinners, spoons, and twitching jigs.



Dr Death was deadly at times ^

Unfortunately in 2013 the Marblemount fish hatchery was presented with a lawsuit from the Wild Fish Conservancy Groupe located in Duvall Washington for the following reason: (The state discontinued the release of early winter steelhead smolts from the Marblemount Fish Hatchery in 2013. This change was made as part of a legal agreement reached between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Wild Fish Conservancy on April 25, 2014, which imposed a 12-year moratorium on the release of Chambers Creek steelhead into the Skagit River system. The decision was related to concerns about the impact of hatchery fish on the declining abundance of wild steelhead).

Winter hatchery fish returned for a couple years after the lawsuit closure but are no longer in the river system today. The conservancy group's lawsuit to halt winter hatchery fish introduction into the Skagit River has not produced any positive scientific effect on wild steelhead returns to the Skagit River. I too would like to see incredible numbers of wild steelhead in the Skagit River system, but the hard truth is; solely removing hatchery fish from the system will not get the results they want. There are too many other variables that must be considered and addressed to accomplish their goal, variables like commercial harvesting, tribal netting in the river, and ocean conditions. In my opinion the hatcheries normal rearing restrictions on total numbers released, the time of year they were released, and the healthy fish that were introduced into the river did not negatively impact or severely interfere with the migrating non-clipped fish. But it only increased wonderful opportunities for anglers and added thousands of dollars to the Skagit River Valley economy.



normal rearing restrictions on total numbers released, the time of year they were released, and the healthy fish that were introduced into the river did not negatively impact or severely interfere with the migrating non-clipped fish. But it only increased wonderful opportunities for anglers and added thousands of dollars to the Skagit River Valley economy.

< I believe a healthy hatchery program has a helpful purpose and not a hindrance

When you do catch your first steelhead no matter what river it comes from you will never forget it, their incredible power and beauty is simply unforgettable! The thousands of casts and endless hours spent in search of these fish is justly rewarded when the end of your fishing rod bends sharply towards the water. Cold weather, high water levels, and easily spooked fish make them challenging and will surely test the best fishermen's patients. Like I said, the powerful steelhead is in a class of its own and one-of-a-kind.

Now is the time to check the condition of your rods, reels, and tackle. Get prepared for more fishing options as spring approaches. Be safe out there and **GOOD LUCK FISHING!!**

*Art Sale*

Deer Lagoon Grange is seeking local artists to participate in an Art Sale  
\$25 fee to partipate  
12% commission on all sales

For more information contact the curator at [jobar@whidbey.com](mailto:jobar@whidbey.com)

February 7 and 8th  
10am to 5pm  
at Deer Lagoon Grange Hall  
5142-Bayview Rd, Langley

Like us on: **facebook**®

Whidbey Weekly

360-682-8283  
[www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com)

## On the Freedom of Escaping our "Impressive Prisons"

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

"I need to be seen and judged 'good,' in order to stay in this village, and so too, kept alive. If I am shunned, I'll be alone and defenseless."



Admit it. If anyone said this to you, you might suggest a suicide hotline or a brandy. We would be deeply concerned if a friend or family member said this to us. But we need to face the reality that humans have evolved over 200,000 years, since the Pleistocene Epoch<sup>1</sup>, to carry this thought within us almost every waking hour and even in some sleepful hours.

Even though we now live modern lives with miracles like Post-it Notes and homes with doors that lock, our 200,000-year-old brain development is stuck in the fight-or-flight, freeze-or-fawn mode of human survival – the animal, the chimpanzee in us, just wants to pass on its genes. That's all. Nature has no opinions. It wants to survive to make more babies and will do the most extraordinary things to achieve that. Our caveman and cavewoman, thinking of 200,000 years ago, have not kept pace with changes in how we communicate, gather, and access information over the last mere 20 years.

In my 30s, I had a dream in which I was on a 19th-century wooden theatre stage with stage lamps around its rim. The stage was lit by these lamps, but the house, where the audience sat, was very dark because the stage lights were in my eyes. I was alone on the stage and wondered who was watching me perform, so I asked into the darkness, "Hello? Hello? Is anyone out there?"

One voice came from the vast, black, open theatre, saying, "I am here, just me. Proceed with the performance." The voice sounded cheerful, smiling, approving. But it was my own voice I was hearing come from that darkness.

So then I walked right up to the flickering lamps until they warmed my shoes with their flames. I bent over the edge of the stage and looked to my left and then to my right, and suddenly saw thousands of stages to my left and thousands to my right. Each had the semicircle of stage floor lamps. Each had empty seats in the vast, black audience spaces in front of them, and each stage had one person on it, asking their theatre if anyone was out there watching them.

We all want to be seen. Even as children, we constantly crave our parents' attention. Boys ask their dads, "Dad, watch me do this!" and girls ask their moms, "Watch me do this!" We want to be seen. We want to be judged worthy. We want to stay in the tribe and in the village because there is safety in numbers, whether the threat is a Saber-toothed Tiger or if the threat is a sudden deadly virus passed on my touch or breath.

**So what do we do to get out of this terrible cycle, this prison, of caring so much about what others think of us?** How do we detox from wanting a spouse, a boss, a staff, a committee, a friend, or a neighbor to be impressed by our Lexus, our front gate, our beautiful clothes, our corporate logo, or the menu of our dinner party? I suggest three things:

1. Get a dog or a god. We all benefit from unconditional love, whether real or imagined.
2. Rebel against your shame and shift your attention from shame to observation. In other words, downshift the fears of rejection and upshift your willingness to watch your thoughts and kindly wonder about them.
3. Make every choice – that is, every purchase, every clothing choice, every car purchase, every virtue-signaling attempt – make every choice based on what you would choose if you lived alone on the planet, as if there were nobody to impress.

The good news and the bad news is that in 60 years, most of what we did, said, and purchased will be wiped off the face of the planet, except what's left at the local thrift store. For some, that is a horrible reality, but for many of us, it is a liberating freedom from prisons of imagined expectations. Personally, I like to set myself free.

<sup>1</sup> Pleistocene Epoch, often called the "Ice Age," spanning 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago, is characterized by glaciers and iconic megafauna like mammoths and saber-toothed cats, alongside the evolution and spread of we humans (Homo sapiens), ending with widespread extinctions and the transition to this warmer Holocene Epoch in which we now live.

**Our Caregiver/Owners come to YOU in Skagit & Island County!**

<b>Personal Care Services</b> bathing, dressing, meals, & meds	<b>The Little Things</b> shopping, errands, transportation, companionship, social engagement
<b>Home Management Support</b> housekeeping, meals, laundry, & pet care	<b>Extras</b> respite, dementia care, end of life

**360-474-2560**  
[www.heartsong.coop](http://www.heartsong.coop)

# WATCH REPAIR & BATTERIES

Allow Linds to help you with all your watch repair and watch battery needs. All repair estimates are FREE.

1609 E. Main St • Freeland • 360-221-6111  
[www.lindswhidbeyisland.com](http://www.lindswhidbeyisland.com)  
Monday-Saturday 10-5, Closed Sunday

**Your Donations Are Always Needed and Appreciated!**

**NORTH WHIDBEY HELP HOUSE**

**Your Community Food Bank Since 1977**  
1091 SE Hathaway St • Oak Harbor

# DONATIONS NEEDED

**We could use your help with these items:**

- Pasta
- Large cans of fruit
- Big family size Ravioli/stew/chili
- Regular size cans (15oz) of tomato products

1091 SE Hathaway St • Oak Harbor • 360-675-0681

# Whidbey Weekly

**SECURE YOUR ADVERTISING FOR THE YEAR**  
Advertising space available for Aent with a one-year contract.

*Plan ahead. Lock in placement. Show up consistently in your community.*

\$1,200	Back Page	9.875" X 16"
\$1,500	Front Cover :	9.875" X 11.375"
\$450	Front Cover Banner Ad:	9.875" X 1.5"
\$900	Full Page with headers:	9.875" X 14.5"
\$700	3/4 Page:	7.3563" X 10.8125"
\$475	1/2 Page (horizontal):	9.875" X 7.125"
\$475	1/2 Page (vertical) :	4.838" X 14.5"
\$250	1/4 Page (horizontal) :	9.875" X 3.438"
\$250	1/4 Page (vertical) :	4.838" X 7.125"
\$140	1/8 Page (horizontal) :	4.838" X 3.438"
\$140	1/8 Page (vertical) :	2.319" X 7.125"
\$95	1/16 Page (horizontal) :	4.838" X 1.594"
\$95	1/16 Page (vertical):	2.319" X 3.438"
\$65	1/32 Page :	2.319" X 1.594"

**Call for Details: 360-682-8283**  
**OR SCAN TO SECURE**

**WHY COMMIT?**  
Priority placement  
Rate protection  
Consistent visibility  
Limited space available

**DISCOUNTS**  
10% for nonprofits — always  
20% off for bi-weekly ads  
30% weekly ads for the year

**Secure your ad today.**  
Local businesses. Local readers.  
Real reach.

# Planning ahead is simple. The benefits are immense.

Contact us today to discuss  
pre-arrangements or transfer  
of existing arrangements.

**WALLIN  
STUCKY  
FUNERAL HOME**

1811 NE 16th Ave • Oak Harbor • 360-675-3447 • info@wallinfuneralhome.com  
5533 East Harbor Road • Freeland • 360-221-6600  
www.wallinfuneralhome.com



## Life Tributes

### Robert Edward Wolfe (Rob) September 20, 1964 - December 19, 2025

Robert Edward Wolfe (Rob) passed away in his sleep December 19, 2025. Born September 20, 1964 in Ravenna, Ohio, he was a young 61. He will be greatly missed; we are content knowing he now rests in God's grace and peace. Rob was very knowledgeable in a multitude of areas. He would talk to anyone and everyone and could converse on any topic in a light hearted and humorous way that made others comfortable. He was a world traveler from childhood, living in Guam, Hawaii, Japan, and Washington State. Beyond that he has traveled throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, England, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Croatia, and many places. He also loved the outdoors, fishing, hiking, reading, writing poetry, going to church, and more. He graduated from Zama American High School in Japan, attended the Coast Guard Academy, and Washington State University. He will be buried at Tahoma National Cemetery.



Rob is reunited in death with his loving wife Linda (Bishop) Wolfe, and his father John Allen Wolfe. Rob and Linda were the best matched couple and did everything together and for each other. They lived in Battleground, WA, traveled the world, and raised and loved on their Golden Retrievers. They especially enjoyed spending time at their cabin on Lopez Island, spending time with friends and family, and were very generous with all. It was our pleasure knowing Rob and we pray to one day meet him again.

SERVING OUR WHIDBEY COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS AND COUNTING

**Whidbey → SeaTac**  
Shuttle & Charter

BOOK YOUR  
WINTER BREAK  
TRAVEL  
NOW



Direct Nonstop Service Between  
Whidbey Island &  
Seatac International Airport

360.679.4003 | www.seatacshuttle.com



# Habitat for Humanity®

of Island County

## Online Store



islandcountyhabitat.org/store

Unique finds at affordable prices

\*prices listed include sales tax\*

For inquiries or to see items in person

email: [onlinestore@islandcountyhabitat.com](mailto:onlinestore@islandcountyhabitat.com)



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



*Astrology for January 16 - 22 2026*  
New Moon in Capricorn 28°, Welcome Aquarius Season

On **January 16**, Mercury in Capricorn squares Chiron in Aries at 22° and will be applying a conjunction to Mars that is exact early in the morning on January 18. This puts a lot of pressure on words, conversations and exchanges. Although we have the opportunity to dig into some important topics in the hopes of progress, they are likely not easy to face. Words can come off harsh despite good intentions. It's clear that things need to be discussed so we can make a plan to move forward, but touchy subjects can poke at trigger points now. Insecurity can creep. If you find yourself challenged by something someone said, this is a great sky for taking a step back and sitting with it (although probably difficult in the moment). The Moon at this time is also in Capricorn, on its way to its new Moon phase (January 18). We want solutions and next steps, but physical energies and emotional capacities are likely pretty low despite our will or skill to present otherwise. Meet important conversations with temperance, tact, and a firm stance in the present moment. Be honest about your capacity with yourself and others. We may not feel understood or understand others clearly right now. As we become privy to critical information, the solution may take time to surface. Avoid band-aid solutions. Slow it down.

On **January 17**, Venus enters Aquarius until February 10. Venus in this position calls for the innovation of our relationships and financial or material matters. Pleasure becomes associated with freedom. We find joy in getting into our own unique versions of weird. Venus in Aquarius puts focus on friendship. The groups, communities, and social causes that we care about become more enjoyable or we can get inspired to cultivate them. Love weaves in themes of unconventionality and the sharing of ideas. Flirting involves intellectual stimulation. With progressive thinking, the heart is future-forward now. What ideas are you opening your mind to? Who can you call a friend?

On **January 18**, the Moon becomes new in Capricorn at 28°. Also today, Mercury conjuncts Mars in Capricorn at 26°. Whatever conversations or hot topics have been brewing since the crunchy exchanges around January 16, they land today and are roped into the energy of this new Moon. Finally, something becomes clear. We do and say something new. We plant seeds of intention to go in a particular direction. Yes to this, no to that. Speaking our desires like spells in the soil. Important and consequential conversations happen today and in the coming lunar cycle (28 days) that inform us of next steps. Presence and focus is advised. Pay attention. This moment calls for our participation. This Moon is about practicality, reliability, and integrity, especially in our material and physical endeavors. This is business. The Sun and new Moon trine Uranus retrograde in Taurus at 27° and sextile Saturn and Neptune in Pisces at 27° and 29° respectively. Make no mistake. This is an incredibly potent day. Support from the outer planets brings support from the universe itself. What steps need to be taken now so we are available for what's next?

On **January 19**, the Sun enters Aquarius until February 18. Welcome Aquarius season! The Sun shines a light on the area of our birth charts ruled by Aquarius. Where is that for you? (Book a reading at readingsbynoa.com) This season brings more emphasis to technology, social awareness, and humanitarian causes. Rebellion is on the rise, as systems old and new prove ineffective in their ability to serve the well being of humanity as a whole. The Sun is applying a conjunction to Pluto, exact January 23, followed by Mars on January 27. Both collectively and individually, tensions are rising for the rest of the month. What does freedom mean to you?

On **January 20**, Mercury enters Aquarius until February 6. Mercury joining the Aquarius party in the sky blows a big gust of wind on (hopefully metaphorical) fires started already. Mercury wants to debate. Mercury wants innovative solutions. We may become introduced to a next layer of technology or decide to embrace it in our daily lives after much skepticism. Intellectual advancements are highlighted. Also on January 20, Saturn in Pisces sextiles Uranus retrograde in Taurus at 27°. Overall, this day is very busy. Mentally, we have a lot of ideas, and thankfully, a plan is becoming clear to execute. The plan is a guide. Let something unexpected surprise you. Let go of expectations and flow with what is happening while staying committed to the goal.

Enjoy the weeklies?  
Support a small and women-owned business! Donate or join the membership at <https://buymeacoffee.com/readingsbynoa>  
Want a personal reading?  
Visit [readingsbynoa.com](https://readingsbynoa.com) to book your session or gift a friend.  
Follow me on Instagram: @readingsby\_NOA



**January 16th - January 22nd :  
Ten of Swords**

Candid from the flip, this week's card challenges, can you deliver truth even when the message doesn't at first appear optimistic or silver lined? Can you stand in the potential discomfort of stating what is needed without people-pleasing? Are you ready to see that your words have value, you have value, even when you cease curating around the fear of the delicate sensibilities of others.

The ten of swords appears gruesome, and so, too, is the system collapse that occurs when we push ourselves too far without proper rest or care. For some, only the most visceral and jarring of imagery effectively reaches those simply too busy to be anything other than invincible and the epitome of health displayed. Please remember that

rest is biologically imperative, and not something to be earned when enough has been accomplished according to some arbitrary rulebook or task list.

Death, violence, brutality, what it all means, and what it's all been for, is thick in the air and heavy on many a mind at this time. There is a scale rarely conscious or discussed coming unto display, directing awareness and asking, how much pain are we willing to tolerate, how much blood are we willing to see spilt, to hold tight to an acceptable measure of perceived benefit from the status quo? This observation and shifting of the weighted scales is what breaks open toxic power dynamics and ignites the oppressed to become survivors, determined to heal, rebuild, and discover how to create structures and boundaries so they're "never going back".

Some will dismiss it as fever delirium, but some will let themselves see, in those quite moments of physically demanded rest, simply taking in the view rather than doomscrolling or overstimulating with electronics, the matrix makes itself visible, rippling across the waves or etching along a cloud contrast. Is this the life you want, or the life you're accepting? Where are you going through the motions as you feel life happening to you, something to be endured day-to-day? Let this clarity seep in, and alight where you'd like to rewrite the code, and release your NPC role to become the main character in your own story.

~Xo, Tiffany

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

Personalized alchemy available at: <https://linktr.ee/tiffanyfitzpatrick>

**Now Showing!**  
**Friday, Jan. 16 - Sunday, Jan. 18**  
**David (PG)**  
**&**  
**King of Kings (PG)**

Box office, Snackbar, Arcade & Tavern open at 4pm.  
First movie starts at 7pm.  
11 & OVER \$6.50\* • KIDS 5-10 \$1.00\* • 4 & UNDER FREE \*CASH PRICES  
**GO KARTS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON**  
1403 N MONROE LANDING RD • OAK HARBOR  
360-675-5667 • [www.bluefoxdrivein.com](http://www.bluefoxdrivein.com)

**DECEPTION PASS TOWING**  
**360-929-2862**  
3063 OAK HARBOR RD • OAK HARBOR, WA 98277

**ONLINE AD SUBMISSIONS  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Advertising in the Whidbey Weekly is an investment in your business and your community.

Whidbey Weekly

PO Box 1398 • Oak Harbor • 360-682-8283 • [www.whidbeyweekly.com](http://www.whidbeyweekly.com)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
20	21	22				23						
24					25					26	27	
28				29						30		31
	32		33							34		
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50					51		

CLUES ACROSS

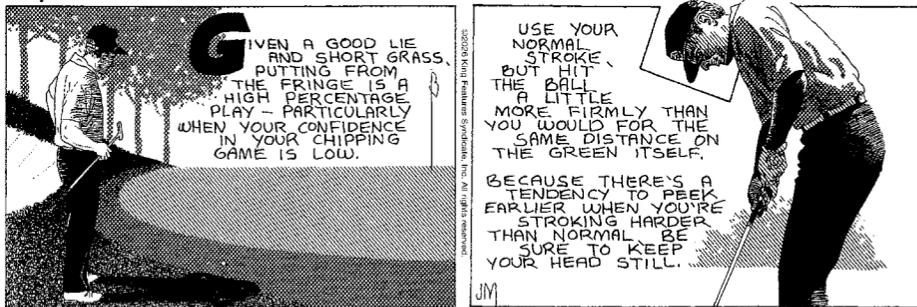
- 1 Post-WWII alliance
- 5 Life story
- 8 Quick kiss
- 12 Challenger's words
- 14 Oklahoma tribe
- 15 Misses an opportunity
- 16 Without acting
- 17 Prattle
- 18 Contacts, e.g.
- 20 Vowel group
- 23 "-- Misbehavin' "
- 24 Japanese noodle
- 25 Anthology
- 28 Pvt.'s superior
- 29 To the third power
- 30 Green shade
- 32 Cruised in style
- 34 Furnace fuel
- 35 Region (Abbr.)
- 36 Natural talents
- 37 Nap
- 40 Extinct bird
- 41 "Hulk" star Bana
- 42 Distributes
- 47 "Smallville" girl
- 48 Coffee bar order
- 49 Org.
- 50 Two, in Toledo
- 51 Campus VIP

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Zilch
- 2 Hubbub
- 3 Prof's aides
- 4 Salem's state
- 5 Invitation initials
- 6 Debtor's letters
- 7 Summarized
- 8 Unspecified travel destination
- 9 LAX postings
- 10 Natalie or Nat
- 11 Piano pieces?
- 13 Isaac's eldest
- 19 Author Bagnold
- 20 Ger. neighbor
- 21 Jittery
- 22 Speck
- 23 Fossil resin
- 25 Incensed
- 26 Atop
- 27 Bicycle part
- 29 Guitarist Atkins
- 31 Gore and Pacino
- 33 MD's diagnostic order
- 34 Stopped
- 36 Dutch word for "farmer"
- 37 Actress Ward
- 38 401(k) relatives
- 39 Drei minus zwei
- 40 Star athletes, briefly
- 43 Equi-
- 44 Sugary suffix
- 45 Mex. neighbor
- 46 Great weight

Answer on page11

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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

Fri, Jan 16 North Isle H-47°/L-34°	Sat, Jan 17 North Isle H-46°/L-35°	Sun, Jan 18 North Isle H-45°/L-35°	Mon, Jan 19 North Isle H-44°/L-37°	Tues, Jan 20 North Isle H-44°/L-39°	Wed, Jan 21 North Isle H-44°/L-39°	Thurs, Jan 22 North Isle H-44°/L-40°
South Isle H-48°/L-38°	South Isle H-48°/L-38°	South Isle H-47°/L-38°	South Isle H-47°/L-38°	South Isle H-47°/L-40°	South Isle H-45°/L-40°	South Isle H-47°/L-41°

**OUR Community** An Upbeat Question of the week  
with Helen Mosbrooker

Looking back on 2025. What accomplishments are you most proud of?



**Khy Benedetti,**  
Oak Harbor

I joined the Federal workforce as a Project Manager for a US Navy telecom engineering team in late 2024. I had been with this organization since 2013, being hired as a contractor after retiring from a 24-year Navy career. I was excited about the opportunity to contribute to my organization in a more impactful way and, though government jobs don't usually pay as well, I was looking forward to the job security that is associated with Federal employment. Throughout the entirety of 2025 my assumptions were turned upside down, and I found myself on a seemingly endless rollercoaster ride. So, the "accomplishment" I am most proud of in 2025 was, with the steadfast support of my wife and children, making it through one of the toughest years on record to be a "probationary" Federal worker.



**Janette Alhanati,**  
Oak Harbor

In early 2025, I was honored to receive the Rising Star and Most Inspirational awards within my brokerage. While it was incredibly meaningful to be recognized, what mattered most to me was what those awards represented. I've always tried to show up with integrity, care, and a genuine desire to help, whether that's with clients, colleagues, or people in the community.

My goal has never been about titles or recognition, but about creating positive experiences and being someone others can count on. These awards reminded me that leading with kindness, consistency, and a good attitude truly makes a difference. Being able to grow my real estate career while building real relationships and contributing in a meaningful way to the community I serve is something I'm truly proud of.



**Julie Trobaugh,**  
Oak Harbor

I don't tend to take accomplishments on myself because I give all the glory to God for what he has done through me for others. He gives me the opportunity and ability to serve in my community and my family, and I'm forever grateful for the place that He has put me here and in the PNW and Oak Harbor. If I had to nail down one thing, I serve on the year-round team with Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, as the church coordinator. Our team serves four counties from the Canadian border to Stanwood and all the islands; serving community members, individuals, businesses, and churches in many aspects of training and equipping them to pack shoeboxes which reached children in more than 100 countries worldwide, including our own. This year I was able to be involved personally with packing parties which exceeded my expectations and our collection of shoeboxes locally and in our area was multiplied by 30%. Touching the lives of children around the world, as well as in our own community, impacting future generations, that is an accomplishment that I can be proud of.

**KEEP THIS NEWSPAPER GOING  
CONTRIBUTE TODAY!**

Whidbey Weekly  
**WHIDBEY WEEKLY**  
PO BOX 1398, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Thank you for supporting these *always free* community newspapers. Coming soon, new looks, more content, and more resources for you!

Scan Here to make a one-time donation to our community newspaper. Thank you!

**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆ Moderate ◆◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc. Answer on page11

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### FIREWOOD

**Firewood**  
(360) 320-4316  
Cut, Split, Delivered and Ready to Burn

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

### FOR SALE



For Sale  
**1969 FORD F-250**  
"Camper Special" 360  
Great body and runs well.  
**\$5,750.**  
TEXT "TRUCK"  
to 206-947-8078 With your  
contact info please.

Firewood for sale. Two  
years seasoned. Alder \$250/  
cord, plus delivery charge.  
Text "WOOD" to 206-947-  
8078 with contact number  
you can be reached at.

### IN SEARCH OF

-CALLING ALL ARTISTS-  
Deer Lagoon Grange is  
seeking local artists to  
participate in an Art Sale  
February 7-8, 2026  
• \$25 entry fee  
• 12% commission on sales  
• Limited to 20 artists total  
Reach out TODAY!  
To apply or learn more,  
contact the curator:  
[jobar@whidbey.com](mailto:jobar@whidbey.com)

Art, Antiques & Collectibles.  
Cash paid for quality items.  
Call or text 360-661-7298

Was your Dad or Gramps  
in Japan or Germany? I  
collect old 35 mm cameras  
and lenses. Oak Harbor.  
Call 970-823-0002

### RESOURCES

**Family Resource Center**  
723 Camano Ave, Langley. 360-  
221-6808 ext 4321  
School supplies, coats, warm  
clothing, resource connections.  
Mon-Wed 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thurs  
9 a.m. - 12 noon, or by appt.  
[readinessstolearn.org](http://readinessstolearn.org)

**Mother Mentors**  
360-321-1484  
[info@whidbeymothermentors.org](mailto:info@whidbeymothermentors.org)  
Carregiving mentoring and  
play support, [mothermentors.org](http://mothermentors.org)

**I Support the Girls**  
360-678-2090 [isupportthegirls.org/affiliates/whidbey-island](http://isupportthegirls.org/affiliates/whidbey-island)  
Essential health and hygiene  
items for women and girls.

**Island Senior Resources**  
360-321-1600  
14594 SR 525, Langley  
Multiple 50+ programs and services.  
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
[senior-resources.org](http://senior-resources.org)

**Pamoja Place** [pamojaplace.org](http://pamojaplace.org)  
721 Camano Ave, Langley  
Safe space for BIPOC people and  
allies to connect, collaborate, and  
celebrate.

**Veterans Resource Center**  
360-331-2496  
723 Camano Ave, Langley  
Events, Support, and Benefits  
help

Monday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Tues - Thurs 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday by Appointment.  
[whibeyvrc.org](http://whibeyvrc.org)

**Veterans Services**  
360-632-2496  
105 NW 1st, Coupeville  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30  
p.m.

### RESOURCES

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

Food Banks:  
**Gifts From the Heart:**  
108 SW Terry Road  
Monetary donations, they should  
be sent to:  
PO Box 155, Coupeville 98239  
Distribution on 2nd and 4th  
Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m.

**Good Cheer:**  
2812 Grimm Rd., Langley 360-  
221-4868  
Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**North Whidbey Help House:**  
1091 SE Hathaway St.  
Oak Harbor 360-675-0681  
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
(5 p.m. on Tues)

Closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch

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

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

**St. Hubert's Catholic Church**  
Wednesday Soup Kitchen  
All are Welcome!  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
804 3rd St., Langley  
360-221-5303

Ask about our Thursday Dinner  
**HUB After School:** 301 Anthes  
Ave., Langley 360-221-0969  
Food and activities for middle and  
high school youth. Mon, Tues,  
Thurs, Friday 2-6 p.m., Wed 1-6  
p.m.

**Ryans House for Youth:**  
Food, fun, support, 19777 SR  
20, Coupeville 360-331-4575  
Drop-in center for adults ages 18-  
24; Daily 6 a.m.- 8:30 p.m., 35 SE  
Ely St., Oak Harbor 360-682-5098  
Drop-in center for youth ages 12-  
21; Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Women, Infants & Children (WIC):** -Oak Harbor/North  
Whidbey: 1791 NE 1st Ave. Mon-  
Thurs 360-240-5554 Text: 360-  
544-2239

### CRISIS LINES

9-1-1: Call for threats to life,  
fire, accident or crime  
-Non-emergency lines:  
Oak Harbor Police  
Department-360-279-4600  
-Island Communications  
Dispatch (ICOM) - 360-679-  
9567

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

24/7 Northwest Washington  
Crisis Services  
- 360-678-7880: Island County  
Behavioral Health  
866-488-7386 Trevor Project:  
24/7 support for LGBTQIA2S+

### SHELTERS/HOUSING

**CADA Emergency Shelter**

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

**Island County Housing**

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

**Ryan's House for Youth**

- 19777 SR 20, Coupeville  
360-331-4575

For at-risk adults ages 18-24

**Whidbey Homeless Coalition**

- Serving Island County 360-  
900-3077

**The Haven Overnight Shelter**

is a night-to-night shelter for  
up to 30 individuals. Must fol-  
low check in rules and must  
register daily between 4:00  
and 4:30pm Mon. thru Fri.  
and 3:45 pm to 4:00 pm on  
Saturdays and Sundays at the  
SPIN Café, 1241 SW Barlow  
St., Oak Harbor.

**House of Hope Emergency**

**Housing**, Langley, 360-708-  
4533. Transitional housing  
for families and adults at se-  
vere risk of homelessness; to  
apply, contact the Housing  
Support Center or call the  
number above.

**Oxford Houses** - Recovery

housing [oxfordhouse.org](http://oxfordhouse.org)  
-Men:360-246-4101  
- Women & Children: 360-  
682-5773

### MONTHLY MEETING

**Monthly Meeting**  
for Mental Health  
Hosted by NAMI for All Adult  
Individuals who have a family or  
friend suffering from depression,  
anxiety, bi-polar disorder, or  
other mental health conditions.  
Trinity Lutheran Church in  
Freeland, Lower Building  
Closest to the Highway  
18341 WA-525, Freeland  
3rd Wednesday of the Month  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Email for more information:  
[karens@nami-sno-isle.org](mailto:karens@nami-sno-isle.org)

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

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

**SOUTH WHIDBEY NAR-  
ANON FAMILY GROUP** meets  
every Wednesday at 6pm at the  
Langley Methodist Church, 301  
Anthes in Langley. We meet in  
the Fireside Room, rear of church.  
Karol:360 914 7695.

Have a problem with drinking? It  
doesn't cost anything to attend  
**A.A. meetings.** Local Meet-  
ings are in Coupeville, Freeland,  
Langley, Clinton, and Oak Harbor.  
There are no age or education re-  
quirements to participate. Mem-  
bership is open to anyone who  
wants to do something about  
their drinking problem. A.A.'s pri-  
mary purpose is to help alcoholics  
to achieve sobriety. We're here to  
help. For local meetings search  
[aa.org](http://aa.org) or call 888-360-1564

Have you ever been affected by  
someone else's drinking? Al-  
Anon may be for you. **AL-ANON:**  
Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30 Oak Harbor  
Lutheran Church Library 1253 NW  
2nd Ave. There is help and hope:  
Contact for more info: Rebecca  
425-773-6937

Bothered by someone's  
drinking? **AlAnon** can help!  
Langley Family AlAnon  
Group, Wednesdays 9:30 AM  
to 10:30 AM, Langley Meth-  
odist Church, 301 Anthes  
Ave, Langley. Fireside room  
Information: (206) 898-2771.

**Gamblers Anonymous Meeting.**  
Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the  
Mount Vernon Senior Center.  
Mount Vernon Senior Center,  
1401 Cleveland Ave, Mount Ver-  
non Any questions, call Washing-  
ton State Gamblers Anonymous  
hotline at 855-222-5542, or visit  
<https://gawashington.org/>

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**  
Tuesdays 7 PM to 8 PM  
Langley United Method-  
ist Church 301 Anthes Ave.  
Room 224  
Langley, Washington 98260  
For local meeting information and  
support call: Kevin 206-395-9622  
Adult Children of Alcoholic and  
Dysfunctional Families meeting,  
Tuesdays 2-3 pm, Langley Meth-  
odist Church - 301 Anthes Ave,  
Langley - Fireside room. Contact:  
[acawhidbey@gmail.com](mailto:acawhidbey@gmail.com)

### Last weeks answers (:

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

D	R	A	W	G	A	U	L	Z	A	P	
A	O	N	E	U	N	T	O	I	M	O	
D	O	N	A	I	D	O	L	T	I	N	
A	M	O	K	L	A	P	S	I	D	E	
			W	I	T	I	S	T			
B	R	A	I	N	Y	A	I	R	B	A	G
B	U	R	L	S		L	O	O	S	E	
S	E	A	L	E	D	B	A	N	D	I	T
			E	T	E	M	S	G			
M	O	L	D	T	W	O	A	S	A	P	
E	N	O		M	E	R	V	R	E	N	E
S	Y	N		M	C	I	I	M	A	T	E
A	X	E		E	T	T	E	S	T	E	P

### No Cheating!

N	V	E	D	S	O	D	N	S	S	V
O	S	S	R	S	E		V	N	V	L
T	O	S	E	L	I	G	I	C	R	E
			A	M	A	S	E	S		
S	T	S	B	R	R	T	E	R		
L	C	O	A	L	D	E	C	H	A	Y
A	P	E	D	B	E	D	C	U	B	S
			S	U	S	B	I	N	O	M
						T	N	I	A	I
S	S	S	N	E	L	E	B	A	G	
			L	D	I					
E	O	T	O							
K										

### How'd you do?

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

## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

**US Postal Mail**  
**Whidbey Weekly**  
Classified Department  
PO Box 1098  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
E-Mail ..... [classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto:classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com)  
Telephone ..... 360-682-8283

### PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less,  
(amounts and phone numbers are counted as words)  
we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$12/week for  
Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/  
Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000  
and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The  
FREE classified space is not for business use. No clas-  
sified is accepted without phone number. We reserve  
the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste  
or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be  
published twice consecutively. If you would like your  
ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it.  
Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.



# 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.



**Whidbey Weekly**  
www.whidbeyweekly.com

Subscribe to our  
Newsletter to get  
your digital copy  
weekly!



Want to help out with Distributing  
The Weekly? Email [jacob@whidbeyweekly.com](mailto:jacob@whidbeyweekly.com)