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JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2024

RENT: Gritty Yet Beautiful Season of Love At Whidbey Playhouse



Theater Review and Photographs by Jim Sovanski

Most actors do a show because they love performing. It fulfills them and energizes them. Once in a while a show transcends that motivation and becomes very personal to each performer. They not only want to do the show, they have to do that show. RENT is that show. This production of RENT is that show. In the time I've been involved with theater, I've never seen this level of passion, commitment and personal connection of a cast to a show. It's both inspiring and humbling to watch this cast embrace this story and pour their collective hearts and souls into each line and song of this production.

RENT is a rock musical with music, lyrics, and book by Jonathan Larson. The show is loosely based on Giacomo Puccini's 1896 opera *La bohème*. Against the backdrop of the AIDS epidemic, a bohemian group of struggling artists work to survive and create a life in Lower Manhattan's East Village.

Larson died never having seen a public performance of his work, passing away the day before its first workshop performance on January 26, 1996. The show went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Musical. The Broadway production closed on September 7, 2008, after 12 years.

Its best known song, "Seasons of Love," and its iconic opening lines "Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes / Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear" has become a pop standard and has been covered by many artists. In this production, "Tango: Maureen" & "La Vie Bohème" also stand out as show stopping moments.

"RENT is my all time favorite musical," says director Matt Montoya. "It has resonated with me since the early 90s. I never thought that we would be able to produce this show at the Playhouse, as it is a little edgy." He continues, "RENT deals with a lot of current issues that still exist today. Drug addiction remains a large problem in society. Problems for the unhoused are also addressed, as well as a disease that had once been a death sentence."

Music director Andrew Huggins added his thoughts: "My life has been touched by friends who have died from AIDS and some who still fight it to this day. The struggle to co-exist and live a meaningful life while people keep "changing the rules" in their favor never ends."

"The theme that resonates to me is the concept of chosen family," director Montoya added as well as a sentiment echoed in both the show and by the cast. "I truly love this cast," says Shelby Montoya who plays Maureen Johnson. "Everyone is wonderful to work with and so uplifting toward one another. Being part of a group that supports and celebrates each other makes this experience even more meaningful."



Each performer brings his own personal experience to the show. Karl Borja playing Tom Collins commented: "I've performed in RENT 29 years ago, when I was younger and more mobile, but the show and character still resonates with me." Cris Matochi as Roger Davis added, "RENT has always stood out to me because it doesn't romanticize life. It tells the truth about it wholeheartedly. It allows life to be messy, raw, urgent, painful, and still incredibly beautiful, often all at the same time. The story of RENT reminds us that community isn't optional; it's essential. No one in this show survives alone, and that truth has shown up beautifully in the rehearsal room."

"I think this production couldn't come at a more critical time," adds Andrew Pierzchala who portrays Mark Cohen. "We are facing a moment in history where I think it's incredibly important that voices be heard and that's one of the primary points of the show. Let your voice be heard. Stand up for what's right. We are all humans - kindness and inclusivity stands tall."

"I found home among a melting pot of theater community teens like myself that believed in the heart of RENT of 'measure your life in love,'" says Karla Luna, who plays Mimi Marquez. "RENT inspires people from different cultures and backgrounds to share

life, love one another and be a place where everyone belongs." She added, "Mimi embodies the strength of the free-natured spirit and resilience when life gets tough. RENT is unlike any other show in the way it connects the entire cast and crew with the love and support it brings to our personal lives."



Rounding out the cast of main characters are Ethan Johnson as Benjamin Coffin III,

Ashley Cappelli as Joanne Jefferson and Vivienne Paradiso as Angel Dumott Schunard.

Members of the ensemble include Rain Davidson, Alex Montoya, Ray Graham Ray, Eric George, Karina Andrew, Ivanna Fragale, Ryan Saenz, Marianne Campos, Tiffany Francis, Lachlan Waterbury and Kara Buckler.

RENT at the Whidbey Playhouse opens Friday, January 30th at 7:30 p.m. and runs weekends through February 22nd.

Evening shows are at 7:30 p.m. and matinee performances are at 2:30 p.m.

The Whidbey Playhouse is located at 730 SE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor. Ticket sales and further information at www.whidbeyplayhouse.com or call the box office at 360 679-2237.

Box office hours are Tuesday-Friday 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



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Sound Waters University 2026

An exciting, educational event is coming in February! It's Sound Waters University presented by Sound Water Stewards. This University is a one-day conference for all who are curious about the Salish Sea ecosystem. This year's theme, "Tracing Life through the Salish Sea," explores the intricate web of relationships that connect species, habitats and communities throughout this unique marine ecosystem. The day opens with a Keynote presentation on orca eco-cultures from Florian Graner, internationally acclaimed marine-life film maker, and closes with a Keynote presentation on data-based hope for the future of the environment from elin kelsey, international speaker and author. In between are 20 elective class options and a chance to connect with 30 environmental non-profit exhibitors who electrify this event with their committed stewardship and inspired sense of community.

Tickets are on sale now for this Saturday, February 7, 2026 event held at Coupeville High School from 8 AM to 4PM. Following up on topics covered, six optional field trips are available on Sunday, February 8. Tickets for the University are \$70. with the optional field trip add-on for \$30.

For more Sound Waters University information and the link to register please go to the website at soundwaterstewards.org/education-center/sound-waters-university/ or by scanning the QR code:



Your ticket purchase supports Sound Water Stewards education, community science and stewardship programs throughout Island County.

Janice Cummings O'Mahony of Freeland Elected to Humanities Washington Board of Trustees

Humanities Washington has announced the election of Janice Cummings O'Mahony of Freeland, WA to its Board of Trustees. The organization is governed by a statewide Board of Trustees made up of 22 business, cultural, and community leaders from across the state, including four who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington.

O'Mahony brings more than five decades of leadership in public service, community engagement, and the humanities to the role. A longtime supporter and participant in Humanities Washington programs, she was selected for her deep commitment to civic dialogue, education, and inclusive community building across Washington State.

"This is an exciting and uncertain time for cultural work in Washington State," said Julie Ziegler, CEO and executive director of Humanities Washington. "Federal funding for independent, authentic, and honest humanities programs is in serious jeopardy, and we need strong leaders like Janice to ensure continued access to programs that explore current events in the context of our history and various community perspectives. Janice's connections will enable us to reach new audiences, and her practical management experience will help ensure Humanities Washington's long-term viability and success."

Humanities Washington trustees are chosen for their community leadership experience, expertise in the humanities, and dedication to building bridges across political and cultural divides. Trustees come from a wide range of backgrounds in communities throughout the state. Each serves a three-year, once-renewable term. Humanities Washington's Board of Trustees made up of 22 business, cultural, and community leaders from across the state, including four who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington.

O'Mahony holds a BA in Anthropology and a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. Her distinguished career includes senior leadership roles within King County's juvenile and criminal justice systems, culminating in her service as Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Services. She is widely respected for her ability to translate complex policy issues into clear strategies and to build consensus among diverse stakeholders. Since retiring from county government, O'Mahony has continued her public service through statewide advocacy, nonprofit board leadership, and community-based initiatives. An accomplished author and poet, she brings a humanities-centered lens, collaborative leadership, and a passion for engaging new audiences to the Humanities Washington Board of Trustees.

"I am honored to serve on the Humanities Washington Board of Trustees because I believe deeply in its mission of opening minds and bridging divides by bringing together people of disparate points of view," O'Mahony shared. "I love being at the intersection of visionary thinking and the action steps that bring that into reality, something this organization does so well."

In addition to O'Mahony, Marcine Miller of Wenatchee and Polly Yorioka of Seattle were also named to the Board of Trustees.

In April, Humanities Washington received notice that committed funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities had been revoked by DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency. Since that time, Humanities Washington has canceled programs and cut staff. To ensure that it can continue to offer programs long-term, including reinstating those that have been cut, the organization has mounted a comprehensive fundraising campaign.



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Volume 18, Issue 05 | © MMXXVI Whidbey Weekly

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HED: Skagit Valley College announces newly approved Bachelor of Science in Nursing program

SVC | Skagit Valley College

Skagit Valley College has approved a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program, following a State Board vote on Oct. 16. The program, SVC's seventh bachelor's degree, will begin enrolling students in January 2027 and is designed for working nurses, offering 10 courses in a flexible Hyflex format. Students in SVC's Associate in Nursing program may begin BSN coursework during their third quarter, while ADN graduates from SVC or other institutions may also enroll. College leaders say the program addresses a critical regional workforce need and builds on SVC's decades-long role in nursing education. More information is available at skagit.edu/nursing.

Coupeville Chocolate Walk Returns February 7, 2026

The Coupeville Chocolate Walk is back on Saturday, February 7, 2026, offering a fun and easy way to enjoy chocolate while exploring local businesses throughout downtown Coupeville. The event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Around 25 local businesses will be participating, each providing ticket holders with a chocolate treat as a thank-you for stopping in. Guests will check in at the Coupeville Rec Hall between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., where they'll receive a bag and map to guide them through the walk. The Rec Hall will also host a few chocolate-themed activities during the day. Tickets are \$30 and limited to 200 total. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite, the Coupeville Chamber website, or in person at the Coupeville Visitors Center. Participants who visit every stop on the walk can enter to win an overnight stay at the historic Captain Whidbey Inn. In addition, Punkin Pie Pet Services will be hosting a Valentine's Day-themed pet photo booth at their location, adding a lighthearted stop to the route. The Coupeville Chocolate Walk is a great way to spend a winter day supporting local businesses, enjoying treats, and taking in the charm of downtown Coupeville.

Rock Out at Tossin' Axes This Valentine's Day: All-Ages Benefit Show Supports Whidbey Royalty

This Valentine's Day, skip the clichés and head to Tossin' Axes for an all-ages benefit concert supporting the Miss Oak Harbor scholarship program. Hosted by Whidbey Royalty, the high-energy show will take place at Tossin' Axes, which is opening its doors as an all-ages venue for the evening in support of local music and youth empowerment.

The night will feature four local bands—Seraphic, Old Folks Sound Like Ghost, Otherwise Elsewhere, and Sawtrap—delivering a loud, community-driven celebration. Admission is by donation, with all proceeds benefiting the young women of Miss Oak Harbor.

Event Details: Tossin' Axes, 390 NE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor, February 14, 2026 | Doors at 7:00 p.m. All Ages Welcome. Entry by donation

Those interested in making advance donations or helping with event setup can contact members of Otherwise Elsewhere. More information about the venue is available at www.tossinaxes.com

Grab your friends and celebrate Valentine's Day with live music for a great local cause.

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Come join the Whidbey Island Maritime Heritage Foundation

We're looking for people interested in *Maritime Heritage and Historical Preservation*, folks to be Docents on our boat, as well as Sailing Crew for the upcoming 2026 season.

Free Information Presentation at the Coupeville Library Saturday, February 21st at 6:00pm.

For more information:
<https://www.whidbeyislandmaritimeheritagefoundation.org/>

And our ticketing website at:
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What's Going On!

WINTER LOCAL ARTIST SERIES:

WICA

Fri., Jan. 24; Sat., Jan. 25;
Fri., Jan. 30; Sat., Jan. 31, 7-9 p.m.
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts,
565 Camano Ave., Langley

Kick off the new year with four evenings celebrating Whidbey Island's vibrant local music scene. The Winter Local Artist Series features a rotating lineup of island-based performers, each bringing a distinct sound and style to the WICA stage. Performances include Keith Bowers Trio (Jan. 24), Porch Brothers (Jan. 25), Sheila Weidendorf (Jan. 30), and Nathaniel Talbot & Keegan Harshman (Jan. 31). Tickets are Pay What You Wish, with a standard price of \$22, available through the box office or in advance.

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.

STEAM SUNDAY: PLAYING WITH PATTERN

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2-3 p.m.
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.,

Play with math and creativity while exploring patterns found in the world around us. Kids will experiment with symmetry, make stamps, and create their own tessellations using craft supplies. This hands-on STEAM program is designed for ages 5-13 and encourages curiosity through art, math and maker-style play. Supported by the Friends of the Freeland Library.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION SERIES - AMERICA AND THE WORLD

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-noon
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave.

America's largest discussion program on world affairs features reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching videos, and community discussions on critical global issues. First topic: America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy, presented by the League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island; a reference copy of the Briefing Book will be available at the library.

SCAM ALERT: DON'T GET FOOLED!

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2-3 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta

Learn to spot scam texts and emails from the Consumer Protection Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. The session covers signs of illegitimate messages to help protect you and your loved ones from digital fraud.

FLYING FINGER DEAF & H-O-H

Friday, Feb. 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Langley United Methodist Church, 3rd St. & Anthes Ave., Fireside Room

Fun sign language learning event for all using ASL, featuring Valentine signs this month followed by a snack-and-share potluck. Group typically meets first Fridays; follow church posters to the Fireside Room.

SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Coupeville High School, 501 S. Main St.

Sound Waters University returns with a full day of classes, keynote speakers and exhibits exploring "Tracing Life through the Salish Sea." The 32nd annual program of Sound Water Stewards offers expert-led sessions on regional wildlife, climate and conservation, plus optional field trips Feb. 8 around Whidbey and Camano islands.

COUPEVILLE CHOCOLATE WALK

Saturday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Downtown Coupeville, check-in at Coupeville Chamber of Commerce, 905 NW Alexander St.

Explore Coupeville's restaurants, coffee shops and retailers while collecting unique chocolate treats on a self-guided walk. Check in for your bag and map between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; tickets are sold per bag and the event often sells out.

MUSIC WITH MATT

Saturday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St.,

A gentle, engaging music series especially for babies and toddlers. These short concerts encourage whole-child development and early literacy through musical play. Led by educator and musician Matt Bell, the program is designed to be welcoming, interactive, and developmentally supportive. Held the first Saturday of each month from February through May.

Additional dates:
Saturday, March 7, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Saturday, April 4, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Saturday, May 2, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2026 - ALL AGES WELCOME

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
Bayview Community Hall, 5642 Bayview Road, Langley

Celebrate Lunar New Year with a free, family-friendly community event welcoming the Year of the Horse. Hosted by WILASC, this afternoon celebration invites families of all backgrounds to experience Lunar New Year traditions through hands-on activities and cultural sharing. Festivities include a dragon dance, dumpling making, calligraphy, crafts, traditional games, storytime, a lucky draw and more. Food vendors will be onsite. The event is volunteer-led and donation-based, with donations appreciated. Families are encouraged to RSVP so organizers can prepare enough treats and supplies.

NORTH WHIDBEY HEARTS & HAMMERS 2026 COMMUNITY DINNER

Saturday, Feb. 7, 6-11 p.m.
Living Word Church, 490 NW Crosby Road, Oak Harbor

Join neighbors for an evening of food, connection and community impact at the annual Hearts & Hammers Community Dinner. This donation-based dinner is open to all and offers a chance to hear meaningful stories, learn about local service projects, and explore ways to get involved, including opportunities to become a House Captain—volunteer leaders who guide Hearts & Hammers projects. Come for the meal, stay for the connection, and leave inspired to make a difference close to home.

LANGLEY: FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

Saturday, Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m.
Downtown Langley, 1st & Anthes

Stroll through downtown Langley as local galleries stay open late every first Saturday, featuring new exhibits and opportunities to meet the artists. Enjoy a festive evening walk while visiting multiple gallery destinations showcasing fresh work.

HOW DO I... FIND HOUSING?

Monday, Feb. 9, 4-5:30 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta

Finding a place to live can be confusing. This free, practical workshop brings in housing experts from the Opportunity Council to walk participants through apartment searches, understanding leases, renter's insurance, security deposits, budgeting for rent and utilities, and knowing your rights as a renter. Part of the library's "How Do I..." life-skills series designed for teens, young adults, and anyone navigating housing for the first time.



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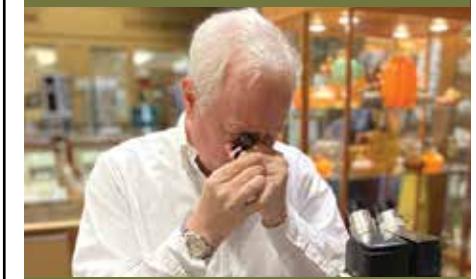
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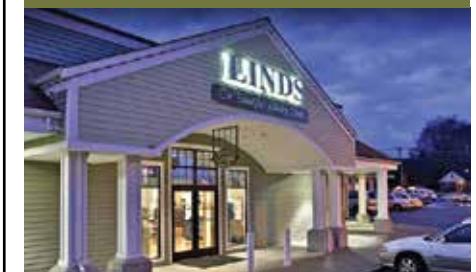
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by Tracy Loescher

"OPM" VERSES "OPPORTUNITY"

How do you think people would respond to the fact that a portion of their Federal and State income and sales tax money is being funneled to a single organization or a single select group that would be the primary or sole beneficiary of those funds....? And the only way to receive any return on your hard earned money would be to pay to experience the results of those delivered funds. The phrase "other people's money" (OPM) in the realm of politics and government appears to have become a generally numbing action taken as money is dispersed. If you have been an avid fisherman in the Puget Sound and its surrounding rivers in the past 30 years as I have been, then you have watched fishing opportunities whittled away with not much hope of those opportunities returning in a timely manner. I absolutely love to salmon fish in the Pacific Northwest and as the overall opportunities get less and less, myself and others will search out places to fish that normally would not be considered. In October 2025 I had the opportunity to fish for coho on the Quinault River on the Olympic Peninsula, the Quinault River runs through Quinault tribal lands and fishing is restricted to the Quinault tribe. Non-tribal fishing is possible through an outfitter guide or as a guest with a member of the Quinault tribe. The Quinault tribe has a successful hatchery program on the river that raises millions of salmon for tribal members, tribal traditions and ceremonies.

Hatcheries require money to be successful and sustainable, where does the money come from to maintain these fisheries? Partly in-house, then greatly supported with "OPM." In Washington state the treaties of the 1850's gave tribal members greater, less restrictive opportunities to raise and maintain salmon numbers that are not always possible for non-tribal efforts. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) allocate millions of Federal and State dollars for salmon, and salmon habitat to not only the Quinault tribe but other treaty recognized tribes. So what about my opening statement, are we to be angry and resentful towards the tribes that get these huge chunks of "other people's money"? For me I don't feel anger, or resentment. I feel frustration and confusion towards the restrictions that are placed on non-tribal salmon recovery efforts and fishing opportunities that are strangled by red tape and government bureaucracy that negatively impact the 900,000 non-tribal Washingtonian's that purchase a very expensive fishing license each year. If we really want to correct the one-sided restrictions, and redirect the huge amounts of OPM to support non-tribal salmon enhancement recovery, and to bring back fishing opportunities that once allowed year-around salmon fishing throughout the Puget Sound an incredible effort must be made by the 900,000 licensed non-tribal fishermen in this state. A focused and collective effort to remove and replace personnel that do not support the majority of Washington anglers and eliminate restrictions that are backed-up by bios science. These two areas must shift away from the "preservation and prevention" mentality

and move back toward a "conservation and common sense" direction. At present I believe there are incredibly smart people and dedicated stewards of the salmon resource that would make good use of OPM but are restricted by bios political oversight.

Here is an alternative thought: The Washington State Native American treaties of 1850 allowed sovereignty (general self governing) to tribes in the state, along with this sovereignty was general allowances for hunting and fishing on all tribal lands plus access to traditional hunting and fishing locations that are/were not on tribal lands. The tribal people are far more unbound in the areas of hatchery management on rivers within tribal lands. Today the tribes are active Co-managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and a part of all decision making in regards to salmon seasons, catch quotas, and resource recovery. The tribes can make huge positive strides for salmon recovery with regards to hatchery management. Like I mentioned earlier the Quinault tribe have a successful hatchery program that has a large return of coho and king salmon each year. Here is an out of the box thought, turn all hatcheries over to the tribes. Politically motivated lobbyists would have difficulties pushing their agendas that restrict recovery efforts. Lawsuits filed against the state that chop the legs out from under the WDFW would be ineffective to federally recognized tribes. If done correctly would strengthen the relationship between tentious tribal and non-tribal fishermen. Oversight personnel should be elected by the people and all/any necessary appointees should be chosen by a board of highly experienced fishermen, fisheries biologists, and a collective group of model managers that use solid lessons learned and are transparent with the good, bad, and ugly of salmon management.

Bottomline, I am fed up with fishing restriction after restriction, year after year without any positive results. Chinook salmon have been on the endangered species list for 27 years! Billions of our dollars have been spent to find an answer so we can turn the tide of declining returns. The "law of diminishing returns" has got to come into play, it's time to cut our losses, stop trying to please everyone, make the hard decisions that will work, the decisions that will cut through the Bureaucracy and finally get salmon numbers back on track and on a recognizable increase!

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On Hospitality

by Charles LaFond ISLAND FUNDRAISER, POTTER, AUTHOR, AND ESSAYIST

Fundraising is about building friendships, and friendship-building is a form of hospitality. Welcoming guests and raising funds—both have shifted considerably during my lifetime. I suspect this is because so much else has changed, too.

I remember in the 70's when my uncle showed off this new thing called a microwave by cooking scrambled eggs in a minute. My mother said it would never catch on. I remember when my grandmother told me that her grandmother was dubious about the electric light ever being "a thing," her mother having asked if the telephone was anything more than a fad. And I remember, after 40+ years of an uninterrupted career in fundraising, thinking in the early 90's that paper pledge cards with carbon paper could use an upgrade ... I mean, could there be a digital way to do this? Now donors can get QR codes, pledge and give from their iPhones during the nightly news with 3 clicks, and then buy books with just 1 click.

And yet, my next book, *This is Fundraising: Field notes of a Career Fundraiser*, begins with a love letter to ivory cotton laid paper, blue ink fountain pens, gorgeous handwriting, stamps, and living-room chats over tea or drinks with a snack – chatting about making the world a better place by birthing meaning-making by investing in nonprofits that deserve funding.

In earlier times, my parents raised funds without elaborate galas or aggressive marketing. They would simply invite 4-8 people to afternoon tea or cocktails—or host dinner for their closest friends and most cherished charities (then called "charities," from the root word for "love"). Upon entering, guests found small ivory cards with pens on a table by the vestibule closet. Each guest understood my parents' goals for the evening and wrote their pledge upon arrival, then dropped it into a bowl. Some adjusted their pledge after hearing the five-minute appeal during a warm, two-hour gathering focused on friendship.

My mother's staple for tea or cocktails was English Sausage Rolls, fitting her English heritage. They could be made in advance, frozen, and reheated just before the event. Those, along with cheese crisps, nuts, and a genuine desire to help good causes, were more than sufficient to raise significant or modest gifts.

It takes high emotional intelligence to risk rejection when asking for a gift. But, for centuries, those "asks" have made our world a better place.

English Pork Sausage Rolls (our 19th c. recipe)

Warm the oven to 425 degrees with racks in the middle. Use 1 box of two sheets of puff pastry, thawed (makes two batches at a time). Freeze half for quick breakfasts or entertaining. This recipe makes rolls from one to two packages of cold puff pastry.

(Note: never use packaged breakfast sausage -it's made of "parts", is slimy, pumped with water, and gross. Just buy ground pork or fresh ground sausage from the meat department.

Mix by hand or in a mixer:

- 1 pound ground pork
- ½ cup dry bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Dash of ground nutmeg
- Dash of mace
- 1/3 cup water

Set aside a scrambled raw egg for egg-wash on the pastry with a brush before cutting and heating.



Sausage Rolls by Charles

1. Add ground pork, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, sage, nutmeg, mace, and water to the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Process 20-60 seconds. Process in a food processor or with a bread dough mixer tool for an additional 30-60 seconds, or until the desired consistency is reached. Cover and refrigerate or set aside.
2. Lay out one of the two puff pastry squares of thawed (but chilly) puff pastry from the box on a lightly floured cutting board that you have rolled out with a rolling pin to make it a bit thinner and larger by about 10-20%. Cut the puff pastry square in half to make two rectangles. (There are two squares in each Pepperidge Farm box.) Set one panel aside. The rectangles should be egg-washed and ready to lay down the sausage meat.
3. Use your hands to form a massive sausage from a large fist-sized (or larger) home-made sausage into a thick sausage 1.5 to 2 inches thick, and the length of the long end of the rectangle of pastry.
4. Brush the top of the two pastry rectangles (where the sausage meat will go) with egg.
5. Lay the roll of sausage down the center - about two inches wide and one inch high -about the diameter of a plump raw sausage.) Bring the long sides over the sausage and seal them together by overlapping by about 1/5 to 1/2 inch, then roll it over so the overlapping seam is on the bottom. Make sure the roll is thoroughly sealed along the long seam where it sits to bake. Repeat with the other half of the puff pastry and the remaining sausage. Brush all over tops and sides with egg wash.
6. Cut slits diagonally, 1/2 inch apart, along the top of the long rolls, all the way down, to release steam during cooking.
7. Cut each sausage roll to the desired size (I cut each one in half to make two five-inch rolls for a meal or into 1 or 2-inch pieces for appetizers).
8. Place the cut rolls, seam side down, on a rimmed, oiled baking sheet.
9. Bake at 425° F for 20-30 minutes, or until golden brown and the sausage is completely cooked.
10. Cool 2-5 minutes before serving.

The meat freezes easily, so I make a double or quadruple batch each time. Reheat from frozen at 350 for 10 minutes or place in an air fryer for 5 minutes at 400 degrees. Serve as a meal or as an appetizer with drinks. If you freeze a bag or two, you have a 5-minute meal or a fast appetizer for friends who drop by for tea or cocktails.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Social connections energize you this week. A conversation with friends or colleagues sparks motivation and fresh ideas. Stay open—collaboration leads to progress.

TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 21)

Career matters come into focus. Your reliability doesn't go unnoticed, even if praise is subtle. Keep doing the work—results are building quietly behind the scenes.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 21)

A desire for change stirs. Learning something new or planning future travel refreshes your outlook. Midweek brings clarity about where you want to grow next.

CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Emotional and financial matters call for attention. Addressing something you've avoided brings relief. Trust your instincts—they guide you toward greater stability.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Relationships take center stage. Cooperation and compromise strengthen bonds, both personal and professional. A sincere gesture goes a long way now.

VIRGO (Aug 24 – Sept 22)

Daily routines benefit from structure. Small changes improve productivity and well-being. By the weekend, you'll feel more balanced and in control.

LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Creativity and enjoyment return. Make time for hobbies or romance—you've earned it. A lighthearted moment lifts your spirits and restores perspective.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

Home and family matters move forward. Creating comfort in your space brings emotional grounding. A thoughtful conversation clears lingering tension.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Communication flows smoothly. Writing, meetings, or short trips are favored. An unexpected exchange offers useful insight or encouragement.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

Finances and priorities realign. Practical decisions now lead to long-term security. A steady approach reduces stress and builds confidence.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

With your season underway, personal goals take shape. Trust your individuality—your ideas resonate more than you realize. Step forward with confidence.

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Rest and reflection help you recharge. Pay attention to intuition and subtle cues. By week's end, your energy begins to rise again.

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

Readings by Noa

Astrology for January 30 - February 5 2026

Full Moon in Leo 13°

February 1 brings the full Moon in Leo at 13° and a great deal of feelings to the surface. The full Moon stands across the sky from a massive stellium of planets in Aquarius (Pluto, Mars, Sun, Venus, and Mercury) highlighting themes around the balance between individualism and collectivism. The Moon in Leo is interested in self-elevation and has us looking for ways to shine and express ourselves creatively and authentically in spite of (or in response to) current circumstances. Who can you count on for support? Who can count on you? What groups and tribes do you truly belong to and which of those are finding their completion point now? Conversely, we can see displays of new social groups in our lives coming to fruition. Aquarius deals with humanitarian causes, friend groups, associations etc. Leo deals with individuality, pride, and courage. We are well starred to act courageously and take pride in those actions. The shadow side of this lunation can bring up feelings of being an outcast, ostracized, or other. Pride and ego mixed with intense feelings can run hot and be used to justify unchecked action. From a creative angle, this can be a fertile time filled with inspiration and the courage to put yourself, your art, your products, your business, etc. out there on display. Be authentic. Shine your light.

On **February 2**, Mercury in Aquarius sextiles Chiron in Aries at 23°. Coming off of the intensity of the full Moon, this aspect is helpful. It allows empathy to join the chat during important conversations. It creates ease and a little more detachment than usual when addressing core wounds or triggers. Again, but from another vantage point, we see the themes of individual (Aries) vs. group (Aquarius). We may be more willing to address imbalances or unmet needs.

On **February 3**, Uranus stations direct in Taurus at 27°. Uranus has been traveling through the sign of Taurus since 2018 and this station initiates the last leg of the journey. From now until April 25 when Uranus enters the sign of Gemini, we will be urged to wrap up old chapters around our material world. Taurus is ruled by Venus, currently sitting with the aforementioned squad in Aquarius. Venus rules relationships, finances, joy, and pleasure. The station may inspire wider considerations and innovations when it comes to these areas. As always with Uranus, the changes may come as a surprise. Money, dating, trading etc. is and has been moving digital along with much of the tangible world. What elements are important to keep in the physical? As Uranus stations in a square to Mercury in Aquarius (exact on February 5), we may have new information on the table to consider, important conversations that need to be had, and an urgent confrontation with any fixed perspectives. Stay open to innovation.

On **February 4**, Venus in Aquarius sextiles Chiron in Aries at 23° following Mercury's February 2 sextile. The themes here are similar, but Venus will bring the emphasis of those conversations to include relationships and finances. Venus in Aquarius finds joy through freedom, friendship, and mental connection. The Moon will be finishing up its transit in Virgo today opposing Saturn in Pisces and moving on to oppose Neptune in Aries. While this day has potential for compassion and healing, there is an underlying flavor of making sure we do not overlook responsibilities. Joy can be found through addressing new ways to face the reality of our circumstances rather than old patterns of escapism. A great day to say the thing and get real with self and others.

On **February 5**, Mercury in Aquarius squares Uranus in Taurus at 27°. As mentioned above, new or unexpected information can surface now. Today is likely a day of confronting surprising information. Uranus is strong after its station. Unexpected conversations, messages, ideas, and exchanges are seeking to break conventional thought patterns and outdated loops. Radical ideas start to appear less radical despite our initial reactions. Be honest with what must be innovated. Time to problem solve. New strategies are necessary.

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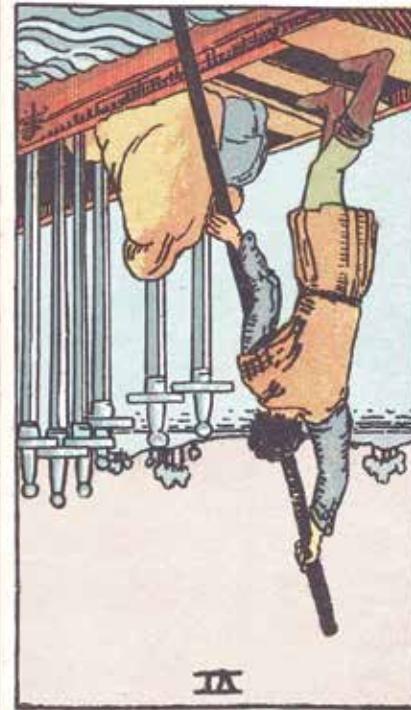
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January 30th - February 5th : the Six of Swords Reversed

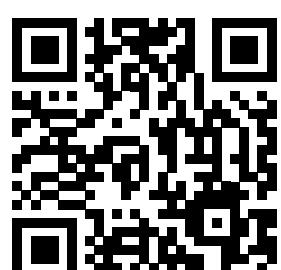
The waters have calmed but you're not ready to believe it, and that's understandable given what you've come to expect and resist against. But appreciating the calm and the rest in the moments you have them does not take away from your preparedness when the waves churn again. There is a beautiful rebellious resistance to basking in the stretches of peace between battles, and persisting to seek out and enjoy happiness in every possible moment. This life is not just the adversities we survive or endure, and allowing ourselves to jade into this belief is a detriment to ourselves and those whom look to our unintended role modeling in unseen admiration. Trusting the quiet between the chaos does not mean conflict won't descend again at some

future designation, nor does it lend to you being made the fool for believing and exhaling into the pause while you're encountering it. Rather, it's a strength to make the most of every respite, regardless of how brief.

Much is changing and will continue to do so. Change is not the enemy, and itself is not to be resisted but embraced, not only to minimize the discomfort of metamorphosis but to speed along the transformation and establish a new status quo. There is no going back to the way things once were, no reboot configuration to reset to outdated versions of ourselves. While it is crucial to mourn and lovingly release what no longer serves who we are becoming, there is hopefulness and opportunity in a new day, as there is in constructing our renovations. Who do you want to be? How do you wish to be perceived? And have you been allowing the expectations of others or your fears of judgement and persecution to mold who you've been, or to whom you may be clinging? There is movement, directionality, decisions, potentially even overanalyzing thought, but beneath is an aligned current you need only drift with, countering the seemingly practical need to control course. Your compass is unique to you, and homogenized compliance is not the way forward. Feel the magnetic pull toward what and who your future holds.

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

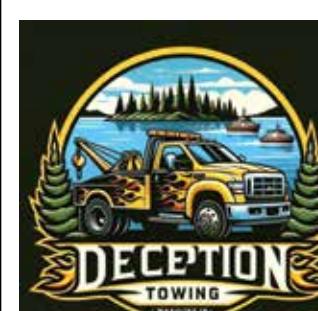
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~Xo, Tiffany



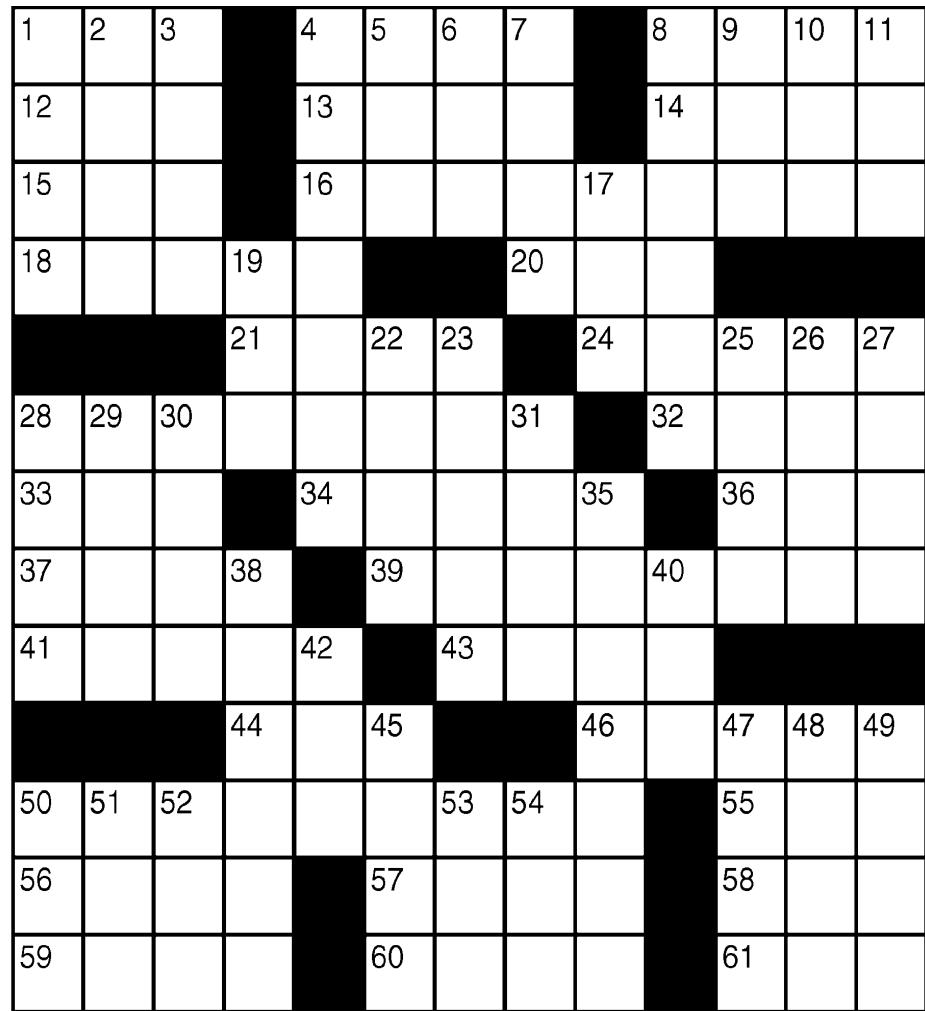
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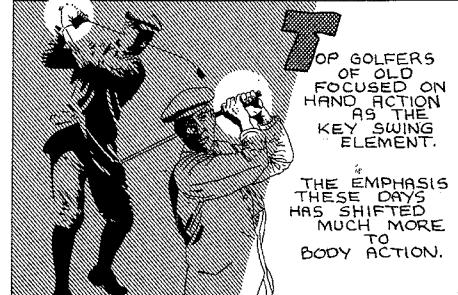


CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Nile biter
- 4 Chat
- 8 Job for Holmes
- 12 One of the five W's
- 13 "East of Eden" son
- 14 Makes a choice
- 15 Snaky fish
- 16 Fruit salad ring
- 18 -- Lama
- 20 Humorist
- 21 -- Raton
- 24 Settle a debt
- 28 Holiday wreath adornment
- 32 Ms. McEntire
- 33 "I love," to Livy
- 34 Passion
- 36 "The One I Love" band
- 37 Attempt
- 39 Pesto ingredients
- 41 Bar mixer
- 43 Salinger girl
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 46 Tuscany setting
- 50 Forest-inspired color
- 55 Uncle, to Pedro
- 56 Romanov ruler
- 57 Hardly hirsute
- 58 Help
- 59 Rental units (Abbr.)
- 60 Totals
- 61 24 horas

Answer on page 11

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Fri, Jan 23	Sat, Jan 24	Sun, Jan 25	Mon, Jan 26	Tues, Jan 27	Wed, Jan 28	Thurs, Jan 29
North Isle H-44°/L-30°	North Isle H-43°/L-29°	North Isle H-42°/L-30°	North Isle H-43°/L-34°	North Isle H-47°/L-37°	North Isle H-48°/L-39°	North Isle H-50°/L-43°
South Isle H-43°/L-33°	South Isle H-42°/L-32°	South Isle H-41°/L-33°	South Isle H-43°/L-36°	South Isle H-48°/L-39°	South Isle H-48°/L-42°	South Isle H-50°/L-45°

OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

with Helen Mosbrooker

Pretend you could bring home any animal in the zoo. Which one would it be?



Luke M.,
Oak Harbor

If I could bring any animal home from the zoo, I would bring home a cheetah. I would pick a cheetah because it is the fastest animal in the world, and being fast is important in soccer. When I play soccer, I like to run down the field and try to score goals, just like my favorite players. I would pretend the cheetah is my teammate and we would practice racing each other. The cheetah could help me learn how to run faster and not give up. I would also kick a soccer ball around while the cheetah runs next to me. I could play with my brothers too, and we would make teams and have fun games together. I would name the cheetah Messi. Bringing a cheetah home would be really fun.



Alina Z.,
Oak Harbor

I would bring a bunny home from the zoo because bunnies are so adorable and great pets. Bunnies are beautiful because of their big eyes, twitchy noses, and soft fur. Second, bunnies are easy to take care of. Bunnies learn tricks and are also great listeners. Next, bunnies don't bite often. They are really calm and quiet. They show joy through their adorable leaps called binkies. Bunnies, compared to dogs, don't need to be walked, and can be litter-trained. They entertain themselves by exploring, playing in exercise areas, and interacting. Bunnies bond deeply with their owners and are small, adorable animals. These reasons explain why I love bunnies and would take them home out of every animal from the zoo.



Remy C.,
Oak Harbor

I would probably bring home those wild sand cats because they're just so fury and cute and huggable. I'd take home one and name her Fudge. I would feed Fudge, I would get her water and I would give her all the love and attention that she needs. I'd play with her with a string toy and let her go outside on the porch with a cat tower. Fudge would sleep in my room in my fort and she will be extra comfy there. While I'm at school I would put Fudge at a pet daycare so that way she can have fun with other pets. I wish I could have a pet sand cat in real life.



Scarlett R.,
Oak Harbor

"I would bring home a capybara because they are my favorite animal. They would probably get along with my cat and dog. They are cute and chill."

Joyful Saying:

Life is magical for those whose hearts are loving, minds are filled with joy, and eyes that are dancing with beauty.

- Debasish Mridha

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer on page 11



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Society of GK Chesterton
Reframe your vision as we open to 2026 remembering, "A dead thing goes w/ the stream, a living thing goes up stream"! GKC Discuss the works and life of GK Chesterton with others as you enjoy a host provided warm or cool beverage and a sweet or savory treat at an Oak Harbor seaside location. Address shared upon reply to gkchestertonwhidbey@gmail.com

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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

Mother Mentors

360-321-1484. info@whidbeymothermentors.org

Carregiving mentoring and play support, mothermentors.org

I Support the Girls

360-678-2090. 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

Pamoja Place

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 whibeyrc.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 follow 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 severe risk of homelessness; to apply, contact the Housing Support Center or call the number above.

Oxford Houses

- Recovery housing oxfordhouse.org

-Men: 360-246-4101

- Women & Children: 360-682-5773

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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

Whidbey Weekly
Classified Department
PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

Telephone 360-682-8283

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

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

How'd you do?

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

FINAL STRETCH! KEEP IT UP FOR WHIDBEY!



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.

