

February 20, 2026 - February 26, 2026

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The Langley Gazette
INSIDE

Whidbey Weekly

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

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NEWS • BITS • WHATS GOING ON • PUZZLES

COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS

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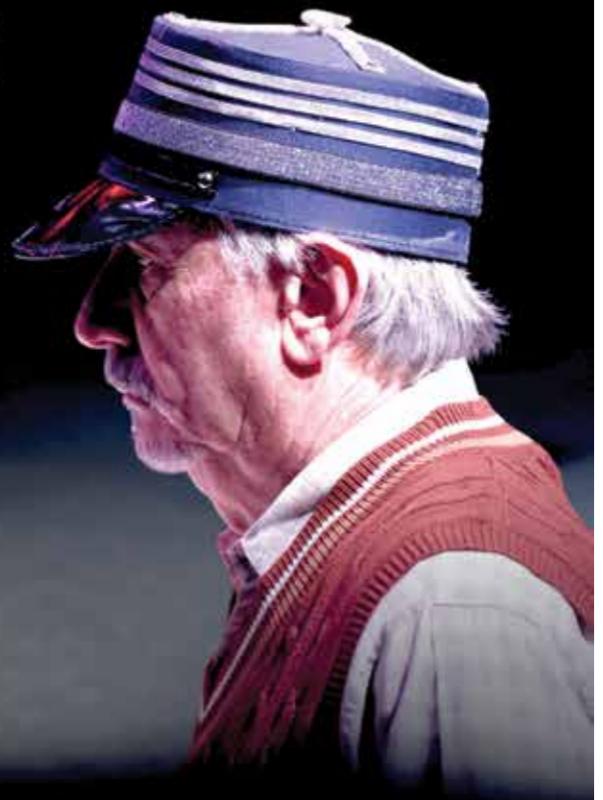
The Queen of Mystery

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

MURDER ON THE LINKS

a HERCULE POIROT mystery

by STEVEN DIETZ



FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 7

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BITS & PIECES

Oak Harbor City Council Approves Falconry Pilot Program

After ongoing community concerns about nuisance birds, City Council has approved a pilot falconry-based bird deterrence program to address ongoing nuisance bird issues affecting public spaces, nearby businesses, and environmental quality.

The program was presented by Steve Schuller, the City's Public Works Director. His presentation outlined recurring concerns related to accumulated bird waste and potential stormwater impacts. From March through July 2026, the City will contract with Sky Patrol Bird Services, LLC, a licensed falconer, to use trained raptors to humanely and non-lethally discourage birds from congregating in sensitive areas.

"This pilot program allows us to address recurring nuisance bird issues through a humane, non-lethal method while closely tracking outcomes related to bird activity, cleanliness, stormwater conditions, and overall cost effectiveness," said Steve Schuller.

The pilot will not exceed \$35,000 and will be funded within the existing Public Works budget. Staff will report back to Council following the 2026 pilot to determine next steps.

Whidbey Island Arts Council Announces Spring Gala FUNdraising Dinner with Oystercatcher

Whidbey Island Arts Council (WIAC) has scheduled its annual fundraiser, and the public is invited. This year's public event features food at its core, and is sponsored by WIAC Business Member "The Oystercatcher!". Owners Sophia Kitay and Ben Jones encourage you to attend this cooperative event, benefitting WIAC's 2026 initiatives, including the recently created Kay Parsons Memorial Fund for Visiting Artists.

On Thursday March 12, in Coupeville, The Oystercatcher and WIAC invite you to join them for what is sure to be an unforgettable evening of culinary delights, celebrating food, community, and the arts on Whidbey Island! By attending this special event, guests will be supporting the work WIAC does to help keep Whidbey's arts scene creative, connected, and thriving. This is particularly important for those who believe the arts are an important part of life on Whidbey Island. It will be a great opportunity to show support for the arts, while simultaneously enjoying a wonderful evening of great food, wine and community.

Event details can be found on the Oystercatcher and WIAC websites, on Facebook, and below.

WIAC Spring Gala FUNdraising Dinner

Thursday March 12, seatings at 4pm and 7pm

with The Oystercatcher in Coupeville

Advance ticket purchase is required.

Enjoy

- Five-course tasting menu by Chef Ben, with wine pairings
- Recorded playlist by local WIAC member musicians
- Special Guests – include local artists, performers, writers and chefs
- Mingle with arts patrons and creative locals – let's engage!
- Your choice of seatings – 4:00 PM or 7:00 PM

Tickets

Online at www.islandartscouncil.org

Cost is \$210 per person and the total includes dinner, wine, service fees and a \$54 tax-deductible donation to WIAC. Please note: tickets will not be available at the door.

Event Location

Osprey Fish Co. 103 NW Coveland St., Coupeville

MORE

Whidbey Island Arts Council (WIAC), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has been actively supporting the arts on Whidbey Island since 1980. In its early years, WIAC created opportunities for artists, actors, writers and musicians, and helped build enthusiasm for the creative island spirit for which Whidbey is now well-known.

Now in its 47th year, WIAC still co-promotes events for its members, and fosters an additional community of nearly a dozen local emerging arts organizations, with fiscal sponsorship... holding the non-profit umbrella while these programs develop their core mission, boards and support staff: allowing them to operate legally as non-profits until they have created the infrastructure and team to launch their own independent non-profit.

This is accomplished by building a strong community of arts practitioners and those who value the arts in our community. WIAC relies on memberships, dues and both public and private grants, as well as a few modest community fundraisers, with the arts at their core.

WIAC's current list of fiscally-sponsored programs includes: Arts Alive Whidbey • CreateSpace Langley/OpenCircle Choir • Island Bohemians • Island Strings • Langley Arts Fund/Uprise Gallery • Meander Dance Collective • SoundSpace at Earth Sanctuary • Whidbey Art Market • Whidbey Art Trail • Whidbey Island Sculpture Experience • Whidbey Working Artists Studio Tour. Your support for WIAC benefits these programs.

Our March 2026 Featured Artist at Penn Cove Gallery is Marcy Johnson

Come in this month to visit Marcy Johnson's jewelry, which includes earrings, rings, necklaces, and shawl pins. Marcy's sterling silver and copper jewelry is unique, simple, and affordable—the perfect gifts! Her textiles provide warmth and comfort for the wearer; she has shawls, fingerless gloves, scarves, and more.



Copper Mussel Fest Earrings

Our watercolor artist, Pamela Good, is once again supporting MusselFest with her new Copper Mussel Earrings. Pam said, "With the price of silver skyrocketing, I thought I'd try copper. It is more affordable, and I love the results."

Penn Cove Gallery Rotation

After Valentine's Day, we rotated our artists' work in the gallery, which we do each quarter. It's an exciting time that refreshes our gallery and the work on display. Did you also know that each of our artists works at the gallery at least one day a month? Visit the gallery to meet them. Feel free to ask about their work and let them help you find that unique wedding present or special gift.

Visit Penn Cove Gallery at 9 Front Street in Coupeville, WA. Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



1. PCG Silver Necklaces by Marcy Johnson
2. PCG Three Woven Scarves by Marcy Johnson
3. PCG Neutral Woven Scarf by Marcy Johnson



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Whidbey Weekly

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Oak Harbor Main Street Presents

Art Walk

February 28, 2026
1-4pm

Join us for an afternoon of art in downtown Oak Harbor! Discover local artists, enjoy live music, and stroll through participating shops & restaurants as you take it all in.

Sponsored by




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:
<https://www.schoonersuva.org>



Life Tributes

Marilyn Wall
 March 6th, 1936 - February 4th, 2026

Marilyn Wall, 89, of Oak Harbor, Wahington, passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday February 4th, 2026. She was born in Sedro-Woolley, Washington on an overcast but pleasant day March 6th, 1936 to parents Morgie and Ella Ruth Wilson.

Marilyn spent most of her childhood in Sedro-Woolley and Clear Lake. She enjoyed traveling with her family, specifically in the carnival alongside her father, Morgie.

Shortly after graduating from Sedro-Woolley high school she married her first husband Dick DeYoung, and began to raise her family in Oak Harbor. Marilyn later married her second husband Donald Wall, and they remained together until his passing. She was a longtime member of Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, where her faith played a central role in her life. Marilyn enjoyed sewing, fashion, and jewelry, and she specially loved spending time with her grandchildren, who were her greatest joy.

She is preceded in death by Dick DeYoung, Donald Wall, and son Richard DeYoung. She is survived by daughters Rita Carter and Rhonda DuBois; along with her grandchildren Katie, Marcy, Jeremy, Julie, and Kate. Marilyn continues her legacy with many great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Marilyn's legacy by helping someone in need and commit to the highest standard of kindness.



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What's Going On!

BETWEEN THE LINES

Now – Saturday, Feb. 21, 7–8 p.m.
(opening night Thursday, Feb. 12)
Oak Harbor High School

Oak Harbor High School's Choir, Drama, Band and Art clubs join forces to present *Between the Lines*, a musical about writing your own story. Rated PG-13 for adult humor, the production features alternating student casts throughout its run. Performances include Charlie Montoya and Lizzy McDaniel on Feb. 12, 14 and 20, and Logan Hendricks and Edyn Marriott on Feb. 13, 19 and 21. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

MURDER ON THE LINKS

Thursday, Feb. 19–Saturday, March 7, various times
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 565 Camano Ave., Langley

A classic Agatha Christie mystery adapted for the stage, this fast-paced whodunit follows Hercule Poirot as he untangles a murder filled with secrets, suspects and twists. Rated PG. Approx. two hours including intermission. Show dates include Feb. 19–22, Feb. 26–28 and March 5–7.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE REBOOT WITH SHIBA

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2–4 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Are you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or new to Medicare and unsure of your options? Certified volunteers from Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) will provide free, confidential, and unbiased information to help you better understand Medicare choices and benefits. SHIBA is a public service of the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner and Island Senior Resources. No sales, no commissions—just clear guidance and answers to your questions.

LANGLEY MYSTERY WEEKEND

Saturday–Sunday, Feb. 21–22, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Downtown Langley

Celebrate 41 years of whodunits in Langley with this annual, town-wide mystery event. Amateur sleuths are invited to explore the seaside village, question a cast of quirky characters, gather clues, and solve a fictional murder case unfolding over two days. Along the way, participants will enjoy dining, shopping, and plenty of intrigue. Tickets include a program with cast photos, a clue map, a special Langley Gazette edition, and the full story synopsis. The mystery concludes with the Big Reveal on Sunday afternoon.

TRACING YOUR ROOTS: A GENEALOGY MEET-UP

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 4–5 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Join Corey Smith of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society for a friendly, informal meetup focused on family history research. Genealogists of all experience levels are welcome to share discoveries, discuss research techniques, ask questions, and trade stories. This gathering also aims to gauge interest in forming a regular, ongoing genealogy group in the Coupeville area.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION SERIES – TRUMP TARIFFS AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.–noon
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave., Freeland

Part of Great Decisions, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, this facilitated conversation focuses on how tariffs under President Trump have shaped—and may continue to shape—the global economy. Participants are encouraged to read the Great Decisions Briefing Book and watch the accompanying videos in advance. The series is presented by the League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island. A reference copy of the Briefing Book will be available for in-library use.

LITTLE HABITS (LOCAL ARTIST SERIES)

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7–9 p.m.
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (Zech Hall), 565 Camano Ave., Langley

The multi-instrumental duo of Marena Salerno Collins and Honza Kourimsky brings an intimate, genre-blending sound that moves between acoustic folk and indie pop. Featuring rich vocal harmonies and a mix of viola, saxophone, guitar, flutes and percussion, this mid-week concert highlights original music from their debut EP and growing catalog. Tickets are \$20 in advance or pay what you wish at the door.

FUNERAL OPTIONS 2.0

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2–4 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Do you know your legal and practical options for body disposition in Washington state—and what they cost? This informational program offers a clear look behind the funeral industry curtain, covering cremation, conventional and green burial, alkaline hydrolysis (aquamation), natural organic reduction (human composting), and full body donation.

Rachel LeBlanc of the People's Memorial Association will explain how to navigate funeral planning, understand required paperwork, and protect your end-of-life wishes while saving time and money. Founded more than 85 years ago, PMA provides funeral education and advocacy to help Washingtonians make informed, values-based decisions. This program is part of the library's End of Life series.

FRUIT TREE WORKSHOPS: FRUIT TREE AND VINE PRUNING

Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Road, Coupeville

This hands-on workshop focuses on the science and practice of pruning fruit trees and vines. The class begins with a classroom session covering pruning principles, followed by an outdoor field lab in the orchard. Dress for cold and damp weather; the field portion will proceed unless conditions are extreme. Led by longtime grower Dan Vorhis of Muscle and Arm Farm. Advance registration recommended.

ART WALK

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1–4 p.m.
Historic Downtown Oak Harbor, SE Pioneer Way

Discover local artists, enjoy live music

and stroll through participating shops and restaurants during this afternoon celebration of art and community.

PENN COVE MUSSELFEST

Saturday–Sunday, March 7–8, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Downtown Coupeville, 1 Front Street Northwest

The annual Penn Cove MusselFest celebrates the locally grown mussels harvested from the clean, river-fed waters just offshore from Coupeville. The weekend features chowder competitions at area restaurants, mussel cooking demonstrations by local and regional chefs, beer gardens with live music, boat tours of the mussel beds, shopping throughout downtown, and crowd-favorite mussel-eating contests. Tasting tickets allow attendees to sample dishes and vote for the best chowder. More details and ticket information will be released closer to the event.

MUSSELFEST BOOK SALE

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.;
Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St.

Browse gently used books during MusselFest at the Friends of the Coupeville Library book sale. All proceeds benefit the Coupeville Library. Cash, check and Square accepted.




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- Military & Spouse-Friendly Employment
- Help Wanted
- Situations Wanted

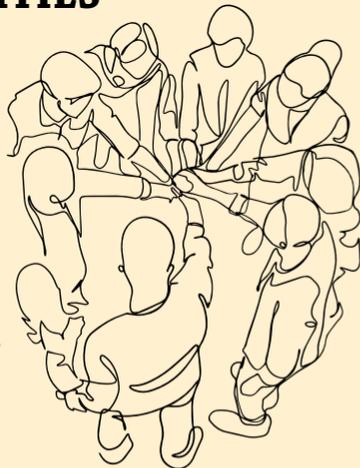
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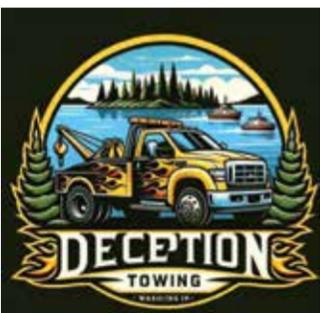
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BUILDING SMARTER

By Auston Reisman Photo by: Max L-T
Parent, Farmer, Builder, Artist, Environmental Steward

My grandfather Philip was homesteading land in Alaska back when they were giving it away for free to entice people to settle there. He built everything in harmony with the land, respecting and using the natural resources around him. He passed away a few years ago, but I can imagine some part of his spirit still lingers in the hand-hewn cabin walls, under that moss-covered live roof, gazing out onto the lake.



My family has inherited his innate drive to be self-sufficient in any way possible. My father constructed several homes as an owner-builder, continuing the legacy of home construction. As a child, I had an innate drive to help in any way I could, within my youthful capabilities. The family pictures confirm my vivid memories of banging hammers, carrying buckets, sweeping, and picking up loose nails. In the same way, I encourage my own children to gain hands-on experience. Engaging with hand tools, they exude an exuberant, natural joy that comes with helping, with being 'part of it'. I am grateful that this interest was instilled in me at such a young age. My enthusiasm and enjoyment remain fresh as I continue to build in many forms of art and function.

When building homes, I strive for low environmental impact, incorporate reclaimed materials, create structures of beauty that trees would be proud to stand beside, and maintain a minimal footprint.

It has been fascinating to see how construction techniques and technologies have changed over my brief lifetime. When I built my home 15 years ago, Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPS) had been around for a while but were underutilized by builders. I was surprised to discover that most local contractors would not consider building with SIPS simply because they had not used them before; they were 'unfamiliar' with them. Sometimes, we get too comfortable, repeating easy familiar patterns, rather than stretching 'out of the box', beyond our current 'framework.'

I wanted to build smarter, now and for the future, to recoup the long-term benefits

of energy efficiency, both monetarily and environmentally. I kept pushing, as I tend to do, and after working with a local manufacturing company, I found some willing hands to help with my own construction project. The installation took me half the time of traditional stick framing, and the insulation was already built into the envelope. Envision an ice cream sandwich with ice cream in the middle and two layers of chocolate wafer. This is basically how a SIPS panel is made, only the ice cream is a core of insulating foam sandwiched between two layers of engineered wood.

By having the panels prefabricated to your design, you reduce jobsite debris by about 30%. This also eliminates excessive landfill deposits and wasted cut material. This approach not only improves precision and strength but also minimizes the risk of warping and twisting, leading to a straight, plumb, and durable structure. These methods create a virtually airtight envelope that allows for better control over indoor environmental conditions, reducing the need for heating and cooling output. Notably, SIP structures are 40% to 60% more energy efficient than the 'familiar' site framing.

Currently, the trend is shifting, and many forward-thinking contractors are utilizing SIPS in their construction. But it is really the homeowner driving the market. Whether you are a contractor or considering building a new home, consider building smarter with more environmentally efficient materials.

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On: Rest

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

Making close friendships is hard work, especially when one's job is in sales, teaching, or fundraising. In jobs like these—jobs which require one to speak face to face with dozens of people a week trying to convince them of something (meaning-making in the job of a fundraiser, information acquisition in the job of a teacher, and wanting in the job of a salesperson)—one's extroversion is all spent on the job 9–5, Monday–Friday, leaving very little left over for one's personal life. It's just the vocational cost of the choice.

After raising about \$200 million over 43 consecutive years, I have found that a family, beyond a dog, is impossible for me. When I get home or when on a weekend, I crave silence. And yet, making and keeping friendships is an essential human trait for survival. We should all invest in the "work" of friendship so that when we are arrested, we have three choices of whom to call for bail money.

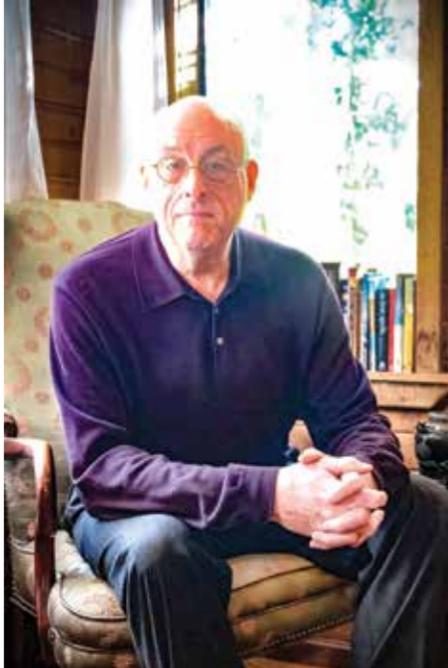
I love my close friends deeply and benefit from their wisdom and perspective, their kindness and their generosity. Friendships are between equals. Only between equals. If there is even the hint of transaction-friendship, it's not real friendship. It's unpaid staff.

I called a close friend today to ask for objectivity and perspective. She was willing to give me time. We talked at 6:30 AM before our workday. And sometimes she calls me and asks my opinion on her life, too. We are equals that way. I posed a question to set up the coaching call. I said, "If my life were a movie you were watching in a dark theatre with popcorn and a soda pop, what, today, would you scream at the screen to warn me?"

I mean, have you ever been in a movie theatre watching a scary movie? Have you ever watched the guy reach past the door to the basement, try the light switch, realize it was not working and, as the music shifts, watched him go down the stairs into the dark basement anyway? Don't you want to scream at the movie screen, "Don't go down there"?

So Jennifer thought for a moment and said, kindly, softly, as if speaking to a cornered grizzly bear separated from its cubs, "You need to rest more."

Raised as I was by parents whose love felt conditional on reflecting glory onto them, I was groomed into the "be splendid club." It was lucrative and often exciting. But it was, and remains, exhausting. Now, don't get me wrong. I am not one of those morons who, at 62, blame their parents for their problems. That worked in my 20s, but nowadays it's all on me, baby! So what I am slowly learning is not just "unconditional love" (taught to me daily by my dog, Sugar) but also something I call "unconditional life."



Having left religion, social status, and job-climbing behind in mid-life, I am emerging from my chrysalis into a new form in my 60s. What if being impressive (by whatever definition we all choose—and we all choose different definitions)—what if being impressive is not a life condition? What if the Ten Commandments, or the 613 commandments of the Torah...what if there are only two commandments: truth and kindness?

So for me, just little meat-sack me, what is truth? What is kindness?

My answer, after hearing what Jennifer said she would scream at my life's proverbial movie screen, is that the truth is I am enough. And the kindness is rest.

What are your closest friends screaming at your life's movie screen? What are the two words that reflect your own commandments for a better life? And if you are middle-aged or if you are entering your "third act" like I am, what two words would title the chapters?

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The Queen of Mystery
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER ON THE LINKS
a HERCULE POIROT mystery
by **STEPHEN DIETZ**

directed by LANI BROCKMAN and DEANA DUNCAN
FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 7 | WICAONLINE.ORG
ZECH HALL | LIMITED SEATING

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Your focus shifts inward before your next big push forward. Take time to reflect and recharge. By the weekend, a renewed sense of direction strengthens your confidence.

TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 21)

Community and friendships bring opportunity. A shared goal or group effort gains traction midweek. Collaboration proves more rewarding than going it alone.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 21)

Career responsibilities increase, but so does recognition. Stay adaptable and communicate clearly. A steady approach earns respect from those who matter most.

CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A fresh perspective brightens your outlook. Learning, planning, or exploring new ideas inspires growth. Optimism builds as you look beyond current limitations.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Financial or emotional commitments deepen. Address practical matters directly and honestly. Taking control now reduces stress and builds long-term stability.

VIRGO (Aug 24 – Sept 22)

Relationships require patience and understanding. Listening carefully strengthens bonds. A thoughtful gesture late in the week restores harmony.

LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Daily routines and health deserve attention. Small improvements make a noticeable difference. Organization brings peace of mind and renewed motivation.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

Creativity and passion resurface. Make room for joy, romance, or a personal project. A spontaneous moment lifts your spirits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Home life calls for grounding energy. Tending to family matters or improving your space restores balance. Stability now supports bigger plans later.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

Communication flows productively. Meetings, writing, or planning sessions go smoothly. Clear intentions help you avoid misunderstandings.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

Finances and priorities come into sharper focus. Practical thinking leads to wise decisions. Steady discipline strengthens your foundation.

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

With your season underway, confidence builds. Personal goals begin moving forward. Trust your instincts—they're guiding you toward meaningful growth.

Now Showing!

Friday, Feb. 20 - Sunday, Feb. 22

The Goat (PG)
&
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG)

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BRING OUT THE BEST

A doctor's touching good-bye

The Whidbey Wordsmith | joanna2026@yahoo.com | Jo Hellmann



any other specialty; a cardiologist must know the heart, a pulmonologist the lung, etc. A PCM must know his patients, their values, their goals, and become an expert in those things.

Most of you have asked about who your next provider will be. I don't know! I think he or she will be here in August, and until then, you will have other providers see you as needed. When you meet that new provider, remember that you are a teacher in your role as a patient, especially if the provider is straight out of training (as I was when I got here). Whoever provides your medical care in the future, expect that they are curious about your life, are willing to listen to you, and are invested in your values. Be cautious about quick fixes, and make sure you know the risks before agreeing to new medicines, tests, or procedures. This is your health, and life is too short and too fragile to simply nod and smile when a doctor recommends something.

This summer will be a busy one for the clinic. We are losing a number of providers, and only slowly will new providers come on board. Please be patient with the staff, and know that, to a person, they are dedicated to your care. Try to avoid the ER as a back-up primary care setting—remember, ER doctors are trained in dealing with emergencies, not in primary care, and while they have the best intentions, they sometimes get it wrong when confronted with non-emergency issues.

If you want to keep in touch with me, I have set up an email account at *** to correspond. I would be happy to give out my physical address in Portland if you email me.

Lastly, good luck to each of you. Spend time reflecting on your values and learning how to act on them. Eat well. Exercise regularly. Sleep 8 hours a night. Enjoy your relationships. Find ways to limit stress if you can. If you can practice these things, you will find medical care much less necessary, and if medical care is necessary, you will find it much more likely to help.

If you've made it this far in my novel, congratulations, and go do something else!

He had a sense of humor as well. When he told me the last time I saw him that he was eventually going to Kansas, I asked if it was because of family. He replied, "Why else?" and laughed.

Here's to you, Doctor W! I wish you could meet my current doctor. I think you'd find him, shall we say, fine. ;)

I had my annual check-up a couple of months ago, something I've done for almost 30 years now. During that time, I've had doctors come and go; most I've been quite pleased with. Well, except for one who gave me the bum's rush and then dropped me as a patient when I quietly expressed my displeasure. But as I said a couple of articles ago, I like to accentuate the positive.

Which brings me to an email I received from a doctor about 10 years ago that was so very thoughtful and touching and... unexpected that I have saved it all these years and now share with you.

Dear Readers:

Today is my last day seeing patients at this hospital after nearly 4 years. Yes, this is by choice! I will be moving to Portland, Oregon, with my family to spend a year learning from experts how to take care of people with addiction problems. From there, I'll move to Wichita, Kansas, to be close to my family and hopefully develop a long-term addiction medicine practice.

I think most of you know that I am curious and love to learn, and I've gotten the chance to learn a lot from you. How to have conversations. What it means to be in pain. The role of medications in treating diseases and suffering. Mostly, I've learned about your lives and what it looks like to live in a difficult world. I appreciate you being honest with me and allowing me the time to get to know you. I believe that being a PCM is unlike

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Jaylynn Sybrant








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Astrology for February 20-26 2026

Unprecedented in Recorded Human History, Saturn Conjunct Neptune 0° Aries

On **February 20**, Saturn conjuncts Neptune in Aries at 0°. This conjunction is unprecedented in recorded human history at the exact degree of 0° Aries. Saturn and Neptune come together roughly every 36 years and make a bold statement about the vibe of the incoming cycle. For reference, the last time Saturn met Neptune was in the sign of Capricorn in 1989, the year the Berlin wall fell to the ground. We are quite literally living a historical moment now. This is the beginning of a brand new era. In the sign of Aries, this new beginning is one of courage and bold momentum. We are motivated to take action, to take responsibility for ourselves, and embody our visions. This is yes or no energy, decisiveness, and much less tolerant of fluff and filler. With ongoing clarity of direction and desire, Saturn will continue testing us through these themes until 2028, and Neptune will continue inspiring us through these themes until 2039. Tempering impulsivity will be required to manifest our dreams. Commit to the long game. What are you about? What do you desire? What are you doing about it? The time is now. Avoidance and fakers will be easier to spot. The old escapist tropes are dissolving. Step into agency.

On **February 22**, Mars in Aquarius sextiles Chiron in Aries at 23° and Venus in Pisces trines Jupiter retrograde in Cancer at 15°. In general, these transits are lovely. Sextiles and trines promote ease and positivity between planets. This is a helpful day for activities that forge and deepen emotional connections. Mars and Chiron aid in taking actions that progress elements of our healing journeys forward, whether it is initiating a conversation or engaging in physical therapy. Venus and Jupiter, known as the benefic planets, encourage us to feel good via sensual indulgences, nostalgic reminiscence, or even simple cozy activities like naps and daydreaming. What feels good to you today?

On **February 26**, Mercury stations retrograde in Pisces at 22°. Mercury will station direct on March 20, but won't leave the sign of Pisces until April 9. This is a day where communications are fuzzy, technology glitches, and we begin a review of the exchanges and occurrences of the last three weeks. Mercury in Pisces, especially retrograde, blurs the lines, and makes it difficult to accurately identify details. During this period of time, we are being asked to strengthen faith and intuition rather than rely on logic alone. Naturally, this is an amazing time for art, music, and creative endeavors. It is a wonderful period of time to review the past, soul ties, old dreams, and do a spiritual audit so to speak. This is a time that suggests the gathering of final details and closure of old cycles so that we may move into the spring with clarity baggage-free. Let the old people, places, and mental states dissolve. Watch for old patterns of addiction or escapism to surface and deliver information. What is ready to be reviewed and finally released? We have some time here to work on this. Truly a time to 'feel it out' rather than make final decisions.

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February 20th – February 26th : the King of Swords Reversed

Michelangelo wrote, "I just chisel away the superfluous material. Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it." The King of Swords is the master of seemingly detached decision making, of sitting with a substance but acting swiftly as clarity strikes. This week's card is not only a fresh slab of marble for you to coax its subsurface existence into the line of sight, but also a shift in perspective for how you approach the revelatory process. There is not an instruction manual to elevate your passions, your skills, your identity, your purpose to meet the heights to which you're beckoned. You must branch out boldly into the unknown and discover the breadth to which you can stretch your limits, your knowledge, your faith. Decisive action and perseverance will fuel your gallop, but there is no one to follow when no one has

been where you're lured. And of course, you're masterful, and have worked hard to be so, yet set just to the side the mantle of your expertise and title, and instead invite curiosity to shine through your eyes as you look anew at yourself, your life, your goals, and your engagement with moments big and small. This explosive fresh start not only compels you to chisel free your unrevealed personality and identity, but also that which you devote and build your life toward moving forward.

It's giving Hanged Man card vibes but more elevated and experiential rather than the Fool or even Page of Swords; this is King energy after all. Which is to say, rather than giving in to frustration when you feel you're back-at-square-one with a matter in your life, downtrodden on yourself for having learned nothing while adopting the perception you're simply repeating old patterns, this is an opportunity for you to see just how much you have learned and grown. Cycling around to the same topic is not a sure indication you've made no progress; you likely wouldn't recognize the similarities, if so. But in fact, you've graduated to an advancing perspective for you to recognize your growth, then learn and heal more deeply, similar to enrollment in a 201-course following the prerequisite, or even a master's program following an undergraduate degree. Seeing new angles from an ascended view is for kings as much as novices. You're never to learned to learn something even adjacently new.

A word of warning; this week could see the toppling of kings for poor or amoral decision making, which presents good exercise in the balancing of ego with how one implements their influence. Power, crowns, and reach are not for the sake of lording or standing atop, but a display of character to role model for, and do right by, those in your care. Metamorph accordingly.

~Xo, Tiffany

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

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

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1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
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48	49	50	51								52		
53								54			55		
56								57				58	

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Lawyers' gp.
- 4 Radiator sound
- 7 Explosion
- 12 Bottom line
- 13 Ref
- 14 -- Ababa
- 15 Hindu honorific
- 16 Obstruction
- 18 Work unit
- 19 Incursion
- 20 Frog's relative
- 22 -- Aviv
- 23 Chumps
- 27 Fan's shout
- 29 Owing money
- 31 Choir member
- 34 Like anchovies
- 35 Hour follower
- 37 Dog's foot
- 38 Yuletide tune
- 39 GPS suggestion
- 41 Lounge about
- 45 Toe woes
- 47 Nev. neighbor
- 48 "Psycho" director Alfred
- 52 Chemical suffix
- 53 Petrify
- 54 "QB --" (Uris novel)
- 55 Cacophony
- 56 "One L" author Scott
- 57 Right angle
- 58 Mermaid's home

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Plus
- 2 Small pack animal
- 3 Spanish girlfriend
- 4 Ride the waves
- 5 Suave
- 6 Memoir by Prince Harry
- 7 Infant
- 8 "Bad" cholesterol
- 9 Commotion
- 10 Bracketed word
- 11 Chiding sound
- 17 Painter Salvador
- 21 Slobber
- 23 Shoulder wrap
- 24 "You've got mail" co.
- 25 Agt.'s cut
- 26 Cloud setting
- 28 Rainbow
- 30 Code-breaking gp.
- 31 Great weight
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Mets' div.
- 36 Ray of McDonald's
- 37 Writing instrument
- 40 Treasure stash
- 42 Lab liquids
- 43 "The Fraud" author -- Smith
- 44 Justice Kagan
- 45 Enjoy gum
- 46 Power tool brand
- 48 FDR follower
- 49 Post-op area
- 50 Sailor
- 51 -- -Magnon

Answer on page 11

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

KNOW THE EFFECTS OF SPIN IN WORKING ON YOUR GOLF GAME. BACKSPIN IS WHAT KEEPS THE BALL IN THE AIR, THEN STOPS IT QUICKLY ON LANDING. TO ACHIEVE IT, SIMPLY HIT SLIGHTLY DOWNWARD THROUGH THE BALL AT IMPACT.

BY CURVING THE BALL LEFT OR RIGHT SIDESPIN IS LESS DESIRABLE. MINIMIZING IT REQUIRES DELIVERING THE CLUBFACE SQUARE TO THE TARGET WITH THE CLUBHEAD TRAVELING DIRECTLY ALONG THE TARGET LINE.

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST

Fri, Feb 20	Sat, Feb 21	Sun, Feb 22	Mon, Feb 23	Tues, Feb 24	Wed, Feb 25	Thurs, Feb 26
North Isle H-41°/L-29°	North Isle H-45°/L-38°	North Isle H-48°/L-42°	North Isle H-48°/L-42°	North Isle H-46°/L-40°	North Isle H-47°/L-40°	North Isle H-45°/L-41°
South Isle H-41°/L-30°	South Isle H-45°/L-37°	South Isle H-48°/L-42°	South Isle H-47°/L-42°	South Isle H-48°/L-40°	South Isle H-45°/L-40°	South Isle H-45°/L-38°



Lucerne, Switzerland with my Daughter last year.

OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

Where is your happy place?



TJ Pierzchala, Oak Harbor

I have several happy places, but one of my favorites is hiking with a friend in nature. There's nothing better than taking a hike, breathing the fresh air, taking in the beauty of the trees, plants and animals to give you a reset - especially after a stressful time. Hiking in a forest with water - a creek, river, lake, pond, waterfall, etc - is my favorite but hiking on urban trails or on a beach makes me happy, too. Luckily, Whidbey Island and the surrounding areas have lots of trails to explore, and if I want to hike in higher elevations, the mountains aren't far away. My bucket list is to hike one of the Camino de Santiago trails.



Tracy Davidson, Oak Harbor

In exploring this question, I realized I have several happy places! One is a quiet moment in the morning with a warm cup of coffee and the promise of a new day. Another is being on a PNW forest trail and simply breathing in the smells of evergreen trees.

But my most enduring happy place is learning something new that expands my world. Returning for my master's degree later in life and now attending webinars and workshops, I've come to relish the way new ideas become foundations that sometimes tumble together into a single, cohesive understanding. I also enjoy when learning inspires my own conclusions.

The world has so much to discover. For me, lifelong learning is a happy place to be!



Aryce Meldrum, Oak Harbor

My happy place is where my husband Barry is. Whether we're at home on the couch, doing chores like grocery shopping, or at SeaTac where they canceled our flight and we had a 13 hour delay, he is my ray of sunshine. I can relax and be exactly who I am with him. My parents' marriage was not healthy, and finding my perfect partner took a lot of time and energy on both sides, but we finally did it. We love so many of the same things: movies, theater, music, nature, the PNW, travel, history, science, and animals. Renovating and redecorating our home and yard here in Oak Harbor to make it more "home" for us and our 2 rescue kitties is sometimes stressful (and expensive) but we love the process anyway.

Joyful Saying of the Week

"The joy of giving is the greatest joy of life."
- Rhonda Byrne

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer on page 11

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

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

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

BOOK SALE

MUSSELFEST BOOK SALE
Friends Coupeville Library
Musselstest Book Sale
Sat March 7th 1000 to 5:00
Sun March 8th 1100 to 4:00
Coupeville Library
788 NW Alexander St.
Browse gently used books during Musselstest. All proceeds go to Coupeville Library.
Cash, Check, Square Reader.

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SOCIETY OF GK CHESTERTON
"Fallacies do not cease to be fallacy because they become the fashion." GKC Discuss life, works and wisdom of GK Chesterton with others as you enjoy a host provided warm or cool beverage and a sweet or savory treat. Meet Thursday March 5th 1:00 Seaside location, address provided on contacting gkchestertonwhidbey@gmail.com

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Utility Trailer for Sale Wooden Box Trailer 4 ft wide by 10 ft long and 3 ft high Completely Enclosed Hinged Doors 4 Wheels Tow Bar Electric Brakes and Lights \$2500 Contact: SLB@whidbey.com Or call: 360-331-4779

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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

NEED HELP?

Need a Hand? I'm Happy to Help.
Got a project you've been meaning to finish? Cleaning out a room, organizing a space, or hauling a load to the dump? I offer friendly, reliable help with cleanouts, light cleaning and organizing, and junk removal.
Call or text Jacob: 360-499-9157

VOLUNTEER

Become a Trained Volunteer with Sound Water Stewards

Looking to make a difference in your coastal community? Become a Steward with our 10-week program. Get immersed with your marine environment! Support critical research in partnership with university, government, and tribal scientists. Training begins March 19. Apply by March 1st. Apply here: <https://soundwaterstewards.org/get-involved/join-sws/>

How'd you do?

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

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. readiness@learn.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.
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 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

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 Meetings are in Coupeville, Freeland, Langley, Clinton, and Oak Harbor. There are no age or education requirements to participate. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. A.A.'s primary purpose is to help alcoholics to achieve sobriety. We're here to help. For local meetings search 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 Methodist 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 Vernon Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542, or visit <https://gawashington.org/>
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Tuesdays 7 PM to 8 PM Langley United Methodist Church 301 Anthes Ave. Room 224 Langley, Washington 98260 For local meeting information and support call: Kevin 206-395-9622
Adult Children of Alcohol and Dysfunctional Families meeting, Tuesdays 2-3 pm, Langley Methodist Church - 301 Anthes Ave, Langley - Fireside room. Contact: acawhidbey@gmail.com

No Cheating!

V	E	S	L	L	E	W	O	R	T
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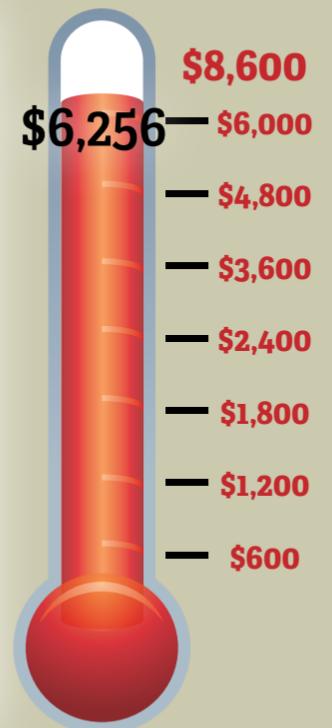
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PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.
Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$12/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate 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.**

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS

-WHIDBEY WEEKLY-



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.



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www.whidbeyweekly.com

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