

April 24, 2026 - April 30, 2026

Whidbey Weekly

FREE

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

Locally Owned • Locally Operated

NEWS • BITS • WHATS GOING ON • PUZZLES

COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS



Holland Happening

AND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE

WHIDBEY ISLAND MARATHON

April 24 - 26, 2026

Windjammer Pack | 1600 SW Beeksma Dr, Oak Harbor, WA



Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

- Dutch Dinner: **April 24 | 5 PM**
- Parade: **April 25 | 11 AM - 1 PM**
- Street Festival:
April 25, 11 AM - 6 PM
April 26, 10 AM - 5 PM

Join us this weekend! Enjoy fun activities like a kids' zone, giant slide, beer garden, klompen carving demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, and more!

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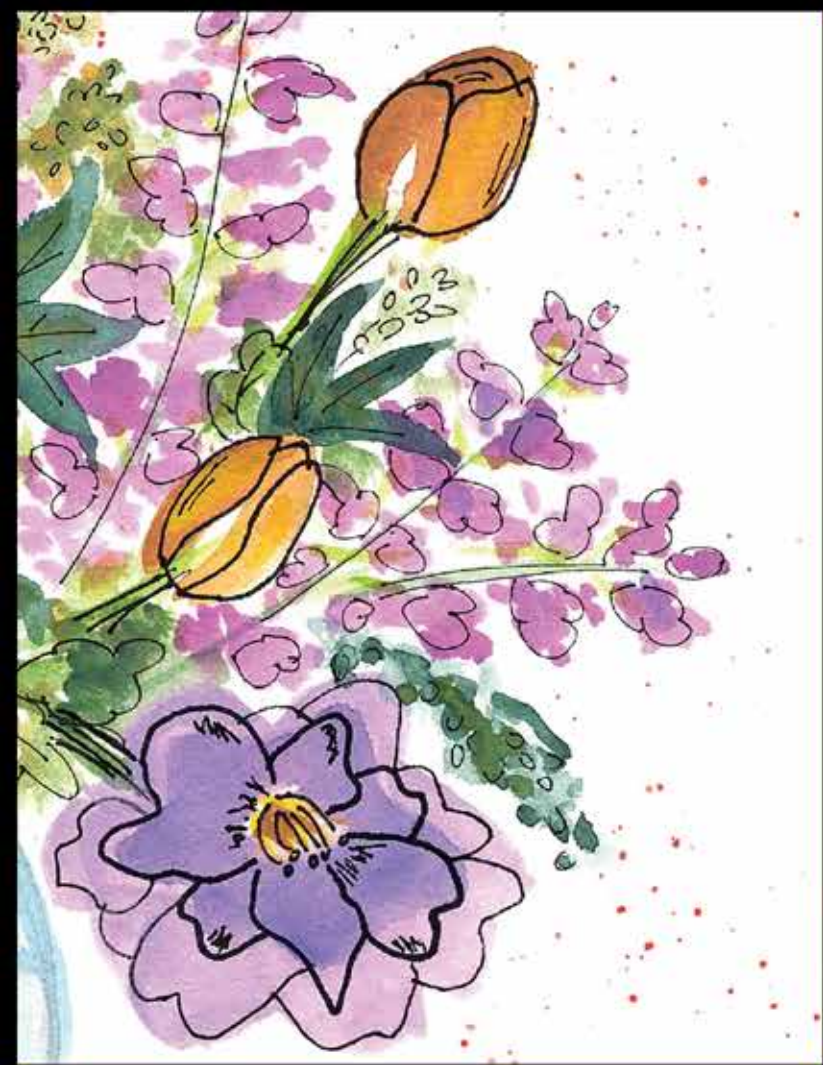
Whidbey Weekly

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Greenbank Garden Club PLANT SALE



Saturday, April 25
10:00AM – 2:00PM

Greenbank Farm Barn A
765 Wonn Road, Greenbank

Come Early!

Hundreds of locally grown plants

Vegetable starts

Herbs

Perennials

Shrubs

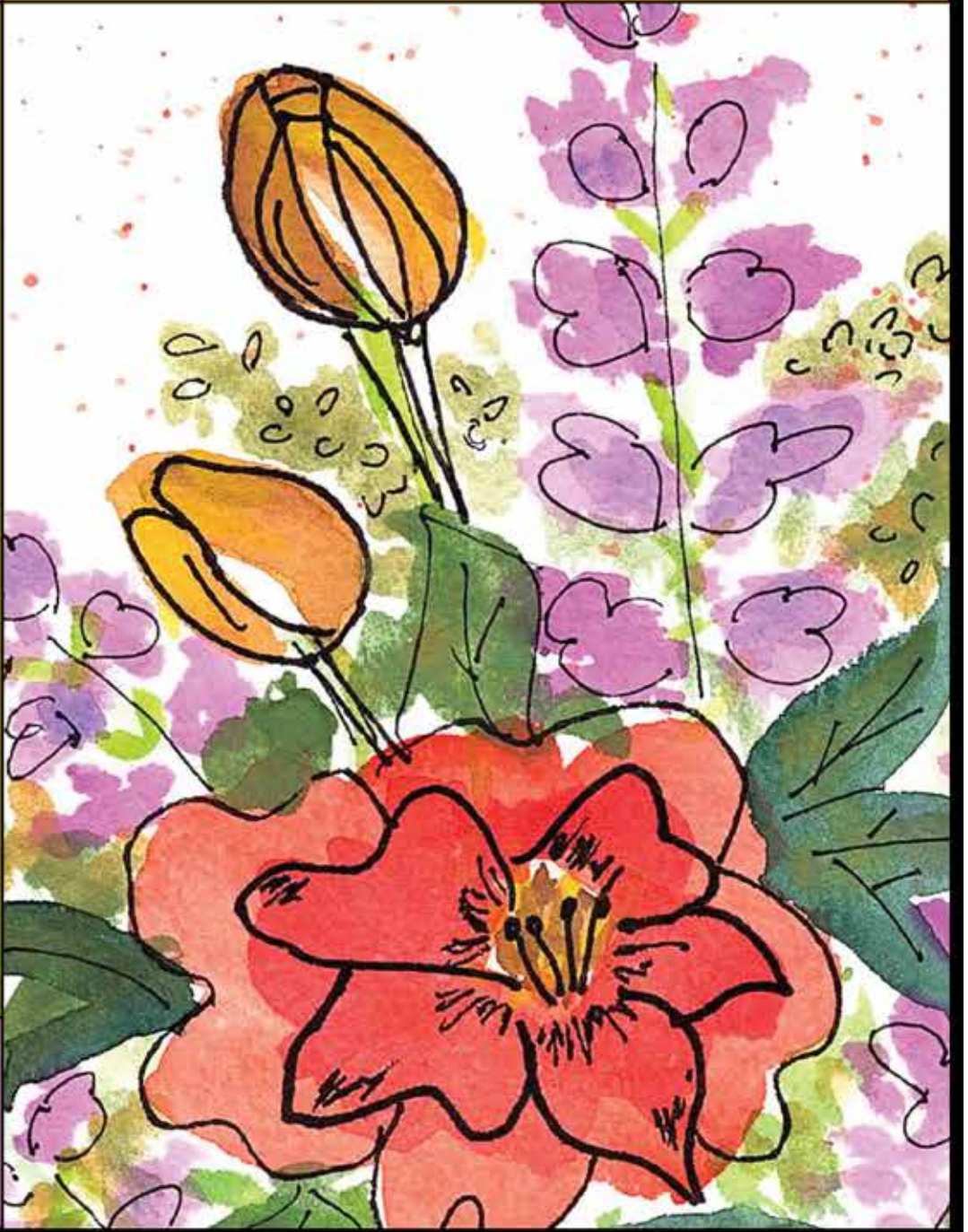
Grasses

and more!

**Community raffle, lots of
garden art, and something
special for the
indoor gardener!**

Cash, Check or Credit Card

Proceeds support community projects
such as: South Whidbey Farm to School,
Coupeville Farm to School, Good Cheer
Garden, Meerkerk Gardens



4 EVENTS
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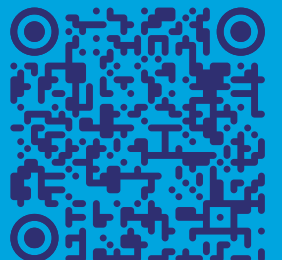
LITTLE BIG FEST
MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL
AUGUST 14, 15, 16TH
2026

EARTH DAY
APRIL 25TH
2026

SUMMER SOUL-STICE
JUNE 20TH
2026

WINTER SOUL-STICE
DECEMBER 19TH
2026

www.LittleBIGFest.org



BITS & PIECES

Fire Station 82 Grand Opening Celebration and Pancake Breakfast Set for June 6

The community is invited to celebrate the grand opening of Fire Station 82 with a family-friendly event on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hosted at Fire Station 81, the celebration will include a free pancake breakfast, station tours, live demonstrations, and activities for all ages. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore both Fire Station 81 and the newly completed Fire Station 82, with shuttle service between the two.

The event will feature a variety of interactive experiences, including a touch-a-truck display, opportunities to meet local firefighters, and information booths hosted by community partners. Families can also enjoy games and hands-on activities designed to engage visitors of all ages.

"This grand opening is an opportunity to welcome the community into these spaces and highlight the important work our fire department does every day," said Mayor Wright. "We're excited to celebrate this milestone together and provide a fun, educational experience for everyone. I also want to thank our residents for approving the Fire Levy back in November 2022 that supports the construction of the new fire station."

Due to limited parking at Fire Station 82, attendees are encouraged to park at Fire Station 81, where the main event will be held, and use the free shuttle service. Walking or biking between stations is also encouraged.

Event Details:

What: Fire Station 82 Grand Opening & Community Celebration

When: Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: 855 E Whidbey Ave (Fire Station 81 – main event location)

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information and media inquiries, contact Communications Office, Magi Aguilar at maguilar@oakharbor.org



DOWNTOWN OAK HARBOR

Klompen Hunt!



Holland Happening Weekend

April 24-26, 2026

Pick up your Klompen Hunt passport at the Garry Oak Gallery. Hunt for the hidden Klompen at participating merchants and get your passport stamped. Return your completed passport to be entered to win prizes! The drawing for prizes will be held Monday, April 27.

Winners will be notified by phone.

The Klompen Hunt is sponsored by:



Free Business Workshops

Graphic Design 101

Tuesday, April 28, 1-3 pm
Front Room, 2nd Floor of the Bayview Cash Store, 5603 Bayview Road



Learn the basics of graphic design and create your own custom images for all your business needs. We'll cover where to find photos and layouts, what programs you can use for free or paid, and best practices to create eye-catching graphics. This class offers a chance to ask questions and work on your projects live. Feel free to bring your laptop!

Starting a Business Panel

Wednesday, May 31, 5-7 pm
Freeland Library, 5495 S Harbor Ave, Freeland

You've got the business idea... now what? Learn from a panel of experts who will guide you on which step to take first, what comes after that, and how to start down the path towards your own successful business. Bring all your questions to Kristina Hines (Economic Development Council for Island County), Mary Elizabeth Himes (Safe Harbor Insurance), Megan Wise (Heritage Bank), and Angie Zito (Zito & Associates Tax Professionals).

Free and open to all; learn more and register at goosefoot.org/workshops



WearableART

AN UNEXPECTED RUNWAY SHOW WITH FLAIR
Runway Show & Dinner Saturday, May 16, 2026

Doors open at 5:30P | Dinner at 6:30P | Show at 7:00P

\$100 Ticket includes dinner by Serendipity & first beverage of choice.

Evening Fundraising Activities Include Raise The Paddle & Dessert Dash Benefiting Older Adult Programs & Services through the Oak Harbor Senior Center Foundation & City of Oak Harbor Parks & Recreation.

Behind The Runway Sunday: May 17, 2026

3:00 - 5:00 PM Runway Show w/Artist Q&A

\$10 Fee for 16+ Years | Under 15 Free

Come see the runway show in person and hear how the artists created their masterful ensembles.

GET TICKETS

AT OHSCFOUNDATION.ORG/EVENTS



Penn Cove Water Festival



Coupeville
Whidbey Island, WA
May 9, 2026
11AM-5PM

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penncovewaterfestival.org

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BITS & PIECES

WHC Gala



**WHIDBEY
 HOMELESS
 COALITION**

The Whidbey Homeless Coalition's inaugural Art and Elegance Gala raised more than \$25,000 to support critical services for individuals experiencing homelessness across Island County.

Mayor Wright played a key role in the event's success, personally donating all food, beverages, and event essentials to ensure that proceeds could go directly toward the Coalition's mission. His generosity set the tone for the evening and demonstrated a level of personal commitment that deeply moved guests, volunteers, and community partners alike.

From the earliest planning stages, Mayor Wright took a hands-on role because he is deeply concerned about the growing challenges surrounding homelessness across Whidbey Island. His involvement reflects a belief shared by many community members: that addressing homelessness requires action, partnership, and a willingness to show up in meaningful ways. His leadership throughout this event exemplified that spirit.

"This is about doing the work," said Mayor Wright. "I hear concerns from our community, and I know that addressing homelessness requires partnership and real investment. Supporting events like this is one way we can come together to make a difference. I'm proud knowing that over \$25,000 was raised for this first event, and I look forward to continuing supporting future events."

The Coalition extends its deepest appreciation to Mayor Wright. His generosity, steady encouragement, and personal investment made a profound difference. His willingness to step forward, not just in word but in action, helped create an atmosphere of hope, dignity, and shared purpose. The Coalition is sincerely grateful for his kindness, his leadership, and the example he sets for the community.

Funds raised from the gala will directly support the Coalition's programs, including:

- The Haven, an overnight shelter near Coupeville
- The House of Hope, transitional housing in Langley

The event also drew strong support from Island County Commissioners and State Representative Dave Paul.

Recently featured in the Whidbey

News-Times, the Art and Elegance Gala brought community members together through creative "tablescaping" displays and fundraising auctions, highlighting the generosity and innovation of Whidbey Island residents.

Mayor Wright remains actively engaged in efforts to address homelessness and will continue working with his administration and alongside the Pathways to Stability Task Force to support solutions. The Coalition offers its heartfelt thanks for his unwavering support, compassion, and commitment to ensuring that every neighbor has a safe place to rest.

Imagination Cove
Children's Museum
 WHERE PLAY & LEARNING THRIVE

Mala Sooknanan
 PARTY POPS
 Jaylynn Sybrant
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What's Going On!

KLOMPEN HUNT!

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26
Garry Oak Gallery, 830 SE Pioneer Way #101, Oak Harbor

Pick up a Klompen Hunt passport and search for hidden wooden shoes at participating downtown merchants. Collect stamps along the way and return your completed passport for a chance to win prizes. Winners will be drawn April 27 and notified by phone.

HOLLAND HAPPENING

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26
Windjammer Park,
1600 SW Beeksma Dr., Oak Harbor

Celebrate Oak Harbor's Dutch heritage during this annual festival weekend featuring a traditional Dutch Dinner on Friday, a community parade on Saturday and a lively street festival Saturday and Sunday. Enjoy food, entertainment, vendors and family-friendly activities throughout the weekend.

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE WORK PARTY

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Keystone Preserve, Coupeville

Volunteer at this hands-on work party supporting habitat restoration and stewardship at Keystone Preserve. Activities may include weed removal, trail building and farm assistance. Moderate difficulty; registration required through the Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

BAYVIEW FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bayview Corner, 5642 Bayview Rd., Langley

Kick off the 2026 season of the Bayview

Farmers Market, held Saturdays through Oct. 17. Shop locally grown produce, prepared foods and handmade goods while enjoying live music and a lively community atmosphere. Featuring farms, food vendors and artisans from across Whidbey Island, the market is a weekly gathering place to connect with local growers and makers.

GREENBANK GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Greenbank Farm, Barn A, 765 Wonn Rd., Greenbank

Shop hundreds of locally grown plants at this annual sale, including vegetable starts, herbs, perennials, shrubs and grasses. The event also features a community raffle, garden art and selections for indoor gardeners. Proceeds support local projects such as Farm to School programs, Good Cheer Garden and Meerkerk Gardens. Cash, check and credit card accepted.

EARTH'S GREATEST ENEMY

Saturday, April 25, 1:30-5 p.m.
The Clyde Theatre, 217 First St., Langley

Attend a screening of Earth's Greatest Enemy, a documentary examining the environmental impact of U.S. military activity. The event includes a post-film Q&A with director Abby Martin, joining virtually. Pay-what-you-can admission; proceeds support Sound Defense Alliance's work protecting local communities and ecosystems.

WHIDBEY OYSTER NETWORK MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, April 30, 5-7:30 p.m.
Bayview Cash Store, Front Room,
5603 Bayview Rd., Langley

Join this free monthly gathering focused

on oyster education and DIY shellfish farming. The evening includes informal mingling followed by a lecture and discussion led by local experts. This month's speaker, Kurt Johnson, will cover site selection and equipment for private oyster farming on Whidbey. All experience levels welcome.

FLYING FINGER DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING SOCIAL

Friday, May 1, 5:30 p.m.
Langley United Methodist Church, Fireside Room (Third St and Anthes Ave)

Our gathering meets once a month. Sign language is shown to the group and fingerspelling. We always have a surprise where we share food. And celebrate birthday and holidays too. The Fireside Room is in the back part of the church. Please follow posters.

For information please contact Susan at sisoleil973@yahoo.com.

PRAIRIE DAYS

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Rd., Coupeville

Celebrate Whidbey Island's rare prairie ecosystem during this free, family-friendly festival. Enjoy guided tours, educational talks, a native plant sale and hands-on activities including a prairie scavenger hunt and bioblitz. Learn about wildflowers, conservation and habitat restoration while exploring the preserve.

FRUIT TREE WORKSHOPS: MARI-TIME FIGS

Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.-noon
Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Road, Coupeville

Discover how to successfully grow figs in maritime Washington. This workshop covers site selection, reliable cultivars for Whidbey Island, varieties to avoid, and propagation techniques. The class includes a slideshow discussion followed by hands-on propagation, with participants going home with their own fig start. Led by Dan Vorhis.

Soroptimist International of South Whidbey presents

SHRED-IT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 16th
10:00am - 2:00pm

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\$5 for Shopping Bag
\$10 for Banker Box
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All proceeds benefit Soroptimist International of South Whidbey Programs & Training





Whidbey Island Music Festival

Couperin Goes Country

SAT, April 25th, 3pm

St. Augustine's in-the-wood's, Freeland

What happens when the refined elegance of Couperin and French baroque airs de cour meets the rhinestone soul of Dolly Parton? Find out in this high-spirited musical smash-up where the Palace of Versailles meets Dolly Parton's country-western storytelling.

Artists: Danielle Reutter-Harrah, soprano, Bryan Boehnke, recorder, Tekla Cunningham, baroque violin, David Morris, viola da gamba, Henry Lebedinsky, harpsichord





www.whidbeyislandmusicfestival.org



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On Making Gratitude Tactile

by Charles LaFond

ISLAND FUNDRAISER, POTTER, AUTHOR, AND ESSAYIST

As a fundraiser of 43 years, what people most ask me at workshops, lectures, classes, and board meetings is this one thing: "What enables and motivates people to give gifts to nonprofits?"

And I get the question. I mean, it sort of feels like the magician's "Abracadabra" of fundraising. But what is problematic in the question is that it is actually two different questions.

What "enables" people to make gifts to their favorite charities is not the same as what "motivates" people to make gifts to their favorite charities.

Until we tease out the difference, we will not fully understand what is happening in the nation, a nation whose beautiful population gives billions away to make the world a better place.

"ENABLES": What enables people to give money away to charities (\$10 or \$10 million) is gratitude. When we know that we have much, we can access the generous-gene to help others in our community. We are "enabled" to give by feeling we have enough. As I always say (and it never fails to get a gasp and a laugh) is **"Gratitude is the. Ex-Lax of generosity."**

"MOTIVATES": What motivates people to make gifts is a very different thing. What motivates people to give is their "meaning-making." We are meaning-making mammals. We survive by making meaning of that which happens around us, and our generosity is a real and present symbol of the meaning-making we each seek to establish. When we give a gift, we are telling ourselves (and sometimes others) that "I, (insert your name here) am the kind of person who..."

The reason it is important to understand generosity and meaning-making is that it furthers the human species. We humans live to pass on our genes, and over millions of years, we have learned that helping others also makes the world a bit better for ourselves.

But, one may be asking "What can I do to get a handle on this if I feel like I am not a generous person?" Well, first, I think if you are asking that question, then you have also answered it. Were you not generous, you would not care. But also, if you are asking that question, here is a



simple exercise you can do to give more of yourself away (money, intimacy, sex, friendship, time – all of it)

- 1. Speak to yourself in a tone that you would admire** or that you would use with your best friend. Most of our self-talk is toxic, abusive, and mean, such that we are living in emotional survival mode and are, therefore, not feeling generous.
- 2. Want less.** Just that. Want less. When we want less, we spend less and, in turn, have more to give to those in need or to the land that needs human protection.
- 3. Stop making silent gratitude lists.** They are BORING. And they are repetitive. They become so repetitive that we become numb to them. Instead, find a human being, sit open-hearted with them, and tell them what you are grateful for, not in lists of one-liners, but in paragraphs.

I want to make meaning by being generous. It is how we humans are wired. And not living that way is to live in a way counter to who we have evolved to be on this planet. Everything we eat gives itself to us to provide life, so why can we not do likewise?

.....
To see more
Charles LaFond

Website
www.charles-lafond.com

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Strong Women Build Strong Communities Women Build 2026

May 14th 15th & 16th 2026

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of Island County

Hard hats look good on you,
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islandcountyhabitat.org/women-build-2026/

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you're ready to leave an old frustration behind. A new opportunity or idea brings renewed motivation. Trust yourself—you're more prepared than you think.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, with your season underway, confidence begins to grow. This is a strong week to focus on personal goals and speak up about what you want.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, you may benefit from slowing down before making a big decision. A little extra patience now helps you avoid unnecessary stress later.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, friends and social connections bring support. A conversation or invitation could open the door to something exciting and unexpected.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, your efforts are beginning to attract attention. Recognition may arrive in small ways at first, but it boosts your confidence and keeps you moving forward.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a change of scenery or routine helps you see things more clearly. A fresh perspective gives you the motivation to tackle something you've been avoiding.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this is a week to let go of what no longer works. Whether it's a habit, worry, or old expectation, releasing it brings a welcome sense of relief.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, relationships improve through honesty and understanding. Someone close to you may surprise you with their support if you're willing to open up.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, practical matters take priority. Staying organized now helps you create more freedom later. A productive week leaves you feeling accomplished.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, creativity and fun deserve more of your attention. Making time for what you enjoy restores your energy and helps you reconnect with your lighter side.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, home and family matters come into focus. A small improvement to your space or a meaningful conversation brings comfort and reassurance.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your words carry extra meaning this week. A thoughtful conversation or message helps strengthen an important connection.

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 Freeland Hall



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Whidbey Weekly We love our local newspaper!

Island Angler

THE LORE OF SPORTFISHING

By Tracy Loescher

SEA DRAGONS

Beginning May 1st we will be able to venture out into the Puget Sound to hunt for a beast that is camouflaged in slick, dark, snake-like skin, it has a tail that can whip lightning fast from left to right, and has a mouth full of razor sharp teeth. These beasts can grow to 50 pounds and to a length of 5 feet! They lie still on rocky ledges and at the outer edges of bull-kelp beds to quickly ambush unsuspecting prey as it swims by. With its gills tucked neatly against the side of its massive head the beast glides through the water on leathery flexible wings along its body, and then in an instant it flares its gills and engulfs its intended prey. The beast I speak of is the Pacific Lingcod, the lingcod is one of the most highly prized fish that Puget Sound anglers anxiously wait for each spring and early summer, they are fantastic table fare and are a blast to hook and fight to the surface.



<The incredible Sea Dragon!

The largest lingcod are female carrying all of the eggs for future generations of lings. To help keep the fishery sustainable from a recreational standpoint the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) established a retention size limit, in most of the saltwater Marine Areas lingcod can only be kept between 26 and 36 inches all others must be released. Another restriction for recreational anglers is a max fishing depth of 120 feet (check the state regulations on depths during halibut season). Unlike other bottom dwelling cod, lings do not have a swim bladder that expands when pulled quickly to the surface, because of this they can be brought to the surface from deeper water and released without internally damaging the fish and the dragon will quickly return to the depths from which it came.

With a short 45 day season and the always uncertain weather patterns (small craft advisories) being rigged and ready to fish is paramount! Catching lingcod from the shore is not impossible, the hardest part is finding rocky shoreline areas that has deep water (minimum 25 feet) and are safe enough to fish from (I have seen people fish on the rocks under Deception Pass bridge on the north side in Canoe Pass), however most successful lingcod fishing is done from a boat. Boats give anglers the ability to fish all of the offshore underwater rock piles (pinnacles) and thick kelp beds, moving from structure to structure in search of dragons. Pacific lingcod are very aggressive and not extremely difficult to catch, generally speaking if you find where the lingcod are holding up you will catch fish. I would like to tell you that expensive fishing gear is not required to catch lingcod, however the price of all fishing gear these days is crazy expensive! There are bargains out there if you watch for sales and clearance items. Look for either a spinning or level-wind combo rod and reel setup that is in the medium to medium-heavy category, 6.5 to 7.5 foot rods paired with a 4000 to 5000 size spinning reel or a medium-large size level-wind.



<Sea Dragon waiting patiently to strike!

Whichever rod and reel combo type you choose, I recommend filling the reel spool with a 40 to 65 pound braided fishing line, I like the "Power Pro" brand but there are other braided lines on the market that will get the job done. The biggest advantages we get with braided line is, the line is thin causing minimal drag when the currents are moving, this helps keep the line vertical when jigging and reduces the chances of snagging the bottom. Also braid has little to no stretch, so when the bait or lure is down deep in the strike zone you can really feel the fish bite and setting the hook is very effective due to no stretch unlike monofilament lines. Tying jig-heads and bait-hook setups directly onto the braid is fine or you can add a short length of monofilament leader (20 to 30 inches) of 40 to 50 pound test, this will help if you get snagged on the bottom allowing the leader to break first saving the expensive braided line.



<This Sea Dragon that took a rubber jig-head bait.

Lingcod will attack almost anything that gets in front of them they see as dinner. Natural baits of all kinds will get bit, herring, shiners (pogies), salmon belly-strips, anchovies, and mackerel, basically any cut/chunk bait will work. Some anglers will catch sand-dabs or kelp greenling and rig them up as live bait. Artificial lures are also deadly effective, 6 to 12 ounce lead-head jigs with rubber paddle-tail swimbaits, curly-tail grubs, twin-tail baits, and rubber-eel style baits are all going to get bit. Heavy metal darts (point wilson), copper pipe jigs, and large heavy spoons will also get their attention. Basically anything that mimics a wounded fish will attract a dragon to clamp down and hold on! I will often add some herring oil or gel scent to my artificial baits as well.

This is a basic copper pipe jig, (be sure to check regulations for using treble hooks)>

Once you find the rocky structure you want to fish be sure to drift with the current so you are fishing "down hill", this is the best way to avoid snagging the bottom and losing a lot of gear. Continuously touching bottom is not necessary, touch bottom occasionally then reel off the bottom a couple feet, the lings will dart up off the bottom to strike the bait/lure. After drifting down the structure reel up and reposition on top again and repeat the drift. When you are initially hooked up on a lingcod lift the rod, and reel quickly, after the strike the lingcod will try to swim into any rocky crevasse or hole to hide. For me, hunting lingcod marks the beginning of the saltwater fishing season, and family dinners of delicious fish tacos, and buttery pan-seared lingcod fillets!



<Time to enjoy some fantastic tacos!

Be sure to brush up on the state fishing regulations before heading out and remember to check the ever changing in-season emergency rule change section on-line. Boat lunches can get pretty busy during lingcod season so give yourself a little extra time, but trust me when you do hook into a Dragon you will never forget it! GOOD LUCK! and be safe out there!

LITTLE BIG FEST PRESENTS

EARTH DAY

APRIL 25 | 4 TO 10 PM

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Astrology for April 24-30 2026 Uranus Enters Gemini Until 2033

On **April 24**, Venus enters Gemini until May 18. Venus in this sign is witty, clever and curious. We are more inclined to follow our curiosities, to ask more questions, and have more conversations. Romance is driven by intellect, shared interests, and humor rather than traditional sensuality. Generally speaking, Venus in this position opens us up more to social environments, saying yes to invitations, and trying new things. Have Gemini placements in your chart? They will be blessed by this transit. Reading, writing, speech, and learning all take center stage and are a source of joy and pleasure during this time. Try something new. Diversify your investments - not just your money, but your time, attention, and internet use.

Here's where it really gets interesting. On **April 25**, Uranus enters Gemini until 2033. The shit-starter planet of change, Uranus has finally completed its long-winded run through the sign of Taurus. Since 2018, we have been shaken in unexpected ways through matters of physical resources, money, values, self-worth, and the way we interface with our earthly reality. As Uranus enters Gemini, a whole new wave of lessons via surprise is unfolding. Uranus in Gemini will change the way we speak to each other, the way that we exchange goods and services, and what information we share or don't. We will be encouraged to learn new ways of communication, and this will invite a rebirth of social media and social technologies. A lot of industries will innovate the way they interface with their work force and with their audiences at large. Gemini is one of the signs that is ruled by a human symbol, thus hinting at the major changes that will affect humanity. Gemini also rules travel and Uranus rules innovation. There will be some incredible shifts in the way that we move about the planet and through this signature, they will happen extremely fast. There's so much to discuss here - a very Gemini statement - and we will be talking about this transit as it progresses over the next 7 years. As far as today goes, we are very lucky that Venus entered Gemini just ahead of Uranus, signaling an ease and gentleness that is often absent when Uranus is activated. This also means that Venus will conjunct Uranus today, and one way this can be experienced is through our relationships. Both Uranus and Gemini welcome freedom, and as Venus rules relationships, we may be desiring to experience what a unique freedom means to us. That desire may strike strongly and seemingly out of nowhere, in true Uranus fashion. We can gravitate towards considering our options in more ways than one.

On **April 26**, Venus in Gemini sextiles Neptune in Aries at 3° and Mercury in Aries squares Jupiter in Cancer at 18°. With the help of Neptune in Aries, Venus in Gemini is activated. Our curiosity heightens even more, this time by way of dreams, desires, and romantic ideals. This is a very playful combination, but not a reliable one. Whether its via light flirtation or acting on impulse, we can be wearing rose-colored glasses. Today is glorious for creative expression, frolic, whimsy, etc, but Mercury square Jupiter will check us if we go too far. Mercury rules speech, messages, conversations, and in the sign of Aries our style in these avenues leans very direct, forward, and impulsive. The square to Jupiter suggests it will be very easy to say too much or to misrepresent intentions. Liars beware, you can get caught. Overall, today can be incredible for exploring what brings us joy, but only if integrity remains intact.

On **April 27**, the Sun in Taurus sextiles the North Node in Pisces at 7°, while the Moon crosses over the South Node in Virgo at 7°. There are elements of fate floating through the day. Perhaps prompted by an emotional reflection of the past, we are invited to move toward a spiritual or karmic goal. This is a quicker-paced transit and may only have a passing influence, but helpful for our higher aims nonetheless. A welcome helpfulness and encouragement that we are moving in the right direction despite apparent circumstances.

On **April 28**, Venus in Gemini trines Pluto in Aquarius at 5°. Positive and powerful, this transit can move a lot forward - socially. When Venus and Pluto meet in humanitarian signs via trine, we can feel the effects of positive change, transformation and support in our relationships, in our dynamics with people. This is helpful for communication, hard conversations, or deep topics that need to be addressed. This is energy that can create a stronger connection between you and others. We are more open to depth, more interested in what lies beneath basic interactions. Venus in Gemini can't help but try to find out. Topics breached and questions posed casually may reveal answers of an unexpected intensity or passion. Don't ask the question if you aren't ready to find out the answer.

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April 24th – April 30th : the Three of Cups Reversed.

A card often representing congratulatory cheer and good memories made with friends, yet this week indicates feelings of frustration and annoyance in association with tedious repetition and not entirely inaccurate perceptions of promised deadlines continuously drawn out, as if you're never quite able to cross the finish line and the victory banner keeps being moved ahead as you approach, which leads to delayed celebration. Again, we're wading through thickets of details and minutia wrapped tightly around us to address and implement. This adds to our benefit in the long run, as well as to the success and accomplishment of that which we're working toward, yet also feels burdensome and prolonged,

much like a desire to finish the last few pages of the book you've been reading but a misjudgment of the bulk of information to process results in hours rather than minutes, finding you well into the night before you feel the liberty to set the hyperfocus down. This internal pressure, which feels external, grinding you to keep at it, compelling you to skip meals, delay the calling of nature, even rationalize the snappiness toward loved ones and colleagues, all for the dangled carrot of "almost done".

But that building frustration can also be your alarm bell pulling you back from the trance of the hamster wheel. In these moments when you're hungry for the finish line yet it keeps eluding you, let this be a loving nudge to take a deep breath, to nourish and listen to your body, even consider a brief respite or a good night's rest, rather than sacrificing or betraying yourself to attain a self-imposed and arbitrary deadline. Making yourself ill or inflicting emotional nicks while being a boor in driving away others is never a worthwhile cost to any achievement; you can return to the task refreshed and clearer of mind without losing yourself or the ones you'd hope to join you in the eventual commencement of festivities.

And as a garnishing touch, let this channeled message be an insistence upon you to rejoice in even the smallest of triumphs and blessings, because each mile ticked encourages finishing of the marathon, and you deserve to feel commended, especially by your own self. ~Xo, Tiffany

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

More goodies offered here: <https://linktr.ee/tiffanyfitzpatrick>

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Publisher/ Editor**Samantha Goodman**
Production Manager/ Editor..... **Jacob Goodman**

Contributing Writers
Jim Sovanski
Joann Hellmann
Auston Reisman

CONTRIBUTE TO WHIDBEY WEEKLY

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

Contributing Columnists
Charles LaFond
Tracy Loescher
Helen Mosbrooker
NOA
Tiffany FitzPatrick

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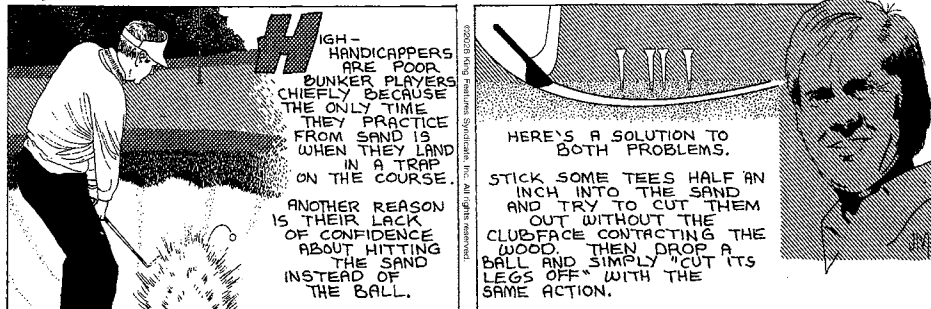
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- 48 Social standing
- 49 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
- 50 Deadly septet
- 51 Picnic invaders
- 52 Pot pie morsel
- 53 Whispered "Hey!"

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
- 2 "The Candy House" author Jennifer
- 3 Not pizzicato
- 4 Eastern "way"
- 5 Make by hand
- 6 Male red deer
- 7 Pained sounds
- 8 Baseball diamond stop
- 9 Latvia's capital
- 10 Jittery
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- 20 Little lie
- 21 "America's Next Top Model" host
- 22 "Community" actor Jeong
- 23 JFK's veep
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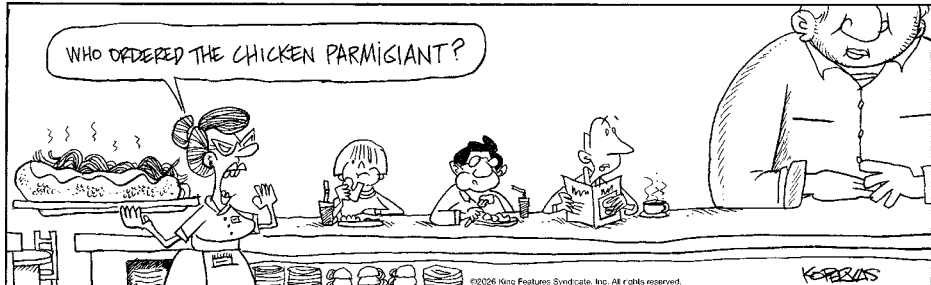
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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?



Veronica Brewer, Oak Harbor

If I could travel anywhere, I would pick Osaka, Japan! It has a very big foodie scene and is often referred to as "Japan's Kitchen," with the heart of the scene being the neon-lit Dotonbori district. As someone who loves exploring unique flavors, this would be right up my alley. The city also offers unique architecture and is rich in history, with one of Japan's oldest shrines and the famous Osaka Castle. It seems like a place that has so much beauty, and it would definitely be an adventure for my mind as well as my taste buds!



Keenan Theirien, Langley

Drumheller, Alberta. The reason? Well, I'm a huge dinosaur nerd and this place is a dinosaur enthusiasts paradise. I know it's not as glamorous as Paris or Rome, but sometimes the places we want to visit are the ones that appeal to our more personal interests and hobbies. Mine just happens to involve prehistoric beasts buried in a desert.



Joan Hindman, Oak Harbor

I would love to travel to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands archipelago which lie between Samoa and French Polynesian.

A dreamscape of islands and atolls where everything moves at a slower pace! I'm interested in the ancient history and culture of the islanders people and the Vaka (canoe) way of life!

Especially their passion for double hull sailing voyaging Vaka canoes where they sail the Marumaru Atua ("under the protection of God") Pape'ete and then joining up with the Tahiti voyaging society canoe Fa'afaita on to Hawaii where voyagers from throughout the pacific will converge on the Hokiea, for the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FESTPAC)

Joyful Saying of the Week

It is not joy that makes us grateful. It is gratitude that makes us joyful.
 -Anonymous

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Answer on page 12

Life Tributes

Joann Blalock

August 14, 1953- April 12, 2026

Joann Blalock of Coupeville passed away April 12 with her husband Steve Diklich by her side. Joann was born to Rosemary Gregory Blalock and Alain Jacques Blalock and raised in Bellevue. She graduated from Sammamish High School and Western Washington University, where she earned a bachelor's in sociology. She later created an endowment at WWU for students pursuing that field. She had a long career in the credit union industry, including 29 years at Washington School Employees Credit Union, where she retired as Senior VP of Operations.



Joann and Steve spent the last 25 years on Whidbey Island, fulfilling her lifelong dream. Joann loved cooking, gardening, reading, and needlework. She was a devoted fan of the UW Huskies, even naming her chocolate lab DJ after Coach Don James. Joann was a compassionate and giving person, dedicating many hours to charitable causes, including Cancer Lifeline, Fred Hutch, Friends of the Library, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mobile Turkey Delivery, and WAIF. She treasured her family and was a devoted friend. She had a lovely smile and sharp wit.

In addition to Steve, she is survived by sister Rosemary and nephew Sean Gunning, his wife Millie and daughter Shannon; brother Alan; sister Janine Blalock (Steve Kirk), and nephew Trevor Bennett. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Whidbey Island Hospital Foundation earmarked for hospice. A celebration of Joann's life will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland, WA on May 15, 2026.

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HEALTH CORNER

By Dr. Darlene Castle
Chiropractor



PAIN ISN'T THE PROBLEM

Why do people only go to a Chiropractor when they hurt?

It was not always this way. Years ago, people came in for much more than pain.

From the 1900's through early 1980's, Chiropractic patients were those who had tried all the medical avenues and exhausted all other treatment options. They were tired of taking pills that did more harm than good and had decided to visit the local witch doctor, namely the Chiropractor. And more often than not, many got well.

Children were brought in with life-threatening problems. Many of them not only overcame their problems but went on to become Chiropractors themselves.

Cures did happen. Patients experienced life-changing eradications of paralysis, blindness, deafness and major diseases. Many cases were documented by prestigious hospitals like the Mayo Clinic.

In those days, a Chiropractor told each of his patients what Chiropractic was and that it was not a cure-all – in fact it didn't cure anything. All it could do was remove interferences to the nerve system, putting the brain back in control of the body. If a cure was to happen, it would be because of the workings of the body, not Chiropractic and not the Chiropractor. And the body was a miraculous machine.

And people accepted the risk and had their spines adjusted.

So why don't we hear about such things these days?

Well, why do people go to Chiropractors today?

Today's patients come in for back pain, get rid of it and then say they'll be back again if it hurts. Today they don't know much, if anything at all about what Chiropractic and a healthy body can do.

What happened?

Chiropractic colleges indoctrinated their students to believe that patients didn't want to know why Chiropractic worked, they only wanted their back pain gone.

Patient education stopped. Patients were no longer taught how their body works. They were told to focus on symptoms.

And in the 1980's, insurance companies became the responsible parties to pay for care—and they limited it to pain-based codes with disclaimers everywhere.

Today, a patient's first visit resembles a medical examination routine with very little said about how Chiropractic adjustments will positively impact their body.

Because of that, today's patients don't commonly stay under care long enough to experience any life changing effects—it isn't covered by insurance.

Chiropractic wasn't different then; patients were different. But it still works to allow the body to function at its peak and when that happens, miracles happen. Even today.



ABOUT: Dr. Darlene Castle attended Palmer College of Chiropractic and graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 1972.

"I knew I wanted to become a Chiropractor while still in high school. I made the right choice – 50 plus years in practice and I'm still helping people with Chiropractic care."

Community Chiropractor

Affordable Chiropractic Care for All Ages

Dr. Castle provides straightforward care focused on real results. Her practice is designed for people who need real help without the barriers.

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- Improved mobility and daily function



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Bring your family and friends and enjoy a resource fair dedicated to families with children ages 0-5!

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SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026**

**Free Event
All Are Welcome**

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- Facepainting
- A Pollination Celebration with Eric Ode
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SPRING TIME SALE

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19162 SR 20 3 miles South of the Coupeville overpass on Hwy 20
Sale this week April 25 & 26 9am to 4pm consists of retail closeouts and liquidated overstocks of local businesses, vintage and Antique furniture, camping boating and fishing items and tools. New in the box women's boots, Teva sandals clothing, hats, clothes, tools.

Something for everyone.
360-678-5888

HEAR YE HEAR YE

F.O.E. Eagles Aerie #3418 South Whidbey will be handing out our annual donations at the club location at 16691 Hwy 525 Langley, WA 98260 (360) 321-5636 info@eagleswhidbeyisland.com on April 25 2026 at 2:30. 10 local non-profits will get their share of \$20000 made available by the members and there volunteer efforts. Refreshments will be served.

ISR EVENTS

Make Medicare Work for You! Island Senior Resources' Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) help you understand Medicare. Learn more at a SHIBA Welcome to Medicare Presentation.
4/29 | 2 pm The Center in Oak Harbor
51 SE Jerome St, Oak Harbor
5/19 | 1 pm Freeland Library
5495 S Harbor Ave, Freeland

Meet Me @ Meerkerk Gardens Join Island Senior Resources and Whidbey Momentia's first event for caregivers and receivers. We'll walk through Meerkerk Gardens and enjoy a bring-your-own picnic.
May 1 11 a.m. Meerkerk Gardens 3531 Meerkerk Lane, Greenbank Cost: \$10/ caregiver & care receiver pair **RSVP:** tinyurl.com/meetmeatmeerkerk Learn more: senior-resources.org/meetme

Join Empowering Caregivers: Support & Resources Group Join us for actionable strategies & encouragement to build a stronger support system for caregivers. Learn to create a personal support

NEED HELP?

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

HEAR YE HEAR YE

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network, identify reliable local resources, & improve caregiving resilience. FREE Event 5/20 @ 10:30 am The Center at Oak Harbor 51 SE Jerome St, Oak Harbor Learn more: senior-resources.org/calendar/caresupport

Two Events Supporting Meals on Wheels Two days. One great cause. Support Whidbey seniors with Island Senior Resources Benefit Events at Whidbey Golf Club! Enjoy the Benefit Dinner & Live Auction on 5/31 or hit the greens at the Charity Golf Tournament on 6/1. All proceeds go towards Island Senior Resources programs. Learn more & register: senior-resources.org/benefit-events-2026

Apply Now for Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program Cards Freshfood. Local farms. Healthier seniors. The Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program is a win-win! Low-income seniors get fresh, organic fruits & veggies while local farmers sell produce. Apply now for an \$80 2026 season debit card. Cards valid 6/1-10/31 at participating ls. County markets. Learn more & apply: senior-resources.org/sfmpn

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.
whibeyvrc.org

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

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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

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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 Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families meeting, Tuesdays 2-3 pm, Langley Methodist Church - 301 Anthes Ave, Langley - Fireside room. Contact: acawhidbey@gmail.com

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

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