

July 17, 2026 - July 23, 2026

absolutely **FREE**

Whidbey Weekly

Your Source For "What's Happening" On Whidbey Island
NEWS • BITS • WHATS GOING ON • PUZZLES • COLUMNISTS • CLASSIFIEDS

ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PRESENTS
two shows outdoors in rotating repertory
July 23 - Sept. 6

a new play by Erin Murray

ROBIN HOOD
of Sherwood Forest

MACBETH
by William Shakespeare

PAY WHAT YOU WILL
5476 Maxwelton Rd | islandshakespearefest.org

TICKETS



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Meet the “**MEAN GIRLS**” at the Whidbey Playhouse



Review and photography by Jim Sovanski

You know you're running a successful youth theater program when you are casting a show calling for 14 speaking parts and you end up with 3 different rotating casts of 14 actors and 64 total cast members. I don't know if this happens elsewhere in the world, but it does happen here at the Whidbey Playhouse. It actually reflects what the kids themselves want to perform. Co-director Matt Montoya explains, "This is a show that the kids really wanted to do. Many of them have been requesting this show for a while now."

As a result, the Whidbey Playhouse Youth Education Program has taken on the ambitious task of producing "Mean Girls Jr" with not one, but three different casts. Varying by age, using 3 casts allows more students stage time and provides a truly unique experience for actors and audience alike. "This cast is great," continued Montoya. "They are full of energy and talent. Even if I am having the worst day, being at rehearsal always seems to

brighten my mood!"

Based on the 2004 movie comedy penned by Tina Fey, "Mean Girls" (the musical) arrived on Broadway in 2018. Fey updated the book reflecting current teen slang and lifestyle with music by Jeff Richmond and lyrics by Nell Benjamin. In the Junior version, the adult themes of the original have been edited for younger performers. This WPEP production is co-directed by Shelbie and Matt Montoya with Liz Hendricks as music director.

After years on the African Savannah, teenager Cady Heron finds herself in the real jungle; the suburban North Shore High School, just outside of Chicago, Illinois. Her idealistic view of the world is immediately tested as she navigates the horrors of the high school social scene. The story follows her attempts to fit in and yet stay true to herself.

"Watching the kids grow as actors and actresses is very rewarding," continued Montoya. "We have kids in lead roles now that

have been in the program since the beginning. I can remember some of them being very shy about being on stage at all. The message that the show gives is pretty simple. Bullying is bad, even if you end up bullying the bully. (That's not confusing!) You should value your friends and that being kind isn't a bad thing."

Music director Hendricks added her thoughts. "This year we had nearly 90 kids audition and although we would love to cast everyone, we simply don't have the space at the playhouse. We do our best to keep as many kids as possible based on their auditions, experience, talent, and attitude. We want amazing singers in our musicals but that is not the only consideration." She continued, "Once Shelbie casts the show we dive right into the music. It is really tricky because we cast everyone from amazing singers with great music reading abilities to kids who don't read music and sometimes aren't even old enough to read!"



As one of the three actors playing Cady, Amilia Gonzales gushed, "I absolutely love my character, Cady, so much, she's so smart and amazing. Cady was homeschooled and just beginning public high school. Hey, that was me just a year ago! So I have some of the same experience as she does." She continues, "Working with my cast members is always the best part of the junior shows here at the Playhouse. Everyone is so talented and nice to each other, we're all one big happy family. I couldn't ask for a better cast!"

Lizzy McDaniel, one of the three who play the villain "The Plastics" leader Regina George reflected, "As shocking as getting Regina was, I really love her as a character (as well as the rest of the Plastics) because they're not *just* bad guys, they're more complex. Karen is more emotionally intelligent than you'd think, Gretchen isn't just gossipy, she's insecure and kind of a people pleaser, and Regina is far from just mean. The way I see it, she belittles others so they can't see all the things she sees wrong with herself. She cares more than she wants people to know."

As a younger actor, Clayton Robbins who co-plays the 'stuck-in-the-middle' boyfriend Aaron Samuels shared his surprise. "Originally I had not auditioned for Aaron, but the ensemble. And the reason for that was because at that time I had signed up, I had heard Shelbie's "3 casts" idea, though I was not sure it was actually going to happen. So, since I thought if it was only one cast, I had thought an older kid rather than a 10 year old would get the part of Aaron. But I was so excited when I found out that I was playing Aaron!"



So, for a trip (good or bad) back to high school, check out Mean Girls Jr. at the Whidbey Playhouse.

The show opens **Friday, July 17th** and runs weekends through **August 2nd**. Matinee performances are at 2:00 p.m. and Evening shows are at 7:00 p.m.

The rotating cast schedule is on the website.

The Whidbey Playhouse is located at 730 SE Midway Blvd. in Oak Harbor.

Ticket sales and further information at www.whidbeyplayhouse.com or call the box office at 360 679-2237.

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



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BITS & PIECES

Island Shakespeare Fest Opens July 23-Sept. 6 for a Jam-packed Summer Season



Island Shakespeare Festival (ISF) presents the world premiere of Erin Murray’s Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest and William Shakespeare’s Macbeth in rotation from July 23 through Sept. 6. All of its 1 pm and 6 pm performances are on its beautiful outdoor forest stage in Langley. (Please note: Due unforeseen circumstances, ISF has moved its opening weekend from July 17. Both shows now open the same weekend: Robin Hood previews July 23 and Macbeth on July 24, with openings on July 25 and 26.)

Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest | by Erin Murray

How far would you go to build a better world?

In a world hungry for a hero, a humble outlaw answers the call. In Murray’s new play, Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest follows Robin as he defies Prince John’s unjust rule with humor, heart and high adventure. It’s joy as rebellion in a play director Aili Huber says is the perfect time to present our country with a much-needed hero.

“We have the world’s first trillionaire, and twenty percent of American children live in poverty,” says Huber. “We need a hero, and this ancient story offers the best one for this moment.”

Productions of Robin Hood the world over feature archery and trickery, daring escapes and true love, but Huber says that Murray’s play offers much more than that.

“In ISF’s Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest, Murray adds a focus on a leader who views his role as being to support and serve his community, in contrast with the tyrannical Prince John, whose interests are solely in his own power and wealth. The joy of the Merry Folk of Sherwood grows out of their love and care, and Robin’s constant encouragement to be excellent to each other,” the director says.

With music, laughter, hijinks and swordplay under the summer sky, ISF’s Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest reminds us: leaders aren’t born — they’re forged out of a concern for others. This production invites us to look at our own communities and ask, “How can we lead with service?”

Macbeth | by William Shakespeare

Director Jackie Apodaca asks the question of Shakespeare’s Macbeth: What drives a man to murder for a crown? What if Macbeth isn’t ruthless, but simply overlooked - an aging soldier grasping for one last chance to make a difference in a world ruled by nepotism and folly?

“In a field in France, angels appeared to a thirteen-year-old farm girl, urging her to lead armies into war. Surely, her fierce conviction on the battlefield provoked violence and slaughter,” says Apodaca. “In a field in Scotland, supernatural messengers appeared to a seasoned soldier at the end of a great war, greeting him with a prophecy: He will be king. Surely, this proclamation will provoke violence and slaughter. Joan of Arc is revered as a saint. Macbeth, on the other hand...” says the director.

This director questions why Macbeth shouldn’t be king. What if he has done everything asked of him – fought every battle, served his country faithfully – only to be passed over for the top job. Now in the third act of his life, Macbeth sees his final chance to make his mark and be remembered in a meaningful way. It’s all slipping away and he needs to act.

“On the outside of any tragedy, it is easy to separate right from wrong, good from bad. But from the inside?,” says Apodaca, “I hope audiences find new perspectives in our decidedly different production of Macbeth.”

Through raw physical storytelling, this Macbeth pulses with urgency, tenderness and the tragic cost of wanting to make an impact before it is too late.

Enjoy a picnic area, wine and beer garden, concessions, swordfight demonstrations, Shakes and Bakes and more **ISF Beyond events**, including a solo production of King John, the Improv Shakespeareance and more through Labor Day weekend.

All shows are pay-what-you-will so bring the whole family!

For more info, reservations and the calendar visit islandshakespearefest.org.



Show off Garden Produce at the Fair

Gardeners and farmers, it’s Fair time! Enter your finest produce on Tuesday, July 21st from Noon to 6 p.m. in the Malone Building at the Fairgrounds, 819 Camano Avenue in Langley. Learn how on Page 15 of the Entry Guide. Be sure to register your entries and click “Submit” at the end. The registration link is www.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/24188. Volunteers with South Whidbey Tilth and Deer Lagoon Grange are managing the Agriculture Department and will help anyone with questions. All registered entries receive premium money after being judged.

The Whidbey Island Fair is Thursday through Sunday, July 23 to 26. Visitors to the Agriculture Department can find a wide range of local fruits and vegetables and lots of educational displays. This year the Deer Lagoon Grange is collaborating with Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative to showcase the farmers on Whidbey. South Whidbey Tilth’s display features how to grow food. The Master Gardeners will have an extensive exhibit featuring “Deer and Rabbit Resistant Plants.” Learn about the Agriculture Resource Committee for Island County (ARCIC) too.

The all-time favorite is the Garden Creature display featuring fantastical animals, birds, robots, people made of fruits and vegetables. Free workshops to create sculptures are Sunday, July 19 at the Tilth Market from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at the Fairgrounds in the Malone Building from 1 to 3 p.m. Both children and adults are welcome to participate. Making creatures out of food is an ongoing activity during the fair. Unclaimed entries after the fair will be turned over to the Compost Collective to make rich garden soil. Entries may be claimed after 7 p.m. Sunday, July 26 and on Monday between 10 a.m. and noon or between 4 and 6 p.m.



NAS Whidbey Island will host Open House, 5K Run on August 22

NAS Whidbey Island will host its annual open house for the public on August 22, 2026, at Ault Field from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Open House will include a 5K run around the flightline. Registration for the 5K will be at 7 a.m., with the run starting at 8 a.m.

Photography is not allowed by participants in the 5K run. Photography by participants is forbidden during the 5k run, however, photography at the beginning and finish of the race is permitted at the starting gate.

Live streaming video will be strictly forbidden during the entire event, including official live streaming on social media.

If not participating in the 5K run, the flight line for all other visitors will open at 10 a.m. when the flight line opens for static displays of Growlers, P-8s, SAR and MQ-9, and other exhibits.

Charles Porter Gate will open at 6:30 a.m. for those participating in the 5K run.

Aviation memorabilia will also be available for purchase as well as a variety of food and beverages.

Everyone over the age of 18 is required to have a photo ID. To gain entry, everyone must have Real ID Act compliant identifications for entry. Information on Real ID Act requirements are available here <https://cnrnw.cninc.navy.mil/.../Base-Access-Real-ID-Act.../>

Foreign nationals from select countries may be welcomed with enhanced security screening protocols. Guests originating from Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom may be escorted on by a sponsor holding valid DoW credentials (CAC, retiree ID, dependent ID). All others must be properly vetted prior to being granted access to the event

All guests must use the Charles Porter Ave. gate to enter the base where you’ll be directed to parking.

Due to security measures, the following items are not allowed on the base: alcohol, bags larger than 12"x6"x12", backpacks, weapons (to include pocket knives), coolers, cameras with lenses exceeding 200mm zoom, camera tripods, cameras that can’t fit in 12"x6"x12" bag while fully assembled, and pets.

Additionally, drugs or drug paraphernalia to include marijuana products are prohibited from the base. Permitted items will be strollers, diaper bags, small women’s purses, wheelchairs, certified service dogs, bottled water, and small cameras.

If you have any questions reach out to the NAS Whidbey Island Public Affairs Office at naswi-pao@us.navy.mil or 360-257-2286.



St. Stephen’s launches its Day Monastery As a quiet place to work, read or meditate with others

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church is offering a new program during the week for those seeking a quiet place to work, read or meditate with friends and others. The program, entitled the Day Monastery, will launch on Thursday July 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will continue every Thursday thereafter. The program is available to everyone in the Whidbey community, not just St. Stephen’s members. All are welcome

Each person is invited to bring their laptop computer, cell phone and reading materials to Miller Hall, the fellowship gathering place at the church. The day will begin with a brief opening prayer and conclude with a closing prayer in the church sanctuary. Participants may bring their own lunch if they wish. Coffee will be available.

The rules of the Day Monastery are simple. No lengthy conversation as people work or read. Cell phones are silenced and any calls are made outside the fellowship hall.

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Whidbey Weekly

WHIDBEY WEEKLY

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WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ISLAND COUNTY CLERK

My name is Amber Sewell, and I have spent nearly two decades serving Island County through steady, hands-on public service. My career managing the Juvenile Detention facility, along with my Army service and experience as a small-business owner, has shaped me into a leader who is disciplined, accountable, and committed to strengthening the systems our community relies on.

I am running for County Clerk because our community deserves dependable leadership and a court system that operates with clarity, consistency, and respect. In my 18 years with Juvenile Detention, I oversaw daily operations, guided staff, and ensured that complex processes ran safely, efficiently, and in compliance with state requirements. That experience taught me how essential it is for public systems to be organized, accessible, and reliable.

The Clerk’s Office is the backbone of the Superior Court, and residents rely on it during some of the most stressful moments of their lives. The next Clerk must bring strong operational leadership and ensure that every person who walks through the door receives clear information and professional service.

I will bring integrity, stability, and a results-driven work ethic to this role.

Amber Sewell
Oak Harbor, WA

YES for Libraries

Imagine life on Whidbey with our 5 community libraries scaled down to the bones. No Homework Help, fewer movies and music to stream, no job-search help, reduced baby and toddler Storytimes . . . and far fewer books, audiobooks, ebooks, and magazines.

The passage of Sno-Isle Libraries Proposition 1 on the August 4 ballot will restore Sno-Isle’s levy rate to .47, the same rate the voters approved in 2018. The failure of the levy restoration vote will cause significant cuts to staffing levels, library hours, the purchase of both physical and digital materials – and the many programs offered by the Libraries.

Sno-Isle relies on property taxes for 91% of its expenses. The levy rate established in 2018 has decreased each year due to the legally required 1% cap on increases in the district’s annual budget. Salaries, health care, and the cost of materials for customers have increased far more than 1% annually since 2018.

Sno-Isle needs your YES vote on August 4 to restore its levy rate! A YES vote for Libraries will allow Sno-Isle to maintain the level of service customers expect. It will allow the continuation of our libraries’ early literacy programs, which give kids a leg-up when they enter first grade. These programs alone are worth voting YES, as they save taxpayers \$7-10 for every dollar spent on getting kids ready and interested in reading – savings due to the successful completion of high school.

Vote YES on Sno-Isle Libraries Proposition 1!

Marti Anamosa
Edmonds
(Former 27-year resident of Whidbey)

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Whidbey Weekly is your free, independent community newspaper — and we need your help to continue.

We must raise **\$50,000** to meet our printing obligations and keep the presses running.

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HEALTH CORNER

By Dr. Darlene Castle
Chiropractor

DO YOU HAVE ONE?

The vertebral subluxation complex causes impaired function and a loss of 100% life and health — every time.

- It interrupts your brain’s communication to every cell in your body.
- It interferes with its control of every cell in your body.
- It prevents the life support systems in your body from functioning at peak performance.
- It blocks the full expression of your life potential—preventing you from being the best you can possibly be.

The problems it causes are endless and likewise, the causes of vertebral subluxation seems endless. With all the jolts and jars, slips and falls, it appears inevitable that at some time or another, your body will receive enough trauma to cause a subluxation.

When “it” happens, how will you know that you now have one?

You won’t.

It would be nice if, when you received a subluxation, a little light would flash on and off in the area of your forehead and a sign would appear saying “TILT!” But unfortunately, that just doesn’t happen.

A subluxation doesn’t cause any immediate symptoms. You don’t get a sore back, pain in your sacroiliac or a crick in your neck. Pain isn’t always felt—there isn’t even any blood. No sirens, no warnings, no way you can tell that there



is a bone out of place, which is pinching on a nerve and infringing upon your ability to be.

You can’t tell. You need another person who knows what to do to check your spine. Someone who knows how to look and feel for a vertebral subluxation.

You need to contact the only group of people licensed, trained and qualified to locate and remove vertebral subluxations—the Chiropractic profession.

It is their specialty, their business, their area of expertise.

The Chiropractor has the knowledge and the training to locate areas of interference in the spine and then correct the subluxated vertebrae. The correction is called an adjustment.

The adjustment removes the interference to life and health and your body is then free to express its full life potential to the best of its ability.

There is no other way to find out if you have a vertebral subluxation.

There is no other way to correct a vertebral subluxation

It’s an important thing to know.

It’s an even more important thing to act upon.

Contact Dr. Castle at 425-238-8704 for questions. Walk-ins welcome Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-5 p.m., at the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Building, 32630 State Route 20.

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.”

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What's Going On!

MEAN GIRLS JR.
July 17-Aug. 2; Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
Whidbey Playhouse,
730 SE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor

Whidbey Playhouse presents Mean Girls Jr., a high-energy musical following the challenges of friendship, identity and fitting in during high school. Featuring a talented cast of young performers, the production includes rotating featured casts throughout the run. Tickets and performance schedule are available through the Whidbey Playhouse box office.

MY SON PINOCCHIO, JR.
Friday-Sunday, July 17-26
Whidbey Children's Theatre,
723 Camano Ave., Langley

Whidbey Children's Theatre presents Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr., a heartwarming family musical featuring the classic songs "When You Wish Upon a Star" and "I've Got No Strings," along with new music by Stephen Schwartz. This retelling of the beloved story explores what it means to be a "real" family. Performances are at 7 p.m. July 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25, with 2 p.m. matinees July 19 and 26. The July 23 performance is pay what you will. Recommended for ages 4 and older. Tickets are available online and at the door.

DIFFERENT MISTAKES
Friday, July 17, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 19, 4 p.m.
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts,
565 Camano Ave., Langley

Written and performed by Jim Carroll, Different Mistakes is a one-person show exploring life as a firefighter, EMT and imperfect human being. Blending humor with heartfelt storytelling, the performance reflects on resilience, mistakes and the lessons learned along the way. Tickets are \$20 or pay what you wish.

BIRD WALK AT DECEPTION PASS
Saturday, July 18, 8-9 a.m.
Lake Store, Deception Pass State Park,
41229 State Route 20, Oak Harbor

Explore Deception Pass State Park with fellow bird enthusiasts during this guided one-hour bird walk. Learn bird identification skills, discover local habitats and spot common and uncommon species found throughout the park. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number will be available to borrow. The next walks will be held Saturday, July 25 and Saturday, Aug. 1.

WHIDBEY ISLAND GARDEN TOUR
Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Various locations, Whidbey Island

Celebrate the 30th annual Whidbey Island Garden Tour with a self-guided visit to beautiful private gardens featuring local artists. Proceeds support environmental education, conservation and habitat stewardship projects on Whidbey Island. Tickets are \$35.

BAGPIPES FOR BEGINNERS TABLE
Saturday, July 18, 6-7 p.m.
Deception Pass Amphitheater,
Deception Pass State Park, Oak Harbor

Ever wanted to try playing the bagpipes? Stop by this hands-on demonstration hosted by the Celtic Arts Foundation and learn the basics before the evening concert. Participants can try the instrument and learn about local Celtic music events and classes. Free; a Discover Pass is required for vehicle access.

AMERICAN ROOTS CONCERT SERIES: FINLAY MACDONALD DUO
Saturday, July 18, 7-8 p.m.
North Beach Amphitheater,
Deception Pass State Park, Oak Harbor

Enjoy an evening of traditional and contemporary Celtic music with the internationally acclaimed Finlay MacDonald Duo, featuring piper Finlay MacDonald and guitarist/piper Ali Hutton. Presented in partnership with the Celtic Arts Foundation as part of the American Roots Concert Series. Admission is free; a Discover Pass is required for vehicle access.

SINGING RESISTANCE • BUILDING RESILIENCE: SONG & ACTION FOR POWER, HOPE & DEMOCRACY
July 19, 4-6:15 p.m.
South Whidbey Community Center Garden Courtyard, 723 Camano Ave.

Join Singing Resistance, SOS Whidbey and Indivisible Whidbey for an afternoon of community action and music. The event begins with voter outreach, postcard writing, refreshments and community connection, followed by group singing celebrating hope, joy and democracy. Donations will be accepted for the Langley United Methodist Church Neighbor to Neighbor Fund, which supports the local immigrant community.

MYTHICAL MONDAYS: CREATE YOUR VEHICLE
Monday, July 20, 2-3 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St., Langley

Young creators are invited to design and decorate their own vehicle, build a racetrack and put their creations to the test during the final program in the three-part Mythical Mondays series. Snacks will be provided by the Friends of the Langley Library. Free and open to all.

BRINY AND SPINY: EXPLORE SEA STARS AND THEIR RELATIVES!
Tuesday, July 21, 1-3 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library,
1000 SE Regatta Drive, Oak Harbor

Get up close with marine life as Shannon Point Marine Center brings its sea life touch tank to the Oak Harbor Library. Drop in anytime to meet scientists and Western Washington University students while learning about sea stars and other echinoderms that inhabit the Salish Sea. Free and open to all ages.

TUESDAY CONCERTS IN THE PARK: THE SUNSET GROOVES
Tuesday, July 21
6-7:30 p.m.
South Whidbey Community Park,
5495 Maxwelton Road, Langley

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation's free Tuesday Concerts in the Park series features The Sunset Grooves performing yacht rock favorites. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a summer evening of live music in the park with family and friends.

FAMILY FIELD DAY
Wednesday, July 22, 2-3:30 p.m.
Coupeville Library,
788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Enjoy an afternoon of outdoor fun with Giant Tetris, Ladder Toss and other family-friendly lawn games. Drop in anytime between 2 and 3:30 p.m. Activities will take place on the Coupeville Town Green outside the library. Free and open to all ages.

I HEART ART
Wednesday, July 22, 2-3 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St., Langley

Get creative during an afternoon of hands-on arts and crafts at the Langley Library. Participants can choose from a variety of fun art projects. The program is supported by the Friends of the Langley Library and is free and open to all ages.

BINGO AT KNIGHTS CLUB OF OAK HARBOR
Wednesday, July 22, 6 p.m.
Knights Club of Oak Harbor,
3259 Old Goldie Road, Oak Harbor

Try your luck at a weekly BINGO night hosted by the Knights Club of Oak Harbor. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with reasonably priced food available for purchase before games begin at 6 p.m. Bingo packets are \$25. Held every Wednesday except on holidays. For more information, visit kcoakharbor.org/bingo.html.

BAYVIEW CORNER STREET DANCE: ROSSACONN
Wednesday, July 22, 6-8 p.m.
Bayview Cash Store, 5603 Bayview Road.

Dance the evening away with ROSSaCONN, an energetic trio performing danceable instrumental originals that blend funk, African rhythms, reggae, rock and more. Free

and family-friendly, the Bayview Corner Street Dance welcomes community members and visitors alike. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase, food can be purchased from the Taproom and Merriweather Creperie, and picnic dinners are welcome. Rain or shine.

WHIDBEY ISLAND FAIR
Thursday, July 23-Sunday, July 26
Whidbey Island Fairgrounds,
819 Camano Ave., Langley

Enjoy four days of carnival rides, live entertainment, livestock shows, exhibits, food vendors and family fun at the annual Whidbey Island Fair. The fair parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 25. Daily and season admission passes are available.

MACBETH
Thursday, July 23, 6 p.m.
Island Shakespeare Festival Outdoor Stage,
5476 Maxwelton Road, Langley

The Island Shakespeare Festival opens its production of Shakespeare's Macbeth, a fresh take on the classic tragedy exploring ambition, power and fate through dynamic physical theater. Additional performances continue through Sept. 5. Pay-what-you-will tickets are available, with reserved seating options.

FRIENDS OF THE OAK HARBOR LIBRARY BOOK SALE
Friday-Saturday, July 24-25
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library,
1000 SE Regatta Drive, Oak Harbor

Browse a wide selection of gently used books and DVDs for children, teens and adults during the Friends of the Oak Harbor Library Book Sale. Proceeds support library programs, services and materials.

A SUMMER PORCH CONCERT
Friday, July 24, 7 p.m.
5510 Langley Road, Langley

Violinist Linda Vogt and pianist Sheila Weidendorf present an intimate summer porch concert featuring special guests Andre Feriante and Nick Toombs. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, your favorite beverage and enjoy an evening of live music in an outdoor setting. Carpooling is encouraged to maximize parking. A freewill offering will be accepted. For more information, visit sheilamakesmusic.com.

FRIENDS OF THE COUPEVILLE LIBRARY FARMERS MARKET BOOK SALE
Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Browse a wide selection of books during the Friends of the Coupeville Library Farmers Market Book Sale, held on the community green behind the library in conjunction with the Coupeville Farmers Market. Books are available by donation, with cash and checks accepted. Proceeds benefit the Coupeville Library, and children receive a free book. The next sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 1.

SALMON ENCHANTED EVENING
Saturday, July 25, 5:30-8 p.m.
Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Langley

Support Whidbey Watershed Stewards at Salmon Enchanted Evening, an annual fundraiser featuring Orlando's Southern barbecue picnic, artisan pies, Ott & Hunter wines, Double Bluff Brewing beer, a live auction and special guest Dave Parent. Tickets are \$80 per person.

ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: ROBIN HOOD
Saturday, July 25, 6-9 p.m.
Island Shakespeare Festival,
5476 Maxwelton Road, Langley

Follow the legendary outlaw in Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest, a new play by Erin Murray featuring humor, heart and high adventure. Arrive early to enjoy a picnic before the performance. Seating is provided, with concessions and beer and wine available for purchase from Salinity Seafood. Admission is pay what you will. For more information, visit islandshake-spearefest.org.

AMERICAN ROOTS CONCERT SERIES: SURLLAJTA
Saturday, July 25, 7-8 p.m.
Deception Pass Amphitheater, Deception Pass State Park, Oak Harbor

Experience the vibrant sounds of the South American Andes with SurLlajta, performing traditional and festive music featuring guitar,

charango, panpipes, quena, bombo, bass, keyboard and vocals in Spanish and Quechua. Presented in partnership with Early Music Seattle as part of the American Roots Concert Series. Admission is free; a Discover Pass is required for vehicle access.

WHIDBEY ISLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL
Sunday, July 26, 1-9 p.m.
Royal Alvin Hall, 1694 E. Main St., Freeland

The Whidbey Island Guitar Festival returns with a full day of live performances showcasing guitarists and string musicians from across the Pacific Northwest. The lineup spans jazz, classical, flamenco, world music, acoustic and electric guitar, with performances by Troy Chapman, Honza Kourimsky, Keith Bowers, Andre Feriante, Tyler Richart, Elisabeth Brown, Charlie Solbrig and Nick Mardon. Half-day and full-day tickets are available. For tickets and information, visit littlebigfest.org/wiguitarfest.

OKK TAIKO AT THE LIBRARY
Tuesday, July 28, 2-3 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library,
1000 SE Regatta Drive, Oak Harbor

Experience the powerful rhythms of Okinawan taiko drumming with Oak Harbor's own OKK Taiko. This high-energy performance features dynamic choreography and traditional drumming that is sure to inspire audiences of all ages. Free and open to the public.

TIDEPOLS AND TRIVIA
Wednesday, July 29, 2-3 p.m.
Coupeville Library, 788 NW Alexander St., Coupeville

Kids ages 5 and older are invited to test their knowledge of ocean life during an interactive trivia program featuring stories, photos and fun facts about Puget Sound marine creatures. Washington State Parks Interpretive Ranger Tabitha will lead the program, with prizes awarded to participants. Supported by the Friends of the Coupeville Library.

LEGO® SCIENCE: DERBY CARS
Wednesday, July 29, 2-3 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St., Langley

Kids ages 5-14 are invited to build and race LEGO® derby cars while exploring engineering and science concepts during this hands-on STEAM workshop. Using LEGO® Education Science Kits, participants will learn through creative play. Space is limited to the first 20 participants.

MARINE MAMMALS OF THE SALISH SEA
Wednesday, July 29, 4-5 p.m.
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave., Freeland

Learn about the marine mammals of the Salish Sea with Garry Heinrich, response coordinator and investigator for the Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Discover how to identify seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins and porpoises, and what to do if you encounter a stranded marine mammal. This program is part of Sno-Isle Reads Together, featuring the 2026 selection Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

FULL MOON SALON
Wednesday, July 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Eternal Spring Church,
3095 Hunt Road, Oak Harbor

Celebrate the peak of the lunar cycle with an evening of reflection, community and seasonal observance. The gathering includes scripture, cosmic insights, runes, moon-themed practices, group discussion, goal setting and a release ritual. Bring a notebook and a dish to share for the community potluck. All are welcome. Monthly gatherings begin at 6:30 p.m.

INSECT SAFARI
Thursday, July 30, 10-11 a.m.
Freeland Library, 5495 Harbor Ave., Freeland.

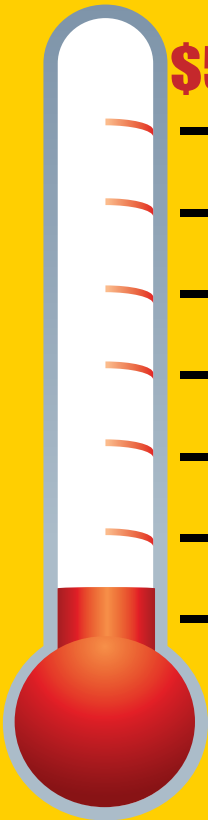
Discover the fascinating world of insects with guest entomologist Don Ehlen. Learn about arthropod classification, hear stories from collecting expeditions and view more than 2,000 preserved specimens, including colorful butterflies, giant beetles and spiders from around the world. Recommended for children ages 5 and older with their caregivers. Sponsored by the Friends of the Freeland Library.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your enthusiasm is contagious this week. Taking the lead on a project or activity brings positive results. Just remember that listening to others can be just as valuable as taking charge.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, comfort and stability remain important, but don't shy away from trying something different. A small change in your routine could spark a welcome improvement.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, your gift for conversation opens doors. Whether it's a chance meeting or reconnecting with someone from the past, an exchange of ideas may lead to an exciting opportunity.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you're finding your footing after a busy few weeks. Focus on what makes you feel secure, and don't be afraid to celebrate the progress you've already made.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, your season begins, and the spotlight naturally finds you. Confidence and optimism help you make a strong impression. Set a personal goal and take the first step toward it.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, taking a break from your usual routine could be exactly what you need. A little rest or a change of scenery helps clear your mind and renew your focus.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, friendships and social events bring fresh energy. Accept an invitation or reach out to someone you've been meaning to see. Meaningful connections are highlighted.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, your dedication doesn't go unnoticed. A supervisor, client, or colleague may recognize your efforts. Stay consistent, and let your work speak for itself.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your adventurous side is calling. Whether you travel, learn something new, or simply explore your community, a fresh experience leaves you inspired.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, this is a good week to tie up loose ends. Completing unfinished tasks creates space for new opportunities and helps you feel more in control.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, relationships benefit from openness and honesty. A sincere conversation helps strengthen trust and may clear away a recent misunderstanding.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, paying attention to the little things makes a big difference. Improving a daily habit or organizing your schedule leaves you feeling more balanced and ready for what's ahead.



BITTER SWEET SUMMER CHINOOK

If you are an avid Puget Sound recreational salmon fisherman like I am then July is a time of excitement and anticipation. Every year we hope for a summer chinook salmon season that is more than 3-days like we have painfully endured over the last few years, unfortunately this summer will be no different, the chinook season opener for many of the inner Puget Sound saltwater Marine Areas will be 3-days (July 16,17,18) with the potential for a couple bonus days if the state quota has not been met in those 3-days by the recreational fishermen.

Prior to 2019 the summer chinook returning to the Puget Sound were low despite the efforts of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Tribal Co-Managers. At this point in history the answer to real chinook salmon recovery numbers is, and always has been right in front of them but these two entities are not willing to accept the hard truth, despite chinook being placed on the endangered species list in 1999.

In 2019 an ocean living mammal we know as the Southern Resident Orca Whale sent a clear but sad message to these two major decision makers and Washington's Governor. The female Orcas and their babies were perishing and washing ashore. Marine biologists and scientists reported their findings, the whales were dying of malnutrition. Southern resident orcas feed primarily on salmon and chinook salmon are on the top of their feeding list.

Finally, the hard truth broke through all of the Washington State salmon bureaucracy and perpetual denial forcing the Governor to do the right thing. He lifted the severe restrictions on the state's salmon hatcheries, and by directing them to maximize their chinook salmon production set in motion what has become a true, recognizable increase in Puget Sound chinook salmon numbers. I personally hope this action is not cut short and is used as a successful example and constant reminder of what doing the right thing can accomplish; and will continue for future orca whale health and for all fishermen that dedicate their time to chasing the "King of all salmon," the Chinook!

The 2019 decision to increase production started a chinook salmon game-clock. Beginning with a couple years to gather the extra adult broodstock from the rivers, followed by the hatch and release of increased numbers of chinook smolts into the river systems where hun-



dreds of habitat recovery areas have been completed. After the chinook smolt had completed their 16-to-18 months in their surrounding home rivers they moved to the saltwater and traveled north to feed and grow on the cold nutrient rich waters off the coast of Alaska. 3-to-5 years later these wonderful fish will have navigated their way back to the Puget Sound and their inland river systems to spawn.

<These are what we are after!

This is where the bitter sweet part comes into play, the sweet part is the summer saltwater Marine Areas around Whidbey Island will be swimming with strong, healthy marked (Adipose fin clipped) king salmon revealing the success of good decision making. And this is the bitter part, the State still imposes a quota on how many chinooks the recreational fishermen can harvest. Not to include any unmarked, falsely identified "wild chinooks," and the allowed quota based on the last couple years with the good numbers of fish in the area, will no doubt be caught in 2-to-5 days.

This is why the forced good decision making still needs to be tested, the increased chinook numbers will help nourish the Orca whales, however the implemented plan must continue to maintain chinook sustainability, and equally important is the WDFW and Tribal Co-Managers owe it to the recreational fishermen to allow more than 3-days out of 360 for recreational fishermen to put fresh salmon on their families dinner tables, and longer opportunities to simply enjoy king salmon fishing and create family memories.



^The King of Salmon!

If you get the chance to fish during the 3-day season, fishing will be fast and furious. I have already had a report from a WDFW fish representative that higher than normal numbers of legal-size chinook salmon are currently being caught in Neah Bay and Sekiu. These fish will soon be pushing their way inland and closer to us which should increase our odds of hooking a nice king. The chinook bite is typically an early morning bite so get to the fishing grounds early, if possible. Undoubtedly the boat launches will be crowded so give yourself a little extra time and have patients with fellow fishermen. Unless an emergency rule change is announced we will only be allowed to retain marked (clipped) fish.

Why Fundraising Matters to You



by Charles LaFond
Island Fundraiser, Potter, Author, and Essayist

My life-long career in fundraising is quite isolating. That's not intuitive. One would think that a fundraiser is hyper-connected to people given what we need to do and how we need to do it. After 44 years in the vocation, in ten jobs, I have learned a few things about fundraising. You may, at this point in the essay, want to turn the page, avert your eyes, drop the article, and move on. Because...well. Ugh! Fundraising...ugh!

Fundraising, for most people, is triggering. And I get it. It's not for the faint of heart. Asking anyone for anything, be it \$1 for lemonade at a lemonade stand when you are 5 years old, or when asking for \$25 for Girls Scout cookies in front of The Goose, or when asking for \$100 for a walk-a-thon sponsorship, or \$500 for the church offering plate or for \$1,000 for your favorite non-profit's annual giving campaign ... or even a cup of sugar from a neighbor when you are in the middle of baking a cake (when you suddenly find no sweeteners in your house) ... asking for something requires a level of courage, emotional intelligence and self-esteem that can only be summoned on one's best days.

One person looking another person in the eyes, face to face, and asking for help, of any kind, and for anything can be unnerving. On top of that, what if the answer is "No, I am sorry I can't help."

The root word for "vulnerability" is vulnerare (Latin), which is to wound or to injure. In other words, asking someone for some-

thing is a vulnerable act – an act that can result in a wound – even if only to one's ego. But what we have learned from people like Viktor Frankl (Man's Search for Meaning) is that the most basic human drive for survival is meaning-making. And when we ask someone for a gift, we are inviting them into an option of their own meaning-making. Now a "no" could mean simply that my meaning-making does not include your charity. Which is ALWAYS fine! ALWAYS. And besides, their "no" as a response to your request for your beloved charity could (and usually does) mean "no, not now, but perhaps one day, if I learn more about what your charity does, I can give to its mission."

In the end of the day, my career is not fundraising; it's meaning-making and joy. I'm a body-drug-dealer. I deal in dopamine (our pleasure-reward drug) and serotonin (our happiness-satisfaction hormone) -the drugs you and I already have inside of us and the drugs released when you feel joy in giving to heal the world. All I do as a fundraiser is help others to release their own body's feel-good drugs.

So, if you want to feel good, switch from Amazon's shopping portal to your favorite charity's giving page and feel better while healing the world.



To see more on
Charles LaFond
www.charles-lafond.com

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6/12 Lauren Flynn
6/19 ShiDaa
6/26 Danika Kloewer
& Ethan Tang

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7/3 Rene Abadesco
7/10 Selena Mac
7/17 Shannon Patino
7/24 Ribbons & Bows
7/31 Keith Howard

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8/21 Steve Johnson
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Why in the world would you want to live in Mexico??!! Part 2

Futbol! Mexicans are nuts about futbol or, as we call it, soccer. We had three great wins in the World Cup and I'm sure you all could hear us hollering "GOAL" all the way to Whidbey Island! Our neighborhoods were packed with people -- young, old, male, female, and canine -- sitting in front of televisions hauled out from somewhere attached to very long electric cords. There were food and drink to keep everyone strong. And noisy! Our street, Pedro Moreno, is about three blocks mas o menos (more or less), and we had six different parties going on. Lots of people, lots of green shirts, and lots of fun.

We don't talk about the fourth game. It was crushing to miss that fourth game, but we all said, "Oh, well. Next time." No one said mean things about the opposition; no one berated any of our guys. No one said shoulda coulda. After all, we won three. Have a Corona.

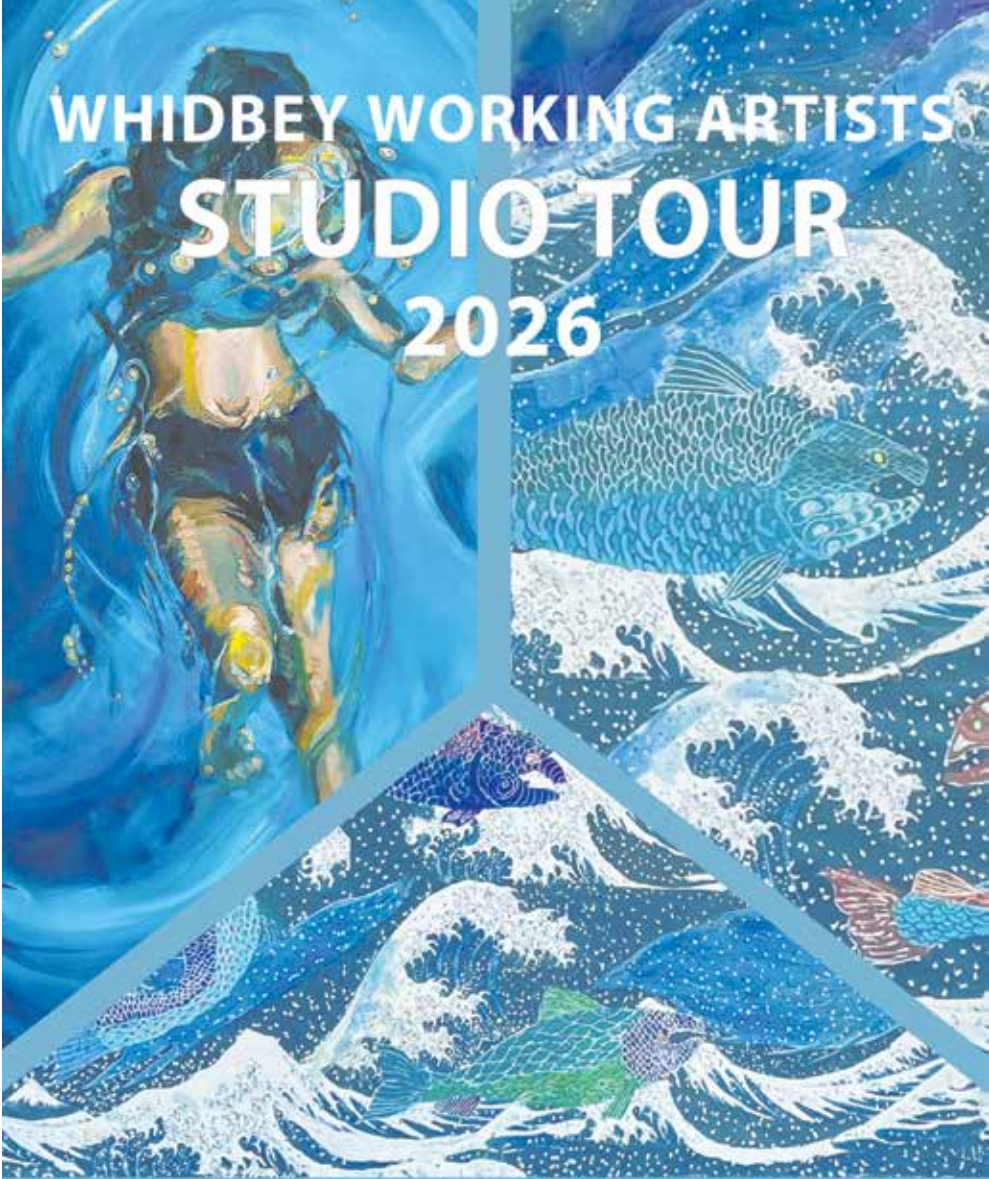
When we first moved into this neighborhood (barrio) many years ago, we had a lot of kids on our block playing futbol in the street. Playing any kind of ball on cobblestones is tough, but they were amazing to watch. Most of the dads don't get home from work until about 7pm so we'd get a knock on our door and kids asking if Mark could come out to play. Mark (mi esposo - spouse) is about 6'9" and played basketball at the University of Washington. Not soccer or futbol. But he was game and out he'd go, running up and down the street (cobblestones) with a bunch of kids about one-third his height. Then he'd finally come in and fall down in a heap. It's hot here, you know! Fortunately, the kids grew up to play in school teams and, of course, found girls. Mark was saved! But here's a suggestion for you if you're ever in Mexico and want to make friends quickly, buy a lot of soccer balls!

We are in summer now and the temperature plus the humidity equals about 103 degrees. We try to do all our errands before 11am. Many stores and businesses close down for four hours mid-day. The giant stores like Costco and Walmart stay open all the time and we like to do our shopping there very slowly to enjoy the air conditioning. Our favorite MX grocery opens at 7am and we try to get there shortly thereafter. Especially if we're buying ice cream! For those of us in the Pacific Northwest, we like winters because we can snuggle down and read books or take naps. In Puerto Vallarta, we spend the hot months, reading books, taking naps, and doing projects. Mark likes to clean and paint the house so I let him. I like to make quilts for little kids and paint pictures. Both of us are avid readers. When people ask us, "How do you stand it down there in all that heat?!" we have an answer. We're lazy.

The rainy season is the end of May through September and it's wonderful. Crashing thunder, lightning across the sky, and rivers of water running by. I'd like to tell you more about it, but it is time for my nap. Maybe later.

Georgia A Gardner

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A BIT

Music Warms Up Summer on Whidbey

Garden variety applies to more than flowers. With concerts in a variety of venues, there's music for every musical taste. Making the short trip to Whidbey Island is a great way to enjoy the beauty of the island and join in toe-tapping fun for all ages.

Music fills the halls and fields of Whidbey Island at, among many other places, Whidbey Center for the Arts, Little Big Fest, Dancing Fish Vineyards, and the signature Bluegrass Festival that has been happening on Whidbey for 20 years at Meerkerk Gardens. This year's Bluegrass Festival Saturday, August 8, noon – 4 is a must hear. Featuring two renowned northwest bands: Rickey Gene Powell and the Boys of Greenwood Glen, and Salish Moon, performing American roots music with soaring harmonies and blazing instrumentals. This is a family event including food, ice cream, beverages for all ages, and a scavenger hunt through the gardens.

The venue is an idyllic garden setting overlooking Saratoga Passage and "Baby Island." Be ready to swing in your seat or dance on the lawn. Tickets to the festival are \$25 (Bring your own camp chair or lawn blanket). Children under 13, accompanied by an adult with regular ticket, enter free. Premium tickets are available through August 1 for \$35 (includes a chair and 1 drink ticket). Dogs on leash are always welcome at the gardens. Parking is free. Limited tickets available.

Whidbey Center for the Arts, Dancing Fish Vineyards, and Little Big Fest will also be presenting a superb line-up of musical performers from throughout the northwest. See their website for details. This will be a summer of musical delights on Whidbey Island.



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VETERANS

★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Getting community care

The VA spent over \$36 billion on community care in fiscal year 2025, and it appears to be money well spent.

The expenditures were courtesy of the 2018 MISSION Act, which lets veterans get their care out in the community from non-VA health care providers -- with the VA picking up the tab. Added to that in 2025 was the Dole Act (more specifically, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act), which lets veterans seek care in the community without frequent medical reviews or permissions from VA medical staff.

It used to be that veterans had to get a new referral every 90 to 180 days to keep getting care out in the community. Now, for 30 categories of care -- pulmonary, dermatology, podiatry and endocrinology, as a few examples -- new referrals will only be needed once a year.

Veterans in three states in particular benefited from that money: Texas at \$3.3 billion, Florida at \$2.8 billion and California at \$2.1 billion.

If you've already been getting community care, find out from the community care office at your VA medical facility where in the permission and referral cycle you are so you know in advance when the next one will be required. Since most of the medical categories will only need a yearly referral, get your schedule in writing so there isn't a problem at the last minute with an expired authorization.

If you need medical treatment that the VA doesn't provide, or if the wait times at your local VA hospital are too long, or if the driving time to your VA hospital is too long, you might qualify for community care. To get specifics, call the community care office for an initial referral. If you already have a community care provider in mind, find out whether they are part of the VA network before you get care from them to be certain the VA will pay for it.

To learn more about getting medical care in your own community, go to department.va.gov/vha/community-care.

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

Answer in next week's edition!

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	+		-		= 7			
+		+		+				
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

GULP

NOBODY IS PERFECT

BUT RIGHT NOW I FEEL LIKE A FACTORY REJECT!

The Garden Bug

Also known as "tickseed" or "pot-of-gold," coreopsis is easy to grow. Sprinkle the seeds over a prepared area of soil in a very sunny location, and cover lightly with soil. Keep this area watered until the seeds germinate in about 3 weeks. This plant tolerates heat, humidity, and drought. It is well suited to beds, borders, and containers. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but also birds like goldfinches love its seeds. - Brenda Weaver

Coreopsis

Sources: linnet.geog.ubc.ca, www.gardeningknowhow.com, almanac.com

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COMMUNITY DRIVEN | TURN ME INTO A BOAT



Astrology for July 17-July 23 2026
The Auspicious Week of 4° and Mercury Direct

A reminder from last week: Keep your eyes on all planets around 4°. Back on **July 13**, Venus in Virgo squared Uranus in Gemini at 4°, the beginning of a slew of auspicious alignments between many planets at this degree point, creating an ongoing configuration called a minor grand trine. Pull out that birth chart and find what planets you have at 4° in any sign. Throughout July and August, these placements will become very active for us all, ushering in all that is new and beginning.

On **July 18**, Uranus in Gemini trines Pluto retrograde in Aquarius at 4°. Uranus is the planet that initiates rebellion and challenges the status quo, with elements of shock or surprise. In this positive flowing aspect to Pluto, the planet of transformation, the flames of revolution and change will be fanned. In any way that we have taken it upon ourselves to move in a new direction or to challenge convention, we will be encouraged. This trine occurs in air signs, the element that rules information, communication, and all processes of the mind. Our curiosity and desire to know has a lot of momentum. We are busy sending and receiving messages to move things forward. Even with Mercury still retrograde, if you have questions on your mind, now would be a great time to hit send. The information you likely acquire will require some review either way.

On **July 20**, Jupiter in Leo trines Neptune in Aries at 4° and opposes Pluto retrograde in Aquarius at 4°. Jupiter expands whatever it comes into contact with. Jupiter/Neptune extends the dream, the vision, the fantasy. Jupiter opposite Pluto will challenge what is underneath it. Does the dream solely serve the self or does it factor in the impact it may have on others? There is expansive momentum in the realms of creativity, art, and self-expression - but at what cost? What undercover power dynamics are being challenged as you attempt to shine so bright? Who or what is blocking your shine? Are you quiet when its time to celebrate the wins of those around you? What leader, project, or artistic endeavor is posing to serve the people, but is out of touch with reality? These dynamics will likely be brought to the surface today. We can't go on like this. Change is happening. How can we innovate?

On **July 21**, Jupiter in Leo sextiles Uranus in Gemini at 4°. After what might have been a bit of conflict yesterday, Jupiter in a supportive aspect to Uranus, the planet of innovation, will help us do just that. It's easier to find solutions. Our mind is more open to new ideas, new ways of approaching goals and issues. This aspect expands social dynamics, and conversations can be both productive and enjoyable. Self-expression is flowing and feels less serious. Its okay to be silly, to loosen up. We can say yes to the date, yes to the hang. Although we are interested in expanding our horizons and considering how various elements of our futures may develop, we are reminded that how we engage with the present moment is what takes us there. Giggles. Lightness. Humor.

Happy Leo season! On **July 22**, the Sun enters the sign of Leo until August 22. The Sun is at home and in the sign of its rulership in Leo. This is the sign the Sun is most comfortable in. The job of the Sun is to shine, and that is precisely our assignment. This is a month to dig into what brings you joy, pleasure, and connection to your own inner child. If you have children in your life, this may highlight the relationship you have with them. We are all encouraged to take up space, get bigger, louder, and shine our unique light for all to see. Leo is romantic, creative, and dramatic. It can sometimes get a bad rap for being self-centered, and when out of balance that can certainly surface, however, take this opportunity to center yourself. See what happens when you unapologetically live from the heart. Be generous via energy, resources, and attention with your loved ones and watch reciprocal bonds grow. This is a beautiful time to dust off any hobbies that used to have a place in your schedule. Has Mercury reminded you of anything you used to do for fun that deserves to make a comeback?

On July 23, Mercury stations direct in Cancer at 16°. Think back to when Mercury stationed retrograde on June 29. What have you been reviewing since then? Today's station direct may still create some technical difficulties or malfunctions in mundane matters, but the day has a high chance of revealing answers to questions we have been mulling over for the past three weeks. In the sign of Cancer, we have been revisiting old feelings and memories of the past. What becomes clear today? What is no longer moving forward with you? It may take some time for all to be revealed until Mercury leaves its shadow on August 6 or leaves the sign of Cancer completely on August 9. Just a little patience, a little tenderness with ourselves and others as we all sort out the results of our recent deep emotional audits.



July 17th – July 23rd:
Three of Wands Reversed

The landscape ahead appears barren, drought-ridden, vast, and uncertain; this sight may be deflatingly confusing since you held such clarity in next steps just days prior. This week's card gently reminds you the plans you'd mapped are still strapped to your back for the very purpose of helping you to maintain course when the way forward temporarily looks unknown or pointlessly all the same. When there are miles and miles of seeming sameness to traverse, progress can feel difficult to measure, and remembering your heading is all the more important. You're urged to keep at your predetermined actions with a loose hand on the helm so you can adapt as the wind

changes, skirting storms where possible, while still continuing toward your destination. Crossing oceans and deserts alike require trust in yourself, trust in your purpose for the journey, as well as tenacity and, of course, respect for the beast that can be the terrain.

The signs are subtle and your sight need be attuned to them, but it's important for you to know the intended reassurance that your efforts have seeded the ground behind you as you've moved; you are making meaningful impact even if the results don't yet match your vision or align with your line of sight. Often we don't see the influence we have, and must move forward continuing to plant seeds in the hope they will one day sprout, even if we never see the growth we leave behind.

I see sturdy foundation, reliable yet adaptable structure, and well-laid plans sheltering you, while simultaneously being shown that you may not sense these for yourself at this time, leading to feelings of vulnerability and immobility. This week's card seeks to whisper for you, like the wind rippling over the sands and waves, to look inside where you have built within yourself the steadfastness you desire to create outside yourself.

As you continue to learn to trust this newer unchained version of yourself, what are small steps you can act on to test the sturdiness of the yellow brick road you're building for yourself ahead? You're discovering faith in your feet even when you lose sight of the trail.

~Xo, Tiffany

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

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

And please consider supporting this column:
buymeacoffee.com/tiffanyfitzpatrick

• • • • •

Imagination Cove

Children's Museum

WHERE PLAY & LEARNING THRIVE

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

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Mala Sooknanan

Whidbey Yard Cards

Jaylynn Sybrant

KNOX

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, an unexpected change of plans could work in your favor. Stay flexible and trust your ability to adapt. What first seems like a detour may become your best route forward.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it's a good week to reconnect with something you've been neglecting. Whether it's a hobby, a friendship, or a personal goal, giving it your attention brings renewed satisfaction.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your quick thinking helps you solve a problem others overlook. Don't hesitate to share your ideas—they could lead to an exciting opportunity or valuable partnership.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, your confidence continues to grow. Trust yourself when making an important decision, even if others don't immediately understand your reasoning.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, slowing your pace allows you to notice opportunities you've been missing. A little patience now helps you make a much stronger move later in the week.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, a casual conversation could spark a useful idea. Keep an open mind and don't dismiss suggestions too quickly—someone else's perspective may be exactly what you need.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, your steady approach helps bring order to a busy week. Focus on one priority at a time instead of trying to please everyone. Progress follows simplicity.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, your determination is paying off. Something you've worked on quietly may finally begin showing results. Celebrate the progress, even if it's only the first step.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, adventure doesn't have to mean going far. Trying a new restaurant, activity, or routine could introduce you to an unexpected opportunity or connection.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, practical planning gives you an advantage. A little preparation early in the week leaves you with more freedom to enjoy the days ahead.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, your originality shines in situations that require creative thinking. Trust your instincts—they may lead you toward a solution no one else considered.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, kindness creates a ripple effect this week. A thoughtful gesture or encouraging word strengthens an important relationship and reminds you of the value of simple connections.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27					28	29
30				31						32		
33			34						35			
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42				43	44					45	46	47
48				49					50			
51				52					53			

- CLUES ACROSS

1

Valley

5

Unruly crowds

9

Dean's list stat

12

Pinnacle

13

Each

14

Science room

15

Show loyalty to

17

Mentalist Geller

18

Green land

19

Critic Roger

21

Finished

24

Love god

25

Parliamentarian

26

Raised children, say

30

Lucy of "Kill Bill"

31

Desert haven

32

Call -- day

33

Native of Yerevan

35

Read quickly

36

Mast

37

Bracelet site

38

Pocket breads

40

Japanese soup

42

Hindu honorific

43

Street game

48

Pouch

49

Actress Fisher

50

Party cheese

51

"For shame!"

52

Penn or Astin

53

Harvard rival
- CLUES DOWN

1

German article

2

Suitable

3

Floral garland

4

Surpass

5

Bryn --

6

Mayberry boy

7

Automaton, for short

8

Orbs

9

Crafter's adhesive

10

Henry VIII's Catherine

11

Slightly

16

Josh

20

"-- voyage!"

21

First lady of scat

22

Dark film genre

23

Chicken choice

24

Actress Moran

26

Twosome

27

Botanist Gray

28

List-ending abbr.

29

"Great" dog

31

Jackie's Ari

34

Ecol. watchdog

35

Stuck-up

37

Request

38

"Hey!"

39

Nest egg choices

40

"-- 18" (Uris novel)

41

Optimist's credo

44

Mao -- -tung

45

Celestial altar

46

Like Abner

47

Country music's Greenwood

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

G

GOLF WOULD BE EASIER IF IT WAS PLAYED ON POOL-TABLE-FLAT COURSES, BUT IT WOULD BE A LOT LESS FUN. THAT'S WHY WE SHOULD ALL LEARN TO ACCEPT AND PLAY THOSE CROOKED LIES.

TOP REQUIREMENT IS SETTING UP SO YOUR CLUBHEAD PATH AT IMPACT FOLLOWS THE GROUND SLOPE.

AFTER THAT, IMPROVE YOUR CHANCE OF RETAINING BALANCE BY SWINGING LESS WITH YOUR BODY AND MORE WITH YOUR HANDS AND ARMS.

Answer on page 12

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST						
	Fri, July 17	Sat, July 18	Sun, July 19	Mon, July 20	Tues, July 21	Wed, July 22
North Isle	H-67° L-56° 0%	H-69° L-56° 0%	H-73° L-58° 0%	H-77° L-62° 0%	H-71° L-55° 15%	H-77° L-62° 0%
South Isle	H-68° L-56° 5%	H-69° L-57° 0%	H-72° L-59° 0%	H-76° L-63° 5%	H-78° L-65° 10%	H-76° L-64° 0%
	Thurs, July 23					
	H-76° L-63° 5%					

OUR Community

An Upbeat Question of the week

By Helen Mosbrooker

What do you most want to do that you have not done yet?

Tisa Daughtery,

Oak Harbor

The one thing I wanna do that I have not done yet is go to Scotland, my husband is Scottish and I love the weather over there, the people also seem super genuine and full of life. The food I don't care for so much, but, they do like a good potato.

Amber Fox,

Coupeville

What I most want to do that I have not done yet is make a program that would help bridge a large gap between animals and therapist. I have seen so many times how animals can be therapeutic to not only mental health but physical health as well. As the wife of a Veteran, I have seen how much animals help mental health and give purpose. As a nurse and caregiver to elderly, I've seen animals help in many of the same ways. I loved bring my dogs, horses, goats, and even a rescued raccoon to the nursing homes for visits. Even programs for youth, such as 4H, have proven the positive impact animals have on youth by teaching respect and responsibility. I would want to help link therapy animals to connect them to people in need of love. There are so many animals that need care as well.

Cathy George,

Oak Harbor

My first thought was win the lottery. I have to remember to buy tickets.

We've been very fortunate and did a lot of traveling and had great adventures, being a military family. I miss that. We have relatives in Montana and Florida we have not visited. I would love to take a road trip to Montana and a trip to Florida

Bailey Weed,

Oak Harbor

I grew up surrounded by remarkable female role models—my great-grandmother Marguerite who was an amazing woman who helped youth at boys and girls clubs , my grandmother Joyce who was a teacher for over 20 years , and my mother, Amber who is an amazing mother and is always there to help anyone and any animal she can — all have achieved great things and dedicated themselves to helping others. Inspired by them, my goal is simple: I want to launch a program that provides photography for children and families who cannot afford it. I want to use my passion for photography to give back to our Whidbey Island community. Photography and my community are very important to me.

Joyful Saying of the Week

The sky is the daily bread of the eyes.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer on page 12

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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islandpaintingwa@gmail.com

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BARN SALE

Barn Sale This Weekend and every weekend at Salmagundi Farms

19162 SR 20 3 miles South of the Coupeville overpass on Hwy 20
9am to 4pm

Vintage fishing gear, boating and marine items, vintage paper ephemera, Artworks, Vintage furniture and decor.

Something for everyone. Welcome Friends!

WE BUY SELL & TRADE VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE ITEMS

360-678-5888

IN SEARCH OF

Collecting Old American Money

Retired Police Officer whose hobby is Collecting Old American Money

360-320-8544

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

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Study of Romans
Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is a world-wide ministry that offers free, in-depth studies of God's Word for people of all ages. The mission of BSF is to help people discover their true purpose and identity by knowing God through His Word. It's not too late to register for classes beginning the second week of September. BSF will resume with a study of Romans, From Guilt to Grace. In-person daytime and evening classes for women are offered in Oak Harbor and Anacortes. A women's in-person daytime class is also offered in Freeland. In-person evening classes for men are offered in Oak Harbor and Anacortes. Online classes are available with a choice of a local group or with groups of people of many nationalities meeting together in an exclusively online environment in a language of your choice. For more information, or to register for a group, go to bsfinternational.org and click on the Find a Group button.

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 clean-outs, detailed cleaning, organizing, and junk removal and more!
Call or text Jacob: 360-499-9157

How'd you do?

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

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 **Monday** 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? **AlAnon** can help! **AlAnon** 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

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Memory Support and Connection
Join us for our Support Group Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 PM at 390 NE Midway Blvd B203 Oak Harbor, WA. Caregivers, family members, and loved ones are all welcome. We also offer a separate space for your loved one to be cared for and engaged during the group.

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

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. readinesstolearn.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.

MORE 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

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

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+

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail
Whidbey Weekly Classified Department
PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone360-682-8283

PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

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

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