

**WHIDBNEY NEWS-TIMES** SOUTH WHIDBNEY RECORD

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# City parts ways with two department heads

By **ALLYSON BALLARD**  
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Two department heads were recently separated from their positions with the city of Oak Harbor.

Brian Smith is no longer employed as director of Parks and Recreation, the city

announced Monday. A release states that he and the city “mutually agreed to conclude the employment relationship,” and that Sabrina Combs, the city administrator, will act as director in the meantime.

City council created the director position in 2022 ahead of Smith’s hiring the same year.

Separately, Emma House is out as the city’s human resources director, Communications Officer Magi Aguilar confirmed.

Documents included in the packet for a March 24 council workshop state that the city is working with principal strategist Amber Richards of Indiana-based High Ground Strategic

Services “to provide interim leadership and support to the HR team and staff.”

Public records requests submitted by the *News-Times* on March 17 and March 30 for documents related to Smith’s and House’s separations, respectively, are currently unfulfilled. In the past, firings of city

administrators have been expensive for the city because of severance agreements.

Regarding Smith’s departure, the release states that the city “has made significant progress in establishing and developing its Parks and Recreation

See **HEADS**, Page 8

## Attorney challenges arrest for cat cruelty

By **JESSIE STENSLAND**  
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An Oak Harbor man accused of causing the deaths of two cats was out on bail last Friday, according to court documents.

Kristian Rokita, a 25-year-old Oak Harbor resident, appeared in Island County Superior Court Friday afternoon in an unusually contentious preliminary hearing.

Rokita’s attorney, Craig Platt of Coupeville, challenged Prosecutor Greg Banks’ request that the judge find probable cause exists to believe Rokita committed the crimes of two counts of animal cruelty in the first degree. He described the severe injuries inflicted on the “kittens” and said a veterinarian opined that blunt force trauma and asphyxiation would have been an “extremely painful” way for the pets to die.

Platt argued the warrantless arrest of Rokita was unconstitutional and illegal because of a lack of probable cause. He said Rokita’s mere presence in the proximity of the crime and law enforcement’s generalized suspicion is insufficient to establish individualized probable cause. Citing a biology class he attended, Platt questioned a veterinarian’s contention that cat toys lodged in the larynxes of both cats was suspicious and a sign that they

See **CAT**, Page 5

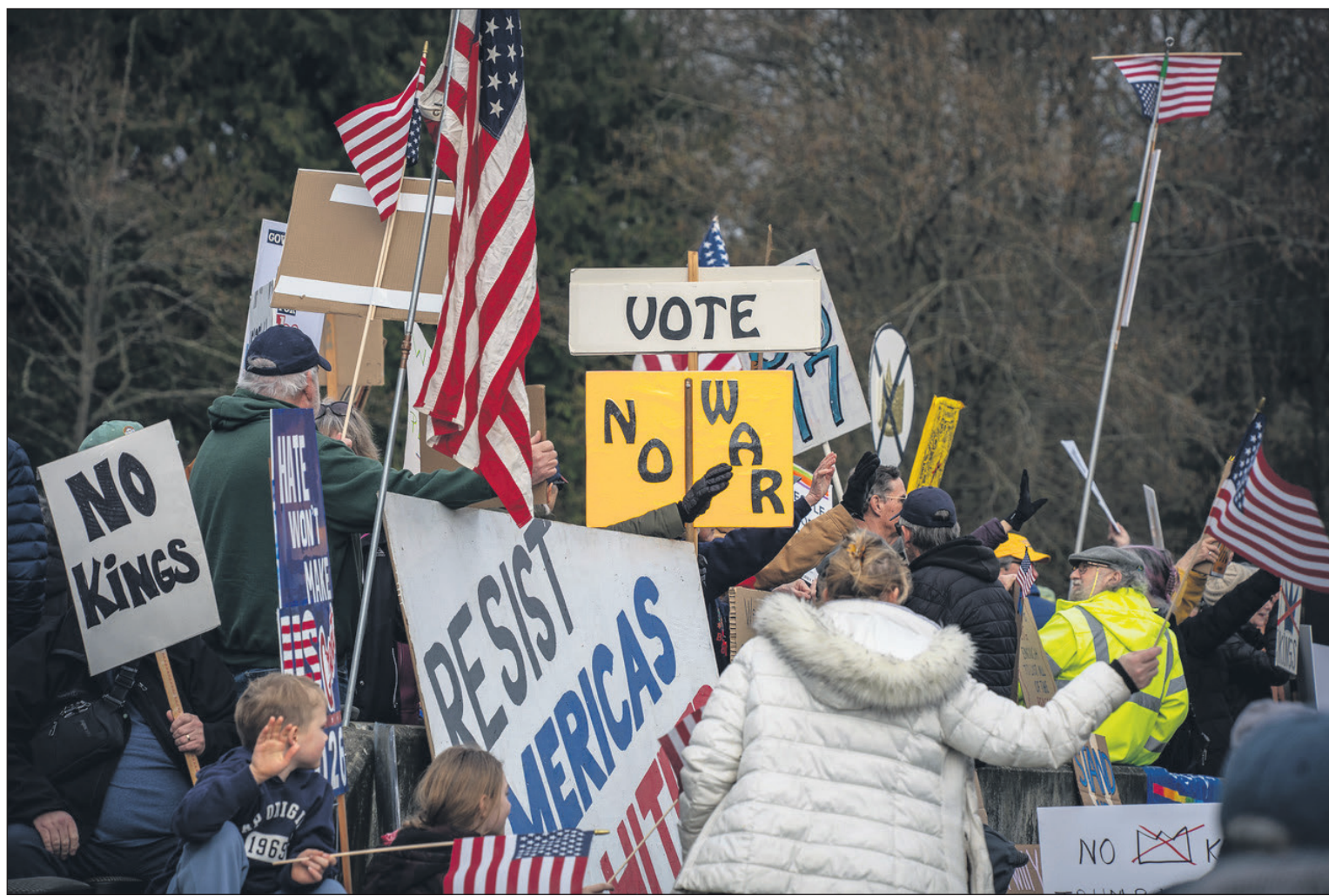


PHOTO BY DAVID WELTON

Protests took place in North, Central and South Whidbey on Saturday.

# Protest draws crowds across Whidbey

By **ALLYSON BALLARD**  
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National “No Kings” protests found substantial support on Whidbey this weekend.

Saturday afternoon, about 2,000 demonstrators gathered along Highway 20 at its intersection with Northeast Fourth Avenue in Oak Harbor, according to Carrie Krueger, an event

organizer for Indivisible Whidbey. The groups only organized the Oak Harbor protest, but two others occurred in Coupeville and at the Bayview Park and Ride as well.

Many signs criticized the Trump Administration and its handling of the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files, its

See **PROTEST**, Page 5

## Whidbey residents photograph ‘mystery orcas’

By **MARINA BLATT**  
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There was a new group of “mystery” orcas that passed by Whidbey Island last week.

Whidbey wildlife photographer Sarah Geist was ecstatic when she was able to photograph T419, T420 and T421 on their surprise visit as they came up Possession Sound and into the Saratoga Passage.

“They are magnificent,” she said. “I kinda thought they’d look like any other orcas. And maybe they

did. But for some reason they felt bigger.”

Like Geist, wildlife photographer Cindi Rausch had fun taking pictures of the “mystery orcas,” she said, from East Point on Whidbey Island.

“It was exciting,” Rausch said. “The Bigg’s and southern resident killer whales are very well documented, so when there are unknown fins, we are intrigued.”

The trio has been spotted from Vancouver Harbour to Olympia.

Despite rigorous

cataloging of orcas in the Pacific Northwest, the pods appearance left researchers scratching their heads. Where did these orcas come from?

The Orca Conservancy said the three orcas were each discovered to have similar circular bite scars on their bodies, a mark specific to that of a cookie cutter shark, according to a *Seattle Times* article. The cookie cutter shark is a warm-water, deep-sea creature, suggesting the orcas ventured further from shore than local



PHOTO BY SARAH GEIST

Whidbey wildlife photographer Sarah Geist was ecstatic when she was able to photograph T419, T420 and T421 on their surprise visit as they came up Possession Sound and into the Saratoga Passage.

frequenting orcas. Additionally, they were spotted hunting seals at the Port of Olympia, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting, implying they aren’t the southern or northern

residents who feed on salmon.

Marine biologist Emma Luck believes the orcas may be Gulf of Alaska

See **ORCAS**, Page 8



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# Women take the lead in humorous 'Hamlet' homage

By **MARINA BLATT**  
marina.blatt@whidbeynewsgroup.com

To see, or not to see? That's not really a question, you should absolutely see this.

Whidbey Playhouse's production of "Women Playing Hamlet," directed by Kevin Meyer, is a laugh-out-loud comedy that doesn't just break the fourth wall, it expects the audience to participate with fervor. Even with the setting described rather than shown, a tribute to how Shakespeare used verbal scene setting, the world feels fully alive. Nothing is off-limits either: The humor swings from the absurd to risqué.

At the center of it all is actress Trinity Slowik, who shines as Jessica, an actress suddenly cast as Hamlet in a New York production. Instead of celebrating, she spirals into self-doubt, questioning whether she's right for one of theater's most iconic roles. What follows is a series of entertaining scenes that veer from clever to downright ridiculous. Think existential crises, pooping starlings and a Shakespearian scholar who compares



PHOTOS BY MARINA BLATT

Whidbey Playhouse's production of "Women Playing Hamlet," directed by Kevin Meyer, is a laugh-out-loud comedy that doesn't just break the fourth wall, it expects the audience to participate with fervor. From left are Trinity Slowik, Juliana Bozsik and Katie Jones.

Hamlet to an orgasm. The humor of the show is a major draw, according to Slowik.

"It is so funny, and it's relatable on different levels," she said. "Maybe you don't have a bad relationship with your parents or maybe you just know that really weird stranger that's a neighbor and you're like, I don't know what he does, but

it's funky." She can see quite a few parallels in the show to life on Whidbey Island, she added.

"Our community is so small that sometimes we get all up in each other's business, and we want to support each other, but sometimes that ends up hurting each other," Slowik said.

With a small but mighty

cast of women stepping into multiple roles, the production is as impressive as it is funny. Each performer helps build a layered experience that highlights both the humor and the power of women reimagining traditionally male Shakespearean roles. Hannah Mayne, who plays a Starbucks barista among other roles, said an all-female



Instead of celebrating, Jessica, played by Trinity Slowik, spirals into self-doubt, questioning whether she's right for one of theater's most iconic roles. From left are Trinity Slowik, Katie Jones and Chai Fortune.

cast provided a bonding experience.

"I feel like we can get a lot closer," Mayne said. "It's just a lot of relatability and it's super fun and comfortable."

Meyer said though he originally chose to direct "Women Playing Hamlet" because of its humor, he unexpectedly uncovered its meaning later on.

"I think the world would be a better place if we didn't let people put us down and tell you you can't do this, you're wrong for that, you're the wrong age, you're the wrong height, you're

the wrong sex," he said. "That's the message I got out of this."

Katie Jones, who plays a humanities professor, among other characters, and sometimes forgets to go onstage with her fake mustache and beard, sang high praises for Meyer's ability to both give great guidance and listen to the actors so their fun personalities shine.

"Women Playing Hamlet" at the Whidbey Playhouse will run from April 10 to May 3. Tickets are available for purchase at the box office or online at [whidbeyplayhouse.com](http://whidbeyplayhouse.com).

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SOUND OFF

# Advance practice providers essential to Whidbey health care

BY CEO NATHAN STAGGS AND BOARD PRESIDENT MARION JOUAS

To our island community, We are writing in response to the recent public comments during the WhidbeyHealth March 2026 Board of Commissioners' meeting. A comment, written in response to an article in the American College of Physicians journal by one of WhidbeyHealth's commissioners, regarding the role, education and oversight of advanced practice providers, known as APPs, in our community was brought forward and read by a member of the public.

We want to begin by acknowledging the commissioner's

perspective as a physician. These are important conversations. However, several assertions made in the comment warrant clarification to ensure our community has an accurate understanding of how care is delivered at our hospital and clinics.

First, on the issue of terminology: we agree that clarity matters. Patients should always know who is providing their care. In our organization, we are deliberate in identifying clinicians by their credentials — physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant — and we expect all members of our care team to introduce themselves clearly. Every employee of WhidbeyHealth is required to wear a

name badge that identifies their credentials. Transparency is not optional; it is foundational to trust.

Second, regarding education and training: it is correct that physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants follow different educational pathways. It is not correct to suggest that APPs are untrained or inadequately prepared. Our APPs complete graduate-level education, national certification and extensive clinical training before entering practice. They also participate in ongoing continuing education, competency validation, and structured onboarding when they join our organization.

Third, with respect to oversight and collaboration: the assertion

that there is "little or no supervision" does not reflect how care is delivered in our system. Our APPs practice within defined clinical frameworks that include physician collaboration, case review, and established protocols. In a rural Critical Access Hospital, care is delivered as a team — physicians and APPs working together to ensure patients receive timely, appropriate, and high-quality care. This model is not a workaround; it is a nationally recognized approach to sustaining access while maintaining standards.

Finally, on the broader concern about quality: we categorically reject the implication that care delivered by APPs represents a decline in quality.

Our responsibility is to ensure that every patient receives safe, evidence-based and compassionate care. We monitor quality metrics, patient outcomes, and satisfaction closely, and we hold all clinicians — regardless of title — to the same high expectations.

Rural health care faces real challenges, particularly in recruiting and retaining physicians. Without APPs, access to care in communities like ours would be significantly reduced. The question is not whether patients should see a physician or an APP — the question is whether they can receive timely, competent care close to home. Our model ensures that they can.

We remain committed to transparency, quality and continuous improvement. We also remain proud of the physicians and APPs who serve this community with professionalism, skill and dedication every day.

*Nathan Staggs is the chief executive officer of the WhidbeyHealth hospital district. Marion Jouas is president of the Board of Commissioners for the hospital district.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Middle East

#### Demand peace as we face catastrophe

Editor, Perhaps, the No Kings rallying cry Saturday could be, "No War!"

As three thousand commercial ships with crews aboard await passage in the Persian Gulf and U.S. Marines and troops steam toward Iran, the potential for ecological and human catastrophe is imminent. If much of Israel, Iran and the Gulf countries depend on desalination, a plant need not be bombed. Cutting off energy or polluting the source suffices to sever a region's water supply.

Shortages of an essential ingredient for fertilizer manufacture, natural gas, and oil required for delivery devastate food production. Famine looms, national economies plummet. Should America land "boots on the ground," I feel the U.S. is being pushed off a ladder into World War III. Please demand peace.

Gay Wilmerding  
San Juan Island

#### Trump's war puts soldiers in harm's way

Editor, No disrespect to Vietnam veterans, it's my belief that anyone that served in combat during that war would not want any "boots on the ground" in Iran. For those that enlisted and those that were drafted and lucky enough to have returned home never forgot the horror or those people lost.

In America we watched every night on TV. That is what started the anti-war movement. It was never against soldiers; it was against us losing our soldiers.

It was the daily count of young men's deaths and even

more hurt. MASH was not a comedy. Americans saw the government having us in a war with no idea how to end it. It would be more and more hurt soldiers and citizens. After Vietnam, the news never did daily counts or showed TV video of battles on the nightly news.

Watching Pete Hegseth talk to the world about your bravery as soldiers back then, to talk young people into thinking this Iran war is good and winnable. Is this the boots on the ground bravery and sacrifice our soldiers are going to need in Trump's war? Don't forget this is with the backing of this GOP Congress because they are letting this mad man and his cabinet of clowns jeopardize our soldiers.

We the People need a Congress that won't allow greed, oppression, power destroy our nation! The Republican party of insurrectionist needs to be replaced.

I keep hoping to see a Gen Z party in America's future. Vote out Republicans.

Nancy McCloskey  
Coupeville

### Feedback

#### Stop running letters from ultra-right writer

Editor, Your paper frequently publishes letters by Fred Wilferth. When I start to read a letter that is ultra-rightwing and contributes nothing to intelligent discourse of serious issues facing our poor country and world, I immediately look to see who wrote it. Invariably, it is Fred Wilferth.

Question for the "South Whidbey Record": Does Mr. Wilferth own part of the paper? I can't think of any other reason why you would relentlessly publish his rantings. Please stop. They do not serve our community and these perilous times well.

Steve Franks



Langley  
*Editor's note: We run virtually every letter to the editor we receive. Certain letter writers would be published less often if we received more letters. But alas, most people prefer to comment on our social media.*

#### Letter writer has utter lack of filter

Editor, I am responding to Fred Wilferth's letter in your March 28 edition.

I don't know what amazes me more: his prodigious output or your editorial choices in giving him what seems like a weekly platform.

I am also amazed at his utter lack of filter in deciding to throw out his gibberish for public consumption. He states: "We didn't spend four years denying a president's senility." I suppose in his mind denying a president's senility (which I agree is a valid point) is somehow to be equated with denying

a president's grifting, bald face lying, sexual predation, racism, sexism, obliviousness to consequences and lack of sincerity and empathy (uh, no, I don't agree with that point).

But in the hopes of encouraging a much less coarse political discourse, I would like to tell Mr. Wilferth "have a nice day".

Steve Bezaire  
Langley

### Democracy

#### Get in the know about voting in U.S.

Editor, In the United States, youth voting participation is significantly lower than that of older generations. Many people blame this issue on a lack of caring in the younger generations, but the reality is that many young people face real barriers that make participating in elections difficult.

One of the major issues is the lack of a practical education in

civics classes, while students may learn about governments, they are rarely if ever taught how to register to vote, independently research candidates, or even how to cast a ballot. Without this knowledge voting for the first time seems like a daunting task, and many young voters feel unprepared to participate.

There are also many logistical challenges that prevent youth from voting. Complicated registration processes, strange identification processes, and states like Texas, Arizona, and New Hampshire that have restricted access to polling stations for college students are all challenges that discourage youth and especially students from voting. If the United States wants stronger democracy and higher voting participation, it must make voting more accessible to the youth of America.

Young voters deserve to have their voices heard and by ensuring that young people receive the education and resources that they need to vote we will reinforce that message.

Katherine Tetrick  
San Juan Island

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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# Hospital board member's online comments draw criticism

By JESSIE STENSLAND  
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A WhidbeyHealth hospital district board member's online comments on a medical journal article relating to the terminology for physicians drew criticism at a recent meeting.

Anna Sturm, PA-C, read Dr. Mark Borden's comments regarding physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advanced practice providers during the board meeting. Borden wrote about WhidbeyHealth, saying that most of the providers are "mid-levels" who have little or no supervision and that the "quality of medical care provided" has indeed taken a huge plunge downward.

Sturm addressed Borden.

"So on behalf of all APS in this organization, we don't feel supported," she

said.

A doctor spoke up, saying the term "mid-levels" should not be used for advanced practice providers — non-physician medical professionals who can diagnose, treat and prescribe. They include physician assistants, nurse practitioners and certified nurse anesthetists.

Also in response Borden's comments, hospital CEO Nathan Staggs and board President Marion Joas wrote a letter to the editor to correct and clarify his comments. The full letter is published in today's Whidbey News-Times.

"We categorically reject the implication that care delivered by APPs represents a decline in quality," the letter states. "Our responsibility is to ensure that every patient receives safe, evidence-based and compassionate care. We monitor quality metrics,

patient outcomes and satisfaction closely, and we hold all clinicians — regardless of title — to the same high expectations."

At the same meeting, Joas also said that the medical staff recently passed a vote of no confidence in Borden. According to Borden, the vote was in response to his decision early this year to join two other board members in firing Staggs, a decision they immediately reversed after the medical staff spoke up. The other two board members resigned and have been replaced.

Borden admits that he would have taken the time to choose his words better if he knew how online comments were going to be "used against" him. Yet he stands by the point he was trying to make, which was that the hospital district and its clinics rely too heavily on advanced practice

providers and don't have enough physicians.

The policy paper from the American College of Physicians is titled "Physicians are not providers: The ethical significance of names in health care." The paper argues that physicians should not be called "providers" because it de-emphasizes professionals identity and does not recognize the expertise of MDs among other clinicians.

In his comment, Borden agrees with the paper, writing that the term "provider" is "vague, misleading and essentially use to deceive patients."

"Many of the patients I speak with do not know if they have been seen by a physician or a nurse practitioner," he wrote.

Staggs and Joas wrote that this is not true.

"Every employee of WhidbeyHealth," they wrote, "is required to

wear a name badge that identifies their credentials. Transparency is not optional; it is foundational to trust."

Borden said he respects advanced practice providers and feels they are an essential part of the health care system. He emphasizes that they are provide care under the supervision of a physician, and he feels the ratio between physicians and PAs should be more equal.

Yet hospital officials said the statistics that Borden presented in his written comments are just wrong. The walk-in and primary care locations on the island have a combined total of 29 medical professionals, with six medical doctors and 23 advanced practice providers.

Borden said the ratio should be closer to 1:1, which he said he sees at Island Hospital in Anacortes. Yet he concedes that hiring physicians is more expensive, and they are more difficult to find.

Borden's comments

delved what National Public Radio describes as a "turf war" between groups that represent advanced practice providers and doctors. While the advanced practice providers may seek greater autonomy from physicians and even a change in name from "physicians assistants" and to "physicians associates," the American Medical Association has lobbied against such measures.

Borden stressed the difference in education between physicians and advanced practice providers.

A National Public Radio story on the issue, for example, states that a physician assistant master's degree takes two academic years to earn and includes about 2,000 hours of clinical work. By comparison, a family physician attends a four-year medical school and then completes a three-year medical residence, during which they clock about 10,000 hours of hands-on education.

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PHOTO BY MARINA BLATT

The tournament's duration in Seattle overlaps with Whidbey's busy tourist season.

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## World Cup 'spillover tourism' could benefit Whidbey

By ALLYSON BALLARD  
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Predicting exactly how FIFA World Cup tourism in Washington will affect Whidbey is tough, but the hope is to benefit economically while keeping congestion to a minimum.

Lumen Field in Seattle will host six matches and Vancouver's BC Place will host seven matches of the international soccer tournament, bringing 48 teams to 16 host cities across North America from June 11 to June 19. Inge Morascini, a contractor with Whidbey and Camano Islands tourism, reported during an Island County Council of Governments meeting on March 25 that the tournament is expected to bring 750,000 visitors to the region, and generate \$929 million.

"Which sounds like a tremendous amount of money but, of course, Island County won't benefit from all that," Morascini clarified. "Most of that money will be in the Seattle and Vancouver areas."

Despite its distance from the action, Island County could feasibly draw what Morascini called "spillover tourism." There is a "high likelihood," she said, that people will venture outside Seattle for trips before, after and in-between matches.

Demand for overflow lodging is possible but unlikely to be significant; Morascini heard hotels in Seattle are expected to be booked for the tournament's duration in the city. But, she said the goal is to convert more day trips into overnight stays anyways.

The tournament will take place during the county's already busy tourist season. During June and July of last year, visitors — the vast majority from in-state — took

over 1 million trips to Whidbey and Camano islands, amounting to 1.6 million days in the region and about \$19 million spent, Morascini reported. Trips during that time averaged a little over a day.

"We have a large percentage of people coming here for the day. When people do come and stay, we have a high rate of people who stay for four to six days, but the number of day-trippers we have pulls the average down," she explained.

Island County could add anywhere from 7,500 to 37,500 visitors during the tournament, according to Morascini. She cautioned that factors like political climate and travel feasibility could determine how large that number actually is.

Monday, a partial government shutdown affecting the Department of Homeland Security — and, by extension, air travel in the U.S. — reached 45 days, the longest in history according to *CBS News*. Saturday, "No Kings" protests took place nationwide, and drew upwards of 2000 demonstrators on Whidbey.

With an influx of tourism, however, comes risks of transportation constraints, particularly with only two ways off of Whidbey Island. Morascini said the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry is already highly utilized, and that Deception Pass State Park — one of Washington's busiest parks — will be in its peak season of visitation at the time of the tournament.

"We could experience some potential congestion spikes," Morascini said. "The capacity limits and timing influences are really hard to predict."

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- April 03, Good Friday, 6:00pm
- April 04, Holy Saturday, 6:00pm
- April 05, Easter Sunday, 10:15am

.....

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# Protest

From Page 1

bombardment of Iran, its deployment of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and more.

Krueger confirmed the Oak Harbor protest proceeded peacefully and safely, with the assistance of peacekeepers from SOS Whidbey. Singing Resistance Whidbey provided musical accompaniment to the honking and cheering created by passing cars and demonstrators.

"There was a tremendous energy, joy and community in Oak Harbor. We had many veterans, young people, families, dogs and people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives," Krueger said.

Protests like these are meant to counter misinformation spread to spur disunity, Krueger explained; gathering publicly strengthens the community and emphasizes its desire for change.

"Whidbey is a strong and smart community," Krueger said. "We care about our neighbors. We stand for our military and veterans. We believe in rule of law and separation of power. We will protect free and fair elections, and we will work to elect leaders who share these values."

The Island County Republican Party did not respond to a request for comment.



Cloaked in red, a cluster of handmaidens moved silently through the crowd, bringing a somber energy to an otherwise energized protest. PHOTOS BY ALLYSON BALLARD



Protesters voiced their concerns about a number of issues. PHOTOS BY DAVID WELTON



# Cat

From Page 1

were forced there.

Also, Rokita denied harming the young cats.

Island County Superior Court Judge Carolyn Cliff, however, ruled that the report by county Animal Control Officer Tammy Esparza established probable cause for the two charges.

While Esparza recommended that Rokita be held on \$100,000 bail, Banks asked Cliff to set the bail at \$10,000, saying that the injuries to the cats suggested a high level of brutality.

Platt asked the judge to release Rokita on his personal recognizance. He pointed out that Rokita is an active-duty member of the Navy and was recognized by the Chicago Bears football team for his service last year. He was flown home to Chicago, where he was surprised by members of his family before heading to Halas Hall on a "private tour hosted by Hall of Famer and Super Bowl XX champion Dan Hampton," according to a Bears post on X. He then served as an honorary captain during a game at Soldier Field.

Cliff noted the viciousness of the attack on the cats and set Rokita's bail at a \$10,000 bond or \$2,500 cash.

The case against Rokita made regional and even national headlines, although several AI-based platforms inaccurately stated that he was charged. The Island County Prosecutor's Office reported that charges would likely

be filed Tuesday.

Law enforcement on Whidbey has taken the case very seriously. A police officer, a detective and two animal control officers were involved in the investigation, while deputies and at least one NCIS agent was involved in the arrest.

According to a report by Esparza, Oak Harbor police originally responded to Best Friends Veterinary Clinic on Feb. 19 for a report that two 10-month-old cats died under suspicious circumstances. The cats, Francisco and Mila, belonged to Rokita's live-in girlfriend.

The woman first called the veterinarian to report the mysterious feline deaths, and the veterinarian asked her to bring the bodies in for an exam.

Later, the woman told police she left in the morning and returned to find her kitties dead and that Rokita placed their bodies in a shoe box. Rokita spoke with police and denied harming the cats.

After his girlfriend left in the morning, Rokita said, he heard a crash and the sound of the cats "squealing, gagging and struggling," the report states. He said he got out of bed and found the cats dead in the living room, with a bar stool knocked over.

During the investigation, Oak Harbor officers realized that the couple's Larkspur Drive residence is in Island County, so the case was handed over to Esparza, who works in the Island County Sheriff's Office.

One of the veterinarians found that both cats had rolled pieces of a foil cat toy lodged in their throats; the

vet determined that it was "highly unusual for two healthy cats to choke on the same toy at the same time," the report states.

The veterinarian conducted necropsies the next day and found each cat had foil toys lodged in their larynxes. Two

different veterinarians opined that there was no way the cats could have ingested the toys on their own since they would have been in their esophaguses — not larynxes, the report states.

In addition, the necropsy showed that both cats had

blood in their abdominal cavities, as well as fractures and lacerations to the liver, hemorrhages on the hearts, spleens, kidneys, lungs and brains; all of the injuries were indicators of blunt force trauma, the report states.

The veterinarians said

the deaths were suspicious and could not have been accidents, the report states. The animal control officer received the completed necropsy on March 17. The veterinarian determined that the cause of death for both cats was blunt force trauma and asphyxiation.



*Experience the hope of Easter at Oak Harbor Lutheran Church*

**Maundy Thursday - April 2<sup>nd</sup> • 7 pm**  
**Good Friday - April 3<sup>rd</sup> • Noon and 7 pm**

**Easter Sunday - April 5:**  
 Breakfast served from 9 am to 10:15 am  
 Worship Services - 8 am and 10:30 am

**All are welcome.**  
 For more information, visit our website: [www.oakharborlutheran.org](http://www.oakharborlutheran.org)

**Oak Harbor Lutheran Church**  
 1253 NW 2nd Avenue (across from OHHS stadium)  
 360-679-1561

**Resurrection Sunday**  
 at Christian Life Community Church

*Good Friday Service*  
 6:00 pm, Friday, April 3

*Easter Eggstravaganza*  
 at Lakeside Bible Camp  
 11:00-2:00 pm, Saturday, April 4

*Easter Service & Brunch*  
 10:00 am, Sunday, April 5

1832 Scott Rd, Freeland  
 (360) 331-5778  
[www.clcwahidbey.com](http://www.clcwahidbey.com)

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 (360)331-4887 • [staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org](http://staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org)  
 No matter where you are on your journey you are welcome here.

**Palm Sunday, March 29:** Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist combined service at 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, April 1:** Tenebrae with the Sophia Singers at 7:00 p.m.  
*The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "shadows." The service is filled with chanting of psalms as candles are extinguished until the church is in darkness.*

**Maundy Thursday, April 2:** Holy Eucharist with Choir at 7:00 p.m.  
*On this night, Jesus instructed his disciples to "love one another" and remember him through the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Foot-washing will be available.*

**Good Friday, April 3:** 12:00 noon Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. Communion Liturgy with Choir  
*The Good Friday Liturgy, with Communion from the Reserve Sacrament, is the second part of the Triduum and is marked with austerity, silence, and reflection.*

**Holy Saturday, April 4:** The Great Vigil at 7:00 p.m.  
*This first liturgy of Easter will be a joint celebration with St. Stephen's, Oak Harbor, at St. Stephen's. Bring bells to ring in the resurrection!*

**Easter Sunday, April 5:** Celebrate the Day of the Resurrection at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
*Bring bells to welcome this happy morning! Festive music with the Choir at the 10:30 a.m. service.*

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legals

Legal Notices CALL FOR BIDS CITY OF OAK HARBOR Well 9 Drilling and Construction The City of Oak Harbor will receive sealed bids for Well No. 9 Drilling and Construction at the City of Oak Harbor, 865 SE Barrington Drive, Oak Harbor, Washington 98277, up to 2:00 pm (PST) on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Contractors are invited to submit bids for the Well 9 Drilling and Construction Project in Oak Harbor, Washington. The work will consist of developing a new emergency groundwater supply at its Well 9 site. The City

Legal Notices

requires the construction of a new well to replace existing Well 9 on the same parcel. All bidding and construction are to be performed in compliance with the Contract Provisions and Contract Plans for this project, and any addenda issued thereto that are on file at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Oak Harbor, Washington. Full notice and details of the solicitation are available on line at https://www.oakharbor.gov/Bids.aspx. There is no charge to register, receive notifications, or view and download the documents. Contact Sandra Place, Administration Manager, via email at splace@oakharbor.org if you are unable to access the documents online. Contractors who download plans and specifications are advised to email splace@oakharbor.org to be added to the plan holders list to receive any addenda that may be issued. The Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud shortly after the time and date stated above. Proposals are to be submitted only on the form provided with the Bid Documents. All Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check, postal money order, cashier's check, or Proposal bond payable to the "City of Oak Harbor" and in an amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total Proposal amount. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities or informalities in the bid or in the bidding, to accept any alternate bids, and to make such award that it deems to be in its best interest and pursuant to the terms of the General Conditions. The Owner intends to award a contract to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The City of Oak Harbor in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-2 to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Julie Nester, City Clerk Published: Daily Journal of Commerce-March 28, 2026, and April 4, 2026 Whidbey News-Times - April 1, 2026 and April 4, 2026 Legal No. WNT1028744 Published: The Whidbey News Times April 1, 4, 2026

District Court of Washington, County of Island Petitioner: Kelly Jo Hamming DOB:06/18/1966 Respondent: David Hamming DOB:12/22/?? NO.CV25-1128 Reissuance of Temporary Protection Order and Notice of Hearing (ORRTO) Clerk's Action Required: 6, 7, 8 Select one only: Domestic Violence. Reissuance of Temporary Protection Order and Notice of Hearing. 1. The Temporary Order for protectio issued on (date) 1-20-26 is hereby extended through 4-14-26 at (time) 10:00 am at (location) Island Co. Dist Court. See How to Attend at the end of this order. 2. The Order to Surrender and prohibit Weapons Issued on (date) 1-20-26 is hereby extended through the new court hearing date listed above. 3. Other: Court is allowing additional time for Petitioner to serve Respondent by Publication. 4. Hearing. The Court held a hearing before issuing this temporary order. These people attend: Protected Person in Person. 5. Basis. The temporary restraining order listed above is reissued to allow more time to serve the restrained person. Legal #: WNT1028254 Published: The Whidbey News Times March 21, 28, 2026 & April 1, 2026

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING In re the Estate of: DIANE PRINGLE DELMONTE, Deceased. N.O. 25-4-00337-15 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS [RCW 11.40.030] Michael Brendon Delmonte has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of first Publication: March 25, 2026 REED LONGYEAR CORWIN BURNETT & CALOGERO, PLLC /s/ Daniel H. Kim, WSBA #56669 of Attorneys for Personal Representative 801 Second Avenue, Suite 1415 Seattle, WA 98104 Phone: (206) 624-6271 / Fax: (206) 624-6672 Email: dkim@reedlongyear.com Legal No. WNT1028394 Published: The Whidbey News Times March 25, 2026 & April 1, 8, 2026

Legal Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR ISLAND COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of: ESTHER B. HERLEVI, Deceased. NO. 26-4-00073-15 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of this notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedents probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: March 21, 2026 Personal Representative: Michael J. Herlevi Attorney for Personal Representative: Michael M. Waller, 791 SE Barrington Drive Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-679-1240 Legal No. WNT1028247 Published: The Whidbey News Times March 21, 28, 2026 & April 1, 2026

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR ISLAND COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of: THOMAS HENRY POTTER, Deceased. NO. 26-4-00078-15 NON-PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS The Notice Agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named Decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the Notice Agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as Notice Agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the Decedents estate in the State of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the Decedent has not been issued to any other Notice Agent and a personal representative of the Decedents estate has not been appointed. Any person having a claim against the Decedent named above must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the Notice Agent or the Notice Agents attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the Notice Agents Declaration and Oath were filed. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Notice Agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR ISLAND COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of: THOMAS HENRY POTTER, Deceased. NO. 26-4-00078-15 NON-PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS The Notice Agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named Decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the Notice Agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as Notice Agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the Decedents estate in the State of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the Decedent has not been issued to any other Notice Agent and a personal representative of the Decedents estate has not been appointed. Any person having a claim against the Decedent named above must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the Notice Agent or the Notice Agents attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the Notice Agents Declaration and Oath were filed. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Notice Agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW

Legal Notices

11.42.020(2)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of First Publication: March 21, 2026 The Notice Agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct. SIGNED this 6th day of March, 2026, at Oak Harbor, Washington. Henrietta L. Potter, Notice Agent Michael M. Waller, WSBA NO. 6310 Waller & Waller, P.S. Attorneys for Notice Agent 791 SE Barrington Drive Oak Harbor, Washington 98277 Superior Court of Island County, Washington, Cause No. 26-4-00078-15 Legal No. WNT1028240 Published: The Whidbey News Times March 21, 28, 2026 & April 1, 2026



Island County Government Landscape Maintenance 26-08 Bid Date: April 17th, 2026, at 3PM INVITATION TO PRE-VAILING WAGE BID https://www.islandcounty.wa.gov

1.1 NOTICE TO BIDDERS: Sealed proposals in hard-copy format shall be received at Island County Facilities Management located at: 107 NE 6th Street Coupeville WA 98239 For the Island County Landscape Maintenance #26-08 until 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 17th, 2026, for Island County Facilities Management (hereinafter called the "County") requests proposals from qualified vendors to establish a landscape maintenance contract for multiple Island County properties: Bids received after the time fixed above for receiving bids cannot be considered. Bids received on-time will be publicly opened and read aloud on: Wednesday the 22nd of April 2026 at 2:00pm, Location: 1 NE 7th Street, Coupeville, WA 98239 in Room 116

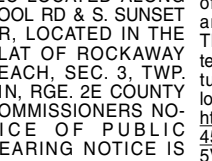
1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Qualified vendors to establish a contract proposal that shall consist of a complete, regularly scheduled program (and as agreed upon with County) for maintaining the health and appearance of County owned landscape and plantings. These services shall be always carried out by trained service technician(s). The Contractor is responsible for all aspects of landscape maintenance during the term of the agreement.

1.3 BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Bidding Documents are those prepared by Facilities Management 107 NE 6th Street Coupeville, WA 98239; (360) 678-7870. Beginning Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

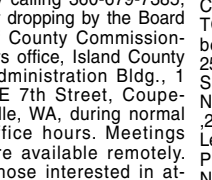
1.4 REJECTION OF BIDS: The Owner reserves the right to waive informalities and to reject any and/or all Bids for any reason and, to reject a Bid not accompanied by any required bid security or data required by the Bidding Documents or a Bid in any way incomplete or irregular.

1.5 PRE-BID SITE WALK: All interested bidders are encouraged to review all the properties, a full address list is in the RFP/scope of work on the county website. https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Business/Bid Opportunities Island County Landscape #26-08 Legal No. WNT1028745 Published: The Whidbey News Times April 1, 8, 15, 2026

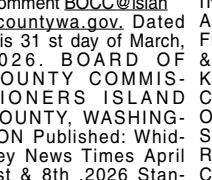
LEGAL NOTICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING Friday, April 3, 2026, 9:30 AM The Island Transit Board of Directors' business meeting is Friday, April 3, 2026, starting at 9:30 AM at Island Transit, 19758 SR 20, Coupeville, WA. This is a hybrid meeting with virtual, phone, and in-person attendance options. Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85492376659; dial 1 (253) 215-8782, enter meeting ID 854 9237 6659; in person at Island Transit. We request public comment be submitted before 12:00 PM on the Thursday before the meeting. The meeting room is accessible and open to the public. For more information, call (360) 678-7771 or email hppenner@islandtransit.org Legal No. WNT1028743 Published: The Whidbey News Times April 1, 2026



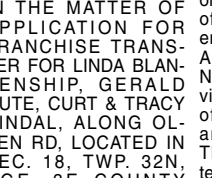
LEGAL NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE TRANSFER FOR COOL ROAD OSS ASSOCIATION, LLC LOCATED ALONG COOL RD & S. SUNSET DR. LOCATED IN THE PLAT OF ROCKAWAY BEACH, SEC. 3, TWP. 31N, RGE. 2E COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the Board of County Commissioners of Island County, Washington, that they have set April 14th, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 1 NE Sixth Street, Coupeville, as the time and place for a public hearing in the matter of transferring said franchise. The full text of the proposed transfer may be obtained by calling 360-679-7385, or dropping by the Board of County Commissioners office, Island County Administration Bldg., 1 NE 7th Street, Coupeville, WA, during normal office hours. Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings virtually may use the following link: ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/91965945479?pwd=7MQGsxk55V0bWpce7TuDfjPj9a16bL1 Passcode: 913256 or by telephone: 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 919 6594 5479 Passcode: 913256. You may also submit written comments via U.S. mail at the address below or email public comment to CommentBOCC@islandcountywa.gov. Dated this 24th day of March, 2026. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON Published: Whidbey News Times March 25th & April 1st, 2026 Stanwood/Camano News March 24th & 31st 2026 Legal#: WNT1028388 Published: The Whidbey News Times March 25, 2026 & April 1, 2026



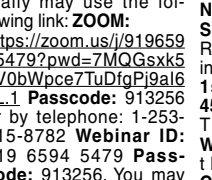
LEGAL NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE RENEWAL & TRANSFER FOR KATHERINE GINN LOCATED IN THE PLAT OF HARBOR SANDS, SEC. 2 TWP. 29N, RGE. 2E COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the Board of County Commissioners of Island County, Washington, that they have set April 7th, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 1 NE Sixth Street, Coupeville, as the time and place for a public hearing in the matter of renewing and transferring said franchise. The full text of the proposed renewal and transfer may be obtained by calling 360-679-7385, or dropping by the Board of County Commissioners office, Island County Administration Bldg., 1 NE 7th Street, Coupeville, WA, during normal office hours. Meetings are available remotely. Those interested in attending the meetings virtually may use the following link: ZOOM: https://zoom.us/j/91965945479?pwd=7MQGsxk55V0bWpce7TuDfjPj9a16bL1 Passcode: 913256 or by telephone: 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 919 6594 5479 Passcode: 913256. You may also submit written comments via U.S. mail at the address below or email public comment to CommentBOCC@islandcountywa.gov. Dated this 25th day of March, 2026. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON Published: Whidbey News Times March 25th & April 7th, 2026 Legal#: WNT1028391 Published: The Whidbey News Times April 1, 8, 2026



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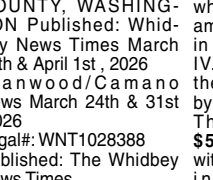


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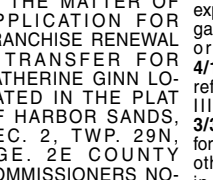


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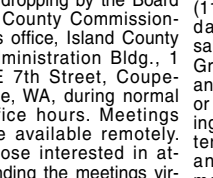
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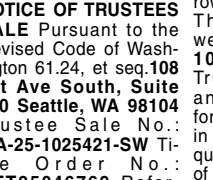
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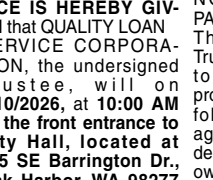
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**WHIDBEY NEWS TIMES**

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**Legal Notices**

secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute. Said sale will be made without warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances on 5/1/2026. The defaults referred to in Paragraph III must be cured by 4/20/2026 (11 days before the sale date), or by other date as permitted in the Note or Deed of Trust, to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time before 4/20/2026 (11 days before the sale), or by other date as permitted in the Note or Deed of Trust, the default as set forth in Paragraph III is cured and the Trustee fees and costs are paid. Payment must be in cash or with cashiers or certified checks from a State or federally chartered bank. The sale may be terminated any time after the 4/20/2026 (11 days before the sale date) and before the sale, by the Borrower or Grantor or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance by paying the principal and interest, plus costs, fees and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust, and curing all other defaults. VI. A written Notice of Default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Borrower(s) and Grantor(s) by both first class and certified mail, proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served, if applicable, with said written Notice of Default or the written Notice of Foreclosure provided to the Borrower(s) and Grantor(s). These requirements were completed as of 11/18/2025. VII. The Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide in writing to anyone requesting it, a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale. VIII. The effect of the sale will be to deprive the Grantor and all those who hold by, through or under the Grantor of all their interest in the above-described property. IX. Anyone having any objections to this sale on

**Legal Notices**

any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustees sale. X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS - The purchaser at the Trustees Sale is entitled to possession of the property on the 20th day following the sale, as against the Grantor under the deed of trust (the owner) and anyone having an interest junior to the deed of trust, including occupants who are not tenants. After the 20th day following the sale the purchaser has the right to evict occupants who are not tenants by summary proceedings under Chapter 59.12 RCW. For tenant-occupied property, the purchaser shall provide a tenant with written notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.060. XI. SPECIAL NOTICE TO GUARANTOR CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR POTENTIAL DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT Pursuant to RCW 61.24.042: (1) The guarantor may be liable for a deficiency judgment to the extent the sale price obtained at the trustees sale is less than the debt secured by the deed of trust; (2) The guarantor has the same rights to reinstate the debt, cure the default, or repay the debt as is given to the grantor in order to avoid the trustees sale; (3) The guarantor will have no right to redeem the property after the trustees sale; (4) Subject to such longer periods as are provided in the Washington deed of trust act, chapter 61.24 RCW, any action brought to enforce a guaranty must be commenced within one year after the trustees sale, or the last trustees sale under any deed of trust granted to secure the same debt; and (5) In any action for a deficiency, the guarantor will have the right to establish the fair value of the property as of the date of the trustees sale, less prior liens and encumbrances, and to limit its liability for a deficiency to the difference between the debt and the greater of such fair value or the sale price paid at the trustees sale. THIS NOTICE IS THE FINAL STEP BEFORE THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF YOUR HOME. You may be eligible for mediation. You have only

until 90 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale listed in this Notice of Trustee Sale to be referred to mediation. If this is an amended Notice of Trustee Sale providing a 45-day notice of the sale, mediation must be requested no later than 25 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale listed in this amended Notice of Trustee Sale. DO NOT DELAY. CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR OR AN ATTORNEY LICENSED IN WASHINGTON NOW to assess your situation and refer you to mediation if you are eligible and it may help you save your home. See below for safe sources of help. SEEKING ASSISTANCE Housing counselors and legal assistance may be available at little or no cost to you. If you would like assistance in determining your rights and opportunities to keep your house, you may contact the following: The statewide foreclosure hotline for assistance and referral to housing counselors recommended by the Housing Finance Commission: Toll-free: 1-877-894-HOME (1-877-894-4663) or Web site: <https://www.homeownership-wa.org/> The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development: Toll-free: 1-800-569-4287 or National Web Site: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD> or for Local counseling agencies in Washington: [https://answers.hud.gov/housingcounseling/s/?language=en\\_US](https://answers.hud.gov/housingcounseling/s/?language=en_US) The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys: Telephone: 1-800-606-4819 or Web site: <https://nwjustice.org/home> Additional information provided by the Trustee: If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the noteholders rights against the real property only. The Trustees Sale Number is WA-25-1025517-RM. Note: This form has been modified to account for the loan type. Dated: 12/19/2025 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION, as Trustee By: Jeff Stenman, President Trustees Address: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 108 1st Ave South, Suite 450, Seattle, WA 98104 For questions call toll-free: (866) 925-0241 Trustee

**Legal Notices**

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Sale Line: 916-939-0772  
or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>IDSPub>  
#0282207 4/1/2026 4/22/2026  
Legal No. WNT1028748  
Published: The Whidbey News Times  
April 1, 22, 2026

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE** Pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington 61.24, et seq. 108 1st Ave South, Suite 450 Seattle, WA 98104  
Trustee Sale No.: WA-25-1010007-SW Title Order No.: 01348-49834 Reference Number of Deed of Trust: Instrument No. 4468110 Parcel Number(s): S6064-00-0A201-0 Grantor(s) for Recording Purposes under RCW 65.04.015: SHARDAE GILBERT, AN UNMARRIED PERSON Current Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust and Grantee (for Recording Purposes under RCW 65.04.015): Guild Mortgage Company, LLC Current Trustee of the Deed of Trust: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION Current Loan Mortgage Servicer of the Deed of Trust: Guild Mortgage Company LLC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION, the undersigned Trustee, will on 4/10/2026, at 09:00 AM At the Main Entrance to the Island County City Hall, located at 865 SE Barrington Drive, Oak Harbor WA 98277 sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder, payable in the form of credit bid or cash bid in the form of cashiers check or certified checks from federal or State chartered banks, at the time of sale the following described real property, situated in the County of ISLAND, State of Washington, to-wit: UNIT A201, BAKER VIEW CONDOMINIUM, PHASE 1, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 4, 1996, UNDER AUDITORS FILE NOS 96007448 AND 96015256, RECORDS OF ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON, SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF ISLAND, STATE OF WASHINGTON. More commonly known as: 300 N. OAK HARBOR STREET, #A201, OAK HARBOR, WA 98277 Subject to that certain Deed of Trust dated 7/23/2019, recorded 7/26/2019, under Instrument No. 4468110 records of ISLAND

**Legal Notices**

County, Washington, from SHARDAE GILBERT, AN UNMARRIED PERSON, as grantor(s), to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF WASHINGTON, A WASHINGTON CORP., as original trustee, to secure an obligation in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR GUILD MORTGAGE COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as original beneficiary, the beneficial interest in which was subsequently assigned to Guild Mortgage Company, LLC, the Beneficiary, under an assignment recorded under Auditors File Number 4583506 11. No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust as referenced in RCW 61.21.030(4) is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any Court by reason of the Borrowers or Grantors default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust/Mortgage. III. The default(s) for which this foreclosure is made is/are as follows: Failure to pay when due the following amounts which are now in arrears: \$20,849.20. IV. The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: The principal sum of \$180,026.62, together with interest as provided in the Note from 9/1/2024 on, and such other costs, fees, and charges as are due under the Note, Deed of Trust, or other instrument secured, and as are provided by statute. V. The above-described real property will be sold to satisfy the expense of sale and the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute. Said sale will be made without warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances on 4/10/2026. The defaults referred to in Paragraph III must be cured by 3/30/2026 (11 days before the sale date), or by other date as permitted in the Note or Deed of Trust, to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time before 3/30/2026 (11 days before the sale date) and before the sale, by the Borrower or Grantor or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance by paying the principal and interest, plus costs, fees and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust, and curing all other defaults. VI. A written Notice of Default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Borrower(s) and Grantor(s) by both first class and certified mail, proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served, if applicable, with said written Notice of Default or the written Notice of Default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described in Paragraph I above, and the Trustee has possession of proof of such service or posting. The list of recipients of the Notice of Default is listed within the Notice of Foreclosure provided to the Borrower(s) and Grantor(s). These requirements were completed as of 4/1/2025. VII. The Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide in writing to anyone requesting it, a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale. VIII. The effect of the sale will be to deprive the Grantor and all those who hold by, through or under the Grantor of all their interest in the above-described property. IX. Anyone having any objections to this sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustees sale. X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS - The purchaser at the Trustees Sale is entitled to possession of the property on the 20th day following the sale, as against the Grantor under the deed of trust (the owner) and anyone having an interest junior to the deed of trust, including occupants who are not tenants. After the 20th day following the sale the purchaser has the right to evict occupants who are not tenants by summary pro-

**Legal Notices**

ceedings under Chapter 59.12 RCW. For tenant-occupied property, the purchaser shall provide a tenant with written notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.060. THIS NOTICE IS THE FINAL STEP BEFORE THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF YOUR HOME. You may be eligible for mediation. You have only until 90 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale listed in this Notice of Trustee Sale to be referred to mediation. If this is an amended Notice of Trustee Sale providing a 45-day notice of the sale, mediation must be requested no later than 25 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale listed in this amended Notice of Trustee Sale. DO NOT DELAY. CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR OR AN ATTORNEY LICENSED IN WASHINGTON NOW to assess your situation and refer you to mediation if you are eligible and it may help you save your home. See below for safe sources of help. SEEKING ASSISTANCE Housing counselors and legal assistance may be available at little or no cost to you. If you would like assistance in determining your rights and opportunities to keep your house, you may contact the following: The statewide foreclosure hotline for assistance and referral to housing counselors recommended by the Housing Finance Commission: Toll-free: 1-877-894-HOME (1-877-894-4663) or Web site: <https://www.homeownership-wa.org/> The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development: Toll-free: 1-800-569-4287 or National Web Site: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD> or for Local counseling agencies in Washington: [https://answers.hud.gov/housingcounseling/s/?language=en\\_US](https://answers.hud.gov/housingcounseling/s/?language=en_US) The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys: Telephone: 1-800-606-4819 or Web site: <https://nwjustice.org/home> Additional information provided by the Trustee: If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the noteholders rights against the real property only. The Trustees Sale Number is WA-25-1010007-SW. Dated: 12/2/2025 QUALITY LOAN SER-

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VICE CORPORATION, as Trustee By: Jeff Stenman, President Trustees Address: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 108 1st Ave South, Suite 450, Seattle, WA 98104 For questions call toll-free: (866) 925-0241 Trustee Sale Number: WA-25-1010007-SW Sale Line: 800-280-2832 or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>IDSPub>  
#0271834 3/11/2026 4/1/2026  
Legal No. WNT1027602  
Published: The Whidbey News Times  
March 11, 2026 & April 1, 2026

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY**

In the Matter of the Estate of DONALD L. LESLEY, JR., Deceased. No. 26-4-00066-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: March 25, 3/20/2026. DEBORAH PEDERSEN, in her capacity as Endowment Chair of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION REGIONAL SCHOOL, Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC By: CRAIG E. CAMMOCK, WSBA #24185 Attorneys for Personal Representative P. O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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LEGAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: March 25, 3/20/2026. DEBORAH PEDERSEN, in her capacity as Endowment Chair of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION REGIONAL SCHOOL, Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC By: CRAIG E. CAMMOCK, WSBA #24185 Attorneys for Personal Representative P. O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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# Heads

From Page 1

Department” and is shifting its focus to “long-term planning and aligning programs and services with community needs and expectations.”

Oak Harbor Mayor Ronnie Wright emphasized the need for and importance of transparency in the release.

“I am continually working with my executive



Brian Smith

team, leadership and City Council to maintain open communication about projects and transitions like this at the City,” he



Emma House

added. “My goal is to listen to the community and offer meaningful opportunities for input.”

Wright alluded to

Smith’s departure during a presentation, reminding the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission of its role, duties and relationship to other city governing bodies at a March 9 meeting.

Responding to a question from commission chair Eric Dipzinski about whether subcommittees should be used to shorten commission meetings, Wright addressed what he called the “elephant in the room.”

“We’ve made a change

in the leadership at the city in this specific department because we need to be handling how we’re addressing things differently and taking this department in a different direction,” Wright said.

Wright stressed the importance of communication and admitted the city needs to improve in transparency, “which is why we made a change,” he added. Wright said he and Combs will collaborate with Parks Supervisor Brandon Cable, Recreation

Manager Liz Lange and Recreation Coordinator Craig Lamas-Cole while the city finds another director.

“The idea is that communication comes from the director down to them, and then comes out to you all. So I’m hoping that there would be less of a need for those subcommittee meetings because that direction is already coming to you from the city staff,” Wright explained. “That’s the way it’s supposed to be happening.”

# Orcas

From Page 1

transients, or even visitors from the Aleutian Islands or Bering Sea, the *Seattle Times* reports. Shari Tarantino, the executive director of



PHOTO BY CINDI RAUSCH

Wildlife photographer Cindi Rausch had fun taking pictures of the “mystery orcas.” Her pictures show an adult female, T419, swimming alongside two juvenile males, T420 and T421.

the Orca Conservancy, told the *Seattle Times* that the Alaskan transients appear unexpectedly friendly with the orcas in the West Coast transient population.

“We weren’t sure what to expect with the two separate populations, but as it

turns out, Transient killer whales in this region seem to be more socially fluid than our Resident ecotypes that do not intermingle,” she told the *Seattle Times*.

Maybe they woke up on the wrong side of the

reef, however, because Geist noticed the pods didn’t seem to appreciate the newcomers on March 25. Shortly after she spotted the trio, they stumbled into T36, the T36Bs and the T99s, two West Coast transient orca pods. Their

welcome quickly grew stale, Geist said, recalling how T36, the T36Bs and the T99s shooed the foreigners away by following them in pursuit with “slight vigor and a little surface activity.”

“It felt to me like a non-aggressive, but firm “Go away. You’re not welcome here,” Geist wrote in a Facebook post.

Though they are “certainly culturally distinct” from the West Coast transients that are often seen from Whidbey Island, Howard Garrett, the board president of the Orca Network, said it is still undetermined whether they are genetically and acoustically distinct or a sub-population of the species.

“I am very interested in these exotic visitors and where they came from,” Garrett told the *News-Times*, taking particular interest in their odd habit of visiting urban places and their fearlessness in approaching humans.

**“I canceled my video streaming subscription.”**

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**WHIDBEY NEWS GROUP 2025 THE BEST OF WHIDBEY READERS CHOICE AWARDS**

# From rust to riches: Artist creates metal marvels

By MARINA BLATT  
marina.blatt@whidbeynewsgroup.com

Someone's trash is metal artist Jammie Hulse's treasure.

The Oak Harbor sculpture artist transforms recycled materials into shimmering sculptures intricately shaped into a face, a whale and more. She is showing her five sculptures in an outside showcase in her front yard at 185 West Frostad Road. Hulse plans to add more sculptures to the display in the future, with the possibility of adding larger pieces soon. The sculptures will remain on display until they are sold or unless they are moved to a new location.

Hulse, owner of Broken Rusty Halos LLC, has been creating art for 24 years, turning to metalwork primarily recently.

Finding time to work on her pieces on the weekends and when she has time off from her full-time job, Hulse uses a wide range of materials, including discarded metals, plastic, driftwood and whatever else she comes across. The inspiration for her work is more of a feeling or an instinct. She gets an idea and starts building, she said, with some projects taking six months, like the whale, while others are less time intensive.

The pieces are heavy; it took seven of her friends and members of Mighty to Save Ministry to carry the whale out of her workshop.

"Turning trash into something beautiful is my passion. It gives purpose to discarded materials and to my own journey," Hulse said. "I hope people feel the love, effort, and detail in each piece. I want my work to bring a



PHOTO BY MARINA BLATT

The Oak Harbor sculpture artist, Jammie Hulse, transforms recycled materials into shimmering sculptures intricately shaped into a face, a whale and more.

sense of peace, simplicity and positivity."

The metal doesn't start out beautiful. It begins in a dirty, rusted shape that Hulse cleans, polishes, cuts, shapes and spray paints. Her sculptures are each different, flowing

from her imagination. One sculpture is the outcome of the impact of a strong machine. The distorted metal is proof that a mistake can also be beautiful. The sculpture that looks like a face, her personal favorite piece,

is full of intricate bends to the metal, proving her

expertise is in the little details.

Hulse hopes her work creates a meaningful impact in her community. Her ultimate goal is to have the city of Oak Harbor showcase her work for her, she said, but she is seeking community feedback first. She plans to reach out to the city and explore opportunities through their programs and website in the future, she noted. For now, besides the outside showcase, her work is shown in the Garry Oak Gallery, Nuna's Bakery, North End Fitness Center

and Banana Belt Boats and Yachts in Anacortes.

People can share feedback on Facebook by posting photos and tagging "Jammie Hulse" or "Broken Rusty Halos." For inquiries, comments or to purchase a piece, email [brokenrustyhalos@gmail.com](mailto:brokenrustyhalos@gmail.com) or call 360-499-4750. Larger pieces range from \$5,000 to \$12,000. Smaller works are available as well.

Hulse asks people not to touch or climb on the sculptures and to avoid jumping over the ditch by the side of the road.

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### Christopher Lamas-Cole



Myself and Craig Moved to Oak Harbor in March of 2024. I Grew Up in the San Fernando Valley in Encino, CA. However I was blessed enough to have the opportunity to come to the island to Visit my grandparents every summer for about 12+ years. I'm very excited to serve what I can proudly say is now our community like my grandparents did as the owners of InterIsland Fire Safe, here in Oak Harbor. When not working we enjoy exploring the island and all the outdoor activities it has to offer. Or spending time with our two little dogs.

Contact Christopher Today!  
**(360) 639-7148**  
[christopher.lamas-cole@whidbeynewsgroup.com](mailto:christopher.lamas-cole@whidbeynewsgroup.com)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF Time Critical Removal Action Memorandum**

Off-Base Private Drinking Water Enduring Solution near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Ault Field in Oak Harbor, Washington

The U.S. Navy has initiated a Time Critical Removal Action to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above the September 2024 Department of Defense (DoD) PFAS interim action levels for one additional private drinking water well near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Ault Field.

The removal action provides an enduring solution for one home served by a drinking water well with PFAS above the September 2024 DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells. The enduring solution for this home is a connection to the Navy's waterline at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Ault Field. The removal action has been initiated in accordance with Section 300.415(n)(2) of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as part of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

**Public Comment & Additional Information**  
The Navy invites the public to comment on the Action Memorandum (AM). The 30-day comment period begins on March 4, 2026, and ends on April 4, 2026. The AM is available at the following website: <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NASWIPFAS>.

Comments may be emailed to [navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil](mailto:navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil) or mailed to the following address: Attn: Public Affairs Officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Northwest, 1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 201, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

The Navy will consider all public comments and summarize responses in a responsiveness summary document, which will be included in the Administrative Record.

For more information, contact the NAVFAC Northwest Public Affairs Officer at (360) 340-5592 or [navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil](mailto:navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil).

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