



## Cancer patients fly free with the San Juan Eagles



Elsa Willows and Lauren Franciosi stand in front of Carlo Franciosi's plane. Carlos' mentorship and trust in Elsa to fly his plane for Eagles' trips were hugely supportive during her commercial licensing process.



Mary Ellen Judge and her Eagles' pilot, Marc Islam, on their way to a radiation treatment (just a few weeks before she won a car on Jeopardy!)

BY KRISTINA STUCKI  
Staff reporter

Everyone seems to have a different name for the officially designated San Juan Eagles — Silver Eagles, Flying Eagles, Flying Angels, even just the Eagles in many cases — but regardless of the name, this sweet-smelling rose is a universally beloved group of volunteer pilots helping save island lives. They fly patients to the mainland for cancer treatments at no cost, often personally driving them back and forth between the airport and the medical center as well, turning what could be a cost-heavy, stress-intensive experience into an exciting adventure.

Local Teddy Deane flew with the Eagles (he calls them the Silver Eagles) in 2013 during treatments for prostate cancer.

"It made lemons into lemonade for me," Deane said. "I flew with two breast cancer patients five

days a week from Friday Harbor Airport. Skagit Hospital scheduled all our treatments at 1 p.m., so we left at noon, took a Toyota (donated by the dealership) from the airport to the hospital and back. Our pilot was always waiting for us and we flew home by 3 p.m."

The patients would get a bowl of miso soup from Ernie's cafe on their way out — no payment would be taken for either lunch or the flight.

"The only payment we made was baking them some cookies occasionally," Deane said. "The pilots were the most kind and considerate people I have ever met, and I will never forget the experience. We had a lot of adventures along the way; sometimes they would ask us if we wanted to fly over Deception Pass, the tulip fields in Mount Vernon, or our own houses. Every trip was a joy, and I will always cherish their generosity, skill and good humor."

In lieu of cookies, Deane wrote and dedicated a song, "Silver Eagles," to the pilots who helped him.

"I wrote 'Silver Eagles' as a tribute to the pilots who transported me for 36 flights because I didn't have anything else that I could give them that would express my gratitude (cookies didn't seem like enough)," he shared. "The song appeared on my last CD released in 2015. I also performed it for a special national recognition ceremony for the Eagles. Dr. John Geyman put the lyrics in his book about flying; he was one of the [founding] members of the Eagles."

The other San Juan Eagles' founder, Vicky Thalacker, grew up 2 miles from a Naval base and decided from a very young age that she would learn how to fly.

"We could watch the [Blue Angels] from our front yard," she said.

Years later, as a pilot living in Friday Harbor with her own plane, she had a friend who needed to travel to Mount Vernon daily for chemo.

"I took her over several times in my plane," Thalacker remembered. "I'd drive her to the hospital and return her to her home. She eventually passed away, but in the meantime, I knew that this would be my calling."

She found out there was a group of pilots on Orcas who flew patients to Bellingham and spent the next year researching how they did it. Thalacker found the names and addresses of all the pilots in Friday Harbor, wrote to each one and asked them to join her.

"There was great support from all of them," she said. "The Eagles were formed, and we are still flying patients today."

Twenty-eight-year-old Elsa Willows is the current coordinator of the Eagles and has been flying with them since she was only 25. She recently took over the

coordinator position from Marc Islam, whom she met through fellow Eagle (and her grandfather), Dennis Willows.

"My grandpa has been a pilot his whole life," she said. "He introduced me to the Eagles. I was at the airport a lot through my pilot training, and they were very much a resource for me during that time."

To obtain a commercial license, pilots need 250 hours of flying, which can be expensive for new fliers. Some members of the Eagles are willing to lend their plane to training pilots they trust, who can then log hours toward their license and transport cancer patients to the mainland for the Eagles.

"Everyone wins!" Willows said. Her grandfather, Dennis, hopes more people can know about the Eagles so they can use their services, given how difficult cancer treatments can be logistically for islanders.

See **EAGLES**, Page 2

## Keeping the arts alive

BY HEATHER SPAULDING  
Editor

The San Juan Islands Museum of Art has officially named their Atrium Gallery the Susan and Gary Sterner Atrium. It was their "obvious care for the arts and the museum itself," SJIMA Director Blake DeYoung said, which led the SJIMA's board to decide

to name the Atrium in their honor.

"Some write checks, some donate their time," DeYoung told the Journal, adding that both are extremely valuable and greatly appreciated. "There is a third category, like the Sterners, who do both."

After visiting the islands via Road Scholars, the Sterners found

themselves returning over and over again, finally moving to San Juan permanently in 2011, on April Fools' Day. But it was no joke. Already connected with the San Juan Community Theatre from their previous visits, Gary and Susan found themselves increasingly involved there. Over time, they have made a huge impact

on the Theatre. Director Nathan Kessler-Jeffery said, "Gary and Susan Sterner have been patrons, donors, CATS members, and incredible volunteers at San Juan Community Theatre for many, many years. They are regular attendees at theatre, music, and educational performances. They've served as front-of-house volunteers, taking tickets and ushering. They attend and support the Theatre



See **ARTS**, Page 6 Susan and Gary Sterner stand below the new Atrium Gallery sign.

## Orcas weighs deer hunting on beloved preserves

BY DARRELL KIRK  
Staff reporter

The trails of Turtleback

Mountain Preserve wind through old-growth fir, past quiet wetlands and open rocky balds. For many residents, it is a sanctuary. Now, a proposal by the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank to open select areas to manage deer hunting is testing what kind of public land this community wants, and what the land itself needs.

### The ecological case

For botanist Madrona Murphy, born and raised on Lopez Island, the proposal can't come soon enough. "The biggest predictor of the size of both the camas flowers and the camas bulbs was the presence or absence of deer," she said. "The deer weren't killing the plants, but browsing them enough to keep them significantly smaller — unable to produce more flowers and more seeds."

The damage extends to rare species. "Deer were one of the major threats to the Island Marble butterfly on San Juan and Lopez — they'd go through



A young black-tailed deer in the forest.

and eat the flowers off the mustards where the butterfly lays its eggs, and while they weren't targeting the caterpillars, they ate an awful lot of them," Murphy said. "We actually proposed fencing deer out of the mustard patches to try to protect them."

Samantha Martin, an Orcas Island biologist of 20 years, became a hunter because of what she witnessed. "My main inspiration was seeing the impact that the overpopulation of deer has on native vegetation — specifically wildflowers and pollinator habitat,"

she said. "It becomes almost impossible to do restoration here in some areas without fencing. You can't fence everything."

Grey Tyson, a seven-year North Shore resident, recalled the 2021 adenovirus outbreak: dead deer everywhere, three or four on her own lawn, the smell pervasive all summer. Murphy cautioned against overstating its impact: "There is no accurate estimate of the population of deer on the island, so you can't say that 90% died because we don't know how many there were to begin with."

### The plan

Orcas Preserve Steward Peter Guillozet said the initial zone would be off-trail on the preserve's north-eastern side, away from homes and trails. Closed Land Bank parcels can't substitute, he explained, because access runs through private roads the agency doesn't own. Safety measures include vests at the trailhead, one party of two per day, a 100-foot buffer from trails and neighboring properties, and

See **DEER**, Page 3

# Obituary

## Lisa Fyrqvist

May 11, 1960 - February 27, 2026

RIP Lisa Fyrqvist

Best friend of Tony for 46 years.

Raised 5 children on San Juan Island: John, Mike, Kate,

Joe & Laura.  
12 grandchildren (currently — hopefully more to come).  
Loved God.  
Loved her family.  
Loved people on the Island.  
We love you forever.  
Fyrqvist Family



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO.

San Juan Eagles co-founder and longtime coordinator, Dr. John Geyman.

## Eagles

From Page 1

“Many people having regular treatments of radiation or chemotherapy face weeks of daily commutes,” he told the Journal. “They find each trip by car and ferry can easily take all day, with just enough time to eat and sleep at home before doing it again. Flying is a preferred time, energy and financial option.”

Mark Burkholder spoke fondly of the Eagles when remembering some of his last trips off the island during his wife’s treatments.

“It was the best part of our cancer experience,” he said. “Not only was it a lifeline in terms of the time and money it saved us, but it was such an infusion of excitement and adventure. To get to feel like you’re hopping in a little airplane and getting airdropped in like a paratrooper feels like the correct level of response for something so serious.”

Burkholder remembered that they also found comfort in being around people who knew what they were doing. Similar to how he felt with the oncologists, being around the pilots’ capable confidence felt soothing

at a time when everything around them felt out of their control and scary.

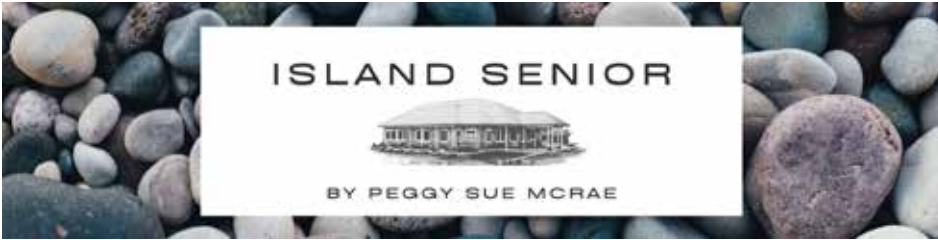
“It was a different pilot every time, and every single one of them was so capable and so sharp,” he said. “You crave being around people who are capable like that during those times.”

Soon, the San Juan Eagles will partner with San Juan Airlines to transport patients off the island, even in more difficult weather. With the smaller planes and recreational pilots, sometimes the weather minimums are higher for the Eagles than they are for the professional pilots flying commercial craft day in and day out.

“Our minimums are the FAA’s minimums,” Jason Douglass, owner of San Juan Airlines, explained, “which makes us a more viable option in a lot of cases. We are happy to take medical patients for the Eagles if we aren’t at capacity.”

This means that on days when the weather would typically cancel an Eagles flight, San Juan Airlines will likely be able to step in.

“I live in Friday Harbor. We are an island-based business, even though our main operation is in Bellingham,” Douglass shared. “We’re always happy to



# An uplifting hour with the University of Aging

BY PEGGY SUE MCRAE  
Journal contributor



PEGGY SUE MCRAE

Last week I attended the University of Aging. This group is a focus on fun, one-hour, once-a-month, drop-in get-togethers held in the Arts & Crafts room at the Mullis Center. The group was spearheaded and is facilitated by longtime community members Francie Hansen and Sue Evans.

The flyer announcing the group’s monthly meeting states, “University of Aging - a fun, monthly drop-in activity/discussion group with no rules except: We begin with two minutes of complaining simultaneously. We commence the meeting with joy.”

Longtime attendee Krispi Staude has attended the University of Aging since the initial meeting in May of last year. Staude shared with me that at first, they did try starting with two minutes of complaining simultaneously. That, she explained, was too much, so they cut it down to one minute, then 30 seconds, and have since dispensed with the simultaneous complaining.

Said Staude, “Now it turns out that we are basically a happy group, so we have dropped that part of the meeting.” Over the past year, Staude tells me the group has done a few crafts like making origami butterflies or collages from old calendars; however, she says, “It’s mostly just talking.”

At the meeting I attended last week, besides Hansen and Evans, there were about 13 women and one brave man. For me, it was a mix of beloved familiar faces among a few who were new to me. We started by going around the circle, offering something that made us happy that day. A few people had something sad to get off their chests, which the format was loose enough to easily accommodate. Lest participants ramble

too far afield, our cheerful facilitator, kitchen timer in hand, kept things moving right along.

For the topic of the day, speaking of taboos was mentioned along with the suggested subjects drugs and sex and rock n’ roll. Starting with sex as our topic, the hour flew by, and we didn’t even get to drugs and rock n roll! The topic ranged from Girl Scouts learning the facts of life and not telling their parents about it to the shocking things young women are telling Oprah these days.

Participants are encouraged to consider the following: We gather with community to enjoy each other’s company with curiosity, open-mindedness and respect. We work together to expand our knowledge, understanding and interests. Indeed, it was a cordial group with plenty of ideas to share. After an hour of stimulating company, I can report that as I left the Mullis Center that afternoon, my spirits had indeed been lifted.

The next meeting of the University of Aging will be held in the Arts & Crafts room at the Mullis Center on April 22.

**PROTECT OUR PLANET...**

**RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER**

**HAM RADIO LICENSE TESTING**

FRIDAY HARBOR, WA  
MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> &  
NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2026

**TESTING FOR ALL AMATEUR LICENSE CLASSES:**  
TECHNICIAN – GENERAL - EXTRA

**NO FEE FOR TESTING**

**RESERVATION REQUIRED**

CONTACT:  
**SanJuanIsHamTest@pm.me**

serve the community, that’s why we are here. In any capacity, we can do that; we’re happy to help. And this seems like a good way for us to be able to do that.”

**FRIDAY HARBOR DRUG**

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Alchemy Art Farm Store Opening Weekend**  
Thursday, April 2-6th, 12-6 pm at 45 Hawthorne Ln

Join us for the opening weekend of the Alchemy Art Farm store on the first weekend of April! Located at the former Pelindaba Lavender Farm site, our new store in the Alchemy Art Barn will feature our handmade lavender products, locally made artwork, hands-on art activities, and opportunities to peek into working studios and learn about our creative community. Your purchases support a center dedicated to community belonging and access to the arts for islanders. Experience the fresh magic and essential creativity of Alchemy Art Center!

**Teen Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt with Island Rec**  
Friday, April 3, 7-8-9 pm at the Jackson’s Beach

Teen Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt Bring your flashlight and your bag for a challenging nighttime Easter egg hunt amongst the driftwood. Afterwards you can hang out around the bonfire and enjoy your treats! Keep an eye out for the Golden Eggs—they’ll have gift cards inside! Remember to bring a flashlight and a bag to carry your eggs in. Jackson Beach April 3 from 8-9 pm Free!

**Easter Oyster Hunt at Westcott**  
Saturday, April 4, 11-3 pm at 904 Westcott Dr

Westcott’s Third Annual Easter Oyster Hunt is coming up. Join us Easter weekend from 11-3 pm picking oysters and seeing what the Easter bunny might have left along the beach. No reservations needed. Bring your boots because it can get muddy!

Your **Hallmark** Headquarters  
210 SPRING STREET  
FRIDAY HARBOR  
**378-4421**

**A1 SEPTIC ON LOPEZ**  
INSPECTIONS – PUMPING – UPGRADES AND MORE!

**REPAIRS**  
**INSTALLATIONS**  
**EMERGENCY CALLS**  
**PORTABLE RENTALS**

**ALSO SERVING SAN JUAN ORCAS OUTER ISLANDS**

CALL  
**360 - 622 - 6354**  
JASON@AISEPTICONLOPEZ.COM

Great Islands Cleanup  
Saturday April 18, 2026  
10am - 2pm

#GICU2026

**THE GREAT ISLANDS CLEANUP**

Our Power. Our Planet.

**PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA**

**Island Contacts**  
Lopez: sarahr@lopezsolidwaste.org  
San Juan: katiej@sanjuancountywa.gov | 360-375-5863  
Orcas: pete@exchangeorcas.org | 360-376-4089  
Shaw: outsidelanguage1@gmail.com | 360-378-7948  
**WWW.PLASTICFRESALISHSEA.ORG/EVENTS**

# Deer

From Page 1

daylight hours only.

## The safety concerns

Not everyone is reassured. Jeff Otis, a retired county planner who lives adjacent to the Turtleback boundary, carries memories that never faded.

"In 1999, somebody was hunting on what is now the Turtleback property and shot a bullet through my house," Otis said. It passed through his office and lodged in a beam aimed toward the kitchen, where he could have been standing. "It sounded like a bomb going off," he recalled.

In November 2023, a hunter was killed by another hunter's shotgun on Bureau of Land Management land on Lopez — the official ruling was a tragic accident, the shooter unable to see the victim through the trees. "The Land Bank is saying if there's hunting on Turtleback, it would be with firearms that don't shoot very far, including shotguns," Otis said. "Well, this man was killed with a shotgun."

Otis read directly from the Land Bank's own website: "A refuge for wildlife and haven for those who wander through a mosaic of forests, wetlands and open meadows." "To me, that feels like a breach of the public trust," he said. "Just the knowledge that hunting would even be allowed on Turtleback would destroy that for me," he said.

Otis also argued that development, not deer, is the root cause. "As the island got more developed — replacing native plants with grass and gardens — that removes native vegetation and shifts deer to what open areas remain." He proposed requiring new developments to retain native vegetation, and questioned whether hunting even strengthens the herd: "Disease is a natural selector for killing off the weaker in

the population. Hunting is really just the opposite — it's a non-natural selection."

A 10-year study published in Ecology and Evolution on Nov. 8, 2019, by Cornell University researcher Bernd Blossey tested three deer management strategies — fertility control, recreational hunting and no management — and found that neither of the first two worked.

Despite sterilization rates of 90%, fertility control failed to reduce deer populations. Blossey was blunt about hunting: "Recreational hunting does not control the deer population, and it does not help in reducing deer impacts." The study has since been replicated across New York State and in the Midwest.

## Tribal access

Turtleback Mountain sits within the ancestral territory of Coast Salish peoples, and the Land Bank has proposed a dedicated two-week window for tribal hunting access. Murphy said, "The balance in the islands between deer and people and plants

really was from Coast Salish traditional hunting. Orcas has a particularly high density of deer — it seems to me an excellent opportunity for responsible management, local food, and a way for the Orcas

community to actually help manage those land bank properties."

Martin called the tribal provision significant: "I just think that's a really important gesture and effort to make towards co-stewardship."

## Retire with confidence.

Stop wondering if your savings will last. Get a personalized retirement plan designed to help provide consistent income and ongoing guidance from a fiduciary advisor.

Whether you've saved \$50,000 or \$500,000, we'll help you build a strategy to make the most of it.

Call for a free, no-pressure consultation  
**(855) 432-0160**



Advisory services offered through Retirable, a Registered Investment Advisor. The free consultation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. Investment outcomes are not guaranteed and may vary based on market conditions.

## San Juan Island Worship Services

### St. Francis Catholic Church

425 Price St., Friday Harbor  
Mass is at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; both are also live-streamed. Also at 9 a.m. during the week.

To Advertise, contact Kristina at the Journal

**360-375-3814**

Worship Service listing is \$12 per week for one year or \$13 per week for 6 months

**ERIEHOME** Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor  
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service  
Erie Roofing Since 1976

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**  
**50% OFF**  
Installation

**FREE ESTIMATE**  
**SCHEDULE TODAY!**  
Call 1.844.800.9166

**CALL TODAY! 1.844.800.9166**

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a Do Not Call list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservices.compliance.com](http://homeservices.compliance.com). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [eriehome.com/erielicenses/](http://eriehome.com/erielicenses/)

**Find the mortgage that fits your needs**  
Professional | Accountable | Innovative  
Available evenings & weekends to better serve you

FHA / VA / USDA  
Reverse Mortgages  
Manufactured Homes  
Purchase - Refinance  
Creative Financing  
Construction Financing

**Tammy Pollard**  
Senior Loan Advisor NMLS 78697  
25+ years experience  
Free Consultations  
360.317.5311  
[tammy.pollard@snmc.com](mailto:tammy.pollard@snmc.com)  
[tammpollard.com](http://tammpollard.com)

**Security National MORTGAGE**

CATS Annual Bake Sale

## Elegant Edibles

Cakes, Cookies, Pies, Treats

**Saturday, April 4th**  
**10:00AM - 12 NOON**

**San Juan Community Theatre Lobby**

SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY ARTS THEATRE SOCIETY (CATS)

**Leafguard**  
a Great Day Improvements brand

**Clog-free, maintenance-free gutters with a lifetime warranty!**

**Call now for your free estimate!**  
**360-529-5867**

**PROTECTS YOUR HOME AGAINST** LEAVES, SEDIMENT, PESTS, WATER

**Maintenance-Free:** You never have to climb a ladder to clean your gutters again.

**Clog-Free:** Our one-piece proprietary system is guaranteed not to clog, or we will clean your gutters for free.

**From a Company You Can Trust:** Leafguard prioritizes safety and treats our customers professionally and respectfully.

**Receive a \$50 Visa Card with your FREE in-home estimate**  
\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.  
\*\*See <https://www.leafguard.com/offers> for offer details. Expires 04/30/2026

## FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

A Downtown Friday Harbor Event  
**March 6, April 3, 4-7pm**

### PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

**A Friday Harbor Atelier**  
313 Spring Street  
10 Studios ~ New Art ~ Talk to the Artists! Sips, nibbles, and witty banter all for free!

**B Salty at Heart Apothecary**  
310 Spring St Unit A1  
Salty at Heart is an island apothecary celebrating intentional living, offering handcrafted botanicals, artisan goods, and soulful treasures. We grow and distill our own lavender, creating small-batch products that inspire ritual, connection, and everyday magic-rooted in nature, crafted with care.

**C Halo Gallery and Studios**  
232 A Street #6A  
Grand Opening! Join for a night of amazing art, people, food and fun!

**D San Juan Soapery**  
232 A Street #5  
Explore artisan soaps, skincare, and bath products at San Juan Soapery's new storefront. Handcrafted in small batches on San Juan Island, this woman-owned business offers a wide variety of non-toxic, eco-friendly products. Enjoy 15% off all purchases. Hosting local artists!

**E Island Wine Company**  
2 Cannery Landing,  
100 Front Street  
Join us in the Cannery Building next to the ferry landing for an evening of wine tasting (San Juan Cellars) and artwork by Kathryn Lawson Kerr (acrylics, watercolors, block prints and jewelry)

**F Fern**  
110 First Street South  
FERN is a boutique art gallery curated by local artist

**G Angel Colmenares Gallery**  
50 First Street

**H Island Verse Literary Collective**  
30 First Street Our new home is a sanctuary for storytelling and the craft of verse. We welcome diverse voices—from Sovereign Nation and Tribal peoples, to Latinx and English-learning communities—and champion local youth and elders across our archipelago.

**I Art Market at Brickworks**  
150 Nichols St.  
Join us at Brickworks for First Friday

**K Artist Pamela Hoke**  
Check website for monthly pop-up New limited edition, signed studio prints on wood panels from \$34 Fresh floral, fauna, and moon paintings Online: Art for action online program (for non-profit organizations) [www.pamelahoke.com](http://www.pamelahoke.com)

**Contact**  
[kristina.stucki@sanjuanjournal.com](mailto:kristina.stucki@sanjuanjournal.com)  
to be added to the map!



Alisha Merrick who is both a painter/illustrator and an enamelist/jeweler. Enjoy a selection of brightly colored art, apparel, housewares, and jewelry that are locally made by talented women.

Art Walk, where a rotating group of local artists share paintings, ceramics, photography, metalwork, woodwork, and more. Discover original art, meet the makers, enjoy live demonstrations and occasional music—it's a stop you won't want to miss.



# A dangerous dog, a sibling squabble and turkey talk | SJC sheriff's log

The San Juan County Sheriff's Office responded to the following calls.

**March 18**  
 • Deputies on San Juan Island arrested an individual with an outstanding Department of Corrections felony warrant for escape from community custody. The subject was booked into jail.  
 • A San Juan County deputy responded to an animal bite call. The victim, a delivery driver, was attacked by two dogs. Multiple wounds necessitated a hospital visit.

A citation for public nuisance under the county dog code was issued, and a hearing for dangerous dog designation will be held.

• Lopez Island deputies were dispatched to a report of a wild turkey exchanging terms with a flock of sheep from a roadside low-lying stretch of land. Negotiations took place, and the turkey relocated to a protected grassland.

**March 19**  
 • A San Juan Island deputy responded to a report of

harassment involving children. The deputy spoke with the parties and took down their respective accounts of what happened. The incident was documented.

• A deputy on Orcas Island responded to a report of threats near Eastsound. The reporting party was contacted, and the investigation is still ongoing.

• A San Juan Island deputy took possession of found property—a wallet—turned in by a local resident. An effort was made to contact the owner of the black wallet before the deputy had to check it into evidence for safekeeping.

**March 20**  
 • Deputies were notified of a trespassing incident on Decatur. The event is unfounded, as documents were legally posted regarding a recent foreclosure and transfer of ownership.

• A Lopez deputy responded to a report of an unusual verbal exchange between two adult siblings at the grocery store. The incident was documented.

• A San Juan Island deputy received a report of

harassment. A local man approached the reporting party's car and provided his opinion about her driving behavior. She reported it was an uncomfortable interaction. The man was encouraged to report future driving concerns to the Sheriff's Office.

• A deputy on Orcas Island took a report of a residential burglary on Shaw Island. The homeowner reported the items that were missing, and the incident was documented.

• An Orcas Island deputy responded to a citizen needing assistance with filing a protection order. The deputy learned that no crime was committed and provided the citizen with resources and documented the incident.

• A San Juan Island deputy met with a resident who wanted to trespass a live-in family member from her home due to safety concerns. The resident was advised to apply for a protection order and was given information about SAFE San Juans to help.

• San Juan deputies responded to a report of

an unwanted person. An individual was arrested for burglary in the first degree - domestic violence, assault in the fourth degree - domestic violence, DUI and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

**March 21**  
 • Deputies on Orcas Island responded to a motor vehicle accident on Orcas Road. The driver was arrested for DUI and issued an infraction for driving with wheels off the roadway.

• A San Juan deputy responded to a report of a DUI. The vehicle was located, and the driver was arrested for DUI. The vehicle was impounded as evidence.

**March 22**  
 • An Orcas Island deputy responded to a parking problem near West Beach. The deputy learned that someone dumped a sailboat on the reporting party's property. The deputy was able to identify the owner of the sailboat, and arrangements are being made to move the boat. The incident was documented.

• Deputies on Orcas Island responded to a report of a residential burglary in the Raccoon Point area. Deputies

searched the residence to find the home unoccupied. The homeowners confirmed nothing was taken, and the incident was documented.

**March 23**  
 • Lopez Island deputies were dispatched to a domestic call. An investigation was conducted, and the incident was determined to be a civil matter. A report was taken.

• Lopez Island deputies observed a vehicle traveling over the center line several times on Mud Bay Road. A traffic stop was initiated, and the driver promptly pulled over. No signs of intoxication were observed during the contact. The driver was issued a verbal warning.

• A Lopez Island deputy stopped a vehicle in the 2400 block of Fisherman Bay Road. The driver was subsequently issued an infraction for speeding 37 mph in a posted 25 mph zone. Additional warnings were issued.

**March 24**  
 • A deputy on San Juan Island received a request to trespass a citizen from a property. The deputy contacted the citizen and issued a trespass warning letter.

NOW SHOWING!



**THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE**

Having thwarted Bowser's previous plot to marry Princess Peach, Mario and Luigi now face a fresh threat in Bowser Jr., who is determined to liberate his father from captivity and restore the family legacy. Alongside companions new and old, the brothers travel across the stars to stop the young heir's crusade.

**STARRING**  
 Anya Taylor-Joy, Glen Powell, Chris Pratt



**PROJECT HAIL MARY**  
 SUMMARY

Science teacher Ryland Grace wakes up on a spaceship with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. As his memory slowly returns, he soon discovers he must solve the riddle behind a mysterious substance that's causing the sun to die out. As details of the mission unravel, he calls on his scientific training and sheer ingenuity - but he may not have to do it alone.

**STARRING** Ryan Gosling

PALACE THEATRE

24-HOUR MOVIE LINE: 370-5666

FIRST RUN MOVIES • ART FILMS • DOLBY SOUND  
 TWO SCREENS • HEALTHIER POPCORN  
 STATE-OF-THE-ART PROJECTION  
 INFRARED SOUND FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED  
 HAVE YOU TRIED OUR CHOCOLATE POPCORN?

## SJC Department of Environmental Stewardship hosts 2026 hazardous waste roundup events across the islands

Submitted by San Juan County.

San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship is hosting a series of hazardous waste roundup collection events this spring and summer, giving island residents and businesses the chance to legally and responsibly dispose of poisonous, flammable, corrosive or otherwise hazardous materials.

Proper disposal protects community health, keeps harmful chemicals out of

local drinking water and safeguards the workers who handle these materials.

"Hazardous materials including pesticides, chemicals, and batteries, have no place in household garbage," said Katie Fleming, Solid Waste program coordinator, San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship. "When these items end up in the regular trash, they can make their way onto our ferries, where a spill or fire could put passengers, crew, and

our marine environment at serious risk. These roundup events give households a safe, free, and easy alternative. Please take advantage of them."

**2026 collection event schedule:**

Lopez Island: Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District, 2419 Fisherman Bay Road.

San Juan Island: Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Juan Transfer Station, 212 Sutton Road.

Orcas Island: Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Orcas Recycling Services, 3398 Orcas Road. Please note that this event is only for households, and fuel and paint will not be accepted. A second Orcas event on Oct. 3 will accept waste from pre-registered businesses and fuel. Paint may be dropped off during regular transfer station business hours.

Businesses from all islands must register in advance by April 24 by contacting Katie Fleming at [katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov](mailto:katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov) or 360-762-5821. San Juan Island businesses have a dedicated event on Friday, May 15. There is a charge for businesses that will be determined after registering.

These events are free for households and open to all San Juan County residents. For a full list of accepted materials and more information, visit <https://www.sanjuan-county.wa.gov/1491/Hazardous-Waste-Disposal>. Contact: Katie Fleming, Solid Waste program coordinator, [katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov](mailto:katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov), 360-762-5821.

### WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT



## WA Workers: Get up to \$1,300 back on taxes!

Individuals, couples, and families: you can get money back on taxes paid in 2025 if you meet income and eligibility requirements.

Learn more or get help applying at [WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov](http://WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov)



Department of Revenue  
 Washington State

Audien Hearing

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Atom X

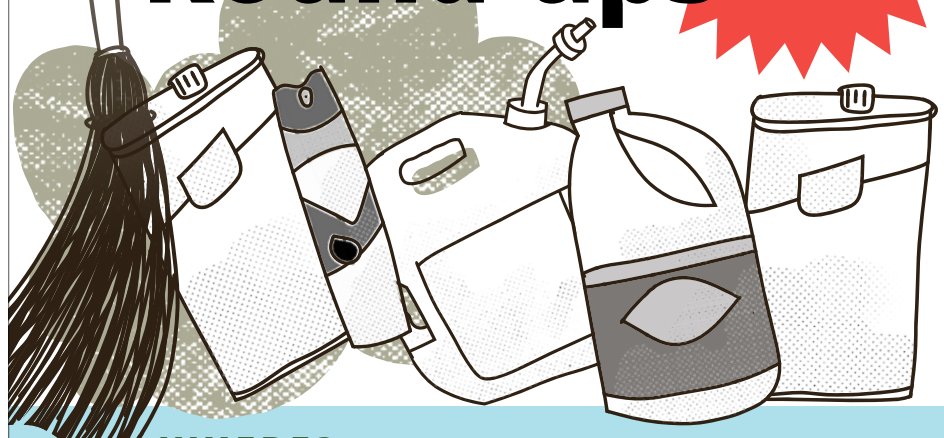
Call 855-607-7053



to get your 45-day risk free trial.

## SAN JUAN COUNTY Hazardous Waste Round-ups

No charge for local households! \*



**WHERE?**  
 at your island's solid waste facility (aka, "the dump")

**WHEN?**


**SAN JUAN**  
**Businesses:** Friday, May 15 (pre-registration required by April 24)  
**Households:** Saturday, May 16, 10 am to 2 pm

<p><b>LOPEZ</b>                  Saturday, May 2                  10 am to 2 pm</p>	<p><b>ORCAS</b>                  Saturday, June 20                  10 am to 2 pm</p>
---	---

\*Households can bring up to 25 gallons of waste in containers no bigger than 5 gallons.



Businesses must call to pre-register by April 24: 360-762-5821  
 For more info on the Round-ups: [sanjuanco.com/351/Hazardous-Waste](http://sanjuanco.com/351/Hazardous-Waste) or email [katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov](mailto:katief@sanjuan-county.wa.gov)

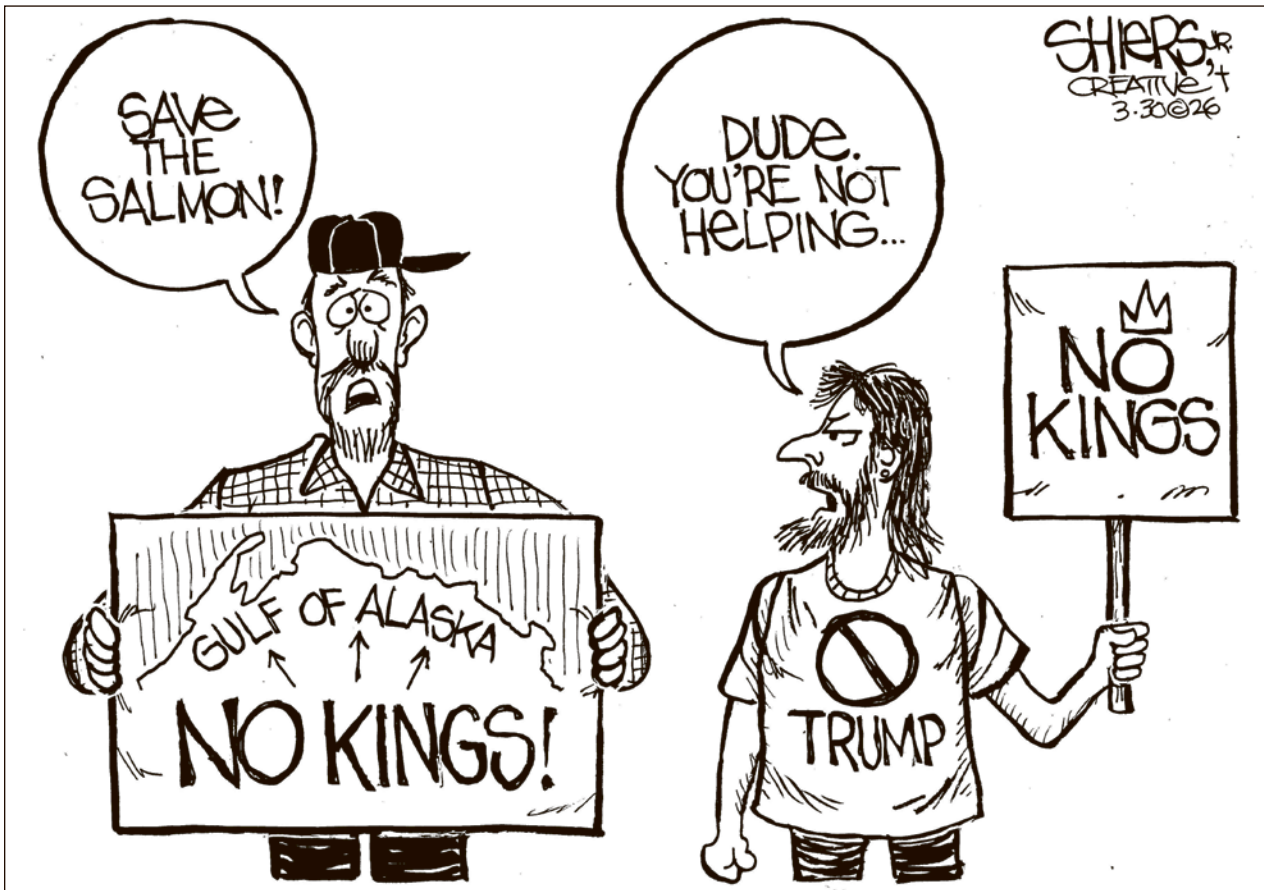


Funded by the San Juan County Solid Waste Program and Washington Department of Ecology

# Journal OPINION

**Write to us:** The Journal of the San Juan Islands welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be typewritten and not exceed 350 words. Guest columns are not to exceed 500 words. Preference is given to local writers and topics. They must be signed and include a daytime phone. Send to editor@sanjuanjournal.com or 640 Mullis St., West Wing, Friday Harbor 98250. Letters may be edited.

*The ideas, opinions and beliefs expressed by readers in letters and guest columns are not that of the Journal of the San Juans nor of its staff.*



## Guest Column Remembering Jane Goodall

Scientist. Activist. Author. Trailblazer. These are just some of the words that can be used to describe Dr. Jane Goodall, the world's most preeminent primatologist and a name synonymous with conservation.

If you've ever heard her speak, she would often say that as a child, she always thought Tarzan had chosen the wrong Jane. However, if we extend the metaphor for Tarzan to represent not a wild man but all wild apes, then she was absolutely the right Jane. It was her observation of the old male David Graybeard using a stick to fish for termites that turned the definition of human on its head; we aren't the only animals to use tools.

She looked in their eyes and saw a being as complex as any human — grief, anger, friendship. Jane Goodall has been one of my heroes since the fifth grade, doing a science report on chimpanzees. Her courage in venturing into the Tanzanian forest as a 20-something woman without scientific training, driven only by a deep love for animals. Standing up to the establishment when her scientific rigor was derided for giving names to the chimps rather than numbers. Never losing hope in the face of bureaucratic and corporate apathy. Even at 91, when most people are taking it easy and making moments count with family, she was still traveling approximately 300 days a year, convinced there was

more work to be done.

Humility, compassion, open-mindedness, generosity. That's what true leadership is. In his speech at her memorial service, Leonardo DiCaprio remembered Goodall as "unstoppable" and that she "reminded us that change begins with compassion and our humanity is our greatest tool."

"Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved." She might have been soft-spoken, but her message still reverberates across the world through her Roots and Shoots youth programs that cover everything from planting native species and ensuring natural spaces are available on campus to recycling clothing to reduce greenhouse gases. Goodall would be the first to say that we can't take on every problem that needs solving — that way lies madness. Instead, find your passion within your local community. We can't save the world if we ignore our neighborhood.

This Friday, April 3, would have been her 92nd birthday. Honor this extraordinary woman by speaking up for those who don't have a voice at the table, and together, let's make a better world.

In a world where you can be anything? Be kind. Be like Jane.

**Amy Nesler**  
San Juan Island

## Letters to the Editor Vote yes for County levy: Save the services we value most

I am writing to point out the importance of voting YES on Proposition No.1, the County's regular property tax levy lid lift. This levy is to continue funding valued

community services that are not mandated by law. These services include foundational public health, senior services, parks and fair, emergency management, the

Islands Oil Spill Association, and environmental stewardship. We have come to rely on these programs and services as part of our everyday lives.

As a former County Council person, I understand the pressure that is on the County budget. It is real, and if the measure doesn't pass, the cuts will be real. Now the choice is ours to save the services we value most.

Please vote yes on Proposition No. 1.

**Jamie Stephens**  
Lopez Island

## In support of public safety

I am writing to express my strong support for voting YES on the levy lid lift that will be on the April 28 special election ballot. As the former Sheriff of San Juan County for 24 years, I have witnessed first-hand the vital role our law enforcement officials and staff play in keeping our community safe.

Public safety is a basic component of any community that cares about its residents. We all need safe streets, quick emergency responses, and compassionate crisis support.

These are essential elements of our everyday lives that allow us to thrive as a community. When we have safe communities, we attract businesses, foster tourism, and enhance the overall quality of life for everyone.

Without this additional funding, a projected shortfall in the general budget would force cuts to critical services. The revenue generated by this levy will not fund new programs but will preserve the critical services already being provided

every day by our law enforcement officials. This measure will also fund crucial county services such as mandated public defense for those who can't afford an attorney; an essential element of "justice for all."

For an estimated cost of just \$22 more per month paid by the average homeowner, we can ensure that our sheriff and prosecuting attorney have the resources they need to continue serving us effectively.

I urge you to join me in voting YES on April 28 th for the San Juan County levy lid lift.

Sincerely,

**Bill Cumming**  
Former San Juan County Sheriff

## San Juan Islands Healthcare Foundation launches support for vulnerable islanders

Submitted by the San Juan Islands Healthcare Foundation.

The San Juan Islands Healthcare Foundation announces its recent launch of a bold mission: to provide compassionate health care support to seniors and vulnerable adults facing critical needs in our island community.

Including professionals in emergency services, social services, facility-based elder care and home-based care, the foundation is uniquely positioned to address urgent service gaps where other support ends. Formed in 2024, the foundation is run by volunteers, so every dollar raised goes directly to care services, meaningful experiences or foundational health care infrastructure. Its mission reflects a deeply held belief in a community

where dignity, safety and human connection are accessible to all.

The foundation's mission is three-fold:

### Healthcare Funding for Crisis Support

One goal of SJIHF is to bridge the affordability gap for islanders facing health care crises. With home care costs beginning at \$55 per hour and facility care exceeding \$6,000 per month, the foundation intends to intervene to secure interim care and resources. Donations to date may be used for this purpose and others, where islanders are left without financial solutions at the time of a health care crisis or surprise setback.

### The "Life Wish Fund" to Support Joy and Dignity

Whether it's reuniting with loved ones or experiencing simple pleasures, another foundation mission is to help meaningful wishes come true for islanders who've lacked such opportunities. The average wish is expected to cost between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

### Healthcare Worker Housing

The foundation's loftiest goal is to contribute to affordable housing solutions for health care professionals and their families — a key investment in bolstering long-term community care capacity.

### Scope and vision

While SJIHF currently serves San Juan Island specifically, it has its sights set on expanding across the islands

as abilities evolve. Collaborations with the Community Foundation — providing donation processing and accounting — and with San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1, exemplify SJIHF's commitment to collective, community-centered health care solutions. Importantly, the foundation operates as an independent nonprofit and is not formally part of these entities. Decisions about assistance are made on a case-by-case basis by the board of directors.

Referrals to the foundation must come from local service providers or community agencies — individuals may not apply directly.

For more information about donation opportunities, partnerships or mission initiatives, please visit SJIHF.org or reach out via email.

## Civics trivia

Presented by the League of Women Voters in honor of Earth Day.

**1. Which U.S. law is often termed the "Magna Carta" of environmental laws?**

- a) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- b) Clean Air Act.
- c) Clean Water Act.

**2. Which of the following was not required by the 1970 Clean Air Act?**

- a) Regulation of air emissions.
- b) Setting ambient air quality standards.
- c) Requiring cities failing to meet standards to attain them by deadlines set in the law.

**3. Which of the following was not required by the**

**1972 Clean Water Act?**

a) Regulating discharges of pollutants into U.S. surface waters.

b) Addressing groundwater contamination.

c) Establishing quality standards to protect water resources.

Last week's answers:

1. Which American woman activist said, "The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving." Answer: Gloria Steinem.

2. Which female member of Congress said, "The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right, when it is unpopular, is a true test of moral character." Answer: Margaret Chase Smith.

3. Which first lady said, "The first lady is, and always has been, an unpaid public servant elected by one person, her husband." Answer: Lady Bird Johnson.

## Upcoming HAM radio licensing tests

Submitted by event organizers.

Calling all HAM radio fans. HAM radio license testing will occur in Friday Harbor on May 2 and Nov. 14. This covers testing for all amateur license classes: technician, general and extra.

There is no fee for testing; reservations are required. Contact SanJuanIsHamTest@pm.me for more information.

# Arts

From Page 1

financially through our Holiday Festival and Summer Gala fundraisers and our Ovation Legacy Society.”

The couple has volunteered for numerous Community Arts Theatre Society events over the years, including the annual Elegant Edibles bake sale (occurring April 4 this year). “Personally, I’ve benefited many times from their historical knowledge of our Theatre and their wisdom on business and fundraising. San Juan Community Theatre would not be the institution it is today without their participation and generosity,” Kessler-Jeffery said.

“People here were very friendly,” Susan said about their first arrival.

They volunteered and attended the Community Thanksgiving, in those days at the Grange, in part to meet people, and in part to do some community good. The community has adored them in return. For example, when asked if Kessler-Jeffery had any stories about working with the Sternes, he responded, “There are too many!”

One of his favorite things about the Sternes, he said, is that they’re very considerate in how and when they share their wisdom. “In an age when we are constantly having information pushed upon us (I’m looking at you, social media), Gary and Susan are good about making space for conversation, thought, and consideration. I can’t count the number of times Gary has asked to meet, and

I came out of our meeting with some of the best wisdom we needed right at that moment!”

SJIMA board member Kim Miller says of the Sternes, “[They] know the value of having and living in a community that is thriving and supportive to our arts community - I see them often at our Community Theatre too. I don’t know of their other contributions to other nonprofits but I can imagine there are many. Gary and Susan attend church on Sundays and afterwards go to the Art Museum for another and additional spiritual experience. Gary and Susan have been wonderful advisors to me in my new role as President of The Board Of Trustees.”

Of SJIMA in particular, Gary praises its riveting exhibits.

“I didn’t have any special feelings about museums, [until SJIMA captured his attention]” Gary said. “They have done a great job trying to make it exciting.”

He cites previous exhibits like “A War

Never Ends” featuring art, photos and stories from Vietnam veterans, and the Indigenous art exhibit “Emergence” as examples.

For Susan, the museum offers a chance to consider the past, present and future. It also works with upcoming artists to develop talent in the present and look at what needs to happen in the future.

“Quite a few people have contributed to the museum, so it’s a camaraderie [that] keeps the spirit alive,” Susan said.

That camaraderie is important within all nonprofits. Kessler-Jeffery notes that “Every successful non-profit organization thrives because of relationships. I am always grateful for the volunteer work and the generosity of the Sternes, but the thing I cherish most is their time, their wisdom, their kindness, and the way they have invested in the people and relationships here.”

The arts are important, Susan says, because it makes people use

their minds, and it’s stimulating.

But the arts aren’t all they volunteer for. They can often be found during the summer at the Lime Kiln State Park’s Information Center, and have also been involved with Wolf Hollow.

When asked if, through their work with nonprofits, they have concerns about the island community, the couple touched on housing and lack of resources.

“There is another side to society we don’t see,” Gary said, “I don’t even know fully what they are, because other organizations are working on them.”

Concerns about housing, about the unseen struggling members of the island, led them to contribute to the Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center.

“The older population and younger people don’t have the resources they need,” Susan explained, and the Family Resource Center has been working tirelessly on robust programs for seniors, youth, island families

and other vulnerable members of the community.

Knowing how much the Sternes have affected not just the SJIMA, but the arts, the environments and the community, it was a no-brainer when the SJIMA board discussed naming the Atrium Gallery after them. DeYoung told the Journal that once the decision was made, they reached out to the original designers of the museum to make the gallery’s new sign. The result was a perfect match to the original SJIMA designs.

Gary and Susan were both surprised, blown away even, when the sign was unveiled.

“Gary and Susan have been great financial supporters of the Museum and know the value of having an Art Museum on the island for locals, young and old, and in-between and for our visitors,” Miller said. “They are just dear people! And I am grateful and proud to know them and call them my friends.”

 find us on **facebook!**

**Tested and proven gutter protection.** LeafFilter Gutter Protection

LeafFilter® Common hood style

We install your-round - Exp. 6/30/26

Schedule your **free** inspection and estimate today!  
**1-866-489-4496** Promo Code: 285

Special offer - Save up to **25% off** LeafFilter Gutter Protection

\*Promotional offer includes 10% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. See representative for full warranty details. AR 969000025, AZ ROC 944022, CA 1028785, CT H2C071633, DC 452222E-HL-FL 28C066818, IA 0272733, IL PCE-8804, LA 556644, MA 28232, MD 1M4C17225, HI 284486, MI 282300331, 282300332, 282300333, 282300334, 282300335, MN IPB0264, MT 266922, ND 47304, NE 50145-24, 50146-25, NJ 13VH2280000, NM 4026901, NV 88990, OR 282294, PA PA170643, RI GO-41354, TN 10081, UT 10783658-5601, VA 270869445, VT 1740000871, WA LEAFFL-H-TRSP9, WI No. 527-037818V-WV020262.

**We Buy Houses For Cash!**

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!  
**No Repairs. No Fuss.**

**Liz Buys**

- Fair Cash Offer
- No House Repairs
- Quick Closing
- Simple Home Sale
- No Realtor Fees
- Convenient Closing Date

**Call (888) 720-3848**

**Donate Your Vehicle**

Call (877) 225-8568 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

**Donate Your Vehicle Today**  
**877-225-8568**  
[www.veterancardonations.org/dnt71](http://www.veterancardonations.org/dnt71)

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, waterfront, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (877) 225-8568.

**2026 OPALCO BOARD ELECTION**

**CO-OPS VOTE**

Vote to win one of our great prizes!

**Vote by mail or online!**  
[www.opalco.com/election](http://www.opalco.com/election)

**GENERAC**

**#1 standby generator worldwide.**

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 888-674-7053 to schedule your free quote today!

\*Terms & conditions apply

**Hale Mini Honeybells**  
The once a year citrus sensation!

**ONLY \$34.99**  
Reg. Price \$44.99  
Special Limited Time Offer

**27% SAVINGS**  
INCLUDED SHIPPING

Call 1-855-635-1001 to order item 2692X or Visit [HaleGroves.com/H6YU05](http://HaleGroves.com/H6YU05)

\* Only \$34.99 (reg. \$44.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer. IC: H6YU05

**Local Author Talk:**  
*Sarita Dasgupta*

Monday, April 6  
6:00-7:30 PM  
Library Main Salon

**Seeds of Fate**

Griffin-Lay Bookstore San Juan Island Library

**Consumer Cellular®**

**BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today. **833-462-1801**

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

# SAN JUAN ISLAND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**A1 Septic** offers **COMPLETE** septic service

Email [Jason@A1SepticonLopez.com](mailto:Jason@A1SepticonLopez.com) or call 360-622-6354  
Visit [A1SepticonLopez.com](http://A1SepticonLopez.com) for more information.

**SEPTIC**

**STARR EXCAVATION**  
Craig Starr  
Septic Inspection, Pumping & Portable Toilets  
(360)378-5045  
[craigstarr@centurytel.net](mailto:craigstarr@centurytel.net)

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**

**HUSE ENGINEERING, P.S.**  
Civil Engineers

- Structural Analysis & Design
- Foundation Design
- Hydraulic Analysis

Thomas Huse, P.E. 685 Spring St., #2320  
360-472-0469 Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Ads available for just \$23.75 per week!  
**Call 360-375-3814**

# PNW MarketPlace!

click! [www.soundclassifieds.com](http://www.soundclassifieds.com) email! [classified@soundpublishing.com](mailto:classified@soundpublishing.com) call toll free! 1.888.399.3999 or 1.800.388.2527



## Announcements

**Audien Hearing.** The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-607-7053

**Consumer Cellular** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-462-1801

**DIRECTV.** All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof. Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-492-3055

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-225-8568 today!

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-866-489-4496 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-674-7053 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-800-9166

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-720-3848



## Employment Services



**Asphalt Chip Seals**  
Doolittle Construction is scheduled to Chip Seal community roads in San Juan County the Summer of 2026. Please contact us with your needs. 425-455-1150x3  
Quotes@DoolittleLLC.com

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notices

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SAN JUAN COUNTY

### Legal Notices

WASHINGTON FEDERAL BANK fka Washington Federal Savings; Plaintiff, v.

DOE 1 and DOE 2 who are the occupants of 6803 Roche Harbor Rd., Friday Harbor, WA 98250; DOE 3 and DOE 4 who are the unknown heirs and devisees of Ross M. McCallum; DOE 5 and DOE 6 who are the unknown heirs and devisees of Stephanie L. McCallum aka Stephanie L. Jamieson; LEND-MARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company doing business in Washington; STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES; and STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; MATTHEW MCCALLUM; JACCALYNE BRADY; Defendants. Case No. 25-2-0507728

### SUMMONS (60 days)

The State of Washington to the said Defendant: MATTHEW MCCALLUM who is the known heir of Ross M. McCallum and Stephanie L. McCallum aka Stephanie L. Jamieson. You are hereby summoned to appear within 60 days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within 60 days after the 25th day of March, 2026, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the Amended complaint of the Plaintiff, Washington Federal Bank fka Washington Federal Savings, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for Plaintiff at their office stated below; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Amended complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The object of the Amended complaint and the demand for relief are: The plaintiff seeks to foreclose its trust deed on the subject real property described in the Amended complaint and as described below in the amount of \$318,594.88, plus interest, late charges, costs, advances, and attorney's fees, and to cause the subject property to be sold by the Sheriff of San Juan County, foreclosing the interests of all defendants in the real property with the proceeds applied to satisfy Plaintiff's lien. The real property is described as follows: The West 850 feet of the South half of the Southeast quarter of Section 19, Township 36 North, Range 3 West, W.M., in San Juan County, Washington, lying South of the County Road; EXCEPT the South 517.6 feet thereof; ALSO EXCEPT the West 330 feet thereof. ALSO EXCEPT 1970 manufactured home. Commonly known as 6803 Roche Harbor Rd., Friday Harbor, WA 98250. DATED: February 5, 2026

HERSHNER HUNTER, LLP By /s/Nancy K. Cary, Nancy K. Cary, WSB 32262 Of Attorneys for Plaintiff [ncary@hershnerhunter.com](mailto:ncary@hershnerhunter.com) P.O. Box 1475, Eugene, OR 97440 Telephone Number: (541) 686-8511 Legal No. J1028091 Published: The

### Legal Notices

Journal of the San Juan Islands March 25, and April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SAN JUAN COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of: Sarah Patricia Vaines, Deceased Probate No. 26-4-05016-28 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 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 of record at the address stated 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 (30) 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 (4) 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the probate assets and nonprobate assets of the decedent. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: March 25, 2026. Christopher Andrew Macadam, Personal Representative c/o Wagner Law Offices P.C. For U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3019 For Hand Delivery: 385 Court Street, Suite 4, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 Attorney for Personal Representative Mimi M. Wagner, WSBA #36377 P.O. Box 3019 Friday Harbor, WA 98250 Legal No. J1028057 Published: The Journal of the San Juan Islands March 25, and April 1, 8, 2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. Grantor: Eric J. Palma, single person. Beneficiary: AgWest Farm Credit Services, FLCA, successor by merger with Northwest Farm Credit Services, FLCA. Mortgage Servicer: AgWest Farm Credit Services, FLCA, successor by merger with Northwest Farm Credit Services, FLCA. Deed of Trust: 2019-1023011; re-recorded as 2019-1205009. Parcel No: 261033002000. Abbreviated Legal: Lot 3, View Sites Short Plat. I. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Successor Trustee, Sherman, Sherman, Johnnie & Hoyt, LLP, will on Friday, April 10, 2026, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., outside the San Juan County Court House, 350 Court Street, in the City of Friday Harbor, State of Washington, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder, payable at the time of sale, the following described real property,

### Legal Notices

situated in the County of San Juan, State of Washington, to wit: Lot 3, Short Plat of View Sites, a private subdivision, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Volume 4 of Short Plats, at pages 8, 8A and 8B, in the office of the Auditor of San Juan County, Washington, being a portion of the West half of the Southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 36 North, Range 2 West, W.M. TOGETHER WITH a non-exclusive easement over and across the roads and streets as shown as Van Cromphant Lane and Victorian Valley Drive as a means of ingress and egress for private road purposes as declared and granted in the Dedication of the Short Plat of View Sites, a private subdivision. Situate in San Juan County, Washington (commonly known as 0 Van Cromphant Lane, Eastsound, WA 98245), which is subject to that certain Deed of Trust, dated October 8, 2019, under Auditor's File No. 2019-1023011 (re-recorded as 2019-1205009), records of San Juan County, Washington, from Eric J. Palma, single person, as Grantor to secure an obligation in favor of AgWest Farm Credit Services, FLCA, successor by merger with Northwest Farm Credit Services, FLCA, as Beneficiary. II. No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any Court by reason of the Borrower's or Grantor's default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust. III. The default for which this foreclosure is made is as follows: Failure to pay when due the following amounts, which are now in arrears: Payments: Monthly payments at \$1,327.20, February 1, 2025 through October 1, 2025: \$11,944.80; late charges: default interest through October 1, 2025, \$797.60; ACH return fees, \$40.00; TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND LATE CHARGES: \$12,782.40. \*plus monthly payments of \$1,327.20 from November 1, 2025, until paid, plus default interest incurred after October 1, 2025, plus all attorney's fees and costs and foreclosure fees and costs incurred. IV. The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: \$171,004.74 balance as of October 1, 2025 together with interest as provided in the note or other instrument secured from October 2, 2025, such other costs and fees are due under the note 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 said Deed of Trust as provided by statute. The sale will be made without warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances on April 10, 2026. The defaults referred to in paragraph III must be cured by March 30, 2026, to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time before March 30, 2026, the default(s) as set forth in paragraph III are cured and the Trustee's

### Legal Notices

fees and costs are paid. The sale may be terminated any time before April 10, 2026, by the Borrower or Grantor or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance 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 Successor Trustee to the Borrower or Grantor at the following addresses: Eric J. Palma, 1443 East Washington Blvd, 121, Pasadena, CA 91104; Residents/Occupants of Premises, 0 Van Cromphant Lane, Eastsound, WA 98245; and Eric J. Palma, PO Box 395, Pasadena, CA 91102-0395, by both first-class and certified mail on October 21, 2025, proof of which is in the possession of Successor Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served on October 22, 2025 with said written Notice of Default and/or the Notice of Default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described in paragraph I above, and the Successor Trustee has in its possession proof of such service of posting. VII. The Successor Trustee whose name and address is set forth below will provide in writing, to any person 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 R.C.W. 61.24.130. Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustee's Sale. X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS. The purchaser at the trustee's 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 the unlawful detainer act, 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 OF THE FINAL STEP BEFORE THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF YOUR HOME. You have only 20 DAYS from the recording date on this notice to pursue mediation. DO NOT DELAY. CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSEL 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

### Legal Notices

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, Telephone: 1-877-894-4663, Website: <https://www.wshfc.org/foreclosure>; The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Telephone: 1-800-569-4287, Website: <https://hud4.my.site.com/housingcounseling>; The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys: Telephone: 1-800-606-4819, Website: <http://nwjustice.org/what-clear>. SHERMAN, SHERMAN, JOHNNIE AND HOYT, LLP, Successor Trustee, Gina Anne Johnnie, Agent for Successor Trustee. Mailing address: PO Box 2247, Salem, OR 97308. Legal No. J1026751 Published: The Journal of the San Juan Islands March 11, and April 1, 2026

Roche Harbor Water Systems, Inc. RFQ: Funding Applications and Contract Administration Support, Water System Planning, Water System Engineering, Land Surveying, and Construction Management Services SUMMARY Roche Harbor Water Systems is soliciting Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified engineering consulting firms capable of providing services on a variety of projects. These projects fall into five core areas: • Funding applications and contract administration support - including but not limited to US Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. • Water system planning - including but not limited to water system plans, risk and resiliency assessments, emergency response plans, and rate studies. • Water system engineering - including but not limited to design of sources facilities, water treatment, storage, booster pump stations, clearwells, distribution system components, service meter replacement. Specific upcoming projects include the Water Treatment Plant Clearwell and Booster Pump Station, Afterglow Watermain Replacement, Barn Tank Improvements, and AMI Meter Replacement. • Land surveying - including but not limited to property staking, construction staking, topographical surveying, and ROW calculations. • Construction management services - including but not limited to coordinating and running construction meetings, progress estimates, submittal and request for information responses, and inspection. Proposals shall reflect the information in Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This RFQ does not constitute a contract for the provision of civil engineering, land surveying, and construction management services. It is Roche Harbor Water Systems intent to negotiate contracts

### Legal Notices

with the most qualified firms in order to negotiate and execute a contract with a single firm. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS Questions Please submit any questions regarding this request to Jason Miniken. Questions received less than five (5) calendar days prior to the proposal submittal due date may not be considered. Submittal Due Date Proposal documents shall be submitted in PDF format by direct email to: [Jason.Miniken@rhwater.com](mailto:Jason.Miniken@rhwater.com) In order to be considered, submittals must be received by the Roche Harbor Water Systems no later than: 2:00 p.m., Local Time, Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Submittal documents received that meet neither the content nor the format requirements set forth herein will be deemed non-responsive and will not be evaluated. Roche Harbor Water Systems reserves the right to reject any and all submittals received. Submittal Format The Consultant shall submit its proposal in PDF format emailed directly to [water@rhwater.com](mailto:water@rhwater.com). The document shall consist of a single volume not exceeding ten (10) letter size pages with a font size of 12 or larger on a white background. The page count includes any face of page submitted, including cover letters, exhibits, tables, matrices, maps, graphs, charts, spreadsheets, indices, and table of contents. Resumes can be placed in an Appendix and do not count towards the page limit. Submittal Content Requirements Proposals should be thorough yet concise, allowing Roche Harbor Water Systems to properly evaluate the capabilities of the applicant to provide the required services. Consultants are required to provide the following items, in the following order, for a complete proposal: Section 1 - A cover letter introducing your firm. Section 2 - Company description that includes: • Number of years in business • Information regarding the size and organizational structure of the Consultant's firm. Section 3 - Project Approach & Understanding • A statement of your firm's project approach and understanding of the consulting services to be performed. • Specific evidence of the firm's experience with loan applications and contract administration support, water system planning and water system engineering, as well as survey and construction management support services. Section 3 - Project Team, Experience, and Qualifications • Team organizational chart • Information as to the Consultant's background and experience relative to the provision of these services. • Resumes/profiles of all personnel who will be directly involved with the provision of consulting services. These may be included as Appendixes and do not count towards the 10-page count. Section 4 - Five (5) references from five (5) recent representative projects.

### Legal Notices

EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING Roche Harbor Water Systems choice of Consultant will be made by evaluating the Proposal submitted. Each proposal received in response to this RFQ will be evaluated and scored as follows: Familiarity and experience working with the water system (30 points) Project Approach and Understanding (30 Points) Qualifications of Key Personnel (20 points) Relevant Experience and References (20 points) Legal No. J1028522 Published: The Journal of the San Juan Islands April 1, 8, 2026

### SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SAN JUAN COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of: LISA A. NORKUS, Deceased. NO. 26-4-05020-28 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 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 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 nonprobate assets. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: March 18, 2026 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Sharon C. Touher ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE: Carla J. Higginson ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: HIGGINSON BEYER 175 Second Street North, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250 COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS AND CAUSE NUMBER: San Juan County Superior Court Probate No. 26-4-05020-28 Legal no. J1027851 Published: The Journal of the San Juan Islands March 18, 25, and April 1, 2026 SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON, KING COUNTY IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: DAVID C. STEVENS, Decedent No 26-4-01681-7SEA NOTICE TO CREDITORS The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator of this estate. Any persons having a claim against the decedent that arose before the decedent's death must, before the time such claim would be barred by any other-

### Legal Notices

wise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator or the Administrator's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and file the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Administrator has served or mailed the notice to the creditor provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (1) four months after the first date of 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. the bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: March 25, 2026 /s/ Noah Stevens Administrator of the Estate of David C. Stevens EGGERMAN LAW FIRM PS /s/ Steven A. Eggerman, WSBA #15753 Attorney for Personal Representative. Legal No. J1028263 Published: The Journal of the San Juan Islands March 25, and April 1, 8, 2026



Make a Splash!

advertise in Classifieds today!

Call: 1-800-388-2527

Email: [classifieds@soundpublishing.com](mailto:classifieds@soundpublishing.com)

SOUNDCLASSIFIEDS.COM

Measuring up to your expectations one ad at a time. SOUND classifieds in Print & Online 1-800-388-2527 [classifieds@soundpublishing.com](mailto:classifieds@soundpublishing.com) [Soundclassifieds.com](http://Soundclassifieds.com)

# The Gerbil

## of the San Juan Islands



## Revenge of the Berkshire boar

By PEGGY CRAYMAN  
Gerbil contributor

A think tank in Ottawa, Canada, is said to be considering on what grounds they may overturn the Treaty of Washington and reverse the San Juan question. The question being which side of San Juan Island, Haro Strait off the west side of the island, or Rosario Strait on the east side, defines the international boundary? The decision, as it stands, to use Haro Strait as the boundary, places San Juan Island in the United States. The reversal of

that decision would place San Juan Island in British Columbia, Canada.

Why now? You may well ask. Didn't a pig (in fact, a fine specimen of Berkshire boar) sacrifice its life over this dispute? It's true that the only casualty in this boundary dispute was indeed a pig and a fine breed of British pig at that. Is this the revenge of the Berkshire boar?

Is this a simple land grab? Is Canada looking for a chink in the armor of its southern neighbor to get a "foot in the door" with further expansion being

the ultimate goal? We really don't know. The truth is, neither Canada nor the United States has always meticulously honored their treaties, so you could say that the premise of maintaining the boundary in favor of the United States is weak to begin with.

Were this change to take place, Vancouver would become our closest "big city," and we would be serviced by BC Ferries. This is bound to be an improvement. BC Ferries is the largest passenger ferry line in North America, operating

41 vessels serving 47 (OK, let's make that 48) locations.

If we were Canadian, we would have lower-cost prescription drugs, more colorful paper money and we would belong to the British Commonwealth. Being part of the Commonwealth could be helpful if you ever want to travel, go to school or work in Scotland, Fiji, South Africa or Australia, to name only a few of the member nations.

It may not be mandatory, but we may need to take up curling, and who doesn't love maple syrup? This



FABIAN BLANK PHOTO.

could be a fairly smooth transition. Most of us speak English already and would only need to add the ubiquitous Canadian "eh" after most of our sentences.

Being more polite could be a challenge for some of

us. As Americans, we can be quite argumentative, and this point would only be aggravated by having to use the metric system. Could we assimilate? Let's think about it over a nice hot mug of tea and a Nanaimo bar, eh?

## FHHS Wolverines to Cougars

By CASSIDY SOBRITE  
Staff reporter

After years of consternation over the mascot choice "Wolverines" on an island with unlimited local wildlife, Friday Harbor High School has finally made the decision to choose a new, more relevant mascot: the Cougars.

"We went back and forth between Killer Whales and Cougars," Superintendent Tom Foolery told the Journal. "Ultimately, we had to go with the one that's been sighted the most, as the whole point of the change is to have our mascot be something that lives here on the island."

Students are excited to be representing the beloved island animal, which loves to play hide and seek and is infamously good at camouflage and avoiding photos.

"The other team will never see us coming!" one senior athlete said. "We are thinking sometimes we just won't even show up to games to keep everyone on their toes, you know?"

Some islanders aren't thrilled with the change, like Natalie Ngjela, who was hoping for a name more specific to the island's famous resident. "Everyone knows the real name is Cougums. So why can't we be more accurate, you know? We were so close to getting it right - this just feels disrespectful." Ngjela has started a GoFundMe and an online petition to have the name officially changed to the proper spelling. "It's C-o-u-g-u-m-s," she made sure to clarify. "With a capital C. And honestly, I prefer if there are a couple exclamation points at the end."

The middle school, currently the Tigers, is feeling inspired and considering a change to "Tourists who respect basic laws of traffic," and the elementary school is choosing between "Functional Ferries" and "Take-out for less than \$100."

The official change will take place on Wednesday, April 1.

## Landbank announces zip line plans



CLINTON-MWEBAZE PHOTO.

A zip-liner does acrobatics in the air, but Carol Crabson is not impressed.

By HAPPY SPARKLING  
Editor

Along with the new trail extending the Beaverton Marsh Trail, the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank has announced plans for a zip line across the marsh for those feeling extra adventurous.

"We think this will be a great added benefit to islanders," Land Bank Executive Director Eli Punchline told the Gerbil. "It will

allow people to view areas they previously could not, perhaps spot one of those shy beavers. We are hoping to charge a small fee for its use, to help pay for the maintenance of the trail system."

Of course, there are always the haters. Some hardcore nature lovers have stated it will diminish the quality of the environment, encourage rambunctious trail use and attract those who are in for a thrill rather than enjoying the peace and serenity.

"When I walk, I want to hear the birds, not people screaming," frequent trail user Caroline Crabson told Land Bank commissioners at a recent public hearing. "And if there were beavers in the marsh, which there are not, they would be scared off by the racket and human bodies flying overhead."

While the commissioners understood the concerns, they voted almost unanimously in favor of the project, saying there had previously

been a zip line near Egg Lake that did not cause any environmental impact. "And beavers are making a comeback on some of the other islands; it isn't out of the question that they may return to their old stomping grounds on San Juan Island as well," one Land Bank commissioner said, adding that it was an incredibly creative way to come up with funding when all government departments are facing deep budget cuts.

Crabson and her anti-zip

line cohorts are not giving up. They have signed petitions and have plans to stage a protest on the courthouse lawn on April 1 at noon.

"This just is not the kind of activity we want on our public lands. And funding? Everything they make is going to have to go toward the people selling the tickets and manning the line. It's not going to bring in a dime," Crabson told the Gerbil. "We will put an end to this nonsense."

## New Orca Reservation & Customization Appointment System

Submitted by the Visitors Bureau.

New this spring! The Visitors Bureau is proud to announce O.R.C.A.S. - the Orca Reservation & Customization Appointment System!

As a response to one of our most frequently asked questions, "What time do the whales come by?" the Visitors Bureau is launching a new booking system on April 1 to help visitors

maximize their chances of seeing wildlife. The Orca Reservation & Customization Appointment System is designed to help visitors plan their wildlife viewing experience with confidence and minimal unpredictability.

How the program works: Visitors can select their preferred time window:

• Mid-morning (if the mood strikes).  
• Afternoon (depending

on factors not in our control).

Sunset (if all fingers are crossed).

Program features include:

- Real-time orca coordination
- Our team will make absolutely no contact with the whales but will attempt a Jedi mind trick or two.
- Guaranteed authenticity

- Every sighting remains 100% unscheduled, undisturbed and at the orcas'

discretion.

- Flexible expectations training

Participants will learn to enjoy the full experience — water, scenic views, fresh air — with or without an orca sighting.

- Respectful viewing refresher

A quick how-to guide to giving all wildlife the space they deserve, because this is their home first.

- Bonus: Awareness of

"Other Amazing Things."

In the rare event that the orcas are elsewhere, guests may be introduced to other whales like humpbacks and minke, sea lions, birds, landscapes and moments of unexpected quiet.

While we're confident this system will not change orca behavior in any way, we're excited to offer a new way to set expectations with a sense of humor.

As always, we're grateful to share this place — and its wildlife — with care and respect.

Happy April Fools' Day from your Visitors Bureau.

\*Note: This was inspired by ChatGPT but edited by the Visitors Bureau staff.