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Mission Statement: The mission of the *Port Ludlow Voice* is to inform its readers of events and activities within the Village and in close proximity to the Village. We will print news articles that directly affect our local residents.

Published monthly by an all-volunteer staff.

Send your articles and comments to editor@plvoice.org

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Visit The Voice Online

Breaking News: Find information on the website before the printed magazine is available. See breaking news on the Home Page and the Community News section for information on North Bay, South Bay, and PLVC for early news for the Port Ludlow Community. All links contained in the articles are live.

Expanded Articles: Read complete versions of articles and media appearing online only.

Full Content on the Website: All the content from the magazine is now posted online.

Letters to the Editor: Read comments, criticisms, and suggestions from other readers online.

Advertising Information: Find out how to place classified and display ads, in the magazine. Also find out how to place ads on the web version of the *Voice*.

Archived Voice Issues Online: Copies of every issue of the *Voice*, beginning in August 1998 and continuing to the present, are available on the Website at Archive of Issues.

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Inner Harbor Snow. Photo by Steve Deligan.



Port Ludlow Voice

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News & Community

From the Editor's Desk

by Carol Riley, Copy Editor

Although February is the shortest month of the year, there are still many reasons to celebrate February. It is inching us closer to spring, the days are getting longer, and there are some fun days to help us mark time.

We have, of course, the "big three" this month – Super Bowl on the 9th, Valentine's Day on the 14th, and Presidents Day on the 17th. But there are many other holidays to celebrate and each of us will have our favorites. A big favorite of mine because I buy greeting cards everywhere I go, is Send a Card to a Friend Day on February 7. I am and always have been a fan of snail mail. I write cards and letters to friends and foes constantly. Don't you love getting mail that is not a bill or a solicitation? Of course, you do, so don't let this day go by without sending a friend a card.

Another favorite of mine this month is Muffin Day on February 20. Warm muffins from the oven are right up there with receiving a card from a friend.

And another favorite is this month's issue of the *Voice*. It is packed with articles that will inform, warm your heart, make you think, hopefully change the way you do things, and help you fill your calendar.

Journey with the grey whales, listen to the local radio station KPTZ, handle your trash differently, improve your balance, learn to garden more effectively, read an interesting book, become a beekeeper – and so much more!

The all-volunteer *Voice* staff takes pleasure in bringing you much of what makes life in Port Ludlow and the surrounding communities a joy every day. Read on, dear readers.

What To Do When A Loved One Dies

Amanda Wilson, locally based Estate Planning Attorney with Northwest Estate Planning & Probate PS, will present this free seminar and answer questions as time will allow.

The seminar will be held at the Bay Club, 120 Spinnaker Place, Port Ludlow, on **Wednesday, February 12** from 1-2 p.m.

Walk-ins welcome but RSVP appreciated at 360-437-4172 or *info@nwepp.com*

Getting the Band Back Together -

A New Vision for Music Education at Chimacum Schools



The Chimacum School District welcomed Daniel Ferland, a former Port Townsend music teacher, to its staff during the 2023-24 school year. Ferland initially worked with Chimacum's youngest learners as the primary school music specialist, but this year he has expanded his role to oversee the entire music program, teaching both elementary and secondary music and band.

Building on the district's proud Cowboy Marching Band tradition, Ferland has brought fresh energy and expertise to the program. Collaborating with music boosters, staff, and principals, he is working to create a vibrant and inclusive music program for students at all grade levels. From drumline to elementary band, Ferland is inspiring a new generation of musicians while planning exciting opportunities, including performances at parades in locations as far as Victoria and Leavenworth.

The program's summer music camp was a highlight of the year. Senior John Nuchia reflected, "This year's band camp was a fitting introduction to Ferland as a teacher and my final year in high school band. I learned more than I expected and had a great time, which speaks to the excellent culture in the band class at Chimacum and the skill of the teachers."

This renewed focus on music education is supported in part by the district's Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy. The upcoming levy election on **Tuesday**, **February 11**, will help fund programs like music, ensuring students continue to have access to enriching opportunities that foster creativity, learning, and community connection. For more information, visit *csd49.org*.

Beekeepers Wanted

East Jefferson Beekeepers Association (EJBA) is again offering live Beginning Beekeeping Classes from **February 8 – April 27**. The classes are free, but you must be a member of EJBA to participate. EJBA membership is only \$30/individual or \$45/family. Additional benefits include meetings, events, mentors, etc. Each beginning beekeeper is assigned a mentor upon request.

Sessions will be held at the Chimacum Grange Hall. During each session, one full module (2 classes) will be presented, taking up to 2 hours total per session.

- Saturday, February 8 Following EJBA general meeting: 11 a.m., Module 1 (Classes 1 and 2) Bee Basics and Keeping Bees
- **Saturday, February 22** Class only: 10 a.m., Module 2 (Classes 3 and 4) Equipment and The Apiary
- Saturday, March 8 Following EJBA general meeting: 11 a.m., Module 3 (Classes 5 and 6) Bee Diseases and Bee Pests
- Saturday, March 22 Class only: 10 a.m., Module 4 (Classes 7 and 8) Spring and Summer Management
- Wednesday, April 9 Following EJBA general meeting: 11 a.m., Module 5 (Classes 9 and 10) Honey Extraction and Fall/Winter Management
- Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 Apiary visits

Port Ludlow has wonderful bee habitat but not many beekeepers. Over the past few years, we've had good response from Port Ludlow residents with many signing up for the online classes. Think about teaming up with one of your neighbors to explore this fascinating endeavor. The classes are timed to conclude prior to the arrival of package bees near the end of April or early May. For more information and to sign up, visit *ejbees.com/beekeeping-class*.

Safety Practices for 2025

If you are still working on your list of New Year's resolutions, it's not too late to add a few worthwhile things to that list:

• Sign up for NIXLE. This public safety text messaging service is provided by Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) at no cost to subscribers. Information about incidents, to include road closures, weather-related events, and other potential hazards, will be sent to your cellphone and/or email. To sign up, send the text JEFFCODEM to 888777. Respond to the message you will receive from 888777. Or sign up online at *bit.ly/jeffcoeoc* and click on the picture of the cellphone.

- A good habit to begin this year is to buy one thing for your Go Kit or emergency pantry every time you go grocery shopping. Watch for items labeled "2-for-1" and use coupons. Be sure to check the "use-by" dates on the items you buy.
- Check your smoke alarms every month and replace batteries as needed. If you can't safely reach your smoke alarms, contact East Jefferson Fire Rescue at 360-385-2626 for assistance.
- If you use portable heaters in your home, place them at least three feet (one meter) away from anything flammable. Be sure to turn them off when you leave your home or go to bed at night.
- Mark your calendar to attend a presentation about "Household Preparedness" on Thursday, February 20, at the Jefferson County Library, 620 Cedar Avenue in Port Hadlock. You can learn how to best shelter in place in your home and what supplies you should have on hand.

If you have any questions about the services East Jefferson Fire Rescue provides, don't hesitate to contact us at 360-385-2626.

First Wednesday Luncheon

by Stephanie Buehler, Guest Writer

How well do you really know your friends? Or the person sitting next to you? Or the person who's sitting at the next table? We will be playing a game based on "Do you really know your family?" Questions like, if they could speak another language, what would it be? What is their favorite ice cream flavor? What adventure would they like to have? And if that is not enough fun, the Port Ludlow Singers will lead us in a sing-a-long.

We hope you'll join us on **Wednesday**, **February 5**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Bay Club. Lunch will be BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch). Coffee, tea and cookies will be provided. RSVP to *firstwednesdayluncheon@gmail.com*, or sign up at either the Bay or Beach Club by **February 3** so the club will have appropriate seating.

There is no charge to attend First Wednesday Luncheon. However, we do ask attendees to bring donations in the form of cash, checks made payable to the JCFBA, hygiene products or non-perishable food such as condiments, coffee, peanut butter, jelly, etc.

A reminder: please bring an additional \$2 donation to cover the new event charge implemented by the Bay Club last month.

Mark your calendar for **March 5** when we will hear from the Sheriff's Department on Crime Prevention.

Dine and Discover Presents: The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial

by Allan and Nancy Kiesler, Guest Writers

In the spring of 1942, 227 Japanese Americans living on Bainbridge Island were forced to leave their homes, taking with them only what they could carry. Those who were away at the time were not allowed to return home. Most ended up in a "relocation camp" in Minidoka, Idaho. It was over four years before they were released and approximately 150 returned to the island. Join us in March, when Ellen Sato Faust, Executive Director of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association, will share the story of this memorial that honors those who suffered and recognizes those who stood by them.

This event will be held on **Monday, March 3**, at the Bay Club. Sign-up sheets are located at the front desk at both the Beach Club and the Bay Club and will be available beginning **Sunday, February 9**. They will be removed on **February 28** or sooner if we reach our maximum.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. but those bringing an appetizer should arrive 10 minutes early. Please bring a dish that will serve 8 - 10 people and put a note on your dish if it contains any of the following allergens: wheat, soy, eggs, milk, tree nuts, peanuts, fish, or shellfish. You will also need to bring your place setting (plates, napkins, eating utensils, glasses) and a plastic bag to carry your dirty dishes home. We provide coffee/tea/water but if you would prefer something else, you're welcome to bring your beverage of choice. Since both clubs are now charging us for the use of their facility, admission cost is \$5 per person payable at the door. This also covers the cost of the facility, coffee/tea and the honorarium we provide to the speaker. If you sign up but are unable to attend, please let us know. If you have questions or suggestions, you can call us at 360-437-8091. We hope that you can join us for this most interesting presentation.

Free Life Care Planning Zoom Seminars

Join Tony Hinson on **Tuesday, February 11**, at 11:30 a.m. as he explores estate and life care planning solutions that preserve wealth, minimize taxes, and ensure your legacy.

Topics will include estate tax issues and retirement accounts; healthcare, Medicare, and Medicaid; long-term care insurance; maintaining quality of life; aging in place; preserving wealth; estate plans, supplemental needs, and trusts; and more.

Seminars will be held once a month on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. live on Zoom, so you can ask questions. To register, visit *compassandclock.com*, or call 206-627-0790.

Port Ludlow Garden Club Presents: Gardening with Native Plants - Cues from Nature

Lady Bird Johnson stated, "Native plants give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours." Indeed, including native plants in our home gardens makes a spectacular difference to our local ecosystem. Guiding us on this topic, we are excited to welcome Mike Wimmingham, owner/manager of Salish Trees Nursery in Kingston, and our speaker for February.

Interest in utilizing our native plants in the garden is dramatically increasing, yet there is a perception that gardening with native plants is more difficult than gardening with cultivated, non-native plant species. Cues from nature can help us place plants in the right location, select complementary plant species, and better understand their functionality. While many exotic plants from overseas can thrive here, native plants have evolved to adapt to our unique climate. And good news for us – once established in the right place, these plants generally require few resources and time. That means less or no irrigation and fertilizer!

From around the world, people come to the Pacific Northwest to appreciate our native plants for their beauty, diversity, adaptability, and durability. Salish Trees Nursery grows and supplies a variety of PNW native trees, shrubs, and perennials that thrive in our local environments and nurture our critical ecosystems.

Join us to learn about the keystone components of native plants adapted to our climate that will nourish our local bees, insects, and birds in your garden.

Hosted by the Port Ludlow Garden Club (PLGC), the presentation starts at 11 a.m., **Wednesday**, **February 12**, at the Bay Club in Port Ludlow.

Because seating is limited, all PLGC members and guests must RSVP no less than five days prior to the event. RSVP to Michelle Pelky at 360-710-3547 or *portludlowgardenclub@outlook.com*. Non-members are welcome with a \$5 donation.

Jefferson County Library District's February Events

February has arrived! Whether you enjoy classic romance novels, thrilling mysteries that keep you on the edge of your seat, or heartwarming stories to cozy up with on a chilly evening, the Library District's shelves are filled with options to satisfy every reading preference. There is also a wide variety of engaging and entertaining programs taking place in February, so be sure to visit the calendar at *jclibrary.info* for a complete list.

Join Smithsonian curator Sabrina Sholts online on **Tuesday**, **February 4**, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. to discuss the uncomfortable but all-too-timely message of *The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs*, which travels through history and around the globe to examine how and why pandemics are an inescapable threat of our own making. Weaving together a wealth of personal experiences, scientific findings, and historical stories, Sholts brings dramatic and much-needed clarity to one of the most profound challenges we face as a species.

The JCLD Adult Winter Read continues through February, and there is still plenty of time to read this year's title, *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henríquez, a powerful novel about the construction of the Panama Canal and the unsung people who lived, loved, and labored there. Share your thoughts at our online book discussion on **Wednesday**, **February 5**, from 6 – 7 p.m. Visit the events calendar at *jclibrary.info* for complete details and to place a hold on a copy of the book.

Learn your way around Windows 11 in our upcoming beginner-friendly class series. Explore key features, personalization options, and practical tips for managing files, apps, and settings. The class kicks off on **Friday**, **February 7**, from 2:30 – 4 p.m. and continues each Friday through **March 7**. This course is perfect if you are new to Windows 11 or looking to boost your confidence with the latest operating system.

Teens are invited to test their problem-solving skills in our exciting new Escape Room challenge: The Curse of the Stolen Heart. Can you find the missing heart and appease the mummy before it claims your soul forever? Sign up for one of four 20-minute sessions taking place on **Wednesday**, **February 19**, from 2 – 4 p.m. Search for keys, clues, and other tools to help solve puzzles and break the mummy's curse!

Are you ready for an emergency? Join us on the third Thursday of each month for a presentation on disaster and emergency preparedness hosted by Jefferson County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM). This month's workshop will take place on **Thursday, February 20**, from 10:30 a.m. – noon and will be led by NPREP members Elizabeth Bindschadler and Dick Illman. The session will focus on how to prepare your household for emergencies, including creating a family reunification plan, communicating with loved ones during a disaster, and preparing your home in case you need to shelter in place for an extended period.

For complete event details and our program calendar, please see our website, *jclibrary.info*. Visit the Jefferson County Library District at 620 Cedar Avenue in Port Hadlock. For questions or assistance, call 360-385-6544 or email *information@jclibrary.info*.

The East Jefferson County Rotary Flag Program is Flying High



Have you wondered about the magnificent display of flags in our community during national holidays? While many residents proudly display their own flags, the vast majority are provided through a fundraising program of the Rotary Club of East Jefferson County. The Rotary Flag Program displays more than 350 U.S. flags in the communities of Port Ludlow, Port Hadlock, and Chimacum over four holidays each year. Flag installations are available for most of East Jefferson County and give subscribers an opportunity to dress up their homes and businesses on annual holidays. The Flag Program raises funds through subscriptions to support East Jefferson Rotary's scholarship fund that helps deserving local students attend college. Last year, the program raised more than \$14,000, with all funds raised going directly to support these impactful scholarships for our students.

Rotary flags fly from early in the morning until dusk on Memorial, Independence, Labor, and Veterans Days. Rotarians install a flagpole receptacle and put up and take down the flags on each holiday. Our communities have been extremely supportive and have helped make the Flag Program very successful. Please consider subscribing to help more of our local students pursue their dreams.

While Rotary is involved in projects nationally and around the world, including efforts to eradicate the last remnants of polio, the Flag Program is dedicated to supporting our local graduating students.

Congratulations to the 2024 Rotary Scholarship recipients: Maria Powell, a 2023 graduate of Chimacum High School; Abigayle Liske, Chimacum High School 2024; Reid Martin, Chimacum High School 2024; and Walter Beck from Quilcene High School 2024.

To learn more about the flag program, scholarship recipients, or to become a flag subscriber in 2025, visit *ejcrotary*. *club*.

Rotary International is a century-old, worldwide organization of men and women united by their interest in humanitarian service and who, by their actions, help to

build goodwill and peace within their communities and around the world.

The Rotary Club of East Jefferson County was chartered in 1982 and is one of seven Rotary clubs on the Olympic Peninsula. Members of the public who wish to hear a speaker and those interested in Rotary are welcome at our weekly meetings, Thursdays at noon, at the Tri-Area Community Center, 10 West Valley Road, Chimacum, WA. Guests are always welcome.

The Starrett House Offers High Tea



High tea at The Starrett House.

Photo by Janet DeDonato

The Starrett House, now owned by Bayside Housing & Services, is proud to offer high tea at this iconic historic home in Port Townsend.

High tea will be offered on a weekly basis every Sunday from noon to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required, and seating is very limited. You can reserve your spot by going to the website *starretthouse.com/tickets* or by calling 360-390-4017 and letting the staff know you would like to make a reservation for tea at The Starrett House.

Kathy Knoblock, a member of the Port Townsend Heritage Association, attended the first tea held during the holiday season. "The sweets were all delectable. Kudos for putting together a delicious menu and a nice variety of teas to choose from."

Starrett House provides a traditional tea that includes a variety of delicious teas and a generous tier of scones, tarts, finger sandwiches and a selection of condiments for \$66 per person. The culinary team is working on vegan and gluten free options for future menus.

"Our mission is to maintain the beauty and history of The Starrett House while providing our guests with a glimpse into historic Victorian living," said Ami Mungavin, Starrett House Host. "We encourage our guests to enjoy this unique property knowing that they are also supporting Bayside while staying here, dining, or hosting a special event."

Bayside Housing & Services runs Starrett House as a 6-room bed and breakfast and its main floor rooms may be rented for special events. Net profits from Starrett House operations support Bayside's housing and case management services for people experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County.

For more information about The Starrett House, to make a reservation, or to learn about upcoming events, please visit *starretthouse.com* or call 360-390-4017.

Editor's Note: I had the privilege of attending tea at The Starrett House over the Christmas holidays. It was a wonderful experience. The food was delicious, the house is beautiful, and Ami, the host, is charming and welcoming. She even offered to take us on a tour of the home. I highly recommend the experience.

The Agony and the Ecstasy of Mac and Cheese

by Vickie Norris, Guest Writer

January's *Voice* featured a recipe from *momontimeout*. com. "The BEST Homemade Mac and Cheese" so said the recipe's creator. The author of the *Voice* article noted she had recently made it for a neighborhood gathering to rave reviews. I was one of the lucky neighbors to partake. Calling this a "comfort food" doesn't do it justice. This toothsome combination of pasta, cream, milk, butter, cheddar, Gruyere, and Parmesan cheeses, all topped with crunchy panko crumbs delights at first bite! I knew immediately that this was the holy grail of all mac and cheese recipes. As the party wound down, another neighbor and I stood at the almost empty casserole dish, staring at what was left. We nodded to each other and ate the rest of it out of the dish – cold. There are a number of definitions of "ecstasy" that include an overwhelming feeling of great happiness or an emotional frenzy or trance-like state of mystical self-transcendence. All of that was in play when eating this mac and cheese.

And now for the bad news – if you are lactose intolerant, I'm sorry, but this will kill you; if you are trying to reduce your carbs, fuhgeddaboudit; if you are on a cardiac restricted diet, don't break my heart; and if you are counting calories on an app, it might blow up in your face. But if you have a 13-year-old boy in your life clinging to his Kraft Macaroni and Cheese, this recipe will be a gastronomic revelation. Or, if you are going to a potluck and want to wow the crowd, this is it.

As for me, I'm busy trying to scale this recipe down to feeding one, with maybe two nights of leftovers.

Meet Your Firefighters

by Ron Dawson, EJFR Community Outreach Volunteer



Kindra Sanders

Meet Kindra Sanders. East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) Administrative Communications and Assistant, and Erin Murray. EJFR Administrative and Communications Assistant and Community Risk Reduction Assistant.

Kindra joined the department in 2010, bringing with her 20 years of combined knowledge and experience in supervision, accounting, banking, and dental assis-

tance. In her role at EJFR, she handles payroll, accounts payable, interfacing with the public, developing departmental materials, and additional administrative support functions

Kindra is from Port Townsend and has been married to her husband, Curtis, an EJFR Lieutenant, for 14 years. They have two children, 11-year-old daughter Kyla, and 7-year-old son Caden. When she isn't chauffeuring her kids, she enjoys camping, spending time with friends, and traveling to warmer climates, but family comes first for her. She believes the best part of her job is the people she works with who are like family to her, and that her biggest challenge is creating efficiency for the department since its expansion into Port Ludlow operations, and the additional workload associated with it.



Erin Murray

Erin, who works with Kindra on administrative tasks, also assists with the Community Risk Reduction Program, which includes smoke detector installations in EJFRsupported homes. Erin joined the department in 2022 after spending 13 years at Naval Magazine Indian Island as the Lead Transportation Officer in charge of shipping material on and off the base. She started Emergency Medical

training in January of this year with a desire to expand her skills. She maintains an ambitious schedule, working an additional 6 – 7 hours per week in the Sheriff's Department evidence room.

Erin lives in Port Hadlock with her husband, Dean, a

Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff. They have been married for 16 years and have a 14-year-old son, Devon. Together, they enjoy sports, travel, the beach, and their two dogs. Kindra says she is an open book and doesn't rule anything out in her future. Erin works to keep all options open in her life. Both women are valuable assets who enjoy the important roles they play in the operation of the department.

Martha's Book Group - Pachinko

Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko* is Martha's Book Club selection for February's book discussion. Lee, a first-generation Korean who immigrated to the United States at age seven, draws from her cultural roots in Pachinko. It is a multigenerational story of an impoverished Korean family fighting for survival in their homeland and as expats in Japan where they endure disdain and prejudice. It was a finalist for the 2017 National Book Award for fiction and was optioned by Apple Inc. for a television series which premiered in March 2022.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 11**, at 4 p.m. at the Bay Club to discuss this book. All are welcome.

For further information about this book or future selections please contact Sarah Schuch at bookclub@plvoice. org. March's book club selection is Kristin Hannah's The Women.

2024 Statistics for East Jefferson Fire Rescue

Effective 01/01/2023 Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue merged with East Jefferson Fire Rescue. Our monthly statistics will now include information for the entire Fire District.

Communities served include: Port Townsend, Cape George, Kala Point, Marrowstone Is., Port Hadlock, Chimacum, Irondale, Port Ludlow MPR (North and South Bay), Paradise Bay, Beaver Valley, Bridgehaven, Mats Mats, Shine, South Point and other areas located within our boundaries.

December Alarms

Fires	2
Rescue/Emergency Medical	350
Good Intent	
Hazardous Conditions	10
False Alarms	22
Service Call	73
Total Alarms	490
Ambulance Transports	

911 Iransports ZZ	ŏ
Hospital Requested Transport	0
Non Transports140	
Total Transports 22	8

Features & Stories

A Newcomer's Perspective

by Howard Weiner, SBCA Board Member

My wife and I first stayed in Port Ludlow while attending the wooden boat show over 30 years ago, and most years, we've spent time on the Olympic Peninsula ever since. We were day sailors, and I was a diver. We have had many wonderful experiences exploring these waters and the area's abundant natural beauty. It was the water and forest that attracted us to this peaceful place.

While discussing retirement and looking for a place to build our new lives, we always came back to Port Ludlow. After a few years of looking at properties, we purchased our home in Teal Lake Village last May and moved here in early July.

Our business, Cal Skate Skateboards, is in downtown Portland, OR, where we have been serving the skateboard community since 1976, and in Old Town since 1984. I have spent decades working in leadership roles in Portland as a community leader addressing issues regarding development, public safety and livability, and visions plans for the future of the downtown neighborhood.

This work has always been my passion, and it makes me feel good to be working with folks that care for their community, so it felt natural for me to begin attending both Port Ludlow Village Council (PLVC) and South Bay Community Association (SBCA) meetings. I began to meet members and get a better understanding of each organization's role and history including the North and South Bay developments.

I wanted to understand what a master planned resort designation was, so I began to read every document I could find about the history of Port Ludlow and its unique place in Washington history. Pope and Talbot were pioneers here and eventually split off Pope Resources.

On August 28, 1998, a comprehensive land use plan was approved by Jefferson County to allow the first Master Planned Resort in the state. In April of 2000, a development plan was signed by Pope Resources and was assigned to Port Ludlow Associates (PLA) in 2001 with a 20-year agreement, which was then extended five years. This agreement will be taken up again and reviewed by the PLVC board in May of 2025.

Pope Resources had an approved development plan to build out this area into a destination resort with a marina, 27-hole golf course, convention center, and other amenities in 2001. Without accomplishing this plan, Pope sold all assets to Port Ludlow Associates including the privately owned water and sewer district business.

PLA owned both the Bay Club and the Beach Club, which were originally shared by the entire community as joint facilities; however, PLA later transferred ownership of these facilities to the two respective Master HOAs, effectively separating their use. It was then up to each Master HOA to determine how their members would utilize their assigned facility.

PLA owns most of the commercial assets in Port Ludlow, including the marina and golf course, along with buildable lots, the retail center, harvestable timber, and the water and sewer company. PLA is owned by a corporate entity, HCV Pacific Partners LLC/VYTC Investors LLC, based in San Francisco, California.

I joined the board of SBCA in September and was soon tasked with looking into our future needs and aspirations, co-chairing our newly formed Strategy and Planning Task Force and looking at ways to better protect SBCA's future.

I also became more involved with the PLVC, as this is the organization tasked with the responsibility to look after all of Port Ludlow's residents including our emergency management, our trails, and our water and sewer systems. This council is the voice of the community, managing our relationship with Jefferson County, the state of Washington and those entities that have a direct impact on our lives.

On December 5, I was elected to the PLVC board. In January, we set the agenda going forward under the leader-ship of John Goldwood, our newly elected president. We have much to do to bring this community together and muster the support necessary to tackle the issues we face, but I have faith that this organization will again shine.

KPTZ 91.9 FM

by Milt Lum, Staff Writer

An informal survey of the *Port Ludlow Voice* staff regarding their knowledge of the local community radio station, KPTZ 91.9 FM, revealed that 50% had not heard of it. This led me to question why I was familiar with the public radio stations broadcasting from Tacoma and Seattle but knew so little about the community radio station located just twenty miles up the road. In researching KPTZ, I have become enlightened about the different roles of a community radio vis-a-vis a public radio station, and the roles each play in enhancing communities.

Community radio stations are generally community based and supported by donations and grants. The programs on community stations tend to be local and community oriented. Public radio stations are subject to more regulations, eligible for government funding and corporate grants, and broadcast programs of local, national, and global interest.

KPTZ is a relative newcomer to the crowded field of competitors vying for our attention. Four citizens of Port Townsend, Sherry Jones, Colin Foden, Collin Brown, and Ann Katzenbach, decided to try for the third time to establish a community radio station in Port Townsend. They formed a nonprofit corporation, Radio Port Townsend, on August 17, 2007. Despite the lengthy application process, they succeeded in obtaining an FCC license in 2008 granting them permission to construct and complete the project in three years. In 2009 the corporation obtained a grant from Public Facilities Telecommunications Program and a contribution of \$50,000 from Port Townsend which provided the necessary funds to build a transmission tower and equip a station. The station was housed in a 750-square-foot portable classroom at the Mt. View campus. The transmission tower was erected in April 2011 and the final licensing process was completed in May. Five hundred people gathered at the Northwest Maritime Center on May 14, 2011, to celebrate the first 24/7 broadcast of their community radio station.

Within two years KPTZ increased its broadcasting power from 900 watts to 2200 watts, extending its reach beyond Port Townsend to areas around the Hood Canal, including Port Ludlow, Shine, Bridgehaven, Quilcene, and Coyle. With the increase in power, KPTZ solidified its role with the Jefferson County Emergency Services by becoming an integral part of the Emergency Operations Center.

Led by Nora Petrich, the station established a team of volunteers ready to respond to a major catastrophe. Team members were trained to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) standards and have passed basic courses allowing them to be embedded in the Emergency Operations Center. In the event of a major catastrophic event, they are ready to respond. In addition, an auxiliary emergency unit was constructed adjacent to the tower in the event the current station is rendered inoperable.

During the 2020 Covid pandemic, KPTZ aired 76 unique Public Service Announcements (PDAs) supporting public health. These announcements provided residents of Jefferson County current and reliable information on public health guidance and the status of the pandemic in Jefferson County. Even as the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, public health reports by Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Clallam and Jefferson Counties, and William Bence, Director of Emergency Management in Jefferson County, are aired monthly and available on their web site at *KPTZ.org*.

Prior to their critical role during the pandemic, KPTZ had outgrown its studio at the Mt. View campus and started a capital campaign in 2019 to fund a major expansion. A donation from an active volunteer DJ of \$100,000 was a great start. A sizable matching grant enhanced local contributions, helping the station reach the campaign's goal of \$986,000. The "little radio station that could" boldly embarked on expanding its studio, improving its broadcasting programs, and updating its equipment to keep pace with the technological advances that have occurred since its inception.

KPTZ's new location would be in the basement of Bldg. 305 at Ft. Worden State Park. As a member of the newly formed Creative Alliance composed of the eight tenants utilizing the facilities in the arts and culture corridor, the station had secured a nineteen- year lease in exchange for repairing and modernizing 2500 square feet in the building that was to become its new home.

On December 10, 2024, Taylor Clark, General Manager of KPTZ, invited me to tour the facility. Like a proud parent he was effusive about the efforts of a core group of dedicated volunteers who tallied many hours to produce this contemporary radio station/broadcasting studio/emergency communication facility. As we strolled down the brightly lit main hallway of the basement, I noted the sharp contrast of the old stone foundation on one side and the modern soundproof studios and minimalist furniture on the other. He mentioned that having volunteers experienced and skilled in handling the installation of the electronic equipment and wiring helped to defray expenses. There are four soundproof studios of different sizes, all capable of transmitting programs. They are designed to accommodate a single DJ, a large band, or a group of individuals for a live on-the-air discussion. The rest of the space contains a small office for the director, a reception area, a small conference room, and a lounge area. At one end of the studio, behind locked doors, is a large room with metal shelves containing storage batteries to provide backup power in the event of a major power failure. The batteries can provide up to 12 hours of emergency power which would enable the station to continue broadcasting until power is restored, or if necessary, sustain transmission while moving operations to their emergency unit next to the transmission tower.

KPTZ's mission statement is: To build and strengthen community throughout the Northeast Olympic Peninsula, actively engaging our listeners through high quality community radio programming that is educational, entertaining, and service oriented.

A schedule of their daily programs and podcasts are listed on their web site at *KPTZ.org*. and may be streamed through your computer. KPTZ strives to build a community of listeners throughout Jefferson County with its wide array of programs relevant to those residing in Jefferson County. It demonstrated its reliability during the pandemic.

Its expansion is a testament to its relevance. Its stability is dependent on continued local support. Port Ludlow is an integral part of KPTZ's community. When the electric grid goes down and the cell towers fail, the air waves at 91.9 FM will still function and provide us with the relevant local information we need. That is the most significant difference between a public and a community radio station.

Editor's Note: We are pleased to announce our partnership with KPTZ. You now see an ad for KPTZ in the pages of the Voice, and you will hear an ad for the Voice on air at KPTZ Mondays at 5:35 p.m. and Thursdays at 5:10 p.m. about the reach of our advertising.

A Quiet Hero: Anne's Dedication to Keeping Paradise Bay Road Beautiful



Anne McClure.
Photo by Bob Gilbert

In every community, there are unsung heroes whose selfless actions inspire us all. In Port Ludlow, Anne is such a person. For years, she has quietly dedicated herself to picking up trash tossed from cars along Paradise Bay Road. Rain or shine, Anne can be seen walking this stretch of road with her trusty bags, removing litter and restoring beauty to our surroundings.

It's not a small task. In just one short stretch of Paradise Bay Road between South Bay Lane and Timberton Dr., Anne regularly collects two or more full

bags of trash. Her efforts transform what might otherwise be a blighted roadside into a welcoming and picturesque part of our community.

Anne's commitment goes beyond simply removing debris. Her actions remind us of the power of giving back. By volunteering her time and energy, she sets an example of how one person can make a meaningful difference. Such acts of kindness and stewardship enhance not only the physical beauty of our home but also its spirit of care and generosity.

As we admire Anne's dedication, let us also be inspired to give of ourselves in whatever way we are able to make Port Ludlow an even better place to live. Whether it's picking up a piece of litter, planting flowers, or helping a neighbor, these small acts of service ripple outward, building a stronger and more beautiful community.

To Anne: thank you for your unwavering commitment to keeping Paradise Bay Road – and all of Port Ludlow – beautiful. Your efforts are truly appreciated, and they serve as a shining example of community pride in action.

A Step Forward for Chimacum Commons Affordable Housing



Thanks to efforts from the Washington State Department of Commerce, the Jefferson Land Trust, and the Olympic Housing Trust, the Chimacum Commons Affordable Housing Project has taken a big step forward. For those of you not familiar with it, the project aims to provide affordable housing for farm and food system workers on a 16-acre property in the heart of Chimacum that Jefferson Land Trust purchased in 2014.

The project was made possible by a \$197,500 grant awarded by the State to Jefferson Land Trust to support predevelopment planning for the Chimacum Commons Affordable Housing Project. The Land Trust has partnered with local nonprofit Olympic Housing Trust (OHT) for design and development work.

"I can't overstate how amazing this grant is. It will help Jefferson Land Trust and Olympic Housing Trust take this project from a conceptual design to a shovel-ready plan," said Erik Kingfisher, Jefferson Land Trust's director of stewardship and resilience.

"This project is a direct response to the public's request for nonprofits to work together to address the loss of affordable housing with a fresh and locally relevant answer, and this grant award will make it possible," stated Kellen Lynch, outreach and development manager for Olympic Housing Trust. "Personally, I'm proud to know that the Department of Commerce's funding goals align with this innovative project that embraces our agricultural economy and enables our efforts to create attractive, healthy housing for the farmers and food workers who keep our community nourished."

The Land Trust purchased the Chimacum Commons property in 2014. Over the past decade, they've involved stakeholders around the county – including farmers, community leaders, neighbors, the county, and affordable housing stakeholders – to determine the best way the property can support the community.

The property contains prime agricultural soils and a stretch of salmon-bearing Chimacum Creek. When the Land Trust

first purchased the land more than a decade ago, the organization had a threefold vision: 1) to protect valuable farmland in Chimacum Valley's agricultural corridor, 2) to conserve and restore the property's 625 feet of Chimacum Creek salmon habitat, and 3) to find a partner willing to build and manage affordable, ecologically sound housing for local farm and food system workers on a portion of the property.

At the time, the land trust successfully protected the farmland and improved the salmon habitat but was unable to find a partner to take on the affordable housing project until reigniting the search in late 2021. After determining that OHT was a strong fit for the project, the two organizations began working together in mid-2023.

"This grant award would not have been possible without the partnership between Jefferson Land Trust and Olympic Housing Trust," said Kingfisher.

According to the Washington Center for Real Estate Research, Jefferson County is ranked as the second most unaffordable county for housing in the state of Washington.

Karyn Williams, founder and owner of Chimacum's Red Dog Farm, has seen this firsthand. She explained that at Red Dog Farm, "Lack of housing is our single biggest challenge in recruiting and retaining employees."

Conceptual plans for the property involve the creation of several homes with a mixture of homes for rent and for purchase that will have approximately 30 bedrooms, outbuildings for shared community use, and more.

The Land Trust will place a permanent conservation easement on the property that will limit development to a specific building envelope, protecting the property's stretch of Chimacum Creek salmon stream habitat and its rich farm soils. Eventually, the property will be transferred to OHT for long-term ownership.

"I have to commend the really good work the state of Washington is doing to advance affordable housing," said Kingfisher. "This program demonstrates our state's values and our state legislators' commitment to investing in the big issues."

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle

by Ellen Betit, Guest Writer

Hacks for Reducing Household Waste

Plastic Reduction Hack: Do you remember when household trash was put into the garbage can without a plastic bag? Many are too young, and others of us have gotten so accustomed to this practice, that we forget it can be done differently.

Consider eliminating most or all of your tall, white kitchen bags. Instead, use a double paper bag or single bag (QFC has great ones with handles) along with a magazine or newspaper in the bottom to absorb wet items. For 8 cents each, paper grocery bags are an easy and inexpensive swap! Out they go into the trash every day or two. Eliminating two or three plastic bags a week for a year is a significant way to lighten your plastic usage and save \$50-60 per year! Keep a few lightweight produce bags handy for particularly soggy garbage that can't go down the disposal.

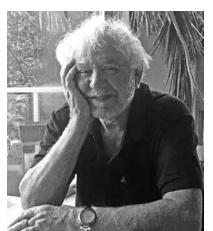


Try this for a few weeks. Once you break the cycle of automatically inserting a plastic bag, you may wonder why we ever did it in the first place. Imagine if just a few hundred Port Ludlow families converted ... two or three less plastic bags per week for 300 families? 600-900 less plastic bags in the landfill, per week – thousands per month.

Likewise, large black plastic bags with yard waste and larger household items can be eliminated. Replace with lawn and leaf bags. They decompose! We can do this, Port Ludlow!

Porch Talk with Aven Andersen

by Donna Geer, Staff Writer



I noticed the rocks when I walked into the living room. These were not like the small ones I collect in my coat pockets and sometimes lose in the laundry. These were big, part of the décor. Aven and Shirley wanted their house to have a northwest feel about it.

Aven Andersen has

always loved the sea. He was born on an island in Alaska, and his grandfather and two uncles were commercial

fishermen. His dad was in the Lighthouse Service before joining the Coast Guard. Aven worked summers as a fishery aide in southeastern Alaska when he was in college, counting spawning salmon and looking for tagged ones. He said pinks return to their native streams when they're two years old, but chums spend three to five years in the North Pacific Ocean before they return to their natal streams to spawn. A salmon always tries to come home.

His 14-year-old brother Tony joined him one summer after Aven's assistant jumped ship when they ported for fuel and groceries. Aven said they hiked along a lot of streams with a 30.06 rifle and a spear for catching fish. One day, they saw 13 black bears on one small stream. Another time, a bear crossed underneath the same log Aven and Tony were standing on top of, but it left them alone to finish crossing the stream. His brother started calling him Daniel Boone.

In his youth, Aven spent much of his time around fish, so he decided to study fisheries at the University of Washington, where he earned his BS and PhD. He was a fishery scientist before he retired, and he knows more about salmon, oysters, and clams than anyone I know. When he graduated with a BS, he was a shellfish biologist at the State Shellfish Lab at Point Whitney in Brinnon, WA. He was investigating the effects of pulp mill effluent on the local oysters. That's where he met his wife, Shirley.

When she moved to Seattle to become the executive secretary for the Dean of the College of Fisheries at the University of Washington, Aven followed. He was a teaching assistant and then a research assistant while he worked on his PhD. His published research on the biology of the geoduck clam became the foundation for geoduck fishery management around the world. He says it was his "fifteen minutes of fame."

After earning his PhD, Aven and Shirley moved to Maryland, where Aven taught fisheries at the University of Maryland. Then he worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA) in Washington, D.C. for eight years, and Shirley worked for the University of Maryland before they transferred to Juneau, AK. He said it was like going home because it reminded him of Ketchikan, and it is similar to Shelton, WA, where Shirley grew up. Aven helped manage the salmon fisheries for several years and helped negotiate the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. Shirley was the executive secretary to the Chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast.

Aven and Shirley have been married for 58 years and have been in Port Ludlow for 25. They wanted a place close to relatives, saltwater, and the mountains. The first year they were here, they lived at the marina in their 32-foot Bayliner until their new house was completed. They sold that boat a few years ago, but Aven misses being out on the water with Shirley.

Now Aven hones his photography skills. He helps lead the Port Ludlow Photographers, a group of people who meet monthly to share knowledge and hang their work in the Bay Club every September. Aven led mushroom hunts for the Olympic Peninsula Mycological Society and hunts for chanterelles with his neighbors. Sometimes he flyfishes, but he mostly ties flies because fishing here is not the same as fishing in Alaska.

His stepdaughter Rosemary lives in Poulsbo with her husband, Jim, so it's easy to get together. Aven and Shirley have four granddaughters and a whole bunch of greatgrandchildren. Almost everyone lives within two hours of Port Ludlow.

Aven is making calendars with old black and white family photos. "Families don't always know where they came from," he said, so he's helping his family learn about their roots. His paternal grandfather and grandmother were Norwegian immigrants who moved their young family to Ketchikan, Alaska, on Revillagigedo Island. His parents followed, and that's where Aven was born. One of the photos is of his grandparents and their young children when they still lived in Seattle. Aven looks just like his father, an ensign in the Coast Guard during World War 2. He was just seven when his father was killed.

Aven said his South Bay neighborhood is just like small-town America, where everybody knows everyone. When he had knee surgery last summer, his relatives and his neighbors, the Walkie-Talkies, drove him to his physical therapy appointments. The Walkie-Talkies, who were the subject of an article Aven wrote for the October 2024 edition of the *Port Ludlow Voice*, walk his rescue dog Rhett and sometimes even take him for a run.

He loves Port Ludlow, but he wishes it felt like one town instead of two. It's divided into North Bay and South Bay communities with two separate clubs because of decisions made long ago. He says, "This issue has been discussed to death," but he wonders why we can't do better. This isn't the first time I've heard this sentiment expressed.

On my way out, he asked what I thought of the boulder in the entryway, a huge three-foot rock gracing the corner of the wall. The powder room is on the other side of the wall, with a custom mirror cut to reflect the boulder's curves. I told him it looks just like the backdrop of a waterfall, spilling under the glass top counter out into the sea.

Got a story you want to share? Let's sit on the porch and share a cup of tea, or coffee if you prefer. You can reach me at *sports@plvoice.org* to start the conversation. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Arts & Entertainment

Val Durling Retires

by Jim Gormly, President, Ludlow Village Players



Val Durling with script in hand.

Photo by Jay Syverson

After decades as a volunteer for many organizations in Port Ludlow and culminating with her role as the artistic force behind so many successful theatrical productions, Val Durling has officially stepped down from the Board of the Ludlow Village Players to a well-deserved retirement.

Growing up in Fresno, California, Val sang and acted in high school, graduated from the John Robert Powers School of Modeling, won a couple of beauty contests, and was accepted into the acting school of the Pasadena Playhouse. Then she married, and the need to pay the rent in Southern California intruded on any dreams of a stage career. Eventually two sons were born and Val became a stay-at-home mom, volunteering in many activities associated with growing children, including becoming a soccer mom in the literal sense, as she served on the board of the soccer league and helped write the league's by-laws.

Val and her husband, Dick, are arguably two of the most senior full-time residents of Port Ludlow, having moved here in 1977. They experienced the sinking of half of the Hood Canal Bridge in 1979, which put a crimp on Dick's and other Port Ludlow residents' commute to their Kitsap County jobs for more than three years. When the bridge re-opened in 1982 as a toll bridge, she joined a group of residents clamoring to eliminate the toll, and in 1985 the Department of Transportation removed the toll booths.

She jumped into activities in Port Ludlow, serving as a Director in the Lot Owner's Association, Greenbelt and Operations Committees of LMC, on the staff of the *Voice*, more than 20 years volunteer for PLPA, Boards of Port Ludlow Singers and the Choral Belles, area rep for Stonecroft Ministries, and Chairperson of local PL/PT Christian Women's Club. She sang with a group called the Hot Flashes for five years, with performances all around northwest Washington. She also found time to be Captain of the PL Women's Golf Association, while winning many tournaments over a 20-year period and the Mr. and Mrs. Tournament twice with teammate Dick.

Since 1984 Val has been instrumental in bringing entertainment to Port Ludlow, when she co-founded the original Port Ludlow Follies. For forty years she has been the creative force behind many performing arts productions enjoyed by the community. Through the 1990s and early 2000s, North and South Bay-based group organizations, Port Ludlow Little Theater and the Port Ludlow Players, entertained the residents. Then, in 2007, following a hiatus of shows due to ill health and individuals moving away, a group of local thespians met, and the result was a merger of the two groups to form the Ludlow Village Players, with Val as the Artistic Director. Her passion has sustained LVP from its inception, encouraging people to get involved with theater, whether on stage or behind the scenes, including set design, set building, props, costumes, make-up, publicity, hospitality, catering, lighting, or sound. There are individuals in this community, including this writer, who would have never considered spending countless hours memorizing lines, rehearsing, and then stepping in front of the bright lights and neighbors and performing on stage. She has helped many people discover another dimension of themselves.

"She was like a mother hen and it felt like we were an extended family. One endearing quality was that she would give everyone involved in the play a rose and a hand-written, personalized thank-you note at the final performance." Shirley Davies-Owens, actor

"What a joy to act in these productions! All thanks to Val!" *Ginny Ford, actor*

"Her dedication has profoundly enriched not just the performers, but the whole community." *Mike Derrenberger, actor, former board member of LVP*

"Her energy and drive to make everything work was one of a kind." Vicki Valley, actor

"You want to please her because you know that when she is pleased, the production will be a hit." *Lanie Belic, language coach, lighting, sound, and publicity*

"Val was one of the warmest most welcoming people I met when I first moved here." Susan Abrahamson, production manager, assistant director, board member of LVP

Val Durling's impact on many aspects of life in Port Ludlow for more than forty years has clearly been significant. Her contribution to LVP has been extraordinary and the regular interactions with LVP colleagues will be particularly missed, but she has earned a time of relaxation and we wish her and Dick well.

Port Ludlow Art League

Artist of the Month - Steve Deligan



Ruby Beach Destruction Island.

Photography has always been a way for Steve to express nature in its ideal yet raw state. Steve states, "I try to focus on the essence of what I see in front of me and make the image as minimal as possible in order to create a feeling that what you are seeing is exactly how it is supposed to be. The ideal, yet still raw."

Steve began film photography 30 years ago and finds it to be a way to help center himself regardless of what the world tosses at us. Today, his photography is fully digital. He hopes the images help his viewers find some peace and comfort.

Steve's exhibit features images of the Pacific Northwest in all its majesty. All photographs are local, except the images from Hawaii, which have their own incredible beauty. The images are in both color and black and white, and in normal-exposures and long-exposures depending on how the scene presents itself. For more information about Steve's art, please visit *deliganis.com*.

During February, you can enjoy Steve's captivating photography at Sound Community Bank and online at *portlud-lowart.org*. A reception for Steve is set for **Wednesday**, **February 12**, from 4-5 p.m., in the lobby of the bank and from 5-6 p.m. at the adjacent Port Ludlow Art League

Gallery. The bank and gallery are located at the corner of Oak Bay Road and Osprey Ridge Drive in Port Ludlow. For more information, please email *info@portludlowart.org* or visit *portludlowart.org*.

Port Ludlow Art League February Meeting Speaker — Anne Pfeiffer

The Port Ludlow Art League welcomes Port Angeles artist Anne Pfeiffer as the speaker for their February Program Meeting **Wednesday**, **February 19** from 1-3 p.m. at the Port Ludlow Beach Club.

Anne's pastel, oil, and gouache paintings, often painted plein air, reflect not only her aesthetic perception of the world, but also the energy she felt while at that place. Anne uses her awareness of color, mark making, and composition to unlock the aesthetic mystery of her surroundings and express her energy at that moment.

Anne has a master's degree in art and has taught art in both public schools and at the community college level. Anne currently teaches at Northwind Art. As a dedicated educator, Anne enjoys watching the artistic growth of her students.

In her presentation, Anne will display her artwork, along with her plein art setup, and discuss how to simplify a view to make a successful landscape painting. Be sure to bring your favorite drawing pencils, eraser, and small ruler for a fun thumbnail landscape simplification exercise.

The Beach Club is located at 121 Marina View Drive in Port Ludlow. Guests are welcome to attend for a \$5 fee. For more information about Anne, please visit *annepfeiffer.com*.

Upcoming Key City Playhouse Shows

Broadway Affair: Songs from a Dreamer's Heart

On **Wednesday, February 26** at 7 p.m., experience an unforgettable evening of music, passion, and inspiration performed live at the Key City Playhouse in Port Townsend.

Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale

From **February 20** through **March 16**, Key City Playhouse presents Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. This play is a complex story of love, jealousy, redemption, and forgiveness within a paradoxical world of intense psychological drama and sensuous romance. Filled with very real and dangerous human emotion, this tale is miraculously brimming with hope.

The Key City Playhouse is located at 419 Washington Street in Port Townsend, Washington. For more information and tickets, please visit *keycitypublictheatre.org*.

Northwind Art Exhibits and Classes



Delighting in the Mystery, by Carol Nielsen.

There is a feeling of pure joy that comes while paddling through a kelp forest – a sensation that Shawna Marie Franklin of Orcas Island knows intimately. A professional sea kavaker turned visual artist, Shawna sets out to transport her viewers to a Pacific Ocean teeming with life. Northwind spokesperson

Diane Urbani states, "Shawna's large-

format paintings and monoprints are positively dazzling."

Shawna's one-woman exhibition, *Being with Kelp*, opened **January 30** and runs through **March 31** at the Jeanette Best Gallery. The exhibit will be celebrated at both the **February 1** and **March 1** first-Saturday Art Walks when the gallery stays open and serves refreshments from 5-8 p.m.

The *Showcase 2025* exhibit at the Jeanette Best Gallery features artwork from 15 regional artists, including Port Ludlow artists Carol Nielsen's mixed-media collages, and Rick Stafford's porcelain vases. The *Showcase 2025* exhibit is on display **January 30** through **May 12**.

The Jeanette Best Gallery is located at 701 Water St. in Port Townsend. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday from 12 – 5 p.m. For more information about the Jeanette Best Gallery exhibits, visit *NorthwindArt.org*.

Upcoming Northwind Art School classes at Fort Worden State Park include:

- Paint from Poems with Meg Kaczyk, Saturday, February 8, 2 – 5 p.m.
- Intro to Digital Art: Pixels in Your Process with Michelle Hagewood, **Wednesdays**, **February 12** and **19**, 6 8 p.m.
- Creating Gelli Plate Monoprints for Collage with Anne Schneider, **Tuesday, February 18**, 10 a.m. 4 p.m.
- Make It Abstract with Meg Kaczyk, Wednesday and Thursday, February 19 and 20, 2-4:30 p.m.
- Intro to Opaque Enamel Jewelry with Aran Galligan,
 Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and 23, 11 a.m.
 3 p.m.

- Creating Original Papers for Collage with Anne Schneider, **Tuesday, February 25**, 10 a.m. 4 p.m.
- Intermediate Watercolor Painting with Suzanne Lamon, Wednesdays, February 26 March 19, 12 2:30 p.m.

For information about class dates, times, teachers, and curriculum, visit *northwindart.org* and select Take a Class.

Kandice Crusat Wins Port Ludlow Art League Gallery Gift Certificate



The Port Ludlow Art League Gallery was brimming with artwork from local artists during its first Holiday Open House in December. In addition to the artwork, holiday shoppers were greeted with seasonal refreshments and the chance to win a \$200 gallery gift certificate. The lucky winner was Kandice Crusat.

Kandice and her husband,

Rodney, recently moved to Port Ludlow from Hawaii and both are artists. Kandice has been active in arts and crafts since she was a child and designs ceramics, jewelry and fantasy-themed figurines. Rodney builds ukuleles.

After the open house, Kandice joined the Port Ludlow Art League. She stated, "Joining the art league just seemed like the natural way to continue the fun at this stage in my life."

The Port Ludlow Art League would like to thank our wonderful community for supporting our local artists, as well as all the Port Ludlow Art League volunteers who worked to make the open house a success.

The gallery is located next to the Sound Community Bank at the corner of Oak Bay Road and Osprey Ridge Drive in Port Ludlow. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, please email *info@portludlowart*. *org* or visit *portludlowart.org*.





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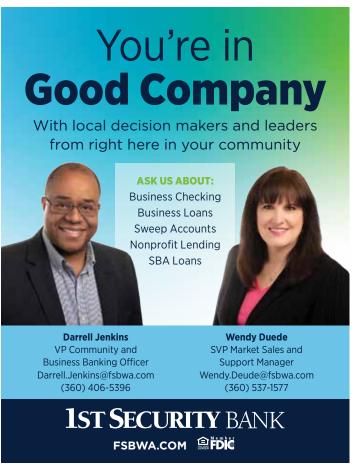














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Village News

Bay Club / South Bay

What is SBCA?

by Bob Gilbert, President, SBCA Board of Directors

This is the first of a two- or three-part series addressing the key issues your SBCA Board is tackling during our annual review of the organization's business along with the budgeting process for the coming year. Together with General Manager Mark Torres, we are revisiting a core question that guides our planning and offerings: "What is SBCA?"

Every new Board must define SBCA in a way that fulfills its mission, protects our assets, serves members, and fosters connections within the community. Striking the right balance between these priorities while staying within budget and managing staffing limits is a big challenge, and one we accept when we step up by volunteering to serve.

What SBCA Offers

At its heart, SBCA serves many roles for its members. Our 17,000-square-foot clubhouse provides a hub for approximately 621 South Bay lot owners, plus Associate Members who reside outside the Master Planned Resort (MPR) boundaries. We are a meeting space for village HOA boards and committees, offering them the use of SBCA facilities for their gatherings at little or no cost. Beyond that, the clubhouse is a vibrant gathering place where members and guests enjoy a variety of clubs, cultural events, and social activities, including the weekly Member Lounges and the monthly Member Social Potlucks.

SBCA is also a performance space, existing as the go-to venue for Port Ludlow Performing Arts (PLPA) events, and bringing music, comedy, and performances by our hometown theater troupe, the Ludlow Village Players (LVP). For those focused on fitness, our exercise hub features a gym with weights, cardio equipment, a pool, spa, and shower facilities. Members can also participate in yoga, tai chi, Zumba, and other classes led by skilled instructors, many of whom are part of our community.

In addition to these amenities, SBCA provides space for hobby groups to meet and pursue activities like quilting, knitting, and ceramics free of charge. The association supports local charities through events like the monthly pancake breakfasts, which are organized by volunteers, raising funds for important causes such as the Food Bank,

SBCA Important Dates

Friday, February 7, 8:30 a.m. – Pancake Breakfast, benefiting the Center Valley Animal Rescue

Thursday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. – Monthly Board Meeting **

Friday, February 14, 5 p.m. – Member Social, appetizers potluck with a Valentine theme

Tuesday, February 18, 1 p.m. – Naval Undersea Museum Presentation

Thursday, February 20, 1 p.m. – Jefferson Healthcare Presentation (Heart Healthy)

Saturday, February 22, 7 p.m. – PLPA Concert (The Wardens)

All Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Member's Lounge

** Unless there are changes to county requirements, meetings are in-person.

All SBCA members are welcome.

To keep informed of meeting dates and times, please visit *sbca.club*

Committee meetings minutes are posted at sbca.club then click on the Board Minutes page

Dove House, and PSO Bluebills. SBCA also functions as a rental venue, offering spaces for events such as wine tastings and seminars at nominal fees when available. These offerings demonstrate our commitment to enhancing members' experiences and fostering a vibrant, connected community.

What SBCA Is

SBCA is more than just its amenities. It is a private, members-only homeowners association. This distinction is important because it shapes our primary obligation to serve our members and guides us in the activities and amenities we offer, including those who may have access to our club spaces.

As a nonprofit corporation, SBCA's Board manages the organization responsibly, adhering to governance rules and laws to preserve SBCAs assets. We are also an employer, with staff who ensure our operations run smoothly and

support members' needs. In addition, SBCA owns and maintains its clubhouse, gazebo, and surrounding lands, which feature stunning views of the bay and nearby islands. These properties are valuable assets that require much ongoing care and upkeep.

SBCA is the master HOA, overseeing 14 Villages or sub-HOAs, each with unique rules and volunteer boards. We are responsible for the oversight, approval, and enforcement of South Bay's architectural standards, intended to help preserve our property values. Beyond our immediate responsibilities, we are part of a larger community, serving as a sister Master HOA to the Ludlow Maintenance Commission (LMC), which manages its own properties in the north bay with approximately 1,100 homeowners.

At its core, SBCA is a community of people – a group of individuals united by a shared commitment to preserving and enhancing this special place we all call home.

Our Demographics

SBCA residents are primarily Baby Boomers, most of whom are active, stubbornly independent, and over 70. Many are aging in place, while a smaller group of members in their 50s and 60s is beginning to join. Despite these new additions, the overall demographic has remained consistent for decades

The "founder generation" – residents now in their 80s and 90s – played a pivotal role in building this community and remain an essential part of it. Their needs change as they age and SBCA must consider how to best serve this part of our owner population with activities and amenities appropriate for their interests and capabilities.

Looking Ahead

Staying relevant and financially sustainable means understanding who we serve and what we can afford. Limited opportunity for increasing income for operations and rising costs require us to prioritize offerings that meet members' needs while staying within our means. This will be a major focus as we continue to plan for the future.

In the next part of this series, we will explore strategies that support our total population. This is a very big challenge and one that will require patience, planning and the willingness to ask and answer difficult questions. Your Board is ready to take this challenge head on. Thank you for being part of what makes SBCA such a special community. Stay tuned for the March installment of this series and be well!



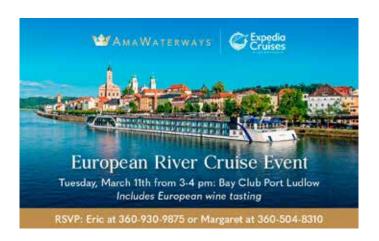
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Beach Club / North Bay

Update from the Manager

by Brian Belmont, General Manager

When our LMC members received their 2025 Budget packet in December, they learned that I plan on retiring at the end of this year. In June of this year, I will have been with LMC for 20 years, which is a drop in the bucket compared to our Office Manager, Kim Bond, who has been with us for 38 years.

The LMC Board has formed a General Manager Search Committee that is chaired by Allan Kiesler. Committee members are Bob Shaw, Kathi Pugh, Rob Wall, Phil Racine, and Carol Prismon-Reed. The Search Committee hopes to begin advertising for my replacement this month, and we hope to have the new GM onsite by May. This may be overly optimistic, but we are working hard towards that goal. The hope is that I will be able to work with the new GM for the remainder of the year to help ensure a smooth transition for our North Bay community.

For the past year, a growing group of volunteers has been working in LMC undeveloped common areas known as greenbelt areas to reduce the wildfire danger. The volunteers are removing dead vegetation, removing the lower limbs on evergreen trees, and cutting back the living brush where appropriate. This material is then moved to the road shoulder where it is chipped by a local tree service company. In addition, the tree service will work with the Greenbelt Committee to thin out stands of trees that are too closely bunched together, which will promote healthier trees.

LMC is working with the Washington Department of Natural Resources who provides grant opportunities that will allow LMC to recoup much of this cleanup expense.

If you are interested in getting out in the greenbelt and putting in a few hours two or three days a week, please send me an email and I will put you in touch with our volunteer coordinators.

As always, if you have questions or comments about this article or the on-going work at the Beach Club, I can be reached at 360-437-9201 or by email at *GM@LMCBeachClub.org*.

LMC and the Beach Club

Phone: 360-437-9201 Email: GM@LMCBeachClub.Org

Sign up for our monthly e-Navigator by emailing the above address.

Visit *LMCBeachClub.org* for more information about your North Bay HOA





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Village Council

Port Ludlow Village Council: Good News and the Year Ahead

by John Goldwood, President, Port Ludlow Village Council

As your Port Ludlow Village Council prepares for the year ahead, I am writing to thank our community for your response to our recent outreach efforts. My most recent article published on December 1 outlined reasons for optimism. The past few months have confirmed my optimism. Our November Town Hall meetings and our Annual Meeting on December 5 were well attended, and I am pleased to report that your individual and collective financial support, with contributions of over \$20,000 received in the past few months, has provided your Village Council with a firm financial base to tackle the challenges ahead in 2025.

We have also completed our election of board members for 2025 and are excited to be working together as a newly expanded board of energetic volunteers. Here is our team who will be serving you in 2025: John Goldwood, president; Tam McDearmid, vice president; John Cacho, treasurer; Tracy Geipel, secretary; Bob Gilbert, SBCA delegate to the PLVC board; Joan Johnston, LMC delegate to the PLVC board; and the following directors: Lois Grazioli, Geoff Lang, Kay Mol, Carol Prismon-Reed, and Howard Weiner.

By the time you read this article, the Council will have completed a one-day retreat focused on goal setting and organizational development opportunities for 2025. For the Village Council to remain relevant and impactful to this community requires a thorough evaluation of how the Council is currently structured and what needs to change. We must address how the Council is funded, and how we can obtain a consistent and predictable financial base to deliver our results. We must set realistic goals for what the Council can achieve for our community in the year ahead and determine how best to communicate our results.

Our community faces significant challenges in 2025: The pending decision from our Jefferson County Commissioners to grant an extension to the current Development Agreement between Jefferson County and Port Ludlow Associates, due to expire in May; gaining a thorough understanding of how our drinking water and waste management infrastructure can be improved to guarantee the safe delivery of those services to our residents; how our community will be supported in the event of a major emergency such as a severe earthquake or wildfire – these are all critical issues that are currently not well understood by our residents. The Village Council hopes to address these concerns with a concerted effort to inform, educate, and motivate our community to enable robust engagement regarding each of them. Town Hall meetings, improved website design, and enhanced Council

Village Council Meetings

PLVC Board Meeting Thursday, February 6 3 - 5 p.m., Bay Club

PLVC Workshop Tuesday, February 18 3 - 5 p.m., Bay Club

plvc.org

committee structure are planned to address your concerns.

One of our biggest challenges in the year ahead will be to gain a better understanding of how to engage with more of our residents. Although we are VERY pleased with the financial support extended to us for 2025, an equally important metric is that the provided financial support came from only 10% of our homeowners. Despite considerable effort on our part to communicate our value and benefit to the community, fully 90% of our residents were not motivated to participate. We need to fix that.

Here are specific events to watch for in the months ahead:

- Town Hall meetings addressing the renewal of the Development Agreement, sewer and water infrastructure, and emergency management – hoping to provide individual meetings for each of these subjects
- A new website to facilitate easier communication between your Village Council and our residents
- Potentially revised Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Policies & Procedures to recognize the changes that have occurred here in Port Ludlow since the most recent revisions to those guiding documents
- Potential sponsoring and planning for a communitywide summer event
- Continued support for those organizations such as Trails that operate under the Village Council organizational umbrella
- A more active role for the Village Council on issues impacting our neighbors beyond the immediate boundaries of our community.

Those activities and many more will provide a very busy year ahead, and we look forward to demonstrating the benefits an energetic Village Council can bring to our community. Thank you for your support as we embark on the exciting year ahead!

Recreation & Sports

The Benefits of Tai Chi

by Frank Deering, Tai Chi Instructor



(L to R) Susan Faust, Frank Deering, Jill Jiracek, Steve Jiracek, and Colleen Jones practicing Tai Chi.

Submitted photo

Tai Chi originated in ancient China and was initially practiced as a martial art. Now it's widely practiced around the world for its health benefits. Tai Chi is often described as a "moving meditation" or "yoga in motion" as it is a combination of fluid, relaxed movements and breathing leading to a greater sense of inner harmony between the mind and the body. Unlike many other forms of exercise, Tai Chi is as much about relaxation and concentration as it is about physical movement. This balanced exercise approach draws from the concept of yin and yang, where opposing forces, like stillness and motion, or strength and softness, work together to create a harmonious flow of energy in the body.

The practice revolves around cultivating the body's energy, known as Chi, and ensuring it flows smoothly and effort-lessly through the body. Tai Chi is a holistic experience that nourishes both the mind and the body. The slow, graceful movements enhance balance and flexibility while calming the mind, making it an ideal practice for anyone seeking mental clarity, increased sense of balance (both physical and mental), physical well-being, or stress relief. The practice of Tai Chi enhances the quality of movement in all areas of life. From walking in the woods to playing a round of golf, practicing Tai Chi can bring a keener sense of coordination and relaxation to all sorts of activities.

The basic concept behind Tai Chi is the awareness of where the body's balance point is at any particular time. In other words, the awareness of where the weight of the body is centered brings about the feeling of being grounded. Walking in the woods on uneven surfaces doesn't present a problem because of this inherent confidence of feeling flexible and connected to the ground below. In golf, setting up for a tee shot and having the awareness of feeling both feet on the ground, with the ability to shift from one foot to the other while coordinating the rotation of the waist, allows the body to deliver maximum force behind the shot.

Try the following simple exercises. Note: While these exercises are not particularly challenging, if you have any difficulty standing for longer periods or have trouble standing and balancing on one leg, these exercises can be done by getting extra support from a chair back, a walker, or a kitchen counter.

Grounding experiment

Stand with your feet parallel and the outside of your feet lined up with your hips. This allows your body to line up naturally so your hips can relax. Allow the knees to be slightly bent but still relaxed, and let your hands hang gently at your sides. Now become aware of the sensations in the soles of your feet, noticing how the various parts of the soles (heels, toes, balls, inside and outside) come into contact with the surface you're standing on. You can experiment by shifting weight from one foot to the other, or one part of the foot to the other. Make sure you feel all the parts of both feet touching the surface below you. It's important to do this exercise slowly so you can explore various sensations for a minute or so. Then adjust your stance so that all the parts of the soles of your feet are touching the surface below. Notice how this new awareness in the soles of your feet changes the way you feel in your body. Do you feel more solid and grounded? More confident or flexible?

Shifting the weight

The experience of "shifting the weight" from one foot to the other is not a passive process in Tai Chi. It is very much an intentional act. You might imagine as you bend your knee and press one foot down into the ground, that there's a spring under your foot that you're compressing into the ground. When you push up from the ground and straighten your knee, the spring elongates or expands back to its original size. The pushing up doesn't require much energy because the spring naturally wants to elongate, and it will feel like a natural process.

To start the shifting process, let's begin by following the instructions in the grounding experiment above so that you are starting from a grounded position (you might only need 10 or 20 seconds to tune into this). When you have the sense that you are equally grounded on both of your feet, bend the **right** knee a little more as you shift the weight of your body down onto the right foot. Remember the description above of the feeling of compressing the spring down under your right foot? Be aware that most of the weight of your body is now on your right foot and all the parts of the sole of your right foot are touching the ground.

Now as you push up from the right foot (elongate the spring), straighten the **right** knee a little and, as you bend the **left** knee a little, transfer the weight of the body down onto the left foot. Remember that you are compressing the spring down under your left foot.

Now as you push up from the left foot (elongate the spring), straighten the **left** knee a little. As you bend the **right** knee a little, transfer the weight of the body down onto the right foot. Remember that you are compressing the spring down under your right foot.

Repeat the process two more times for each side. How do you feel in your body after doing this practice? Do you feel a sense of coordination? Do you feel like you have more energy?

Standing on one leg

These exercises build on each other. Begin with the grounding process. Next shift the weight down onto the right foot (compressing the spring down) as you bend the right knee a little more. When you push up off the right foot (elongating the spring), straightening your knee a little, lift your left foot a very small distance off the ground so that you're balancing your weight only on the right foot. To make it easier at first, and so that you can keep better balance as you push up from the right foot, you might want to leave the toes of the left foot touching the floor and only lift up on the heel. If you have any balance issues, use some sort of support system (walker, chair back, etc.) while doing this practice.

As you experiment with these exercises, you will develop a keener awareness of balance and sense of coordination. Hopefully it will add a little bounce to your step. If you are interested in exploring more aspects of Tai Chi, you are welcome to participate in free weekly classes at the Bay Club on Thursdays at 11 a.m. (more may be added later). For simple instructional videos, search for "senior" on my website at *youtube.com/user/prionsiasod*.

Balance Workshop

by Kay Mol, PLVC Board Member

The Beach Club and LMC will be hosting a balance workshop on **Saturday**, **February 15**, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. This workshop is open to all Port Ludlow residents.

Here's the BAD news: falls are a common but often overlooked cause of injury. According to data from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), around one in three adults over 65 years old and half of people over 80 will have at least one fall a year, and the number one cause of injury-related death for seniors is FALLING!

Here's the GOOD news: balance is a learned skill that can be relearned and improved with knowledge, awareness, and practice, regardless of age or starting point. Falls happen for many reasons but improving balance skills can reduce their likelihood.

Kay Mol is a new resident in Port Ludlow and a newly elected Board member of the Port Ludlow Village Council. During her 27-year career as a Private Fitness Trainer, Kay specialized in Strength, Pilates, Balance, and Functional Fitness. This one-time Balance Workshop will help you identify your individual starting point and how to continue to improve your balance skills, progressively and safely at home. Kay will guide you through specific movement patterns to increase proprioception – how your body makes sense of where it is in space at any given time. This is not an exercise class, but you will be on your feet for some or most of the workshop. Please wear comfortable clothing and flat, comfortable footwear.

You can pre-register at either the Beach or Bay Club reception desks. Space is limited, so please sign up early. Sign-in sheets are available now at both clubs.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this workshop will go to the Port Ludlow Village Council. Cost is \$10 per person (cash or check at the door - checks made out to PLVC). Hope to see you there!

Port Ludlow Hiking Club

by John Nuerenberg, Port Ludlow Hiking Club

Hikers meet at the Bridge Deck in Port Ludlow on the day of the hike at 8:15 a.m. to get directions to the trailheads, arrange carpools, and depart at 8:30 a.m.

Those on the hiking email roster receive an update the week of a scheduled outing. If you would like to be added to the email roster, send a note to *plhikingclub@yahoo.com*, or go to the club's website at *portludlowhikingclub.com* and click on "Contact" to send a message. Anyone may join in the hikes; you don't have to be a member of the email roster or club.

Friday, February 14 – Duckabush River Trail

This trail is a gentle hike into the Brothers Wilderness area. It starts with a climb of several hundred feet, drops down a couple hundred, then proceeds with a gentle climb to the elevation it lost. The latter part of the hike is through giant emerald-green cedars and firs along the Duckabush River. After three miles, we will return the way we came. A restroom is available at the trailhead. Hike leader: Jack Riggen, 360-437-0370.

Wednesdays: Timberton Loop

Walk the 4.2-mile Timberton Loop. Enjoy views of the Olympic Mountains. This is a no-leader hike. Meet other walkers at the parking lot trailhead on Timberton Drive at 9 a.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 8 a.m.

Join the "Trail Club Group" that meets at the golf club parking lot for a self-led walk on the abandoned golf cart path trail or other alternative route.

For more hiking information, map of the Port Ludlow Trails, and descriptions and pictures of previous hikes and other destinations, go to *portludlowhikingclub.com*.

The PLYC Community is Seemingly Huge and It's Everywhere!

by Greg Buscher, Port Ludlow Yacht Club Communications Manager

Boaters are not easily put off by less than perfect weather, and I can pretty much guarantee that, right now, there are PLYC members out on the Sound in their boats. For many other members, this is a time for indoor gatherings at the Wreck Room. Still others bail out altogether in search of warmer climes. That's me this year!

While we soak up the warm sunshine of the southern California desert, we are lucky to have a large handful of PLYC members nearby who are also here in temporary residence. There's just no end to the best and largest group of friends we've ever had! Which brings me to the point: Commodore Dale Blackburn set "Community Spirit" as the theme for PLYC this year, and he explained what he meant by that at last month's Change of Watch gala. His remarks are paraphrased below...

We are much more than people having fun at the Wreck Room and on our boats. We share the fun and the meals, creating friendships, strong and lasting social bonds, a connection, feelings of belonging, and mutual support. We share a sense of responsibility for the welfare of each other and for the larger community in which we live and that we so love...

Our iconic Orcas exemplify what I mean by Community Spirit. They live in pods and exhibit a deep sense of loyalty and cooperation among members. They hunt together, showing teamwork and collaboration. And they look after one another, especially the vulnerable. Orcas show us how unity, mutual support, and shared purpose build a strong and thriving community where every member feels valued and connected. I am thankful and proud to be a member of the PLYC pod.

Thank you, Commodore Blackburn, and all PLYC "pod" members! If you are interested in joining PLYC, we'd love to invite you to an event as our guest. Just complete the inquiry form on our website at *plyc.us/visit*, and we'll be in touch.

Port Ludlow Community Church



9534 Oak Bay Rd 360-437-0145 plcc@olympus.net Rev. Dr. Kevin Hall Join us Sundays at 10:30!

A church by a clearcut above a gas station next to recycling in a village in the woods by the bay

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The Sounders of North Puget Sound

by Gail Wellenstein, Kitsap Beach Naturalist



Gunther, the gray whale skeleton in Port Townsend.

Photo by Gail Wellenstein

Imagine volunteering your beachfront as a temporary resting place for a dead and decomposing 42-foot-long male gray whale. The whale, dubbed "Gunther," died in May of 2019 and washed up on the shore near Port Ludlow. Dr. Stefanie Worwag and Mario Rivera, volunteers with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network did just that. Dr. Worwag, a veterinarian, along with scientists and volunteers from Cascadia Research, SR3, and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) conducted a necropsy. The couple then obtained permission from NOAA to prepare and display the bones, and Gunther became their pandemic project. Between 2020 and 2023, hundreds of volunteer hours, including the time and talent of industrial designer Les Schnick and boatwright Ric Brenden, went into the articulation and display of Gunther's skeleton. Port Townsend Marine Science Center and its volunteers became involved in the project and collaborated with the city and Port of Port Townsend on developing the final display location on Union Wharf. Gunther is there to tell the story of the magnificent gray whales that visit North Puget Sound in late winter and spring, known fondly as the "Sounders."

Gray whales spend their summers feasting in the cold shallow waters of the northern Bering and Chukchi seas. They are baleen whales which means that instead of teeth that chew large prey one animal at a time, they have baleen plates that act to filter huge numbers of tiny prey out of a giant mouthful of water or sand. Gray whales are the only bottom feeding baleen whale, so their baleen is much coarser than those whales feeding on plankton, and they stay in the shallower coastal waters. They have a feeding strategy that a toddler would love! They roll on their side, open their mouth, and suck up the sediment on the sea floor as they slowly swim along. Then they close their mouth part way, push up their tongue and out goes the water and small sediment while the tasty animals that live on the bottom stay behind for dinner. During the summer, they

put on large stores of blubber to fuel the longest migration of any mammal.

In the fall, they travel over 5,000 miles along the coast of North America to their wintering and calving areas off the coast of Baja, California. While in the shallow and warmer waters of Baja, they will give birth to their calves between early January to mid-February. During this time the mothers eat very little, while supplying 50 gallons of milk to their youngsters each day, enabling them to gain 60 to 70 pounds of body weight daily. That beats any holiday weight gain! When the mother's blubber reserves have depleted and the calf is ready, gray whales turn around and head home, hugging the coastline, and arriving in their home waters in May. This journey home is fraught with danger as they must run a gauntlet of orcas. Orcas are the main predator of the gray whale, and their target is almost always the calf. They will hunt in a pack, taking as long as six hours to separate the calf from the mother before going in for the kill. When the whales return to the Bering and Chukchi seas, their blubber is depleted and it's time to fatten up again.

A small group of whales, the "Sounders" have learned about a fast-food outlet along the way north, enabling them to return home in much better shape than those whales who make the journey nonstop. Between fifteen and twenty gray whales have come into Northern Puget Sound between March and May every year since 1990, and the number may be slowly increasing as the word gets out. In the last few years, some whales are arriving earlier, some are staying later, and some skip the rest of the trip north entirely. Little Patch, a faithful Sounder for the last twenty-six years, arrived in North Puget Sound on December 11, 2024, probably skipping the trip to Baja altogether this year.

The Sounders focus on eating ghost or sand shrimp found along the sediment beds along the southern ends of Whidbey and Camano Island, Saratoga Passage, Port Susan, Gedney/Hat Island, and the Snohomish Delta. Although this food bonanza is enticing, it is not without risk. The whales are feeding in much shallower water than usual, and in order to reach the food, the whales have to wait for high tide to swim in and target the shrimp beds. Whales have been seen feeding in water so shallow that they can't totally submerge when they swim away.

Gray whales can grow to about 49 feet long and weigh approximately 90,000 pounds. They have a mottled gray body with small eyes located just above the corners of the mouth. Their pectoral flippers are broad, paddle-shaped, and pointed at the tips. They have a dorsal hump about two-thirds of the way back, instead of a dorsal fin. The tail flukes are nearly 10 feet wide with a deep median notch.

For more information on Gunther, visit him at Union Wharf at the end of Taylor Street in Port Townsend. He is particularly beautiful at night when he is lit up.

Trail Mix

by Larry Scott, Trails Chair



Jeff Sarantopulos draining a pond on McCormick Rail Trail.

Photo by Larry Scott

"Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day." That children's nursery rhyme is what Trails should have been reciting through those wet December days. There are also many other trite but common expressions about rain and water — water always runs downhill; water will find a way; water will seek its own level; water is always looking for the ocean; et cetera, et cetera. What Trails knows (and so do our local hikers) is that rainwater + soil = mud. While many of our older trails have had their drainage issues resolved over the years, some of our newer trails are still identifying their particular problem drainage/seepage locations.

Trails has been actively – make that very actively! – trying to identify those problem locations and resolve them by directing the flow with ditching, the addition of drain piping, or a combination of both. Ultimately though, we just needed some relief from Ma Nature's busy rain schedule to allow absorption in porous areas and runoff in sloped areas.

However, we have one new trail that, as beautiful a hike as it is, presents a mud problem for Trails. That's our new McCormick Rail Trail. The Loop trails on either side (McCormick Loop and the unfinished/unopened future Creek View Loop) seem to be holding up well, but the Rail Trail is unique. It travels on, as the name implies, an old railroad bed that by design was level laterally with minimal grade longitudinally. In other words, flat. And, when it was built, it was done by compacting rock along the course to support the rails and a traveling train with its attached log-bearing flatcars. Hence, a lot of ponding opportunities. One ponding case in point offered Trails an opportunity to either put in a diving board or attempt to drain the pond. We didn't have the money for the board.

What does that mean for us? It means Mother Nature will have the upper hand when she lets the skies open up either with a monsoon or the constant flow we have had this winter with the unseasonable warm temperatures.

But Trails will continue the battle with Ma for drainage by playing in the mud as kids again. If you would like to help, send me an e-mail at *mclgscott@cablespeed.com*. "Let's Keep Improving our Trail."

Your Putter

by Jim Mancill, PGA Head Professional, Port Ludlow GC



Signs your putter may need adjustments.

Submitted photo

In keeping with our New Year's golf resolutions, let's take stock of our most important and certainly most used club in our bag...the putter. Friend to a few, but the non-cooperating foe to many. In the photos below, we'll look at a few signs that your putter may need more adjustments than the puttee.

In the end, putting is like any other golf shot. To hit the ball where you intend it to go, you need to be aligned correctly and the ball must be hit on the center of the club to get a true roll, on the intended line, with the correct speed. If one is off, the other matters little.

Hope this helps you determine if your putter fits you and if there may be a simple adjustment that can help you make more putts.

See you on the trails and remember, have fun!

Port Townsend Symphony Orchestra February Concert



Anabel Moore.

Submitted photo

The Port Townsend Symphony Orchestra (PTSO), under the direction of Maestro Tigran Arakelyan, will present its February concert on **Sunday, February 23**, at 2 p.m. at Chimacum High School Auditorium. On **Friday, February 21**, at 7 p.m., there is an open dress rehearsal at Chimacum High School Auditorium, located at 91 W. Valley Rd, Chimacum, WA.

This free concert features Pacific Northwest composer Daniel Gall. Graduating from UCLA and Cal State Northridge, Daniel worked with the Glendale Philharmonic and other groups writing film scores and chamber music and started the concert series Synchromy. This concert features a world premiere of *Oatmeal Counterpoint* that Daniel states, "is a soundtrack to a morning routine."

Also featured in this concert is Anabel Moore, winner of the 2024 PTSO Young Artist Competition. Anabel is a Port Townsend native and has played the violin since she was six years old. Anabel combined high school with the Running Start program at Peninsula College while serving as co-concertmaster of the Port Townsend High School orchestra. She is currently studying music education and violin performance at the University of Puget Sound. Anabel will be performing the first movement of Mozart's *Violin Concerto #3*.

Other music includes *El Salon Mexico* by Aaron Copeland. Copeland visited Mexico and went to a dance hall/night club named El Salon Mexico. While in Mexico, Aaron picked up sheet music for Mexican melodies that he wove into this suite/tone poem. Each piece of music makes the transition from formal upper-class to working-class to peasant-style music as if walking through different doorways in a dance hall.

Rounding out the program is *Schwedische Tänze*, by Max Bruch. With a lifelong interest in folk music, Max wrote a set of 15 dances for violin and piano based on Swedish folk songs. He quickly wrote transcriptions for piano, piano duet, and orchestra.

For more information, visit ptsymphony.org.

Port Ludlow Art League

Jeweler of the Month - Jolie Maki



Jolie Maki earned a BFA in Metal Arts from the University of Washington. Her work incorporates traditional metal making techniques using gold, silver, copper, and bronze to create intricate one-of-kind jewelry pieces. Jolie's recent work explores the use of color using torch-fired enamels and interesting shapes to create jewelry that echoes narratives and symbols inspired by nature. She draws inspiration from the cultural symbolism those shapes represent.

Incorporating more color beyond the typical stones Jolie uses, she feels that her collection of jewelry represents a new chapter in her work. She hopes people find the technique of torch enameling interesting and delightful with a side of whimsy. Referencing the quote from Henri Matisse, Jolie agrees, "Creativity takes courage."

During February, Jolie's jewelry will be on display at the Port Ludlow Art League Gallery, Sound Community Bank, and online at *portludlowart.org*. A reception for Jolie is set for **Wednesday, February 12**, from 4-5 p.m., in the lobby of the bank and 5-6 p.m. at the adjacent Port Ludlow Art League Gallery. The bank and gallery are located at the corner of Oak Bay Road and Osprey Ridge Drive in Port Ludlow. For more information, please email info@portludlowart.org or visit portludlowart.org.

True Stories Told in 'Mountain Music' by The Wardens

by Dave Cunningham, Staff Writer



Submitted photo

Musical bands have named themselves after insects (The Beatles), a question (The Who) and an organization (The Association), but the band coming soon to perform in Port Ludlow isn't kidding when they call themselves The Wardens. The band members are actual, working National Park Wardens.

Between them all, the musicians have been spending their day jobs protecting Canadian national parks for over 50 years. Their stories and mountain songs arise from the very land they protect.

Port Ludlow Performing Arts has booked the band for a concert at the Bay Club on **Saturday, February 22,** at 7 p.m.

Unlike the Beatles, The Wardens have a fluid number of performers. Ray Schmidt and Scott Ward founded the band in 2009, and they have brought in at least 10 other musicians and singers at various gigs to join them on stages throughout the northwest. Fabulous fiddler Scott Duncan is often there. You might see Nic Humby on the stand-up bass, or John Cronin and Bradley Bischoff on guitar. A mandolin might show up, or a dobro, banjo, fiddle, or accordion, if Bob Remington, Russell Broom, Nick Horbuckle, or Colvin Vorwath are brought in.

No matter how many musicians join Schmidt and Ward on the stage, you can bet the songs will tell stories that are true. As the band members often tell their audiences, "We can't make this stuff up."

Telling true stories is part of their performance, whether

they are narrated or sung. They also bring a screen for presentations that give the audience a visual version of their world.

Schmidt founded The Wardens during the National Park Warden Centennial after discovering the rich depth of music and stories within this region of Canada.

Translating the high, lonesome sound of the Kentucky hills to those of the Rocky Mountains, Schmidt's vocals amplify the spirit of The Wardens' mountain music. He studied the upright bass with Missy Raines and mandolin under John Reischman. In 2021, he was nominated *Traditional Singer of the Year* for the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Posted in Jasper National Park, Schmidt has worked in several parks including Banff, Glacier, and Mount Revelstoke. He is currently working with grizzly bears and the abundance of wildlife that abounds in Jasper.

Ward has been a national park warden for over 30 years in Banff National Park, and his music stems from a life lived in the deep wilderness of the Canadian Rockies as a horseman, search-and-rescue dog handler, and technical alpine specialist. Evoking the haunting fingerstyle guitar of Gordon Lightfoot with the mystique and presence of Ian Tyson, his music embodies Canadian authenticity. Ward was awarded the Governor General's Award for Exemplary Service as a Peace Officer.

Fiddler Duncan is a sought-after touring musician and likes joining The Wardens on the road often. Ward and Schmidt call him "our journeyman musician, our ace-in-the-hole, and our studio marksman. Scott Duncan is our Deputy Warden!"

If you're not sure you would enjoy "mountain music stories," here's what recent reviewers said about The Wardens:

"A magical evening of western Canadiana, a historical trip through a world that seems old as time but remains much the same as it was." – Maury Wrubleski, Humboldt News

"The Wardens have an enviable live reputation ... able to bring a modern take on a timeless musical tradition." – Martin Johnson, Americana UK

"A musical genre that is too often forgotten in today's hyperactive world ... this is as organic as it gets." – Mike Davies, Folk Radio UK

Tickets are still available online for \$38 each, at portludlowperformingarts.com.

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2. South Bay Community Association (SBCA)	\$300
3. Port Ludlow Village Council (PLVC)	\$200
4. Display Advertising	\$5,110
5. Classified Advertising	\$772
6. Subscriptions	\$58
7. Web Advertising	\$37

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Other Local Services Numbers:	
For general community services	211
For help with telephone-related speech or hearing problems	
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Port Townsend Police	360-385-2322
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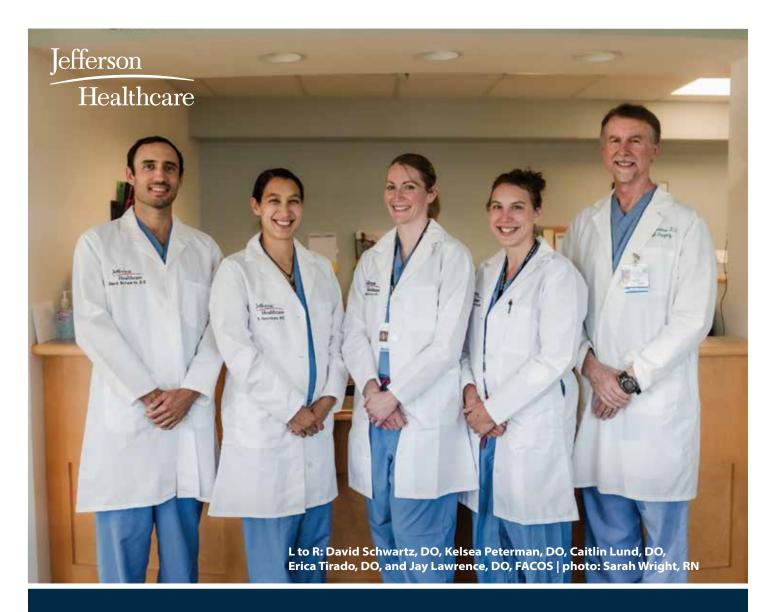
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