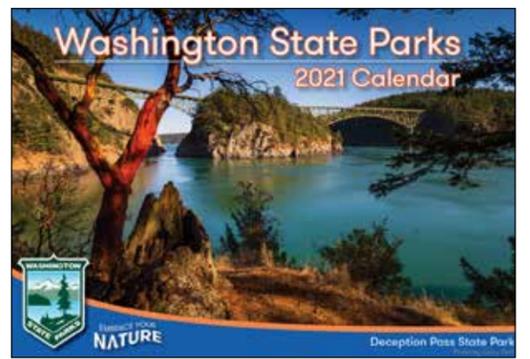


THE ISLANDS' SOUNDER

Serving Orcas, Lopez and San Juan County

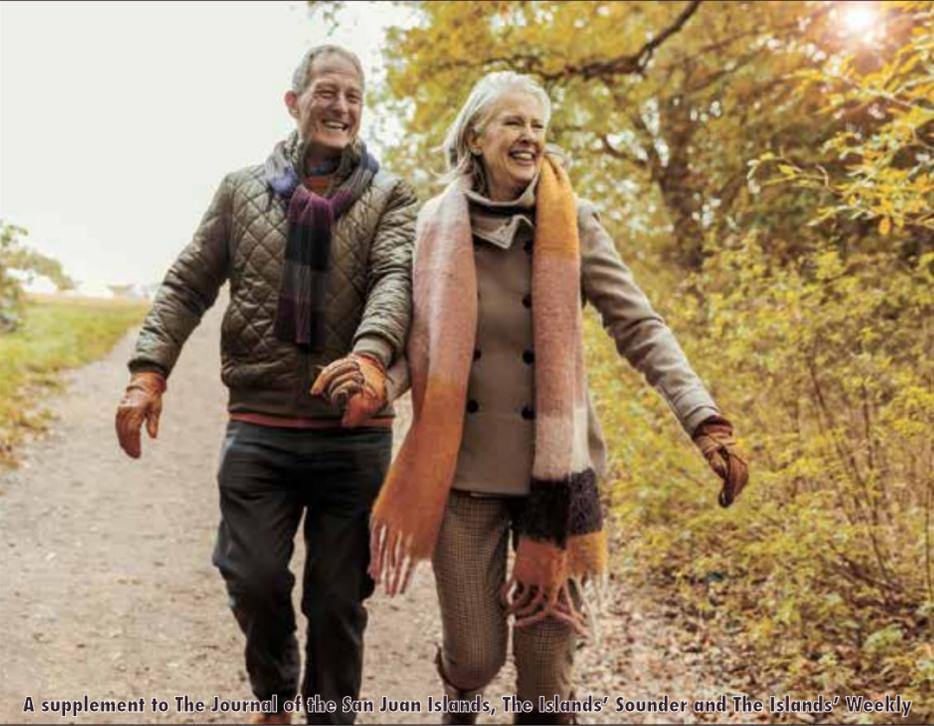
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2020 SENIOR RESOURCE Guide



A supplement to The Journal of the San Juan Islands, The Islands' Sounder and The Islands' Weekly

Orcas Island School District COVID-19 update

BY OISD SUPERINTENDENT ERIC WEBB

Fall is very much in the air as we enter week four of our Distance Learning Model at Orcas Island School District! Teachers, staff, and parents have worked diligently to adjust to a new learning model for our children. Parents and children have had the opportunity to meet with their teachers in-person to prepare for a successful term of learning in these last few weeks, and K-8 students enjoyed their first outdoor education day at Camp Orkila just last week.

Through the dedicated efforts and hard work of our Orcas community and San Juan County's virus monitoring and contact tracing, San Juan County has not had a positive COVID-19 case in over six weeks. Overall, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in our five-county region are on the decline. A hot topic of discussion at the forefront of my weekly meetings with Mark Tompkins and SJC Public Health Officer, Dr. Frank James includes dialogue regarding just when San Juan County's public schools can once again safely have students back on campus. I am pleased to say it appears as if we are getting closer, and that this may soon become a reality. Dr. James anticipates providing a recommendation in the next few weeks, provided that cases continue to be on the decline in our five-county region.

In the meantime, we will launch a survey this week

of all OISD families via our electronic communication platform regarding our safe return to school. We will also survey parents in person (while appropriately socially distanced) at our EL Drive-Through Night, meal pick-ups, and Camp Orkila. This survey is not regarding the instructional model, which was first publicized back in August, but a survey including family concerns regarding returning to school, student transportation needs, and assessing those families who prefer to continue distance learning, etc. Our goal is to have 100% participation from all of our families and staff in this survey.

Our students' return to campus, when it is safe to do so, will follow a phase-in approach to gradually bring students back to campus while transitioning to our In-Person Instructional Model. The first group to return to campus will be our K-2 students. Virus trends and county and state recommendations will certainly determine the flow of this phase-in process, and I will continue to meet with authorities at the county, regional, and state levels on a weekly basis.

As we continue to prepare for our students to return to campus for OISD's In-Person Instructional Model for learning, rest assured that the district will move cautiously and thoughtfully with the safety of our students, families, staff, and community as our top priority.

Interview with newspaper delivery person Jerry Carter

BY COLLEEN SMITH
Editor/Publisher

Jerry Carter has walked a path paved in newspaper ink.

In August 2019, the Islands' Sounder struck gold when it hired Carter, a lifelong newspaper delivery person, as its circulation driver.

At 14 years old, when Carter began operating a bicycle route in Tidewater, Virginia, he did not know it would be the beginning of six decades in the newspaper industry.

"Before I turned 15 I had six separate routes in my name and had put all of my friends to work in the operation," Carter said. "I fell in love with the business as a 14-year-old and have the same affection for it at 57."

In his early 20s, Carter became division manager for the Greensboro News and Record, where he was responsible for the circulation in four counties in North Carolina.

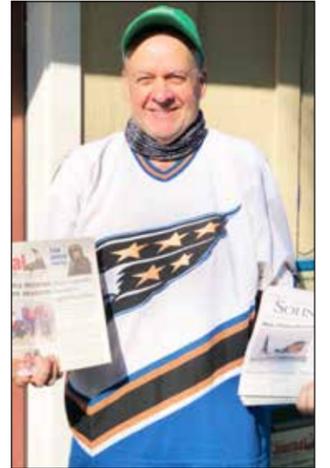
Carter spent a decade working for the Publishers Circulation Fulfillment, Inc. in their efforts for the New York Times in the Pacific Northwest including Seattle, Everett, Bellevue and Portland. Twice he received the President's Award. Carter later launched his own company, Crystal Clear Delivery, serving the greater Seattle area. He and his family fell in love with Orcas after a visit to the San Juans.

"At the time, I could barely afford ferry boat fees and was losing the battle with my health, particularly weight," Carter remembers. "I coined the phrase 'Orcas 199' as my dream for my life. There were two parts to it: accomplish enough to become a property owner on Orcas and the see the scales dip below 200 pounds again."

Carter and his wife Linda then returned to the East Coast, where he led the Washington Post in its effort to downsize its operations in the Shenandoah Valley.

"There were 17 distributors when I started but just one when I completed my work. It was the best 10 years of my life, as it led me to Orcas at the end of my stay there. Jeff Bezos purchased the Post near the end of my run," he said. "The 3-D feel to the business at the level I operated at with my time with the New York Times in Seattle and Portland was unbelievable, but my decade with the Washington Post took my life to a place where I truly lived my dream."

In 2014, Carter realized his "Orcas 199" aspiration: buying property on Orcas and losing weight. He and Linda have a total of five children who range in age from 30 to 40. They are expecting their seventh grandchild next month. The Carters' youngest child



COLLEEN SMITH/STAFF PHOTO

Above: Jerry Carter in one of his trademark NHL sweaters.

Rebecca lives on Orcas and helps run their business Cottages at Orcas Landing and teaches math at the Orcas Christian School.

"Looking back at all of the great moments and achievements in my life, I cannot remember a single one that my Kiddo (Rebecca) wasn't standing there next to me. I play Robin to her Batman here on Orcas at our business," Carter said.

In addition to delivering the Sounder and Journal across the island, he also handles the Seattle Times and New York Times distribution.

"I think everyone that lives on this beautiful island should ask themselves this: how can I give back to the community?" he said. "It seemed like a natural way to give back to the community by trying to provide flawless service for all of the printed products."

During his career in circulation, Carter also covered sports as a writer and editor for newspapers in Missouri, South Carolina, Virginia and Indiana.

"I can add Washington state to that list if you count the tennis team article that appeared in the Islands' Sounder," laughed Carter.

He also owned a summer league baseball team, wrote two books with his daughters, co-hosted a podcast, wrote a sports blog and announced games. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, every day Carter wears one of the 32 National Hockey League team sweaters to cheer up people he encounters on his routes. Each jersey was purchased in their city of origin by Carter himself. In line with his desire to make the world a better place, he is currently writing a self-help book entitled "Fighting the Good Fight."

Known in his family as the "Michael Jordan of circulation,"

SEE JERRY, PAGE 2

Subscriber mailing label below this line

Group seeks to cease Navy encroachment

BY MANDI JOHNSON
Journal editor

The Navy's loud EA-18G aircraft — also known as Growlers — have been a source of irritation for many Lopezians for nearly a decade. Now, Sound Defense Alliance is reaching out to residents around Puget Sound affected by the United States Navy's presence in the region.

Quiet Skies Over San Juan County and the Sound Defense Alliance held a digital outreach meeting via Zoom on Sept. 30, drawing more than 40 participants.

"We are creating gatherings like this one across the region," Sound Defense Alliance Board Chairperson Anne Harvey said. "This is all part of our work across the region. It is really important to us to be connecting with people."

Noisy aircraft began being a concern for the island communities in the 1970s with the EA-6B Prowler, according to Quiet Skies member and Lopezian Brian Silverstein. He said when concerned citizens first approached the Station Commander at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island about the noise, they were asked, "Why don't you just move?" That question cost the commander his job, Silverstein explained, and prompted Lopezians to organize.

Then, in 2012, the Navy announced the Growler would be moving in, Silverstein said. The EA-18G Growler is a carrier-based electronic warfare aircraft and is a specialized version of the two-seat F/A-18F Super Hornet.

In 2016, the Navy began exploring the potential addition of 36 more Growlers to NAS Whidbey

Island, and in 2019, that addition was approved. This would bring the total number of EA-18Gs on Whidbey to 112.

Harvey lives in Coupeville, directly under the Growler flight pattern out of NAS Whidbey Island's training facility Outlying Landing Field (OLF). She's a self-described devoted lifelong learner.

"So learning about these growlers has been really important to me," Harvey said.

Sound Defense Alliance is a coalition of groups and individuals working to restore balance, Harvey explained. Its mission is to work to defend communities and the natural environment from the harmful impact of military activity.

With the United States Department of Defense's decision to expand the Growler operations by

44 percent, Harvey said military leadership ignored the more than 4,000 comments on the draft environmental impact survey decrying deafening noise, poisoned air, and water and harm to marine, land and air animals.

"We are in this fight for the long haul and we're glad you're with us, too," Harvey said.

According to presenter Larry Morrell, who lives in Port Townsend, the Navy owns 150 growlers. NAS Whidbey is home to two categories of squadrons that train with the aircraft, which causes the most disruption to the area. A third squadron is land-based and since it does not land on aircraft carriers, it doesn't require the carrier landing practice the other two do, Morrell explained.

SEE GROWLERS, PAGE 7

Elections Q and A

Submitted by SJC.

Interest is high in this year's general election. As a result, the San Juan County Elections staff have been receiving a record number of questions. Below are some of the questions asked most frequently, with the answers.

- **How many registered voters does San Juan County have?** 14,220. The number is increasing daily.
- **What was the turnout in San Juan County for the 2020 primary?** 68 percent.
- **What kind of turnout are we expecting for the 2020 general election?** 90

percent.

- **Can I get my ballot now?** Only if you are unable to receive mail during the entire 18-day voting period.
- **When will ballots be mailed?** Oct. 13.
- **How do I make sure my address is correct on my voter registration?** Go to VoteWA.gov. Check your address there. Update it online or call Elections for assistance.
- **What if I lose or don't receive my ballot?** Call the elections office for a replacement.
- **Should I mail my ballot**

or use a drop box? Which ever is easier. If you are voting within seven days of the election, we recommend that you use a drop box.

- **What if a mailed ballot arrives late?** If it is post-marked by Nov. 3 and arrives by Nov. 23, it will be counted.
- **How often will you pick up ballots from the drop boxes?** We will pick up once a week from Orcas and Lopez and every other day on San Juan. Fortunately, we have larger ballot boxes this year!
- **Can I vote online?** No, but you can print a ballot



from online. Printed online ballots, like mailed ballots, must be returned with a signed declaration by Nov. 3.

• **Is San Juan County Elections ready for this election?** Absolutely! This election is getting a lot of attention, but every election is important to us.

• **How are we keeping Elections workers and visitors safe?** We have put in place new procedures and tools to keep workers and visitors safe.

• **How do we ensure the security of ballots?** Ballots are locked and sealed unless we are processing.

During processing, ballots are always handled by two people.

• **Can I watch the ballot processing?** Yes, on SJC Elections' YouTube channel, <https://tinyurl.com/y4pzzq86p>.

• **When will results be known?** Initial results will be posted on election night. The final results will be known on Nov. 23.

• **How do we know the results will be accurate?** We perform two accuracy tests before and an audit the day after the election to ensure accuracy.

If you have questions, contact the Elections Office at 360-378-3357 or elections@sanjuanco.com.

Zoom session with Monique Mead



Submitted by Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. PDT, Monique Mead will join Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival in a live Zoom session to teach and inspire. Whether you play music yourself or are just interested in the process of bringing music to life, you'll want to join OICMF for their upcoming Zoom session, From the Page to the Stage: An Organic Approach to Fruitful Practicing with violinist Monique Mead.

What can the life cycle of a butterfly teach us about musical performance? Monique is eager to share her new concept that outlines the stages of practicing as an organic process of musical growth, transformation, and ultimate freedom. This course is intended for anyone who has played an instrument or is simply curious about what happens in the privacy of a practice room. It offers practical tips and personal stories by prominent musicians who

have mastered the art of practicing.

Mead is Director of Music Entrepreneurship and an Assistant Teaching Professor at Carnegie Mellon School of Music in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her wide-ranging international career as a violinist and collaborator includes having played in the OICMF Summer Festival numerous times since her first visit in 2004. Orcas Island has also enjoyed the great privilege of having Mead on island as Musician-in-Residence many times, teaching in the schools, playing Community Concerts, and offering

workshops. And now, wherever you are, you can learn from Monique direct from her Pittsburgh studio, through the magic of Zoom!

OICMF Executive Director Anita Orne said, "This is a good time to get inspired to pick up your instrument and get playing - we're certain Monique will provide that spark!" This seminar will be fascinating and inspiring, whether you are a musician or not. Attendance is free, but you must register by Tuesday, October 20. To register or for more information, please contact sarah@oicmf.org.

CARES relief grants available to arts organizations

Submitted by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

The Washington State Arts Commission in coordination with the Washington State Department of Commerce is accepting applications for CARES Relief funding grants to be distributed to arts and cultural organizations statewide.

The deadline for application is Oct. 23.

"Arts and cultural organizations play a particularly important role as we grapple with the social and emotional challenges of the pandemic and reckoning with inequality," said Commerce Director Lisa Brown. "These grants will help support a strong creative economy in our state that benefits artists from diverse backgrounds and builds community for all."

Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, including tribal organizations, and fiscally sponsored groups impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. Organizations must have current federal tax-exempt status or be sponsored by a qualifying nonprofit that has arts, culture, and/or heritage in their mission statement. Grants will be processed and paid by the end of December.

"The creative sector is an

important part of Washington's economy that's been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said ArtsWA Executive Director Karen Hanan. "We're grateful that the Department of Commerce has made these funds available for arts and cultural organizations that desperately need help to survive."

A Statewide Cultural and Creative Economic Recovery Survey conducted by 14 partner organizations (including ArtsWA) found that 75% of the 483

arts and culture organizations that responded will have depleted their operating budget by the end of November 2020.

"Because we want to distribute the grants as soon as possible, the application period is only four weeks long," said Hanan. "We're especially hoping that rural and underserved nonprofit organizations across the state take this opportunity to apply."

Applications will be evaluated under three main criteria: Financial need, Arts and

Cultural Programming, and Communities Served. To ensure geographic distribution, applications will be evaluated by regional panels serving the northwest, southwest, central, and eastern regions of the state.

Read the ArtsWA CARES Relief Grant Fall 2020 Guidelines at <https://www.arts.wa.gov/cares-act-grants/>.

For questions contact Miguel Guillén at miguel.guillen@arts.wa.gov

County Council Candidates Youth Forum

Submitted by Spring Street International School environmental systems class.

The Environmental Systems class at Spring Street International School will be holding a Youth Forum from 1-2 p.m. on Oct. 12. They will ask the county council candidates from Orcas and San Juan Islands questions about the environment and climate change. All are welcome to join this webinar! To register, visit www.sanjuans.org/upcoming-events.

Orcas Lions Club in need of more sunrise volunteers

BY STEVE SCHAEFER
Past President, Orcas Island Lions Club

About four years or so ago, several Lions Club members were discussing club membership. One of

the discussion points was, "What do members enjoy most?" And the conclusion was that they enjoy working together on things that do good. Either directly or by raising money to do good with. Thinking further

about why people that enjoy working together and doing good don't become club members quicker, we came to recognize that many people just don't want to join or be a member of something. So an alternative was created. Sunrise Volunteers referred to our meetings at that time being at 7 a.m., short and informal, in order to include both retired and working people.

Sunrise Volunteers is a confidential list of e-mail

addresses of people that have said they have an interest in helping when there is a genuine need. If someone in the community is aware of a genuine need, they e-mail a description of that need to SunriseVolunteers@OrcasLions.org. That emailed request is screened to make sure it represents a true hardship "need." Personal information is removed and then forwarded to everyone on the Sunrise Volunteer email list.

If you are on the list and you receive such an email, you decide if you can help or not. If not, you do nothing. If you can help, you respond and are connected with the need.

So far, the results of this program include helping quite a few people with things such as: Assistance with moving a piece of furniture. Help in building a wheelchair ramp. Junk removal and clean up that helped a person get out from under an oppressing situation.

If you would like to be on the list, just email to SunriseVolunteers@OrcasLions.org and we will get you on the list. We don't use the list for any other purposes or share it with anyone else.

JERRY FROM 1

Carter says the key to his success is caring deeply for what he does.

"I will never ask you to work as hard as me, I just need you to care as much as me," he said. "The one thing about the newspaper business is this: no matter how good you are, most folks only think about your last mistake."

—ORCAS CENTER—
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



—Colleen Smith—

- **Years of Orcas Center Volunteering:** Nine, mostly as a performer, stage manager, and a member of various stage crews.
- **Originally from:** Lopez Island (12 on Orcas).
- **Favorite Volunteer Moment:** How could I ever pick? Being a part of the *Rock on the Rock* and *Enchanted Forest Cabaret* shows. Performing as a drag queen in *La Cage*. And playing Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* was a highlight on both a personal and community theatre level. *Don't dream it, be it.*
- **Why Orcas Center?** When you step through the doors of Orcas Center, you are entering a world where anything is possible and magic is in the air. It is my absolute honor and joy to be a volunteer for this vital organization.



Please visit orcascenr.org for membership info and resources for our COVID-19 Recovery.

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