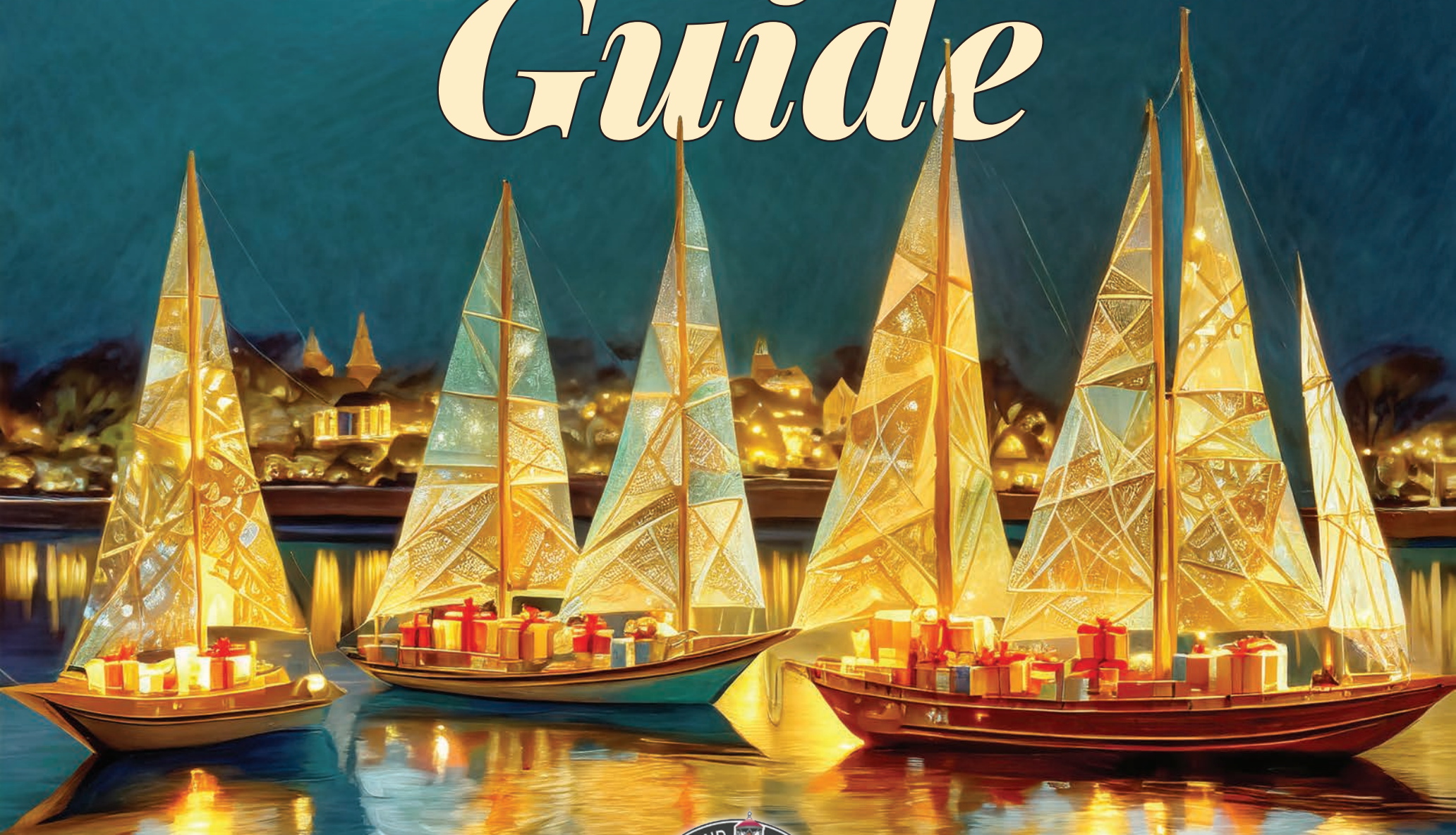
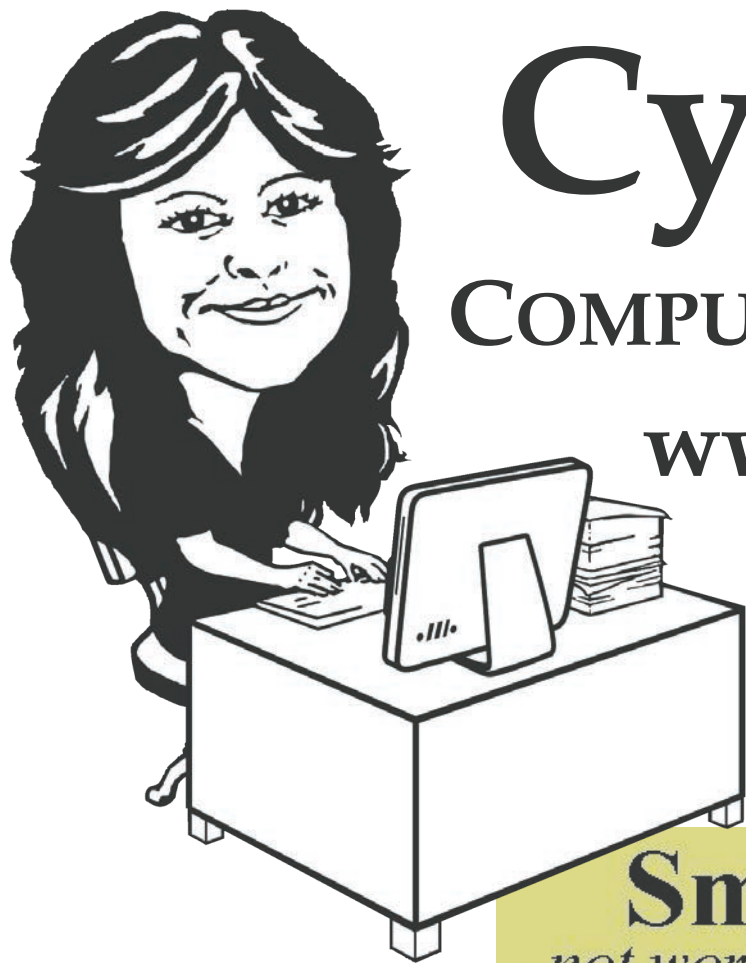


Holiday Guide



Supplement to the November 20, 2024, Port Townsend and Jefferson County Leader



Cynthia Koan

COMPUTER COACH & TECHNICIAN

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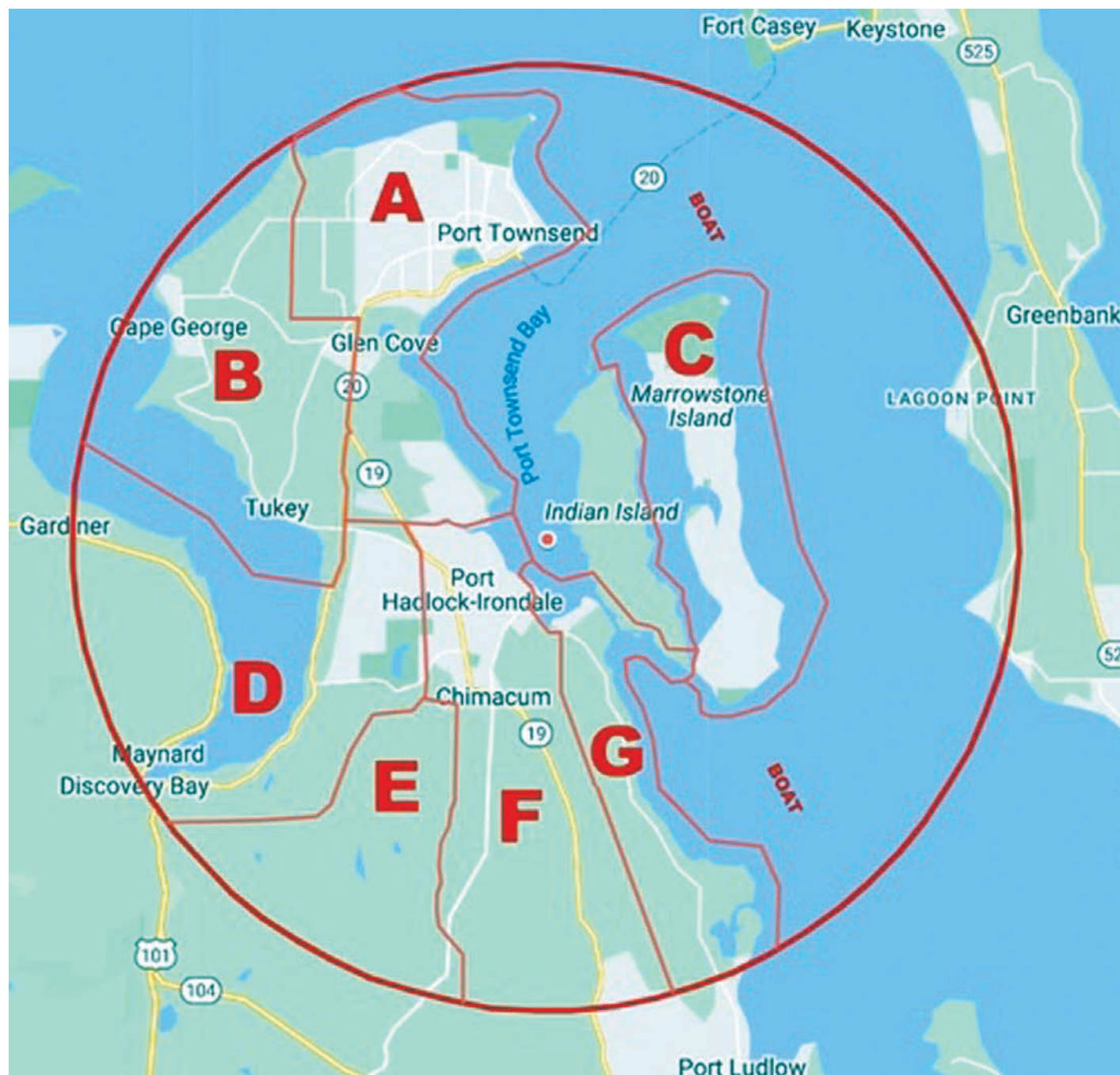
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Birders, grab your binoculars!

The Christmas count is coming

BY STEVE C. HAMPTON

All are invited to participate in the Port Townsend Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The count is hosted by Rainshadow Bird Alliance, previously known as Admiralty Audubon Society. In addition, details of the count – and tips on bird identification – will be featured at the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Port Townsend Community Center.

The Port Townsend CBC began in 1977. One of thousands nationwide, it is part of one of the largest field data collection efforts by volunteers. The first counts began in 1900. The data is used to track increasing and decreasing populations, to list and de-list species as threatened or endangered, and to track recent changes due to climate change.

Here's how it works.

Each count is a circle, 15 miles in diameter, which means 177 square miles. Our goal is to

count every bird!

In reality, we divide the circle into areas (as shown on the map at left), each with an Area Leader and one or more teams. Then we walk, drive, bike or boat certain routes to cover as much ground or water as we can on the designated day – no matter the weather.

Some teams are out all day; some less so. We are also looking for at-home feeder-watchers who simply report on the birds in their yard during a 30-minute window.

Our circle encompasses the Quimper Peninsula all the way down past Chimacum to south of Egg and I Road. It includes Marrowstone Island, Mats Mats and the mouth of Discovery Bay. The habitats range from residential areas to forest, grasslands, lakes, coastlines and open water. We average about 115 species.

We are looking for birders from beginner to experienced. If interested, come to the meeting listed above, or contact the count compiler, Steve Hampton, at stevehampton@gmail.com.



A varied thrush rests on a branch. Photo by Ali Kasperzak

From the #1 rated NPR show, "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!"

Paula Poundstone

January 25
Field Arts & Events Hall

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Photo by Shannon Greer

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- (4/6) Charlie Albright
- (5/28) Dover Quartet

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Give the gift of a good book this season



John Blomgren shows off two of his picks. Leader photo by Mallory Kruml

A Port Townsend bookseller shares his five top picks for holiday shoppers.

BY MALLORY KRUML

As the days grow shorter and the countdown to the holidays begins, local booksellers are gearing up for the most lucrative time of the year.

“I personally love the holidays, so having a little storefront like this, I could not be more excited,” said John Blomgren, one of the owners at Imprint Bookshop.

“I do feel like right now, book sales are just generally pretty high and people are excited about literature and supporting local businesses. There is a renewed sentiment about not giving your money to some of the bigger players in the industry, so we are hoping to see some good sales.”

Blomgren and his partner, Garrett Jones, assumed ownership of Imprint Bookshop on Nov. 1 and are hitting the ground running.

“Normally the store only stocks like one copy of anything unless it’s a new release,” Blomgren said. “But with the holiday season coming up, I am stocking up on things that I feel are going to be on people’s shopping lists.”

The Leader asked Blomgren to share his top five recommendations for the perfect gift.



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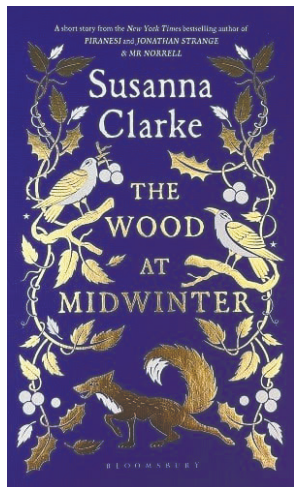
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These are the titles he is most excited about this season.



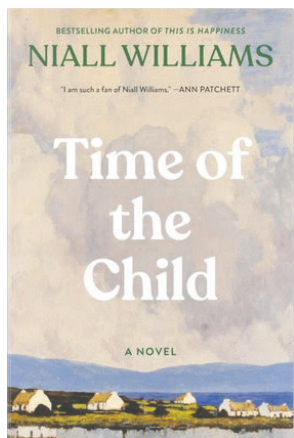
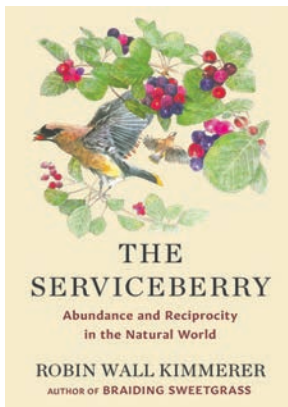
'The Wood at Midwinter' by Susanna Clarke

"This beautifully illustrated short story from the internationally bestselling and prize-winning author of Piranesi and Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell is set in the familiar Strange universe," Blomgren wrote. "Featuring an introduction by Susanna Clarke and gorgeous illustrations from Victoria Sawdon, this picture book for adults is a mesmerizing, must-have addition to any fantasy reader's bookshelf."

'The Serviceberry' by Robin Wall Kimmerer

"From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Braiding Sweetgrass, a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and

community, based on the lessons of the natural world," Blomgren wrote. "An indigenous scientist, Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds as she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? One of the most anticipated releases of the season, this is sure to be among many reader's wish list!"



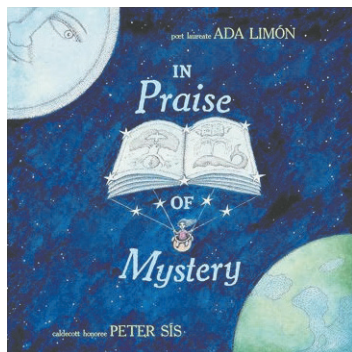
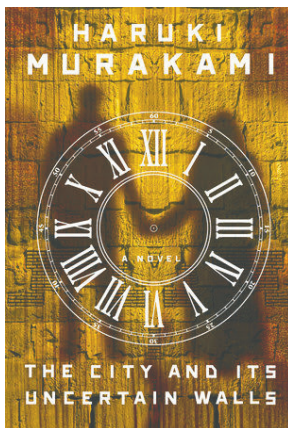
'Time of the Child' by Niall Williams

"Set over the course of one December in the same setting as Williams' beloved 'This Is Happiness,' 'Time of the Child' is a tender return to the Irish village of Faha," Blomgren wrote. "For readers who know its charms or are entering this landscape for the very first time, this compassionate, life-affirming novel is bound to warm the hearts of many readers this holiday season."

'The City and Its Uncertain Walls' by Haruki Murakami

"From the bestselling author of 'Norwegian Wood' and 'The Wind Up Bird

Chronicle' comes a love story, quest, and an ode to books and to the libraries that house them," Blomgren wrote. "The City and Its Uncertain Walls" is Murakami's latest work and has been described as both a parable for our peculiar times and a singular and towering achievement by one of modern literature's most important writers."



'In Praise of Mystery' by Ada Limón

"Written by the U.S. Poet Laureate herself and illustrated by Caldecott Honoree Peter Sís, In Praise of Mystery is a transcendent picture book featuring the poem that will travel into space aboard NASA's Europa Clipper as it travels towards the moons of Jupiter," Blomgren wrote. "This luminous picture book that celebrates humankind's endless curiosity, asks us what it means to explore beyond our known world, and shows how the unknown can reflect us back to ourselves."

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Gift & Holiday Bazaar

Fri & Sat, Dec 6 & 7

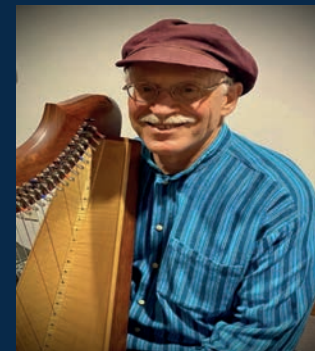
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David Michael
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3-5 pm , \$20



Surf's up

The holidays bring winter weather, as seen here when winds of 40 mph and a high tide combined to make for high surf at Port Townsend's North Beach neighborhood. Courtesy photo by Steve Mullensky



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2001 W. Sims Way at the roundabout in Port Townsend

Port Ludlow artists to showcase their holiday fare

BY PAMELA RAINE

Port Ludlow's reputation as a tranquil community with an unruffled way of life changes when the holidays arrive, lighting up like a Christmas tree with venues for shoppers to find just the right gift.

There's the annual Holiday Art Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Port Ludlow Beach Club, located at 121 Marina View Drive.

Shoppers can find one-of-a-kind gifts created by over 20 local artists. Revelers will also have the opportunity to help raise funds for the Port Ludlow Art League Scholarship Fund that benefits Jefferson County.

This year marks the first Holiday Open House at the Port Ludlow Art League Gallery from 10



Art lovers shop for Christmas at the Port Ludlow Holiday Art Fair. Courtesy photo

a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11. The Gallery features a wide variety of artwork created by local artists, including original paintings, handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, glassware, textiles, woodwork, photographs, and cards. Shoppers can enjoy seasonal refreshments and have the opportunity to win a

\$200 gift certificate. The Port Ludlow Art League Gallery is located next to Sound Community Bank at the corner of Oak Bay Road and Osprey Ridge Drive in Port Ludlow.

For more information, please visit www.portludlowart.org.



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Events

The Kiwanis Choo Choo will roll merrily through town on Saturdays in Nov./Dec.

Tour the Winter Lights

Sparkling white lights decorate the trees in the historic districts from PT Main Street's winter lights program, running November through February. The Main Street elves will be busy decorating. The Haller Fountain and Bell Tower lighting designs are created by Fyerlite Grip and Lighting Services.

The Festival Tent at Tyler Plaza

Tyler Street Plaza which will offer a festive outdoor space for a limited time. Get a meal-to-go or a hot drink and enjoy it there in between shopping stops. Check out Port Townsend Main Street's official website for additional information about other holiday activities or follow the Port Townsend Main Street Program on social media for holiday updates.

Main Street Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Start checking off your list and get a head start on holiday shopping! Then join in a swag-making activity with Main Street elves under the heated tent at Tyler Street Plaza. Enjoy caroling in the streets and take a selfie with the holiday cartoon cut-outs.

32nd Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

Friday, Nov. 29, & Saturday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join the Port Townsend Arts Guild in Uptown Port Townsend. Browse three floors of the Port Townsend Community Center at Lawrence and Tyler streets instead of fighting the crowds at the mall.

Juried artists from around the Olympic Peninsula will have a wide variety of amazing items on display — jewelry, pottery, paintings, photographs, leatherwork, sewn, knitted and crocheted items, woodworking and more!

Five percent of all sales will be donated to Jefferson County Food Banks.

For more information, visit porttownsendarts-guild.org or email ptartsguild@yahoo.com

Home for the Holidays:

Gingerbread House-Making Contest

Sunday, Dec. 1, through Tuesday, Dec. 10

Register now to pick up free Gingerbread House Kits at the Jefferson County Library while supplies last.

Online voting will be open to the public Thursday, Dec. 12, through Friday, Dec. 20. Winners will be announced online on Monday, Dec. 23.

For more information: jclibrary.info

Port Townsend Magic of Christmas

Wednesday, Dec. 4, to Monday, Dec. 9

An extravaganza of lights and amazement that will conjure up the wonder and magic inside us all. "Kringle's Christmas Express" coming to Port Townsend.

Holiday Pop-Up Sale

Thursday, Dec. 5, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Port Townsend Library are having a pop-up holiday sale in the Pink House conference room. Unique and gently used books, DVDs and puzzles would make great gifts!

Port Townsend Farmers Market

Every Saturday through Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In the heart of Uptown Port Townsend on the 600 block of Tyler Street between Lawrence and Clay.

Port Townsend Tree Lighting Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

The festivities begin at Tyler Plaza under the heated tent from 2-4 p.m. Santa is coming to town! There will be appearances and photo-ops with Santa. The Wild Rose Chorale will be out and about singing merry tunes and PT Artscape will help children make ornaments under the tent at Tyler Plaza. At 4:30 p.m., Santa will leave the Flagship Landing area on the Kiwanis Choo Choo and head over to Haller Fountain to light the Community Tree.



32ND Annual Arts & Crafts Fair

Nov. 29 & 30 • 10-5

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Mosaic Mirrors & Boxes • Gatheringplace • Painted Pillows • 4H Mice • Bags
Painted Tablecloths • Books • Watercolors • Handmade Chain Jewelry • Tiles

5% of all sales benefit the Jefferson County Food Bank.
The Port Townsend Arts Guild uses monies raised by booth fees
for college scholarships in the arts.

APPLICATIONS & INFO: PORTTOWNSENDARTSGUILD.ORG • PTARTSGUILD@YAHOO.COM









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Uptown Holiday Night Market

Friday, Dec. 6

Join participating businesses in Uptown Port Townsend for shopping, music, refreshments and more!

2024 Holiday Open House

Thursday, Dec. 12, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Celebrate the season at the Jefferson County Library's annual Holiday Open House. Jefferson County Library, 620 Cedar Ave., Port Hadlock.

For more information: jclibrary.info

'The Nutcracker' Ballet

Friday, Dec. 13,
& Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14,
& Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker" is a two-act ballet traditionally performed during the holiday season, with music composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

It tells the story of a young girl named Clara who receives a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve.

That night, she is swept into a fantastical world where toys come to life, battling an army of mice before journeying to the Land of Sweets. There, Clara is honored by the Sugar Plum Fairy and enchanted by a series of whimsical dances.

Holiday Extravaganza

Saturday, Dec. 14, from noon to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with JCHS and KPTZ's annual Holiday Extravaganza! Phil Andrus will host live from the Historical Museum, and a board operator will broadcast from Building 305.

Chimacum Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School Campus.
More info at chimacumarts.com

Last minute holiday gift wrapping

Monday, Dec. 16

Representatives from the nonprofit Olympic Neighbors will wrap your locally purchased gifts with flair under the heated tent at Tyler Plaza. Their mission is to create home and community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Olympic Peninsula Steam Big Brass Yule Ball

Monday, Dec. 16, from 7 to 10 p.m.

At the American Legion, downtown Port Townsend.

Solstice Party at the Fairgrounds

Saturday, Dec. 21, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Celebrate the solstice with a bonfire, tractor rides, soup, cupcakes and hot drinks. There will be a mak-

er's market and music, followed by the crowning of the Solstice Queen/King.

Chuck Easton Holiday Jazz Quintet

Saturday, Dec. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Finnriver welcomes The Chuck Easton Quintet featuring Chuck on guitar, flute, saxophone, chromatic harmonica and some vocals. The quintet plays originals as well as jazz standards, old and new, mostly straight-ahead, but also some funkier tunes. For this event, you can expect to hear a nice variety of holiday standards mixed in.

First Night in Port Townsend.

Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 3 to 9 p.m.

Presented by the Production Alliance, First Night is an all-ages New Year's Eve celebration featuring live music and performances, interactive art experiences, heritage and historic exhibits, food, fireworks and more!

For more information: theproductionalliance.org

The PT NYE Bash

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Celebrate the 3rd annual event at the Legion Hall Dec. 31! Live music by Kalan Wolfe & The Shift, as well as other acts. Doors open at 8:15 p.m.

All events are subject to change.

For more information about the holidays in Port Townsend visit ptmainstreet.org or enjoypt.com.



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One market to serve the artists and their community

Karen Robinson has lent the name of her business, Timber Forest, to an artists market in Quilcene.

“People know Timber Forest Candles, but this is a collaborative. It’s not my show, it’s our show,” she told The Leader.

The market, she said, is intended to showcase Brinnon and Quilcene crafters and artists in a place where the vendors can sell their wares without paying a commission.

“So we rent out the community center, kind of like a co-op, and we just split the costs.”

Robinson said vendors often pay a 30% commission to put their work into a store.

“Or large fees when you go to a market. You have to pay \$30 to \$40 for a table, and you have to travel all over the place. It’s time consuming and a lot

of work. I wanted a place for shoppers to go and to have a unique experience.”

Robinson said vendors at Timber Forest Artists Market offer one-of-a-kind gifts for holiday shoppers.

“Things you wouldn’t normally see at a craft fair – they can hand-craft you something if you like. Everything at this market is non-toxic, organic with no carcinogens; our soaps are all pure.

“We have a woman doing up-cycled denim, and she knits to raise money for cancer. Everyone here, they give back to their community.”

The Timber Forest Artists Market in Quilcene is a cooperative fair allowing artists and vendors to give back to their community. *Courtesy photos*



Robinson touted an artist’s hand-made cards, calling them, “exquisite,” and a baker who will be at the market in December.

“We have one painter who is just phenomenal – this young lady is going places – and another artist is joining us soon,” she promised.

The Timber Forest Artists Market is located at the Quilcene Community Center, and the show dates are all on Sundays: Nov. 24, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The market will continue after the holidays.

“We plan on every second Sunday we will be there because on the first Sunday they have a pancake breakfast, which is open to the community, and we do want to plug that,” she said. “We love that center. We’re getting big and it’s gonna be crowded in there.”

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"Snowman" by Julie Senf

Art gallery in Sequim to put 'Visions of Winter' on display

Blue Whole Gallery in Sequim is celebrating this holiday season with their latest show, "Visions of Winter."

Displayed in the front windows will be winter-themed works from all the gallery artists. Shayna Robnett, whose artistic medium is oil painting, is curating the window display.

When asked about the show, Robnett talked about the challenge of combining the work of 29 artists into one display.

"Everyone's work is so unique and different! Combining the paintings with the 3-D work and having the display look balanced is an undertaking.

"It's all about color and size."

Robnett's work will be featured through the month of December. Blue Whole Gallery is also featuring a Holiday Gift Gallery again this year.

The Gallery will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Artists will be on hand Dec. 6 for First Friday Art Walk.



"Santa" by Molly White

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Holiday Gift Guide

Holiday Art Fair

Sat., Dec. 7

10am-3pm

The Beach Club

121 Marina View Dr.
Port Ludlow

Shop for paintings to pottery, jewelry to cards, glasswork to woodwork. A bake sale helps us raise funds for our Scholarship program benefiting Jefferson County.



Thank you for supporting local artists!

www.portludlowart.org

Holiday Open House

Wed., Dec. 11

10am-7pm

Art Gallery

9500 Oak Bay Rd.
Port Ludlow

Enjoy seasonal refreshments while you shop for the perfect gift, stocking stuffer, or something special for yourself.

❄ Enter to win a \$200 gift certificate from the Port Ludlow Art League Gallery.

Bring a new, unwrapped gift (ages 0-teen) for the Sound Community Bank's Toy Drive.



Whitney Gardens and Nursery is near Dosewallips State Park on Highway 101 in south Jefferson County. *Courtesy photos*

You may feel a tickle

Ellie Sather moved home in 1980 to help her widowed mother, Anne, run the Peninsula's Whitney Gardens.

Anne and Ellie's father, George, had purchased the sprawling gardens and nursery just 10 years earlier when William Whitney's health began to fail.

"My parents did a lot improvements here and we continue to do the same, that's what life, isn't it?" Sather told *The Leader* in a recent interview. She added that the Whitneys, who were farmers, founded Whitney Gardens and Nursery in 1955.

Bill and Faye bought seven acres of pasture land from the people who owned the original Brinnon Farm, which was here from the early 1900s. They ran cows and people would come and get their milk. You know, it was pretty remote."

That remoteness, Sather said, is a big part of the garden's charm. "Most people, when they come

here, look around and say, 'how long has this been here?'"

That curiosity, she said, stems from the fact that few nurseries have their own gardens, where customers can get a sense of how large a plant or tree might get.

The people at Whitney, she said, take great care in insuring that what they sell, make it safely to their new home.

"People are sometimes surprised by such a big tree and that it will be lovingly put in a truck. If you want a tree that is 14-feet tall, you want to get that home. We do deliver, yes, but we can usually get that in your truck or van. Let's say you want a six-foot maple. We can get that into your van - you may have a little bit of a tickle but not much," she promised.

Whitney Gardens has evolved over the years, from a place that once specialized in rhododendrons, to what consumers demand in 2025. For a while, that meant perennials

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but they can be a lot of work for an amateur gardener.

“People still use them but they’re buying in lesser numbers and looking for something that is very unusual. And they’re interested in having good products at a cheaper price,” she said.

Sather said she sees Whitney Gardens as more than a nursery.

“We are a tourist attraction in some ways, because of who we are and where we are. People can run away from home and come and see us. It is a very nice way to get away from the traffic, have a nice lunch from one of our local establishments, and walk around the garden. People can walk around here with the carts and pick up what they like or we can dig them out and put them in their carts.

“They want to hike, maybe canoe, just kick off their shoes and relax. They come and just enjoy the gardens. Would I like to go into the city? No, do I do it? Very rarely,” she said.

Despite its old world charm,

Sather recognizes the realities of the internet.

“People can’t always drive, or have the resources to come here. But we reach out to the people who know where they can get a good price, a healthy plant and a nice place to go. Most places don’t have a garden so we sort of enlighten people to help them understand what gardening is about, but most of the people who come here are pretty astute - we try to give out the most information as we can,” Sather said, adding that a new website should go online in December, expediting their mail order business.

“I have hopefully found the next generation. They’re not farmers, they’re accountants and we hope that they will continue this,” she said, noting that she isn’t planning a move.

“I’m going to stay here. My bottom line is still good. People have to pay more for plants in the big city and so I make sure my prices are less.” Whitney Gardens and Nursery is open daily 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Ellie Sather of Whitney Gardens and Nursery.

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First Night

December 31st

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3PM & 5PM



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- Lantern Parade with the Unexpected Brass Band
- Fire Spinning Show
- Fireworks Finale to celebrate the new year at 7PM

Plus, enjoy the First Night Circus at the American Legion Hall, hands-on activities at the Museum of Art + History, Improv Theatre at Key City Playhouse and lantern-making at the Cotton Building.

For a full schedule and ticket details, visit

FirstNightPT.org



Suggested Donation: \$10 per person or \$20 per family (no one turned away)