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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Library's English Language Learning Program Resumes February 2025

(Friday Harbor, WA) – Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

The Library's English Language Learning (ELL) program will resume on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, and run through Thursday, May 22, 2025. Classes will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, offering a welcoming space for the English-learning community. Classes are free of charge, with materials and snacks provided.

Since its soft re-launch in Spring 2024, the ELL program has grown from one participant to over 30 attendees, including nearly 10 children, thanks to the support of 15 dedicated volunteers. Participants have shared their positive experiences, including Ana C., who said, "The English Program is very good. Thanks to everyone for your help and your time."

Key program highlights include:

- **Expanded Library Hours:** The Library now operates evening hours on nights when ELL classes meet, increasing accessibility and attendance.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** The Library has revitalized its role as a hub for the Spanish-speaking and English learning community, strengthening partnerships with local organizations like the Family Resource Center, the Community Foundation, and the Rotary Club.
- **Learner Success:** Seven learners will advance a level in the Spring 2025 semester, following successful progress made in the Fall 2024 semester. Some participants have also reached personal milestones, such as U.S. naturalization, getting a passport, and health care training.
- **Volunteer Growth:** The ELL program's success has led to an increase in volunteers, bringing in participants from multiple age groups and backgrounds - a very special thank you to the volunteers.

The ELL program was made possible thanks to a generous grant from the San Juan Community Foundation, including the Women's Fund of the San Juan Island Community Foundation and The Thistledown Fund, a fund of Catherine Eaton Skinner and David Skinner.

To learn more about the English Language Learning Program, register for classes, or apply as a volunteer, please contact Gabriel Méndez at gmendez@sjlib.org, (360) 378-2798, or visit www.sjlib.org.

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