

## Red Ranger Came Calling

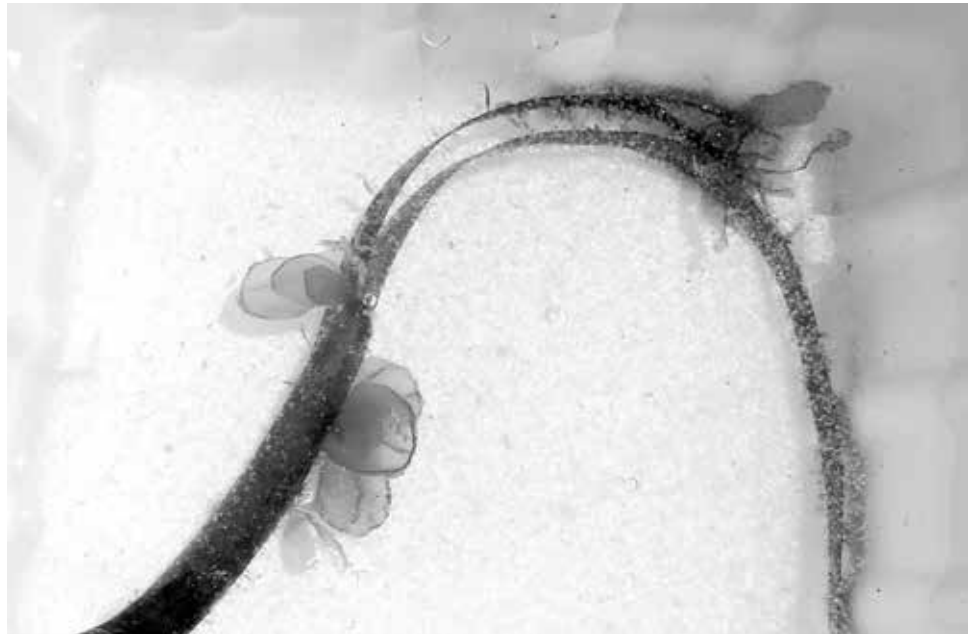


*Red (played by Orion Moss) meets the Head Elf (played by Rich Wiley) in Berkeley Breathed's holiday tale, Red Ranger Came Calling, presented by Drama Dock Dec. 21, 22 and 23 at Vashon High School Theatre.*

The setting is rainy, wintry Vashon, yet Red Ranger Came Calling: A Guaranteed True Christmas Story is a warm-hearted musical for all ages and Drama Dock's holiday gift to the Vashon community. The show runs Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 21, 22 and 23 at Vashon High School Theatre. Based on Berkeley Breathed's popular Christmas tale, the story takes place on Vashon in the late 1930s, and features such iconic Island haunts as Vashon Hardware Store (did

you notice the bike in the window?), the lighthouse at Point Robinson and Vashon's very own "Bike in the Tree." Breathed (of "Bloom County" and "Opus" fame) lived on Vashon for nearly a decade, and his wondrously illustrated book is inspired by a true story of his father's depression-age childhood, and his obsession with his radio and movie hero, Buck Tweed, Red Ranger from Mars. Breathed's supreme gift of *Continued on Page 7*

## Celebrate New Year's Eve on the Beach



*Red fringe (Smithora naidum) on eelgrass at Maury Natural Area beach. Photo by Jay Holtz.*

By Rayna Holtz

In the waning hours of 2017 consider doing something a bit adventurous, something with a possibility of introducing you to new and remarkable beings. Consider joining a group of beach naturalists on the beach by the north ferry dock to explore the pilings, cobbles and eelgrass while the tide goes out. Dock lights, stars and a full moon will supplement our flashlights. The lowest tide will be minus 2.6 feet around 9:30pm.

Instead of dressing up, dress warmly, with insulating clothes, raingear, wading boots, flashlights, and extra batteries. Be cozy whatever the weather, as you meet algae and animals that thrive in cold and darkness, from sea stars (there still are a few, especially at the deep end of the dock), to crabs, anemones, shellfish, and chitons. For some, it's prime mating season: frilled dogwinkles and barnacle-eating dorids lay eggs on boulders and pilings, and a few years ago winter beach walkers saw colorful kelp crabs gathering in mating clusters.

Among the assorted creatures under the dock, there's one surprising character that likes to dress up in fascinating ways. The small two-inch graceful decorator crab (*Oregonia gracilis*) has tiny hooks called setae all over its carapace, legs, and claws. To these, it attaches algae, sponges, bryozoans, hydroids, and/or other growths to camouflage itself. As long as it remains still, it blends perfectly with its background. This is its goal, for though its diminutive size and skinny legs make it seem like a paltry snack,

it has many predators, including other crabs, Pacific halibut, sea otters, and octopuses. Not to mention anemones!

One of the prettiest disguises we've seen on the graceful decorator crabs was a ruffly covering of transparent red algae, red fringe (*Smithora naidum*) (see accompanying photo, by Jay Holtz). Ordinarily, red fringe grows only as an epiphyte (meaning a non-parasitic passenger) on eelgrass (*Zostera*) or surfgrass (*Phyllospadix*), which have long slender blades and grow in the intertidal zone. But under the care of a little decorator with a bent toward horticulture (or silk scarves), evidently it can be cultivated also on a crab's carapace and legs. There's a large eelgrass bed northwest of the dock, so a *Smithora* disguise gives us a clue where its gardener usually hangs out. The name *Smithora* is from Gilbert Morgan Smith, an American botanist, while *naidum* is from the Latin for "water nymph."

The walk will start between 8 and 8:30pm. Park in the ferry lot on the hill and walk down to the dock, where a signboard and luminaria will then guide you to the bulkhead, onto the beach and over to an illuminated white canopy. Hot tea and cocoa, field guides, and beach naturalists will launch you on your adventure. This walk is free and open to all ages. Sponsors include Vashon Beach Naturalists and Vashon Nature Center. Thanks to Vashon Audubon for refreshments. For more information call Rayna at 463-3153.

## The Road to Resilience

### Re-examining The Season

Time for New Years resolutions, and there has never been a more important year for all of us to consider some. Corporate power grabs are more frequent and more brazen. Never in modern history has the disparity between rich and poor been more extreme. In the age of Trump, fascism, racism, misogyny, and religious intolerance have become more legitimate. Those forces have always been in play, but a consensus of condemnation has mostly kept them in check. The declining influence of the United States is creating global instability. Storm and fire events are so extreme that even the mainstream media is now mentioning climate change.

None of these factors are new. They have been developing for 30 or 40 years, hundreds of years in the case of climate change. Trump has certainly been a catalyst, but the slow and steady development of these symptoms indicates not an episodic failure but a systemic failure. As my friend Rod Smith might say, we just have not understood the context in which we have been operating. Nature is not a passive background against which we can make arbitrary decisions in our own interest. Nature will react and strive for balance. Nature will strive for a dispersal of resources, breaking up bottlenecks and concentrations when they

By Terry Sullivan,

occur. Domination may be temporarily useful, but it appears that cooperation is the norm in the long term.

I know that is all a big bummer, but there is a bright side. Think of the world as a single organism with a high fever. As the fever worsens, the patient becomes more delirious, and the body steps up its efforts to rid itself of the disease. At this point, either the body succumbs or the fever breaks and the body returns to health. The body in this example is not we humans, it is the web of life itself. The disease is inappropriate human behavior. Signs are that we are at the make or break point. Certainly there is danger, but, with the right effort, we can be on the verge of a major breakthrough. The manifestation of Trump at this time sure looks like delirium to me. The explosion of resistance and heightened awareness all across the world is a sign that our world body is trying to free itself of a bad system.

We have the knowledge, the means, and the technology to turn all this around! All we lack is the will. That's not completely true: we will have to put up with a somewhat worse-than-present climate change, as that is already locked in. But all the rest of it can be corrected if we put our mind to it. I'm not saying that it will be quick or easy. There are cultures

*Continued on Page 6*

## Live Local Weather [www.VashonWeather.com](http://www.VashonWeather.com)

The Vashon Loop has installed three weather station on Vashon Maury Island. Each weather station transmits it's weather information to [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com), [www.pwsweather.com](http://www.pwsweather.com) and Weather bug Back yard. The easiest way to view the weather information is to go to [www.vashonweather.com](http://www.vashonweather.com). Live weather information is also used on the [www.vashonloop.com](http://www.vashonloop.com) website and its sister site [www.vashonnews.com](http://www.vashonnews.com). Weather station locations are, Vashon Loop home on Gorsuch rd, Voice of Vashon at Sunrise ridge and Maury Island at the 3 towers with the sheep in the field. The best way to learn about each weather station is to find them on line, where you will find more Island weather stations.

Find out how much rain Vashon Maury Islands get and how gusty the winds are on Vashon's new weather site [www.vashonweather.com](http://www.vashonweather.com).





# Windermere

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# Happy Holidays!

From the Windermere Team:

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Connie Cunningham, Dale Korenek,  
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For show times and info check  
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Find the Loop on-line at  
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*The Loop's soy-based ink  
is good for composting.*

# The Vashon Loop

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Bistro & Sushi service  
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Friday, January 5th, 8:30pm  
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Friday, January 19, 8pm  
Jealous Dogs & Little Creatures



# Get in The Loop

## Submissions to the Loop

Do you have an event or Public Service Announcement? Email questions or submissions to Steven Allen, editor of the *Loop*, at [editor@vashonloop.com](mailto:editor@vashonloop.com). Photos are welcome as jpeg or pdf attachments.

### Alzheimer’s Association Caregivers Support Group

Caring for someone with memory loss? Do you need information and support? Alzheimer’s Association family caregiver support groups provide a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with memory loss. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1:00-2:30 pm, at Vashon Presbyterian Church, 17708 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon, WA 98070. For information call Regina Lyons at (206) 355-3123.

### Revolution Vashon

Revolution Vashon meets the third Tuesday of every month. We focus on issues, activities and possibilities to forward the Progressive point of view. . All welcome. 19834 Vashon Highway - 6:00 to 8:00pm. Questions call 206-496-4174.

### Have a Story or Article

Send it to:  
[Editor@vashonloop.com](mailto:Editor@vashonloop.com)

Find us on Skype  
Vashon Loop  
206-925-3837

Next Edition  
of *The Loop*  
Comes out  
Thursday  
January 4

Deadline for the next  
edition of *The Loop* is  
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### New Year’s Eve Moonlight Beach Walk

Vashon Nature Center and the Vashon Beach Naturalists invite everyone to a full moon New Year’s Eve walk at the north end beach by the ferry dock. Explore the fascinating world of the intertidal zone at night, as the tide goes down to a -2.6 feet. Park in the ferry parking lot on the hill and walk down to the dock. Luminaria will guide you from the dock vicinity down onto the beach where the VBNs will have an illuminated canopy with beach guides and warm cocoa and tea for folks to prepare for the beach walk. FREE. Remember flashlights, waterproof boots, warm clothing. Starts at 8pm, Sunday, December 31

**TRASH TALK**

Small, seemingly innocuous straws wreak havoc in oceans and on beaches. Why? The 500 million plastic straws used daily in the US entangle sea animals. Fish eat them. Straws are single use items, rarely necessary, and often not recycled, enlarging our mountains of plastic waste. So avoid straws. Or use compostable straws. Buy a reusable stainless steel, glass, or bamboo straw. Join the Straw Wars.

  
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### RJ’s Kids Kenpo Karate Classes

Kenpo Karate self-defense spring season classes for adults and children will start January 8th and 9th at the Ober Park Performance Room. Classes follow the curriculum of the American Kenpo Karate System. Participants who attend this course regularly will develop street awareness and prevention skills in addition to learning practical self-defense techniques. Participants of all abilities, ages, and experience are encouraged to attend.

Beginner children’s classes, with recommended ages from 7-12, will meet from 4:15 to 5:15 pm every Tuesday starting January 9th until May 15th. Tuition fees for 16 classes will be \$95 and will take them to their yellow belt and continuing level class in the next season.

Continuing children’s classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm from January 8th to May 23rd. Tuition fees for 34 classes will be \$180.

Adult classes (ages 13+) will be from 5:15 to 6:15 pm every Monday from January 9th to May 21st. Fees will be \$95 for 17 classes. This class is for beginning white belts to expert black belts.

Registration and payment by cash or check for all classes begins 30 minutes before the first class meets. Participants may join at any time during the season if space is available. Every Wednesday, from 5-6 pm, are free drop-in classes for all students with once-a-month sparring offered for all students above yellow belt. Kickboxing and Kenpo Concepts will be offered on other days.

The classes will be taught by Senior Instructor Alex Echevarria, American Kenpo Karate 4th Degree Black Belt. Mr. Echevarria has over 28 years of experience in the martial arts and is a retired public school teacher.

For more information, visit the Vashon Park District website and Vashon Kenpo on Facebook. Sponsored by RJ’s Kids: an island-centered nonprofit for all the people of Vashon.

### Vashon Island Choral

Vashon Island Choral begins its next session on Tuesday, Jan. 9 and will register singers beginning at 6pm that evening at the Presbyterian Church with rehearsal beginning at 7pm. Singers are welcome without audition for the session entitled “Legacy” featuring a newly commissioned work by composer Giselle Wyers plus “Country Wedding” by Buzz Brusletten and several Shaker tunes. [info@vashonislandchorale.org](mailto:info@vashonislandchorale.org)

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### VALISE Gallery Presents DISRUPTION

VALISE Gallery is pleased to announce a new group show for the month of January. It includes works from many artists exhibiting on Vashon for the first time. An Open Call for art on the theme of Disruption generated responses from around Western Washington. Fourteen of them were chosen for the show with interpretations ranging from political to formal and styles from representational to purely abstract. Don’t miss DISRUPTION with works by Ieva Ansaberga, Michelle Friars, jennifer hawke, Shannon Hobbs, Lin Holley, Jack Johnston,



Nevertheless, She Persisted  
Ieva Ansaberga

Gloria Lamson, Kelda Martensen, Allison Morton, Mary Schossow Schumaker, Cynthia Wessling, Lenard Yen and Kaitlin Young. The show will hang from January 5-27, with Artists’ Reception on First Friday, January 5th.



# Beer and Whiskey

By Seán\_C.\_Malone

Our Grandma Ollie always had us kids pour her beer down the side of the glass to keep the bubbles from escaping thus making less foam. She gauged our success by the height of the head of beer in her glass. She would know whether we had shaken the bottle up between the fridge and the counter and we never tried to fool her, or maybe just once.

Grandma Ollie was very strict; making sure none of kids took a swig. She did leave some beer in the bottle once and I drank it after I got back to the kitchen. I loved the bubbles that tickled my nose. When I stole a little sip off the top, Grandma never said that her glass wasn't filled to the tide line, a little white line around the top of the glass.

It wasn't until I was 11 years old and we were riding around in the back seat of John Middling's car when John gave me my first bottle of beer. It was after dark and I can't remember why Kit and I were in John's car, it may have been a 49 Ford, it's just too long ago. I do know that it was in a field down off Cove Road and just above our house. Bill Joslin's farm was in between.

John taught me to look thru the back of the beer bottle to read the dots or symbols on the label. They were numbered from 1 to 4 and I have no idea what they meant, possibly the beer vat number, but we used them to bet with. There were only four chances to win and guessing the right number of dots behind the label meant that the other person would have to drink his beer, chug-a-lug, or drain the bottle. Thus we drank more beer than we possibly should have. There was only one light on and that was the dome light. There were 5 or 6 people in the car and Kit Bradley and I were scrunched in one corner because we were the youngest. I remember staring at that cream colored light and seeing it go around and around and back and forth. I had the "whirlies" from drinking too much. I didn't say anything, just opened the car door and walked home, wishing



that I hadn't drunk all that beer. I just didn't see much to it.

We couldn't buy cigarettes because we weren't old enough, but we could buy the 3 ingredients for gunpowder, sulphur, charcoal and saltpeter, at the drugstore. We tried grinding our own charcoal, but could never get it fine enough to ignite. Our homemade gun powder produced mostly "fizzlers, or firecrackers that didn't go off. Our rockets wouldn't go 20 feet.

Kit stole cigarettes from his Mom who bought them by the carton. We liked the Herbert Tareyton's because they were longer and had filters; which didn't stop our coughing.

Our Mother smoked Camels which she got cheaper in Oregon because of the lack of taxes and would routinely make the trip with loads of orders from her Vashon neighbors and friends. She was cigarette smuggling in Grandma Ollie's 1941 Chevy coupe. We had an aunt in Hillsboro which justified the trip. Most grownups smoked, which made us think that they were getting something out of it that didn't show itself to us kids.

Sean@vashonloop.com

# The Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker

A firm family favourite with Tchaikovsky's mesmerizing score, a Christmas tree that magically grows, a battle between toy soldiers and an Army of Mice, and the famous role of the Sugar Plum Fairy danced by Royal Ballet Principal Sarah Lamb with her Prince, Principal dancer Steven McRae, this event presented by Darcey Bussell is not to be missed.

Peter Wright's enchanting production tells the story of Clara, danced by Royal Ballet Principal Francesca Hayward, whose Christmas is transformed by a visit from Drosselmeyer, a mysterious magician and maker of magical toys. Drosselmeyer longs to break a curse that has turned his nephew, danced by Australian Principal Alexander Campbell, into a nutcracker doll.

Matched with exquisite designs and world-famous melodies, this production of The Nutcracker has enthralled audiences for over 30 years since its opening in 1984. It showcases the full energy of the Company, alongside the emerging talent of young dancers from The Royal Ballet School. The stunning costumes, numbering around 600 and dating back to the world-premiere, are revitalized for the show.

The Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker



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# Spiritual Smart Aleck

By Mary Tuel

## Four Years

Well, friends, comes now the end of another year, and with it come Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the Solstice which will mean longer days and more light for us up here in the Northern Hemisphere. Hanukkah has passed. The sixth of January will bring Epiphany for western Christianity, and around the same time Christmas will come for Eastern Orthodox Christianity, and in February we'll be hearing about the Chinese New Year and saying, "Gong hey fat choy," or "Gong xi fa cai," depending on whether we're going with Cantonese or Mandarin.

I have my personal milestone coming up. On the twenty-ninth of December, my husband Rick will have been gone for four years. If you're sick of reading about it, go read something else. Thanks.

Boy, that four years was fast, but it sure wasn't easy.

I miss Rick every day, but I find that I have come to some peace and acceptance of his being gone. It really takes a long time to wrap your head around the fact of the death of someone who has been a part of your life for so many years. So many years that he still is a part of my life. I find myself having attitudes that I caught from him, and I remember often instances of his humor, and I laugh again.

I have a friend who says, "The peace of the Lord be with you," every time she leaves my house. One day I was baking something, and I pulled out the built-in bread board that lives under my kitchen counter. To my shock, one corner of the board broke off and fell on the floor.

"The piece of the board be with you," Rick said.

I feel like for a long time I made myself smash my head on the reality of his absence, trying to bring it home to myself that he was gone, dwelling in that harshness as a way of not feeling the pain of the great things about him that I miss so much. Choosing which hurt I wanted to feel, I suppose.

Now I seem to be relaxing a little, getting a little softer, smiling at the memories of things I loved, and things I did not love so much as well. Laughing at both sides of that spectrum. Looking



at his journals and drawings and getting a hit of who he really was, instead of the guy I idealize in my head. I think I prefer the real guy.

Four years gone, that man of mine. I'm doing okay on my own now. It feels like there is never enough money, a chronic condition of adult life, but then somehow there is enough money, and I'm still here. Go figure.

Rick's father's widow, Diane, and I have bonded over our similar journeys. We talk about belonging to a club nobody wants to join. She reported to me the other day that there is a new member, one of her sisters, whose husband has died at the age of sixty-seven, after almost forty years of marriage. It hurts to hear.

I know that new members come into the club every day, and I can only say I am so sorry for your loss, and it isn't easy, and it will not seem like time is going fast as you go through it, but in time, in your time, your grief will simply become a part of who you are. You'll never be the same, and you'll never "get over it," like recovering from a bad cold. It will change how you look at the world, and other people, and yourself.

Perhaps you will find out you are stronger, and weaker, than you thought. Perhaps you'll learn how to ask for help. Perhaps you will have more compassion for and connection with people who grieve, and more understanding of people who have not walked the grief journey yet. Perhaps grief will express itself in your art, in your work, in the way you care about people.

Perhaps you will love again. You never know. Life is funny, and people are strange.

I approach this anniversary wondering how it will be. Each one is a little different. I have more equilibrium, more peace, year by year.

I wish you joy, and I wish you courage in these challenging times.

You know, for years I have signed off letters, emails, and sometimes this column with, "Blessings, love, hugs," but lately I have found myself signing off, "Blessings, love, hugs, peace, and resist the damn fascists." I didn't mean to. It just started coming out that way.

I think it is an expression of grief.

## Buddy Needs A Home...

Get a jump on your New Year's resolutions, and resolve to make a difference in the life of a lonely animal (me). OK, so I had my 22nd birthday a while back. People say I don't look or act my age. I still play with toys, and I always meet people at the door when they come to my room.

Imagine yourself at a New Year's Eve party; when asked what you've been doing lately, you could say with pride that you adopted the oldest pet in VIPP's 33-year history. Now imagine how great it would feel to have everyone praise you for being so kind. That's the way to ring out the old year and ring in the new one!



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# Island Life Trump’s America

By Peter Ray  
pgray@vashonloop.com

*“I’m sure there was some familiarization, but the question is, how familiar was he with it?”*  
Allen Zarembski- Univ. of Delaware

Right from the start, I will have to state in this latest struggle with words in this space, that for purposes of clarity I will have to suspend (at least this time around) my substitution of the term 45\* for the name of the so-called current president of these United States. It will also have to be admitted that the quote above is not in reference to Hair Twittler, our Tweeter-in-Chief, but rather it is a quote from the author of the Art and Science of Rail Grinding, who is also a professor of rail safety at the University of Delaware. The quote comes from comments he made regarding the recent derailment of Amtrak train 501 near DuPont, WA, and was referencing the depth (or lack thereof) of knowledge that this train’s engineer had about this new route on this maiden voyage of this transport service. This disaster was also an occasion where our tweeting president chose to exhibit yet another example of his lack of familiarity with the office he occupies by first blaming the accident on congress and their failure to pass an infrastructure bill, before expressing sympathies for the victims of the crash.

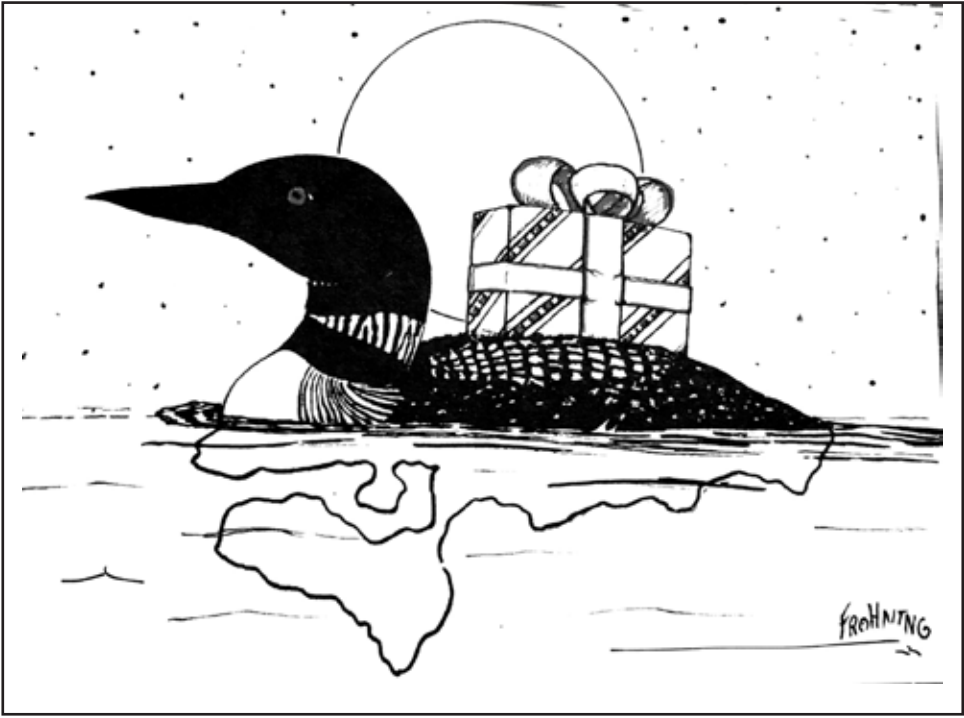
As it was noted fairly early on in the reporting of this accident, this occurred on newly laid tracks, put in place as a part of an effort costing nearly \$200 million to shave time off the train trip from Seattle to Portland. One could note, though, from viewing the footage from the news helicopters and a perusal of the Google maps, that in using an old train bed for this new venture, the old railroad overpass that spans I-5 had apparently once accommodated two sets of tracks and the curve that was initiated before getting to the overpass was extended onto the rail bridge in order to apparently try to soften the centrifugal effect of that curve. In going higher into the air space above these tracks via the Googlemaps one can note that, following soon after this one, there are indeed two more curves, all three of which bring to mind those graphic roadside warning signs indicating winding roads ahead by showing an illustration of a truck flying sideways off of the roadbed. It would seem that if anyone in a position to be in control of a large, train-like vehicle heading into this slalom course should have the sense to slow down before entering there. Moving backwards a step or two, one might also question why a route being planned and touted as a high speed rail project would have included as a design element a curve or series of curves that requires a reduction in speed of more than half of its average traveling velocity. I would suspect that taking advantage of existing rights of way had something to do with it. One could imagine that budgets and cost cutting had something to do with it as well.

In digging around a little bit I see that this stretch of railway is just a part of a bigger, \$800 million project known as the Cascades High-Speed Rail Capital Program between Seattle and Portland. There is however no mention of speed in the title of the project that this crash took place within- it is known only as the Point Defiance Bypass Project. I see from an article in Crosscut from 2011 that this bypass had been in the planning since 1995, at which point it was imagined as a \$91.6 million track upgrade, with

funds then expected to be coming from the federal American Recovery Act. It is unclear where along the way its cost more than doubled. While its goal of separating freight from passenger traffic seems laudable, spending almost \$200 million to shave 6-10 minutes (depending on whose estimates you want to believe) from a three plus hour trip seems a bit extravagant even for Trump’s America. I could see where, with fourteen trains a day carrying 300 passengers each, that could significantly reduce the automobile traffic that parallels this route on Interstate 5, but if the train route is barely faster than getting there by driving, where is the incentive for people to go by rail instead of car?

Getting beyond Trump’s callous politicization of this latest disaster (if one can), you have to wonder how the soon to be “best infrastructure plan ever” would include rail transportation at all. One would assume that, to the contrary, highways and oil consumption would be a Trumpian priority, along with of course private jet landing and takeoff facilities at all Trump hotels and golf courses. I could see a presidential decree that called for all trains to become coal fired again, so that would require at least a few new jobs for coal shovelers and water tower attendants, not to mention the coal miners. And of course there would be the caboose mandate, returning that lost but not forgotten car to the railroad scene, just because it would remind Donald of the choo-choo train he had as a kid. The front end cow catchers could again become mandatory equipment, as all of the country is proclaimed open range land, and the rail roadkill could be branded as Trump steaks and sold in the dining car as organic, locavore cuisine.

One of the things that could come of the Trump infrastructure plan is that the Positive Train Control (PTC) system could possibly then be fully funded, a system that could supposedly have helped to avoid the Amtrak 501 crash. In spite of an act of congress in 2008 that mandated nationwide installation of this train safety system following a crash in California that year, it is now scheduled to be implemented in either 2018 or 2020, as long as Wall Street and the railroad industry don’t lobby to delay for even more time to have it in place and working. According to a Union Pacific website, full installation of a nationwide PTC system will cost \$10 billion and \$500 million yearly to maintain. Supposedly the original congressional bill offered \$199 million in funds to help start work on the system. I see that the U.S. Transportation Department awarded \$197 million in grants for PTC systems throughout the U.S. this past May, \$1.2 million of which went to the Oregon Dept. of Transportation for the PTC System to be tested on two Amtrak trains traveling between Eugene and Vancouver, BC. But what about the other 12 trains running there, as well as the freight trains that also pass through that steel-railed corridor? All of this is very confusing, and does not seem to bode well for a speedy implementation of this or any safety system. What might make more sense and be a cheaper and more immediate fix would be to mandate two engineers be on duty in each train engine so that if one should suffer from a “loss of situational awareness” there is a second person there, like on commercial airplanes, as a backup. But this is Trump’s America, and nothing seems to make sense anymore. And given Trump’s own current distraction and loss of situational awareness, it seems highly unlikely that something as egalitarian as trains will once more be allowed to come back and be a player in making America great again.



## New Year’s Eve Renewal!

Ring in the New Year at the newly renovated Open Space! It’s an as-you-like-it night of revelry & rejuvenation, open to all ages with options for everyone.

Let the posse of DJ’s dance you into 2018 on the new dance floor;

Celebrate with traditional libations or enjoy specially designed herbal tonics and cocktails;

Chill out in the Tea Zone or realign your whole self in the Sound Immersion Room;

Chair massage available for tired bodies (hire the masseuse or exchange with a friend!) Pick yourself up with a cup of hot cacao brew, (coffee or tea if you prefer)and get back on the dance floor!

Celebrate the New Year with every time zone (four times!). So those who need to celebrate early can.

Basics: Doors open at 8 pm; Event ends at 1 am, 2018.

A children’s room is provided for childcare for a small fee. The teen zone is designated for young adults to hang together. Parents are reminded that anyone under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian.

Age 16 and older constitutes an adult ticket, and will be accountable to and responsible for respectfully celebratory behavior.

VIP Package!(Ages 21+)  
Do it up in style and roll into 2018 as a VIP! Gain access to the VIP Lounge,



our new upstairs room with a view above the dance floor. VIP Package includes private bar with a signature VIP cocktail, complimentary drink ticket for champagne or another libation, party favors and confetti sticks, light snacks and a special midnight blend chocolate truffle for the golden hour!

Tickets available at BrownPaperTickets.com and Vashon Bookshop. General admission \$10 VIP \$35

## Will Sing For Vashon Benefit Show

Vashon Events is once again partnering with the Red Bicycle Bistro & Sushi to host a showcase of holiday songs to benefit Island Nonprofits this holiday season.

The Fifth Annual Will Sing for Vashon will take place on Friday, December 22nd beginning at 8pm. The event is always an open call for Vashon Island musicians to perform a holiday song. In the past over 25 acts perform through the night and this year is no exception.

As we did last year, Vashon Events is opening the event up to allow audience members to donate money to any nonprofit organization they choose by specifying the name of the nonprofit on envelopes that will be distributed. This

way, all the nonprofits on the island can join in the fun, and benefit from the extraordinary night of song and community.

The event is produced by Pete Welch and Allison Shirk of Vashon Events with Allison emceeing the night. It will be fun, festive and for a great cause. This is yet another in a series of many special themed shows that will be produced by Vashon Events in the coming year.

The Red Bicycle Bistro & Sushi  
Friday, December 22nd, 8pm  
Will Sing For Vashon  
A benefit for our Island Nonprofits  
This is an all-ages show until 11pm.  
Donations will be accepted in lieu of a cover charge.



# The Cascadia Protocol

## #4: The Glass Bead Game

By Rod Smith

As a reminder from last time, what I’m addressing, to a large extent, in this column is epistemology...the theory of knowledge...the study of how we make sense of things. I was first introduced to epistemology by reading Hermann Hesse’s 1946 Nobel Prize winning novel, The Glass Bead Game, as a junior in college. However, I was not aware that that was what was happening at the time. You see, The Glass Bead Game, is essentially an extended epistemological parable that does not identify itself as such.

The Glass Bead Game has, over time, become a metaphor for the unification of human knowledge, a long sought after goal. Like Alice in Wonderland, it is one of those works of fiction that is often referred to in academic philosophy. Hesse began the novel in 1931 and it was published in 1943 and would be his magnum opus.

The Glass Bead Game takes place in the future in what might, from the descriptions, be Germany or Switzerland. However, all that we are told specifically is that the bulk of the story takes place in a province called Castalia. Castalia is totally dedicated to scholarship and the life of the mind. Residents are financially supported by the state, live a monastic, ascetic lifestyle and are permitted to devote themselves entirely to the pursuit of their subject of interest. Residents are all male (unfortunately for everyone, residents and readers, alike.)

The crowning achievement of the province is The Glass Bead Game. As the name suggests, the game was, at least initially, played with a set of glass beads. The bead set had a very curious feature. It was somehow constituted such that a mathematician could use his specialized knowledge to play the game against, say, a biologist or a theologian, or a historian etc, who used his specialized knowledge to play. Thus the beads provide for this cross disciplinary connection, this unification. And we see now that we are again talking about epistemology. The main character, Joseph Knecht, rises to the position of The Magister Ludi, The Master of the Game.

Hesse positively gushes about the beauty and majesty of The Game but never tells us how such a thing might actually work. The allure of this mystery has much to do with the international cult status that this novel enjoys. Here’s a quote from the novel...

These rules, the sign language and

Meaning The  
Context Structure  
Message of Sense

grammar of the Game, constitute a kind of highly developed secret language drawing upon several sciences and arts, but especially mathematics and music (and/or musicology), and capable of expressing and establishing interrelationships between the content and conclusions of nearly all scholarly disciplines. The Glass Bead Game is thus a mode of playing with the total contents and values of our culture; it plays with them as, say, in the great age of the arts a painter might have played with the colors on his palette. All the insights, noble thoughts, and works of art that the human race has produced in its creative eras, all that subsequent periods of scholarly study have reduced to concepts and converted into intellectual property -- on all this immense body of intellectual values the Glass Bead Game player plays like the organist on the organ. And this organ has attained an almost unimaginable perfection; its manuals and pedals range over the entire intellectual cosmos; its stops are almost beyond number. Theoretically this instrument is capable of reproducing in the Game the entire intellectual content of the universe.

Interestingly we are told in the Introduction, that the story takes place in what the narrator refers to as the Age of Feuilleton. The connotation of this French word, in the context of the story, is a tabloid...Like The National Enquirer. Thus the Age of Feuilleton refers to a time when society has been degraded and trivialized. Politics, the press and the professions have been thoroughly corrupted. The trades and commercial activity in general have suffered similarly. We can see many parallels in the present day.

Over time, the glass bead set was replaced by a calligraphic symbol set. The centerpiece of my Natural Philosopher project is the creation of just such a ‘second order’ Glass Bead Game. You can view this work at Vashon Intuitive Arts during the month of December.

Rod Smith, creator of The Natural Philosopher, may be reached at rodsmith40@hotmail.com.

## Island Epicure



By Marj Watkins

### For Soul and Body: Chicken Soup

In my previous column I mentioned Chicken Soup for flu prevention and to ease symptoms if you already have a cold, stuffed up nose, or the flu. How do you know the difference between a cold and the flu ? With a cold you don’t have a fever; with the flu you have cold symptoms plus both a fever and aches. Both are caused by viruses. This soup, especially if made by someone who loves you, will have you feeling much better in no time. If you’re okay but people around you, especially family or co-workers, are sneezing, coughing, or blowing their noses, you are exposed to the bugs. Make yourself a big pot of this Chicken Soup. It’s both cheering to your soul and a health booster for your body.

- Chicken Soup
- Serves 4 to 6
- 1 stewing chicken or chicken carcass or
- or turkey leg or 2 game hens
- Water to cover
- 1-inch knob of fresh ginger root
- 6 to 8 whole cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and sliced

- About ¼ cup dry sherry wine
- Or 2 Tablespoons vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 10 peppercorns
- Or ½ teaspoon coarsely ground black
- pepper
- Mirepoix (see below)
- ½ cup pre-cooked brown rice, optional

Put the ingredients into a large stockpot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer briskly until meat is falling off the bones, at least 2 hours. Carefully remove the bones from the pot. When they are cool enough to handle, remove the meat from the bones. You will be surprised at how much meat a chicken carcass will yield.

While the those ingredients simmer, make the Mirepoix. (French cooks make it ahead and keep it on hand in their refrigerators or freezers.)

- Mirepoix (say MEER-pwa)
- ¼ cup light olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 skinny or 1 thicker celery rib, washed
- and sliced
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon leaves

Heat oil in a heavy skillet. Stir-fry the vegetables 5 minutes. Add the herbs. Stir-fry another 2 minutes. Add to the simmering soup pot. Return the meat pieces, large pieces cut to bite size, to the broth. Bring to a boil. For a heartier soup, add cooked rice at this point. Reduce heat to medium-low. Serve steaming hot.

Enjoy for lunch or dinner.

## Road to Resilience

Continued from Page 1

of extravagance and cultures of poverty as well as misguided beliefs that are thousands of years old. The changes will become apparent in the new generations that come of age in the new awareness. We can already see evidence of change in the millennials, those below 34 years old. They are more tolerant and more open to less predatory and ecologically damaging economic and political systems. The most recalcitrant of us are the oldest, and we are dying off. There is hope!

So, the first resolution that I recommend to you is to cultivate hope. Really, there is no percentage in doing anything else. There is plenty of fuel for cynics, and it may be that nature will solve the problem simply by eliminating us. But that, in my mind, would be a great loss because we seem to be the only species on the planet (I may be wrong) that can think ahead and imagine a better future. We can fix things in the short term and optimize relationships as long as we pay diligent attention to feedback. That implies another trait of humans that you may or may not believe

exists: wisdom. It’s hard to imagine it exists, given that almost everything our society does these days is exactly wrong. If you think about it, though, we do have a bedrock of wisdom. Just the fact that we can recognize that we are now on the wrong track is evidence of it.

The next resolution I recommend is to become an active change agent, if you aren’t already. In the coming election of 2018, we will have the opportunity to overcome the diseased majority in Congress. I know it can be tedious, but think about the alternative! Do you want to live in the dystopian world those in power right now have planned for you? Their world can only succeed if your freedoms are squelched by threat of death or imprisonment. Take a look: that world is forming around you right now!

The only thing standing between us and a sane world is our own complacency. Let’s get off our asses next year and start creating the world we know we can have.

Comments?  
terry@vashonloop.com

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## Charlie Needs A Home

Whew! That was a close call! I nearly died after being abandoned in an apartment for weeks. When I was found, I was so weak that I couldn’t even stand up. Thanks to VIPP, I’m a healthy girl again. It’s fun to have toys to play with, and I’ve learned to trust people enough to let them stroke my beautiful long hair.

Now that I’ve been given a new lease on life, I’m looking for someone who will give me a good home and never leave me behind. Can I move in with you?

**Go To [www.vipp.org](http://www.vipp.org) Click on Adopt**





by Eric Francis <http://www.PlanetWaves.net>

**Aries (March 20-April 19)**  
It’s sad but true that the notion of a ‘career’ has been reduced to what you can make a lot of money at, really, really fast. However, while you may be famous for being a bit impatient, that’s not your racket. And planetary movement is offering you something much better: potential for the long-term success of something you genuinely believe in. Under this ethic, you will take this thing that you’re envisioning, and get it started in a small way. Then you’ll refine what you’re doing, and develop your concept, your working methods, your message and your presentation. Then, slowly, you build your reputation, based on the authentic value of what you’re creating; by which I mean the value to the people who encounter your work. Set aside all thoughts of passive income, going viral, making a big splash, or working at arm’s length from your clients. You will be directly involved, and work like a stonemason, fitting every piece of your success into the next.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20)**  
Your life has seemed far more complex than it really is; things are not really so out of hand as you might believe. In fact, as one development after the next (Saturn changing signs, the Sun changing signs, and Mercury going direct) happens over the next few days, you’ll gradually discover that you’ve been keeping on top of things quite nicely. You have a few discoveries to make, particularly regarding shared finances or contractual matters, though that information will help you strengthen your position and put a partnership on more solid ground. Yet that’s just the beginning. Saturn entering an earth sign will help ground you. The overload of energy in Sagittarius the past few months has been slightly more than you thought you could stand, though you’ve held up well. Saturn’s move will help you focus your priorities. It will take some pressure off your most important relationships. You will figure out once again that you’re a stable, ethical person.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21)**  
Your life has been like Penn Station at rush hour for the past couple of months. Everyone and everything has been going this way and that. It’s true that you like to keep busy, but this has taken ‘on the go’ to a whole new level. This week there will be several important shifts. Mercury stationing direct will help you work out a kink in communication, or some other misunderstanding, with a close partner. Saturn changing signs on Tuesday begins an extended phase of your life that will be defined by deepening commitment to your most important goals, particularly financial. In recent years, you’ve had a tense relationship to those who seem to hold power over you, though now that must come to an end. It will be your responsibility to manage your own affairs, to maintain your schedule, and to be your own authority. To the extent that people have any power over you, you must intervene and make sure that becomes a thing of the past.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
This week, among many important developments, Saturn enters your opposite sign Capricorn — your 7th solar house, or the zone of your solar chart that reveals information about your relationships — commencing a phase of your life that lasts to the end of 2020. While this might get less-than-happy predictions from other astrologers, Saturn is the planet associated with Capricorn; which gives it what the old astrologers called dignity. This represents a homecoming for you in your relationships. If things have been one way for a long time,

or a very long time, Saturn will present opportunities; not just for progress, but also for you to stabilize your associations with others. More on that soon. As for this week: keep a careful eye and a steady, guiding hand on all work-related matters. Evaluate your priorities carefully, and be prepared to make changes as needed. Amidst all the moving and shaking, there is one very important project you must begin in earnest, or bring to fruition.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)**  
Your solar chart is currently an orgy in an art studio in an airport being broadcast onto the internet with thousands of people watching the paint, passion and airplanes fly randomly, with nobody minding the control tower. By the end of the week, your solar chart looks like a calm but busy office, where everyone is productive, and where creative ideas are welcome and encouraged. The schedule becomes the most important structure, which keeps everything else organized. An aura of chaos will give way to calm order, and a priority being placed on wellbeing. You may not believe such a transformation is possible in just seven days. In truth it will take a little longer, though the groundwork — the revelations, the obvious necessity, and the most basic decisions — are likely to manifest in a very short time. There may be some turbulence in the process; though if you keep your priorities in order (mainly, your wellbeing and your productivity), that will not last long.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)**  
Certain household or family situations that have proven difficult to resolve will unravel this week, and you’ll have much more information to work with. Some pressure comes off, difficult questions find insights if not answers, and it becomes clear that knowledge really is power. For you, personally, it will be helpful if you follow Saturn into your 5th house of art, pleasure and play, and do your thing. If you’re an artist, lock yourself into your studio and paint. If you’re a musician, tune up the thing and remember what it’s for. If you’re into wine, consider that a talent and try something interesting. Whatever you like to do the most, make that happen. Your responsibilities have taken front and center for many moons, and your little kid wants to come out and play. This will be both easier and more meaningful in the months and seasons ahead; and offering yourself to what you love will help you feel the love coming back in your direction. I know for many people, life has been so stressful that we can forget why we’re alive. It’s time to remember.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)**  
When you dare to love yourself or appreciate yourself, that’s crossing a boundary. We’re trained to live to one side of an invisible line laid down by our predecessors. This is supposed to represent a limit on your bliss, your success, your curiosity or your willingness to try. Mars joining Jupiter in your neighboring sign Scorpio is a reminder that it’s OK to want more, and to stretch and reach for it. Because we’re talking about Mars, you may feel out of character, or like you’re faking it. Don’t worry about that. Part of the adventure is learning how to feel real about going for what you want. For a Libra, consciously experimenting with going out of balance is the way that you learn to tap your inner fire. One thing you can trust is that your foundations are strong. They’re strong enough to build on, and strong enough to accommodate your desire to make changes. Practice not needing anyone’s approval or permission. Don’t file a flight plan; just fly.

## Red Ranger Came Calling

*Continued from Page 1*

outrageous, glowing imagery lights up his funny, provocative characters and text. Brought to stage life by music and movement, Drama Dock’s show features an all-ages cast of Island performers. The original musical adaptation is the work of Myra Platt, Edd Key and Seattle’s Book-It Repertory Theatre. Drama Dock’s production is directed by Charlotte Tiencken (33 Variations), and produced by Sue Wiley.

The story begins and ends with a bicycle. Red is an irascible 9-year-old boy from New Jersey whose parents banish him for Christmas of 1939 to his Aunt Vy’s house on Vashon, “a damp little island somewhere off the country’s upper left-hand corner.” Disillusioned with adults, grumpy and sulky, Red reimagines himself as his beloved movie hero from Mars. “It was that universe,” Breathed writes, “cluttered with space

Nazis and princess nabbers, that seemed to need him more than his own.” All he desires is a flashy red superhero bicycle, sitting in the Vashon Hardware Store window, to become that hero himself. But the bike eludes him. Though Red is a “sour-faced” cynic, he meets a “genuine elf,” takes a risk, and the story unfolds with true belief, compassion and joy.

Drama Dock presents:  
Red Ranger Came Calling: A Guaranteed True Christmas Story  
Thursday-Saturday  
Dec. 21, 22, 23 at 7:00 pm; Dec. 23 matinee at 2 pm  
Vashon Island High School Theatre  
Tickets at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or Vashon Bookshop  
\$20 general; \$18 Drama Dock members, seniors, students  
\$12 youth 12 & under

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)**  
You’re on an inner quest, burning with the desire to discover yourself. This works two ways. Way one is that you go out of your way to seek and find. Way two is you raise your awareness level and notice what comes to you, or what’s already available in your environment. I suggest you depend more on Way 2, because there’s just so much right within reach, and much more coming. You just don’t need to try that hard, or exert any extra effort, other than paying attention to what’s within walking distance, right in the house, on your desk or in your notebook. There’s so much abundance in your life, particularly spiritual and creative but also of resources, that you will surprise yourself with what you discover. Much of the struggle of life can be resolved by engaging yourself with life. Questions about your finances can be resolved by getting into the flow of productivity: not just what you do, but what you make.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)**  
Most of this week’s astrology is focused on your sign, and there’s quite a bit. Three interesting points: Saturn leaves Sagittarius after nearly three years, Mercury stations direct, and there’s a New Moon conjunct the Galactic Center. All of these symbols describe renewal, release, and expansion. It’s as if you’re being set free to experience a taste of your future. This will happen whether you plan it or not. It doesn’t matter where you are or what you’re doing; you will see evidence that your environment is changing. Notice who is around you. Notice the opportunities that emerge. Notice your impressions of the weather. Celebrate the most basic elements of your life and your surroundings. As Saturn changes signs, you may notice that a certain shaky, quaky feeling goes away and you discover that you’re made of more solid stuff than you previously thought. This will help you focus your plans and place emphasis on keeping your commitments, whether to yourself or to others.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)**  
Saturn entering your birth sign on Tuesday is the moment you’ve been waiting for, though that will be easier to discern once it’s happened. How this looks in the symbolism of astrology is that a hidden or missing aspect of yourself returns to you. Once you figure out that it’s back, you realize it always was there; and you can’t figure out how you missed it all this time. Saturn does have a way of pushing changes, though it also brings a sense of stability. The two work together: it helps to have a strong core when you want to rearrange your life. This will be in contrast to the kinds of changes you’ve experienced during the long, long spell that Pluto has

been in your sign — that feeling of having your growth and evolution pushed onto you, and seeming to be out of your control. Saturn brings that back into balance. Rather than push ahead, though, you might spend some time cleaning up some of the debris from the demolition process of Pluto, and sort out what you want to keep and what you want to toss.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)**  
Most contemporary astrologers use Uranus as the planet associated with Aquarius, without mentioning that the original planet, from the days of Aristotle, was Saturn. (If you understand Saturn, you will understand Aquarius and vice versa.) This week, Saturn changes signs, entering the other realm it’s responsible for, your neighboring sign Capricorn. Also called your 12th solar house, this angle of your chart is about your interior world, and Saturn’s entry here describes an extended phase of claiming your inner knowledge. There’s also something here about negotiating a new relationship with the fears of your ancestors, and their psychological baggage. Most of the spiritual challenges you face predate you by generations. Your life will be easier if you sort out what is theirs from what is yours; this would include most of your fears and your anxieties; any guilt you may experience; and a certain rigid quality that you just don’t need and don’t want. As with yoga, rock climbing or physical therapy, this will require you to stretch, and you will get the benefits of flexibility.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Events this week will remind you how much you’ve accomplished these past three years of Saturn moving across your solar 10th house: the one that’s about career, reputation, responsibility and success. You cannot really go wrong with Saturn in the 10th, though the combination of Saturn and Sagittarius is not necessarily easy. This was not about having the Midas touch but rather that of a carpenter, architect or engineer. You owe it to yourself to recall carefully what your life was about in 2014 and early 2015: what you were doing, how you were doing it, what goals you set for yourself and how you thought you might accomplish them. Notice the differences between how you related to your work way back then, and how you relate to it now. While these three years may not have been an easy run, you succeeded at making something that’s heavier than air fly through the air. And you’ve arrived at a new destination, and are standing on solid ground.

Read Eric Francis daily at [www.PlanetWaves.net](http://www.PlanetWaves.net)




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LOCATED INSIDE  
PANDORA'S BOX



### ISLAND ESCROW SERVICE



Dayna Muller  
Escrow Officer

Patrick Cunningham  
Designated Escrow Officer

**206-463-3137**  
[www.islandescrow.net](http://www.islandescrow.net)

Serving Washington  
State since 1979  
Notary  
Insured, licensed and bonded  
*Discount to repeat clients*

### DANNY'S TRACTOR SERVICE 206-920-0874

- ▶ Land and storm damage clean up
- ▶ Tree Cutting and removal
- ▶ Field mowing, brush cutting and tilling
- ▶ Hauling and refuse removal
- ▶ Scrap metal removal
- ▶ Driveway repair and grading

→ **Dan Hardwick**  
[oldredtruck@comcast.net](mailto:oldredtruck@comcast.net)

Deadline for the next  
edition of *The Loop* is  
**Saturday, Dec. 30**



### Sporty's RESTAURANT & BAR

*Where the Locals Go!!*  
Family run business for over 30 years  
17611 Vashon HWY SW  
206.463.0940

Live  
Music

Homestyle Breakfasts  
and  
Plate Size Pancakes  
*Breakfast served till 5pm  
Fri, Sat & Sun*

Sports on  
5  
HD TV's

*Open 7 days a week 6 am til 2am*

VISIT US IN THE HISTORIC 100-YEAR-OLD ROASTERIE BUILDING WE CALL HOME



ALL ORGANIC PASTRIES,  
BREAKFAST & LUNCH FARE.  
ESPRESSO & TEA BAR  
COFFEE ROASTED DAILY

OVER 350 BULK HERBS,  
SPICES & TEA.

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### Espresso

Latte and Wisdom  
To Go

**Monday - Friday 5:30am - 3:00pm**  
**Saturday 7:00am - 3:00pm**  
**Sunday 8:00am - 2:00pm**  
17311 Vashon Hwy Sw

Cash &  
Checks  
Welcome

### PANDORA'S BOX

Happy Holidays to all!  
Each and every earthly species,  
no matter their religious ideology, political leanings,  
sexual preference nor gender.  
I just don't care.

Bo's Pick of the Week: Hates the new Nutrisource cat cans. Not a strong selling point. Perhaps your feline will LOVE them.



**(206) 463-3401**  
\$8 Nail trimming with no appointment  
17321 Vashon Hwy SW Big Red building w/Animal Stuff on the porch

*Vashon Sportsmens Club*

### NEW YEAR

8pm til Late  
Members and Guests



Sunday  
31  
DEC