

In This Issue: Help keep our community together (Pg. 4), How Dingo Lost His Voice (Pg. 9), the RQE asks "What is Art?" The Pottingers get a kitten, and much, much, more...



Vashon Audubon goes on a snipe hunt..

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Who said Rockbusters 8 and Unders don't look intimidating?

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Take part in Lighthouse Theater's A Christmas Carol.

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# THE LOOP

Vol. 4, #23

TO INFORM AND AMUSE -- TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

November 16, 2007

## Get Up – Stand Up!

Celebrate Backbone,  
Bob and Bob at Bishop's

by Amy Morrison, Backbone Campaign

The Backbone Campaign is bringing together another magical smorgasbord of Vashon Island musicians to Bishop's, Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The event will feature top local talent playing the music of Bob Marley and Bob Dylan. With Steffon



Proceeds from the Bob & Bob Music Fest will go toward creating more imagery for the Backbone Campaign's Procession for the Future. This puppet, a 17' tall Statue of Liberty, represents the call for a Humane and Fair Immigration Policy. The festival art pieces will draw in students, youth and others to learn more about progressive issues and to participate in trainings by the Backbone Campaign and Ruckus Society.

Moody as emcee and Kevin Joyce as auctioneer, the benefit promises to be an island extravaganza of music, fun and a celebration of the Backbone Campaign's successes.

Organized by Pete Welch, of vashonmusic.com, the Bob and Bob Fest will showcase 30 Island performers, including Ron Hook and Dylan Welch, Robyn Landis, Mike Dumovich, Mary Win, Jacob Bain, John Browne, Ian Metler, Patrick Bennion, Bob Krinsky, Sarah Christine and Sean Hoogan, Mike Marlatt, Eric Reimnitz and many more. A big thank you to Bob Krinsky for providing sound equipment for the event.

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Low Tide Walk, Audubon Chapter, Vashon Island

photograph © Ray Pfortner

## The Night Beach

*Under November's Full Moon*

by Rayna Holtz

Have you noticed that all the really low tides in the fall and winter occur in the darkness? That's probably quite agreeable to the occupants of the tidelands, who like saltwater and cold. The falling tide uncovers their homes but night keeps them comfortably cold and moist, and mostly hidden from the eyes of species like humans who are active in the daytime. Except sometimes people choose exactly these tides for beach exploration, like on the night of the full moon, Saturday November 24, when beachwalkers will congregate at the espresso stand near the ferry dock at 8:30pm.



Volunteers work on the landscaping at Vashon Household's Rosebellen community.

## A Vashon For All of Us

by Linda Barnes

Many on Vashon applaud sustainability. The notion of thrift and utility resonates with the values of our community. Often, sustainability is referenced in terms of energy, resources and economies. Rarely do we consider what it takes to assure the sustainability of a community. Should we not endeavor to ensure the rich patchwork of people whose life experiences pattern the quilt of our Island?

Some would say that Vashon is a highly homogeneous community. When looking at other towns and cities across the Sound, Vashon-ites are relatively affluent, educated, and well-heeled. Diversity is not a term that typically comes to mind when thinking of our Island home,

Continued on page 4

## Brenno Opens New Studio

Eleven years after starting his glass blowing studio in his family's old auto repair shop, Vashon native Brian Brenno decided to move his operation home. For the past 18 months he has labored to create the perfect studio just beyond his front door. On November 11th his dream studio came to life as he blew one of his signature glass hats in the studio for the first time.

Brian Brenno currently markets his work through wholesale craft shows to galleries nationally. His first experience



At work in the new studio, courtesy photo.

with glass was in a stained glass class taught through Vashon Allied Arts and he saw glass blowing for the first time at the Pilchuck Glass School. He went on to receive a BFA in glass from the California College of Arts and Crafts.

Continued on page 16



Southern Resident killer whale spyhops in Colvos Pass. Learn more about their recent visit in the Dorsal Spin on Page 11. Photo by Mark Sears

# Get in *The Loop*

## Submissions to the *Loop*

Do you have an announcement or Public Service Announcement? Do you have something to say about a Vashon issue or topic affecting the Island? If so, please email questions or submissions to Ed Swan, editor of the *Loop*, at [editor@vashonloop.com](mailto:editor@vashonloop.com). Photos are welcome as jpeg or pdf attachments.

## Correction

Ross Fotheringham of Mill Creek shot the great photos of the ferry Cathlamet in the windstorm earlier this fall that appeared in the November 2 edition of the Loop, not as printed, Lin Simpson. The Loop apparently was one of several papers to print the photos with incorrect attribution, some did so without any attempt at photo credit. Other photos by this photographer may be found at his website: [http://www.pbase.com/trackside\\_photography](http://www.pbase.com/trackside_photography).

## Holiday Shopping, the Vashon Way!

Put down those catalogues! There's no better holiday shopping than right here on Vashon; after all, the annual Art Tour is coming! Where else can you combine shopping with the adventure of exploring the open studios of artists and craftspeople, who just happen to be our neighbors and friends!?

More than 100 of our most creative Islanders are getting ready for the 2007 Holiday Art Studio Tour, held weekends from 10 to 4 pm, December 1st and 2nd ,and, the 8th and 9th. The list is different every year, and, of course, the art is always changing.

Just grab a map for the self-guided tour, when we all become part of this decades-long tradition, visiting Island artists right where they create their magic. But this year, the variety of wares is even more diverse and colorful than the people who live here, ranging from paintings, furniture, toys, sculpture, jewelry and weaving, to glass, pottery, garden art, and much more. There's really something for everyone, and anyone's pocketbook.

Color maps are available at Island businesses, and at [www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com](http://www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com), making it easy to explore open studios and group shows. It's fun, free, and a terrific opportunity to talk with the artists, to see where they work, and to these buy one-of-a-kind presents, direct!

## Green Party Book Club

The Green Party Book Club is meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 25th at the Vashon Tea Shop. The book for this month is *Hannah Coulter*, a novel by Wendell Berry. It is available at a discount at both book shops. All are welcome. For more information call Jade Grace at 206 463-0977.

## All About Bulbs

Vashon Master Gardeners led by Helen Meeker will present "All About Bulbs", a free talk/demonstration at the library meeting room on Saturday, Nov 17 from 1-3 pm. Topics will include differences between bulbs, how to plant and cultivate, and forcing bulbs indoors for winter fragrance and color. Feel free to bring other gardening questions for the end of the session.

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Give thanks! The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit will have a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 21st. The doors are wide open; all are welcome.

*"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."*  
-- Cesar Chavez



## Get Ready, Vashon! Those winter storms are on the way.

VashonBePrepared.org  
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

## Unitarians Host Mary Matsuda Gruenewald

On November 18, Mary Matsuda Gruenewald will be the guest speaker at the Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship service. She was raised on Vashon Island and, at age 17, after the start of World War II and in spite of being a U.S citizen, was abruptly removed with her family to a Japanese internment camp. She has written a memoir of her experiences, *Looking Like the Enemy*, which reflects on her early life on Vashon, the Japanese *Nisei* experience, late adolescence, and dealing with grave injustice, all with

a courageous sense of perseverance and a core sense of values. She now lives in Seattle, retired after a career in nursing, and is a member of the University Unitarian Church.

Her book is available at the Country Store and local bookstores, and she will be available after the service to sign books for those who bring them. The Unitarians meet on Sundays at 9:30 am at the Burton Community Church, 23905 Vashon Hwy. SW. A special collection at this service will be contributed to the Washington Foundation of the American Civil Liberties Union.

## Farmers Market

Saturday, November 17, the Vashon Farmers Market will officially reopen to provide islanders with local food and crafts for Thanksgiving. In addition, Vashon Island Grower's Association (VIGA) will be hosting the second annual community pumpkin pie contest at the Village Green that day during the Farmers Market. Judges will include Leslie Brown, Beachcomber Editor, Rebecca Wittman, last year's pie contest winner, Emily Vogt of Emily's Catering, and Jessica DeWire, chef and co-owner of Gusto Girls Restaurant. Slices of pie will be sold between 12 noon and 2pm for \$1/slice. Pie sales will benefit the Vashon-Maury Island Kiwanis.

At the market you will also have the opportunity to buy Thanksgiving Day foods from island sources—look for eggs, milk, cream, meats, pate, cheeses, wines, greens, squash, potatoes, pumpkin, chocolates and more. Shoppers can also take the King County pledge to buy at least

one local item for Thanksgiving and win a chance at a heritage turkey. Crafters will be present with locally made products to give as gifts. Sol Source will be serving up hot miso soup, hom bows, chicken and veggie curry with rice, Japanese winter rice soup, teas, and sushi. The Thanksgiving market will take place from 10am-2pm in the Village Green.

More Holiday Markets in December

Mark your calendar for our two December holiday Farmers Markets in the Village Green under the big tent. There will be island produce as well as canned, dried or prepared foods that can be used as holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Also look for meats, cheeses, milk, eggs, cream, and wines for your holiday meals. Island crafters will be out in force selling jewelry, greeting cards, soaps, incense, massage oil, chocolates, cutting boards, warm hats and scarves, aprons, brooms, and many more items. Stay tuned for more information later this month.

### The Vashon Loop

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# HOME TEAM REALTY

## Troy and Marie Go to Mexico

*Granito a granito llena la gallina el buche. Little by little the chicken fills its gullet. That is the extent of the Spanish we learned on our recent trip to Mexico. That, and how to say "no" to timeshare salesmen. We did, of course, check out the real estate market south of the border.*

**Troy:** That was a great vacation! Is there any way we can write it off on our taxes? What if we tell our readers about the booming real estate market in Mexico? Would that make it a "business trip"?

**Marie:** I don't think so. But if you want to call the friendly folks at the IRS and ask them for permission to write it off, be my guest. Until then, I think we'll just call it a much-needed vacation.

**Troy:** I guess you're right. Let's not push our luck. Those guys have no sense of humor. And we really did have fun.

**Marie:** The market is booming—especially in Puerto Vallarta and the whole Banderas Bay area. In fact, it is so booming that no one really knows how much real estate is being sold. Although there is a multiple listing service, only about 15% of all properties are sold through the MLS. And how about that new Home Depot store right there in Vallarta? Kind of takes the charm away. Come to think of it, the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club already kind of did. But it's no wonder people are flocking to the area. The weather is unbeatable, and the beaches are amazing.

**Troy:** For better or for worse, it's definitely a rapidly changing city. As for real estate, the vast majority of properties that come on the market are new developments, sold directly by the developers. There is a good summary on the local MLS site. Go to [www.yourHTR.com](http://www.yourHTR.com), click on Interesting Stuff, then Buying RE in Mexico, then [mlsvallarta.com](http://mlsvallarta.com). On the left side of the page is a link to a Development Directory that shows all the new projects.

**Marie:** Not surprisingly, we aging baby boomers are fueling the demand. We are buying second homes, and retirement homes.

**Troy:** What do you mean "we"?? I knew I shouldn't have left you alone in that real estate office!

**Marie:** Leaving me alone in a real estate office is safer than leaving you alone with a timeshare salesman. Those guys can sell iceboxes to.... Well, never mind. I'm just glad we left the checkbook at home. And I have to say it scares me a little that you kept asking them about their various programs. You're not thinking of making a career move, are you?

**Troy:** Of course not. But timeshares can be a really great way to travel, and if any of our clients decide they want to know about the options, I thought I should be up to speed on the timeshare market. Sort of a professional development thing.

**Marie:** Oh, I see. The free bottle of Tequila they gave you to listen to their spiel had nothing to do with it, I'm sure. We should clear up a common misconception about owning property in Mexico. Many people think that foreigners can't buy oceanfront property or that we can't buy at all. Not true. Foreigners can definitely buy property, even in the so-called "Restricted Zone" (50 kilometers from the coast) by forming a Mexican corporation, or through a trust. We don't have room to explain it here, but the virtualvallarta site, accessible from [yourHTR.com](http://yourHTR.com) does a good job. A word of warning! The real estate industry in Mexico is growing rapidly, and transactions are handled very differently than they are here. Although it is slowly changing, agents are not regulated or licensed like in the US, so it is imperative to work with a trusted, established agent and a "notario", who is kind of like an escrow officer but much more.

**Troy:** We know a few agents we can recommend. And of course, we are happy to accompany people as "consultants." We won't charge much—just the price of airfare and a decent room. I'll even carry their bags!

*If you have suggestions for topics to cover in this column, or if you want to sign up for our monthly newsletter full of homeowner tips, valuable coupons, and the latest real estate news, please write [marie@yourHTR.com](mailto:marie@yourHTR.com).*

## Adorable Cottage in Beulah Park

Adorable, fully remodeled cottage with eco-sensitive finishes. Kitchen features recycled glass tile, beautiful cement counters, low voltage lighting, stainless appliances, Marmoleum floors. In the living room, Kempas hardwood floors make it cozy, the vaulted ceiling and skylight make it spacious and bright. Outside, catch a breeze, listen to the creek, and gaze at your pond from the large deck. One full sized bedroom and a small office make it perfect for downsizing or just starting out.

\$329,000

MLS # 27192127

- 1 bedroom
- 1 Bath
- Office space
- Partial Basement

13533 SW 171st St



## On the Creek



This historic house was once the camp kitchen for Beulah Park Camp. Now, it's a spacious and unique house in charming Beulah Park. The 1/4 acre lot borders a breathtaking ravine; open your bedroom window and listen to the soothing sounds of the creek tumbling into Colvos Passage. It's like living in a treehouse - with a cantilevered foundation and metal roof! The interior needs fresh paint and flooring, but the house is rock-solid and ready for an owner who wants something special. \$359,000

13536 SW 171st St

MLS # 27191401

- 3 bedroom
- 2 Baths
- .30 Acre
- 1472 SQFT
- Paint and Carpet Fixer

## Real Estate Factoid

In October, 9 houses sold at an average price \$583K after being on the market 55 days.

Same month last year? 19 houses, average price \$575K, 90 days on market.

Now you know.

## A Vashon for All of Us

*Continued from page 1*

though most here would assert that they are open-minded and accepting of cultural, religious and ethnic heterogeneity. And many would go so far as to say that Vashon is downright zealous about retaining the idyllic quality of life we so enjoy.

Yet, despite our apparent homogeneity, there are those amongst us who are not so fortunate. As the average house on Vashon sells for \$550,000 those with fewer resources go without. The vision of buying a home is out of the question. Some cannot make rent. Others sleep in their car because it's the only dry place for them and the kids to rest. And with the price of gasoline, they face choices about whether to warm the car or skip a meal.

Such people may be invisible to you, but they are here among us. Their kids go to school with your kids. They attend church, go to the Post Office, and complain about the ferry system as much as any Islander. In fact, they may have lived here on the Island for decades and recollect more changes in the ferry schedule than you can shake a stick at.

at. Some are our Island elders who sustain the lore of our rural roots.

It is through the services of organizations like Vashon Household, Vashon-Maury Food Bank, and the Interfaith Council on Homelessness (IFCH), to name just a few, that our community sustains the social fabric that makes for civil society on Vashon. Vashon Household assures affordable long-term housing. Just over a year ago, the Vashon-Maury Food Bank regularly served 200 families a week. The IFCH currently helps 8-10 households find permanent housing or a hot meal and shelter for the night. For many, this fulfills not only a temporary stop gap due to unexpected illness or job loss, but serves as a critical safety net so that they can continue to live here.

A multitude of organizations like these and Vashon Youth and Family Services, The St. Vincent de Paul Society and many Island churches provide assistance. All of these groups need our support. We Islanders, each and every one of us, benefit from their service.

Civil society demands that we care for those in need. It is our Island way. Sustain it.

## Aiding The Homeless

by Nancy Vanderpool

It's getting to be that time of year when we all stop and mark our thankfulness with a holiday. For the Vashon Interfaith Council on Homelessness (IFCH) we are especially thankful that we live in a generous place such as Vashon Island. One thing that makes Vashon so strong is that our community is filled with people who are willing to lend a hand to help their neighbors.

This time of year the IFCH needs a hand from volunteers who can give some time and financial support. Our funds are very low right now because we have had a greater than usual need this year to assist people in their efforts to obtain housing or keep what housing they have. We help support and advocate for the homeless and the working poor, (who are often in danger of becoming homeless), as they struggle with the high cost of housing, utilities, clothing, food, and needed medical and dental care.

The IFCH has helped dozens of Islanders find and keep a roof over their head. Our non-profit group, coordinating with state and county organizations as well as other charities, has found housing and jobs for many of our Island families. Although made up of volunteers from many faith groups, we are not a religious organization. We are simply Islanders trying to help our neighbors who are in need. We have no paid staff. Every dollar donated goes directly to our mission of helping the homeless on Vashon Island.

There are always new people who become homeless or are in

transition. For these folks a hot meal, warm shelter and a safe place to spend the night eases some of the stress of their precarious situation. IFCH operates a shelter for them on Mondays and Thursdays, at the Presbyterian Church, from November through March. These meals and shelter allow us an opportunity to become better acquainted with these individuals and families and help them to explore next steps in their lives.

It's so satisfying to see those we have helped who are now housed and living healthy, productive lives in our community. It's equally satisfying to work with volunteers who find their lives enriched by the experience of offering their time and money to this effort. There are many ways to contribute. Gifts of money and time are always needed. Financial contributions can be sent to: IFCH PO Box 330 Vashon Island, WA 98070.

Volunteers are needed for our shelter to give their time on activities such as cooking a pot of soup, providing breakfast, hosting an overnight stay at the church, or cleaning up after the shelter. We also need people willing to do occasional babysitting or to provide transportation for those in need. We can even use construction skills from time to time and people willing to donate and deliver firewood. These are just some of the ways Vashon citizens can pitch in. To volunteer call Carol Spangler 567-5302, Wesley Rogers 463-5566 or Sissel Johannessen 463-9326.



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## To Help The Food Bank:

Drop off food anytime in the donation shed at the food bank  
(located behind Granny's Attic and the Health Center)

We need:

Canned beans

Soups

Tuna

Mac&cheese

Soy/Rice milk

Toiletries and pet food

For the holidays:

Canned pumpkin/yams

Stuffing mix

Gravy

Baking items (flour, sugar etc)

Or send a check to: Vashon Maury Community Food Bank  
PO Box 1205, Vashon, WA 98070



### JOIN A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Fellow Islanders who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless  
need your help.

Type of help	Check if interested	Comments
Transportation on Island: e.g., help with moving, trips to food bank, medical appointments, Granny's		
Transportation off Island: e.g., medical appointments, social agencies, court appearances		
One-on-one support: This would involve working with a particular individual or family on a long-term basis. Volunteers for such work will be trained.		
One-on-One Advocacy: for housing, benefits medical help		
Provide meals: bring meals to the Shelter on IFCH shelter nights		
Shelter host/hostess: stay at the Shelter on shelter nights: Monday & Thursday, Nov. thru March		
Update & distribute social services sheet, a resource list distributed at the Shelter & other venues		
Babysitting while parent keeps appointments		
Help furnish homes and apartments		
Light household repair: to make living space more secure, healthy, warm		
Assistance with household tasks		

Volunteers like you staff the Interfaith Council on Homelessness (IFCH). Consider joining this vibrant effort. A small investment of your skill and time can make a big difference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Times/Days most likely available? \_\_\_\_\_

About how many hours a month would you be willing to contribute?

2-4      4-6      6-8      8-10      >10

If you would like to be a part of this caring network, SEND THIS FORM TO:  
Vashon Interfaith Council on Homelessness, P.O. Box 330, Vashon Island, Wa. 98070 OR  
Call Sissel Johannessen (206 463-9326) or Carol Spangler (206 567-5302)

DONATIONS ALSO GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

## Vashon Maury Food Bank

by Yvonne Pitroff

In this country, and on our island, food banks increasingly see the working poor. Where food banks used to be a temporary support during transitions between jobs, a helping hand during layoffs, a solution to keeping food in the house when medical crisis (and the accompanying bills) erupted in a family, they are now a way of life for many fully employed families...a way to get by despite an inadequate income. Nearly one in four people in WA State qualifies for government commodities as distributed by food banks. (And government commodities have been so cut back over the years that currently they only account for a minuscule portion of what a food bank does).

Here on our island, we have been seeing nearly 10% of the island population at some point during a year period. We were serving a peak



A volunteer helps with the Food Bank stock, courtesy photo.

of 200 families a week at the food bank about a year and a half ago. Some families are now limiting their trips and getting more each time with the increased cost of gas, some families have moved off the island, and a handful of clients have died this past year from health problems. The families moving off generally seem to be those that can afford to move off, those that can secure ready job opportunities that will support them elsewhere. Of those remaining, there are many faces that are very familiar around town, working at grocery stores, banks, doctor's offices, restaurants, doing various carpentry, painting or handyman jobs. Today our numbers show about 150 families each week, but we continue to see a regular influx of new folks every month. And now, with the change of seasons and the cooler weather, those numbers are beginning to go up again.

Besides the working poor, there are low income seniors and

physically challenged residents, many living on social security which has been proven to be insufficient to get by on. For many of them going out and getting a standard full time job is simply not an option. And within many of these households, working and not-working, senior and disabled, there are children. Children are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition resulting from hunger and food insecurity, and numerous studies shown the devastating effects on children of an inadequate diet, effects that will impact their lives for many years to come.

Currently, nearly 50% of food bank customers are either seniors or children, and nearly 24% are disabled. Many of our customers are working very hard, and still struggling to make ends meet here. In order to stay here, to raise our kids here, in this idyllic place that we call home, many in our community have been and are continuing to learn to live with less and less and less. And what this means, and what this looks like, is an additional story that needs to be told with the justice it deserves.

What has become the reality and place of food banks in our society, and the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank here in our community, is diverse and layered. The change in primary focus and demand, from emergency food provision through a personal crisis, to one of need for more regular support due to increased living costs without similar increases in wages, illuminates some basic flaws in our present social system that are not so easily remedied. There are no quick fixes, and the food bank will carry on providing what we can to anyone that needs a helping hand.

**Jackie Mollison**



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## Wizard of Oz Auditions!

Drama Dock is holding auditions for The Wizard of Oz (Tams Witmark version) Saturday December 8 10-4pm. Auditions will take place in the Vashon High School band room (adjacent to the King County Pool). The Wizard of Oz will be directed by Libbie Anthony with choral direction by Marita Erickson.

We are seeking adults and children aged 8 and above for a variety of singing and dancing roles, plus a few adult non-singing roles. Come prepared a simple song that will demonstrate your vocal range, pitch and quality (Two minutes maximum!). Songs may be performed acapella. A pianist will be available to accompany those who choose songs from The Wizard of Oz, or other simple show tunes. No boom boxes or other pre-recorded music allowed. Auditioning with a song from the show will have no bearing on whether or not you are cast.

Call backs dates will be announced. The Wizard of Oz will

run the last 2 weekends of April and first weekend of May 2008. All participants will be required to participate in frequent rehearsals the week of April 7-12 (spring break). Please contact Producer, Shannon Flora if you have any questions (463-5008, or beachglass@singinghearthranch.com).

Old Question ...	New Question ...
What's for dinner?	What time do we eat?
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Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, Nov. 23**



# Spiritual Smart Aleck

## Smart Aleck Writes in Sick

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

I was listening to the news, and they were talking about Rudolph Giuliani and Ron Paul, two Republican presidential hopefuls.

Now, be honest. How many of you, when you first heard Ron Paul's name, thought, "I don't think America is ready for a cross-dressing president?" I know I did. But now I realize that Ron Paul is the Republican, and RuPaul is the drag queen. I'm just doin' my best to keep the informed electorate informed.

Getting over mononucleosis takes a lot longer than I would like. I want to thank everyone who has helped out and sent good wishes. For those of you who keep saying, "But you're supposed to get mono when you're in high school, or college," I say, yes, you are. And you probably get over it faster when you're young than you do when you get it later in life. So I suspect. I have battled reality with all my will here, and it won't do - I have to rest, and keep resting, for a long time. I hate it, but there it is. So all I have to offer this issue is:

## Affordable Housing

by Margaret Cruse

This year and next, Vashon Household will open 45 affordable family-sized homes and apartments, and we'll be breaking ground on 14 more in the spring. Within a few years, over 230 Islanders will be living in perpetually affordable homes built by our non-profit group. All of these homes will remain affordable to serve future generations of Islanders. As these homes turn over, Vashon Household will be there to ensure that they are sold or rented at affordable prices to income-qualified families and individuals.

The median cost of a home on Vashon is now \$553,000. What does that really mean for an average family trying to buy such a home? Let's look at the numbers:

Home Price:	\$550,000
20% down payment:	\$110,000
Interest Rate:	6.25%
Monthly payments:	
Home Insurance (.003%)	\$138
Property Taxes (.01%)	\$578
Total Monthly Housing Costs	\$3,424

Many of our teachers, retail employees, healthcare workers and small business owners are far from being able to afford the typical Vashon home. Affordable homes at the low end of the market have all but disappeared. Today, there are only 4 homes on the market priced below \$350,000 and 2 of these are mobile homes.

At Roseballen, the mortgage on a 5 bedroom home is \$179,000. In lieu of a down payment, Roseballen homeowners contribute 35 hours a week to build their homes.

With the direct federal mortgages we are able to secure for these buyers, the average monthly

housing costs are just \$1,000/month (including mortgage, taxes, land lease fee and insurance).

Vashon Household is giving islanders opportunities they would not otherwise have to own a home, and in many situations, giving folks the ability to remain on the island. At Eernisse Apartments, which



*Finishing up at Roseballen, courtesy photo.*

opened last month, a Vashon Household subsidized 2 bedroom apartment (942 square feet) rents for \$ 785 a month. Half of the apartments at Eernisse have King County Housing Authority subsidies, based upon incomes. Rents for a KCHA subsidized 2-bedroom unit average around \$325 a month. We have renters who are moving out of sub-standard rental homes and apartments on Vashon, and former islanders who are able to move back onto the island because of our Eernisse Apartments.

To continue providing safe, permanently affordable homes and apartments on Vashon, we rely on the generous donations of islanders and foundations committed to supporting affordable housing in the Northwest region. Every year our volunteer board asks Islanders to give generously in support of our affordable housing work. Nearly 400 Island households donate regularly, with recent contributions ranging \$15 to \$15,000! We use

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these funds to get our complex and costly projects up and running.

It took \$400,000 in local seed funds (over several years) to leverage the \$9 million needed to build our two current projects. That is tremendous return on the investment of Islanders (a 22-fold return)! All told, your donations have brought more than \$15,000,000 in housing resources to Vashon Island since we began our work 16 years ago.

What do your donations pay for? They pay for staff hours to research, plan and coordinate future projects; the hiring of financial consultants, engineers, and architects; environmental studies; preparation of applications for housing development grants and loans; our -day operations and more.

When you give to VHH, know that your money is being used wisely and its effect is multiplied to benefit future generations of Islanders.

## The Night Beach

*Continued from page 1*

Sandra Noel and Karlista Rickerson from Vashon, and Daoud Miller from People for Puget Sound in Seattle, will talk about good beach behaviors and lead the group to learn about the lives of crabs, sea stars, whelks, anemones, and nudibranchs. If the weather is rainy and windy, the group may thin out quickly but if the air is still and moonlit like last year, people will be able to stroll along the beach following the receding waves further and further onto sand and stones that are usually deeply submerged. The tide will reach minus 3.8 feet at about 10:30pm.



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Early in the evening we should be able to see purple and mottled sea stars, and maybe moon snails, shore crabs, and red rock crabs. There are likely to be some big sunflower stars with more than 20 colorful orange/purple legs. Where there is a broad patch of clay substrate there may be burrows occupied by rough piddocks, curious shellfish capable of using their ridged, prickly shells to grind through soft rock and clay. The dock vicinity usually includes a community of orange sea pens, a kind of anemone whose large plumes resemble ostrich feather quills. Sometimes there are colorful nudibranchs in tide pools, exquisitely translucent creatures that look somewhat like glass caterpillars created by Chihuly. Fluorescent green shrimp also live in pools, along with blenny eels and clingfish. Protruding from the twisted leathery tubes of feather duster worms on big rocks, we may see bright red or orange feathery puffs.

The key to enjoying a winter night beach walk is to dress warmly and bring plenty of flashlights and reserve batteries. Waterproof footwear for wading is as important as warm coats, hats, gloves, and possibly rain gear. Long underwear can help insulate against penetrating wind.

This free beach walk is one of Vashon Audubon's Ebb Tide series. People for Puget Sound is co-sponsoring this event. Families are welcome. Please do not park beside La Playa Restaurant until after it has closed. There should be spaces available in the ferry lot on the hill.

# *Don't Forget the Birds*



By Ed Swan

# Snipe Hunt

Finding snipe on Vashon often presents a challenge only overcome by persistence. This fall has been better as Fisher's Pond still consists mostly of mud flat instead of water. Birds appear as early as mid-September in some years with October supplying the most records. The pond provides the most likely location on the Island with the birds either probing in the mud for food or basking or sleeping in the weak fall sun. Lately, small groups of 2-5 or so placed themselves directly out from the pullover at mid-pond along Bank Road and also just north of the little point of brush that sticks out there. Bigger flocks of 20 or more occasionally utilize the pond.

According to the *Birds of North America On-Line*, the word snipe comes from "snite" an old word for snout, pointing to the very long, thick bill of the Wilson's Snipe. Because of the bill, they bear a superficial resemblance to the dowitchers, another shorebird species that sometimes shows up here on Vashon at Fisher's Pond, Fern Cove and KVI Beach. The snipe's golden brown plumage stands out, however, with bold



*Wilson's Snipe*, photo by Jim Rosso.

stripes down its back and over the top of its head, unlike the dowitcher as well along side the head like the dowitcher.

Lack of appropriate nesting habitat likely means that snipe move off-Island in April to breed. No records of nesting exist here. They

like very wet fields and marshes. Vashon has few wet fields or unforested wetlands that remain undisturbed long enough for these birds to nest. One of the best possible locations used to be the wet field by the monument on Monument Road but the wet land was recently cleared. This proved to be a fairly consistent spot in winter and early spring and hopefully will be left to revegetate to some extent. Even here, the proximity to the road probably meant that only night time and early morning feeding stops occurred. Other places where observers find snipe include the marshy east edge of Mukai Pond and the wet field at the corner of 148<sup>th</sup> and Westside Highway.

One of the really cool experiences with snipe comes with hearing the eerie wu-wu-wu-wu sound of their winnowing in the breeding season, performed day or night. Produced by the exact placement of outer tail feathers, their steep climbs and dives force air over their feathers, creating a whirring pulsation. When they feed, snipe blend in readily with their surroundings but the winnowing in spring gives away their location. In the early breeding season they also perch in more open situations like fence posts near their ponds or along the edges of wet fields and emit a piercing, squeaking "keek, keek, keek."

In local birding news, a few good birds turned up over the last month. On November 9, Bob Hawkins noted a Brown Pelican from the Tahlequah ferry and Gary Shugart regularly found an adult Heermann's Gull, a pretty grey gull with an orange bill, at the old dock next to the ferry there during the first week of November. All through the month of October the wigeon flocks built up their numbers on both the west and east sides of the Island. Male Eurasian

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Wigeons with their brick red heads joined the flocks at Ellisport, Lisabeula and Cove. I spotted an American Coot with the wigeon flock at Ellisport on October 16. The first Bufflehead and Barrow's Goldeneye returned for the winter at the Burton marina on October 24, and I also observed a migrating

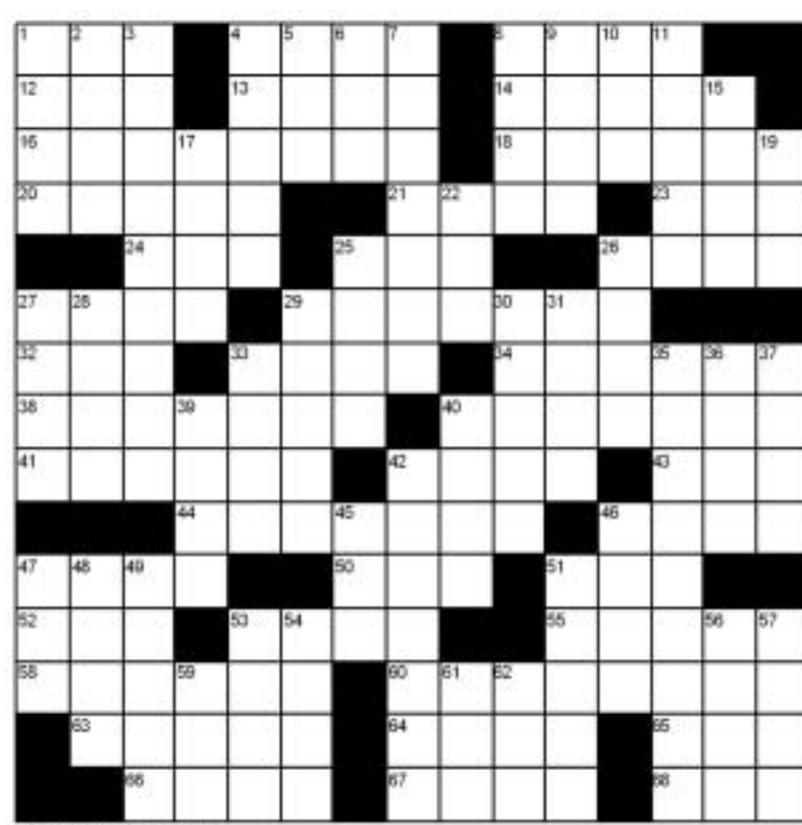
Northern Harrier that day. Abel Eckhardt surprised us with a report of three beautiful Trumpeter Swans at Fisher Pond November 7, something that happens only every few years. Gary Shugart looked out October 28 to see a White-throated Sparrow in his yard that he banded three years ago and has returned each winter. Since then Gilbert and Jean Findlay in Burton and Dan and Barbara Chasan in Dockton also report others of these rare sparrows in their yards. The Findlays also saw the first Common Goldeneyes a week after the Barrow's returned to the marina area. Lesser Scaup showed up at a pond in late October, giving Joy Nelsen a good look at this rare bird for Vashon. If you have a question about local birds or an interesting sighting or photo, call me at 463-7976 or email at [edswan@centurytel.net](mailto:edswan@centurytel.net). I'm also available as a guide to help find birds around Vashon.



*Wilson's Snipe*, photo by Jim Rosso

ACROSS	26 Let go	51 Male
	27 Heavy freight barges	52 Undergarment
1 Viper	29 Delicately skillful	53 Skullcap
4 Urge on prod	32 Paddle	55 Trim
8 Abhor	33 Snake sound	58 Type of taco
12 Constrictor	34 Strange and secret doctrines	60 Comic
13 Oil	38 Pales	63 Caffeine pill brand
14 Fat	40 Focal	64 Fake butter
16 Capital of Australia	41 Card game	65 Boxer Muhammad
18 Flog (2 wds.)	42 Ice cream holder	66 Twined fibers
20 Bundle of yarn	43 Sun's name	67 Dark blue
21 Chump	44 Within the sound of voice	68 Lysergic acid diethylamide
23 Bard's before	46 List of meals	
24 Vapor	47 Married woman	
25 Melac	50 Cousin	

DOWN		
1 What children learn	22 Less than two	42 Lightweight fabric
2 Saturate	25 Young woman's title	45 Slide on snow
3 Eulogy	26 Financial obligation	46 African nation
4 Dales	27 Elias ___, sewing machine	47 West by north
5 Possessive pronoun	28 Island	48 Persia
6 Reduced (abbr.)	29 Less coarse	49 Act of kindness
7 Overwhelms with noise	30 Aroma	51 Star Trek Dr.
8 Bum	31 Lucid	53 Dice
9 Cain killed him	33 Juno	54 Slime
10 Thirst quencher	35 Insecticide type	56 Buddies
11 Organic compound	36 King of beasts	57 Glided
15 European monetary unit	37 American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)	59 Hubbub
17 Prejudice	39 Biblical "you"	61 Wing
19 High-school club	40 Racoon's nickname	62 Reverend (abbr.)



*Solution on page 17*

# The Reigning Queen of Everything

## What is Art?

By Sarah Blakemore, RQE



We were 17. We knew all things. One day an argument arose about what constitutes art. Donald and Ben were arguing, Donald making some very deep and meaningful point about existentialism while Ben was eloquently arguing a more conventional definition. Tensions grew. Donald pontificated, Ben defended. Things continued to escalate. Ben, a product of the debate team – as we all were – looks for an objective source to determine a winner.

"Let's look it up in the dictionary," he says authoritatively.

"Right. Philosophers and the general public have been having the "what is art" argument for centuries, but really, Webster's knew it all along," Donald snipes.

**Touché.**

**Well.**

Recently the RQE has found Herself thinking about what makes art. The theatre space where I put on my show has movie night on Sundays. Different film buffs bring movies from their private collections and play them for unsuspecting audiences. Movie night is a pet project of Bert, who owns the space. ([www.eastcoastaliens.com](http://www.eastcoastaliens.com) for those of you who are interested.) Bert gives me the theatre space for free to do my show and generously splits the door take with me, so it behooves me to support Bert's pet projects. So I go. Religiously. No matter what is playing.

Last week I watched some black and white film about the misery of Cuba in the 1940s (?) that involved some guy driving a truck load of nitroglycerin through the mountains. 45 minutes into the movie, nothing had happened. As far as I know, nothing ever did. The week before was a documentary on The Cinema of Transgression, a cult film movement in the early 80s in the East Village. It involved a lot of people being very violent and oddly sexual with multiple gratuitous ejaculation shots. (no pun intended)

After the movie everyone stands around and talks about what amazing art they are making.

**Right.**

Apparently public masturbation is not limited to film at movie night.

Anyway, if the goal of art is to make you think, I suppose this art achieved its goal. But really, I'd rather think about other things. Standing in a circle of black clad aging hipsters reliving the glory days – the focus of the conversation turned to me. I had been silent, hoping not to be asked my opinion on what I thought was complete garbage. Mike breaks the conversation with, "This is the RQE. She puts on a show here."

**Great.**

"Yeah, I do. It's a vaudeville style variety show. We do comedy, sideshow and talent stuff," I explain.

"Whoa. That's cool, but maybe you ought to explore some darker themes," says one well known film maker.

I have a choice. I can argue with this guy about why I'm not having people masturbate and/or bleed on my stage, or I can play the stripper card. I play the stripper card.

"Well, I've been a stripper and a dominatrix for the past 10 years, so I've pretty much explored the dark side of humanity. I'm looking to explore happiness and joy a bit more now. There has to be balance," I say.

"Whoa. That's cool," he says with a look in his eye that says he'd like to explore a few other "themes" with me.

**Right.**

But I have accomplished my goal. I have shut him up by talking about stripping, happiness and joy.

Is it because happiness and joy are not representative of art? Is art that represents happiness and joy less valid than art that represents pain and degradation? I hope not.

The RQE has drawn a few conclusions. Art should represent the full spectrum of emotion – the joy, pain, morbidity, frivolity and mediocrity of the human existence. The problem is that there is a pervasive idea that every piece of art should speak to everyone, all the time and on all levels. I know of very few works of art that can evoke every emotion simultaneously or in rapid succession. I find this a nearly impossible standard.

My show is comedy. It is lighthearted and my audience leaves feeling happy. I don't explore violent sexuality or depression or sadness. I don't push the envelope on any matter of subjects, except possibly a few minor social issues. And I mean minor. My characters are happy, silly, funny people. This does not mean that they are less important on the scale of artistic integrity. It takes skill and creativity to make people react and, much to the chagrin of black clad hipsters, laughter is a reaction. And yes, even when it isn't ironic laughter.

The only standard for art is whether or not it stirs up emotion for someone, somewhere. And, in the same vein, the artistic process is an experiment. Any scientist will tell you that most experiments are failures. But they will also tell you that the value of those failed experiments is in the failure itself. A failure tells us what doesn't work. It brings us one step closer to the desired result. Art is much the same; there is value in the failure as in the

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## How's The School District Doing?

By Susan Lofland, Board Chairman and Terry Lindquist, Interim Superintendent

We are well into the school year and the weather is changing fast. Suddenly it seems like winter. The beginning of the year has produced a flurry of long term activities that will profoundly affect the school district.

First, we have completed two vision statements, both of which are intended to drive the district through 2012. Our Education Strategic Plan was written by a combination of staff, administration and community members. It was presented to the board for a first reading and later adopted at the October 25 board meeting. We have also completed a Facilities Educational Vision Statement that will be used to guide our Capital Facilities project recommendation.

Both the Grade Configuration and Budget Review Task Forces are well under way and are expected to report to the Board on December 13, 2007. We are trying to take a long term look at the facilities and program implications of declining enrollment as well as the potential large economies of scale that may be available by examining areas such as transportation, co-curricular activities, food service, energy use and staffing.

The Board policies are very dated, some going back to 1982. Thus we have commissioned an Administrative Board Policy Review Team to work with the Washington State School Directors Association to adopt the WSSDA model policies. This work is hard and arduous and will be completed by June of 2008. The legacy will be a new set of model policies and procedures – vetted by legal counsel and statutorily cross referenced.

Another initiative under way is the implementation of training for our principals and selected staff leaders to implement "Professional Learning Communities" in each of our schools. This program is a building based, principal led, professional development program that focuses on teacher collaboration around student work.

Many other exciting events are also happening. Please stay tuned and we will provide another update next month.

We may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its end. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. It has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless. —  
*U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, letter to Col. William F. Elkins, 21 November 1864*

## Through the Looking Glass

The stories of Audrey Watkins-Szala

Chautauqua Elementary School Teacher Andy James' 4th Grade students have as an assignment this year to open an imaginary door to a room, a whole new world that they will design and create. Recently, many of the students presented projects related to that room. As I perused the projects, I found this book of stories by student Audrey Watkins-Szala. Apparently, she had sat down and whipped these tales out in hardly any time at all. Her mom says that Audrey has been telling stories for years. Before going to Chautauqua, she was part of a carpool to the Madrone School. On the trips to and fro, she would make up cliff hanger stories about each of the kids riding together in the car. I think Vashon readers might be seeing more of this author's work in the years to come.

### **The Tiger**

I had a list of animals I needed to find for my room. One of the them was the tiger. I knew tigers lived in Asia, so I flew down there. When I got there I started hiking. I knew the tigers would be somewhere in the jungle, so I went through there. The other reason I thought they would be there is it is very hot and the jungle was cool and shady. But to my surprise, I saw no tigers.

Finally, I went to the nearest hut and asked where do you find the tigers? The woman stared at me a moment like I should know. Then she said, "Lake water." I thought mmmm. The next house wasn't any different and all the houses I went to said, "Lake water." Well I thought they must think I mean elephants, but I thought I'm hot and the lake sounds good, so I'll just go there for a look around.

I started walking up a path. Suddenly, a huge snake, I mean huge, slithered out of a cave. "Hisssss Issss, my place it hissed." It went for me, but then a big orange and striped thing hurtled down the hill and pounced on the snake and clawing scales off it. The snake slithered out of its outstretched claws and disappeared into the cave.

I turned to look at my rescuer, a huge orange and black tiger. "Thank you," I said. The tiger nodded. "My name is Stripe," it said. "Climb on my back." I climbed on and we raced through the trees.

All of a sudden a lake appeared in front of us. "There is a lake ahead of us," I warned. The tiger took no notice. It leaped into the lake, swimming with confident strokes. I noticed ten or fifteen other tigers swimming too.

"The tiger is the only cat that loves to swim," Stripe explained. "So what are you here for," he asked. I told him and the other tigers about my room. They all wanted to go. "We won't have to worry about hunters," Petal said. "Yeah," said Streak. "When can we go?" "After I am done with my travels," I said. "For now you will stay here and stay safe."

After I left, I thought about tigers. I had found one of the animals on my list and learned an interesting fact too. Next I am going to Africa to search for dingos. Wish me luck.

### **How the Dingo Lost its Voice**

One day a great forest fire struck through Australia. All the animals fled for their lives but four animals were left behind: kangaroo, horse, hawk, and a human child. The dingo ran back into the woods noticing those four weren't out yet. He saw kangaroo jumping in confused circles. Dingo grabbed kangaroo and pushed him out of the fire and out of the burning woods.

Then Dingo found horse galloping in circles. "Quick horse", he said, "you must get out of the way of the fire. Follow the river away." As Dingo turned he saw Hawk struggling in some tree branches. Dingo quickly chewed through the branches to free Hawk. Hawk flew into the sky beyond the fire.

Last, Dingo saw a child backed up against a tree. "Quick, climb on my back, ordered Dingo. Trembling, the child obeyed. Together they raced out of the burning forest, the child on Dingo's back. By then Dingo's throat was scorched and burned, so he could no longer bark. And that's how the dingo lost its bark.

### **Fox...As Sly As A Fox**

The fox can run 30 MPH. This is the story.

Every year there was an animal race. Cheetah always won. No one could beat him. On the day of the great animal race there was a huge reward for anyone who could beat Cheetah. Many animals entered, each sure they could beat Cheetah.

"I am fierce," Wolverine said. "I will scare Cheetah so much he will slow down."

"Ha," said Horse. "I will catch up to Cheetah and jump over him."

Fox was not so sure she could win. She knew she could not beat Cheetah by running fast. She would have to be cunning and trick him.

It was the day of the race. "GO!!"

All the animals started running. Soon Cheetah grew far ahead. Fox slipped though the trees letting out a yipping noise. Cheetah skidded to a halt, confused. Was someone behind him? While his attention was distracted, Fox slipped leaves in front of him, then shot past Cheetah. Cheetah looked surprised, then started running but slipped in the wet leaves, spinning around. Fox however was streaming towards the finish. Suddenly, she heard Cheetah thundering up behind her. She knew she would have to run 30 MPH to win. She had never gone that fast, but she did. Faster...faster and she split through the ribbon right in front of Cheetah.

### **Ocelot**

One day Ocelot decided that he was tired of his gray fur, so he rolled in golden paint and went over to Cheetah.

"Hello golden cat," said Cheetah.

"Hmmm," thought Ocelot. There is already a golden animal. How about a golden spotted animal?

He splattered himself with black paint and went over to Parrot.

"Hello young Cheetah," said Parrot.

Shoot, thought Ocelot. There is already a spotted cat. Why don't I wipe off the spots and put on stripes. Then he discovered the paint would not come off. So he put stripes next to the spots. He went over to Tiger.

"Hello," said Tiger. "Who are you?"

Ocelot said, "Ocelot."

"Hello ocelot," said Tiger

Finally Ocelot had a coat of his own.

## Get Up – Stand Up!

Continued from page 1

Welch explains, "The Beatles Benefit back in June was such an enjoyable evening for everyone who was able to attend, so we thought we'd continue the theme concept with some of the most unbelievably talented musicians on this island....and perhaps a few from the mainland. When the smoke cleared and all was said and done, we raised \$5000 at the Beatles Benefit...a pretty amazing feat I think. It was standing room only in the back and about as packed as they've ever seen that place. It was a night to remember — a taste of Vashon old. Let's do it again!"

Founded by artists on Vashon four years ago, the Backbone Campaign uses art and spectacle – such as the Chain Gang heads, Backbone Awards and 'Spineless Citations' – to hold our political leaders accountable and to articulate a progressive set of solutions to critical issues.

Proceeds from the night will go toward the Backbone Campaign's Procession for the Future, a cutting edge training for youth on progressive issues and organizing. The Procession uses giant puppets and spectacle to create interest as it parades through the streets, then transforms into a Festival for the Future, giving youth across the country the resources, skills, and training they need to realize a progressive future.

"The Backbone Campaign is playing a leading role in creatively

bolstering a nation-wide progressive movement. We are audaciously pushing the Progressive "shadow" Cabinet into blogs and onto community radio stations, which is really cool. And — what I'm most excited about right now is providing cutting edge training to youth on campuses around the country," says Bill Moyer, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Backbone Campaign. "There is a re-emergence of SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) on campuses and we are collaborating with them to provide resources to energize their activism and amplify their effectiveness in a way that no political party is going to do. But we can't do this work without our Vashon community backing us up."

The Vashon community can assist the Backbone Campaign's work by attending the event and purchasing or bidding on some enticing items including wine, jewelry, and Backbone Blend coffee from the Vashon Island Roasterie. Doors open at 6:45 and the event is family-friendly til 9. Tickets are available at the door; suggested minimum donation is \$15.

For a complete line up of musicians playing at the Bob & Bob Fest go to [vashonmusic.com](http://vashonmusic.com). For more information about the Backbone Campaign and its audacious projects visit [backbonecampaign.org](http://backbonecampaign.org). To volunteer and help with this event call the office (206) 408-8058.



## LoOp Ed

### Your Prayers Have Been Answered

by Mark A. Goldman

This is a message to all who believe in God and pray for peace (and also to all who desire peace and do not believe in God).

If you really want peace, your prayers have been answered. God has given you a roadmap for achieving peace, justice, and prosperity but God will not make you follow that path. It is your responsibility to open your heart and your mind in order that you might see and respond appropriately to the gift that has been given to you.

God is not going to make you do anything, for God loves you in freedom. Part of the responsibility of having been given the freedom to think for yourself is the responsibility to take appropriate action if it is within your purview to do so, and to move towards the goals you wish or pray for once you have been given the tools and the insight you need to proceed.

If you are expecting God to relieve you of the responsibility and necessity of advancing your goals through your own purposeful and responsible behavior of which you are capable, then that is an expectation that probably will not be fulfilled, at least not in a way that you might hope.

If you are somewhat confused by the options available to you and question your own ability to separate that which is real from that which is illusion, then you might rightfully ask God for help in sorting it all out. If you ask with an open heart and with sincerity, that help will be given.

I can tell you this. God is real and not a myth. Your prayers and desire for peace and justice have been heard, and a path to their fulfillment and/or appropriate clues to spark your imagination, have been provided. The rest is up to you. To follow this path does not require a belief in God, but it does require a belief in the power of the truth and



Mark Goldman

a commitment to intellectual integrity.

Who am I?

I am a messenger. Over the last seven years I have been delivering *the message*. On a number of occasions I have even repeated myself, thinking that perhaps repetition might be useful, particularly since there are always newcomers to the realization that a better world requires personal responsibility and participation. Now that I've told you I am a messenger and have delivered a body of work which I refer to as *the message*, "the ball is now in your court".

I do, in fact, sympathize with you, for the task before you is not an easy one. A lot of what you believe or think you know are illusions propagated by religious and cultural institutions steeped in dogma. Religions are attempts at explaining what is not very well understood by its proponents. One common illusion is that having an exquisite relationship with God requires a religion. It does not.

It is not always easy to let go of misunderstandings, particularly when the misunderstandings were presented to you by people you love and trust. These people did not betray you... they only shared with you what they were taught; what they believed to be true.

But human history is a story of discovery. Old beliefs rightfully die and illusion is replaced with something closer to the truth, as human beings gain experience and learn more about their universe.

There will always be greater knowledge and deeper understanding ahead of you if you allow and keep yourself open to that possibility.

In any event, these are interesting times and God has not, will not, betray you. But your happiness, success, and freedom will require that you actually use the full measure of your intelligence and abilities.

God loves you and so do I.

Mark A. Goldman

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### To My Fellow Islanders:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who voted for me for Fire Commissioner during the recent election. It is with deep appreciation that I acknowledge the endorsements and letters received from my friends and neighbors. I would also like to thank the people who supported and helped me with my campaign.

Sincerely,  
Craig Harmeling

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### Going Green

by Emma Amiad

It's that lovely time of the year when the forests and fields are filled with lovely maple leaves and fantastic fungi! Mushrooms and toadstools are everywhere! I enjoy seeing them but it's a different kind of winter growth that we're going to talk about today...mold!

Why is this a "green" issue? Because you get mold when you have moisture where it doesn't belong, and that is most often the case when you have a poorly ventilated home. Today's building codes address these issues. A healthy house is also a part of building and remodeling green, and is a part of the requirements to achieve a LEED, BuiltGreen or Energy Star ratings.

The secret to controlling mold is to control moisture. Most of us are used to cleaning away small amounts of mold in bathrooms and kitchen sinks. These are places where there is always moisture in our homes. A little bleach solution or detergent can kill it and it can be wiped away.

What I'm talking about today is larger areas of mold that would indicate water leaks from cracked or broken pipes or poor roof drainage that can carry water into your walls and ceiling. The other major cause of excess mold is leaving areas unheated. In the Northwest, to avoid mold, rooms should be kept at 55 degrees minimum. Keeping some rooms unheated in winter to save on heating costs will cause mold to grow. Better insulation as well as caulking and weather stripping are better ways to save money on heating bills.

I have seen a few large mold areas in homes I've sold, usually



Emma Amiad

during the inspection. They were usually caused by unseen plumbing leaks or sometimes, just carelessness. Showering with no ventilation, not having a good seal on a shower door, failing to use overhead exhaust fans and just sloppiness can keep a bathroom wet. Mold will grow quickly.

Sometimes heating and cooling systems can also create a problem. Using good filters as well as HEPA filters and having your system cleaned and services annually will generally take care of that problem.

Once you've located a mold area, clean it carefully and completely with a detergent containing bleach and water. Then be sure it is absolutely dry. If the mold is on carpet or furniture, have it cleaned professionally making sure the cleaning company is trained in mold abatement. If the area is large (the EPA says over a 10 square foot area) call in professionals.

But the most important thing is to find and repair the leak that has caused the problem. Be sure bathroom fixtures are properly caulked, ventilation is adequate and that a good exhaust fan is always used.

I have ordered a number of the EPA's great booklet, "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home". I have these available at my office for you to pick up. If you'd like one mailed to you call my office. 463-4060, or you can also find the information on their web site at [www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq).

Emma Amiad's articles may be found at her blog at [www.vashonislandrealestate.com/blog.html](http://www.vashonislandrealestate.com/blog.html). She is the broker/owner of Amiad and Associates on Vashon Island. Contact her at 206-463-4060 or her website: [www.vashonislandrealestate.com](http://www.vashonislandrealestate.com).



## The Dorsal Spin

### Welcome Back Southern Residents!

By Orca Annie Stateler

After more than a year's absence, J Pod returned to Vashon-Maury waters on November 5 to herald the start of our fall/winter orca season. Researchers affiliated with NOAA Fisheries and the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) had several productive encounters with the killer whales, collecting ID data, prey remains, fish scales, regurgitations, fecal samples, and other secretions.

Near Blake Island on November 7, ACS/PS board member Candi Emmons, a NOAA Fisheries researcher, identified 33-year-old Samish (J14) as the mother of newborn J43, perhaps only 24 hours old. J Pod now has 26 members.

On November 9, VHP associate Mark Sears spotted a few L Pod whales traveling around Vashon with J Pod. That night, the VHP made the first known recording of J's with Baby J43 and the L's. The foraging killer whales gave us our best recording yet as they transited the VHP site when Colvos Pass was flat calm and quiet.



Frisky orcas in Colvos Pass. Photo by Mark Sears

The orcas let it rip with an opulent repertoire of calls, echolocation clicks, buzz trains, and whistles. Many calls are squeaky and chirpy, what you would expect from big dolphins. Other calls sound intriguingly like donkeys braying, Cow in a Can toys, and car alarms.

We may have captured some orca "baby talk." Among the strong, crisp calls are softer, more tentative vocalizations that vary slightly, evoking a youngster trying to repeat the family dialect.

Another recording of J Pod in Colvos Pass, with an appalling wall of noise from purse seiners and other vessels, offers an acoustic snapshot of how loud underwater noise can be for orcas traveling up Vashon's west side, which typically has less boat traffic than East Passage.

Mark Sears has an enchanted relationship with Baby J43's matriline, the J2's. He was the first local researcher to see three other surviving calves of Samish (J14). On November 7, J Pod brought the new arrival almost to his door, swimming back and forth for several hours between Lincoln Park and Alki, roughly. The last time I saw this unusual behavior in Island waters, the Southern Residents had a newborn with them.

Mark discovered big brother Riptide (J30) on New Year's Day 1995. He attended a traditional Samish naming ceremony several years ago for sister Hy'Shqa (J37), born 2001. Sister Suttles (J40) is a "Vashon baby," first seen off the northeast side of the Island in December 2004. Great grandmother Granny (J2) and great uncle Ruffles (J1) have known Mark for 30 years and evidently trust him around the family babies.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. We are grateful for timely calls from John on the Evergreen State and other Islanders. Reports from Susan at Paradise Cove and Dennis with his binoculars at Lisabeula were particularly helpful in narrowing the window to listen for orcas on the hydrophone.

Our joy in seeing the Southern Residents return was slightly marred by thoughtless behavior that jeopardized the whales. On three occasions, calls or emails betraying the orcas' location to an off-Island group resulted in TV news helicopters interfering with valuable research. One chopper hovered over Mark for more than 20 minutes on November 9, as the light faded and precious minutes were lost to collect samples and take ID photos.

A hovering helicopter is a target that draws curious boaters and increases the likelihood of disruptive vessel and acoustic impacts on endangered killer whales as they travel in already congested lower Puget Sound.

With a fragile newborn, the orcas need more space. Minimize your footprint and watch them sustainably from shore or your ferry commute. Do not chase whales by boat (or aircraft) and do not contact people who will be irresponsible with the information that whales are here.

The VHP does not disclose sightings to whale watch boats or off-Island media. Knowing when to shut up and back off is sometimes the most loving, respectful course of action we can take with an endangered species. Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com.

ooooo





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### LoOp Letters

#### Thanks Vashon

I would like to find a way to thank the community on Vashon for their generosity. My mother's home burned on Sept. 30, 2007. She lost everything. The insurance coverage has capped out at the limit for the structure and there is no other coverage for her possessions or for her to pay for alternate living arrangements until her home can be replaced.

My mother is a giver, the kind of person who would give you her last dollar or the shirt off her back, stranger, foe or friend. Never worrying for her self and always concerned for others. She has been this way all of her life. It is not the first time she has had to make new beginnings. The loss of her mother at 9 years old, the loss of her father at 23, constantly moving around and having to make a new life as the military wife, the loss of her stepmother last year and now the loss of her home and all of her worldly possessions. It seems that life has been kicking her around for a while now. I have only seen my mother cry 3 times in my life, now 4, with the great outpouring of support she has received.

Mom works for the Vashon Community Care Center. Upon hearing of my mother's loss, the residents, families and staff (Naomi, Judy, Leona and Cara to name a few) at the care center opened their hearts to my mother and are helping her replace her losses. There were many hugs and heart felt sympathies, there has been a pot luck dinner at the church across from the VCCC, there have been emails and donations to her cause. There have been so many wonderful item donations by the people of Vashon and because she does not yet have a place to put those things many have offered to just hold on to them until she is ready. A benevolent fund has also been set up for donations at Washington Mutual in the name of Lola Vorhies.

She is touched by people everywhere she goes, the Clinic, Pharmacy, Grocery Store, and it is spreading. None of this would have happened for my mother anywhere else but Vashon Island. In the wake of her losses, it is overwhelming to be loved so much. I wish everyone could feel this way, at least once in their life. The community is a living, breathing organism with a huge beating heart, of which I am grateful for. I know my mother is.

She is no stranger to new beginnings, although she is getting a little tired of them and has always had a little something left from her past to grow forward with, she now has a huge something from Vashon. So, even though she reaches out to find something she no longer has, it's just stuff and the void is being filled with something greater.

I know that she will endeavor to persevere, but I will never be able to completely express my gratefulness to this community for the enormity of love and concern that has been given to my mother. It has been a spiritual experience. Bless you all, I have a renewed faith in mankind to work as a whole toward good. We are powerful in Love.

Kristy Jensen

#### Armageddon

Reclamation of Congress with restoration of the Constitution and social safety nets will not happen prior to collapse of the Middle East. And this will precede manifest, salient, inescapable climate change by about ten years. As to our troops, they are doomed by the Middle East collapse. Social collapse and climate collapse will coincide in a time frame 2015 to 2025.

The trigger for the present dire trend is the evident end of earth resources. Absent the global competition for oil none of this would have happened yet. Things would have just muddled along on their way down in a capacious steamer trunk, the handbasket safely stored away.

So the Bible appears to have been right about Armageddon but dead wrong on the fix. In God we Trust has been the rallying cry for war.

The imperative for Vashon is for the Community Council to reconsider priorities. To take but one of fifty-seven varieties, which is the more important, keeping ferry rates down, or putting in proper bike lanes to the north end? In a proper bike lane it is not necessary to wear multicolored spandex tights and drive a \$5000 titanium bike.

For starters, the Community Council should seek a unanimous recommendation to Patty Murray to stop war funding.

Tom Herring

# We've Got a Lot of Kids

## Born the Son of Hebrew Slaves

by Kevin Pottinger

When I was growing up, we got our kittens from small groups of kids sitting in front of Thriftway, holding cute kittens on an old blanket inside a cardboard box, with "free kittens" scrawled on the side of it in blue or red crayon.

My wife Maria and I thought we might want to get a kitten for our family, rather than just repeat the same old thing and have several more babies. I wondered why we couldn't just write "kitten" on our grocery list. Maria has relatives who are involved in rescuing and sheltering abandoned pets, and as we dropped off to sleep one night she let me know that it's not been done that way for at least forty years.

Some very pleasant cat ladies who find homes for unwanted cats and kittens steered us toward several grown cats they had been boarding for a while, and were anxious to find homes for. A lot of those cats turned out to be pretty grouchy. And the quite sympathetic cat ladies felt that families without little kids are safer for their rescued kittens. That couldn't possibly describe our family; and we disagreed with the nice cat ladies on that point, so we found ourselves forced to strike out on our own, searching in the comparatively sordid commercialized world of no-questions-asked Little Nickel ads and pregnant family pets in crisis.

Our search led us to a nice family in Lynnwood. In Lynnwood, apparently, ordinary kittens sell for forty-five dollars. We saw several ads from people in Lynnwood advertising kittens for sale, forty-five bucks. These kittens had no shots, worming or neutering. I couldn't find another explanation for how these Lynnwood kitten traders arrived at that price, except by coordinated monopoly. A cartel.

We laid the money on the kitchen counter and took our kitten home. We named him Moses, because he has a shock of long white hair on his head like Charlton Heston, after he saw the Burning Bush in The Ten Commandments.

## REMEMBER WOLFTOWN when you do your holiday shopping!

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Kathy Abascal is caring for her mother and will be back in the next edition of the Loop.

Whenever his name is said, I hear Cecil B. Demille whistling through his dentures as he intones, "He was born the son of Hebrew slaves." We trust that using Moses as a cat's name won't be the final nail on our soapbox derby car shambling straight to hell.

Moses was just eight weeks old when we brought him home. The first few nights, probably missing his mom, he curled up under Maria's chin and nursed on a mole on her neck while kneading the skin around her collarbone. Maria said it was a little weird, but it seemed to comfort him, so she gamely stood in for the mother cat for a couple of nights. She ended up kicking him off when he started leaving tiny hickeys on her neck.

Moses has found his place in our family very quickly. He watches cartoons with the children, and usually agrees to be carried around like bag of ginger snaps slung over a toddler's shoulder and loved like a live teddy bear.

He scampers around the house with his tail bent rakishly, and the kids lumber after him in a pack, jostling for position, trying to catch him. One will eventually get to pick him up and pet his back with long sweaty strokes, holding him away from the other kids who are all trying to pet him at the same time. In a second version of the game, Moses turns and chases the lumbering pack of kids. They squeal and spring for high ground on the living room furniture.

Both versions of the game end when Maria breaks in to referee the finish; either rescuing Moses from a toddler's clumsy grip, or freeing treed children from the back of the couch. I'll bet he keeps score.

oooo



Kathy Abascal is a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and is certified by Michael Moore of the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She has written two books on medicinal plants: *Clinical Botanical Medicine* and *Herbs & Influenza - how herbs used in the 1918 flu pandemic can be effective today*.

She is now available for health consultations at the **Full Circle Wellness Center**. These consultations will help you choose herbs and supplements as well as make dietary changes that will support your health. An evaluation of how these changes might affect prescription medicines you may be taking is included in the consultation. She teaches ongoing Conscious Eating for Health & Weight Loss classes at the Roasterie and will be adding classes on perimenopause, nervines, and basic herbalism later this fall. For more information, contact Kathy at 463-9211 or at [anemopsis@yahoo.com](mailto:anemopsis@yahoo.com).



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is

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# Madame Toujours

Dear Madame Toujours,

You've got to help me. I'm so tired of the pressure. I'm a man in my mid-forties, been married to my wife Beth for fifteen years. When I was young, I was pretty much an insatiable sexual beast, but in the last few years, I've lost that feeling, and I have to say it's a relief.

The problem is my wife Beth. Lately she's been insatiable. She's been pressuring me to do something about my ...er... energy level. At first it was just nagging, then she started spending hundreds of dollars on clothes and makeup. I told her she didn't need all that to be beautiful to me, but she didn't seem very pleased. Now she's gone completely bonkers. She's totally redecorating the house which would be fine except we may go bankrupt, and she's turning the house into a fifteenth-century pirate ship—tearing out all the windows and replacing them with portholes etc. She's even bought an old cannon and put it in the living-room. Is this menopause? Should she be taking hormone replacement? What can I do to save my house?

Sincerely,  
Under Pressure

Cher M. Pressure,

Now you are seeing the consequence of being the neglectful husband. *Mme.* Beth, she is the vital, creative woman in the prime of her life who is craving the passion and the excitement. If she is not having it with the husband, then she is having what the Freudian psychological persons are calling the *sublimations*. This is where she is expressing all the creative energies with the arts and the crafts.

Now possibly you are remembering when you were the child and you were begging the *Maman* and *Papa* for the puppy, and they were telling you that if you were having the puppy, you were responsible for taking care of it. If you were the responsible child, you were having the faithful, devoted companion who was adoring you beyond sense and reason. If you were the careless child, your mother was having the faithful, devoted companion and so forth.

What you are now deciding is whether you are wishing to be the responsible husband or the careless type. If you are the responsible husband, this is being very easy. Dress yourself as *M.* Captain Jack Swallow, saunter aboard your ship and accost *Mme.* Beth with lustful passions. *Oui*, this is the tiresome chore—much like walking the energetic, little puppy.

Possibly you are thinking it is being easier to be the careless husband. *Eh bien*, simply hire for the wife the young, attractive carpenter with the loose morals and the many manly hormones. If *Mme.* is having the sexual frustrations, she will be succumbing to his advances before she is knowing what she is doing. Now *Mme.* Beth is having the expression for the creative passions, and you are enjoying the peaceful evenings alone with the television.

*Bon Chance*, *M.* Pressure, and you may wish to be sure that *M.* Le handsome, young Carpenter is having all his shots. Now this is like the responsibility for having two puppies. The work, she is never ending, *n'est pas*?

oooo

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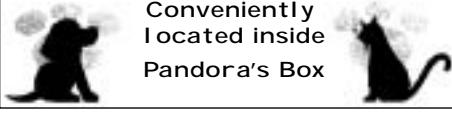
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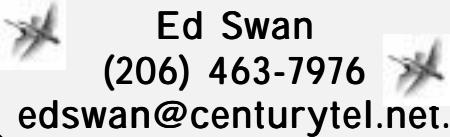
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## Planet Waves

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



**Aries (March 20-April 19)** You will need to take extra care to get along with housemates and family members through this winter. It would be prudent to not make any new commitments to living partners; this is simply not the time. As for the ones you currently have, your domestic relationships will only be as good as your conflict resolution abilities. Commit yourself to reducing unnecessary drama. Take the lead and ask people what they are feeling. The sooner you defuse tensions, the less power they will hold over you. The ones that go unspoken, and are not raised to awareness, promise to be the ones that do the most damage. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20)** You have gained sufficient perspective to see yourself as a significant other sees you, but you still may not trust this view. Indeed, you may be feeling a wide variety of doubts, but in truth they are all self-doubts that you can work through if you choose to. It would help at every turn to know what you want. Most of your issues will come back to questions relating to your most elementary goals, which need to make a transition from ideals or dreams to practical steps toward something that will feel simple or basic, not grand or ambitious. It is taking a series of these steps that will get you closer to your next destination, and indeed get you there at all. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21)** You are someone who, in truth, needs to be firmly rooted to a place. But what you may be feeling lately is that the ground above any roots you may have is moving. This may be disorienting, and you may have some moments of genuine uncertainty about where you need to be, and why you need to be there. Your real grounding in the coming year will happen in the agreements that you make. You must ensure that you see both sides of anything you are negotiating. Note its potential impact both positive and negative on any of the parties involved in the discussion; and do some analysis not only of who is the stronger party and who is the weaker one, but of why you think this is so. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** You seem to be going in the direction of the past, or looking deep within yourself for your safety and confidence. It should come as no surprise that, having committed to that endeavor,

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people close to you are responding with a measure of genuine reassurance. This may serve as a hint that how you feel you are projecting yourself is not really how it's happening. In other words, even if you are in a moment of deep reflection, that may be expressing itself as confidence because true introspection is a sign of strength and maturity. Insecurity has an odd way of becoming a source of strength, once we acknowledge it. People who love you will do whatever they can, as soon as you are willing to work with them. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)** You have reason for fear, and you have reason for deep reassurance. The question is, which one do you believe? Perhaps it would help to start with an inventory of what you have feared in the past, and how little that has meant. Then consider what you have depended on as a source of strength, and how much it has meant. I would say that potential sources of strength are worth more than potential things to worry about; they have a greater chance of coming true, and they mean a lot more. In a little while you will finally see both of them for who and what they really are. And that is good news. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)** You seem to need a strong partner, urgently. You need someone who has solid opinions, defined views, and who holds you to your word. I wonder, why in the past when such people came into your life did you not take them up on their offer? If you can answer that question now, you will be able to avoid passing up an opportunity for companionship that comes your way this month. What you will need to do, however, is create a vision for relationship — starting with personal willingness — to integrate the human need for security and the human need for freedom and independence. You are able to conceive of this idea; the discussion will start with you, and you will become the safe haven where both sides of the equation can be balanced. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)** Many movements of the planets suggest that now is the time for you to consider improving your living arrangements. If you have not been playing roulette with the housing bubble, you may soon be in a good position to purchase something or at least get a much better rental. The thing is this: it will be far better to be

proactive than to be compelled into anything by outer circumstances. In other words, you want to be making all of your own decisions, and leaving nothing to chance. When you start to drift, decide. When you start to hope, decide. When you feel desire — decide. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)** Your friends care about you, and they will take care of you. You need to expect the same thing of close partners or lovers. Your friends feel more solid to you, and you to them; where love is concerned, you seem to be in a moment where your equilibrium is off kilter. Such is an opportunity to deepen your communication, and to guide someone to speaking a truth they may not know, and which you may only suspect. The time has arrived for you — and all of us — to put truth above security in our relationships. When we do so, we will live in warm, dry places, not card houses in the rain. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)** Your sometimes-rocky home life or personal life is being stabilized by your commitment and your ability to focus on a goal. You may not have thought that you could make something previously so unstable seem simple by focusing your intentions, but that turns out to be a big part of the picture. It also is helping a lot that you know what your ideas are, and are committed to experiencing those ideas with every cell in your body. That is magnetic; and it is providing an organizing principle for your life and the people in it. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)** You are the source of security for many around you. You are the rock they stand on. What happens when you have your doubts? Well, it's not always easy being the source of security for others, and there are times — this being one — that the people around you need to be supportive of the changes that you are embracing so bravely. You are doing your part; you are willing; you have come to

understand that the people around you really are free. It will take them some time to appreciate that gift, but for now, if you want them to appreciate you in the way that you need, you may have to speak up. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** You are coming to terms with the fact that a partner or loved one does not know what he or she wants. That is a temporary state, but how temporary we cannot be sure. You may want to investigate the ways in which they perpetuate their not knowing; and what function the confusion serves. You also need to look at the way you are influencing their indecision or state of confusion. You may not be able to change them or even influence their direction, but your self-awareness will be helpful because, at the least, you will be able to make up your own mind when you need to. And that, you must be willing to do. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Planets are moving into the house in your solar chart associated with public recognition and reward for your work. These are things that, for a Pisces, are usually slow in coming. Capricorn rules this house, and Cap is not a sign known for getting fast action. But I would call your attention to that literary masterpiece called The Tortoise and the Hare. You have done a good job of slow and steady for quite a long time. Now that the pace of your life is picking up rapidly, make sure you maintain that policy. Your experiences are concentrating and so are the results of your actions. Keep your focus. Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.

oooooooo



# Island Epicure



## Pilgrim Cooking Afloat and Ashore

By Marj Watkins

We're acquainted with what the Pilgrims ate at their first harvest feast in October, 1621—the wild turkeys, corn, beans, cranberries, and venison. That feast foreshadowed our Thanksgiving dinners. But have you ever wondered what the Pilgrims ate on that voyage from England in their overcrowded little ship *Mayflower*, and how they cooked afloat? That's where they were on this date in 1620.

Cooking aboard must have been precarious and unpleasant. Fires built in sand boxes on the little ship's lower deck, headroom about five feet, cooked food in pots slung from overhead beams. The pots must have swung like pendulums when the ship heeled. On many days the ship's motion made any cooking at all impossible. Once for five days the ship hove to, waiting out a storm and wallowing in high swells. Governor Carver's servant, John Howland, coming up on deck—probably seasick—got swept overboard and barely saved his life by grabbing onto a trailing halyard and clinging while deck hands hauled him back aboard. Nobody had a hot meal that day, nor much cared.

These foods, according to *The Plimoth Colony Cook Book*, published by the Plymouth Antiquarian Society to coincide with the arrival of *Mayflower II* at Plymouth, Massachusetts from England in 1957, sustained the original *Mayflower's* passengers: Brown sugar and oatmeal, oil, vinegar, butter, and cheese; dried peas, prunes, and raisins; bacon, salt pork, dried beef, and fish; turnips, cabbage, onions, and parsnips; spices and jellies, brandy, lemon juice, a little drinking water, and a lot of beer.

Given those ingredients and supposing weather calm enough for cooking, what would you have served for dinner? Meals consisted mostly of stews, soups, and porridges. Dried meats would have had to soak until softened. Each diner roasted his own meat on a two-pronged fork with a three-foot handle, holding it over the fire until at least the outside was done. They ate with spoons, pocket knives, and fingers, or slurped soups and stews from wooden or pewter bowls.

Here are instructions for a soup they probably made, verbatim from *The Plimoth Colony Cook Book*, but

quoted from *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy*, by H. Glasse, Edinburgh, Scotland (1791): The *Mayflower* may have left England with a store of crackers, or bread that soon got stale and moldy.

### TO MAKE AN ONION SOUP

Take half a pound of butter, put it in a stew pan over the fire, let it all melt and boil it until it has done making any noise; then have ready twelve middling onions, peeled and cut small; let them fry a quarter of an hour; then shake in a little flour and stir them around; shake your pan and let them do a few minutes longer; then pour in a quart or three pints of boiling water, and stir them round.

Take a good piece of upper crust, the stalest bread you have, about as big as the top of a penny loaf cut small and throw it in.

Season with salt to your palate. Let it boil ten minutes, stirring it often, then take it off the fire and have ready the yolks of two eggs beat fine with half a spoonful of vinegar; mix some of the soup with them, then stir it into your soup and mix it well and pour into your dish.

I believe the Pilgrim cook would include the egg whites for more protein, and I trust she served cheese and crackers with the soup to add protein and calories to the meal. By the time the Pilgrims had been here for a year and made friends with the local natives, their diet varied more with corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, cranberries, fish, clams, and venison. And they had fireplaces, and pots that stayed, unswaying, over their fires.

In later years when trade with Jamaica brought them molasses, they made Indian Pudding, a custardy polenta sweetened with molasses. By then they had imported cows and chickens from England, hence this recipe from *The Plimoth Colony Cookbook* that could be cooked for a later Thanksgiving feast.

### INDIAN PUDDING

4 cups milk  
 ½ cup cornmeal  
 2 cups dark molasses  
 2 or 3 eggs  
 1 teaspoon ginger  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 2 Tablespoons butter  
 Scald milk, stir in cornmeal, molasses, eggs (beaten), ginger, and salt. Bake in a buttered pudding dish in a slow oven (300 degrees) about 2 hours. Serve with milk or cream.

I'd suggest you use a milder molasses, or less of it.

Those wild turkeys the five surviving Pilgrim girls and women cooked in 1621 were tough unless parboiled before roasting, but perhaps their flavor was superb. I'm thankful for my electric cook stove, and 20th Century menu.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone and bon appetit. ☺☺☺



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is  
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## DAWN Helps Women Beat Isolation

by Joanna, DAWN staff

Men's violence against women, and other men, is an epidemic in our country, and Vashon Island is not exempt from this heartbreaking reality.

Domestic violence is one form in which men use violence against women. Over the past year, the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN), worked with over 35 survivors of domestic violence that reside on Vashon. Due to safety concerns, isolation, and confidentiality issues, this number is, without question, an incredibly low estimate of the actual number of survivors on the island. During the first year on Vashon, DAWN provided over 500 hours of direct advocacy for island survivors. Partner abuse is overwhelmingly a crime committed by men against women, but it occurs in all groups of people including all classes, ages, ethnic groups, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

When talking about the extent of the problem, generally the focus is on the number of survivors and the many barriers that keep them from safety. Survivors often believe their partner's threats of increased harm if the survivor tries to leave, and many of these fears are justifiable. Abusive men/partners may control the money and/or she may be economically dependent on him.

Abusers often systematically isolate their partners from any natural support systems, including friends and family. Fear of seeking help from agencies, specifically fearing their children may be taken away or fear of being deported, often prevents survivors from accessing needed services.

Survivors on Vashon face many of these challenges and more. Vashon survivors face increased economic difficulties with limited job opportunities and a lack of affordable housing on the island. Increased difficulties in overcoming isolation and finding child care are also added barriers for survivors on the island. Lack of confidential, safe shelter on the island means survivors often have to choose to work with the limitations of island living or move away from any personal support system they may have.

I want to move the discussion away from the question of why survivors stay, to why men batter, because it moves the focus from a victim blaming perspective and puts the focus on the people who overwhelmingly have the ability to stop the violence (which is not to negate abuse in lesbian relationships). Violence is one method abusers use to maintain control over their partners. Valuing ownership and power over their partners is shaped by a belief of entitlement; abusers believe they have special status and exclusive privileges to have control, power, and to use violence. Our culture cultivates abusers because it permits and condones abuse against women across disciplines including our laws and legal system, by valuing rigid gender roles, through our media messages and pornography, and by romanticizing violence against women instead of holding abusers accountable. Put another way, men and boys repeatedly receive the message that to be "manly" is to value power and control over women and girls, and that anything else is less than masculine (i.e. feminine or gay).

You can help. When supporting a survivor, make an effort to do the opposite of what abusers do. Be patient, interact with her as an equal, show you value her opinions by listening to her, and assume she has the ability and strength to do what is best for herself (and her children). Believe her if she confides in you. Challenge your own beliefs about stereotypical gender roles. Speak out against sexist, racist, and homophobic comments. Actively support legislation that holds abusers accountable and supports survivors. Educate yourself.

Donations are always welcome, especially during the approaching holiday season. Please go to the DAWN website to find out how to donate to DAWN, [www.dawnonline.org](http://www.dawnonline.org).

# Positively Speaking

## Rumors and Blessings

by Deborah H. Anderson

First of all, it ought to be duly noted that the poor girl meant no harm in speaking the rumor she heard. If it hadn't been the end of the day of cleaning, I probably would have been a little less jumpy in my response.

The simple words were, "Are you still at the top of the hill? Someone in the neighborhood said you were house-sitting".

"House-sitting?!" I exclaimed thinking of the preschool discussions I sort out and dirty diapers I change (**Which I LOVE DOING it should be noted but is, as every parent knows labor intensive**) to earn the thousand dollars a month plus my half of the water share for the privilege of living in the treehouse. "No", I said wearily. "I'm not house-sitting. I'm living at the top of the hill, but I'm not housesitting."

Seeing the look of caution on her face, I changed my tone and asked her a personal question meant to distract and disarm. Cheerily sidetracked from my fatigue, we parted cordially. I dashed home to greet my Wednesday dinner guest who brought fresh milk from Hazel the cow. Ah...Vashon

Ah... rumors. In the not too distant past they were the mortar that held the bricks of Vashon culture together. The battle with Glacier changed all that. Suddenly, facts were what mattered and fact-finding was the new Island sport. Then in crept Sustainability. It too demanded, "Just the facts m'am". Newcomers to the Island brought their own need for the confined and the concrete. True, some of the old timers still pontificated about the downfall or deficiencies of others, but it was not the main thread color of our fabric. People didn't sit around like whittlers 'round a cracker barrel at the general store and whisper 'psst, psst, psst.'

Now, facts rule the Island. Facts about homelessness and affordable housing dominate social programs like the food bank and house and apartment building. Real Estate sales are based on facts about who's coming and what's for sale. Even the tax assessor got into the act bringing everyone's values up to current values.

Are facts the answer to rumors? Are facts the antidote to rumors? Will fact based living direct the course of the Island in such a way that rumors do not hold the power they once did?

Only to the extent that they reveal our blessings. It is counting our blessings as an Island that gives us the heart and soul that distinguish us from other upper middle class gated communities. There's nothing wrong with being an upper middle class gated bedroom community. There really isn't. But the facts will help us remember that we are surrounded

by waters that bless us with animal and plant life that is depending on protection. The facts will remind us that economic advantage is a process of gradually increasing one's resources until financial independence, such as we can have, can be achieved. The facts will remind us that we each have a story that has pain and joy within it and we need to hold those stories sacred.

After I started the final rough draft of this column getting ready to send it to Ed, I looked at the clock and realized I was going to miss the double feature of "Bee Story" and "Elizabeth" if I started one more sentence. I dashed to the car, drove as fast as forty five, twenty five, thirty five, forty, twenty five, up to town and hurried into the theatre. Of course it is the nature of all things in life that Ed, yes editor Ed, should be standing in line for treats. I blathered on with a promise to get the column in before midnight when suddenly he pointed out to me that he was not at home working on the paper either. Ah.....another fact blesses. I enjoyed the movies. Actually, I got totally caught up in Elizabeth in that wonderful way in which one loses track of time and is transported to another era.

In the old days, say ten years ago or further back, there was a certain comfort in making the story up as it went along and people were very hesitant to share their stories. I remember leading a workshop at Gina and Bruce Anderson's in 1995 or 1996 with some civic leaders. It was on telling one's story and they were to start by making a timeline of their life and then share them in diads and trios. Honestly you would have thought I had asked them to eat goat poop. It just wasn't done. Now, storytelling workshops and life connection workshops are a regular. It isn't just the effect of talk shows, MySpace and YouTube. The Island is changing to a more open place.

It's a good thing to move into the land of facts. It blesses us. In fact, to the degree that we can, as a community, invest in determining the most accurate facts possible, even if they make us uncomfortable, to that extent we will continue to grow our collective hearts.

We can be more than Mercer, more than Bainbridge (the seemingly greatest fear we have) more than an Island of multinational movers and shakers, if we look the facts squarely in the eye and embrace them in conversation with each other.

And if there's someone you've heard a rumor about, remember....ask them directly. Sorting out fact from fiction is the new future for Vashon. It's a good thing.

Love  
Deborah

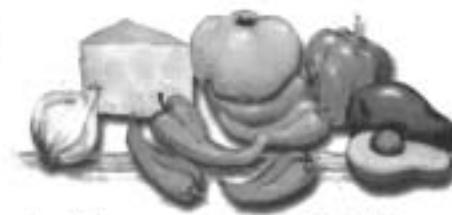
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## Paddling the Waters of Vashon Island

By Biffle French

"I will be dead in about three minutes, and it's very annoying," so begins Biffle French's new book, Paddling the Waters of Vashon Island. This exciting narrative about

This beautifully-designed book has sections about learning to kayak, all the best places to paddle on Vashon Island, and about the natural environment of the island, including the tide rips and the underwater topography that causes them.

Many of the maps include current flow depictions to help paddlers understand the best routes to paddle. There is also a fascinating section about the history and culture of Vashon that explains a little about how the Island became what it is. Finally, the last part of the book describes the best places for launching and recovering, which is especially important for

## Paddling the Waters of Vashon Island



A CIRCUMNAVIGATION  
AND SOME ADVENTURES  
BY BIFFLE FRENCH

kayaking around Vashon breaks the mold of contemporary kayaking books. Although it does have 13

maps and details ten separate kayaking trips around the Island, the book is much more than a guidebook. The paddling chapters are not boring route descriptions, but rather delicious little salt water travelogues, filled with adventure and humor. The Puget Sound offers some of the very best sea kayaking opportunities in the world, and Vashon Island is at the top of the list of paddling locales for those in the know. French's book will take readers there and put them in the seat with a paddle in their hands.

paddlers who don't live on Vashon, and may have some surprises for those who do.

This exciting, fun-to-read book is aimed at everyone who is interested in kayaking – from expert paddlers who plan a trip to Vashon to armchair paddlers who just love a good adventure story.

*Paddling the Waters of Vashon Island, A Circumnavigation and Some Adventures by Biffle French. Original Edition, 5.5" x 8.5", 216 pages, 13 Maps, 9 Illustrations. ISBN 978-0-9800636-0-8. \$19.95.*

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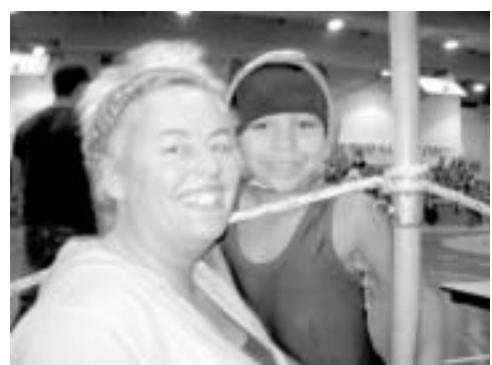


**BIKE RENTALS FOR ADULTS AND KIDS**

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The Rockbusters! Vashon hosts Sumner and Eatonville in a triple dual wrestling meet on the Island. Check out the pictures below, with short captions.



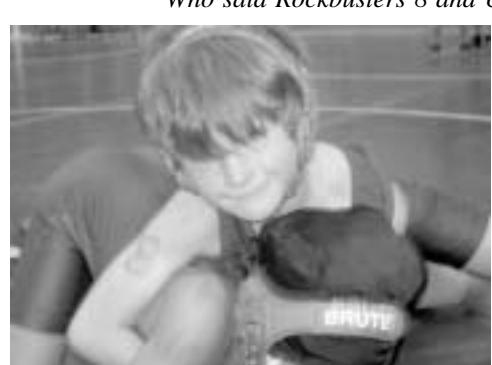
Adrian and his momma, Sarah, put on their cute faces amidst the stiff competition.



Aiden and Luke lookin' intense for the camera person.



Who said Rockbusters 8 and Unders don't look intimidating?



Tommy D. and Adrian engage in some intersquad scrambles.



Haley Dierks (wrestler) and Perlito Blomgrenelli (coach) get ready for another tough opponent from the mainland.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, Nov. 23**

## Whats New At



Zoomies welcomes Peggy Linker former owner of the **WOK IN | TAKE OUT**

As new manager Peggy will be introducing a few new menu items in addition to serving up all your favorites!



**All Day Everyday Spaghetti Special \$6.99 – spaghetti, salad, garlic bread**

New Thai offerings from Wok In Take Out

## Bun salad & Tom Kha soup

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## Not Just a Great Burger

### Brenno Opens New Studio

*Continued from page 1*

Moving back to Seattle, Brenno worked on Dale Chihuly's glass blowing team for 10 years. In 1996 he returned to Vashon, starting his Vashon studio and joining the Vashon Artist Studio Tour in that year. He was a member of the Vashon Allied Arts board of directors from 2001 to 2006.

Joining Brenno's stop on the Art Tur again this year will be jeweler Susan Lofton and for the first time bead maker Virginia Sager. Along with Brenno's signature glass hats, glass hand print kits, glass candy canes, glass mosaics, blown glass vases, and drinking cups Brenno will offer a chance to blow your own glass Christmas ornament. Each customer will be able to design and be part of the blowing process of a very special blown glass keepsake ornament during Studio Tour Dec. 1-2, 8-9 and again on Dec. 15-16 from 10 am to 5 pm at 9850 SW 148th Street. north of the Community Care Center off Vashon Highway.

Starting in January Brian & Tara Brenno and Virginia Sager will offer a glass blowing and

glass bead making and glass mosaic class at his studio. While glass blowing requires special equipment and studio space glass bead making and glass mosaic can be done in a home / garage environment allowing students the opportunity continue to work with glass in their home. The artists plan to develop more classes and workshops including glass classes for teens in the future, and glassblowing parties for groups.

### Volunteer for Drama Dock

Drama Dock needs volunteers to assist with the coming spring musical production, *The Wizard of Oz*. The production team requires help with scenic design and construction, props, back stage management, sound and light technicians, front of house workers and musicians (particularly pianists). If you have skills or interest in any task large or small, this is a wonderful volunteer opportunity and a great way to work with a lot of talented fun people. Contact Shannon Flora now at 463-5008, or [eachglass@singinghearthranch.com](mailto:eachglass@singinghearthranch.com) for more information.

# Lopy Laffs

Any comments, suggestions, or howls of pain?  
 An order of chaos to go and keep the change.  
 Earth is the insane asylum of the universe.  
 Keep staring, I may still do a trick.  
 Life is short—make fun of it.  
 Nothing improves memory like trying to forget.  
 If you can't beat them, arrange to have them beaten.  
 Some people have more problems than a math book.  
 Some people work up steam and some only generate a fog.

*When NASA was preparing for the Apollo Project, it took the astronauts to a Navajo reservation in Arizona for training.*

*One day, a Navajo elder and his son came across the space crew walking among the rocks. The elder, who spoke only Navajo, asked a question. His son translated for the NASA people: "What are these guys in the big suits doing?"*

*One of the astronauts said that they were practicing for a trip to the moon. When his son relayed this comment the Navajo elder got all excited and asked if it would be possible to give to the astronauts a message to deliver to the moon.*

*Recognizing a promotional opportunity when he saw one, a NASA official accompanying the astronauts said, "Certainly!" and told an underling to get a tape recorder. The Navajo elder's comments into the microphone were brief.*

*The NASA official asked the son if he would translate what his father had said. The son listened to the recording and laughed uproariously. But he refused to translate. So the NASA people took the tape to a nearby Navajo village and played it for other members of the tribe. They too laughed long and loudly but also refused to translate the elder's message to the moon.*

*Finally, an official government translator was summoned. After he finally stopped laughing the translator relayed the message: "Watch out for these guys - they have come to steal your land."*

It's too bad I'm not as wonderful a person as people say I am because the world could use a few people like that. —Alan Alda

We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are. —Anais Nin

A minister who was very fond of pure, hot horseradish always kept a bottle of it on his dining room table. He offered some to a guest, who took a big spoonful.

When the guest finally was able to speak, he gasped, "I've heard ministers preach hellfire, but you are the first one who passed out a sample."

Could crop circles be the work of a cereal killer?

A Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

## WILD WORLD

By Ed Frohning

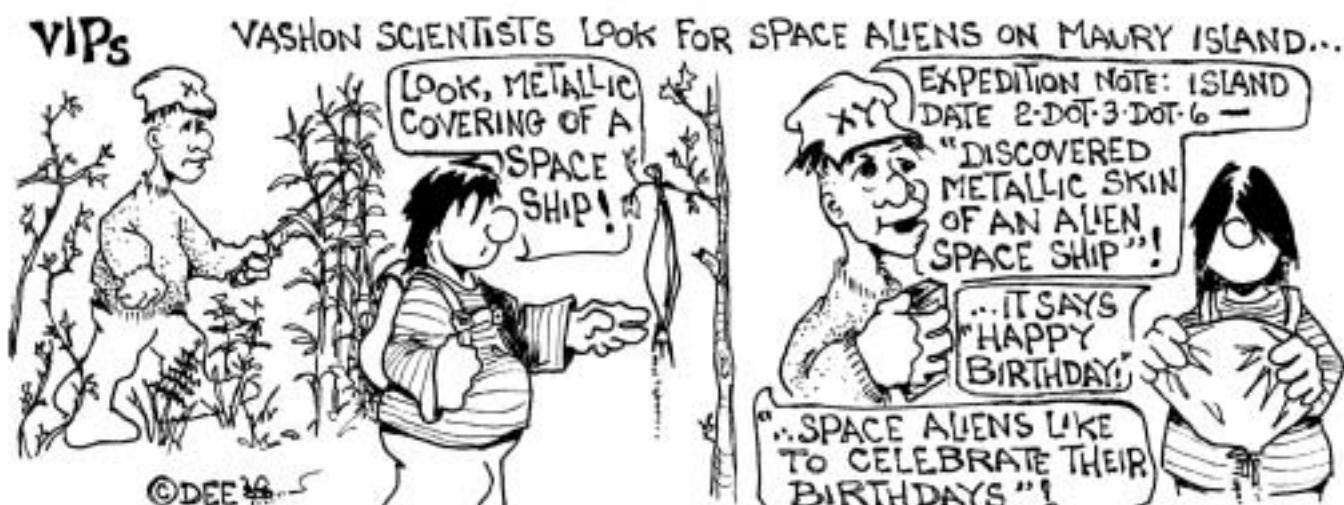


Cowboy Wisdom  
Never ask a barber if you need a haircut.

Q: What do you call Bears with no ears?  
A: B



Solution to puzzle on page 7



More VIPs at: <http://vashonislandpeoples.blogspot.com/>

# LOGJAM



BY JEFF HAWLEY



# Loop Arts

## Nutcracker Launches Holiday Season

By Janice Randall

Blue Heron Dance Company will launch the Island holiday season in style with the timeless holiday classic, the *Nutcracker*, Friday, Saturday Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7 pm, and Sunday, Dec. 2, 7 pm, at VHS Theater. Director of Blue Heron Dance, Christine Juarez says there have been a number of changes to this year's performance.

"We have expanded Blue Heron Dance Company to include modern dancers. It's one more step for us to integrate modern and classical into



Molly Crosby plays the Sugar Plum Fairy in Blue Heron Dance Company's *Nutcracker*, launching the holiday season, Friday, Saturday Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7 pm, and Sunday, Dec. 2, 7 pm, at VHS Theater. Tickets available now at Books by the Way, Heron's Nest, Thriftway and Blue Heron. Call to reserve by phone, 463.5131. Photo by Mike Urban

## Thanksgiving Irish Ceili Dance at the Grange Hall - Saturday November 24th!

Treat your Thanksgiving-day guests to an energetic community barn dance! Join us as we dance away those pumpkin pie calories at the November Irish Ceili dance on Saturday, November 24th! The dance will be held at the Grange Hall from 7pm to 10pm and will feature live music by Vashon Irish dance band The Gold Ring (Martin Nyberg, Marilyn Kleyn, and Steve Austin). Kathleen O'Grady-Graham of Seattle will teach and call all the dances.

The suggested donation for the dance is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors). The Grange Hall is located

in the ferry dock parking lot at the north end of the Island. Ceili dancing is quick to learn and accessible to nearly everyone. No partner or experience is required. Photos of past dances can be found at [www.hoiland.com](http://www.hoiland.com). This dance is hosted by the Vashon Celtic Dance Society and made possible in part through the support of the Vashon Park District. For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to volunteer, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Lowrance at (206) 369-9234.



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 Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is

**Friday, Nov. 23**

**Into the Wild**  
11/16 - 11/22

**Bee Movie**

Held Over  
11/16 - 11/20

**Across the Universe**  
11/23 - 11/30

Coming Soon: Jane Austin Book Club

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Or, for show times and info,  
check [www.vashonthetater.com](http://www.vashonthetater.com)

**Our 60th Year!**

## The Circus comes to Blue Heron stage

By Janice Randall

Bring the whole family to see Blue Heron Youth Theater in *Toby Tyler or Ten Weeks with a Circus*, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 17, 7:30 pm, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2 pm. The play, written by Tim Kelly, is based on a book written in 1881, by James Otis, and later made into a popular movie by Disney.

Director, Patricia Kelly said, "I saw the movie as a kid and wanted to run away and join the circus! We are placing it more as a 1940's Eastern European gypsy style circus," says Kelly. The dozen or so actors, ages 10 to 15, have been working on the production since early fall and are excited to bring the show to stage. While some are newcomers to the stage, others have been in previous plays. "They are a

talented group and we're having a lot of fun," said Kelly. Actors and their families, along with Kelly created their costumes and the set.

Toby Tyler (played by 10 year-old Max Lopuszynski) is an impetuous, unhappy boy who would rather be in the circus than work on the farm. So when Toby's Aunt Olive (played by Maya McTighe) finds Toby missing, she isn't surprised to find him there. Circus sideshow characters, Lily the Bearded Lady (Gaelan Hammond) Mademoiselle Jeannette (Kaitlyn Davies) Samuel the Living Skeleton (Torsten Sorensen) Zoltan the Strong Man (Alex Wright) and Madam Spelletti, the Snake Charmer (Ellie Bacchus) invite Toby to be part of their circus family. Maxwell Mollison doubles as a clown and circus attendee.

But Toby soon discovers all is not ideal in the circus. Ben, the Ringmaster (Lucien Brillant) becomes injured so Toby must rise to the occasion. While circus owner Mrs. Jones tries to make ends meet, her evil twin Lenita (both played by Peri Roberts) undermines her efforts by plotting with Olga the Fortune-teller (Sophie Lipitz). Olga brings in an accomplice, the concessions guy, Mister Job (Casey Gripp) to steal proceeds from the Circus.

"It's definitely a comedy," says Kelly. Tickets are available now at Blue Heron and Heron's Nest, \$8 VAA members, seniors, students, \$10 general admission. 



Circus Sideshow characters: Samuel the Living Skeleton (Torsten Sorensen) Zoltan the Strong Man (Alex Wright) and Madam Spelletti, the Snake Charmer (Ellie Bacchus) and, Lily the Bearded Lady (Gaelan Hammond) take a break from the Circus to pose for a shot. Photo by Janice Randall

A critic is a legless man  
who teaches running.  
Channing Pollock

## Café Luna Hosts Red and Rover

by Greg Wessel

If you take either of the Seattle papers, you'll already know the artist who is featured by Café Luna for December. You may even know his "family" much better than your own. Café Luna has the great pleasure of hosting a show of original cartoons and prints by acclaimed cartoonist Brian Basset, the artist behind Red and Rover (in the P.I.) and Adam@Home (in the Times). Brian will be showing a selection of his work and will be available to sign some of his books at a reception Friday, December 7 at Café Luna from 6pm until 9pm. Rover is rumored to be coming as well.

In over 200 newspapers since 1984, Adam@Home follows the hilarious work-at-home dad, Adam, as he struggles with children, searches for the perfect latte (which is at Café Luna), and balances the demands of a home office with those of the family.



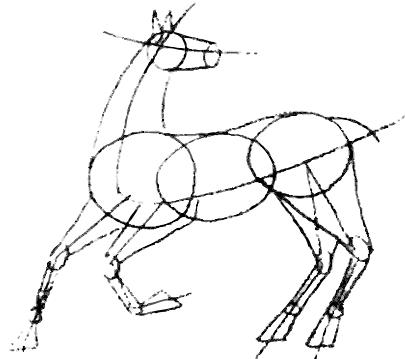
Red and Rover debuted in 2000, and it is about a young boy and his dog in a much simpler time. Rover literally saved Red's life, as you will discover in "Red and Rover, A Boy, A Dog, A Time, A Feeling," published in 2002. Rover is thus Red's guardian angel dog, something a young boy clearly needs who likes baseball, space travel, Marcia Brady, and who has a jerky older brother. Rover follows Red everywhere, except to school, but he has been known to assist with school projects, such as fabricating an ancient fossil (a paw print in concrete) that experts thought could be quite old, at least until it was accidentally dropped when a classmate noticed that it looked like a dog's footprint.

Born in 1957, Brian grew up in the other Washington. Like so many kids, he was captivated by the space program and sculpted by the classic television that appears in Red's house. In 1975, Brian enrolled at

Ohio State University where he lampooned politics as a cartoonist for the school paper. Three years later, Brian landed a job in Seattle as editorial cartoonist for the Times, a job that lasted for 16 years. His jump to the funnies page came in 1984 with Adam, later changed to Adam@Home.

Brian has been active with the Seattle/King County Humane Society for more than a decade, and has helped animal shelters across the country with fund drives and speaking engagements. In 2006, Rover was given the honor of promoting spay and neutering by appearing on Washington license plates.

Brian was also honored with a one-man show of his Red and Rover space-themed strips at NASA's headquarters in 2004. On July 26, 2005, an original drawing by him commemorating America's return to flight accompanied the space shuttle



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## A Call for Actors for A Christmas Carol

by Deb Pierce

Actors and musicians wanted to participate in a reading of A Christmas Carol to be presented at the first annual Figgy Pudding Fundraiser for Lighthouse Theatre, on Saturday December 1st.

The event will start at 6:30pm, and will include a silent auction, scrumptious desserts, a reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, adapted by Deb Pierce. We are also seeking donation items for

a silent auction. Tickets for the event are \$25.00.

If you are interested in participating or donating items, please contact Deb Pierce at 686-4325, or send an email to [deb@lighthousetheatre.org](mailto:deb@lighthousetheatre.org).

Lighthouse Theatre, which was established in 2004, is a non-profit "theatrical service company" on Vashon-Maury, which uses theatre arts to explore topics of social concern. Our goal is to shine a big

light on social and environmental issues, through performances, workshops, and special projects. Our service projects are designed to inspire, educate, and empower people by illuminating individual choices in scenes and stories, and in interactive programs. The 2007-2008 season for Lighthouse Theatre includes presentations on historical figures, playback theatre performances focusing on homelessness, recovery, and other themes, and a training program on drama therapy. For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.lighthousetheatre.org](http://www.lighthousetheatre.org).



Scrooge, by Deb Pierce

## Vashon Theatre Hosts International Comedy Competition

On "Thanksgiving Eve," Wednesday November 21st the Vashon Theatre will host the final round of the 28th Annual Seattle International Comedy Competition. Judges: Alex Borstien (Family Guy, Mad TV), Jackson Douglas (Gilmore Girls, Family Guy), Matthew Kohnen (Kohnen Bros Zombede "Wasting Away" just won at the Screen Fest in Hollywood), Marty Schaffer: co-president of the Vashon Film Society, and Sam Collins, president of the Vashon Youth and Family Services. Witness performances by the top five comedians who have emerged from the opening and semifinal rounds, and from the MC. Doors open at 7:00pm, show begins at 7:30pm. Price: Junior tickets \$15.00 for 18yrs and younger, General tickets \$20.00 for 19-59 years, and senior tickets \$15.00 for 60+.



Sketch by Dennis Campbell



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