



THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 8, #25

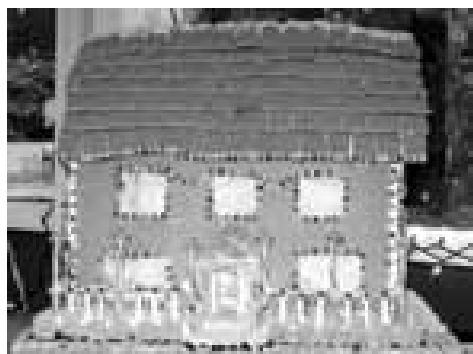
TO INFORM AND AMUSE -- TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

December 8, 2011

Gingerbread House Contest a Winner



With nearly 500 votes, The Little House took the top spot in the First Annual Merchant Gingerbread House Contest sponsored by the Vashon Island Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to Bettie Edwards and Mardi Ljubich for a job well done! Those that followed were just votes apart. The details of the houses were incredible, the imaginations



Trigg Insurance agents Brybb Bjorklund and Betsey Gleb had fun creating this house with two sides, showing before and after home accidents. To see the other side go to page 4



Renie Mroceck made this fragrant winter gingerbread scene for Kronos.

so creative and even the aroma of gingerbread was a delight. It was great to see the merchants so excited and working together.

26 merchants took on the challenge,

Continued on Page 4

Drama Dock's... A Christmas Carol ...and other Christmas themes



by Steve Amos

It is the many themes surrounding Christmas-time that makes the season resonate so deeply within the collective heart. Hope, generosity, reconciliation, forgiveness, forbearance, family, kindness, and a sense of place within a community touches on but a few of the many mosaic pieces that collectively constitute the image of Christmas in our memories, hearts and minds. The season has its own music and traditions, its food and drink, its smells and colors, trappings and decorations. It is a glowing, twinkling, swirling snowstorm raining down emotions and sensations all around us like the eddying drifts in an old snow globe on a mantelpiece above a whispering fire.

For me, the sharpest shard of Christmas is a small piece of framed needlepoint, designed and made by my mother who rests now with my father and grandparents in Vashon Cemetery now these many years. It reads:

All hearts go home for Christmas
Across the miles and years...

To live again the age-old joys
That passing time endears.

I can't even read the words aloud let alone describe the hurricane of sharp-focused sense-memories and feelings that this bit of verse on fabric brings forth in my mind.

Such is the power of Christmas to those of us that love it, and vastly more beyond these simple, personal thoughts.

Another tradition of Christmas is to attempt to capture some of these themes in Christmas stories, to frame them in a way only a story can. "A Miracle on 34th St.", "It's a Wonderful Life", "A Christmas Story", "The Littlest Angel", "White Christmas" and so on, all incorporate aspects of Christmas themes and values, all striking chords in our hearts in mysterious and surprisingly deep ways, drenched in maudlin sappiness though they may sometimes be. I must sheepishly admit

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Road to Resilience

Oil Sweet Oil

By Terry Sullivan, Transition Vashon

Although there are a lot more aspects of transition to discuss, I've decided to rerun the first introductory article from almost a year ago. Many of you may have missed it and the rest probably forgot it (I know I did). It provides a good comprehensive look at the peak oil predicament we are in and why we at Transition Vashon are trying to foment some urgent action to meet it. Please note that it doesn't touch at all on last week's topic: climate change.

"I began working with the Transition Movement (see transitionus.org) when it became clear to me that we were going to have to learn to live with a lot less petroleum and other finite resources. It is generally accepted that peak oil production is upon us or will be shortly, after which our oil supply will become increasingly more limited. Even the oil companies now set the date at 2015. Most of our other resources are following a similar trajectory.

"These supplies won't drop quickly

but the trend of less rather than more will be a distinct break with the world as we know it. As more and more people fight for fewer and fewer resources, business as usual means rising prices, shortages, permanent recession, more resource wars, a general breakdown of our social and economic institutions. We have responded rationally to a cheap and abundant energy source by creating an extravagant and wasteful culture. Even the Europeans, with a lifestyle arguably as high as our own, use half the energy per capita that we use. If we copy the Europeans, add in some creative technology and conscious lifestyle changes, we could be using 80% less energy by 2020, and living within nature's budget. We have a choice: creative engagement and a reasonable chance for a viable future, or business as usual and the aforementioned dire future.

"We've only been able to live as

Continued on Page 11

Blast from the Past I wrote something for the loop

By Hamish Todd

I am broken down on Cunliffe Road on the north end. Daryl, the postmaster is mad as hell and has somewhere to go in his red convertible Mustang. The damn mail is baking in the midday sun.

I took this job to please the in-laws. Some civil worker notion that in 25 years I could take four weeks paid holiday. Boy was I ever wrong about that. Now, this was all way back, before forever stamps and the never ending wars and Homeland Security and didn't Mickey and Donna just retire from the front of the house. I took the job at the Vashon Post Office thinking I'd flirt with housewives and pet their dogs, now it's only this silly postal jeep overheating and grumpy catalogue-crazed old ladies waiting for something important.

This was way back when you could smoke and take your dog in the bar. The

thing at the post office didn't work out. God, I've never had a more Kafkaesque assignment. The mail never stopped. And it was at least 7/10 junk. It piled up over Sunday and come Monday morning and you had to sort it all out before you headed out to deliver it.

I could never see driving a wagon from the passenger seat. Bought this jeep from a woman on Whidbey; seven hundred bucks. She has quit the mail, but in the meantime her husband had fiddled with it so now it would do 40 mph just fine. Trouble was it wouldn't do the mail any more. Stopping and starting would positively seize it up.

This was before The Red Bike and the dead gazillionaire owned the Back Bay. This was before even M.B. started speed dating, especially since she met her spare

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Get in The Loop

Submissions to the Loop

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

Jack Frost

Staring Michael Keaton & Kelly Preston, rated PG. Sunday December 11 at 1:30pm, at the Vashon Theater.

Take a break from shopping and bring the family in for a treat! We are showing a movie to benefit Vashon High School’s Senior Class of 2012. Donations received from this event will be used to ensure all interested student can have a safe and fun graduation night.

Donations Accepted at the Door.

Sci-Fi Saturday

Sci-Fi Saturday is a new film series at the Vashon Theatre. These will be the classics form the 50’s & 60’s! Such titles will include, “War of the Worlds” “When Worlds Collide” “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” “Them!” and many others.

1st Saturday of each month
Show time 1:30pm
Admission \$5.00-\$10.00 + A can of food. Proceeds willll benefit The Chicken Soup Brigade.

The feature will be, “Invasion of the Body Snatchers.” January 7

Community talk - Democracy Hijacked! Organizing for Change

Community talk on SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Author, activist, scientist, and Alaska commercial fisher Riki Ott, PhD, offers free talk to Vashon community as thank-you for house-sitting opportunity. She experienced the Exxon Valdez oil spill first-hand and volunteered one year in the Gulf of Mexico after the BP disaster, earning the 2010 Huffington Post Game Changer award. Ott teaches value-based community organizing from fifth grade up. “Democracy Hijacked! Organizing for Change.” 14 years to adult. 12-1:30 p.m. at the Vashon Library.

The Vashon Loop

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Father Christmas Reading

Saturday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., bring the wee ones by The Little House to enjoy the wonder of storytelling by Father Christmas. Bring your list; we’ll check it (twice!).

The Little House, 17636 100th Ave SW (one block west of Main)

Fire Commissioner Candy Thanks You!

Thank You Vashon voters! It was impressive to have such a large number of registered voters cast their ballots.

Thank you for the encouragement, support, and your votes to retain me as one of your fire commissioners. It is an honor to serve our community, and I am thankful for your confidence in me. I’ll do my best to make you proud.

Thanks to Joe Ulatoski for a civil campaign, and for his commitment to making and keeping Vashon a safe place. I look forward to his continued efforts with the VashonBePrepared, which works hand-in-hand with Vashon Island Fire & Rescue to promote our community’s readiness for any emergency.

Finally, to everyone involved in either campaign: thank you for your integrity, your civility, and your enthusiasm and commitment to our shared mission.”

Sincerely,
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioner
Candy McCullough

All Island Forum

All Island Forum meets Thursday, Dec. 8, 7-9 PM at Minglement to refine topic and plan for mid-winter forum. All are welcome.

Vashon Drum Circle

Vashon Drum Circle meets Friday, Dec. 9, 7 PM at Vashon Intuitive Arts. All ages are welcome to drum and sing with Buffalo Heart, our big community drum. Free event; donations gratefully accepted. Sponsored by Woman’s Way Red Lodge, a non-profit dedicated to promoting balance and wholeness by enlivening the sacred feminine in our communities.

Nutcracker Samplings

WHAT Could be better?

Nutcracker Samplings as only Island Dance Theatre Dancers can serve them up December 15, 16 & 17 at VHS Theatre.

Its New and Free
Visit Our New Website
www.VashonLoop.com

The 100 Wells Campaign

Vashon Island Community Church (VICC) Youth Group is having fundraisers throughout the year to help Persecution Project- www.persecutionproject.org build a well in Darfur. Persecution Project (PPF) began the 100 Wells Campaign in 2004 to rally support from compassionate individuals in America to help the refugees of Darfur, Sudan, get necessary life sustaining water. www.100wellscampaign.com To date PPF has raised enough funds to build 74 wells, but have 26 wells to go. VICC Youth Group wants to help them build one more well. Each well costs \$15,000. It is this costly because of the location these wells are being dug. Sudan is in severe drought and many non Islamic ethnic and religious people groups are facing terrible treatment from their government. It is a genocide of mass proportions, and more have died than in the Rwandan genocide.

There is really no help from the United Nations or the American government for these people. Our current fundraisers are: Silver4water raffle-\$2 per ticket-we will be selling these outside of Thriftway on Dec. 11, and Dec. 18 (both Sundays) from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Winner of raffle receives 10 American Eagle 99.9% silver coins. Drawing is Tuesday Dec. 20th at 7:30pm.

We will also be selling homemade candles for \$5 each.

Coffee4water- AJ’s coffee stand is donating 20% of her profits from every 40 for 50 coffee card she sells in the month of December. Help Sudan while you enjoy your favorite cup of coffee and buy a \$40 coffee card and receive \$50 worth of coffee,

More fundraisers coming. Please help us give them water.

VMICC Meeting Time & Place Changed

VMICC General Meeting will be very short and at a new locale. It will be Monday, December 19, 5:30 p.m. to end 20 minutes later at 5:50 p.m. at the Vashon Theater, just in time for everyone to join in the Annual Sing Along.

There will not be a formal agenda but new business or motions can be submitted during the limited time.

Topics or other issues to be dealt with in January or future meetings be submitted to vashonideabox@aol.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it for board consideration.

Kyle Cruver has been approved by the VMICC board to fill one of the vacant board positions. If there is a quorum and sufficient time, his selection can be voted on by the general council at this meeting or it will have to wait until the January meeting.

Advent and Christmas at Episcopal Church Of The Holly Spirit

- Sunday, December 18th: Fourth Sunday of Advent. 11:30 am Greening of the church after the later service. Bring greens if you have any, gloves, clippers, and most of all, enthusiasm. No experience necessary.
- Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve. 7 pm Pageant and Holy Eucharist, 10 pm Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day. 10:15 Holy Eucharist
- Saturday, December 31st: New Year’s Eve. 5-7 pm Labyrinth Walk for peace
- Sunday, January 1st: New Year’s Day. 7:45 am and 10:15 am Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist
- Thursday, January 5th: Epiphany Eve. 5 pm potluck, service, and burning of greens.

All are welcome.

Caregivers Support Group

Vashon Community Care Center hosts a monthly Caregivers Support Group meeting. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7pm.

This group is geared toward family or friend caregivers, rather than paid caregivers. If interested or if you have questions, please call Julea at 567-4421.

Compost the Loop
The Loop’s soy-based ink is good for composting.

Pet Protectors Holiday Bake Sale

Between Thriftway and True Value Sat. December 10th 9a.m.-1p.m.

Stop by to purchase an array of goodies baked by some of the Island’s best bakers. If you would like to contribute please drop off your tightly wrapped goodies after 8:30 the morning of the 10th. For more information please call Victoria 463-5381.

qi gong & meditation day of practice

DEC. 11th 9:30am- 3:30pm, Hanna Barn Studio, 7712 SW Pt Robinson Rd.

George Draffan will lead “Moving, Settling, Enjoying” providing Taoist and Buddhist instructions in energy, awareness and contemplations of joy. “As energy is freed, a natural joy arises.”

No registration required, offered by donation (\$45 suggested) NTLF (no one turned away for lack of funds).

For more information call 206-659-1954 or visit NaturalAwareness.net.



Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday, December 22

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, December 17**

Baby Bird Galleries



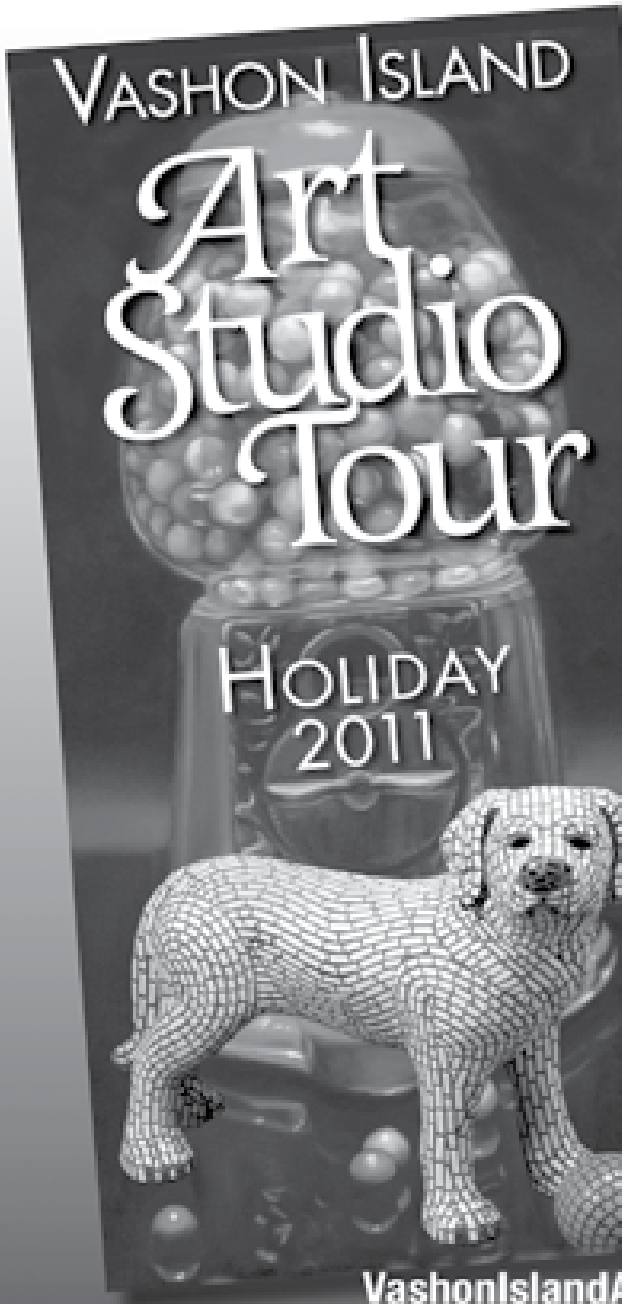
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& Sunday
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VashonIslandArtStudioTour.com

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NIECE PUMPING SERVICE

wishes to take this time to thank all our loyal customers for their business. In mid-November, we received notice that the fee we pay for Septic/Sewage disposal will be rising over 20% as of January 1st. Consequently, our prices will be rising at the first of the year to accommodate this unexpected change. We realize that year-end and holidays are often tight, financially, thus poor times to hear of increasing costs. But we feel it only fair to allow you as Much time as possible to take advantage of our current pumping prices.

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Gingerbread houses

Continued from Page 1

voting was Saturday during the open house.

You can view more gingerbread houses on line at the Vashon Chamber facebook page. There is a link on the chamber website. www.VashonChamber.com

Winner of the \$50 in Gingerbread Bucks is Willoughby Greenwood. Gingerbread Bucks can be redeemed at their favorite Gingerbread House store!



Vashon Community Care Center



Vashon Pharmacy



True Value



The other side of the Trig Insurance Gingerbread house showing a care parked in the front door.



Frame of Mind



Congratulations to...
The Little House,
Bettie Edwards and
Mardi Ljubich for a
job well done!

Top spot in the First Annual
Merchant Gingerbread
House Contest
sponsored by the
Vashon Island
Chamber of Commerce



Island Life

Dig Deep

by Peter Ray

Somewhere in my archives, at least mentally if it has indeed been lost to the physical world, there is an image of a baseball viewed through scrub and small trees. For as long as I have been driving I have also been stopping in odd places to record images to various media. In this case, I don't remember whether I came to a screeching halt or looked for a convenient turnaround spot and doubled back, but I did stop and explore and commit at least one image to 35mm Tri-X Kodak safety film. What caught my eye was the vague outline of a baseball on the side of an abandoned building somewhere in upstate New York back in the 1970's. I actually traded a print of this shot for a signed copy of Dan Okrent's Ultimate Baseball Book for a gift for my Dad, but that's another story. Our focus here will remain on things found on a barn at Young's Corner here on the Island.

Five years ago a barn appeared here courtesy of the efforts of Islanders Duane Dietz and Pat Kane. It was their intent to create a structure that had basic barn-like utilitarian functions, while at the same time remaining in the character of vintage Vashon. It seems that, in form, they achieved that goal, as they have been asked recently by an historical preservationist just why the barn hasn't made the historical buildings register. To augment the illusion of the patina of time, they have been slowly adding a variety of farm and garden related signs to its exterior. Along with these bits of memorabilia, two paintings of mural-like scope and an appearance of advertising have been commissioned to add color and character to the view from the road. Both times, Islander Annie Brulé was tapped to produce both an enlarged reproduction of a Vashon chicken farmers' co-op sign, and just recently an "apocryphal advertisement" to grace the north end of the barn. For subject matter,

Brulé, Dietz and Kane brainstormed for a fictional product and came up with the concept of Cap'n Vashon's Maritime Geoduck Elixir.

For me, the notion of an elixir evokes images of snake oil salesmen, so I checked with Wikipedia which defines elixir as: "...a clear, sweet-flavored liquid used for medicinal purposes, to be taken orally and intended to cure one's ills..." There is also reference made in this definition to alchemy and eternal life. While the whole giant mollusk-sourced, clear and sweet thing doesn't really work for me, the geoduck's reputation as one of the longest living species around, with one such individual known to have survived for 168 years, speaks to the concept of waters of life and potions for eternal youth. It was also stated that elixirs were known to have been stored

in clocks to "...amplify the effects of immortality on the users." I like the time reference here, in conjunction with the fact that, while a contemporary construct, the giant blue bottle with period type-face and graphic symbols mimics something from the 1920's or '30's. One could perhaps go another step with the Waters of Life thing being a significant religious reference, and suggest that maybe we have our next generation of a Jesus Barn in the making. One could dispense with the religious undertones and anticipate that it is the strength of the exterior graphics that allow this barn to pose as a significant, Island-based terrestrial marker buoy, lighthouse, or a 3D, GPS recalculation alternative. As a native of Northwest waters, the geoduck was named by the Nisqually tribe, and it might be suggested that while the translation of its name- dig deep- suggests its physical, residential strata in some of the shoreline communities of this area, it could also infer that all this digging for symbolism should maybe give way to the basic concept that a bit of humor is always a welcome elixir in these times.

To see the Cap'n Vashon bivalve extravaganza in real life, head to the intersection of Vashon Highway and Cemetery Rd. and head east until you can't anymore. At that point, which is Young's Corner, your only alternative is to take a 90 degree right to the south and the barn will be on your right. As an alternative, and one that will hopefully continue to be a part of this column, you can journey cybernetically to the land of the YouTube and search out either Cap'n Vashon's Maritime Geoduck Elixir, or type in the enigmatic gibberish that is the address of this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtzPw04MWdI, where you will find some experimentation in black and white that soon gives over to more conventional living color, video story-telling fare. Comments are always welcome- pgr42@att.net.



Gingerbread Homes for Sale



Chautauqua Elementary first grade classes built gingerbread houses (now on display in our foyer) that are up for silent auction ending this Friday, Dec 9th. Proceeds are going to benefit our Lunch Club alternate recess program.

Vashon Allied Arts

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Submit your Event on line at
www.vashoncalendar.org

Find the Loop on-line at
www.vashonloop.com.

Taking Root

The Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust is proud to co-sponsor the Community Cinema Vashon’s December film screening of TAKING ROOT: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. This inspirational documentary film is a portrait of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement. Everyone is invited to this free event Sunday - December 18th - Ober Park Performance Room - 3:00-5:00pm.

How does the the simple act of planting trees lead to winning the Nobel Peace Prize? Ask Wangari Maathai of Kenya. In 1977, she suggested rural women plant trees to address problems stemming for a degraded environment. Under her leadership, their tree planting grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, defend human rights, and promote democracy. Alan Dater and Lisa Merton, Directors/Producers, say that “Wangari was a cinematographer’s dream. She was charismatic, humorous, a consummate storyteller....She

also had amazing courage and was humble.” Her story helps us understand the linkages between environmental justice, human rights, good governance, and peace. She was the recipient of numerous awards, served in many positions of leadership and authored 4 books - the last in 2010, Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing Ourselves and the World. Wangari died Sept 25, 2011 of ovarian cancer at the age of 71.

The film is a testament to the power of ordinary people to effect major social and political change. What began as a tree-planting movement became an example of how “the little grassroots people.... can change this world.” In their efforts to bring political change to Kenya, Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement used nonviolence, a strategy that rejects the use of physical violence. Nonviolent techniques stand in contrast to armed struggle and have proven to be powerful tools in numerous movements for independence, government reform, and human rights.

The Land Trust, whose mission is to preserve the wild places and rural character of Vashon-Maury Island, has been instrumental in importing over 100,000 native trees for planting by the island community. In thinking of planting trees and preserving forests, consider that trees produce oxygen, add moisture to the atmosphere, sequester carbon through photosynthesis - thus controlling the levels of carbon dioxide in the air, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve air quality.

Derek Churchill, former Land Trust board of directors member & Island Forest Ecologist, will moderate an audience discussion following the screening. ITVS (Independent Television Service) brings the unique and timely content of the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens to Community Cinema events monthly to over 100 cities nationwide. Vashon events happen every third Sunday - always free at Ober Park. For more information: ITVS.org or Jane Berg - 567-4532.



Wangari Maathai planting trees in the degraded Aberdare Forest, Kenya
Photo: Lisa Merton

VFW Sponsored Essay Awards Ceremony

An essay banquet ceremony will be conducted at the McMurray Middle School on Friday, December 16, from 10 to 11 am for all essays received from Chautauqua Elementary, McMurray Middle and The Harbor Schools. The student’s family and friends are invited to the Awards Ceremony. The essay banquet ceremony will be conducted by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Administrators and Teachers of the 3 schools noted above. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be awarded framed certificates and cash, and all of the other students will receive a certificate. All students that participated in the essay contest

will be recognized for having the courage and ability to tell the world about duty, honor, and country. 1st Place winner will be asked to read their essay.

The 1st place winner’s essay in each class have been forwarded to VFW District 2 to be evaluated with essays received from schools in Seattle. The District 2 Youth Essay awards and ice cream social will be conducted at the VFW Rainier Post on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 2 pm. Our 1st place winners and the district 2, 1st place winners for the Washington state Youth Essay contest, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades and the one best essay of the Patriot’s Pen Contest, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be

forwarded to the Washington state level for evaluation. The winners will be recognized at the school involved during an assembly in early 2012. The 1st place winner of the Patriot’s Pen Contest, at the state level will be forwarded to the National Level and will be given an all expense paid trip to Washington DC for 6 days, and an United States Bond for up to \$15,000.

This is VFW’s small contribution to help prepare our leaders of tomorrow for the awesome tasks of leadership

Free On Line
Classifieds
www.VashonLoop.com

News from Shape Up Vashon

Shape Up now has over 100 members! At the members’ request, we are creating new fun activities. First, we have started a walking group: SUV Roadsters. Any member can sign up and call a walk anywhere, anytime for folks to join. In a program for the community, Kari Bell, who cooks great recipes at the Thriftway demo section, is presenting “Friends with Veggies” every Wednesday. Learn new easy vegetable recipes and when possible, she will have the main ingredient on sale.

Save the Dates! Learn more about SUV in December at the Senior Center. Choose between special presentations of All

About SUV on Dec 14th at 12:30 PM or December 15th at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome to this free class.

SUV’s next regular class, Let’s do the Numbers by Kathleen Davis MD, Chris Davis MD and Mona Hardy Wednesday Dec 14 at 7-8:15 PM at Courthouse Square

What do blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose numbers mean?

What should my sugar level be?

So many risk factors, what matters the most? Which cancer screening tests should I do?

All this will be answered as well as a holiday check in.

A recipe surprise for the

New Year

Exercises for the core

Suggestions for classes for the New Year

Come at 6:15 if you would like to get your blood pressure checked, weigh-in, do the YMCA step up fitness test, or sign up for Shape Up.

Courthouse Square is at 19021 Vashon Highway SW, next to the Sheriff’s Office. Classes are free to SUV members, \$5 for all others.

Starting in January, we will be offering these classes on the second Wednesdays at 10:00 AM at the Senior Center as well as on the same evening at Courthouse Square.

VASHON EAGLES
Kids Christmas party
Dec. 18th - 2pm



Dec. 25th.... Free Christmas Dinner open to everyone! We provide the ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy....anyone can bring a side dish or a dessert if they’d like. Dinner starts between 3 and 4pm. Open to the public!

Vashon Eagles
18134 Vashon Hwy SW
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We have homemade hot buttered rum mix with ice cream!!! Come enjoy a yummy drink through the holidays!

Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant



Thursdays Kids Eat FREE!!!

NOW OPEN Wednesday
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday - 11:30am-8pm

Available for Private Parties

Located at the Old Monkey Tree
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Aries (March 20-April 19)
Your rational ideas may be coming into conflict with things to take for granted or on faith. If you're in any conflict, I suggest you check where these two seemingly different levels of reality are trying to establish the truth of something, or vying for supremacy. This kind of tension can be uncomfortable, particularly if you find yourself questioning cherished beliefs that you don't want to let go of. It would be worth your time, however, to ask yourself why you believe what you believe. It would be just as worthwhile to inquire whether your ideas about life stand up to the available facts, and for that matter, a few other facts that you are currently digging out. The good news is that baseless beliefs don't really provide you with any comfort, and the even better news is that facts don't always add up to the truth.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
You may feel like you've gone through a transformation of some kind, perhaps right down to the cellular level, which has left you feeling raw and vulnerable. At the same time, you're in a highly structured environment, which you may think is limiting you but which is really providing you with a measure of stability as you go through some deep and necessary changes. Therefore you can focus on your growth, trusting that you're supported in that experience. Whether you feel safe is another question, but I suggest you treat vulnerability as an opportunity rather than as any kind of threat. All of the finer things in life -- love, sensuality, desire, self-expression, learning and friendship, are facilitated by your being open, receptive and in harmony with your environment. You may have the feeling that your surroundings are not supportive of these things, but your astrology suggests that you have some excellent opportunities for authentic contact.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
Anger is a controversial emotion among spiritual types, most of whom would prefer to outlaw it or at least banish it to the dark side. However, the fact is that anger exists, and it has many causes. Whether it's a productive emotion in the long-run is another question, but in the immediate timeframe it is calling your attention to something that you should pay attention to. The danger of anger is festering on it or turning it inward. Another danger is projecting it outward in ways that are not healthy or respectful, but it's probably better to err on the side of expression rather than suppression. In any event, your attention is being called to a truly significant issue, and you know that you will need to take action sooner rather than later. There is no rush, however; I suggest you investigate your feelings and the history behind them for a while before you make any final decisions.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
This is a good time to consider what you owe the world, or what you absolutely want above all else to give the world. You may have a significant debt that you are here to pay off in some form of selfless service. Or, you may have noticed that you've been doing that for a long time and need to think of it in a different way. You may be someone who has never considered the concept of world service. It's time to give that idea a thorough and introspective investigation and find out what it means

for you. You are formulating a deep relationship to this idea, and something akin to being a spiritual disciple is awakening in you. Whatever the karma behind this awakening may be, you are receiving a deep inheritance. True, you may not think of gaining an inheritance as 'taking action', but what you have is the privilege of authentic participation.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
You have a creative opportunity to make a lot of money, with the emphasis on creative first and money second. This will require you to take some specific, carefully chosen action, which I suggest you think of as an experiment. You can wait for 'something to happen' but you would benefit from knowing your goal, planning your approach and making a move to see how it goes. An old friend or colleague may be involved, such as in the role of reminding you of an old idea you had, or providing you with some resources or inspiration. During this Mercury retrograde, you may find yourself digging up undeveloped ideas, dreams or desires that serve a diversity of purposes -- and which will enrich your life if you follow up on them. If you're discovering an abundance of these, pick from the ones that you think will make you the happiest. There will be many other benefits.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
You are gaining confidence, but it seems to be a delicate walk because losing your courage is only a thought away. The good news is that reconnecting with your courage is only a thought away. But here is a clue: Being rebellious is not enough to get you there. Rebellion in itself is a tool, not a value, and I suggest you be cautious where you apply it. The uprisings that worked for you as a child no longer work today; the things that got the attention of your parents will no longer get the attention of anyone in authority now. Anyway, there is something else you want from your predecessors, which is the example of their authentic relationship to the world. You will gain confidence by being fully in your environment, and by proceeding if not with a sense of entitlement, a sense of belonging to the human family. You are not an outcast. You are a fully vested participant in life on the planet.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
I suggest you acquire some political skills, or refine and enhance the ones you have. Politics is the basic game of human society. It's influenced by many things: privilege, sex, strength, resources and the propensity of certain individuals to violence -- but at the end of the day, to be a skilled player you need none of that. You merely need an understanding of the game and why it is important. I am suggesting this not to get you further entrenched in an idea or an institution of some kind but rather to help you find some freedom. Getting along with others, learning to get your agenda going, and having some skill in give and take, are all essential talents worth developing. In any situation where politics is a necessary art, the antithesis is to stay in touch with your sexual desire. When you lose that vital contact, the game can become dangerous indeed.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
You may be inclined to push a financial deal, but you had better check the details carefully before you sign anything. There is promise and potential

here, and possibly the chance to realize a very specific dream or desire. Yet the combination of a stellar Mars aspect (driving you forward) simultaneously with Mercury retrograde (potential misunderstanding or misinformation) is the cause for concern. You could do a handshake deal now, and finalize the real agreement in the last two weeks of the year, after Mercury stations direct and become privy to certain levels of information that you may not be aware even exist. The details count for a lot, and I suggest you invest your time finding out what is going on below the surface. Chances are you will be able to use the information well, and resolve your lingering questions -- but those questions have to come to the surface before you can do that.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
You had better make sure your opinions are backed up by some data. It would be adequate to be able to say, "In my opinion, such and such is true, for the following three reasons." I don't mean to undermine your confidence in what you know is right, but rather bolster your confidence when it comes to knowing you're not always right. I would give yourself extra points if you or anyone else spots an error in your thinking, particularly an error of interpretation. This may come from someone who you are sure is inexperienced or uninformed; don't let that stop you from fact-checking if someone nudges you. At the heart of the matter, though, is a lingering question about something you believe and are inclined to hold onto at all costs, despite your doubts. You may think you're a brave holdout, but I would say check the freshness date.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
I am pretty sure you have not heard of the Red Goat incident in the little town where I live. This consisted of two artists tagging these brand-new, certifiably ugly white tree planters with a stencil of red goats. A little street art caused one of the biggest uproars of the year. Everyone (including me) was suspect in what amounted to a two-week police dragnet. The mayor took it so personally he nearly had an aneurysm. The masses were rallied for a fantastic cause. It was great fun -- and the symbol of the unintentional revolt was a goat, just being him/herself. Over the next few days you're likely to have a similar kind of impulse power, causing reactions you could never have predicted and getting results you were not expecting. This will be fun, if you keep your eye on the effects you're having. For one thing, you have some luscious, charismatic sex appeal working for you. Lest you're in doubt -- people are noticing.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
The deepest core of your psyche has gone from spitting out demons, to the sensation of angels flying out the windows of your soul. I would dare say there have likely been a few spaces in between, when you wondered just what it was you were possessed by. All of this is part of a necessary catharsis that will extend into early next year, when Neptune leaves your sign and enters Pisces. This is a phase of resolution; of tying up the loose ends and making sure that you're being honest with yourself, and with the people around you, before you move onto your next major adventure. What feels like madness or turmoil in your soul will connect you to your deepest and most authentic creativity. It only feels like angels and devils when it's suppressed. Then it has a way of turning into art, music and celebration.



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Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
The emphasis of your charts is focused on your career -- and I suggest that's where you keep the emphasis of your energy flow. There is more happening there than you recognize, and despite a few things that could be going better than they seem to be, you will have energy to spare as long as you moderate your pace and keep your communications clear. This is a seed moment for you, a time when you will make decisions and act on long-delayed plans. But don't stop there. You are under rare astrology that is about expanding your vision and making forays into the world that you might have deemed impossible just months or weeks ago. Part of the emphasis is on partnership; the people you encounter now could prove to be truly significant collaborators. Strive for clarity and you will get clear results.

Read Eric Francis daily at
www.PlanetWaves.net.

Spiritual Smart Aleck



www.spiritualsmartaleck.blogspot.com

When There Are No Words

by Mary Tuel

Micheal, the husband of my friend Susan who recently passed, writes that their four year old grandson Ian asked if MaMa was dead. Yes, Micheal told him, and the boy went off to play. But now, a couple of weeks later, Ian wants to know when MaMa is going to come back alive again.

When is Susan going to come back alive? I know how Ian feels. I was thinking the other night, okay, joke's over, let's go back to the way it was.

Micheal said he tried to explain it to Ian but could tell the kid wasn't buying what he was saying. I don't know how to explain death to a child, either.

I'm a Christian and I'm supposed to believe we go to heaven, and I believe that if there is a heaven, Susan is there, but I also think that we just don't know what happens when we die. I think there is a truth and that we don't know what it is. If it is heaven, cool.

The Christian heaven is the way Christians talk about the afterlife - but again, I think a lot of theology uses puny little words to talk about things that are too huge to be contained by all the words we've got. The word "God" is a pretty small box and couldn't possibly contain whatever "God" is - the word is a symbol, a placeholder, for what we don't know how to say or grasp.

If you say things like, "God took her" or "she's in a better place" a kid is bound to wonder what kind of a jerk God is for taking people he or she loves, and besides, what better place could there be than right here with me? Children will trip you up on points like that.

Then there are visitations.

I heard a "grief expert" saying the other day that people who have recently lost a loved one normally hallucinate things like the sound of the door opening at the time that person came home from work every day, for example. I've also heard from therapists that it is quite common to wake up and find the shade of a beloved dead person standing by your bed, watching over you as you sleep. So if someone you love has passed recently, just in case you're afraid you're hearing or seeing things, don't freak out. Turns out that's normal.

When talking to a child about death, keeping it simple and brief would probably be good. I know that's a good idea in general when talking with children.

I think you'd need to tell a child that bodies die, but spirits don't, and love doesn't. You could say that the person who died is not coming back the way we knew her, and we're very sad, and we love her and miss her so much, but she's not sick anymore, not hurting. We know that she wants us to go on living, remembering her and telling stories about her and being glad we got to love her and be loved by her because she was such a great MaMa, such a great Susan, the best there ever was, really, one in seven billion.

I'd think that if it's appropriate you could hold that child and try to be as comforting as possible in the face of our unfortunate and unavoidable mortality. If it was me, I know I'd be faking it, because ultimately, there are no words that adequately explain the death of his beloved grandmother to a little boy.

As you become older and more of the people you know pass on before you, you become a little more inured to death, but when someone close to you dies, it is quite literally stunning. All you can do is grieve, and go on, and wait for the solace that can come with tincture of time.

What shall we do today? Let's get up and live and thank God.

Please join Harbor School students for their annual Arts and Crafts Fair

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As in years past, this is a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their talents and for you to purchase charming holiday items.

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by each student to a charity of their choice.

We've Got a Lot of Kids

by Kevin Pottinger

What Do You Do With My Teeth?

Let me explain: I've been busy, work; my wife and our four kids: busy too. My people call their people; we do lunch. So we've all been quite busy; I love writing my columns, I love my wife and kids and I love my readers. You're all fine, I swear.

Our youngest daughter Gracie, seven, has recently lost almost all of her front teeth, sometimes two at a time, so there's been plenty of visits from the Tooth Fairy lately.

The Tooth Fairy usually provides a crisp fiver, per tooth, or sometimes the rough equivalent in shiny laundered quarters and dimes and nickels. So the loss of her front teeth has been a nice little cottage business for Gracie; the other day she had like thirty-five bucks in her little zippered vinyl coin purse.

So all of our kids are vigilant for wiggly teeth. Like pigeons pecking at shiny things, in a quiet moment they'll reflexively give each tooth a tug in turn. Mom! Dad! I have a loose tooth! We examine the alleged wiggly tooth, prodding it front to back, side to side.

I suspect our youngest boy Alec of sometimes helping things along a little, forcing teeth to wiggle that weren't actually ready to come out yet.

For several days, Gracie would point to her loose tooth and demonstrate its wiggle to anyone with ears to hear. A couple teeth got wigglier and wigglier from repeat demonstrations, they hung by a thread for days and eventually fell out unassisted; others got embedded in caramel and were yanked out too soon. But the majority were pulled by Mrs. Haulman, Gracie's kindergarten teacher of last year.

Similar to those with an inborn talent for dowsing, Pam seems to have been given the gift of pulling teeth. She's really very good at it.

All of the teeth were placed carefully under Gracie's pillow in a little suede

pouch, to be discovered by the Tooth Fairy while she slept.

In most cases the Tooth Fairy wrote a nice little note and remitted the traditional crisp fiver the same night the tooth was placed, but like my wife Maria and me, sometimes the Tooth Fairy gets swamped and will miss one or even two nights, forgetting to stop by the deli to get change for a twenty or to make the trip to the cash machine. And after all, the Tooth Fairy can't just write a check; Tooth Fairies don't have bank accounts.

Perhaps feeling that a closer relationship was building with the Tooth Fairy, with all those notes and crisp fivers and teeth under her pillow lately, Gracie created a ten or twelve-page illuminated manuscript in colored markers, peppered with personal questions for the Tooth Fairy: what's it like being a Tooth Fairy? What's your name? Where do you live? Can I visit you?

Inside the envelope were trinkets Gracie left for the Tooth Fairy, a little Barbie necklace, a small stamped-metal key to a diary or a small jewelry box, three Altoids.

How did you become a Tooth Fairy? What exactly do you do with my teeth?

Gracie shouted when she found the little suede satchel under her pillow, stuffed with five bucks and a letter from the Tooth Fairy answering each of Gracie's questions.

The Tooth Fairy had filled the front and half the back of an eight-and-a-half-by-eleven sheet in flowery purple script, folded it in half four times, and crammed it in the tiny suede satchel.

It might have taken the Tooth Fairy three hours to write it with her special purple fairy pen, late at night after the kids were asleep; painstakingly writing out responses to each of Gracie's questions in the Tooth Fairy's idiosyncratic curlicue purple script.

What do you eat? Do you have a family? Can I be a Tooth Fairy too?

Gracie studied the note, learning that our Tooth Fairy is a trainee; she lives far away so it wouldn't be practical for Gracie to visit, and the fairies were planning on using Gracie's teeth as part of a garden wall.

She thanked Gracie for her little presents, and let her know that someday, maybe when Gracie grows up, she might get to be a Tooth Fairy too.

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PANDORA'S BOX

Well, we are all missing Buddy.
His spirit is still roaming around and riding the cart.
Thanks for all the kind words of condolence.
It is comforting to know that he touched so many.

Cheryl's Pick of the Week:

Trying to catch the shy little tabby that keeps running under the ramp and back to the building next door.
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Also - Don't forget to shop early for Christmas treats!

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Island Epicure



By Marj Watkins

Hot Potato Salads for Winter

My reissued little book, Beans, Rice, and Pastas, is available at Suzanna Leigh’s studio this weekend and next. The studio is called HiLaDi, Number 29 on the Studio Tour Map. The name is Kwakiutl and means something like “everything just as it should be.” Beans, Rice, and Pastas offers recipes from all over the world, including old American favorites such as Boston Baked Beans, and ranging as far afield as East Asia. If you miss it on the Studio Tour, look for it later at Minglement.

Some pages of the little book, originally published 30 years ago, as a consciousness-raiser for the food bank have been slightly revised to update them to this century’s art of cooking. For instance, it includes a way to make gluten free tortillas.

Under the heading of “beans” I include the other legumes peas and peanuts. Here is a sample recipe for a high-protein salad you can enjoy hot in the winter, cold in the summer. Gado gado means “peanuts.” If the shell contained only one nut, it would be a “gado”.

Amounts of ingredients are up to you after considering how many people you’ll be serving it to and how hungry they may be.

JAVANESE POTATO SALAD
(Gado Gado)

Sliced Boiled Potatoes
2-inch Cucumber Sticks
Bean Sprouts, blanched 3 seconds
Cooked Green Beans
Chinese Cabbage, lightly cooked
Red Bell Pepper Strips
Tofu Cubes, well scalded
Boiled Eggs, halved or sliced
Gado Gado Sauce

Arrange the vegetables on a platter by sections

Place the tofu cubes in the center. Garnish with eggs.

Let each diner compose his or her own salad. Pass the Gado Gado Sauce to spoon over it.

Or compose a salad dish with the Chinese cabbage on the bottom and the other ingredients artistically arranged on it. Ladle the sauce over the salad. Garnish with egg halves or slices.

GADO GADO SAUCE
(Peanut Sauce)

1 (13.66-ounce) can Coconut Milk or 1 ½ to 2 cups boiling Water
¼ cup Dried Coconut Shreds
1 Onion, minced. Stir-fry 5 minutes in

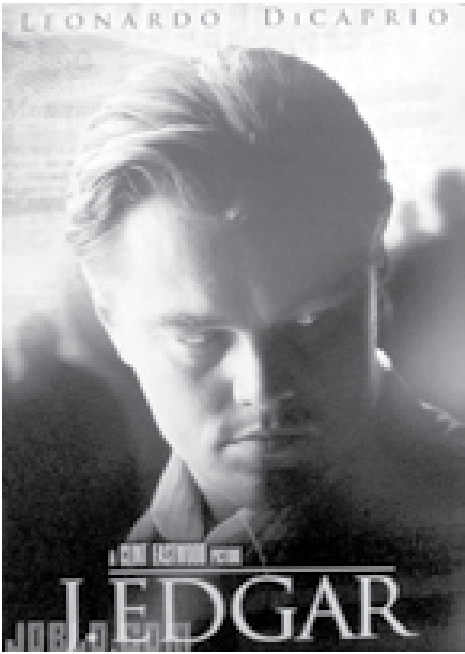
2 Tablespoons Vegetable Oil
1/8 teaspoon Cayenne Pepper or
A sprinkle of Dried Red Peppers or ½ to 1 red or green fresh Chili Pepper, frozen

And then grated into the sauce
2 Tablespoons Lemon Juice

Stir-cook all the ingredients on medium-low heat until the sauce thickens and no longer tastes raw, adding water as needed. Remove sauce from the heat and stir in lemon juice.

December 9-11

J Edgar



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Blast from the Past

Continued from Page 1

change husband.

The newspaper came out of a late night drinking session with Gino the cook for Fishy’s and Ralph, a red-nosed-thick-necked-sad-faced Rhodes scholar.

I’d hired on as a bartender. Shout out to Carol and Wayne; you were true humanitarians. We were talking about how Vashon needed its’ own paper. Our corporate rag with the old-fashioned name was edited by a crazy mean woman by the name of Alice Somethingoranother, It was stuffed with circulars from off-Island super stores and stories of hay rides and the acrid editorials of Alice.

“Yeah man, we need something that reflects the Island,” Gino said. Gino was sleeping in the restaurant’s office. His niece was a stone cold fox, but I was married then.

At any rate, we were talking about the newspaper. The Ticket really delivered. People came out of the wood work to write for us, and we were all blessed that it went as well as it did. I went mad. Burned out. Too much information and it was all getting mixed up. All I wanted was an extended vacation, but one of my co-workers thought she could run the paper by herself, and there was a hostile takeover of sorts, or rather, a passive aggressive one. When I wouldn’t submit to their outrageous demands, they ran away with my ad copy, what was left of my good will, and the writers. Were I a more litigious person I would have sued. As it was the story dragged on and The Loop was born. They kept it alive long enough as to leave it half buried in debt.

Me, I continued to crack up. Took the \$10,000 in our account and went to Guatemala for three weeks. This was all a long time and a lot of water under the proverbial Judd Bridge ago.

John Browne came up with the name of the new paper. I always felt a little odd about that, but then, I’m a little odd, he probably had no idea it would become such a colossal bummer.

Steve, the now editor of The Loop asked me to come in with a piece.

“What do you want?” I asked.

“Whatever you want,” he said. That was a mistake. There’s not much work in this town and the corporate paper has a very good editor now. I think this town needs a monthly or bi-monthly literary zine, not a second rate paper. Newspapers are so yesterday’s news.

Hamish Todd
hamdogthirty@yahoo.com

Positively Speaking

Stirring Gentle Waters

By Deborah H. Anderson

It's the four in hand in Bell Choir playing that really astounds me. As I watched the Bells of the Sound handbell choir play piece after piece with that four in hand technique I sat mesmerized.

The first time I picked up a handbell I had a real orientation challenge. As a pianist I'm used to commanding all the notes. With handbells, you are in charge of one or two or three depending on the song. Each player is assigned a note or notes and they play only those notes. That means a player is constantly listening to what comes before and after and requires of themselves a technique that makes their notes sound like everybody else's notes. It's truly remarkable.

It's also the answer to less stress during the holidays and world peace during the rest of the year.

Too many of us are in somebody else's business when we're not supposed to be, not attending to the business we ARE supposed to be involved in, or worrying about the big picture when the big picture would be better if we were taking on our little set of concerns with excellency.

The other thing we lack is the ability to play our lives collaboratively.

Why? Dependency issues, neediness from birth or trauma or improperly wired circuits.

Dependency means you are not a stand alone person. None of us are really. There are positive dependencies and negative dependencies and best of all in relationships is interdependency.

. My dependency on the pool to soothe my inner wrinkles is healthy and beneficial. My dependency on Franz chocolate covered donuts to calm down after a nerve wracking day is not healthy.

Most of life's problems

come from two sources: not enough resources resulting in a feeling of powerlessness, and dependency issues.

Right now, I'm absolutely spent. It's taking everything in me to not write to editor Steve and tell him, "I can't do this right now". What was supposed to be a fun weekend that began with a handbell concert (which was such a wonderful multi generational girl's night out), lead into a Christmas brunch that turned heavy with the burdens we agree to mutually share as a small group. That was followed by an email stating that the brother of a middle age man who died of cancer five months ago, had just suddenly died of cardiac arrest. By this morning I forced myself to go to the off Island church where I worship

(which during the week is Kakao Café at 415 Westlake—do go have a latte) and sat in the service listening to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem 'Christmas Bells'(which was later made into the hymn 'I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day') which includes two devastatingly heartfelt verses (not included in the hymn) about the nation in the middle of Civil War, and wept. Take a minute and google them.

Sometimes the pain of evil in this world just o're takes my soul and I weep.

I lead our small group and so I'm the one who chooses our sharing questions. For the Christmas Brunch I asked 'What is the gift you'd like to give and what is the gift you'd like to receive?' I can tell you my answers. I'd like to take away all the pain in the hearts of my four children; pain they acquired during some bumpy patches sometimes while they were in our family and sometimes when they were outside. The gift I'd like to receive is getting my

healthy body back.

The Ballard Bridge was up on my way to brunch and I had a chance to reflect on the answers I was going to give. In that moment, the Spirit revealed to me my attitude was inaccurate in how I was holding those questions. In my heart I was hoping that God would shoot some magic wand my way and make my body healthy and whole again. And I was praying that God would give me some ideas about how to heal my childrens' hearts. Sitting in front of the completely raised bridge. I realized I had the two backwards. Only God can heal my children's broken hearts and only I can do the things necessary to restore health to my body.

Dependency on God is a healthy dependency.

Each of us playing our own notes is the interdependent pattern necessary for the world to play its tune in the right peaceful key.

As I fled the church setting before the service was out because my soul was so sad I could not contain the tears, I found myself driving to Greenlake. Our whole family loves Greenlake. It's a sacred place for us. (I've often longed for Greenlake on Vashon. We need a small lake with a bike and walking path around it.)

I sat in the parking spot by the crew house, and finished my feelings... kind of. I called to mind the sound in the sanctuary on Friday night as the bells rang out. The echo, the residual effect of clappers against metal wafting over the audience in a universal language of peace.

May you have one meaningful moment of redemption this holiday season; one moment when you realize that there will be enough oil in the lamp to keep the sacred trust or one moment when you heave a sigh of relief because being rescued from slavery starts with a baby.

And because of that moment, may you stir the waters gently during the rest of the season.

Love,
Deborah



Care to contact Deborah with comments or questions? dha@lgcmin.com
Looking for more to read of Deborah? Check out the following three blogs and leave her a comment.
www.mealsandmoments.blogspot.com -offers real encouragement in a virtual world.
www.socialcontemplative.blogspot.com -encourages faith based leadership for those in the church world.
or you can email her at dha@lgcmin.com
www.socialcontemplative.blogspot.com -Under the Rock: Encouraging Faith Based Leadership



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Marine Recovery Area Septic System Compliance on Vashon Island Approaching July 2012 Deadline

Failing septic systems that potentially pollute Vashon Island marine waters as well as other parts of Puget Sound are required to be fixed by July 1st, 2012 under Marine Recovery Area law enacted by the State Legislature in 2006. The law, described in RCW Chapter 70.118A, requires inspection of on-site sewage disposal systems and repairs to failing systems in Marine Recovery Areas in order to restore and preserve the health and safety of Puget Sound waters, our ecosystem, and our marine life.

To meet the 2012 deadline, Public Health - Seattle & King County is increasing notices and technical assistance for homeowners. Letters will be sent to homeowners, and new community meetings and technical assistance fairs will be held. Since 2008, Public Health provided a variety of educational opportunities for MRA property owners to understand and comply with the law including:

- 6 public meetings;
- Door belling individual properties to provide one-to-one neighborhood meeting opportunities;
- Periodic informational mailings and inspection reminders;
- 2 septic system vendor fairs to show technology solutions;
- 4 Homeowner septic maintenance workshops;
- Working with the Community Council Septic Solutions Subcommittee;
- Individual technical assistance upon request; and
- contributing to news articles in the local newspapers.

Island residents have responded:

34% of the 262 homes in the MRA have been inspected and are functioning;

Properties known to be in the process of a permitted repair or replacement will be treated as having a current inspection.

However, 66% of the properties lack a current inspection, a record drawing, or both. While a 34% compliance rate with the state law is progress towards a cleaner environment, 66% of homeowners must still take steps to come into compliance by getting an inspection done and repairing a failing system where required. After four years of education and outreach, starting in December, Public Health will begin the enforcement process to meet the State's requirements by July 2012.

More information

Failing systems have the potential to pollute waters in Quartermaster Harbor, and East Passage. Many leak untreated or partly treated sewage through seeps and drains in bulkheads while some older waterfront properties even discharge wastewater directly to the beach. New technologies available today will allow many property owners to improve old wastewater systems.

Updated maps showing properties with current inspections and/or record drawing documentation is available along with other information on the MRA at www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra.aspx



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Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 17

Law Offices of
Jon W. Knudson
Parker Plaza * P.O. Box 229
Bankruptcy -- Family Law
463-6711

Vashon Lacrosse Club to host free skills clinics for new & returning youth players Saturday, Dec. 17, at VHS Gym

Register today for your son grades 3-6 to learn the ABCs of lacrosse or refresh his skills at a Varsity player lead clinic to be held Saturday, December 17 at the high school gym. Adult coaches and Lacrosse Club parents will be on site to answer your questions about participating in the Vashon Lacrosse Club program.

Vashon Lacrosse Club registration for the 2012 season is open! Register online today at www.vashonlacrosse.com. Vashon Lacrosse Club fields teams for boys and girls starting in grade 3. Our Club program emphasizes sportsmanship,

skills building, and love of the game. Competitive league play starts in 7th grade.

Get ready for the season with two free clinics! Never played lacrosse? Free introduction to lacrosse! **Saturday, December 17, 9:30-11:30 @ VHS gym**

Vashon Lacrosse Club invites boys in grades 3-6 who have never played the game to join us for a free, ABCs of lacrosse clinic on Saturday, December 17 from 9:30-1130. Lead by members of the Vashon Vultures varsity lacrosse team, the clinic will focus on the

basics. Your kids will come away knowing how to scoop and cradle, toss and catch, and are sure to have a good time.

Can't wait to get back on the field? Free Lacrosse refresher clinic **Saturday, December 17, 11:30-1:30 @ VHS gym**

Get fired up! Vashon Lacrosse Club invites boys in grades 3-6 with a season or more of experience who want to reconnect with their sticks for a little pre-season warm up to join in on this free clinic. Lead by members of the Vashon Vultures varsity lacrosse team, we will focus on skills development. The



clinic will include fun lacrosse inspired games. Space is limited, so please register early.

We will have loaner gear for your kids to use during the clinic. Space is limited, so please register early.

To register: Please e-mail kchachkes@comcast.net, subject line VLC Clinic with your child's name and grade, and which clinic he will attend.

Road to Resilience

Continued from Page 1

we do because most of the rest of the world wasn't. We use 5 times our share of the world's resources, so, as the rest of the world develops, we will need 6 planets to maintain the world at our level of resource use. Don't expect alternative energy sources to save us the task of trimming down. Renewables are not expected to replace more than 25% of the energy we expend now. There simply is no getting around it; we have to cut back, and we need to do it now.

"The Transition Model postulates that this change needs to take place at the community level. The formidable costs of transport will naturally refocus power and economics at the local level, as well it should because diversity is far more resilient than monopoly.

Powerful interests at the state and national level are not disposed to encourage strategies that reduce or eliminate their own influence.

"Meanwhile, what to do? When you think about it, our entire lifestyle is built around fossil fuels. Ever since we started to gear up to using it a 200 years ago, we found that this versatile material which just came out of the ground and was free for the taking could be used to do and be just about everything we needed. We now eat it (fertilizers), wear it (polyester, makeup, etc.), travel with it, sleep in it, and are buried in or cremated by it.

"Are we addicted to oil? The definition of addiction is the utter dependence on something outside of ourselves that we continue to use despite the negative consequences. Is

that oil? Yes. It's been a fun ride transforming our lives with heretofore unimaginable luxuries and conveniences. Faced with the prospect for a seemingly diminished future, our natural tendency is to discount, deny, and just pretend it isn't happening. It's easy to do. Going into the unknown is scary. However, if you allow yourself to consider our alternatives, it isn't nearly as bad as it seems. In fact, it could be a whole lot better! Imagine a simpler, more meaningful life in a secure and close knit community.

"If we approach it one step at a time, one day at a time, what appears unthinkable becomes palatable in small steps. We need only keep a kind and gentle, but firm, intention in our minds that we will seize the opportunities to step away from oil whenever we can."

I have a correction to make in last week's column: I mentioned that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were almost 500 ppm. That should be 390 ppm. Things are bad enough without exaggeration on my part.

Make presents this year, or buy used. If you need to buy new, try to buy less stuff that is likely to wind up in the landfill next year. Happy Holidays; remember what is important and what isn't.

Comments?
terry@vashonloop.com

Father-and-Son Computer-Service Business Announces New Price List

Roger Fulton and Ben Fulton, owners of Personal Tech Aid, have been providing computer and other technical services to Vashon Islanders for years. They are happy to announce a new price list that will result in savings for their clients.

Their price list is based on the type of task. For some tasks, their standard service fee of \$45/hour applies. For others, a ceiling applies: they charge \$45/hour, but stop charging if they reach the negotiated ceiling. For a few tasks, they charge less than their standard fee.

Services provided by Personal Tech Aid include:

- Hardware/software recommendations and installation / Fee: \$45/hr
- Removal of viruses and other malware / Fee: Negotiated ceiling

- Computer cleanup and optimization / Fee: Negotiated ceiling
 - Rebuild operating system and applications from scratch / Fee: Negotiated ceiling
 - Computer to computer data transfer (email, docs, etc.) / Fee: \$45/hr
 - Home network setup and service / Fee: \$45/hr
 - Computer tutoring / Fee: \$30/hr
- One of Personal Tech Aid's greatest strengths is providing experienced phone-based service. They can often resolve technical problems right on the phone, which saves their clients the time and expense of an on-site call.
- Check their website for new-customer discounts.

New tool puts ferry ETA just a click away

Now there are no excuses to be late for winter holiday celebrations. Washington State Ferries (WSF) today launched a new feature that provides customers the estimated time of arrival (ETA) for vessels throughout the system.

ETA data is available at the bottom of the WSF VesselWatch page. The system calculates ETA based on a vessel's current location, departure terminal and destination. It compares the GPS and historical sailing data to the record of similar vessels at similar locations along the same

route. Factors such as weather and marine traffic conditions can affect the ETA calculations.

"I can't wait for customers to try out this new tool," said David Moseley, assistant secretary for Washington State Ferries. "It's just one more piece of information that we can provide customers when they plan to take the ferry."

This new ETA feature joins the customer Web-based toolkit, which includes VesselWatch, Best Travel Times and Terminal Cameras.

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Next Loop comes out December 22

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Dec 16th: Patrick Bennion
Dec 23: TV Dinner Trio
Dec 30th: Kat Eggleston & Kate Macleod FOOD BANK BENEFIT

Jan 6th: Sarah Christine
Jan 13th: Pieter Van Winkle & Kim Thal & Rock Island String Collective
Jan 20th: Jeff Kanzler
Every Friday at 7pm

FOR ORCAS AND FOR ISLANDERS
PLEASE REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS
ASAP TO
206-463-9041
Vashon Hydrophone Project
Orca Annie Stettler and Mark Sears
Vashonorcas@aol.com
Support Vashon-Maury Island Whale Research
Sightings NOT Disclosed to Whale Watch Boats
vashonorcas.org

Find the Loop on-line at
www.vashonloop.com.

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Next Loop comes out December 22

The Thing That Wouldn't Leave

By Orca Annie Stateler,
VHP Coordinator

Odin and I had our flippers full on the afternoon of November 30 as Southern Resident orcas traveled south in Colvos Pass and we obtained our first VHP recording of the fall/winter season. Stinging wind and white-capped swells made visual identification a challenge. The water was too rough for our compadres Mark and Maya Sears to deploy in their small, open aluminum research boat.

Fortunately, the killer whales were widely dispersed, foraging, and highly vocal. Judging by the abundant echolocation clicks, many Chum salmon became orca sushi. In the absence of prey samples, we presume the orcas were foraging for the Chum breaching all over Colvos.

The first clear call we heard on the hydrophone was K Pod's signature catlike call. Shortly thereafter, we heard J Pod's signature call, as well as an opulent array of other Southern Resident calls. Within ten minutes of hearing calls, we spotted blows and dorsal fins. To our dismay, a boat exposed the location of the killer whales - shades of San Juan Island.

As they approached the VHP site, the Southern Residents were spread out in foraging clusters of two to five orcas. A navy blue and white cabin cruiser, approximately 30 feet long, was obviously stalking the whales down Colvos Pass. It crowded nearby feeding groups and repeatedly intercepted the path of other orcas. Only a research vessel should be in such close proximity to marine mammals.

The new law for our endangered Southern Residents requires vessels to maintain a distance of 200 yards. The entire time we could see it, the cabin cruiser was not even 100 yards from the orcas. For more than two hours, this boat was an intrusive, looming presence amid the whales - think John Belushi's classic SNL skit, "The Thing That Wouldn't Leave." Rather than being "Whale Wise," the boater provided a textbook



example of how to be Whale Rude and Stupid.

We were distracted from our killer whale count when I reported the cabin cruiser to NMFS Enforcement for harassment. When I made the call, the moving boat was on top of a male orca, possibly in physical contact. The whale slapped his tail flukes vigorously and repeatedly toward the vessel, indicating behavioral disturbance. I have no doubt that if Soundwatch or an enforcement agency witnessed such boater conduct in the San Juans, the offender would receive a warning at a minimum or, ideally, a ticket.

NOAA defines disturbance/harassment as interfering with an animal's ability to hunt, feed, communicate, socialize, rest, breed, or care for young. For that clueless Colvos Pass boater to harass the orcas at their most vulnerable time of year, when finding food requires greater effort, is unacceptable. Depriving the Southern Residents of valuable foraging opportunities imposes life-threatening energetic costs on these fragile orcas.



Vashon baby Notch (J47) with a female relative, off Alki Point. Photo © Maya Sears, 11/29/11

Moreover, it is not precautionary to betray exact real-time locations of an endangered species sensitive to vessel impacts on any platform that is instantly accessible to countless boaters. You are part of the problem if you engage in this dysfunctional behavior.

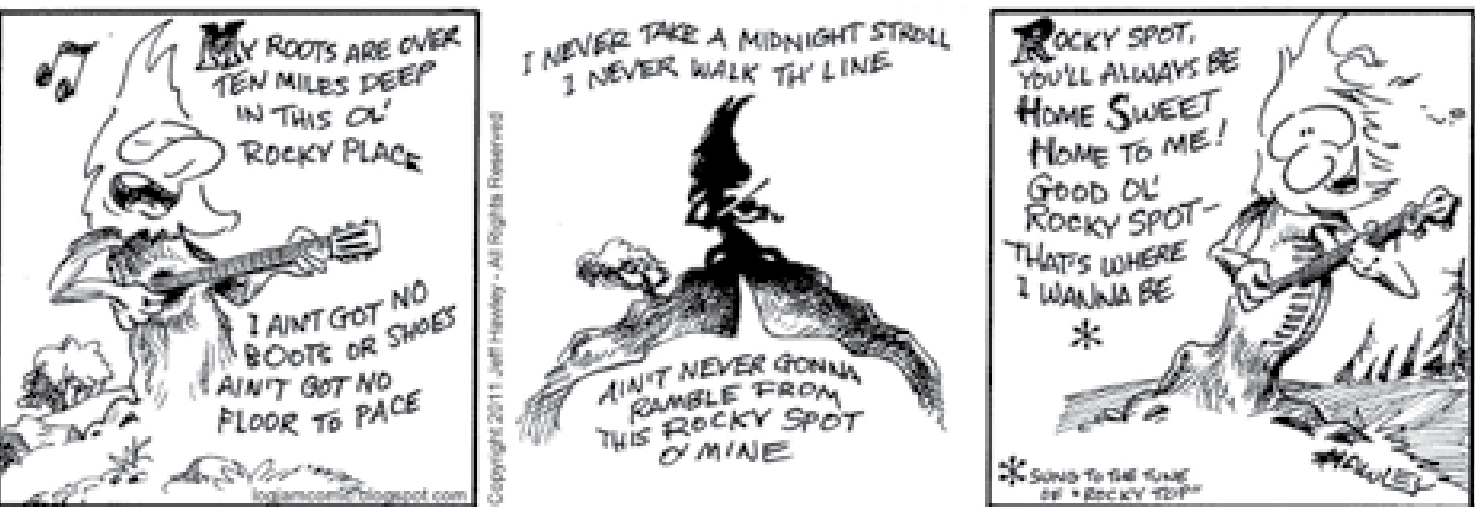
On November 29, Mark and Maya Sears braved choppy water between West Seattle and Bainbridge to document an encounter with J and K Pod members with L87. This week's photo shows Notch (J47), so named for the prominent nick in his dorsal fin. Notch is a Vashon-Maury baby, discovered by Mark Sears just north of Pt. Robinson on January 3, 2010.

Every holiday season, Tlingit artist Odin Lonning sells artwork to benefit the VHP and Wolftown's wildlife rehab. Visit

his table and watch him demonstrate at the Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie, Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11, during the Roasterie's regular hours.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. Reporting directly to the VHP sustains an ongoing, accurate dataset of whale sightings for Vashon-Maury and contiguous Central Puget Sound waters, initiated more than 30 years ago by researcher Mark Sears. Call the VHP about seal pups as well as dead, injured, or sick marine mammals on Island beaches. Check for updates at www.Vashonorcas.org and send photos to Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com. The NMFS Enforcement number is 1-800-853-1964.

Moose Lake



Next Edition
of *The Loop*
Comes out
Thursday,
December 22

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 17

Loopy Laffs

LOGJAM



Weekend Entertainment December 9-11

The Grunge-ing Black Dogs

True story: Two guys debated as to whether the music they were hearing was a Led Zeppelin cd or an actual band playing live music in the studio next door. A bet was made, hands were shook. One guy made off with some easy money. He had heard the band practice last week. And so it goes, with The Crunge-ing Black Dogs.

The C.B.D's originally formed to play a full set of Creedence Clearwater Revival for a Big Lebowski party on Vashon Island. In short, the C.B.D's played C.C.R on V.I and it was B.A. They were then asked to play a set of Led Zeppelin for a group of Led Zep enthusiasts at an outdoor party. Neighborhood Watch called it the "party of the summer". The cops were equally impressed calling it "loud enough to be heard several blocks away".

The Crunge-ing Black Dogs are made up of Mike Marlatt on guitar, Jeremy



Lightfoot on bass, Keith Jaeger on drums and Paul Gullede on vocals. They will be playing an entire set of Led Zeppelin. They don't look like Led Zeppelin but they kind of sound like them most of the time. So if you kind of like Led Zeppelin, then it looks like you will mostly like the sound of the Crunge-ing Black Dogs.

All-Ages Till 11pm 21+ after that
Free Cover

Friday, December 9, 9pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Ronnda Cadle - Solo Acoustic Guitar
Heidi Swan -Mildly Rocked & Soulfully Raw



As a solo guitar instrumentalist, Ronnda Cadle is known for the melodic hooks she coaxes from her guitar. Ronnda's style fuses heartfelt emotional content with masterful guitar work. Cadle just finished the final mixing and mastering of her third release using the production skills of former Windham Hill Founder/Producer William Ackerman and Corin Nelsen. The new disc titled 'Will's Embrace' is scheduled for release in early 2012.

www.ronndacadle.com

Friday, December 9, 7pm, At Cafe Luna,
9924 SW Bank RD
www.cafelunavashon.com

Montana native Heidi Swan's music is known to be mildly rocked, while soulfully raw. Swan, a singer/songwriter/keyboardist teamed up with famed LA producer Paul Chiten in 2007 to record her latest EP 'Take It All'. The collaboration created a history of awards which included a Song Of The Year Award that was sponsored by VH1's Save The Music Foundation, an honorable mention from the International Singer/songwriter Association for her song 'As Real As It Get's', which then sparked the interest of Nashville's recording duo The Ramski's. The duo has since recorded the award winning song for use on their debut album from Lamon Records.

www.heidiswanmusic.com



The Doily Brothers

Brett Bachaus ~ Drums, Scotty Johnson ~ Guitar, Vocals, Jimmy Spakowsky ~ Bass, Vocals , Michael Spakowsky ~ Guitar, Vocals

Friday, December 9, 8pm. At Sportsmans Inn, 17611 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-0940

Gregg Curry
Acoustic Roots Music with Attitude

Local singer-songwriter Gregg will perform his roots-based music at Cafe Luna from 7-9 p.m. Originally from Alabama, Gregg brought his songs soaked in blues, country, rock, and gospel to Seattle. Shortly thereafter, he record his first solo album, A Shared Cup of Discontent. He then joined the grunge rock-era band Ghost Dance as a singer/frontman, performing in theaters and clubs throughout the Northwest and producing two studio recordings, Out the Window and Siren. Gregg picked his guitar back up to perform regional solo shows and, in 1995, began a roots-based rock group called Branch Ricky that toured regionally and released the strong 12-song album Tangled Roots. One fellow musician said: "Gregg aims for the timeless in his songs -- the place



where past, present, and future are now." Indeed, an Islander since 2000, Gregg still produces songs deeply tangled in the rich musical roots of America and plays them with an attitude that says: "The past isn't dead; it isn't even past."

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7pm, At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD. www.cafelunavashon.com



One More Mile is a band that came together over the passion of playing real blues and making the blues real!

Guitarists Jason Lollar and Tommy Bean both have been playing since they could walk, and ever since Tommy saw Lollar performing with a band he had put together called Shakey Jake, he knew he would get together with him one day. Both men come from a long line of bands playing rock, rhythm and blues and straight blues, and their years of performing excellence can be heard on such numbers as Black Cat Bone or Reconsider Baby.

Now add to this mix the incredible Lonesome Mike Nichols on Harmonica, and you really have something. Lonesome Mike has perfected his licks over the many years of performing with such names as Elvin Bishop, Norton Buffalo and Commander Cody. Locally he performed with The Great Divide in the 70's and 80's. Lonesome Mike brings an intensity to the harp that is rarely seen or heard, so much so that he will often have to spend a couple days recovering after he gives it his all in his performing.

Saturday, December 17, 9pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Holiday Comedy Shorts

~ An Evening of Brief Spoofs ~
Friday, Dec. 23rd @ 8pm @ The Red Bike, Aimee Cartier, Andy Royer, Harris Levinson, Jeff Hoyt, Jim Farrell, Steffon Moody & physical comedian extraordinaire, Bill Robison provide a sure-fire antidote to the Holiday season with "Holiday Comedy Shorts: An Evening of Brief Spoofs." Come early, pay \$5 and we'll spike your seasonal eggnog with hilarity.

This evening of live local comedy is hosted by local humorist and provocateur, Steffon Moody, and features an All Star crew of locally famous on-island comedians, plying their craft as only locally famous amateur comedians can ply.

The full lineup of comedians is soon to follow...we will reveal it soon!

Expect the usual ribald, tasteless, eccentric, and life transforming experience that is regularly delivered at this local Yuk fest.

Cover charge is \$5, and the show starts at 8pm, but show up early and get a seat, because it is always packed! (Also note, that children may be altered in unknown ways as a result of exposure to Comedy Night. If you feel they need to

These talented front men are backed by the most amazing rhythm section any band could ask for! These two child prodigies are David "The Kid" Salonen on Bass and Sammy "Milhouse" Veatch on drums. Both young men have been playing together since birth, forming one of the tightest beats available. The Kid comes from a family of Cajun musicians out of Louisiana, and his grandfather brought Cajun to the Pacific Northwest back in the 70's. Veatch's father has been performing and managing bands and groups since they moved here in the 80's. Often times having to sneak these two kids into performing venues like so many of their predecessor's, they are some of the most powerful musicians for such a young age, and One More Mile is lucky to have them!

All told, this is one hot band and their live performances get everyone up and shakin' it, or diggin the groove from the comfort of their seats.

Come check these guys out at the Red Bicycle, it's going to be a real treat! All ages 'til 11pm and 21+ after that.



be altered, you may want to bring them. Just sign the liability release at the door.)
21+ (ADULT CONTENT)
\$5 COVER!

Friday, December 23, 8pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Church of Great Rain Holiday Show

Church of Great Rain will celebrate the spirit of the season with a Holiday Show on December 11 at 4PM at Open Space for Arts and Community.

The Holiday Show will feature the Church House Band, twisted news and irreverent views by the Holy Roller Radio Players, and a lively impromptu sermon by the preacher. Over sixty uniquely talented actors, musicians, writers, and technical crew contribute to these wonderful collaborations. Joining the cast for this performance will be Island actor and singer Louis Mangione.

Special musical guests will be Manooghi Hi, an East meets West collaboration between rock-and-roll instrumentation and soaring vocal gymnastics that are heavily rooted in Indian tradition and intense mysticism. There is a sense of liberation and transcendence in their music that directly correlates to the artful fusion of eastern/western traditions that rests at the core of the band.

Seattle PI music critic Gene Stout describes Mehnaz as “mesmerizing and otherworldly”, while Techgnosis.com guru Erik Davis writes “Manooghi Hi has the rare sense of having found a common language that is capable of fusing and mixing very different communities of listeners while actually allowing the band to say something new and powerful, like the globe is spinning so fast that east and west really don’t mean much anymore and everybody is coming to party.”



Manooghi Hi has performed at the Triple Door, Bumbershoot, South By Southwest, Sundance Film Festival, Oregon Country Fair and Oregon’s World Music Festival. The group has been featured on KING 5’s Evening Magazine, Q13’s Morning Show and Seattle Channel’s Art Zone.

Church of Great Rain Holiday Show tickets are \$10 at Vashon Bookshop and www.brownpapertickets.com. Golden Circle Passes for four including a reserved table in front are \$60 at brownpapertickets.com and at the door.

For special holiday gifts, surprise your friends and family with Church of Great Rain show tickets. Advance tickets are now available for the 2012 shows at Brown Paper Tickets. Purchase tickets in their name to add them to the Will Call list. One size fits all gift-certificates for Church of Great Rain and Fupps Beer t-shirts and aprons are also available.

Discover more about Church of Great Rain, holiday gift ideas, and Manooghi Hi at www.churchofgreatrain.com.

A Christmas Carol

Continued from Page 1

that “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and “A Charlie Brown Christmas” are also harbingers of Christmas for me simply because I’ve been watching them near Christmas for half a century and just a little bit more.

The very epitome of the Christmas story must be Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol”, the archetype of all popularized Christmas stories that have followed it in the more than a century and a half since it was originally published on the 17th of December, 1843.

Poring through at least a dozen scripted variations of the story, Drama Dock Artistic Director Elizabeth Ripley has chosen a version of the classic story that preserves the traditional aspects of its structure while at the same time introducing a slight variation appropriate to a stage version of the story. Jacob Marley is elevated from his position as a mere augury of ghostly visits yet to come to encompass the narrative aspects and to take a much more active role in the conversion of Scrooge from miser to philanthropist.

A particularly interesting and inventive aspect of this production is Ms. Ripley’s decision to rely almost exclusively on projected staging elements for the set design, projected images being a constituent element of what is known as Multimedia Theater. Within the context of Drama Dock, Ms. Ripley first invited experimentation with projections in the production of “Enchanted April” with her colleague Adam Brock who holds a Masters in Multimedia Theater Arts from Suny College. Subsequently, she carried the projection technique further in the recent production of “The Rocky Horror

Show”. In “A Christmas Carol”, the actors will interact onstage with a collection of projections created by Christopher Overstreet, who also has a great deal of experience in Multimedia Theater. It was Christopher Overstreet with whom Ms. Ripley worked on projections used in “The Rocky Horror Show”.

When asked if the increasing use of projections within Drama Dock productions constituted any sort of trend, Ms. Ripley said, “Not particularly. It’s just a matter of coincidental timing. Multimedia Theater was simply something that was fun and interesting to experiment with and my work with it happens to coincide with the desire to bring something novel and inventive for the Island to experience in a beloved traditional Christmas story.”

As another intriguing element of the current production, of the cast of 30 performers in the show, approximately 18 are children, some of whom are as young as 8. Younger versions of Scrooge himself as well as his sister Fran are played by children.

See Drama Dock’s production of Israel Horowitz’s adaptation of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley”, performances at the Blue Heron.

Dec. 15th Final Dress/Preview, curtain at 7:30 PM.

Evening performances at 7:30 PM on Dec 16, 17, 22, 23, 26.

Matinees at 2:00 PM on Dec 18 & 24.

Dir. Christopher Ott; Artistic Dir. Elizabeth Ripley; Costuming Patricia Kelly & Lieschan Lopuszynski; Polka Mistress March Twisdale; DG Video Effects Richard E. Montague; Digital Effects Supervisor Christopher Overstreet; Graphic Designer Lillian Ripley.

Blue Heron Dance Nutcracker



More than 60 Blue Heron dancers, ages 8 to 18, bring holiday tradition to life with Tchaikovsky’s magical Nutcracker ballet on VHS stage just in time for the holiday season - 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec 9 and 10, 1 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11. A popular addition in recent years, an interactive, abbreviated version will be offered for pre school audiences 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec 9. Tickets for Friday afternoon’s pre-school show are \$5 per person and are available at Blue Heron and at the door. Weekend performance tickets are \$10/\$13 and available at Blue Heron, Heron’s Nest, Vashon Bookshop, Thriftway, brownpapertickets.com or by phone, 463.5131. Don’t miss it! Camille Kappelman as the Sugar Plum Fairy, photo by Mike Urban.

New Years Eve at the Red Bicycle



If you happened to go to the Church of Great Rain show last February, you saw an amazing band perform called Publish The Quest. They were responsible for a lot of bodies moving in chairs that night and sold a lot of CD’s because of it. Then they blew the roof off the Bike at the Halloween show this year.

Publish The Quest blends groove music melodies with vocally driven compositions that continually question social issues through story telling. Songwriter Jacob Bain formed the band in 2008 to record The Threads. As a result of that experience, seven passionate people have come together to form a strong bond and a band that is serious about keeping feet moving, bodies shaking and minds engaged!

Publish The Quest is destined to make a difference both at home and abroad. After recording with Femi Kuti, Matt Chamberlain,

Eyvind Kang, Radioactive and Vieux Farka Touré, the band went into the studio recently to record a song to benefit music education in Cape Verde. Sodade, which features Cape Verdean vocalist Laise Sanches, was released in Portugal earlier this year.

Publish The Quest performed in Zimbabwe in April at the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA). HIFA was a six day annual festival and workshop program that showcased the very best of local, regional and international arts and culture in a comprehensive festival program of theatre, dance, music, circus, street performance, spoken word and visual arts.

PTQ is fresh off a road trip through California this month and about to embark upon another trip to Poland in November, where they will open for the amazing Nneka.

This is an all-ages show until 11pm, then 21+ after that. The cover charge is only \$10.

Saturday, December 31, 9:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

It’s New and Free
Visit Our New Website
www.VashonLoop.com

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 17

The DoVE Project, a Vashon anti-domestic violence program, is requesting proposals from fundraisers. This is a part-time position. For the RFP, go to VYFS.org. Proposals due January 15th, 2012.

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*The Loop's soy-based ink
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**Care Packages Sought
for Fallen Soldier's Platoon**

When Vashon's 1st Lt. Robert Bennedsen was killed in Afghanistan last month, he had only been in the country three weeks, but he had already come up with a plan of support for men and women under his command.

He told his family that while he enjoyed care packages from home, many in his platoon never received anything. He hoped the people of Vashon would change that.

Bennedsen's family and friends wish to fulfill Bennedsen's plan and ask that Islanders donate cash to the cause or give items the men and women there have requested. The list includes mechanic's gloves, green uniform socks, sunscreen, hand warmers, preserved foods, powdered Gatorade, cans of tuna, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, reading material, flip flops and hard candy, according to Lauren Chinn, who is helping to organize the effort.

Islanders can drop off both types of donations for Bennedsen's platoon at James Hair Design or Bank of America.