Ferry Projects: Full Speed Ahead

By Win Anderson and Judith Horton

Work on the ferry’s dock-rehabilitation project will begin shortly after the first of the year on the Guemes side, but car ferry service will not be affected until spring, according to Skagit County Public Works.

Jennifer Swanson, dock-rehabilitation project manager, told the Tide that contract bids for the $1.5 to $2 million project are scheduled to open on November 1.

The plan’s first phase includes driving temporary piles for the passenger-only-service floating dock during the January 1–February 15 “fish window,” a time when fewer fish are in the channel and the only period when pile-driving equipment that uses any type of vibratory device can be operated.

The Big Shutdown for replacing the bridge girders will take place between March 14 and May 22, with contractor incentives in place to finish on time. The bid proposal for a temporary passenger-only ferry for that period had not yet been published as the Tide went to press.

Meanwhile, the county’s acting construction manager, Dave Walde, who was project manager for the new terminal building, is planning a December 7 dedication and open house from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Interim Ferry Manager Rachel Beck said the transition to the new building, which opened in October, went quite smoothly. She wants to assure islanders that she is reading the results of the LineTime survey (www.linetime.org) concerning the new terminal and is in the process of cleaning up loose ends. These include installation of the interior handicapped button for the automatic door opener, the vending machine, the bulletin board, and restroom paper-towel holders, as well as setting up the mini-library.

Beck said the ferry came out of drydock with its new engine running fine (the second engine will be replaced during the spring shutdown) and was back in operation ahead of schedule.

Having served as interim ferry manager for six months, Beck says she has applied for the position of permanent manager, which was recently posted. The deadline for applications is November 3.

Get Ready, Says Fire Chief—Here Comes La Niña

By Mike Stamper, Guemes Island fire chief

On October 5, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) met with representatives from the Skagit County emergency response community to discuss disaster planning for this fall and winter. Included in the meeting was an overview of the discouraging long-range weather forecast. This year may bring the strongest La Niña on record, according to meteorologists from the National Weather Service.

A La Niña year is characterized by lower-than-normal temperatures in the tropical region of the eastern Pacific. These cool temperatures push warmer water west into the areas off Southeast Asia. This tends to increase the frequency and intensity of typhoons in the region. At the same time, the jet stream moves directly over Washington and Oregon, bringing

(continued on page 4)
Support our local bicyclists!
Dear Tide,
Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, and Guemes Island are wonderful places to ride bikes. However, there is a serious lack of bike lanes, “share the road” signs, and “sharrows” (share arrows). Bicyclists’ right to be part of the flow of traffic needs to be more clearly distinguished. Clear signage and lane markings help create more harmony between bicycle and motor-vehicle traffic. Bicyclists select signed routes more often, and motorists expect to encounter them in these areas.

In my opinion, when local communities and governments support bicycling as a safe recreation and transportation alternative, it promotes tourism and encourages more outdoor activities. Eating and shopping locally naturally follows, and this benefits everyone.

On behalf of myself and my family, the staff of Anderson’s Store, and other island bicyclists, I request that the city and county increase the number of bike lanes, “share the road” signs, and/or bicycle road decals in order to make this area a safer and more inviting place for bicycle riders.

—Charlotte Clifton

Property sales, please
Dear Tide staff,
Great job on The Guemes Tide, but please publish Guemes property transactions. Thanks.

—Bob Worley

Editors’ note: We’ve gotten several such requests. Good news: The folks at Linetime have started reporting island property transactions, and will update them periodically. Go to www.linetime.org and scroll down the home page, or click “Search” and enter “property sales.”

Disputing your assessment
To the editor:
At the October meeting of the Guemes Island Property Owners’ Association (GIPOA), property tax disputes with Skagit County were discussed. A mechanism is in place for property owners to dispute their tax assessment. The assessor’s office (360-336-9370) will send you a form to dispute your current appraisal. After reviewing it, they will contact you to set up an appointment for you to present your case before a panel. Bring all documentation to support your claim.

—Gill Anderson, GIPOA off-island trustee

Our Upcoming Publication Schedule
The next edition of the Tide, dated December/January, will come out about a week later than usual. You should receive it by December 7. The delay will allow our volunteer staff to enjoy the Thanksgiving break. The following issue, February 2011, will be available around the first of the month. Please keep these dates in mind when planning event publicity or submitting calendar listings and letters.

Subscriptions are $20 a year (10 issues). Send your mailing address and a check made out to The Guemes Tide to: The Guemes Tide, 7885 Guemes Island Road #1, Anacortes, WA 98221


Contents © 2010 by The Guemes Tide except as otherwise noted. Bylined articles and attributed artwork are published by permission, with all rights retained by their creators. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and artwork dealing with Guemes Island and its people are encouraged but may not be returned.

Business Manager: Jubi Fouts
Calendar Editor: Sophie Dobra
Circulation Manager: Dyvon Havens
Community Editor: Holiday Matchett
Design and Production: Justin James
Editor Emeritus: Win Anderson
Editors: Judith Horton, Thea LaCross, Edith Walden
Managing Editor: Nick Allison
Other Members of the Publishing Team: Bob Anderson, Nanette Cardon, Karen Everett, Blaine LaCross
Website: www.guemestide.org
You can reach us by e-mail at: advertising@guemestide.org, editorial@guemestide.org, subscriptions@guemestide.org
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Guemes Tide, 7885 Guemes Island Road #1, Anacortes, WA 98221-9560
New Pastor Comes to the Island

By Bob Anderson

After months of reviewing ministerial profiles and interviewing candidates, the Guemes Island Community Church has called Martha Kline to be the new pastor. She will start November 21. Martha will be the first pastor in many years to live on the island.

Her experiences are rich and varied, and she is an engaging and enthusiastic speaker. Ordained in 1979, she has pastored a variety of congregations in the eastern U.S. You can meet her on Sunday, November 7, when she and interim pastor Joan Henjum will join in a dialogue sermon.

Kline’s husband, Charlie Jackson, is a retired math teacher who also worked in publishing and computer technology. They have a daughter in college and a married son who works in green construction, both in Ohio. Another daughter is involved in landscape architecture in San Diego. They are excited to be moving from South Carolina to the Pacific Northwest.

Martha enjoys fossil hunting, yoga, walking, and meditation, and Charlie loves flower gardening. Together they travel, canoe, camp, and hike, and are avid readers. It looks like they’ll adjust well to life on Guemes and be a good fit for our community.

Water Watchers Report “Good Year for Groundwater”

Marianne Kooiman, who has pioneered the research and tracking of Guemes’s aquifer system, provided the precipitation data at right, covering the past two “hydrological years” (October through September). “Generally,” she notes, “only precipitation falling in the period October-March is considered to contribute to our groundwater.” She also noted that the high precipitation in October and November 2009 resulted in an early saturation of the root zone, optimizing the recharge of the groundwater system.

The data-gathering was supervised by Dr. Joost Businger, professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences, University of Washington. It represents the average readings at five rain-collection stations around the island: Lewis Lane, Solstice Lane, West Shore Drive, Guemes Island Road, and Square Harbor Lane.

Kooiman adds, “This has been a strange year, with a very dry December and a very wet May, but overall we did have a pretty good year for groundwater. The island received more than 35 inches of rain—about 10 inches above average.” Accumulation at the five stations varied from a total of 32.85 inches on West Shore to 39.30 inches at Square Harbor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>Accum.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>11.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>16.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>17.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>19.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>21.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>24.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>25.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>25.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>26.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>27.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>Accum.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>5.96</td>
<td>5.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>11.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>13.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>18.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>21.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>23.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>28.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>30.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>30.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>31.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>35.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be a going-away party for Joan Henjum on Saturday, November 13, at 5:00 p.m. at the Church. The whole community is invited.
Tesoro Cited, Fined for “Willful” Violations at March Point Plant

By Nick Allison

In a withering assessment of Tesoro Corporation’s safety practices, the state’s Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) cited the company on October 4 for 39 “willful” violations and 5 “serious” ones. The violations led directly to the horrific March Point explosion on April 2 that killed seven workers and shut down the plant for months.

L&I also fined the company $2.39 million, the largest fine in state history for workplace safety violations. The fine is equivalent to about three days’ profit for the San Antonio–headquartered company, based on this year’s second-quarter earnings. Tesoro appealed the fine on October 21.

At a press conference, Dr. Michael Silverstein, assistant director of L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health, noted that the “willful” violations indicated “knowing disregard or plain indifference to the requirements” of workplace safety. The deaths, he said, “could have been prevented and should have been prevented.”

At press time, Tesoro had not specified a date for restarting the plant, though some sources were predicting early November. The company is not required (by law) to correct the violations during the appeal process or before restarting the plant.

LA NIÑA WINTER

(continued from front page)

more rain and stronger storms than usual during November and December.

As La Niña weakens later in the season, the jet stream moves north and drags cold air into British Columbia and Washington, resulting in colder-than-normal weather and stronger winter storms in January and February.

Prepare early

While there are no sure things when it comes to long-range weather forecasting, the potential for severe weather this fall and winter means island residents should begin preparing now.

• Be sure your heating system is fully and professionally maintained.
• If you burn wood as a primary heat source, be sure you have an adequate supply of dry, seasoned cordwood.
• Be sure your smoke detectors are working and the batteries are fresh.
• Check your carbon-monoxide detector. Carbon-monoxide poisoning is more likely during cold weather.
• Don’t use appliances such as cookstoves to heat your house; they pose both a fire and poisoning risk when used inappropriately. Barbecues and other devices designed to be used outdoors should stay outdoors.
• If you have a generator, be sure it’s in good working order now, before you need it. Never use generators indoors or in a place where the exhaust could possibly get into your house. Do not connect a portable generator to your house circuitry without an approved isolation switch; doing so can energize the entire grid in your neighborhood.

• Be careful of downed power lines. Never touch or move a downed power line—it may still be energized or may become energized at any time. This warning includes cutting downed trees that are in contact with wires. Call 911 for any downed power lines. The fire department will respond and secure the area until PSE can respond.
• Emergency information, including severe weather warnings, is posted on a regular basis on www.guemesfire.org.

Safe Practices for Heating with Wood

There’s nothing quite like cozying up to a wood stove on a cold winter day. But this delightful experience requires careful wood-burning practices.

• Use only dry, well-seasoned firewood. Wet, unseasoned wood burns poorly, producing less heat and creating a layer of creosote in the chimney. Poor combustion can cause carbon-monoxide poisoning, while creosote is itself a deadly poison and can lead to chimney fires.
• Be sure your stove is properly serviced. Clean and inspect your stove. Replace any damaged fire bricks and inspect the stove for cracks and other damage. Repair or replace any stove with significant damage. Damaged stoves can release carbon monoxide and are a fire hazard.
• Clean and inspect your chimney. (Chimney brushes are available for loan at the Store.) After thoroughly sweeping the chimney, carefully check it and repair or replace damaged sections. If you have an old masonry chimney, consider having it lined with a stainless-steel liner to stop leaks and minimize fire risks.
• Be sure your smoke detectors are in good working order and install fresh batteries. Invest in a carbon-monoxide detector; test it and replace batteries.
• For more information on wood burning and tips on safety, visit the Guemes Island Fire Department website, www.guemesfire.org. —Mike Stamper
A Day on the Ferry
It’s the Little Things That Matter

By Robert Townsend

My regular job is to build aircraft, but I’ve worked part-time as a deckhand on the Guemes ferry for over 15 years. One day in early October, during the haulout, I got the call to work the 65-foot Strait Arrow.

On one trip I noticed an elderly lady holding a small black poodle close to her while she sat on the aft deck in the open air. It was obvious she was cold, but she sat outside because a sign said pets were not allowed in the cabin area.

Later that evening, a young girl put her hand on some wet paint on the new terminal’s handrail. She was upset because it would not wash off. I grabbed a clean rag and can of mineral spirits from the ferry’s maintenance shed and cleaned the paint off her hands. A huge smile came over her face. She went into the passenger lounge and told everyone how clean and soft her hands felt.

The same elderly woman with her black poodle was smiling as the girl pranced around the room with joy.

As the boat departed, the woman asked me if she could put her poodle inside her coat and sit down below. I told her to please sit downstairs and enjoy the ride out of the cold.

As the girl and woman departed on the other side, the smiles on both their faces made my day. Even though 60 or 70 years separated them, they wore the same smile and expressed the same “thank you” to me.

I would have gladly worked for nothing that day.

I remember riding on the original Guemes ferry more than 50 years ago, along with six cars and a couple of horses. My mother had taken us to town, where she bought me a red ball at the five-and-dime store. While on the ferry, I dropped my ball and saw it fall into the wake. All I could do was to watch it get smaller as it floated down the channel away from the boat.

The next day, I was on the ferry again and a deckhand gave me my ball back. He said he had found it floating in the water. At the time I thought it was my ball that he had found, but I now realize that it was actually just an act of kindness.

Call it karma or whatever; I just call it Guemes living.

(Editors’ note: Rob Townsend’s grandparents moved to Guemes in 1947 and built the Guemes Fishing Resort. He attended the Guemes School from 1957 to 1959 and then graduated from Anacortes High School.)

New Signs, Stripes on Guemes Roads

Charlotte Clifton admires one of the new signs installed by Skagit County Public Works on October 20 to remind drivers to share the road with bicyclists. The county also completed restriping of South Shore and Edens roads as soon as the ferry returned to service.

November Hunting

Hunters in three categories will visit Guemes in November.

A modern firearm (shotgun) season for any buck will take place November 18-21. That will be followed by a late archery season November 24 through December 31 for any deer. Muzzleloaders have their final late season November 25 through December 15, also for any deer.

Common hunting violations include shooting across or near roadways or from a vehicle, using spotlights, hunting after hours, and hunting under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Hunters are required to have landowner permission. Trespassers can be reported to the sheriff’s office at 911, while other violations can be reported to the State Patrol at 757-1175.

Becky’s House, Garden, & Pet Watch

Worry Not. I’ll watch ‘em, feed ‘em, walk ‘em, water ‘em, eradicate your slugs, and dead-head your annuals while you are away, even for a day.

References.
Becky Stinson 770-6037 riverheart@earthlink.net

Charlotte Clifton admires one of the new signs installed by Skagit County Public Works on October 20 to remind drivers to share the road with bicyclists. The county also completed restriping of South Shore and Edens roads as soon as the ferry returned to service.

November Hunting

Hunters in three categories will visit Guemes in November.

A modern firearm (shotgun) season for any buck will take place November 18-21. That will be followed by a late archery season November 24 through December 31 for any deer. Muzzleloaders have their final late season November 25 through December 15, also for any deer.

Common hunting violations include shooting across or near roadways or from a vehicle, using spotlights, hunting after hours, and hunting under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Hunters are required to have landowner permission. Trespassers can be reported to the sheriff’s office at 911, while other violations can be reported to the State Patrol at 757-1175.

Becky’s House, Garden, & Pet Watch

Worry Not. I’ll watch ‘em, feed ‘em, walk ‘em, water ‘em, eradicate your slugs, and dead-head your annuals while you are away, even for a day.

References.
Becky Stinson 770-6037 riverheart@earthlink.net
“Med Shed” Opens

Guemes Connects says “a huge thank you” to everyone who attended the bake sale celebrating the opening of their new Medical Equipment Center on October 2. Many islanders donated goodies, which netted $702. Some also made cash donations to help pay for the storage unit, which contains an amazing variety of medical equipment available free to any islander—everything from raised toilet seats and crutches to wheelchairs and even a hospital bed.

If you need equipment, contact Gail Nicolls at 299-9540. Donations can be sent to Guemes Connects c/o Lorraine Francis, 7552 Samish Street, Anacortes, WA 98221.

Foot Clinic for Seniors

We can thank Agnes Ashback that a visiting nail-care aide, Lisa Beaver, will offer a foot clinic at the Church on November 9 starting at 9:00 a.m. Agnes says she has been enjoying this service, provided regularly by Visiting Nurse Home Care at the Anacortes Senior Center. She asked why Lisa didn’t come to Guemes—and here she comes!

Lisa will offer nail trimming on feet for $17, with hands an additional $5, to any senior. Those who do not have certain health conditions can also receive a pre-soak and mini-pedicure and/or manicure. Call ahead for an appointment at (800) 624-2714.

Holiday Bazaar Coming

The Guemes Island Historical Society is again sponsoring the annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center and the Church. Many island artists and crafters will be offering items ranging from candies and ceramics to wooden carvings and hand-forged housewares. Off-island vendors will also participate.

Along with great shopping opportunities, there will be soup, baked goods, coffee, and tea. Vendor fees range from $10 to $25. Tables are going fast, so if you want one, contact Janice Veal (293-3721) as soon as possible.

Play-Reading Group Keeps the Drama Alive

The Guemes Island Drama Group, organized by Jackie Hartwich nine years ago, is open to anyone who enjoys reading plays aloud. Jackie has taught drama and English literature at the University of Washington and Bellevue Community College. Prior to each meeting, she sends participants information about the author (and the historical context, unless the play is contemporary). This, she says, adds greatly to their experience.

Over the years, the group has read its way through the major tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare, and has now moved on to more contemporary works. At the September 28 Soup Supper, members of the group presented several acts from George Bernard Shaw’s Pygmalion.

Interested in joining in? Jackie says the group would love to have some new members. Call her at 293-9428.
Harvest Celebrated at Frog Hollow

About 60 islanders and other supporters of the Staple Foods Project gathered at Frog Hollow Farm October 25 to enjoy the fall harvest bounty and learn more about this aspect of the Sustainable Guemes movement. Frog Hollow, owned by islanders Susan Ferrel and Lane Parks, is currently the main site for this nonprofit project under the sponsorship of the Madrona Center (also owned by Lane and Susan).

Featured were several farm demonstrations, including cider pressing, threshing and winnowing of wheat, and the use of an old-fashioned “corn sheller.” The wheat, corn and apples were all grown on the farm, in addition to the ingredients for the vegetarian chili, coleslaw, and potato salad Susan prepared.

Participants also enjoyed a poetry reading by Madrona’s Head Poet Stephen Roxborough (“ROX”). For more information about Madrona and the Staple Foods Project, contact Lane or Susan at 293-2980.

Welcome, Aayla Peterson!

Aayla Luna Belle Peterson was born at 9:48 p.m. September 21, 2010, to Aaron Peterson and Jessica Snelson at Island Hospital in Anacortes. She weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20½ inches long. Aayla came into the world via a peaceful, natural birth. The new island baby resides with her family on Homestead Lane.

Betty Crookes Scholarship Fund Seeks Donations

For 17 years, the Guemes Island Women’s Club raised funds to award Betty Crookes Guemes Gold Scholarships to deserving island high-school juniors and seniors. Since the Women’s Club dissolved three years ago, other island organizations have contributed in order to continue this tradition. They include: Community Center Association, Library, Historical Society, Property Owners’ Association, Guemes Connects, and the Community Church and its Women’s Fellowship. Betty passed away last December at age 94, and many contributions have been made to the scholarship fund in her memory.

The scholarship committee is asking island organizations and individuals to contribute again this year so we can provide this opportunity to island youth in 2011. Ongoing funding also comes from the sale of T-shirts, with a quote from Betty, and gift cards acknowledging donations to honor birthdays and other special occasions, which are available at Anderson’s Store.

Members of the scholarship committee include Agnes Ashback, Susan Rombeek, Julie Hopkins, Sue Sievers, Nancy Bush, Harry Finks, Janice Veal, and Jan Ebersole. To contribute, send your donations to the Betty Crookes Scholarship Fund, 7885 Guemes Island Road #17, Anacortes, WA 98221, or take them to Anderson’s Store. For more information, call Jan Ebersole at 299-4322.

Community Forum on Recycling

An ad hoc group interested in expanding recycling options on Guemes (see article on page 15) has called a community forum on the topic on November 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. They are hoping to generate interest and a wide range of ideas in order to explore ways to make recycling a viable part of the Sustainable Guemes movement. The recycling bins at the Community Center, set up by former islander Anne Jackets, are no longer available; the site became unmanageable, mainly due to so much garbage being dumped there.

A Friend Turns 90

Darrel Berg, Guemes’s last permanent pastor for 15 years and island icon, invites all islanders and other friends to his 90th birthday celebration. The party will be at Coupeville United Methodist Church, 608 N. Main St., on Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 p.m.

November Soup Supper Topics

Break bread with friends and neighbors Tuesday nights at the Church, then enjoy a program by a fellow islander—or one of their off-island connections. Soup is served starting at 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 2: Lynne Myall, “Why the American Kennel Club?”

Nov. 9: Bob Anderson, “Pre-Hispanic Art, Part 2”

Nov. 16: Guemes Small Business Owners’ Forum

Nov. 30: Eden Griggs-Johnson, “Guemes History”
Guemes Secrets on Exhibit

By Judith Horton

Where did Smuggler Kelly hide his gold?
Was Bubble Finley really a bubble dancer?

Find out the answers to these questions and view photographs, diaries, and other memorabilia from less notorious citizens of Guemes Island in an exhibit created by Lane Parks at the Madrona Gallery beginning November 26.

In researching the Jack Kidd family with help from the Anacortes Museum, Parks learned that the Kidd/Mangan family had held a reunion on Guemes just last year. He was able to locate Mangan great-granddaughter Nancy Stubbs, who is also the step-great-granddaughter of Jack Kidd. He says that Nancy is allowing him to display some of the photographs and written information she has collected over the years about the Mangan and Kidd families.

According to Parks, Jack Kidd’s wife, Flora Mangan Kidd was renowned for her good relations with both natives and white settlers.

Flora, was known for her courage and wisdom, as well as her kind treatment of the Samish tribe. She nursed many who became ill, and natives and settlers alike held her in the highest esteem. Parks urges everyone to “come and see some pictures of these amazing families, as well as some of their writing.”

Another exhibit of interest will be artifacts from the Parks family, who landed in Connecticut in 1670. “There are daguerreotypes, sulkies, furniture, and other surprising things,” says Parks.

There will be a reception with music and refreshments on Friday, November 26, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Madrona Center Gallery, 7753 Guemes Island Road. The show will run on the 27th and 28th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and will continue on Saturdays from 1:00 to 6:00 until Christmas.

A Gathering of Atheists (Plus Agnostics, Skeptics, Humanists, Freethinkers, and the Non-Churched)

By Edith Walden

Yes, it’s called “Atheists Nite Out,” but anyone is welcome to attend this gathering of independent thinkers that usually meets a couple times a month for the camaraderie of being with like-minded inquirers.

A dozen people met on October 7 at the Fouts residence to view a DVD lecture by Dr. Philip Plait, a former NASA astronomer who worked for 10 years with the Hubble space telescope and who is the creator of the website www.badastronomy.com. Plait is a proponent of critical thinking and “good” science. He presented arguments debunking the myth that eggs can be balanced on end.

He says he “posed as an agnostic” for a while but about 10-15 years ago proclaimed that he was an atheist: “I’m 71 years old and I’m not afraid anymore.”

Having a safe, nonjudgmental place to share and explore ideas has attracted many of the group’s participants. “It’s an intelligent, accepting group—not judgmental,” says Sally Stapp, adding, “That’s a pretty rare thing, I think, in our world.”

Stapp agrees: “What ifs are more interesting to me than ‘it is written.’”

Tom Fouts notes, “We’re not necessarily against anything at all—more embracing everything. We’re willing to listen to ideas and reflect on them either negatively or positively, as we see fit.”

Not everyone on the island has such tolerant attitudes. The group does not meet on a regular schedule. Occasionally, when the meeting is announced on the chalkboard at the ferry terminal, someone erases the message before the meeting occurs or writes disparaging remarks. Pellett is saddened at these angry gestures and states emphatically, “I am not mad at religious people.”

According to a 2008 Gallup poll, 10 percent of Americans living in the western U.S. express a disbelief in God, a higher power, or universal spirit.

(Note: Upon returning home from the meeting, Sally Stapp called to report that she had successfully balanced an egg on end.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2, Tues.</td>
<td>General Election</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>Brown Bag Book Club</td>
<td>1:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Marianne's</td>
<td>Marianne Kooiman 293-5815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Supper: Lynne Myall &amp; Dog Shows</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Susie Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4, Thu.</td>
<td>Gathering Luncheon: Pasta w/Meatballs</td>
<td>11:30am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Francis 293-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kid’s After-School Swimming</td>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Leslie Tysseling 293-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Live Music: Mike &amp; Nakos Marker</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Charlotte Clifton 293-4548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Game Night</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Stella Spring 588-1588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6, Sat.</td>
<td>GIPOA Trustees Meeting</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Bob Groeschell (425)778-3638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall Plant Sale</td>
<td>10:00am - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Begins at the Hall</td>
<td>Sally Stapp 293-9474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daylight</td>
<td>Church service: Dialogue Sermon</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Joan Henjum (206) 766-0097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>Fiber Arts</td>
<td>9:30am - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sophie Dobra 588-9090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Ends</td>
<td>Darrel Berg - 90th Birthday Celebration</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Coupeville</td>
<td>Julie Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Society Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Win Anderson 293-4539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library Book Club</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9, Tues.</td>
<td>Foot Clinic with Visiting Nurse</td>
<td>By appointment</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>(800) 624-2714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Supper: Bob Anderson on Art</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fire Commissioner’s Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Fire Hall</td>
<td>Mike Stamper 293-4995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Susie Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11, Thu.</td>
<td>Gathering Luncheon: Pork Roast</td>
<td>11:30am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Francis 293-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>Kid’s After-School Swimming</td>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Leslie Tysseling 293-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Community Recycling Forum</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Becky Stinson 770-6037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s Book Club</td>
<td>7:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>George Meekins 840-9391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 13, Sat.</td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Going Away Party for Joan Henjum</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Julie Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Julie Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiber Arts</td>
<td>9:30am - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sophie Dobra 588-9090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellet 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All events listed are open to the public (some require pre-registration). Asterisk (*) indicates fee for event.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Supper: Guemes Business Owners</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knitting Night</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Carol's</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Jeff Gent 293-6346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Susie Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 18, Thu.</td>
<td>Gathering Luncheon: Chicken Pot Pie</td>
<td>11:30am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Francis 293-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kid's After-School Swimming</td>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Leslie Tyseling 293-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GICCA Dinner, Meeting, and Election</td>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Harry Finks 588-9192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 19, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Game Night</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Stella Spring 588-1588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20, Sat.</td>
<td>Guemes Mountain Trail-Building Day</td>
<td>8:30am - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skagitlandtrust.org">www.skagitlandtrust.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guemes Mountain Trail-Building Day</td>
<td>8:30am - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skagitlandtrust.org">www.skagitlandtrust.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Julie Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Soup Supper this week (Holiday)</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cemetery Meeting</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Dixon Elder 293-8935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Susie Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25, Thu.</td>
<td>No Gathering Luncheon today</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Anderson’s Closed for Thanksgiving</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Kid's After-School Swimming Today</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Exhibit</td>
<td>6:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Madrona Center</td>
<td>Lane Parks 293-2980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 27, Sat.</td>
<td>Holiday Bazaar</td>
<td>10:00am - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Bazaar</td>
<td>Janice Veal 293-3721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Exhibit</td>
<td>1:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Madrona Center</td>
<td>Lane Parks 293-2980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 28, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Julie Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Exhibit</td>
<td>1:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Madrona Center</td>
<td>Lane Parks 293-2980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pellett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Supper: Eden Griggs-Johnson</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarelli 299-2549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPCOMING:** Dec. 18, 19th: Guemes Mountain Trail Building (sign-up at www.wta.org/volunteer/trail-work-parties)

To add your event, contact Sophie at 588-9090 or sdobra@cablerocket.com (by the 15th of the month).
By Karen Everett

Can having your leg bitten off by an alligator find you love? Such is the case with West Beach resident Trey, a black Labrador mix, who lost a leg to an alligator while homeless in New Orleans and was rescued from the brink of death by Danny Lauve in 2001.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Lauve was at work on a project in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on the outskirts of New Orleans, when he came across the newspaper article. It described the dog nicknamed Gator and his "miserable run of luck." According to the article, the dog was "abandoned near English Turn in Algiers, tossed away like a candy wrapper or a cigarette butt. Yet he survived. Somehow he foraged enough to eat and drink . . . But in January things went from bad to worse. An alligator from the canal behind English Turn attacked the dog," severing his left rear leg below the knee. "He would come on three legs and drink from our fountain," a local recalled in the article.

The article so touched Lauve that he called the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and asked if the dog had been adopted yet. Nary a call had come in, to Lauve's surprise. "I told them to keep my number as a last resort," he recalls. "On the last day before he was to be put down, I told her I would come by and pick him up.

"He and I made a deal that as long as he was willing to fight and go through all the surgeries, I'd be there for him," says Lauve. To date Trey has had a complete hind-quarter amputation, two eye surgeries, mange, and a couple of years of "night terrors that subsided about the time we met Susan." Lauve met Susan Brendon in Bellingham in 2006, and the trio moved from there to Lake Samish and then to Guemes in July 2007.

Trey is now a happy-go-lucky dog in all the ways that count. Lauve reports, "He bravely went back into the water in 2005 up at Baker Lake. It was a milestone." No alligators there! He's literally a poster boy for the Louisiana SPCA, and has traveled since his recovery from Alaska to Florida, and enjoyed road trips from the Grand Canyon to Banff in Alberta. And even back to New Orleans, where gators don't seem to seem to scare him any more.

The three-legged wonder dog and his tripod-sporting parents now happily wander the landscape together. It can't get much better than that for Trey. Because, not so incidentally, Lauve is pronounced “love.”

Trey gives his owner a soulful look.

PHOTOS BY DANNY LAUVE

Trey's missing leg—amputated by an alligator—doesn't slow down his joyous run across the Guemes tideflats.

By Karen Everett

The article so touched Lauve that he called the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and asked if the dog had been adopted yet. Nary a call had come in, to Lauve's surprise. "I told them to keep my number as a last resort," he recalls. "On the last day before he was to be put down, I told her I would come by and pick him up.

"He and I made a deal that as long as he was willing to fight and go through all the surgeries, I'd be there for him," says Lauve. To date Trey has had a complete hind-quarter amputation, two eye surgeries, mange, and a couple of years of "night terrors that subsided about the time we met Susan." Lauve met Susan Brendon in Bellingham in 2006, and the trio moved from there to Lake Samish and then to Guemes in July 2007.

Trey is now a happy-go-lucky dog in all the ways that count. Lauve reports, "He bravely went back into the water in 2005 up at Baker Lake. It was a milestone." No alligators there! He's literally a poster boy for the Louisiana SPCA, and has traveled since his recovery from Alaska to Florida, and enjoyed road trips from the Grand Canyon to Banff in Alberta. And even back to New Orleans, where gators don't seem to seem to scare him any more.

The three-legged wonder dog and his tripod-sporting parents now happily wander the landscape together. It can't get much better than that for Trey. Because, not so incidentally, Lauve is pronounced “love.”

Trey gives his owner a soulful look.
Upcoming Election Is Focus of GICCA Meeting

By Thea LaCross

With the election of new trustees approaching, the October 21 Guemes Island Community Center Association (GICCA) dinner and meeting focused mainly on voting procedures, council size, and bylaws affecting the duties of each trustee and officer.

Following discussion and a positive advisory vote from attendees, the trustees and officers voted to return to a 7-person council, 2 fewer than the current 9. This change is intended to balance responsibilities and oversight between the officers and the trustees. It should also improve decision-making among the trustees, who are responsible for the maintenance of the Hall and other property and often have to consult each other about situations that may require action.

Two positions will be filled in the November 18 election. (Members are elected to the council at large, which meets after the election to elect officers; the remaining members comprise the board of trustees.) Candidates for the positions are Howard Pellett, Larry Pike, Julie Pingree, Norm Prewitt, and Rob Schroder. They will speak about their experience and interests at the November meeting before the voting. All Guemes residents and property owners are eligible to vote.

Several council members offered a status report on the bylaws review, including some revisions that affect how responsibilities and authority are delegated to specific officers and trustees. This project is still ongoing and community input is encouraged.

In other business:
• A group of islanders working on recycling reported on their meetings with the County and Skagit River Steel & Recycling (see story on page 15). Contact Holiday Matchett (299-8552) if you’d like to participate in the project, or learn more.
• Mark Linnemann reported that the Schoolhouse Park Stage project is still moving through an engineering review. Some design elements need to be reworked due to code restrictions before a cost estimate can be made.

More details on the meeting will be in the minutes when they are posted on www.linetime.org.

Feld Trial Delayed Again

Charles Feld stood quietly in Skagit County Superior Court on October 7 as defense attorney Wes Richards requested more time for investigation, for interviewing “quite a number” of witnesses, and “to explore additional series of possible steps.” Judge Susan Cook ordered the trial continued to January 10, 2011.

Feld is charged with attempted first-degree murder, first-degree arson, three counts of first-degree assault with a deadly weapon, and unlawful possession of a firearm, all stemming from an incident on Guemes in April.

Birthdays

(Recognition for those 18 and under and the chronologically gifted)

On November 7, Trevor Levi Hein turns 17, Jack Morrison Kilbreath turns 1, and Marissa Rose Townsend turns 8.
On November 14, Darrel Berg turns 90 and Phil McCracken turns 82.
Shaw Winston Clifton turns 8 on November 15.
Lily-Rose Day turns 8 on November 25.
Rivers Olson turns 9 on November 26.
Skagit County turns 107 on November 28.
Michael Cameron Spahr turns 6 on November 29.
Frances Hyland turns 93 on November 28.

Correction: In our October issue, we accidentally added 10 years to Liam Mast’s age. He turned 5 on October 15.
Tips from Guemes Gardeners

Compiler’s note: In each issue of the Tide, I’ll be asking seasonally appropriate questions of two or three renowned Guemes gardeners. Submit suggested names of gardeners or questions to editorial@guemestide.org. —Judith Horton

Thelma Palmer-Lumina

Born and raised at the foot of Mount Erie in Anacortes, Thelma has lived and gardened on islands all her life, the last 30 years on Guemes. She lives with husband Luke Lumina (of dump-truck fame) and son Dennis, also a great gardener. A well-known poet, Thelma is busy selecting poems for her third book.

Anne McCracken

Anne has lived on Guemes for 55 years with her husband, artist and sculptor Philip McCracken. When she retired from teaching, Anne focused on vegetable gardening so she and Phil could be more self-sufficient. She is also one of the founders of the Skagit River Poetry Project and its annual Poetry Festival (see May issue).

Bob Anderson

A retired minister, Bob has studied sculpture and has a master’s degree in design. He started designing gardens at age 10. His specialties are small cottage gardens, composting, and organic production. He designed the gardens for the Community Center and Church, as well as Earth-SpiritCircle Gardens at the home he shares with wife Boots on Holiday Boulevard.

What’s the best way to over-winter apples?

**Thelma:** I store the King apples from my 150-year-old trees by wrapping each unbruised, completely dry fruit in newsprint and keeping them in a cool, dark place in mouse-proof bins.

**Bob:** Why do it when you can eat them, dry them, freeze them prepackaged for pie filling, or make applesauce? I only store varieties known for winter hardiness and use them by February, when the first of spring “fruits” arrive, like rhubarb.

What are your “must do” November gardening chores?

**Bob:** It’s important to deadhead perennials to expose new crown growth so it can get enough light. Chop heads of seeding plants as mulch around their base. In the spring you can transplant these free seedlings or let them spread.

Now is the time to plant bulbs, trees, shrubs, and many perennials, giving their root systems a healthy head start. You can plant until the ground freezes, but make sure to water well after planting to prevent air pockets that can kill roots in freezing weather.

(continued on page 14)
GARDENING TIPS (continued from page 13)

Start building next season’s compost piles with clean soft debris, mixing thin “green,” “brown,” and “activator” layers. (Call Bob for free advice on composting at 293-3770.)

Anne: October brings in a lot of seaweed, and now it has dried out enough that it’s not so heavy. Put it directly on the garden like mulch, or on the compost pile. I don’t even bother spraying it off. This is the best nutrition you can give your soil—it has everything!

I try to get all the weeds out now except for the pretty ones, like wild hollyhock, that are still blooming. Don’t put weeds in your compost pile, but do put in the leaves you rake up. I also put in old shrubs, garden plants, grass clippings, and crab shells—they make great compost. After weeding I spread five inches of compost—even if it isn’t completely broken down—and let it sit for a while before digging it in. Then I wait a while longer and repeat the process. This makes your soil absolutely yummy by spring.

Another hint: mix bone meal into the soil before planting your bulbs and your spring blooms will be spectacular!

Any tips for dividing/transplanting iris, peonies, dahlias, or other favorite plants?

Thelma: After digging dahlia tubers, let them dry in the sun. Make sure they are completely dry before storing them in peat moss.

Break iris clumps apart by hand and discard any that have gotten woody or buggy (don’t put them in the compost). Make sure you replant them with the top of the tuber above the soil or they won’t bloom.

With peonies, I always replant the tubers right away at the same depth. The “eyes” should be set no more than 1 to 2 inches deep or they won’t bloom.

Bob: Iris is best divided in September or October, giving them the best chance to re-sprout. But if you haven’t done it yet, November isn’t too late.

With peonies should be placed where they are to stay. They don’t like dividing and are a 50-year plant.

Dahlias can often stay in the ground here, especially if your soil drains well and they are mulched. I find it easier to buy new ones than to lift tubers and try to store them in this damp climate.

Dividing perennials is a “chop and cut” process—most will survive rough handling. A healthy root cluster (new root hairs, etc.) is more important than the appearance of top growth. If you tamp down the soil and water well when replanting, almost anything will grow this time of year.

Are there vegetables you can still plant in November?

Thelma: I grow Brussels sprouts, and I like to plant seed onions. It’s amazing how they send up their flavorful skinny leaves while producing small miracles of pungent white bulbs in the earth.

Anne: Try planting wintering spinach and cauliflower—starts, not seeds.
Community Recycling Is on Hold

By Edith Walden

Anne Jackets, Becky Stinson, Holiday Matchett, and Marianne Kooiman met October 4 with representatives from Skagit County to explore the possibility of having a community recycling center in the Guemes ferry parking lot. They were informed of a number of permitting and land-use obstacles that sent them back to the drawing board.

Additionally, the recycling bins at the Hall are no longer available. A meeting to address recycling on the island is scheduled for November 11 (see story on page 7). But there are still several ways for individuals to recycle materials.

• Curbside recycling is available to island residents. For $7.40 per month, Waste Management will provide a 64-gallon or 96-gallon roll cart that they collect from every other week. They take mixed paper, glass, metals, and certain types of plastic; materials do not need to be sorted. For details, call 757-4068 or see www.wmnorthwest.com.

• Skagit County’s Recycling/Transfer Station, at 14104 Ovenell Road, takes mixed paper, glass (sorted by color), metals, and #1 and #2 plastics at no charge. More information is available at www.skagitcounty.net under Public Works Department/Solid Waste Division.

• Skagit River Steel & Recycling, at 1265 South Anacortes in Burlington, takes mixed paper, glass, metals, and many kinds of plastic that other places don’t accept, including prescription containers, flowerpots, toys, netting, clamshell packaging, lawn chairs, film such as Saran Wrap, and lids (which must be bagged separately). The company requests a $2.00 donation per dropoff. Call 757-6096 or visit www.skagitriversteel.com for details.

(Editors’ note: During her reelection campaign against challenger Mike Anderson, Commissioner Dillon visited Guemes. Islander Richard Nicolls contributed this report.)

On October 17, Sharon Dillon visited Guemes to discuss residents’ concerns and the county activities that affect us. Her visit was the result of efforts by a group of islanders, including Glen and Janice Veal and Richard and Gail Nicolls. Gail is secretary of the Skagit County Democrats.

Dillon reported that improved cooperation among the present Board of Commissioners has led to a 90 percent reduction of the $2 million in yearly legal fees that the county was previously paying. She said it has also allowed for the establishment of a Solid Waste Management Board, ending ongoing conflicts between cities and the county over waste issues.

The commissioner assured islanders that two matters of great importance to her are working towards more open government and protecting our water supply. She also commented on the planning commissioners’ decision to use the word “should” in most of the proposed policies of the Guemes Island Subarea Plan instead of the “shalls” of the original document (see page 7 of the October Tide). Dillon said she thinks many more of those “shoulds” should be changed back to “shalls,” especially in any proposals relating to water issues.

Says Nicolls, “Commissioner Dillon has shown that she cares about Guemes and has been a strong advocate for citizen involvement, supporting both the Ferry Committee and the Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee. Since her election, the members of the board have come to Guemes for three public meetings.

“She has also been instrumental in arranging other meetings where the heads of various county agencies have come to answer islanders’ questions.”

FREE CONSULTATION

Expert Garden Service
25 years experience. Local references.
Planting, pruning, maintenance.
For fast, efficient, reliable service
call (360) 293-3834

Austin’s Inc.

Window & Gutter Cleaning
•Solariums, Skylights & Screens
•New Construction
•Moss Control & Removal
www.kleanwindows.com
Free Estimates
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
Anacortes/Skagit 360–540–4333
Judy Businger passed away on October 10 in her home city of Honolulu. Born Judith Swart in 1924 in Penang, Indonesia, to Dutch parents (her father was a sea captain), Judy spent her early childhood in Indonesia.

Her family moved back to Holland, where she became an accomplished violinist and went on to receive a degree in psychology and marry Joost Businger. In 1956 the couple moved to the United States, and in 1958 they moved to the Seattle area, where Judy eventually obtained her master’s degree at the UW and worked as a school psychologist for the Seattle school district.

After her retirement she tutored children and bought a summer cabin near Kelly’s Point on Guemes Island, where she loved to walk the beach. Judy might best be remembered for the spiritual path she pursued later in life, an interest that culminated in the publication of a book of her inspired writings.

Survivors include sons Ferdi and Steven Businger, daughter Margi Houghton, and their father Joost Businger. The family had a private celebration of her life at Kelly’s Point.

Ann “Annie” McCain-Nicolino, 63, of Holiday Boulevard, died October 19. She was born March 4, 1947, in Seattle and led the life of a free spirit who loved her family, gardens, cats, tattoos, reading, and art. She was “always interesting and never boring.”

Her parents, Robert and Isabel Popken, preceded her in death. Survivors include daughters Terra and Michelle, sister Judy, and three grandchildren. A graveside service was held October 26 at Edens Cemetery followed by a celebration of life at Evans Funeral Chapel in Anacortes.

Remembrances may be made to Hospice of the Northwest Foundation.

Nancy A. Dillon, a Guemes resident for the past decade, died September 25. She was 94.

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, on January 2, 1916, she moved to Seattle as a child. She graduated from Lincoln High School and married her high-school sweetheart, Jerry Dillon. They raised their family in Kirkland.

Nancy was active in the Kirkland Women’s Club working with special-needs children, and after moving to Guemes she was active in the Community Church and supported the Community Center Association.

Her husband, Jerry, preceded her in death. Survivors include daughters Sharon Dillon of Guemes and Bellevue and Barbara Hamilton of Waterville; 5 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

At her request, a memorial was held for the immediate family.

Remembrances may be made to Union Gospel Mission in Seattle or the charity of your choice.
Beachcombing
with Win Anderson

Of all the stories that could be told of good deeds on the ferry, this one passed on by Anne Jackets and Thelma Palmer is my favorite of the month.

Islanders were first introduced to Luke Lumina’s legendary truck at the 2004 talent show where Thelma told, in poetry, the tale of the road trip/honeymoon from Utah to Guemes in “his aging, rat-nibbled dump truck.”

“He told me he bought it new, he just didn’t say how long ago,” she noted.

Well the 39-year-old critter is still truckin’ and came in mighty handy when the (much newer and fully loaded) Rainbow Septic Service machine got stuck on the ferry—really stuck.

In desperation, deckhand Kirk Lunsford asked Lumina, who was in line at the Anacortes dock, if he had a chain. When that was assured, Kirk asked if Luke thought his gravel-filled old-timer could pull the Rainbow off. (The ferry was by now delayed a half-hour.)

Luke hooked up the rusty little green-and-yellow machine. It gave a grunt and a tug and got Rainbow rolling, but when driver Taw Foss popped the clutch—nothing. It would not start.

The next scene was classic Guemes: the Little Truck That Could pulling the newer truck up the ramp with its wheels locked in a steaming skid.

While we’re on the subject of good ferry deeds, it should be noted that they were common on every trip made by the Strait Arrow during the recent Guemes haulout. Wheelchairs, heavy carts, and huge boxes—all made the transfer with dispatch. Especially notable was the assistance given store manager Charlotte Clifton, who had to transport a truckload of supplies. All hands turned to and the offload was done in minutes.

On a different topic: Since we first met, my wife Elaine and I have had trouble “misunderhearing” each other, if you know what I mean.

The classic first incident occurred in college shortly after we met. During a political discussion, she looked at me and softly asked, “Have you read Chester DeVoe?”

I had not. I had never heard of Chester DeVoe. And yet I knew from her tone that I’d be an idiot if I didn’t know something about him. I think I mumbled something about DeVoe not being on my reading list . . . yet.

With a little more volume and a growing smile, she repeated the question: “Win, I asked, ‘Have you registered to vote?’”

In This Issue

Letters 2
Community Update 6–7
Calendar 9–10
Not-Just-Dog Island Pets 11
GICCA Elections 12
Tips from Guemes Gardeners 13
Community Recycling News 15
Beachcombing 17

Want the Tide to flow into your mailbox? Subscriptions are $20 per year (10 issues). Our address is on page 2.

Looking Back
(From the files of the Guemes Island Historical Society)

Five Years Ago
Islanders vote down proposal to sell community-owned property around Schoolhouse Park to Skagit County.
Ferry haulout of September 11 extended to Oct. 29 . . . or beyond.
Jackie Gladish describes her Hurricane Katrina aftermath experience.
—The Evening Star, November 2005

Ten Years Ago
For the first time since it was founded 40 years ago, Fire Department volunteers will be paid a token amount for training time ($10 per drill).
Bob Clark donates Steinway piano to Community Center as a parting gift.
The story of Madeline Murakami’s liver transplant and support from island fundraisers told by Susan Rombeek.
—The Evening Star, November 2000

Fifteen Years Ago
The Library’s computer is operational and Dixon Elder is available to assist islanders to “become acquainted with the workings of the electronic marvel.”
Island icon Henrietta “Bubble” Finley dies.
Potlatch Beach Water Association seeks assistance from Skagit County PUD for construction of a reverse-osmosis system to replace salt-contaminated wells.
—The Evening Star, November 1995

Ninety Years Ago
“The entertainment committee of the Guemes Island Cemetery association staged a meritorious musical and farce comedy program at the hall of the Guemes Improvement Club Saturday night.”
“The laws must be obeyed, no matter how rotten and foolish they are. We don’t see how under the sun some of the bootleggers get away with it, but maybe it is not done under the sun; maybe it is done by moonlight.”
“John Padovan is already doing some clearing and making some splendid improvements on his place.”
“Judge and Mrs. Rinehart were shopping and visiting in Anacortes the latter part of the week. They have done much traveling recently and have found no place superior to Guemes Island.”
—Guemes Beachcomber, November 1, 1920

Ghosts on Guemes
A welcoming and haunting sight
The Guemes Ghosts did reappear
Stomping about on beachwood stumps
They fashion themselves from year to year
They are simple and fun
and good for the heart
Just a little enchantment for public art
—Leo Osborne