SOUND PUBLISHING, INC. VOL. 66, NO. 37 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

# A storied place of care for local seniors will cease operations

Director says multiple factors lead to decision to close VCC

By Elizabeth Shepherd arts@vashonbeachcomber.com

Last week, Vashon Community Care (VCC) announced its intent to cease providing assisted living and memory care services, with a

closure date sometime around the end of the year.

Residents, families and employees were notified of the decision on Sept. 10; an email also went out later that afternoon informing community members.

In a press release and subsequent interview with The Beachcomber, VCC's executive director, Wendy Kleppe, and Jeff Slichta, an executive vice president for Transforming Age, the nonprofit organization that has owned VCC since 2017, explained the decision, saying the VCC's operations were no longer sustainable due to a number of factors — all of which had been exacerbated by the pandemic.

They also said that VCC and Transforming Age had a deep commitment to finding alternative living arrangements for all residents, and provided some details about efforts they have launched to involve the broader Vashon community in what will come next for the building and grounds of the assisted living facility.

The most significant factor in the decision to cease operations, they said, was a critical budget shortfall caused by decreased demand

for assisted living services on the island, and throughout the country as well. Only 68% of VCC's apartments are now occupied, they said.

Kleppe and Slichta also cited a more intensely local problem —an insurmountable staffing shortage at the care facility, which factored importantly in the decision as well.

See CARE, Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCY SUMMERS

The initial group who traveled to Indonesia — which included seven islanders — that kicked off the maleo conservation project on Aug. 1, 2006.

# Recent study highlights local group's conservation successes

By Jenna Dennison

jdennison@vashonbeachcomber.com

Vashon-based Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo) has recently been recognized for its work in the Global Ecology and Conservation (GECCO) Journal.

A study published in GECCO highlights how AlTo's community-based conservation work has effectively quadrupled the maleo bird population in the Tompotika region of Indonesia over the last 14

Marcy Summers, the Director

of AlTo and one of the 15 authors of the study, was initially sent to Indonesia in the early 2000s as part of her work at The Nature Conservancy. While working for them, she was sent to a remote part of Sulawesi, an island within Indonesia.

According to Summers, while she was working in Sulawesi, she was approached by locals who invited her to help them find a solution to prevent the extinction of the maleo.

See **STUDY**, Page 9

# Objection to mandate still clouds fire chief's future on Vashon

By Elizabeth Shepherd arts@vashonbeachcomber.com

Almost one month after islanders learned that Charles Krimmert, the fire chief of Vashon Fire & Rescue, is unvaccinated and opposed to Gov. Jay Inslee's vaccination mandate for healthcare workers, including firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), it is still unclear what exactly will happen next in the district.

The matter was made more complex on Monday, when a lawsuit was filed in Walla Walla County Superior Court, saying the constitutional rights of 93 plaintiffs including Washington State Patrol troopers, firefighters and other state and local government employees had been violated by Inslee's mandate.

On Sept. 9, at a press conference, Inslee defended the mandate as necessary in the wake of spiking case numbers and hospitalization in the state, driven mainly by unvaccinated people.

"I've heard some people say it's

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an individual decision. That is just so far from the truth," Inslee said. "The fact is when you make a decision to not be vaccinated, it is not just about your health, it is about the health of everyone around you. We need people to stop thinking so much about me, and start thinking more about we."

In mid-August, Krimmert asked fire district commissioners to release him from his duty to serve as an EMT, so that he could continue to serve as fire chief. On Sept. 1, the commissioners voted not to change Krimmert's job description, closing the path for him to keep his job if he remains unvaccinated.

But the vote also meant that Krimmert may still respond to fire and aid calls until Oct. 19, when the mandate is set to take effect. Two commissioners, Brigitte Schran-Brown and Camille Staczek, voted no to the motion because it allowed Krimmert to continue to respond to aid calls in the interim.

In public meetings, Krimmert

See **CHIEF**, Page 5

# Former tavern to transform into a sweet spot for all ages

By Elizabeth Shepherd arts@vashonheachcomher.com

The bar area of the now-closed Red Bicycle Bistro, in downtown Vashon, will soon undergo a dramatic transformation, with shot glasses and pool tables being replaced by scoops of the flavorful, locally-produced ice cream and an arcade filled with vintage pinball machines and video games.

Glass Bottle Creamery, a popular but tiny specialty grocery store that now offers local raw milk, eggs, cheese, and ice cream, will bring all this into the space in early 2021 after extensive renovations of the old tavern take place.

Samantha Weigand, the Creamery's owner, said she was excited about the expansion of her business in the new space. Weigand is also the owner of Vashon Island Baking Company, which she said would remain in its present location.

Reached by phone in New York as she prepared to drive a

U-Haul truck full of her newly purchased pinball machines and video games across the country back to Vashon, Weigand spoke enthusiastically about her vision for the new incarnation of Glass Bottle Creamery.

"Our vision is that we're going to have a cool, comfortable, allages space," she said, adding that she was working with two local artists to bring colorful surprises to the interior of the shop. There would also be Foosball and bubble hockey tables inside in the space, she said.

Glass Bottle Creamery, which opened in 2015, is now housed in a sliver of retail space on Vashon Hwy., next door to the Voice of Vashon.

The Creamery's move across the street is part of the overall transformation of the property by its new owners, married couple Adam Chumas and Christina McFadden.

The sale of the Red Bicycle

See **OPEN**, Page 5

# School board discusses COVID-19 updates, enrollment, curriculum

By Jenna Dennison jdennison@vashonbeachcomber.

Enrollment is up at Vashon Island School District (VISD), board members learned at a school board meeting held in-person on Sept 9, at Chautauqua Elementary School. Other topics on the agenda included updates about COVID, the district's process for creating a new strategic plan, and racial equity measures.

The meeting was also broadcast live on YouTube and can still be seen at tinyurl.com/ m9e7tf8x, though the sound quality of the recording is poor — a re-occurring problem at recent board meetings that McSheehy told The Beachcomber would be fixed in future broadcasts.

## **Enrollment**

The district had projected a total of 1,415 students for the 2021-2022 school year, which turned out to be an undercount.

The official enrollment number for this school year is 1,425 students. Overall, enrollment is up at both McMurray Middle School and Vashon High School. But the number of students has dropped at Chautauqua Elementary, which McSheehy cited as a trend across the region, as COVID-19 vaccines are not yet available to elementary-age children.

# COVID-19 update

McSheehy said that additional follow-up had taken place following an incident of possible COVID-19 exposure at McMurray Middle School earlier this month following a confirmed infection in a student.

Over Labor Day weekend, 19 people, including students and school staff, were tested at the school in a drive-through event coordinated by the MRC and School Nurse Pam Kirkpatrick. All tested negative and were able to immediately return to work or the classroom.

McSheehy thanked Vashon's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC),

See SCHOOL, Page 4

# **NEWS BRIEFLY**

# 'Mukai Way' is Vashon's newest road

A section of the road on which Vashon's historic Mukai Farm & Garden is located will be renamed as "Mukai Way," with an honorary re-naming ceremony taking place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 17.

On Aug. 17, the King County Council unanimously approved the designation. It also directed the Road Services Division to place signage recognizing the section of the road, located off SW Bank Road, where Mukai Farm & Garden is located.

A half-mile section of SW 107th Avenue SW will now display the honorary road name designation, paying tribute to the Mukai Family and the Japanese American immigrant community's contributions to the island in the 20th century. Founded by Issei pioneer B.D. Mukai in 1926 as a strawberry farm, Mukai Farm & Garden today is on the National Register of Historic places with its rare heritage home, Japanese garden, and barreling plant. Find out more at mukaifarmandgarden.org.

# A concert and light show coming to Open Space

"Liquid Light," an outdoor sound and light show, will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at Open Space for Arts & Community. At 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, the Seattle band General Mojo's will play an outdoor show, closing Open Space's Summer Stage series. Visit openspacevashon.com for tickets and more information.

# New rent subsidy program to launch

As affordable housing for island workers becomes harder to find, Vashon's Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH) is responding to what has become a crisis for some local families with a new lottery program.

The application process is simple: households will fill out a preliminary application, and if they meet the program guidelines, they will be entered into a public lottery. Everyone who qualifies will get a number. The first 10 households will receive a rent grant of \$500 a month for only one year, amounting to \$6,000 total. For every additional \$6,000 raised, the next household in line will receive similar assistance. All checks will be mailed directly to the homeowners.

Once chosen, households will then submit proof of income, proof of

expenses and a landlord/tenant agreement. Applicants must live in unsubsidized housing; be employed or living on government fixed income; have a household gross income is 250% or less of the poverty level; pay 50% or more of their household gross income for rent, and live in a long-term rental unit with a lease, that is separate from

the residence of the homeowner. "We believe our island workers and individuals receiving Social Security should be able to live in their community," said Hilary Emmer, who is involved in the project. "Our hope is that this program will help to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities. Please share with anyone who might qualify."

For an application, email Hilary Emmer at hilonvashon@yahoo.com or call her at 206-463-7277. To donate to the program, send a check to IFCH, with "rent program" in the memo line, and send to IFCH, P.O. Box 330, Vashon, 98070.

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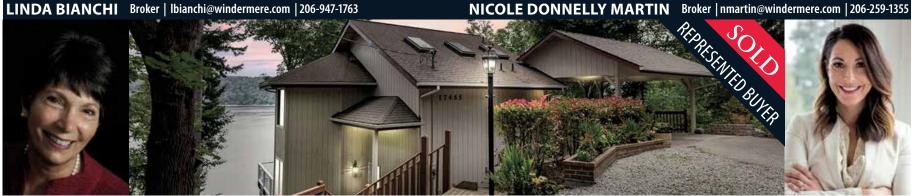


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The problem was also described by VCC's development director, Anne Atwell, in VCC's email to the community, announcing the decision to close.

"Due to the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing and challenges of commuting by ferry, Vashon is an incredibly difficult place to hire, train and keep employees," Atwell wrote.

In her interview, Kleppe further detailed how the problem has worsened during the pandemic, forcing VCC to turn to the costly practice of hiring shift workers employed by four offisland agencies. Kleppe said that this practice did not solve the problem. Agency shift workers, she said, did not feel a close connection to VCC, and frequently didn't show up for work, due to ferry issues.

"We can't find people to work in our building," she said, noting that Vashon's own large network of homecare providers was already engaged in responding to the increasing demand of islanders who wanted to stay at home and age in place.

"We know the island community cares deeply for VCC and our residents," said Slichta. "But these latest challenges have made it so that VCC can no longer continue."

The closure of the facility will displace some of Vashon's most vulnerable residents.

Thirty-six residents currently occupy the 56 available apartments in VCC's Aspiri Gardens Assisted Living and Beardsley Memory Support sections of VCC. All these residents will now need to relocate, an effort in which VCC will provide support and assistance, including paying the cost of moving expenses, said

Kleppe and Slichta. The efforts to assist residents and their families will continue as long as needed, they said — hence VCC's lack of specificity in naming an exact date for the closure of the facility. This effort could last into early 2022, they said.

"It's really all about the residents and finding appropriate placement for them," Slichta said. "That is our number one priority and

Riemer, community relations director of VCC, were now working one-on-one with residents and their families to ensure that everyone receives the help and guidance they need going

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Thirty-six residents currently occupy the 56 available apartments in VCC's Aspiri Gardens Assisted Living and Beardsley Memory Support sections of VCC. All these residents will now need to relocate, an effort in which VCC will provide support and assistance, said its executive director, Wendy Kleppe.

and are in touch with families just to determine what they want," she said. "It's very individualized."

Families who rely on Medicaid, she said, will also be assisted by a social worker in their search for their new care settings. Transforming Age, Slichta added, would also provide an additional array of resources support for VCC residents and their families in their difficult transitions.

Headquartered in Bellevue, Washington, Transforming Age owns and operates 47 senior living communities and has more than 2,000 employees.

Kleppe acknowledged the deeply emotional work involved in this work with residents and their families.

"These people who live here — this is their home," she said.

VCC has also promised to work with 42 current staff members to help them find new employment, including ongoing resume and job search support. In addition to this, VCC will provide retention bonuses for employees who stay through the end of the year.

Only 36% of VCC's current employees reside on Vashon, Kleppe said.

"We're going to do our best to take care of our team members and help them during the transition," said

VCC has been losing money for the last several years and has relied on Transforming Age to make up operating losses. In total, Transforming Age has supported VCC with more than \$4 million since 2018, according to Slichta.

In taking over the operation of VCC in 2017, Transforming Age also assumed ownership of VCC's building, which came with an outstanding \$6 million loan from the Department of Housing and Development (HUD) — a debt that Transforming Age assumed and is still making payments on.

The building is currently assessed as being worth \$6.5 million, according to property records.

All viable options for the building and grounds, including sale or rental of the property, are currently on the table, Slichta said, adding that it was a top priority for Transforming Age and VCC to work with islanders to find a way to maintain the property as a resource to the community.

VCC has already taken an initial step toward this goal by convening a task force of community leaders to explore housing and social service needs and how the building could be used.

The names of these islanders, and the agencies they are affiliated with, will soon be released, Kleppe said, promising to be open and transparent about the work of the group as it continues. At this point, she said, membership in the task force was still somewhat fluid, as only two

meetings had been held. With the closure of VCC, islanders will once again have a chance to reimagine and rehabilitate the site of a valuable and longtime community resource - one that they have fought before

dating back to 1928 when Goodwill Industries purchased the Ellsworth Ranch and established a

The facility has roots

working farm and boarding house for destitute men and women from Seattle. It was subsequently sold to a couple who also ran the farmhouse and grounds as a rehabilitation site, and then later as a nursing home as their residents aged. Years passed, and the property changed hands again several times but continued to be operated as a care facility until 1995, when the owners at that time announced their intention to close the facil-- a move that would displace 36 residents.

But the community immediately rallied to save the care facility.

An effort led by Ted Kutscher and Ted Clabaugh brought together 30 islanders who pledged loans to guarantee the lease of the property. Within two weeks, the activists organized a nonprofit, Vashon Community Care Center, to keep the facility operating.

The group quickly discovered that an entirely new facility would be needed within five years because of the deteriorating state of the original building and new regulations for care centers. The board of VCC took on the challenge and enlisted the cooperation of Providence Health System to purchase the property and plan the construction of a new facility.

The new building, with a 40-apartment assisted living facility, a 30-bed nursing home and a five-day-aweek adult daycare program, opened in August 2001, managed by Providence Mount St. Vincent.

The relationship with Providence ended in 2017, and VCC's affiliation with Transforming Age began.

In 2019, VCC announced that it would close its skilled nursing facility and began a renovation project of that wing of the facility, turning the 16 residents' rooms into studio apartments for those who need enhanced assisted living services and memory

care. According to Kleppe, the move was made at the time due to a perceived need for memory care on the island, as well as to alleviate previous staffing issues caused by the need for qualified professional nurses to staff the facility.

At the same time, Transforming Age announced that VCC would launch a \$3 million capital campaign to pay for the renovation and other building improvements. That campaign, Kleppe said in her interview with The Beachcomber, did not take place.

Both she and Slichta said, while expressing deep gratitude for the philanthropic gifts of many islanders for many years, that VCC's sustainability issues had become too deeply embedded to solve by fundraising.

"The operation itself regardless of how much money we put into it — the demand is actually decreasing on the island for the types of services we were providing," Slichta said.

Kleppe concurred, pointing again to the trends of seniors aging in place, and describing how this need was being met on Vashon by the successful efforts by other agencies on the island, including the Vashon Care Network and the Senior

"The Senior Center does incredible work, and the new Villages concept they are working on there is phenomenal," she said. "They provide so many services and ways for people to stay home [to a] clientele that would typically be moving into a community setting in assisted living. So those factors are the driver on top of the financial shortfall we've been experiencing for a very long time."

# Chevron station robbed, employee held at gunpoint

BY JENNA DENNISON jdennison@ vashonbeachcomber.com

In the early morning hours of Aug. 21, an unidentified male entered the Chevron gas station on 17803 Vashon Hwy SW and robbed employee Nik Stoddard at gunpoint.

Stoddard shared surveillance footage from the incident with The Beachcomber, which showed the heavily masked thief entering the store and pointing a gun a Stoddard. He described the thief as a white male in his mid-20s.

Stoddard grabbed the pellet gun the man had pointed at him. The thief made off with the tray, which contained an undisclosed amount of money, within the register but did not take anything else from the store. Stoddard was not injured, but described the encounter as a "very nerve-wracking experience."

The King County Sheriff was called out to the scene and Stoddard gave a statement to police. Stoddard said that police did locate the stolen cash register tray behind the woods of Island Funeral Service, and the tray was taken in as evidence. Chevron has yet to receive the tray back from the

According to Tim Meyer, Media Relations Officer for the King County Sheriff's Office, the case remains open and active with the King County Sheriff's Major Crimes Unit. At this time, no one has been arrested.





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# School

School Nurse Pam Kirkpatrick and McMurray principal Greg Allison for their work in the testing operation, and said that "afteraction reviews" by everyone involved were taking place and would include suggestions for improvements in the future.

During the incident, staff had learned the importance of requiring seating charts for students, he said, and VISD will now implement that practice district-wide, he said.

"Small things like that will greatly improve how we're able to do contact tracing,"

McSheehy also reported that VISD is getting closer to implementing a testing protocol for students designed to keep students and staff in school. Rapid antigen tests are likely to be used in this new system, he

Curriculum Night at the school, he said, had been canceled due to the pandemic.

He also detailed some of the latest guidance from Public Health - Seattle King County (PHSKC) and its role in helping to contact trace cases of COVID in schools. Currently, PHSKC intervenes and gives guidance to districts only in cases where two or more students in one classroom are infected, he said.

To help with the effort to contact trace Vashon students, the district will hire an additional part-time LPN nurse for the district, as well as hire another person to fill a role as "COVID safety and

coordinating contact." Both new hires will assist School Nurse Kirkpatrick in her work. Pandemic relief funds received from the federal government will fund these positions, he said.

In other news pertaining to COVID, McSheehy said that Vashon High School is now offering two lunch periods, instead of one. Long lines during the single lunch period had prompted the decision, he said.

McSheehy concluded his COVID update with the news that, out of approximately 300 school staff members and school contractors affected by Gov. Jay Inslee's vaccination for K-12 school staff, only five individuals affiliated with the district have asked for a medical or religious exemption from getting the vaccine. If those exemptions are accepted, he said, a process of determining accommodations for the employment of those individuals would follow.

In an email after the meeting, McSheehy also said that VISD would now send a special notification to parents of students if their child's classroom experienced a positive case of COVID-19. That practice had not been in place, but was requested by district parents, he said.

#### **Student Board** Representatives

The school board introduced this year's student board representatives, Vashon High School junior Ava Stevenson and senior Gwen Burwell.

Stevenson and Burwell spoke about their reflections on coming back to



The Vashon Island School Board met on Sept. 9, at Chautauqua Elementary School. From left to right: Spring Hecht, Bob Hennessey, Superintendent Slade McSheehy, Board Chair Zabette Macomber, and Board Vice-Chair Toby Holmes.

school, and their thoughts about upcoming homecoming celebrations. Both said that students were eager to have a dance this year, but expressed concerns about safety, given social distancing requirements.

# Strategic Plan

VISD has contracted the Oakland, California-based company Performance Fact, Inc. to assist in the creation of the new strategic plan, at a cost of between \$75,000 and \$85,000 to the district.

Mutiu Fagbayi, who is the president and CEO of the company, and has worked with Washington school districts in the past, will be the lead facilitator for the strategic plan.

It's been eight years since VISD created its last strategic plan in 2013. According to McSheehy, strategic plans generally have a shelf life "between five to seven years."

"It's really time to revisit this idea of a shared purpose in the district, and to kind of reground ourselves in the community's values and beliefs," said McSheehy, in an interview about the plan. "What kind of skills and future do we see for our graduates walking across that stage?"

The strategic plan will involve input from several different teams.

In emails to community members, McSheehy invited the participation of islanders and described the work of each team.

A core planning team, numbering between 70 to 80 people, will be made up of students, teachers, parents, community members, and district staff. The team will take the lead in setting the direction for the strategic plan while simultaneously incorporating the feedback of other teams involved along the way, said McSheehv.

Fifty percent of the group's membership will be made up of parents and students. The group will meet five times between October and December.

An instructional focus team will examine professional practices and educational strategies within the district, and be comprised of VISD teachers, principals and other administrators.

An alignment team focusing on how the plan aligns with the greater goals of the community — will be made up of island stakeholders who may or may not have children within the

As part of the creation of the strategic plan, the district will also present a community forum and conduct surveys of island families and community members.

The entire strategic planning process will take place over the course of five months, from September to January. It will begin with data collection and conclude with final board approval at the second school board meeting in January 2022.

#### **Curriculum and** racial equity

Board member Bob Hennessey presented a motion to the board regarding VISD's curriculum.

Hennessey's motion directed the board to have McSheehy invite Dr. Stephanie Spencer, VISD Director of Teaching and Learning, to come to a board meeting within the next six weeks and give a briefing focused on ways the high school curriculum addresses the effects of racism in American history.

The motion led to a long discussion among the board

Board chair Zabette Macomber and member Spring Hecht both expressed their interest in having a robust conversation about broad racial equity work being done in the district and discussed different ways the board could focus on the issue. These ideas including hearing from Spencer as well as recently-hired racial equity consultants hired by

The discussion became heated at times, as Hennessey reminded the board that he had asked to know more about the history curriculum at the previous board meeting and whether it included lessons about the Tulsa Race Massacre. At that meeting, he was directed to meet with Spencer privately — something he said would only inform him and not the greater public. At the meeting, he said he thought his narrow request to learn more about the curriculum in a regular board meeting was appropriate, as the school board was charged with approving VISD's curriculum.

Hennessey's motion failed, with a vote of 2-2, with Macomber and Hennessy as the yes votes, and Toby Holmes and Spring Hecht voting no.

In an email to The Beachcomber after the meeting, Hennessey said, "I believe the board, as a board — and the community — needs to understand this stuff and ask questions if we're going to be a better anti-racist organization. The district may have a perfect curriculum; we may find glaring weaknesses."

- Reporter Elizabeth *Shepherd contributed to the* reporting of this story.

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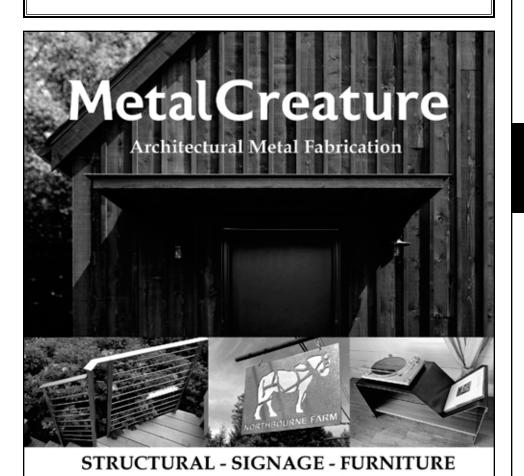


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# **Life Lessons from Our Seniors: Joe Bryan**

by John McCoy

At age 3, Joe Bryan knew he was a scientist. He asked questions all the time. He took apart appliances that his father, a mechanical engineer who became a dairy farmer, brought home to repair. "I was good at fixing things," he says. In grade school, he built crystal radio sets. His father and mother, a librarian, schooled their four children in learning.

Yet life on their 150-acre dairy farm near Slippery Rock, PA, was hard. Joe milked two dozen cows and rode a bus an hour each way to high school. There was little time for extracurriculars. He delved into math and physics. At a reunion 50 years later, his classmates remembered him as "the nerd."

He won a scholarship to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY, where a night job as a hospital orderly led to

training as a lab tech. He thought, "I'll be a doctor." He completed his BS in physics at RPI and won admission to a MD-PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania. While in medical school he married for the first time, had a daughter, and became convinced by a class in cell biology that he'd be a better

> scientist than physician. "I'm a physical, mathematical, quantitative guy," Joe says. Adds Lydia Aguilar, his current wife, "Joe cares more about molecules than people."

Post graduate work at the Woods Hole, UC Berkeley and the UW Friday Harbor Laboratories followed. Joe returned to Penn to teach cell and molecular biology before moving to the

Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in 1978 to work on cell division.

In 1979 he met Lydia, developing a lasting friendship that led to marriage in 1985 and a daughter in 1988. It proved a perfect professional match; Lydia was a medical doctor with a PhD in genetic epidemiology. At Baylor, the two immersed themselves in diabetes research identifying molecules important for control of insulin secretion. In 2007, they moved to the Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute in Seattle. By the time they retired on Vashon in 2018, they had done more than 60 years of genetic research on diabetes. Why? "Because we loved it," Joe says.

Sponsored by Beth de Groen, WRE/Vashon-Maury Island

Lesson:

Do What

**You Love** 



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# Open

From Page 1

Bistro building to McFadden's and Chumas' company, "Pop Pop Investments LLC," for \$630,000, was recorded on July 1.

Shortly after the sale, the couple announced plans to transform the space into a family-friendly hangout taproom and teriyaki spot called Pop Pop Bottle Shop. Their restaurant will also feature a wide selection of non-alcoholic drinks.

As part of their announcement, Chumas and McFadden said that Pop Pop Bottle Shop will occupy only the southern half of the building, where Red Bicycle

Bistro's eatery and music stage was located. The northern half of the building, which housed the Red Bicycle's bar, would be subleased to another business — one that they said they were not yet ready to name — that had a similar "community, hangout vibe" as their establishment.

But now that the deal is sealed, Chumas said that all along, he and McFadden were in negotiations with Weigland, who is a close friend. Like Chumas and McFadden, Weigand and her husband are also the parents of young children, ages 9, 7 and 4.

"We're excited about the partnership," Chumas said, in a phone interview. "It's going to round out the offerings we have in the space and help create more of that family vibe."

Weigand, too, said she was excited to work with Chumas and McFadden, saying that there would be access for patrons to move easily between Pop Pop Bottle Shop and the Creamery, enjoying the best of what the sister businesses had to offer.

According to her bio, posted online, Weigand is a classically trained pastry chef who got her start working at Grand Central Bakery in Seattle. After moving to Washington, DC, where she continued her pastry education at L'Academie de Cuisine, she and her husband. Stephen Weigand, found their opportunity to return to the Northwest when Samantha purchased an iconic island business, Bob's Bakery, in 2014, renaming it Vashon Island Baking Company.

In 2015, Weigand opened Glass Bottle Creamery in its present location.

In the meantime, Chumas said he and McFadden were still hard at work both inside and outside of their newly purchased space, making much-needed renovations to the interior and exterior of the building, including extensive roof repairs.

Soon, he said, islanders would see visible signs of their progress: a freshly repainted exterior, in shades of white and very dark blue, to complement the building's green roof. These colors would give the building a Cascadia theme, he said.



Glass Bottle Creamery, a small island store that sells ice creams, milk, eggs and other items, is planning to move across the street in Vashon's main town core, and occupy a more expansive space next door to a new taproom and teriyaki spot called Pop Pop Bottle Shop.

has said he rarely responds to fire and aid calls, calling it an insignificant portion of his job. Last week, he told The Beachcomber that he had responded to eight aid calls in the past 90 days, including one call in mid-July, when he helped carry a patient up a long series of steps to a waiting aid car.

Krimmert has stated that he does not have a medical or religious reason for not being vaccinated, but rather, that he "takes exception to the governor making medical decisions for me."

Andy Johnson, chair of the commissioners, said in a phone call on Sept. 13, that he did not know if the chief had changed his mind and decided to become vaccinated before the mandate's deadline.

"I haven't heard of any movement on his part," Johnson said. "I'd like to know what his choice is going to be as well."

Krimmert could not be reached for comment as to whether or not he is currently planning to be vaccinated.

Four other staff members in the district have said that they will file for medical or religious exemptions to the mandate. One of these, a career firefighter, is still, like Krimmert, responding to calls, because the mandate has not yet taken effect.

The next regular meeting of the commissioners will take place on Sept. 29.

To meet the mandate's deadline, Krimmert would have had to begin the twoshot vaccination regimen for the Moderna vaccine on Sept. 6, or received the first shot of the Pfizer vaccine by Sept. 13. A third option, to receive the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine by Oct. 4, still exists, though the availability of that vaccine has become limited in recent months.

Ben Davidson, the

president of Vashon's firefighter local 4189, said the union is currently exploring options, if any, that will exist in terms of future duties for firefighters who are granted exemptions to the mandate. But he said it does not appear, at the present time, that they will be able to

continue going on aid calls. Davidson also said he had seen a noticeable shift in the public's perception of the district since islanders have learned about Krimmert's vaccination stance.

"People are concerned when we arrive and they ask if we are vaccinated or not," he said. "I've been noticing a change in the way people look at us — it's like, 'do I trust you or not?"

Davidson said he wanted islanders to understand that local first responders understood those fears.

"When you are someone who is compromised medically, you don't have another choice other than calling us, and if we are going to show up and that's a scary scenario for you, that is something we're really concerned about," he said.

Overall, local reaction on Vashon to the chief's stance has been overwhelmingly critical. Johnson, chair of the commissioners for the fire district, told The Beachcomber that letters received by the district which were critical of the chief, in comparison to supportive letters, mirrored similar percentages to the town's vaccination rate, which is one of the highest of any

community in King County. On Vashon, 84.5% of the population aged 12 and older are now fully vacci-

nated against COVID-19. Notably, Krimmert has served as incident commander of Vashon's strong pandemic response, made up of volunteer corps including its Medical Reserve Corps, which

helped coordinate the island's strong vaccination campaign. Messaging of the MRC and other volunteer corps has repeatedly stated that vaccinations are safe and effective, and the decision to become vaccinated is one that protects the entire community.

At a recent public meeting. Krimmert defended his administration, saying that he was a strong leader and that his "standing up and being heard" about his objections to Inslee's mandate was an example of that leadership.

A document, obtained by The Beachcomber in a public records request, shows that Krimmert has sought out at least one opportunity to join with other like-minded leaders

opposing the mandate. He did so in an Aug. 23 letter to Gov. Jay Inslee, as the only fire chief in King County to sign onto a letter from 11 firefighter unions

throughout Kitsap, King and Pierce counties — a group that did not include Vashon's own firefighter's

The letter acknowledged that vaccination is an important tool in the fight against COVID-19, but in several passages, it also defined vaccination as a personal "health matter" and individual "medical decision," urging the governor to create options including mandatory masking, weekly testing and social distance requirements for those who did not choose to become vaccinated.

In a related document an email to Allyson Hinzman, president of Tacoma Firefighter's Local 31, Krimmert thanked Hinzman for signing the letter, but also indirectly seemed to refer to public reaction on Vashon to his

"I am 'under siege' here," he told her.









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BEACH COMBER



# **EDITORIAL**

# The closure of VCC is tied to deep, systemic issues

The news that Vashon Community Care (VCC) will cease operations at the end of the year is heartbreaking and confusing to so many on the island, but most especially to the 36 souls who currently reside in the assisted living facility, as well as their families and loved ones.

A difficult journey is ahead for them all.

But it also stings many others of us who thought of VCC as something that would be there forever, if and when we needed it.

For many years, VCC has been one of the island's most treasured institutions. If you've lived on Vashon for any length of time, you've known elders who resided there, as well as islanders who have given time, talents and treasures to support the care center's mission.

Throughout the pandemic, and as it now continues, we have all held our breath as we saw, across the country, nursing home and assisted living facilities become sites of COVID outbreaks. Ours has not.

So now, it is very hard to hear what VCC's current director, Wendy Kleppe, and an executive vice-president of the nonprofit healthcare organization that now owns VCC, Jeff Shichta, told The Beachcomber and the community this week: that VCC's operations have become unsustainable due to two intractable problems: lack of demand for its services and a persistent and unsolvable shortage of workers that crippled operations and drove up expenses even higher as agency workers from the mainland were called upon to replace local ones.

Vashon's housing crisis is real — the island has become completely unaffordable for many, so much so that the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH) has just announced a new project: a lottery that will provide \$500 dollars a month to 10 households, with more families in line to receive similar assistance if enough money is raised.

While this new program is admirable and needed on Vashon, is this what it has come to— a lottery to keep working people and seniors on fixed incomes from being tossed out of their homes?

We are deeply indebted to the islanders who are involved in organizations including Vashon Household, IFCH and St. John Vianney's Society of St. Vincent DePaul chapter; we applaud their efforts to keep islanders in their homes and create more affordable housing on Vashon. We acknowledge that this work is complex, difficult and never-ending.

We need more solutions, new ideas, and we need them now. Who will work in our shops, serve food in our restaurants, care for our children and perform so many other necessary jobs here, if people cannot afford to live here? Where will seniors, many of whom have lived on Vashon for decades, be able to find safe and reasonably priced places to live?

So while we mourn the loss of VCC, we are still very encouraged to hear that VCC and Transforming Age have promised to work with island organizations and community partners to find a use for the incredible facility that faith, love and island dollars built as VCC.

The building itself is so lovely, filled with 56 bright, small apartments, a commercial kitchen, light-filled common spaces and outdoor gardens. It now must be repurposed to continue to serve the community, and what better purpose could be found for it than as affordable housing for islanders of all generations?

As Verna Everitt points out in her commentary on his page, the ground where VCC stands is sacred for more than 100 years, it has been the site of a residence for vulnerable islanders — a category which now unfortunately includes many ordinary working people on Vashon.

We all must hold VCC and Transforming Age to their promise to keep the building and grounds of VCC as a place of care for those who need it in our community.

# island's only senior care facility was closing.

in need of care.

For nearly one hundred years the land on which Vashon Community Care sits has served, in one form or another, as a home for Vashon's aging population

was deeply saddened and disappointed to

hear the news that the

In 1928, Goodwill Industries purchased the property known as the Ellsworth Ranch and established a working farm and boarding house for homeless men. As the men aged, they became more frail and unable to care for themselves. In stepped the ranch's new owner, Nell Herbert. From 1944 until 1957, the farm was known as Herbert's Boarding House. Nell took the men into the "big house," made a home for them and made them a promise she would tend to their needs until the day they died.

As the years went on, and Nell eventually passed, the big house still remained a home for island seniors. Jim and Judy Alexander carried on Nell's good work, and in 1966, the old Ellis Ranch became known as Island Manor. Inevitably, as time moved forward, the house truly wore itself out and the state deemed it unfit to remain a proper care facility.

That's when a group of island leaders stepped in with a vision and a dream, to continue using the land to care for Vashon's elderly population. Attorneys Ted Clabaugh



**VERNA EVERITT** 

and Ted Kutscher, together with the Aspiris, the Beardsleys, and so many others, got to work imagining how they could build a modern facility. These folks were the original guarantors who saved the day, and three days before Christmas - with the threat of those residents being kicked out — the last guarantor stepped in with

VCC's sacred site remains, purposed to serve those in need

the funds needed to build a better home. This became known across the island as "The Christmas

With a reprieve from the state, Island Manor was still able to operate while the new building was being built, and in 1995, Vashon Community Care opened its doors with 30 skilled nursing beds and a remarkable home for 39 assisted living residents.

For many years, Providence Hospital administered VCC and from the get-go, budget shortfalls were a reality. As Nell made a promise to those destitute men, Providence also allowed residents who ran out of funds and had only Medicare to rely on to stay on at VCC. Money was raised to make up the difference but it was never quite

In 2015, VCC formed the Vashon Community Care Foundation to exclusively focus on fundraising for that shortfall. I was privileged to serve as the foundation's executive director from 2015 to 2018. In my last year at the foundation, we raised more than \$600,000, and yet,

that was still not enough to cover the gap. At the end of 2017, VCC was acquired by Transforming Age. With its best foot forward, Transforming Age invested in muchneeded capital projects, reimagined the business model — and still the model was unsustainable.

So here we are today sitting with this terrible news. VCC is closing yet the land remains, if you will, sacred – purposed to carry on the mission that began nearly one hundred years ago.

I know there are many on Vashon who have worked tirelessly for affordable housing. It's now time to bring them together with the guarantors of tomorrow to reimagine a sustainable model. Perhaps a model that includes intergenerational housing where both young employees of Vashon's many businesses as well as seniors who desperately need reduced rent, could live together under one big roof.

Can VCC be used for such mixed housing? Of course, it can. I also believe with all the home care options on the island, some of the current VCC residents may be able to stay. I might be dreaming or I might be looking for another Christmas miracle.

Verna Everitt, a third-generation islander, now lives on Whidbey Island, where she is the executive director of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts. She served as the executive director of the Vashon Community Care Foundation from 2015 to

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

■ FIRE CHIEF

# Healthcare workers have moral and legal obligation

Since Chief Krimmert's refusal to get vaccinated, I realized there are many things as a physician I don't feel like being told to do anymore. I expect many will defend me, because, like the Chief, I have done a lot for this community, including donating thousands of hours of patient care over 20+ years. So in light of my contributions, I want a pass on things I don't want to do because I don't feel like it. For example, I am tired of sterilizing all of the instruments in the office. And wearing gloves. Cleaning surfaces all the time. Making sure my staff is current on their licensing. Using clean needles. Just because those things are proven to keep patients safe, I don't need some bureaucrat in Olympia telling me what to do.

I am, of course, joking. I follow ALL of the rules and regulations regarding our patient's health because I understand that our actions affect others. We are morally and legally obligated to protect our patients at all times. Still, it is liberating to know that even though I am not paid by tax dollars like the chief, I too can refuse to care about anyone but myself. I'll just call it

Dr. Kelly Wright

# Commissioners have one choice

Should we not agree that any job that is about caring for and protecting the welfare of others ought to include a COVID vaccination requirement? Public servants, in other words: police, firemen and teachers, anyone in a medical field as well. I wonder if the fire chief's contract stipulates that he is hired to serve and protect the community? If yes, then the board has one choice only. If no, why not?

**Rondi Lightmark** 

**■** EDUCATION

# Schools should engage children in tackling racism

As a supporter of the school district's efforts to teach effectively about race, I am trying to understand why some community members are opposed.

1. White parents are afraid their children are taught that being white makes them racist or "an oppressor." How do we simultaneously teach that individuals are not responsible for the actions of our ancestors while teaching that it is our responsibility to undo the results of those actions? If kids of color need to feel empowered by the resilience of their ancestors, don't white kids also need that same feeling, while acknowledging that those ancestors were complicit in some very bad things? Reconciling these things can be done, but it's complicated, and we should acknowledge that

2. Many people believe that focusing our attention on race itself falls under the definition of racism. Those who hold this point of view genuinely believe that kids of color are being harmed by the narrative that they are oppressed by society. This is an example of wanting the same goal with opposite approaches for achieving that goal, and looking at completely different metrics to assess the success of those approaches. If we self-assess, "how often am I thinking about race?," in one camp an increase in thinking about race indicates success, while in the other it indicates failure.

We may never all agree on the right approach, but engaging our children in tackling racism in the present is preferable to telling them that it is all in the past. The arguments over "critical race theory" (jargon used to fire up opposition, not by educators) are distracting us from a common goal: raising a generation of children who are equipped to reduce the amount of racism in the world.

**Stephanie Gogarten** 

# BEACHCOMRI

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# Keeping the character of home

hat distinguishes one community or neighborhood from another? Maybe a name - for example "Little Italy" or the "International District." Or maybe a street, "the Champs-Elysee" or "Canal Street." The name immediately evokes an area, a boulevard, a city, or the experience one has had there.

Preserving the identity of a place is not easy. Drive through the Fremont neighborhood in Seattle today, and it's hard to find the Troll or the statue of Lenin among the banks and high-tech company buildings lining the canal. Where did the funky neighborhood with the Greek restaurant and hippie shops go?

Change is inevitable, whether or not it is progress. But the character of a place can be preserved by making a conscious effort to do so. The Friends of Mukai have done this by working with the King County Council to establish "Mukai Way" to honor the Mukai family. It recognizes the historically significant Mukai Farm & Garden on 107th Ave SW. It joins many other places on the island that capture who we once were, but still treasure to this day.

Many years ago, when I was a child, my mother worked with other islanders and the county to retain existing historical street names on Vashon. This was when our rural route addresses were being replaced with King County street grid addresses. Mother did not want to turn our street into a SW number instead of Cowan Rd. She wanted to preserve what was distinctive about the community of Vashon Island - our history.

And what names were

preserved!

Lisabeula Rd. was named by a Vashon postmaster named Brink, for his two daughters, Eliza and Beulah. Reddings Beach Rd. is named for the Reddings family, who settled there in 1884. And who knew that the name Tahlequah was chosen in a 1920 naming contest for the new South End ferry dock? The winner of the contest, a



**KAY** LONGHI

young woman from Burton, proposed naming the dock after the Oklahoma city that is the capital of the Cherokee Nation. She thought the Cherokee word meant "water view." It doesn't, but the view is still beautiful from Tahlequah, all the

Now, Mukai Way will honor the Japanese immigrant Mukai family, who

operated an enormously successful strawberry farm and barreling plant in the 1910s to 1950s. It is the first honorary street designation on Vashon to recognize the many Japanese American fruit and vegetable farm families who settled here in the early 1900s, only to be exiled and imprisoned during World War II.

They deserve recognition for their cultural and economic contribution to the place called Vashon Island.

Kay Longhi is a member of the Friends of Mukai board of directors and was raised on the island.

# Green Briefs: How this story might end

Editor's note: Green Briefs are a regular series of commentaries by eco-leaders on Vashon, presented in The Beachcomber in partnership with The Whole Vashon Project.

ow to care about something you can't even see? How about sparking the imagination with a good

story? About 33 years ago, on Mother's Day, Vashon resident Karlista Rickerson was invited by two of her sons to join them and wade into the waters of Puget Sound down at Sandy Shores on Maury. They had already zipped her into a big, rubber diving suit, added a mask and a regulator and so, away they all went, down under. Thus began a lifelong passion. It was a night dive that really got her hooked, when she watched one son roll backward off a railing, entering black water that lit up his outline with diamonds.

Rickerson's fascination with microscopic organisms really took off when she was underwater and saw a big ball of "something" amorphous coming her way. That actually happened often, with visibility pretty much wiped out if she didn't swim sideways first. "It was a big bolus of plankton," she explains. "They come in waves."



It wasn't long before she was collecting water samples and putting them under a microscope, camera attached. A wonderful world manifested as she kept identifying a wealth of different organisms, with tonguetwisting names such as Coscinodiscus and Akashiwo sanguinea.

She came to know, over the years, a whole different reality that is also part of Vashon — vital, in fact, to human health and well-being — but mostly unknown and underappreciated.

Visualize the waters around Vashon teeming with microscopic plants an incredibly vast field, in fact. The plants are called phytoplankton. Extend your imagination to oceans around the world: fields vibrant with life,



with the energy of the sun and making more oxygen than

isms is called Prochlorococcus-500 can fit on the head of a pin.

The planet's smallest photosynthesizing machine — estimates are that it alone generates 5% of the oxygen we breathe. Production of oxygen estimates from all plankton is around 50-70%. No plankton, no us.

What grazes on these microscopic plants? Microscopic "animals" and some not so tiny as well, such as fish eggs, jellyfish, crustaceans and mollusks. These are the zooplankton, and on up the food chain, larger organisms progressively feeding and thriving to breed and reproduce.

And thus: no plankton,

When I asked Rickerson how things look in Vashon's underwater neighborhood these days, her answer was, "not good." On the

west side of Vashon, the big kelp beds have disappeared. Back in 2008, a water sample under the microscope was overcrowded with organisms with tremendous variation. Today: one species.

"What happened to everything else?" she wondered.

"What upsets me," said Rickerson, "is that everyone is agitating about saving the salmon and the orca. But if you don't focus on the very basis of the entire aquatic food chain, you're not going to get anywhere!

According to the Washington State Puget Sound information website (vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov), waters in the sound have been continually deteriorating over the past 20 years. They are warmer, more acidic and polluted; there is a decline in phytoplankton and thus, a decline in numbers of fish. Discharges from wastewater treatment plants and industries, plus erosion and stormwater runoff are major factors. Two modern Catch-22s are also major threats: pharmaceuticals and

personal care products dissolved in sewage and fire retardant in runoff from forest fires.

There is the naïve mindset, "Flush and it's gone." It is not, because we are talking about living systems. Bottom line: many substances used by humans impact the life of our waters, even down to the microscopic level.

But what can our small community do? We can collect the right data and take the results seriously, for starters.

Tag Gornall, a retired marine mammal veterinarian, has the dream to make Vashon an epicenter of plankton awareness. The more we are able to "see" and understand what we need to treasure, the greater chance there will be positive action to stringently monitor and mitigate harm in everything that enters our local waters.

With a stretch of imagination, education, inspiration, and science, we can create a different end to this story.

Be sure not to miss Rickerson's huge, colorful, plankton photographs



Long-time island diver, Karlista Rickerson, explores the waters beneath Tramp Harbor.

at Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union (PSCCU) in September and October, plus a painting of the aquatic web of life by Mexican artist Hodari Nundu, mounted on a "plankton fabric" designed by Gornall.

Coming in October to Vashon Center for the Arts: extraordinary, threedimensional sculptures of plankton, created by Port Townshend artist Rebecca

Rondi Lightmark is the founder of The Whole Vashon Project. Visit bit. ly/3hqd5Bi to see a Whole Vashon Project YouTube video about plankton.

# A gift for the future, for a child born today

**¬**oday, a child was born, tiny hands curling and unfurling with the startled shock of cool air on wet skin, oxygen flooding into newly-opened lungs as she cries upon entering this strange new world.

This child will likely live to see 2100. The date hangs, inconceivable, futuristic, but now within the span of a single lifetime. The child will be older by then, close to 80. She will have lived through every dire climate prediction modeled by modernity's soothsayers, the scientists. She will have seen the full weight of our failures in the times she was too young to remember, these next few years when an immediate transition away from fossil fuels is an imperative for the survival of humanity.

I hope she remem bers the story about to unfold, a story that began decades ago and is rapidly approaching the climax of its epic, the story in which billions of human beings rise up for their shared love of this Earth. Like thwarting monsters of old, we will wrestle fossil fuels back into the ground, dethrone the titans of industry, and stop the headlong plunge into the hell realms of the Sixth Mass Extinction. These times are the star-stuff of legends, if we survive long enough.

If we don't turn this story around, the tiny newborn arriving today will grow up in the greatest tragedy ever to hit our species, the catastrophic collapse of all we know and love. As an 80-yearold grandmother, she will see the dawn of a new, bleak century, awash in the wreckage of nuclear waste, plastic pollution, ruined cities, dust bowls of barren farmlands. Hers will not be the Silent Spring of which Rachel Carson warned. It will be the Silent Century.

She will be tough, this old woman in 2100. She will have survived decades of horrors: heat waves roasting the corn on the stalk and melting the onions in the fields, superstorms that slam the coastlines and flatten cities, torrential flooding that sweeps whole towns away, vanishing ice caps, rising seas that swallow Florida in a gulp, early frosts that lead to crop failures and empty grocery store shelves, desperate wars fought for water amidst unrelenting droughts.

It reads like a Biblical curse. We are the ones hurling it in her fragile, newborn face. We are the wicked fairy godmothers hovering over her cradle, poised to ruin her life. But

In these next few years, as she learns to crawl,

we don't have to be.

speak, count, walk, we still have time to change the story of her life. As an 80-year-old in 2100, she may be able to tell a vastly different tale than the apocalyptic tragedy that awaits. But, before she even learns to read, we must take immediate action. We must declare a climate emergency, demand a swift transition away from fossil fuels, defund polluting industries, invent in and deploy clean renewable energies, overhaul destructive agricultural

practices, and more. If we do all this with vision and conviction, as a grandmother in the new century, she will speak of our courage and sacrifice. She will tell her grandchildren how everythin changed as she grew up. She will speak of her



**RIVERA SUN** 

side so many of her generation. She will have seen upheavals, yes, and the lingering instability of our damage to the Earth, but she will be able to speak with hope and pride. The newborn in

career in restoring

ecosystems along-

her parents' arms today will live to see the birds return in vast flocks. She will see the whales rebound in great proliferating pods that sing across the slowly cooling seas. The aerial photo maps of her world will change color as she supports global reforestation projects to reverse desertification. She will taste the harvest from her local farms and know the journey her water took to reach her. She will have a hone that seems impossible to us today. She will have hope because of us.

And that is what we can do with our lives, right here and right now, to bless this child and all the others entering the world today, tomorrow, and the next day. We can take action for climate justice and give the young ones a gift unparalleled by any fairy godmother.

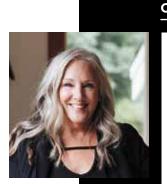
We can lift the curse that sits upon them. We can give them cause for hope, instead.

Joy for this child or misery for this child. To choose joy is to commit to

Rivera Sun, syndicated by PeaceVoice, has written numerous books, including The Dandelion Insurrection. She is the editor of Nonviolence News and a nationwide trainer in strategy for nonviolent campaigns. Find out more about PeaceVoice, based in Portland, Oregon, at peacevoice.info.

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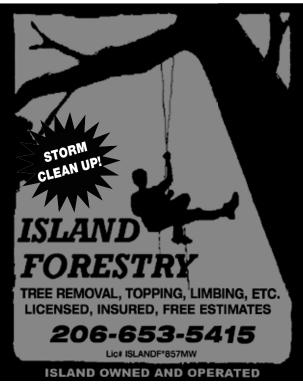
Vashon High School's girls' soccer team warmed up for their first home game on Sept. 13, coming off of back-to-back wins in their first two away games.

IENNI WII KE PHOTO

# Two wins come back to back in season openers for girls' soccer







By JENNI WILKE For The Beachcomber

The Vashon High School Girls' soccer team opened their season with a friendly away game, playing the Eatonville Cruisers on Monday, Sept. 6.

Coming off of a secondplace finish in the league, and only losing two seniors, there has been a lot of optimism about this season.

And it turns out, that optimism is warranted. Just three minutes into the game, sophomore Olivia Boyes scored from the top of the box as an attacking midfielder. Vashon continued to dominate the game, both in possession and shots on goal. After senior outside mid and co-captain Phoebe Wilke won a corner kick, her fellow captain, sophomore Linnea Heuschert, expertly sent it in, bending into the goal.

A few minutes after that, Boyes saw another opportunity for a long shot, shooting the ball sailing over the goalie's head. Not to be outdone, Heuschert sent in her own long shot, only to have it bounce off the crossbar. She had to settle for scoring off of another set-piece, this time a free-kick, in the thirtythird minute. Heading into the half with a 4-0 lead Vashon's defensive line had not seen much action from Eatonville, mostly only touching the ball when their own teammates passed back to set up plays.

The team continued to maintain heavy possession of the ball and was relentless in taking shots on the goal. After a few unsuccessful attempts,

junior attacking midfielder, Hanifa Khidr, cut into the box and took a strong shot only to have it blocked by the goalie. Khidr immediately followed, sending it back into the net, increasing Vashon's lead to 5-0.

Not ten minutes later, sophomore attacking mid, Mallory Keenan, sent a ball through to freshman center forward, Besa Hruska, who scored from just inside the box. This seemed to light a fire under Eatonville's offensive line, who finally managed to bring a ball down the field to take their first shot on goal. Unfortunately for them, sophomore goalie Ivy Staczek was there to make the save. With Eatonville's defensive line suddenly higher up on the field, Hruska was able to dribble past them on a breakaway, claiming her own second goal of the night.

Despite holding a 7-0 lead, Vashon continued to play at a high level, looking for passes and setting up plays. One standout example of this was the give-andgo play executed by junior Vera Moses and senior Phoebe Wilke. Trading passes with Moses between Eatonville's midfield and defenders, Wilke found herself in the box and able to send in a low shot past the goalie to the outside corner.

Eatonville rallied again, desperate to get on the board, trying to score off of a free-kick with just three minutes left. Luck was not on their side and the ball bounced off the crossbar. Shortly after that, Eatonville managed to get around the Vashon defenders for the first time off of a throw-in.

Staczek boldly met their forward at the top of the box, sliding in to make a dramatic save.

In the final minute of the game, Vashon found the back of the net again with senior Cait Jeffcoat, neatly passing the ball to senior, Nikki Becker, making the final score 9-0.

Just three days later,
Vashon faced last season's
Nisqually League Champions, Bellevue Christian,
on Thursday, Sept. 9. On
the way to the field, players were feeling nervous
and excited on the bus.
Knowing Bellevue's lead
scorer had graduated,
Vashon felt they had a
chance to log their first
conference win.

Vashon won the kick-off and maintained possession from the start, firing off a few shots in the first twenty minutes. At about 30 minutes, freshman Besa Hruska subbed in as center forward. Shortly after, center defender, freshman Meah McInerney sent a through ball to Besa, who successfully scored from just inside the left corner of the box. Despite a strategic header off a corner kick. Bellevue was unable to equalize before the half, with Staczek leaping backward just in time to make the save. During half-time, players decided to focus on keeping up the intensity on offense and preparing for Bellevue to come out strong in the second half.

But both teams were unable to create any chances until attacking midfielder and sophomore, Olivia Boyes, scored from the top of the box off of a cross from junior Hanifa Khidr.

Vashon did not enjoy their comfortable 2-0 lead for long. Bellevue finally found an opportunity to score. Taking a free-kick perfectly placed between the box and midfield, the ball sailed in just below the crossbar and was too high for sophomore goalie, Zoe Nowicki, to reach.

With the score at 2-1 both teams continued to battle for the win. Bellevue's offense was continually frustrated by Vashon's defensive line: sophomore Alana Bass; junior Leah Gross; freshman Meah McInverney and Wilke called back to play sweeper. In stoppage time, sophomore attacking midfielder, Mallory Keenan, managed to guarantee the win, cutting in and dribbling the ball into the box, slicing the ball into the goal from the six-yard line.

The team celebrated their 3-1 win on the bus, FaceTiming last year's co-captain and goalie, Tamsen Henry.

From her position as sweeper, co-captainWilke observed, "Watching from the backline, you can tell that this team really wants the league title this year and to do well in the playoffs. Even though we are a young team, no one is backing away from the physicality needed to play against older girls."

Vashon hosts two home games on Monday, Sept. 20, vs. Annie Wright and Wednesday, Sept. 22, vs. East Jefferson (Port Townsend and Chimacum combined). The kick-off is at 5:45 pm for both games.

# NEXT IN AN ON-GOING SERIES ABOUT ISLAND HISTORY



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# It's Your History September 16, 2021

Vashon's Moonshine Still
By Bruce Haulman and Mike Sudduth

Vashon was a center for prohibitionists from the days of the early non-Native settlers. The Volstad Act, which made producing alcohol illegal, was well received on Vashon, but not by everyone. The April 30, 1931 Vashon Island News-Record included the following about the discovery of a large still on Cove Road.

After several weeks of determined sleuthing by Deputy Sheriff Shattuck, a monster still, with elaborate paraphernalia for manufacturing moonshine, was unearthed ... about 1 1-2 miles west of the pavement on the Cove road. There were three large stills, equipped with the latest and best type of gas burners; they were stripped of all copper which was sent into the county office. Evidence that they had no inkling that the place had been discovered, the owners of the property left behind 118 gallons of raw moonshine, which when diluted meant four times that amount for "the trade," also two gallons of first class grain alcohol. There were two 1500-gallon and one 500-gallon vats filled, and a fourth of 250 gallon capacity that had apparently been emptied several days before. On Tuesday, Mr. Shattuck superintended the destruction of about two thousand dollars worth of equipment consisting of barrels, vats, huge jugs, crocks, etc., as well as a considerable amount of grain. Apparently engaged in moving furniture on and off the Island, the truck the operators had used had been almost filled first with moonshine packed in large cartons, then the balance of the space had been filled with furniture which furnished an excellent camouflage. In like manner the grain and sugar had been brought from the mainland.

You can purchase Bruce Haulman's A Brief History of Vashon Island at the Heritage Museum and at the Vashon Bookshop.

This Feature Proudly Sponsored by: Tyler - Vashon Pharmacy Norm - Vashon Thriftway • Earl - Island Home Center and Lumber

# PLEASE HELP ME FIND (NO CELL PHONE) DONNA

Donna is an elderly lady my family and I met at the Tahlequah Ferry Dock on Friday afternoon, August 27th.

I would like to communicate further with her.

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# Study

The maleo, a bird about the size of a chicken, lives on Sulawesi. Maleo lay a single, grapefruit-sized egg in the warm sands of their nesting grounds, cover their egg with sand, and leave. However, these eggs have been targeted by poachers, who sell the eggs on the black market for the equivalent of \$2 to \$3 each.

When Summers returned to Vashon after her time in Indonesia, she was speaking at an Audubon presentation.

"I mentioned that there was a village in Indonesia that had asked for help to prevent the extinction of their endangered, iconic bird and people just came forward and said, 'how can I help?" said Summers. "A small group organized here on the island to raise some funds. That was in June 2006, and that was our seed money to get started, and then we launched the field activities in August of that same year, so just a month or two later."

The group headed back to Sulawesi, but specifically to Tompotika, a peninsula of the eastern tip of Sulawesi's central arm.

Summers and her group met with villagers around the region to launch partnerships to save the maleos.

Under the new partnership, former poachers could now guard and collect



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN SCHAFER/ALTO

A picture of the maleo. These birds live on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia and have been the focus of Vashonbased Alliance for Tompotika Conservation's (AlTo) work for over a decade.

data at the maleo nesting grounds. According to the study, they were paid the local minimum wage, which was the equivalent of \$5.50 a day. Because the maleo population had dropped so significantly, they would earn more guarding than poaching.

AlTo also focused resources on education, as they have done outreach projects and have visited all 115 Tompotika primary, middle and high schools at least once.

As more than 14 years have passed. Summers looks back to the initial trip the group took to Indonesia to where the group is now.

"Working together on this incredibly worthy project over time has built a tremendous friendship and tremendous trust and enriched everyone's lives,"

said Summers. "So, we not only have brought back the maleo but we've had windows into one another's lives and cultures that have only enriched us all."

The study published in GECCO attributes work done by AlTo for increasing maleo numbers four-fold after 14 years. The Zoological Society of London has also named the maleo as the 19th most important bird for conservation on its Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) list.

"I think this is an example of a beautiful Vashon project," said Summers. "It's a project that islanders have gotten going from the beginning, islanders have sustained over time, and although it's much bigger than Vashon now, islanders are still at the core of it."







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# King County braces for more wildfires

By Conor Wilson cwilson@soundpublishing.com

Although King County has seen wildfire smoke for the last several summers, it has largely avoided the impacts of devastating wildfires seen on the eastern side of the state.

However, county officials suspect that could change. Most of the county remains at moderate risk of wildfire, but fires are expected to become more common, particularly in the heavily forested and rural areas.

These areas — including parts of Snoqualmie, North Bend and Fall City — sit in what the county describes as the Wild Urban Interface (WUI), an area of land where urban development mixes with rural wildlands.

Parts of Enumclaw, Auburn and Issaquah also sit within the WUI.

The county government has become increasingly concerned about an increase in wildfires in these areas, said Lara Whitely Binder, a climate preparedness program manager for the county.

"The potential for a large fire is low in Western Washington compared to any other part of the state," she said. "But we know that we are not prepared in King County. We have largely thought of wildfires as a problem for other parts of the state."

In the last year, the amount of time county firefighters have spent fighting fires has nearly quadrupled, according to Jordan

Simmonds, a captain with Eastside Fire & Rescue, who also trains firefighters in fighting wildland fires.

In an average year, county firefighters spend 266 hours fighting fires. This year, they have spent 953 hours.

The number of fires in the county is also up 44% compared to the average year. In Fire District 1, which includes the north and east parts of King County, the number of fires is up 46%.

"Î've been fighting fires for 23 years, and in that time I can certainly tell you from personal experience we have seen a huge increase in local wildfires," Simmonds said. "We're seeing fires get bigger and grow faster."

This year, county

firefighters have already responded to a number of large fires, including the Cedar Hills fire in Issaquah, the Royal Hills fire in Renton and the Green Valley fire in Auburn.

Until recently, Simmonds said the county did not have much of the heavy equipment or resources needed to fight these fires, making containment even more difficult.

That is beginning to change. Recently, the county has begun working alongside fire districts and communities to acquire more resources and introduce the county's first wildfire risk reduction strategy.

The strategy is looking at three pillars of wildfire reduction: what can be done in forest landscapes, what can be done in the WUI communities, and what can be done to quickly and effectively respond to

Even if the county does everything right, wildfires will still be seen in the future due to climate change increasing the potential for favorable conditions, Whitely Binder

"Projections for lower snowpack, higher summer temperatures and dryer summer conditions all set the stage for fires, " she said.

Wildfires in King County have typically stayed low to the ground, rarely rising above the treeline, Simmonds said. Although county fire behavior could change to more resemble the eastern portion of the state, ground fires often allow firefighters to save homes if owners take the proper precautions.

"Ît makes all the difference in the world," Simmons said. "If a homeowner has not been on top of it, not maintaining the



Matt Axe, the wildfire and forest resiliency coordinator with the King Conservation District, speaks to homeowner Anita Kissee-Wilder about fire reduction strategies at her home in North Bend on Aug. 24.

ground around their home, there are times we're not

#### 'Right down the I-90 corridor'

able to save it."

Matt Axe, the wildfire and forest resiliency coordinator with the King Conservation District, helps homeowners prepare. He offers a free service for county residents, where he will inspect their property and make suggestions for fire resiliency improvements.

"When we start at a home, we work out and we create this defensible space," he said. "The first 30 feet is how we get the biggest bang for your buck in reducing fire damage to your home."

Axe said preparing your property for a fire is particularly important in the heavily forested areas of the Snoqualmie Valley.

Forested areas naturally have a higher risk for fire, not including the increased chance of human-caused fires due to development.

The valley is also in close proximity to wildfires in Eastern Washington.

"If we have conditions like we did this year and we have an easterly wind event, that wildfire is expected to go right down the I-90 corridor," Axe said.

When he looks at homes, Axe said he checks if they have the correct fire-resistant building materials, including an asphalt or metal roof, as well as ignition-resistant siding.

He also looks to see that there are no pine needles or other debris around the home or in its gutters. Plants with oily leaves or needles and bark around the home also pose big risks to ignition.

"We can never say with everything we do that your home will survive a wild-fire," Axe said. "What we can do is improve your chances."

To request wildfire preparedness service, visit: bit.ly/3yBTPGx.



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(Jenna Dennison Photo) Victoria Hunter, the owner of Vashon Island Framery, works on a frame in her shop.

# Local photographer, artist opens framing business

framer Sandra Landes in

Dorena, Oregon, who has

been framing for "decades

preserve people's art or

special objects, or what-

ever they want to frame,"

said Hunter. "I like that

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framery.com.

BY JENNA DENNISON jdennison@ vashonbeachcomber.com

If you pass by Parker Plaza, you'll notice a new business. Vashon Island Framery, owned by local artist and photographer Victoria Hunter, has recently opened its doors.

"There was no frame shop on the island for the last year, and I know there is a big need for one," said Hunter. "So I felt that it was a good time to start one."

Hunter, who has lived on Vashon for the last eight years, had always been interested in framing.

"I learned basic matting through my studies at the Photographic Center Northwest over in Seattle," said Hunter.

She then went on to study with professional learns new language of artmaking Note: The Beachcomber partners with Vashon . Island Visual Artists (ViVA) to publish regular profiles of members of

Vashon's vibrant visual arts scene. Below, we hear from photographer Ed Holmes, in his own words, about his work and what inspires it.

The creative voice is present within all of us.

It is just a matter of finding ways to unlock, dislodge, access and give form to that spirit. For me, it is visual. For as long as I can remember, I had a camera. Later in life, I attended many seminars and workshops, set



ED HOLMES PHOTOGRAPHY Ed Holmes' recent photographs capture flowers frozen in different liquid mediums.

#### up a darkroom in my house, developed film and enjoyed printing my own work. That was another era. As I celebrate my 50th year on Vashon, I'm reflecting on all the changes I've seen and experienced both here and

Our Town: Local photographer

I have always been drawn to the old and crumbly, the hidden chamber, the newlydiscovered archeological wonder, the visual reminders of how life was in another era - not better, just different.

in Latin America.

As the COVID era has

clamped down on usual patterns of behavior, I have not made my yearly trips to South America. Instead, I have focused on learning another language, picking up my guitar and exploring etching, stippling and more "hands-on" art. In that vein, the accompanying photo is an example of play in an unfamiliar venue - flowers frozen in different liquid mediums.

You can only influence the outcome, not control it. Doesn't that sound like life? — Ed Holmes

To find out more



Island photographer Ed Holmes

about ViVA, including its program, "ViVA Art by Appointment: Your Personal Path to Island Artists," visit vivartists. com or pick up a copy of a brochure about the studiovisit program, available at most island retail stores.

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Hera and Freya: DSH and DMH Black Females. Born 7/21. Hera, the Greek Queen of Heaven and her sister Freya, the Goddess of Love, are looking for their chariot to carry them off to their new home. These two girls are well socialized and have been around dogs. They are looking to be adopted together in a home where they can live indoors and be honored and adored by their humans. These two lovelies came to VIPP on 8/26/21.

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# RAYMOND E. MIELBRECHT

AUGUST 13,1934 - APRIL 19, 2021



Ray Mielbrecht, the first of five sons, was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Josephine and Raymond Mielbrecht. Both Ray and his future wife, Carol, grew up in New Jersey but never met until they both moved to California. After serving in The U.S. Army as a radio operator in Austria, Ray attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he met his brideto-be. Upon graduating from San Francisco University with degrees in Geology and Computer Science he embarked on a journey to the Pacific Northwest. His career path brought him to the Boeing Aerospace Company and a room rental in a house on a small island called Vashon. After moving his family to Vashon in 1967, he proceeded to teach himself to build, wire, and plumb a house on acreage in Lisabuela. He raised and

butchered his own livestock and, with Carol and the kids, froze, canned and pickled produce from their large garden and apple orchard. With the hard work of the entire family he achieved a mostly sustainable lifestyle, before there was such a term.

Ray had a homesteading spirit, lifelong curiosity and thirst for knowledge. He loved math for its predictability and science for its insistence on "proofs." He was a deep thinker with a profound appreciation for and fascination with the natural world.

Ray was especially dedicated to: The American Legion Post no. 159, Vashon Eagles F.O.E. #3144 and the Vashon Cribbage Club, the Vashon Library, the Vashon-Maury Land Trust, and Vashon's sheep and goat 4-H groups.

He was a longtime member of the Sporstmen's Club where he taught gun safety and marksmanship classes. He once proudly declared his best students at that time were 6th grade girls from the Harbor School.

Ray is survived by his four brothers, Richard, Robert, Ronald and Russell Mielbrecht; his four children, Karrin (Fearey), Sharon, Mark and Cheryl; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren and two great-grandchildren spread from California to New York.

Raymond was buried at the Vashon Cemetery on May 1st in a small ceremony of family and friends because of COVID-19 concerns. The family expresses their deep and lasting appreciation for the love and support Ray and Carol found on their long adventure in the Vashon Island Community. Look for the flower bed just NW of the flagpole, there they rest, in peace and tranquility.

# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Nash Lande Sandvig

Gary Sandvig and Mallory McGuirk announce the birth of their son Nash Lande Sandvig, born Aug. 26, 2021, in Silverdale. He weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces.

He is welcomed by his sister Kaia, brother Presley, maternal grandmother Jill Mosher of Port Orchard, maternal grandfather Mike McGuirk of Tacoma, greatgrandmother Hazel Nelson, and great-grandparents Bob and Darlene Lande. Nash's other family members, now deceased, include paternal grandparents Warren Sandvig and Debbie Lande, greatgrandfather Carl Nelson, great-grandfather Mick Mosher, great-grandparents Mac and Jessie McGuirk, and great-grandmother Mary Ann Lande.



**Nash Lande Sandvig** 

# Kathryn "Kate" Ann Smith

DECEMBER 19, 1960 - SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

Lifelong resident of Washington.

Active in P.E.O. Presbyterian Church, her community, and a fan of the Mariners.

Survived by brother, Kurt (Peggy) and niece, Kelsey (Austin).

Preceded in death by her parents Janet and Denman.

Kate will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.



# Places of Worship on our Island

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### Vashon Island Community Church

9318 SW Cemetery Road Worship Service 10:00 am (Children welcome, nursery available) Midweek groups for adults, youth, women & men Office Phone **463-3940** Pastors:

Mike Ivaska and Tyler Winters For more info: www.vashonchurch.com

### Vashon Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 am 17708 Vashon Hwy (center of town) Pastor Leigh Weber Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm463-2010

www.vashonpreschurch.org

St. John Vianney Mass-Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays 9:00 am Pastor: Fr. David Mayovsky

16100 115th Avenue SW, Vashon WA 98070

OFFICE 206-567-4149 www.stjohnvianneyvashon.com

### Vashon Friends Worship Group

(Quakers)

10 am Meeting for Silent Worship in members' homes.

Call for Location 567-5279 463-5255

# Vashon Havurah

Serving Vashon's Jewish community

Torah study is on Zoom: 9:30 am Saturday mornings. Link on website.

15401 Westside Highway SW PO Box 89, Vashon 98070

www.vashonhavurah.org

#### Calvary Full Gospel Church at Lisabeula

13107 SW 220th St. Worship 10:30 am – Evening Worship TBD Thursday Bible Study 7:00 pm Call for location Saturday Prayer 7:30 pm Pastor Steve Sears 463-2567

#### .Vashon\_Işl Unitarian Fellowship

Community, Diversity, Freedom of Belief, Enrichment of Spirit Sunday services are being held virtually at 11am The Zoom Link for all Sunday Services: https://www.viuf.org/sunday/
If you are prompted to use a password, it is 2020 Lewis Hall

(Behind Burton Community Church) 23905 Vashon Hwy SW Info: www.VIUF.org

### **Episcopal Church of** the Holy Spirit

Now open for worship on Sundays. First service, Rite 1 is at 8 am Second service, Rite 2 is now at 9:30 am. We are following all the protocols at our  $\,$ services for Covid-19. Still live streaming Facebook at 9:30 am for congregants who cannot attend.

15420 Vashon Hwy SW

#### Vashon Lutheran Church

God's love is inclusive, abundant and to be lived and shared. YOU ARE WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Ioel Kutzke

463-2655 18623 Vashon Hwy. SW

www.vashonluthernchurch.org

### Vashon United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Mark Wagner Meeting in Person and on Zoom 10:00am on Sundays Sundays 10 am Worship & Kids' Zoom Tues 10 am Men's Coffee • Wed 10:30am Bible Study ZOOM via FB or Contact VUMC

office@vashonmethodist.org ww.vashonmethodist.org (206) 463-9804

Our Vashon Island Community warmly invites you and your family to worship with them.

# **I Members of the Vashon Social Service Network**

**DOVE** Domestic violence & sexual assault advocacy: www.vashondoveproject.org • 206-462-0911

**Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness** (IFCH)

www.ifchvashon.org • 206-643-5169

St Vincent de Paul • 206-450-7577

**VARSA** Reducing youth alcohol & substance use: www.varsanetwork.org • 206-567-2647

# **Vashon Care Network**

www.vashoncarenetwork.org • 206-604-3253

# **Vashon Community Care**

www.vashoncommunitycare.org • 206-567-4421

Vashon HouseHold www.vashonhousehold.org • 206-463-6454

# **Vashon-Maury Community Food Bank**

(VMCFB) www.vashonfoodbank.org • 206-463-6332

# Vashon-Maury Senior Center

www.vashonseniorcenter.org • 206-463-5173

# Vashon Youth and Family Services (VYFS)

www.vyfs.org • 206-463-5511

**Also call 211.** King County 211 provides the most comprehensive information on health and human services available to King County residents. The information and referral specialists are experts in understanding eligibility requirements of many human service systems. Mon-Fri 8am-6pm.

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**Legal Notices** NOTICE OF

VENDOR LIST NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Vashon Island Fire and Rescue (KCFPD 13) is creating a Vendor List for parties interested in contracting

sale of materials, equipment, supplies or servic-es, when the amount of the sale is projected to be between \$10,000 and \$50,000. The District is accepting applications from qualified parties to be placed on the Vendor List. A notice, substan-tially in the form of this tially in the form of this notice, will be published semi-annually in a newspaper of general circula-tion, advertising the existence of the vendor list, and soliciting the names of vendors for the list. Such Vendor List will be used instead of formal sealed bidding procedures when the estimated contract price is be-

# Legal Notices

tween \$10,000 and \$50,000. For eligible purchases, the District staff will solicit at least three quotations from vendors on the list, whenever reasonably possible. Minority and women-owned business-es are encouraged to apply. Send application to be placed on the Ven-dor List, including your address, telephone number, and other pertinent Vashon Island Fire & Rescue, Attn: Facilities Manager P.O. Box 1150 Vashon WA. 98070. Qualified vendors will be on a continual basis Dated this 22th day of September 2021 Published in the Vash on-Maury Island Beach-comber September 23,

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VashonOffice.JohnLScott.com • 13401 Vashon Highway SW • (206) 567-1600



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#### **GIG HARBOR - A RESORT-LIKE RETREAT ON 5 ACRES**

20 minutes from Gig Harbor lies this 5 acre property w/ stunningly renovated home. 3 beds, 2.5 baths, luxury vinyl tiled floors, built-in bar area, & generous deck. Two bridges over creek flowing through garden, converted garage ADU w/ kitchen & laundry, separate studio/office building w/ yoga studio. Thoughtfully curated with plenty of space for living, working & entertaining. MLS #1837573 \$995.000



Lisenby (206) 290-7106



# WEST SEATTLE – CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY AWAITS!

Ready for your updates & personal touches, located in desirable West Seattle neighborhood. Open floor plan & daylight basement provides plenty of space for all. Spacious garage. Schools, shopping, beach & parks nearby. Sizable yard w/ mature landscaping. Zoned RS 7200 & a double lot makes this property loaded w/ potential & possible sub-division. MLS #1783870 \$599,000



Jim Marsh (206) 641-5027





# **ISLAND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!**

Excellent commercial kitchen & chance to own Island restaurant. Great investment for someone interested in joining Vashon's renowned food culture. In-town w/ fully equipped commercial kitchen & sizeable open dining space w/ dedicated off-street parking. Great landlord & zoned for community business. MLS #1835881 \$120,000



Julie Hempton (360) 460-8080



# TWO TRANQUIL WATER VIEW LOTS!

Once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase quiet, peaceful and beautiful water front property, not listed for 80 years! Two forested parcels, close to 3.5 acres combined, expansive views of Mt Rainer & Commencement Bay. Build your dream home with timber from the property! Pending Feasibility. MLS #1799036 \$175,000



Knight (206) 388-9670



# SOLD REPRESENTING BUYER

Private & serene setting w/ exquisite 6.77 acres, large meadow area, quiet sitting areas, walking trails, native plantings & a variety of mature trees. Walk the trails & experience the beauty of nature with the many birds & wildlife. Property has been surveyed & comes w/ a paid Heights water share. Offered at \$369,000





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