#### Stanwood Camano News ◆ scnews.com

### **Beach Watchers** to change name



JEREMIAH O'HAGAN | STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

operation," and Tim Law-

rence, Island County Extension director, has been very

Stewards becoming its own

rectors, which will assume

and six are from Whidbey.

Sound Water Stewards

Currently, the group

monitors for green crabs,

an invasive species that has

been noticed in the Puget

Sound region over the past

Sea Star Wasting Project,

which is coming to some

conclusions about why sea

stars are dying off in the

ing projects is intertidal

years worth of data from

12 Camano beaches," Gil-

lespie said. "We follow an

established protocol, so it's

consistent, and scientists are

data is recognized as being

valuable for research proj-

"It's rewarding that our

happy to use our data.

One of the most reward-

"We have collected 15

area, Gillespie said.

monitoring, she said.

It also participates in the

couple years.

will continue the "citizen

science" projects on Ca-

Sound Water Stewards

Sound Water Stewards, formerly known as Beach Watchers, will continue such "citizen science" projects as the sea star wasting disease.

### New 'Shore Water Stewards' will be independent of WSU

By JEREMIAH O'HAGAN Staff Reporter

Carol Gillespie has been supportive of Sound Water a Beach Watcher since 2006, when she completed training for the Washington State University (WSU) Extension has chosen a board of di-

As of Dec. 31, Gillespie operations Jan. 1. Three will be a Beach Watcher no members are from Camano,

As of Jan. 1, the group Linda Ridder, a Whidbey will be named Sound Water resident, is board chair. Stewards and will operate as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, independent of WSU.

"A good share of me is excited," Gillespie said. "I happen to be an alum of WSU, though, so part of me is a little

"But I see many advantages," she said. "It has become more and more evident that we need to become our own entity with our own rules."

Not because of contention with WSU, but because "quite a few people felt too restricted. They felt we needed to get out of the umbrella (of WSU) and have greater flexibility to work with many institutions and government agencies," Gillespie said.

"Whenever you're associated with one institution, there are rather strict rules and liabilities." she said. "And Lunderstand that. That's just part of their life in today's world. But it becomes discouraging to people if they have to fill out 15 forms before they can start on a project."

Now, the group will stand alone, with its own liability insurance and fundraising.

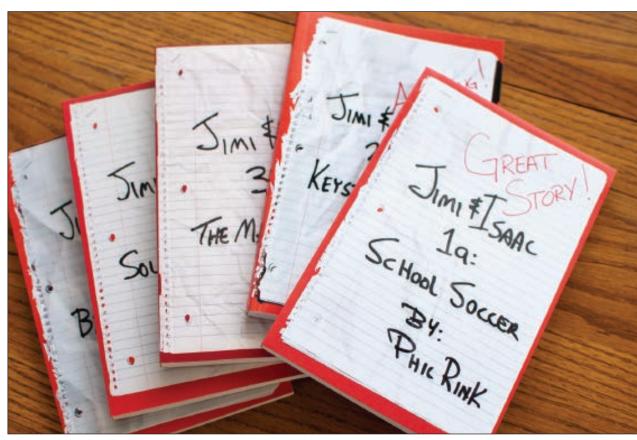
To the general public, there won't be a perceived difference except the name change, Gillespie said. The group will still run the same programs, such as its Fourth-Wednesday program, which hosts public evening sessions with guest speakers at Camano Multipurpose Center.

Gillespie said WSU has shown "a great deal of co-

Realogics

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# Camano man writes short books of big ideas for kids



JEREMIAH O'HAGAN | STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Phil Rink aims to write books "full of short sentences, short pages, short chapters and really big ideas."

By JEREMIAH O'HAGAN Staff Reporter

Phil Rink began writing books for kids because the other books for kids weren't very good — at least not in his daughter's opinion.

She'd come home from the library and read her way to disappointment.

Finally she read "The Hatchet" by Gary Paulson. She told Rink, "This is a good book, Dad. We can talk about this one."

Rink told her to find more books like it.

"There aren't any," she

"Oh, that's broken," he

The key to a book for kids, Rink said, is that it's simply written, but not trivial. And there aren't many that fit

he said.

And he thought he could

offer something. "I think and write in straight lines," Rink said.

"Clean."

He began the Jimi and

Isaac series. The fifth book,

this year, is proof that clean

and straight is not the same

dad falls off a roof and

injures his head. The story

addresses a weighted and

fix the body, and probably

"And the body will likely

be completely healed by

timely phenomenon.

as trivial. In the book, Isaac's

"Modern medicine can

will fix the body," Rink said.

"The Brain Injury," published

"That's a big problem,"

the time anyone realizes the extent of a brain injury."

Isaac is a smart kid. He's an inventor and builder. He is used to having control. And now everything that is happening is outside his control.

"It's an important concept," Rink said. "To find out where the edges are."

At one time, the books Rink writes would have been called "boys books." That's not a category today, but it's still a need, Rink said. Boys want books that are straightforward, and there needs to be a point to reading them.

"These (Jimi & Isaac) books are about what they're



**Phil Rink** 

■ SEE **RINK**, PAGE B3



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## the couch on Camano Island on Camano Island

#### Retirement party

**CAMANO ISLAND** Fire and Rescue will welcome the public at its fire commissioner meeting Monday, Dec. 28, at the Vista Madrona Fire Station, 273 N. West Camano Drive, to thank Fire Commissioner Timmerman for serving on the district's board for the past six years. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, call 360-387-1512.

#### Smart driver

**REGISTRATION** for the AARP Smart Driver Course is now being accepted at the Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island. The 8-hour course is designed for drivers over 50 years old. Upon completion, participants may be eligible for an insurance discount. Cost for AARP members, \$15; nonmembers, \$20. Bring a sack lunch. Call 360-387-0222 for the schedule.

#### New Year's ball

TRADITIONAL NEW Year's Eve Black and White Ball with Camano Junction will be held 8 p.m. – midnight Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island. Tickets are \$25 and include snacks and champagne toast. Cash bar. Call 360-387-

#### Winter walk

JOIN FRIENDS of Camano Island Parks on a guided community walk at Camano Island State Park Saturday, Jan. 2. Meet at 9:50 a.m. at the picnic shelter near the boat ramp at Camano Island State Park.

The 2.6 mile walk includes two elevation gains of about 50 feet, excellent views of Saratoga Passage and Elger Bay, a fern grotto and ravine. The park is on Lowell Point Road, off Mountain View Road and West Camano Road.

The two-hour walk takes place rain or shine. Wear appropriate clothes and sturdy shoes or boots. For safety reasons, no dogs allowed .

A park pass is required. For those without one, a temporary pass will be provided by FOCIP. Trail booklets and maps will be available for a suggested \$1 donation. For more information, visit friendsofcamanoisland parks.org.

#### Center classes

FITNESS CLASSES offered at Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island, include yoga, tai chi, zumba and senior

0222 for more information.

Celebrating the season

Camaloch 9-Hole Lassie's Golf Club celebrate their 2015 golf season with a Christmas luncheon Dec. 9 at Camano Lodge restaurant on Camano. "We want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," said member Nancy Yarwood.

aerobics, with new sessions beginning in January. Call 360-387-0222 for schedules and

more information.

Computer classes are offered for seniors every Tuesday,

10–11 a.m. covering both Mac and Windows operating systems, Droids, Droid pads

and curious," he said. "We

COURTESY PHOTO

and Chrome Books. Bring your device; Classs is free to center

#### Rink

■ FROM PAGE B1

about," Rink said. "Full of short sentences, short pages, short chapters and really big ideas.'

Jimi and Isaac aren't described or defined in the books. They are simply two middle-school boys.

"They could be any kids in any town, doing wild stuff," Rink said. "I hope kids see themselves in the stories. Themselves and their friends."

In the stories, Jimi and Isaac learn. Through the books, so do readers — not only about science, but also about human dilemmas and ethics and consequences.

"It's challenging because you don't want to give kids answers in either direction," Rink said. "You want to prois partially right and partially wrong. And that's OK. That's not a copout. That's the glory — to get your teeth in and become comfortable (with uncertainty)."

Uncertainty is something

Rink has faced. His family started a farm

in northern Indiana in 1892. His cousins still operate it. His father, John Rink, was the first male to leave the farm. He left it for the Army, served in the Korean War, and used the G.I. Bill to get an engineering degree from Purdue University. Then, he settled in Los Alamos, New Mexico, to work with nuclear rockets.

"He was one of the first guys in the world to burn something with a laser," Rink said. "Maybe the first guy."

So Phil was born in Los Alamos, the first Rink raised off the farm. As a result, he was adrift in his interests. He ended up in the Bremerton shipyards, where he met his wife, Nancy.

They were interested in remote undersea robotics and followed that to Vancouver Island. In 1992 they started an underwater video company. Eventually they ended up at Boeing and moved to Camano Island in 1999.

Many kids today face the uncertainty of being able to do almost anything they want. They don't have to stay on the farm anymore. They don't have to do what dad did. And while this is freeing, it's also intimidating, Rink said.

Rink tries to address this, slantwise, in his books.

These days, Rink said, "I'm busy cracking the nut of trying to sell these things (books)."

Publishing is changing and "the noise level is infinite."

Trying to get into the Scholastic Book Fairs, which is nearly the only guaranteed way to get your books in front of kids, is like trying to get into a casino's vault, Rink said.

Three U.S. companies review books. Only one of them, Kirkus Reviews, guarantees a review. If it is unfavorable, you can tell them not to publish it.

Rink sent his most recent book, "The Brain Injury," to Kirkus and it got a starred

"Kirkus gives starred voke discussion. Any opinion reviews to about 3 percent of all the Indie (independent) books they review, which is a fraction of all the ones written." Rink said.

> Kirkus's review of "The Brain Injury" noted: "Every part of Isaac's journey is meticulously and thoughtfully drawn. The emotional reality of what is happen-

Phil Rink's Jimi & Isaac books are available at jimiandisaacbooks. com, about 200 libraries nationwide (including as e-books) and at Amazon.

ing to him and his family is conveyed realistically and with tremendous care. This is accomplished not only with clear, excellent prose, but

also with insightful characterization."

Kirkus recommended the book "for both its quality of writing and its superb handling of difficult subject matter," and also named it one of

Which feels fine, Rink

"We meet the kids where voke them to be interested

work hard to be bold."

The Best Books of 2015.

they are, then teach and pro-

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Announcing the dates for the 2016 Great Northwest Glass Quest! Presented by the Camano Island Chamber

of Commerce, Stanwood Chamber of Commerce and City of Stanwood, the 7th annual Great Northwest Glass Quest is set for Feb.12 - 21, 2016. Thousands of visitors from all over Washington, Oregon and British Columbia come to Stanwood and Camano Island searching for glass treasures during the 10-day event. In the process, they explore our shops, restaurants, parks and community.

