

Fundraiser for Jesse White



Concerned school staff, local basketball players and parents brought the Harlem Crowns to Vernonia to help raise funds for Jesse White and his family's fight against cancer. The event raised \$1,074. Photo courtesy of Karen Roberts.

Happy Halloween! *more photos on page 19*



Art Exhibit Features Northwest Landscapes

Kathryn Cotnoir, Erik Sandgren and Dee Vadnais, a resident of Deer Island, will be showing work at the Lower Columbia College Rose Center for the Arts Gallery, Nov. 13 thru Dec. 8.

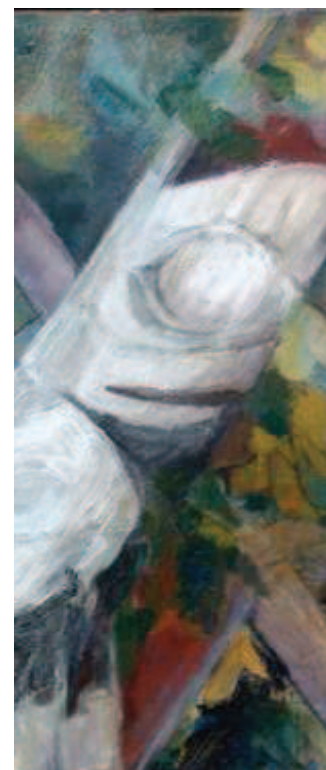
The title of the show is **Voyages to Haida Gwaii**. The opening reception will be on Tuesday November 12, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The public is invited to attend, meet the artists and hear them give a short gallery talk at 4:30.

The three painters travelled together on Vadnais's family boat, the SV Blue Pteron, a 43' sailboat, skippered by Dee's husband Paul Seamons. The two couples made several journeys together which resulted in a large body of work consisting of hundreds of original on-site paintings as well as subsequent work done by each artist. The upcoming exhibit is made up of a selection of paintings, drawings and prints.

The focus of the work in **Voyages to Haida Gwaii** is the landscapes of the northwest, British Columbia and SE Alaskan coastal sites. Particular attention was given to the exploration and depiction of First Nation's village sites, totems, and significant artifacts. Two of these trips were spent visiting, learning about and creating paintings in the



Above art by Erik Sandgren. Below left art by Dee Vadnais.



Gwaii Hanaas National Park Reserve which contains the United Nation's World Heritage site of Skangwaii. The remaining totem poles and house sites still visible there are the central theme of this show.

Many locations were accessible by water only. The two couples spent many days and weeks at anchor off significant sites, exploring the shores and beaches by dingy and with hikes through the old growth. Three of

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Merkley Introduces Legislation to Protect Homeowners From Flood Insurance Rate Spike

Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act Comes on One Year Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy

On the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley and a bipartisan coalition of Senators introduced the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act which will protect thousands of Oregon homeowners from facing huge flood insurance premium rate hikes and require FEMA to complete an affordability study and propose real solutions to address affordability issues before any flood insurance premiums can be raised in the future.

"Something is very wrong when middle class families across Oregon and America are more worried about extreme spikes in flood insurance than about actual floods. This must be remedied,"

said Merkley. "We can strengthen the long-term health of the program without pricing families out of their homes. I am pleased that last month's hearing helped mobilize a bipartisan coalition committed to giving homeowners relief."

Homeowners with mortgages living in flood zones are required to have flood insurance, which for about 20 percent of properties has traditionally been subsidized or grandfathered at a lower rate by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Before Superstorm Sandy struck, a federal flood insurance reform bill, the Biggert-Waters Act, was passed as part of a larger legislative package. The Biggert-Waters Act was aimed at reducing, or phasing out, the federal NFIP subsidy at up to 25 percent a year, which would dramatically increase premiums for homeowners and businesses.

In September, Merkley

chaired a hearing in his Economic Policy subcommittee on flood insurance rate spikes and possible solutions. He then assembled a bipartisan working group of Senators concerned about the problems, which led to this legislation.

The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act will:

SECTION 1. DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATE INCREASES. Delays the implementation of rate increases on the following three types of properties until FEMA meets two requirements: 1) completes the affordability study mandated by Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, proposes a draft affordability framework for Congressional review, and Congress has a chance to give FEMA affordability authority; and 2) the FEMA Administrator certifies that the agency has implemented a flood

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