

I'm so glad Ron Panzero afforded me the opportunity to ride the boat. It was an interesting and fun experience. I found every single crew member to have a positive attitude and a welcoming response to my visit. They are a very professional group who seem to truly like their work (of course the sun was out that day). And you know that pink box of doughnuts? It didn't even get opened in deference to the oatmeal cookies I brought. What a polite bunch of folks!

Dyvon Havens, November 2007

RUMORS, RUMORS, RUMORS

In the vacuum of information from the county (during an extended ferry outage), the following rumors have been spreading, each from "a most reliable source."

A replacement outdrive has been found in a field in Oregon and is on its way.

A replacement outdrive has been found in Canada and is on its way.

A replacement outdrive has been found in Finland and is on its way.

The Chinese will take 20 weeks to rebuilt the outdrive and the Finns could rebuild it in 8 weeks but they don't have the plans from Rolls Royce.

The ferry will be taken to China for repair.

The only Chinese man who can repair the outdrive moved to Norway.

The *Whatcom Chief* (the Lummi Island ferry) is on its way since Lummi got a new ferry.

The oil in the outdrive was lumpy.

The ferry will be here at noon.

Ferry Manager Steve Cox can't be found because he's in the Witless Protection Program.

Two state ferries are available and are on their way.

It wasn't the outdrive that failed but an engine and a new

engine was trucked onto the ferry and will be installed and the ferry will be running Thursday.

Two lawyers are suing the county for disruptions in construction projects due to the outage.

The county will pay people back for the \$75 cost of transporting their cars on the *Pintail*.

Several people canceled payment on their checks to Island Transport [for hauling them off Guemes in January], telling them to collect from the County and that's why Island Transport won't come back.

Favorite spots in the betting pools have the outage lasting 3 weeks, 10 weeks, 20 weeks, and 30 weeks. Some wager 'forever' on the theory that the county will scrap the whole thing and get a bigger boat.

There are no funds left in the county's fiscal quarter so the county will wait until June to repair the boat.

There is a petition circulating to have the county reassess our property values which are tanking because the county can't provide stable ferry service.

It is all a plot by the county to privatize the ferry.

The crew is sabotaging the engine to retaliate for the change back to a three person crew.

The county wants to cut Guemes Island out of the county and Canada is thinking about annexing us.

A Disability Rights group is seeking an injunction against any future beach landings.

A lawsuit is being filed by the elderly man who fell head first into the logs when disembarking on the beach last Saturday. The cost to settle this suit would exceed the cost of a new ferry.

The county will invest in a phone system that will call me before I drive all the way from Seattle with a truckload of stuff that can't be left overnight on the Anacortes street.

The county has decided to scrap the ferry and build a bridge to Guemes but has agreed to install a gate to be locked from 6 pm to 7 am to satisfy the oldtimers on the island.