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Chuckanut Radio Hour Moves Broadcast to Whatcom Community College's Heiner Theater

Bellingham, WA, Feb. 28, 2013 – As it rolls into its seventh year, Village Book's popular Chuckanut Radio Hour is making a big physical move from its current broadcast location in downtown Bellingham to the Whatcom Community College campus. The first show at Whatcom's Heiner Theater will be March 19.

Village Books co-owners Chuck and Dee Robinson began the Chuckanut Radio Hour in January of 2007 in the studio space of the Museum of Radio and Electricity (now the Spark Museum). When the show outgrew the space at the museum, it moved to the Crystal Ballroom of the Leopold Retirement Center where it has been comfortably ensconced for the past few years. The radio variety program includes skits, live music, author interviews, essays and poems, and – unabashedly – corny jokes. "We're thrilled at the prospect of having a full stage with auditorium seating, and the ability to engage students and faculty in production of the program," Chuck Robinson says.

"We're honored to be the new home of the Chuckanut Radio Hour," WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown adds. "This partnership is one more opportunity for the College to connect with our community through programs that inspire and educate. We're also intrigued by the chance for our students to participate in the show's production. We look forward to welcoming the Chuckanut Radio Hour and its audience to campus." Whatcom and Village Books also partner to present the Chuckanut Writers Conference. Now in its third year, the Conference will be Friday June 21 and Saturday June 22 at the College with special events held in Fairhaven.

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The March 19 debut show at Whatcom will feature several WCC faculty members. WCC psychology instructor Laura Overstreet, who is a talented country blues artist, will provide the musical entertainment. English instructor Anna Wolff will fill in for the Radio Hour's resident – and vacationing – poet Kevin Murphy; and Whatcom's Arts and Humanities Chairman Bob Winters will interview the evening's featured author Ruth Ozeki. In addition, WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown will make a special cameo appearance in the show. The music begins at 6:30 p.m., and taping of the show begins at 7 p.m. Ticket proceeds from the March 19 show will be donated to the WCC Foundation to support student scholarships.

The broadcasts continue April 4 when Jennie Shortridge, author of *Love Water Memory*, will be featured. The May 3 show will be a special celebration of Whatcom Community College's 45th anniversary. Tickets for the May 3 Gala benefit dinner and show are priced at \$100 and will be available April 1.

Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college serving more than 11,000 students annually. On its 71-acre campus in Bellingham, WA, and through on-line courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional and technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills, and Continuing and Community Education classes. For more information about WCC, visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.

Founded in 1980, Village Books is a community-based, independent bookstore located in the historic Fairhaven district of Bellingham, WA. Its mission is "building community, one book at a time," which it does daily through a dedicated staff, by collaborating with numerous community organizations and through its Literature Live author event series, through which it hosts more than 250 authors each year.

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