Celebrating Lake Kapowsin Department of Fish and Wildlife hosts

Ballots mailed for August primary

DROP BOXES AT BARNEY’S CORNER, EATONVILLE CITY HALL OPEN 24/7 FROM JULY 20 TO 8 PM. ON AUG. 7

BY JOE VYERA

Election season is in full swing, with ballots going out in the mail this week for next month’s primary.

Starting July 20, drop boxes will be open 24/7 until 8 p.m. on Election Day (Aug. 7) at Barney’s Corner (40512 Meridian E) and Eatonville City Hall (201 Center St. W). The latter is new for this year.

However, voters don’t have to use a drop box to avoid using a stamp as in years past. For the first time, every county will include a postage-paid return envelope as part of an effort to improve turnout and reduce barriers to voting. If you are a registered voter and you don’t receive your ballot by July 27, contact Pierce County Elections to request a replacement.

Among the races on the August ballot are U.S. Senate seat, a Congressional seat (the 8th District position now held by outgoing-incumbent Dave Reichert), both state House seats in the 2nd District, and Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney.

The top-two vote-getters will advance to the November general election.

For more information, or a map of all the drop boxes in Pierce County, visit www.piercecountyelections.org. For questions, email pcelections@piercecountyelections.org, phone (253) 798-8683 or (800) 466-4679.

The Pooley family makes fish prints with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff Liz Bocksteigel, Kenny Behein and Steve Caronville during the first annual Lake Kapowsin Appreciation Day on July 7. For more pictures from the event, turn to page 11.
Lake Kapowsin Appreciation Day, Saturday July 7th

DNR, Friends of Lake Kapowsin Host Celebration of Unique Lake

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Friends of Lake Kapowsin along with the invited public joined in a celebration of Lake Kapowsin Saturday, July 7. The Lake Kapowsin Appreciation Day featured fishing demonstrations, presentations on the lake's history, geology and nature, booths and displays, and many other family-friendly activities.

Lake Kapowsin is a unique place, Washington's only freshwater Aquatic Reserve, designated in 2016 because of its unique habitat. The 512-acre lake was created when the Electron Mudflow rushed down the Puyallup Valley from Mt. Rainier and dammed a tributary creek, flooding the valley floor and drowning the native forest.

Geologists place this mudflow at approximately 500 years ago and many of the stumps from this ancient forest remain in the lake, now a legacy of the geologic event. The underwater forest provides valuable habitat for fish, amphibians, and the invertebrates that supply their diet. In addition, the lake's extensive wetlands provide habitat for many small mammals and amphibians.

The lake supports a range of native and stocked sport fish, including coho, steelhead, and cutthroat salmon; rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkin seed sunfish, walleye, and bullhead catfish. Washington's aquatic lands contain remarkable and unique habitats that support an abundance of diverse wildlife. The Department of Natural Resources has established eight aquatic reserves throughout the state to protect important native ecosystems on state-owned aquatic lands.

The group hopes to host the event again next year, and which had a great start for the inaugural beginning!