



# PENINSULA LIFE: PAGE B1 BERRY-PICKING TRADITIONS CONTINUE DESPITE COVID

# CHINOOK OBSERVER

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## Auditor: Mail-in voting safe, secure, transparent

By BRANDON CLINE  
*Chinook Observer*

SOUTH BEND — When Pacific County Auditor Joyce Kidd listens to what's being said about mail-in voting on the news, she cringes.

Over the past several months,

more and more states have moved to allow voters to return their ballots by mail, as an alternative to showing up at a polling place in the midst of a pandemic that has seen at least 5.7 million Americans be infected and 175,000 killed from the coronavirus. But as Election

Day draws nearer, baseless claims by President Donald Trump and his administration that mail-in voting is susceptible to widespread fraud have gotten louder.

In reality, Kidd said, mail-in voting is a safe, secure and transparent process — a process Washington

state has universally used since 2011 to conduct elections, and a system Pacific County has been using for some 20 years.

“Washington really has it down and we’ve been doing it for a long time,” said Kidd, a Democrat who has served as auditor since 2014.

“A lot of the stuff that I’ve been hearing on the news just makes me cringe, because I’m just like ‘No, that’s not at all it.’ Because we really do have a lot of safeguards in place.”

*See Auditor, Page A8*

## Olympia man drowns off Cape D over the weekend

*Chinook Observer*

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT — A 23-year-old man from the Olympia area drowned after being swept into the ocean at Benson Beach inside Cape Disappointment State Park on Saturday, Aug. 22.

A 911 call was received by the Pacific County Communications Center at about 4:20 p.m. on Aug. 22, regarding a person in distress in the ocean waters off of Benson Beach. Numerous agencies responded to the call, including South Pacific County Technical Rescue watercraft, a Long Beach Fire Department truck and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and rescue boats, as well as ambulances.

*See Drowning, Page A12*

## WBH leadership team called into question

By ASHLEY NERBOVIG  
*Chinook Observer*

LONG BEACH — Some employees from Willapa Behavioral Health are demanding a change in leadership after the firing of the agency’s only primary care provider.

The termination of Dr. Dave Cundiff was a breaking point for more than a dozen employees at Willapa Behavioral Health. The move prompted some employees to pen an advertisement that ran in the *Chinook Observer’s* Aug. 19 edition. In the advertisement, the group alleged “erratic” behavior by CEO Adam Marquis.

The group called for Marquis removal. In the past week, the *Observer* interviewed 10 former and current employees about working conditions at the agency since Marquis took the helm in July 2017. Some wished to stay anonymous because of concerns about possible retribution from Marquis and other leaders at Willapa Behavioral Health. These employees



Adam Marquis

*See WBH, Page A12*

# SALMON TIME

## Rare successes starts Buoy 10 season



LUKE WHITTAKER

Joe Sullivan, of Yakima, caught a 16.5-pound Chinook and Paul Hosler, of Hoquiam, caught a 11.92-pound Coho, each the biggest fish in their class during the fishing tournament held over the weekend in Ilwaco.



LUKE WHITTAKER

Fishermen react as the final fish is weighed during a salmon tournament held over the weekend in Ilwaco.

By LUKE WHITTAKER  
*Chinook Observer*

ILWACO — The fishing was tough and the weather was tricky, but a few fishermen overcame the obstacles in winning the first ever ‘Halibicore’ tournament over the weekend.

The tournament, hosted by the Ilwaco Tuna Club on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22-23, was originally slated to be an albacore tuna and halibut tournament. However, rough offshore conditions converted the competition into a salmon contest, which could be caught nearer to shore.

Sixteen different boats registered for the contest, with a cash prize being presented to the top three finishers in the Chinook and coho salmon divisions.

*See Buoy 10, Page A10*



The tuna boat Tommy John provided its new owners with some adventures in south Washington waters, but later paid off with a hold plugged with prime albacore.

COURTESY OF ADAM HALL

## Tuna boat throws curveballs to new owners

### Second trip pays off with hold full of albacore

By JEFF CLEMENS  
*For the Observer*

PACIFIC OCEAN — The last thing any fisherman ever wants to do is place a mayday call because their boat is sinking, but for Capt. Adam Hall and the *F/V Tommy John*, that’s exactly what happened late in the night on Saturday, July 25, about a 20-hour voyage off the south Washington coast.

Hall and boat co-owner Greg Surgener of Southern Califor-

nia-based Surgener Fisheries sank big dollars into purchasing the *Tommy John*, moored at the time in San Diego. The duo wanted to find a boat to tuna and crab fish and felt the 50-footer was the right fit for their needs. Named for retired four-time Major League Baseball All-Star pitcher Tommy John, nicknamed “The Bionic Man,” the vessel was specifically built for tuna 40 years ago.

But like the aging pitcher in the twilight innings of his storied 26-season career, his namesake vessel requires a good deal of looking after. On the way north, *Tommy John* threw its new owners its first curveball.

Though not based in Pacific

County, it spends a good deal of time off our shore. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River ended up playing a key role in its first major local trip, and its trials and tribulations will sound familiar to most commercial fishermen.

### Engine blew

“I went down there about four months ago to go start fixing things and do maintenance and everything to get ready to bring it up to

*See Tuna boat, Page A9*



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# Auditor

Continued from Page A1

One of the biggest proponents nationally of mail-in voting has been Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman, a Republican. Following a tweet last month by Trump questioning whether the upcoming general election should be delayed in part because of unfounded claims about voting by mail (only Congressional action can change the date of the election, as clearly spelled out in Article II of the U.S. Constitution), Wyman released a statement dismissing his concerns.

“The President’s and Attorney General’s continued consternation with vote-by-mail is precisely why I invite them to come to Washington state to see firsthand how my office and Washington’s 39 county election officials have worked diligently to build in robust security measures so people can vote safely this fall,” Wyman said.



Joyce Kidd, Pacific County auditor

## Variety of voting options

Voters in Pacific County have three ways of turning in their ballot after receiving it in the mail: they can drop it off at one of the county’s eight ballot drop box locations, they can send it back through the mail as long as it has been postmarked by Election Day, or they can return it in-person to the county auditor’s office.

With pre-paid postage ensured for every return envelope, ballots returned through the mail receive first-class priority. But if a voter does drop their ballot off at the post office on the day of the election, Kidd urges them to check and make sure the ballot will be postmarked on that day, and not the next day. At the post office in Ocean Park, for example, mail that is dropped off after 4:30 p.m. will not be postmarked until the next day.

No matter which method you use to return your ballot, voters can track the progress of their ballot online, at <https://voter.votewa.gov> and by entering their first and last name and their date of birth. Simply click on the “Ballot Status” tab, and it will say whether your ballot has been accepted.

For voters physically in Pacific County when they return their ballot by mail, Kidd said it usually takes a couple of days from when the ballot is dropped off at the post office to when the auditor’s office receives and processes it. She urges people not to worry if they check the status of their ballot a day or two later and see that it still hasn’t been accepted.

“People will go [to the website] and they’ll look the day after Election Day — and they dropped it off the day before — and they’re like ‘You didn’t count my ballot.’ Well, we didn’t count it because you dropped it on Election Day and we have to check that ballot ... there is a delay in that,” Kidd said.

## Trusting the process

Drop boxes are checked and unloaded regularly once ballots are sent to voters in the mail — at least 18 days before an election. As per state law, Kidd said a team of two people, never just one, go together to the drop box locations to collect the ballots and return them to the auditor’s office, where they then go through the process of being counted.

When the drop boxes are emptied, the workers collecting the ballots must log the date and time they remove the ballots. The boxes also have seals placed on the door that the workers unlock to access the ballots. The seal, if broken, shows if someone has opened the door without permission and gained access to the ballots inside.

**‘IF YOU DON’T RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT, DON’T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO CONTACT US. LET US KNOW, AND WE’LL HELP YOU OUT.’**

Joyce Kidd  
Pacific County auditor

After a ballot has been received by the auditor’s office, the signature on the envelope is scanned and marked as “Received” in the state’s VoteWA system — ensuring only one ballot from each voter is counted — and checked to make sure it matches the signature on the voter registration records for that voter. If a signature doesn’t appear to match the signature that’s on file, three people will examine the signature to verify it doesn’t match.

“People’s signatures change over the years, and that might be one reason why we question a signature,” said Kidd. “What we’re

looking for when we check the signatures is three unique and identifiable characters ... to accept the ballot.”

When there’s questions over the veracity of a signature, or if a voter just forgot to sign their name altogether, voters are given the chance to “cure” their signature. The auditor’s office will send a notice via mail to the voter alerting them of the issue and allowing them to re-send their signature on a provided form.

In the primary election earlier this month, Kidd said there were 226 ballots — out of almost 10,000 returned — that had a problem for some reason or another. Of those

ballots, 75 were ballots that were postmarked too late and are not able to be remedied. The other 151 were ballots with a mismatched signature, 116 of which the auditor’s office was able to end up curing and ultimately counting after reaching out to those voters about the issue.

## Counting the ballots

After signatures on the outside of the envelope have been verified — and still not yet opened — they are bundled in stacks of 50 and await the next canvassing day, when the ballots are actually counted. Canvassing days usually last between 5-7 hours and are held several times per week leading up to the election and in the days following the election.

On canvassing days, envelopes are opened by a member of the canvassing board, and then the security envelope in which the ballot is placed is removed by a different member of the board. The ballots are then reviewed to determine if any potential issues exist, such as a torn corner, before being scanned by a tabulating machine and then stored. The machines used for Washington’s elections are not connected to any form of network or internet, and are tested before each election to ensure they are working properly.

Usually, representatives from the political parties would be in the building to observe the canvassing days, but in this month’s primary election Kidd said there wasn’t enough space for everyone to be properly distanced from one another. Instead, the auditor’s office streamed the canvassing days live on YouTube for people to observe, with the link for the stream made available on the audi-

tor’s office website. Anyone can observe the ballots being processed.

## Preparing for fall

In the general election this fall, with Election Day scheduled for Nov. 3, Kidd said her office is preparing for and anticipating high voter turnout in Pacific County, after turnout in the primary election exceeded 60%.

Extra canvassing days are likely to be scheduled, she said, along with more frequent visits to collect ballots at the drop boxes spread throughout the county. Ballots should start appearing in mailboxes on Oct. 16, the beginning of the state’s 18-day voting period.

Additionally, Kidd hopes to have a new ballot box installed in Ocean Park in time for the general election. Currently, the closest ballot box for residents on the north end of the Long Beach Peninsula is at the South County Administration Facility on Sandridge Road, at least a 15-minute drive from Ocean Park and even longer for Oysterville residents.

The costs for the new drop box are being paid via funds the county received this year through the CARES Act that can be spent for election purposes.

Kidd had words of advice for voters ahead of the general election, most urgent of which is to not wait until the last minute to fill out and return your ballot or to contact the county if you still haven’t received your ballot by Oct. 20, two weeks before Election Day. For questions regarding your ballot or voter registration status, call 360-875-9317.

“If you don’t receive your ballot, don’t wait until the last minute to contact us. Let us know, and we’ll help you out,” Kidd said.

# —LEGAL NOTICES—

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LAND USE/ZONING REGULATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 184C

In accordance with RCW 36.70A.035, Pacific County is publishing a summary of proposed Ordinance No. 184C pertaining to amendments to Section 12 Restricted Residential District (R-1), Section 21 Supplementary District Regulations and Section 26 Nonconforming Uses and Structures of Ordinance No. 184 Land Use/Zoning Regulations. The full text will be mailed without charge upon request or can be found on our website at <http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/ordres/index.htm>.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 10:00A.M. or as soon thereafter as possible. The hearing will be held via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81888912563>; Meeting ID: 818 8891 2563; One tap mobile +12532158782,,81888912563# US (Tacoma)

**PROPOSER:** Board of Pacific County Commissioners, P.O. Box 187, South Bend, WA 98586. Telephone 360/875-9337, 360/642-9337, 360/484-7337 or 360/267-8337.

**FORMAL IDENTIFICATION:** amendment to Ordinance No. 184/Land Use/Zoning Regulations

**SUMMARY:** an ordinance amending Section 12 Restricted Residential District (R-1), Section 21 Supplementary District Regulations and Section 26 Nonconforming Uses and Structures of Ordinance No. 184

**SECTION 12 - RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-1)**

**D. SPECIAL USES**

6. ~~Vacation Rentals that meet the standards contained in Subsection 21.N, Short Term Vacation Rentals and subject to Subsection 12.F.3.~~

**F. PROHIBITED USES:**

3. New Vacation Rentals are specifically prohibited in the Restricted Residential (R-1) land use district within the Seaview Urban Growth Area as delineated in the Pacific County Comprehensive Plan. NOTE: All existing and currently permitted licensed Vacation Rentals operating as of September 8, 2020, as of March 8, 2011 within the Restricted Residential (R-1) land use district in the Seaview Urban Growth Area, are considered “grandfathered nonconforming uses” and are subject to the nonconforming use provisions contained within Section 26. Upon the sale of real property, short term vacation rental licenses are deemed null and void, and licenses are non-transferrable.

**SECTION 21 - SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICT REGULATIONS**

**N. SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS.**

1. Density. Within the R-1, R-2, and R-R zoning districts, ...

**SECTION 26 - NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES**

**G. NONCONFORMING USES AND ACTIVITIES.** Any nonconforming use or activity that exists on the effective date of this Ordinance shall be “grandfathered.” Any such “grandfathered” use or activity which is abandoned or unused for twelve (12) consecutive months loses its “grandfathered” status, and thereafter the use or activity must conform to the requirements of this Ordinance; except for existing short term vacation rentals within the R-1 district, which lose grandfathered status when the owner fails to renew the annual operating license at which time nonconforming status ceases immediately. **Effective Date.** Ordinance No. 184C shall take effect immediately upon passage.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Pacific County Commissioners may adopt, modify, or reject the proposed ordinance, or may take other appropriate action. All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing. The hearing facility is “barrier free” and accessible by those with physical disabilities. Aids will be provided upon request for those with language/speaking or hearing impediments, but requests need to be received at least five (5) business days prior to this hearing. Such requests may be filed in person at the Commissioners’ Office, 1216 W. Robert Bush Drive in South Bend, Washington, by mail P.O. Box 187, South Bend, WA 98586, or by phone 360/875-9337 or TDD 360/875-9400.

Marie Guernsey, Clerk of the Board  
Published August 26, 2020  
Legal No. 220-20

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Guy M. Glenn  
Nathan L. Needham

# —LEGAL NOTICES—

## NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE

To the highest bidder, pursuant to RCW 46.55.130:  
**SALE TO BE HELD AT 11:30 A.M. SEPT 2, 2020.**

**1993 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, No Plate  
2001 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR, No Plate**

**Vehicle Inspection, Day of Sale: 8:30am to 11:30am**  
HILL AUTOBODY AND TOWING INC., 25901 Hwy. 103,  
PO Box 462, Ocean Park, WA 98640. (360) 665-4447

Published Aug. 26, 2020  
Legal 217-20

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AMENDMENT #1 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PACIFIC COUNTY BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Pacific County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the 8th day of September, 2020 at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Pacific County Annex, 1216 Robert Bush Drive, South Bend, Washington. Due to meeting gathering size restrictions, the meeting is accessible via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/347547406>; Meeting ID: 347 547 406; One tap mobile +12532158782.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the fiscal year 2020 budget as follows:

### Description of Proposed Amendments to FY2020

Expenditures/Revenues	Expenses	Revenues
Fund #117 (Elections):		
Expenses offset by grant revenue	\$260,000	\$260,000
Fund #118 (Public Health):		
Expenses offset by grant revenue	\$750,000	\$750,000
Fund #197 (Cumulative Reserve):		
Expenses offset by CARES Act revenue	\$1,190,200	\$1,190,200
<b>Total for All Funds:</b>	<b>\$2,200,200</b>	<b>\$2,200,200</b>

The proposed amendments to the FY2020 budget listed herein pertain to exigent/emergent expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. All such expenditures listed within this Notice are offset by anticipated supplemental grant revenues. Therefore, no use of fund balance is anticipated for the expenditure amendments listed herein.

The Commissioners’ meeting room is handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs, including handicap accessibility or to provide interpreter services, will be made upon receiving 24-hour advance notice. Contact Marie Guernsey, Clerk of the Board at 360-875-9337, 360-642-9337, TDD# (360) 875-9400 or [mguernsey@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:mguernsey@co.pacific.wa.us) to request accommodation.

The facility is considered barrier free and accessible to the disabled. Access for the hearing impaired can be accommodated using Washington Relay Service at 1-800-833-6384 and at the website: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/odhh/telecommunication-relay-services>.

Marie Guernsey, Clerk of the Board  
Published August 26, and September 2, 2020  
Legal No. 221-20

*Help your local businesses!*  
**Please Cash In  
Your Rolled Coin!**

Coin Wrappers available upon request.

**Bank of the Pacific**  
BankofthePacific.com

**Crisis Support Network**

If you or anyone you know is in an unsafe relationship, or if you have any questions regarding domestic violence or sexual assault, please call **Crisis Support Network**. All calls are confidential

**1-800-HELP CSN**  
(1-800-435-7276)  
Pacific County or  
**1-800-562-6025**  
Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline

24 hours a day - 7 days a week  
**Remember, YOU can make a difference**

**CITY OF ILWACO**

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR APPRENTICESHIP**

The City of Ilwaco, an equal opportunity employer, is currently seeking candidates for a Water Treatment Plant Operator Apprenticeship.

The individual selected for the job must possess a valid Washington State driver’s license, be of at least 18 years of age, and must pass a pre-employment background check and drug screening. Must also be able to obtain certification as a water treatment plant operator Level I after one year of hire and must continue to work towards the WTPO III and WDM II classifications in a timely period not withstanding experience/education requirements from Washington State Department of Health.

The City of Ilwaco Water Treatment Plant is staffed 7 days/week. Days and hours for this position will be assigned upon hire but may include weekends and holidays.

This position is full-time and includes a full benefit package upon hire with inclusion in PERS, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays. Starting pay is \$15.93/hour DOE with a Grade and Step pay scale maxing out at \$37.84/hour.

A complete job description and application can be found at [www.ilwaco-wa.gov/employment](http://www.ilwaco-wa.gov/employment).

Applications will be accepted until September 20, 2020.  
Please send resume with application.