

## BE STILL

Readers rise to the latest Kitsap Frames photo challenge. **KITSAP LIFE, 1C**

## CAN'T HOLD HIM DOWN

CK grad has found success on the court, classroom despite hurdles. **SPORTS, 1B**

**STATE CHAMPS:** Bremerton High bowlers take title. **SPORTS, 5B**



Sunday Edition

# Kitsap Sun

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## TOUGH HIKE for rare sight

Volunteers team up with scientists in quest to spot marten on peninsula



A pungent mixture of animal musks is carefully poured into a lure held by volunteer Allison Osterberg.



Gregg Treinish (left), director of Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation, helps ASC volunteers Bill Agnew and Jace Barkley properly aim a motion-activated camera in the Mildred Lakes area of Olympic National Forest. They hope the camera will capture images of the Pacific marten, which has not been seen on the Olympic Peninsula since 2008. ASC recruits outdoors adventurers to collect data for scientists in remote and difficult to access areas of the world.



The marten is a small, weasel-like carnivore. Olympic National Forest and a volunteer group of outdoor enthusiasts are working on a backcountry monitoring project that could lead to the marten's protection.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By **Tristan Baurick**  
tbaurick@kitsapsun.com  
360-792-5242

**HOODSPORT**—After a morning-long hike to an elevation of about 4,000 feet, a group of outdoor adventurers veer off the trail and scramble up rocky, snowy terrain, looking for the perfect spot to nail a chicken leg to a tree.

They're hoping to attract and photograph the elusive Pacific marten, a small, furry carnivore that gets fewer reported sightings on the Olympic Peninsula than Bigfoot.

The last verified marten was a dead one, found along a trail on Mount Rose six years ago. Weasel-like, with a soft, chestnut-colored coat and bushy tail, the marten was regularly trapped until the 1940s.

More recent threats from

habitat loss may be hampering its recovery.

"Are there any left? We just don't know," said Olympic National Forest biologist Betsy Howell.

Helping Howell get some answers is Gregg Treinish, executive director of Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation, a nonprofit that puts volunteer climbers, divers, paddlers and other outdoor athletes to work gathering data for scientists in far-flung areas of the world.

Right now, ASC has mountaineers plucking microbes from glaciers in the Andes and white-water kayakers hunting down rare beetle specimens in West Africa.

Twenty-three volunteers



with backcountry experience were chosen for ASC's Olympic National Forest marten project. About a dozen applicants had to be turned away.

The group spent a week-end setting up motion-activated cameras at about a dozen locations around Mount Ellnor, Lena Lake and other remote spots along Olympic's east side.

They packed in an odd assortment of gear — hammers, saws, chicken wire and raw chicken.

"Who's packing the lure?" someone asked during the dark morning before the hike. The volunteers spent the night in a forest service

See **MARTEN, 8A**

## CRIME FIGHTING

### Poulsbo police to wear cameras

Devices record sound, video, will aid with evidence

By **Rachel Anne Seymour**  
rachel.seymour@kitsapsun.com  
360-792-5242

**POULSBORO**—Poulsbo police officers will soon be wearing cameras clipped to their uniforms.

The body cameras will eventually replace the dashboard cameras present in officers' vehicles. They are more expensive and less effective at capturing video if an officer is out of the vehicle, according to Poulsbo Police Chief Al Townsend.

The new cameras cost about \$300 each.

The cameras are not new to Kitsap County. Bainbridge Island police started using similar cameras in 2011.

Poulsbo police tested four cameras before choosing the least expensive camera, which Townsend said also had the highest-quality image and wider view.

Five of those cameras have been ordered, and eventually every officer and sergeant will have a camera as funding is available. That's 15 cameras. Townsend and the department's deputy chief will not wear them.

The cameras are constantly collecting "buffering" video at a lower resolution without audio. Once an officer hits record, the camera pulls the last 30 seconds of "buffered" video and adds it to the recorded event, which includes audio and video.

Townsend said officers have welcomed the cameras. They see them as protection against complaints and an opportunity to collect better evidence, he said.

The department also is distributing smartphones to officers for photographing and videotaping evidence.

Those photos can be uploaded to a site called evidence.com, which provides cloud storage.

See **CAMERAS, 6A**

## Center fights rising wave of heroin addiction

Detox facility assists users trying to quit

By **Josh Farley**  
farley@kitsapsun.com  
360-792-5227

**EAST BREMERTON**—When drug addicts trying to get sober feel the worst of the withdrawal symptoms setting in, Renate Pruitt shares a tale of two dogs.

One dog is sobriety and a path to being clean; the other their addiction and



The Kitsap Sun has been following the rise in the use of heroin and opiate drugs since 2008. Go to [kitsapsun.com](http://kitsapsun.com) to read more.

a route toward death or prison.

"Whichever one you feed, is the one who gets stronger," she says.

Pruitt, 58, a treatment assistant inside the Kitsap Recovery Center's detox unit, has fed both dogs in her life. Once a cocaine addict, she's been sober almost three decades and devotes her professional life to helping users get clean.

But the surge of heroin abuse is making her job more difficult. The rise in overdoses of the drug was given a celebrity face this month with the death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman.

See **HEROIN, 7A**



Kitsap Recovery Center treatment assistant Renate Pruitt sees the surge in heroin use in the detox center. **LARRY STEWART / KITSAP SUN**



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88



## FROM THE COVER

MARTEN  
from 1A

bunkhouse, with most of them camped on the carpet because there were only a few beds.

"Don't pick the lure; it's nasty," someone said. Stored in an amber-colored bottle, the lure is a pungent, gray mixture of skunk musk and the essence of beaver's anal gland. Apparently, martens can't resist it.

"My cat gets very excited when she smells it on me — rolls around attacks me," Howell said.

Jace Barkley from Vancouver, Wash., volunteers to take lure, just as he did the day before.

"My olfactory senses might be blown out now anyway," he said.

Volunteers spend the hurried morning cramming gear into backpacks and breakfast into bellies. On the menu: raisin bagels, leftover apple pie, granola bars and runny eggs. Volunteers check and recheck their backcountry maps, break off into groups and pile into trucks and vans.

Howell thanks several of them as they leave.

"This wouldn't happen without them," she says. "With the National Forest Service's declining budget and personnel, we just don't have the people to do wildlife surveys like we used to."

ASC's involvement is covered by \$5,000 from the Forest Service and a \$15,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation. The volunteer labor comes at a value of about \$150,000, according to Treinish.

This survey is particularly important, Howell said. While marten populations in much of Washington and Oregon have declined, they've plummeted in the Olympic range. Martens might be eligible for protection under the Endangered Species Act, but a strong baseline of data is needed first.

"Where martens exist, they readily come to camera stations, so the lack of them during these (Olympic Peninsula) many survey efforts would seem to be a cause for concern," Howell wrote in a report last year.

The cameras have caught



Bill Agnew, of Kingston (right), helps Gregg Treinish measure a marten monitoring station in a remote part of Olympic National Forest. Agnew is a volunteer hiker with Treinish's nonprofit.

“Where martens exist, they readily come to camera stations, so the lack of them during these (Olympic Peninsula) many survey efforts would seem to be a cause for concern.”

Betsy Howell, Olympic National Forest biologist wrote in a report last year

plenty of images, but they were of bobcats, coyotes, skunk, bear — even a mountain lion and her kittens. Showing that martens aren't showing up could lead to their protection.

Treinish, who worked as a tracker in Montana, kept his eyes open for signs of martens as he led one of the volunteer groups up the Mildred Lakes Trail. He poked into rocky nooks and peered at scratch marks on trees, but found only signs of mice, squirrels and bobcat.

It's this sort of thing — enjoying the outdoors but having a purpose beyond his own enjoyment — that led him to found ASC in 2011.

"I was hiking the length of the Appalachian Trail, somewhere in Pennsylvania, when I thought, 'What the hell am I walking six months for?'" he said. "It was an awful moment. I was in tears. Who am I doing this for? It felt so selfish."

He realized that "tens of thousands of people were playing" in remote areas every day. Why not team them

up with scientists who can't — for lack of time, funding or skills — get there to take a water sample or set up a camera. Based in Bozeman, Mont., ASC grew faster than Treinish could have imagined.

"Right now, we have 847 volunteer athletes on all seven continents," he said.

Treinish leads the group above 3,800 feet before he starts looking for the right pair of trees. A marten monitoring station must be beyond earshot of the trail and have two thin trees that are no more than 20 feet apart.

On one tree goes the camera, which must face north to reduce glare, and on the other goes the bait.

Volunteer April Ann Fong, a teacher from Portland, Ore., pulls the chicken wire and chicken from her pack.

"This is how we make chicken burritos," she says, folding three drumsticks into a sheet of wire.

Mason White, a Bainbridge tech marketer, nails the burrito to a tree and then drops to the ground to do his best

marten impression while the camera snaps test frames. From a laptop, Treinish and Howell check the photos and decide the angles are a bit off. Every thing comes down and gets readjusted.

Barkley logs all the details and marks the station's coordinates on a GPS.

Barkley logs all the details and marks the station's coordinates on a GPS.

Gear is packed quickly as the musky odor is caught by the breeze.

Barkley and his hiking partner, Bill Agnew, of Kingston, will return to this station four more times before April to restock the bait and download the camera's images. Treinish expects that the next trip will require snowshoes and cold-weather camping gear.

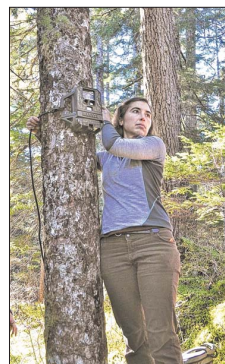
"Having people give up two weekends for training and then four more weekends to hike up here — it's a big commitment," he said. "It's also a huge workforce that can accomplish a lot."

Agnew is looking forward to his return trips.

"There's a lot of sweat in the execution" he said. "But I like that it's about going into the unknown — you don't know what the conditions will be, and we don't know if we'll come back with anything to show — but I'm excited to see if we do."



Raw chicken is nailed to a tree in the Mildred Lakes area of Olympic National Forest in the hopes of attracting the elusive Pacific marten. A nearby motion-activated camera will take pictures of whatever checks out the chicken.



Volunteer Allison Osterberg attaches a motion-activated camera to a tree. Scientists hope the camera will catch images of the marten. While marten populations in much of Washington and Oregon have declined, they've plummeted in the Olympic range.

## New Low Radiation 3D Mammogram



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