

Kettle Falls Focus

A town with lots of friendly people and 1 grouch



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FREE

June, 2010

Also available online
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Volume 3 Issue 6

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Brian Golphene Voted AD of the 2009-2010 Season

by Peggy Mandin

Five schools that make up the Northeast A League voted Brian Golphene of Kettle Falls High School Athletic Director of the Year. The Athletic Directors of Chewelah, Lakeside, Newport, Freeman and Kettle Falls High Schools chose Golphene in his second year in that position.

As Athletic Director Golphene oversees the fall sports of football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading; winter sports of boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading; and spring sports of softball/baseball, track and field, and golf. He might be out on the field at 7:30 am to check the PA system for an upcoming event, fielding phone calls all day from visiting coaches about the details of a game to be played, checking required student participation paperwork, and consulting with his coaches. The night of a game he probably won't get home before midnight.

The role of Athletic Director calls for high energy and the ability to negotiate the school

sports system in the State of Washington. Golphene has spent a lot of time and energy making sure that the students of Kettle Falls High School are placed in the league that is best suited to the size of the school. School population is supposed to determine which school plays which school. A school with a population of 200 students should not be expected to play a school with 400 students as the pool of potential athletes is higher in the larger school. The playing field needs to be reasonably level. The process for school league placement can sometimes result in a mismatch. As a result an A League school of 400 students can be assigned to play an A League school of 200 students, when it would be more appropriate for the school of 200 students to be in the B League. He has worked to get Kettle Falls High School reassigned to the 2B Classification for at least the next two years, which he states is "better for the kids".

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Panhandle Riders Make 18th Ride to Kettle Falls

by Susan Urhausen

The Panhandle Riders Motorcycle Club arrived in Kettle Falls on April 24th despite uncooperative weather. In fact, due to the weather, a sizeable number from PRMC arrived not on motorcycles but in vehicles. It rained off and on that day and the wind in the morning was enough for some members to opt for their cars or trucks. Cooler weather made those on motorcycles all the more thankful for the hot coffee and lunch awaiting them at the Masonic Lodge in Kettle Falls.

This year, however, there was more than just lunch and coffee awaiting them. In attendance at the luncheon were the Mayor of Kettle Falls, Dorothy Slagle, and the 2010 Kettle Falls Royalty, Miss Kettle Falls Caralee Walsh and First Alternate Justine Moss. The Mayor and the Royalty were there to honor the Club for their long-standing commitment to the Kettle Falls Food Bank and the people of this community that they help. Mayor Slagle had a framed proclamation to present to Panhandle Riders



Panhandle Riders Motorcycle Club member Joyce Pyatt accepts the Key to the City from Kettle Falls Mayor Dorothy Slagle

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Kettle Falls Marina

by Peggy Mandin

The Kettle Falls Marina has geared up for another summer of water-related activities. Actually the official name of the business is Lake Roosevelt Resort and Marina. Run by Ed and Carol Wimberly for the past 22 years the marina specializes in renting houseboats. However, they also have 65 boat slips and five runabouts available for rent June-September, and operate a deli/store. There is a boat launch at the marina owned by the National Park Service.

Before coming to the Kettle Falls area, Ed and Carol sold and rented ski equipment at their place of business in Breckenridge, Colorado. After 17 years they desired a change and decided they would like to rent houseboats; all they needed was a lake. During summers, away from the ski slopes, they started "looking for a lake". They worked with the National Park Service to find a good location. Originally they thought they would be operating out of Crescent Bay at Grand Coulee Dam, but when that didn't work out the Park Service showed them the Kettle Falls location. They placed a bid and obtained a permit from the Park Service to open the marina and run the store.

The original marina, circa the 1960's,



Kettle Falls Marina with one of the houseboats coming in to the dock.

featured a store, a gas pump, three boats and 8-10 docks that were used by the Upper Columbia Boat Club. Since the Wimberly's have taken over they have built up a fleet of 16 houseboats and added moorage. All houseboats sleep up to 13 people and some have hot tubs; kayaks, water skis and tubes are available. The Wimberly's estimate that there will be 225 houseboat trips purchased this summer. The updated store features a deli, grocery items, beer and wine, ice, fishing tackle and some souvenir clothing. They sell marine gas and propane, and are the only vendors who sell fishing licenses in Kettle Falls.

The Kettle Falls Marina hosts the largest houseboat operation on Lake Roosevelt. This is no

small feat since one of the requirements involves hiring an environmental engineer to make sure all laws regulating sewage and waste oil are complied with. Inspections are mandatory. The Marina supports six year round employees and 15-20 during the summer months. Summer employees are added to clean and service the houseboats, sell fishing licenses and work the deli/store. Vickie Ballard has worked as the office manager for 15 plus years and Dan Smith has worked as the service manager for 18 plus years.

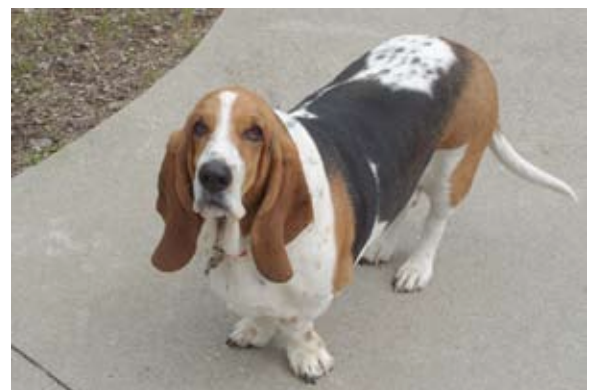
During the off-season Ed, Carol and Vickie are promoting the houseboat rentals at boat and sports shows throughout the area, and "working the phones". Ed and Carol do this from their

home in Henderson, Nevada, and Ed comes up once a month during those months to check on operations. Ed stated that they try to promote the entire Kettle Falls area, and when booking a rental encourage people to buy their groceries and other supplies here, prior to boarding their vacation houseboat. They encourage all their customers to patronize our local businesses; Ed stated that 98% of their business comes from the West Coast/Seattle area.

You can obtain more information in a variety of ways; for online information go to www.lakerosevelt.com. The Marina can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 340, Kettle Falls, WA 99141 or by phone at 509-738-6121 or 1-800-635-7585. The email address is: houseboats@lakerosevelt.com. Office hours are 8am-6pm June-September (these can be extended if needed for houseboat guest arrival) and 9am-4pm during the other months when maintenance and bookings are the main activities. Pets are allowed on the houseboats for a fee. The infamous Daizy Mae will greet you and give you a friendly send-off. Lake Roosevelt Resort and Marina is an authorized concessionaire of the National Park Service.



Ed and Carol Wimberly



Greeting and arrival specialist Daizy Mae