

Kettle Falls Grouch Candidates: 2010

by Susan Urhausen

Town and Country Days are just over a month away. The time has arrived to select the next Grouch. Four candidates have been asked to run by the one-woman nomination committee, Doll Linton. For those unfamiliar with the 'election' process (using the term loosely), here's how it goes.

Containers will be placed throughout Kettle Falls businesses. The names and pictures of candidates will be prominently featured on the containers. To 'elect' your choice for Kettle Falls Grouch, simply place money in the container belonging to that person. The 'election' goes until Town and Country Days. All money must be turned in by noon Saturday, right after the conclusion of the parade. The candidate who has the most money is the next Grouch. It is graft at its best; not hidden, but blatant.

If anyone has an interest in running for Grouch this year or in the future, contact Doll Linton. She can be reached at 738-4401. Kettle Falls has garnered national attention for this annual naming of the Town Grouch. The Town & Country Days organizers urge everyone to vote generously and often.

The money raised by the Grouch candidates via their 'votes' all goes to benefit Town and Country Days. This money pays for the sound system and other entertainment expenses, extras like port-a-potties and other incidental costs that arise. Again, if someone else wishes to run this year, first, contact Doll Linton because there are some rules to the process. Then, the money needs to be collected by the candidate, counted and turned in to Karri Slater at AIA Insurance.

The four candidates have issued short statements about themselves and why they should be the 2010 Kettle Falls Grouch.

BRITTA CHALMERS:

Call me the reluctant Grouch. No qualifications, although just thinking about being a candidate makes me grouchy! Good luck to my competition... PLEASE VOTE FOR THEM!!!

You can find Britta at the Kettle Falls Pharmacy.



STUART ROBINSON:

Two things make me grouchy. Tell me I can't go fishing, that's the worst. I will also get riled when I have to pay too much for things (my own opinion) at McIntosh's.

You can find Stuart at the Kettle Falls Inn where his wife is the manager, when he's not fishing, that is.



DAWN SINGER:

I'm a happily married person (21 years) to Greg. He's a wonderful man and a good guy. I have two daughters ages 15 and 10. They might call me a grouch. My favorite commercial is the McDonald's one where they guy is saying "Don't talk to me until I have my coffee". That's when I'm grouchy; don't get between me and my coffee.

You might find Dawn visiting with Jan Weaver at Jim's Video, when she isn't at home with family.

JEFF STRAIGHT:

When I moved to Kettle Falls last month and saw the sign on the end of town, I asked my wife how they knew I was coming! As an RV salesman for 30 years, I would respond to my customers "Hi" or "How are you?" with "I'm grouchy but don't let that stop you from buying." My bowling team was called the Grouchy Balls.

You can find Jeff at Grandview Inn, he and his wife are the new managers there.



Ken Hires

by Peggy Mandin



Ken is a retired Natural Resource Manager from the U.S. Forest Service. He currently acts as a seasonal Lead Interpretive Park Ranger for Kings Canyon National Park in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. He lives with his wife, Sharon, near Mount Spokane during the winter and spends April through the summer months living in a travel trailer on site in California. Sharon flies in to visit.

Ken's wildlife photography is on display in the newly created Kettle Falls Arts and Crafts Gallery run by Pat Elliott in the Old Apple Warehouse. He realized he had a talent for photography when, armed with his grandmother's camera, he entered a contest in Colville in the early 1980's. He entered the contest "on a lark" and five of his photographs were winners. His photographs won positions on the front and back covers of the phone book, plus several inside spots. This was when he started to think that he could combine his knowledge of nature and wildlife with photography to share with and inform others about

his major passions.

The goal of Ken's work, both in speaking to people and through his photography, is to teach the viewer about animal behavior, plants and biology so that they "know what they are looking at" when they are experiencing nature. His photographs are carefully composed to capture something special that has occurred; something that many of us would be unaware of and pass by.

Ken has hundreds of photographs, maybe more, from his time spent working at Yellowstone, Mt. St. Helen's and Lake Roosevelt. He continues to teach people how to enjoy visiting our wild places without harming the environment, and how to "put nature into your nature photography". He holds scheduled walks and evening programs around the campfire to get his message out; one of his specialties is informing people "how to behave respectfully around bears".

During the winter months Ken travels, works on his writing projects and, of course, continues to create memorable photographs. One of his vignettes, **Scribbles**, is featured below.

Riding the Wind

By Ken Hires

A warm wind blew up the valley then lifted sharply as it hit the steep mountainside. Trees swayed, showing the passage of invisible waves of air. Small puffy cumulus clouds passed overhead in succession. Forming, fading and reforming as they passed the mountain peak, they created just about any shape you could imagine.

Above a nearby ridge, two hawks performed an eternal dance. Swooping down to catch an updraft, they circled high up toward the clouds until they were just specks against the sky. A long spiraling dive, then on outstretched wings, they spun and rose toward the sun with unimaginable grace.

First one, then the other would swoop and dive. Lifted on rising air, they defied gravity. Wings flashing in the sun, they turned and danced. Red tail feathers were shown to best advantage. Time and again they would sail out of sight beyond the mountaintop only to reappear in another place.

Several ravens picked up the tempo of the wind and bobbed around like corks in a rapid stream over the green walled canyon far below. Their noisy staccato calls were in sharp contrast to the silent beauty of the performance high above them.

After a time out of sight over the ridge, the hawks returned to the rim of the upper canyon wall. For a while, they hovered like fierce looking kites at the beach - perfect balance between falling and rising on the wind current.

Suddenly, one turned and with a flip of wings, it rose rapidly, seemingly to the top of the sky. From its cloud top perch on the wind, it shouted a high piercing call and the other went up just as rapidly to meet it. As they met, feathers flew, their feet locked and the pair rolled over and over as they tumbled toward earth.

After this brief encounter in the sky, in unison each released its grasp on the other. Once again they floated with grace and ease though now separated by a distance. One of them uttered a cry. Both turned at once, and then, pulling my spirit along, they faded from sight.

Apply Now for Head Start Preschool

Learning is really fun at the Kettle Falls Head Start preschool. Children gain social and self help skills as well as improving their literacy, number and problem solving skills in preparation for kindergarten. You are welcome to stop by to visit teachers Kate and Audra, Monday thru Thursday mornings, in the classroom portable behind the Kettle Falls Elementary school.

Call Cheri at 685-6116 to sign up for next year's Kettle Falls class. Applications can be completed over the phone. Cheri will call parents who send in postcards from local displays. Parents can also stop by the Rural Resources office at 956 S. Main in Colville.

Children ages 3, 4 and 5 are eligible before they start kindergarten. Children from low income families have priority, but all families are encouraged to apply.

Head Start is a comprehensive program with resources for parents and medical and dental screenings for children. Parents are encouraged to visit and participate in the classroom with their children.

There is no cost for Head Start. Transportation assistance is available with bussing and gas vouchers. Meals and snacks are part of the class day.

Cheri will be available through May and back again in August. Head Start is a program of Rural Resources Community Action.



PUBLIC NOTICE

If Susan Cosby cleaned your house and accidentally broke a statue.

It has been repaired.

If you can identify it ... We have the repaired statue at the KF FOOD BANK