

Parks

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with the facilities or disaffection with the Discovery Pass entrance fee program. People expressed excitement about improving the parks at a recent batch of public meetings on the future of the system that turns 100 next year, said Virginia Painter, director of

public affairs for the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission. "There seems to be a lot of excitement," she said. "I'm not getting a sense that the interest of people is falling away." Budget cuts are partly to blame for the drop as those directly involved in coordinating volunteer outreach efforts lost their jobs or were assigned other tasks, she said. Higher gas prices are

another reason, she said. Specifically, there were fewer hosts at state parks last year. These volunteers are typically retirees who arrive in a recreational vehicle to spend several weeks in a park and, during their stay, carry out tasks such as picking up trash and assisting visitors. "Any year that gas prices go up, volunteer hours are down," Painter said. Probably the single biggest discouragement is the requirement under a 2010

state law that volunteers working with money or with vulnerable populations such as children and seniors undergo a background check with fingerprinting. "It is there for a good reason," Painter said. The state agency makes the applicants pay for their own checks. Dunshee didn't quibble with the law but wanted to know why the state agency isn't picking up the tab. He said its leaders probably

decided they couldn't afford to do so with their strained budget. Rather than second-guess them, he said the state needs to find the funds because the service of volunteers is a valuable asset for the public. State parks tracks hours of volunteers in three categories: individuals, hosts and groups. In 2011, they racked up a total of 271,260 hours, which worked out to the equivalent

of 130 full-time employees, according to the report prepared by state parks officials. A year earlier, the total was 311,446 hours. That drop of 40,186 hours added up to about 20 full-time workers. Hours contributed by individuals alone dropped from 34,217 in 2010 to 25,328 last year. The last time the state recorded a level that low came in 2001, the report shows. *Jerry Cornfield: 360-352-8623; jcornfield@heraldnet.com.*

House: 12-foot hand-hewn planks, antique windows



The house has its original antique pressed-glass windows.



MARK MULLIGAN / THE HERALD

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Ingebright has a deadline of Aug. 3, so he spends his afternoons now carefully removing the valuable cedar, and because he doesn't want the roof falling in, he is taking it apart from the inside out. Earl and Laurine Ingebright bought their forestland in 1959. Nestled below Deer Mountain along the road between Arlington and Granite Falls, their property was fronted by the rustic house. In the '60s, the Ingebrights, their daughters and their son spent most weekends and vacations in the old house. Ingebright and his son David run an award-winning tree farm on the property, which today is dotted with two homes, barns, bridges and even a

small Norsk hytte, a small cabin that Earl built for visits by his extended family. Records show that the Ingebright place was homesteaded in the 1880s by Scandinavian immigrant Ole Elison and most likely sold to a man named Peter Nelson, who probably built the original one-room house from old-growth trees logged from the property. One can see the 1901 newspapers that the first owners pasted up against the walls to keep the sawdust insulation from spilling out. "I can't believe the amount of work that went into its construction," Ingebright said. "The siding is made from 12-foot hand-hewn planks. Inside, it's clear-grain cedar panels. Not a knot anywhere." Ingebright called Fred Cruger, president of the



Granite Falls Historical Society, to come out last week and take a look. Cruger wishes the structure could

The house's age was determined by newspapers (above), dated between 1900 and '02, on the walls. Earl Ingebright, 94, (left) is in the process of tearing down the house.

safely, and we have no place to put it anyway," Cruger said. "Gosh, it's shame to see it disappear." Ingebright plans to save the antique pressed-glass windows and some of the paneling for the Granite Falls museum. He might try to sell some of the valuable wood, which includes rafters, beams and shingles. He isn't sure. "Things don't last forever," Ingebright said. "It would take just too much money

to restore it." Ingebright is happy that Cruger wants parts of the house for the museum. "I would love to see a display that acknowledges that it existed. There are no other houses like this around," Ingebright said. "When we first bought the place I didn't pay attention to the craftsmanship. Now as I'm tearing it down, I am just flabbergasted." *Gale Fiege: 425-339-3427; gfiege@heraldnet.com.*

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Checks

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state's general fund. To qualify, adults must live in Snohomish County and be 60 or older (55 and older if American Indian) with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, \$1,722 per month for one person. The checks can be spent only at qualified markets in Snohomish, Skagit and north King counties. Photo identification is the only documentation needed. "Income is by self-declaration. We trust that people will be honest. And our experience is that people are," Peppones said. "There are a lot of folks out there who fall into that income category." Gary Purves, co-owner of Everett Farmers Market, said checks will be distributed Sunday at a table on the boardwalk north of Lombardi's restaurant. "We anticipate some long lines," said Purves, who took over management of the market this year with Karen Erickson. Checks are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. "Demand has exceeded supply, but last year not by much," Peppones said. She added that there will be about 20 fewer checks available this year than in 2011. "I think we've got 1,507 this year. There are lines, but typically it's

because people show up early," she said. A certain number of checks are allocated for each site, depending on previous demand. The program started about seven years ago, Peppones said. "When it first started, we got bulk food and delivered it to our Meals on Wheels clients," she said. Senior Services also provided transportation in the past, but doesn't have funding for that now. "What worked best was to try to bring people to the market to pick up their checks. They're already there and can spend it right then. Particularly if they need a caregiver, they can get the check and the food in one trip," Peppones said. A way to provide fresh-picked produce to seniors, the program is also a boost for market merchants. "Definitely, it's about \$60,000 worth of vouchers, plus any additional money the seniors might spend," Peppones said. "Another nice thing markets are doing, at least the Everett market is, they're starting to accept EBT cards," she said, referring to cards for the state's food-stamp benefits program. Although food banks do have some fresh items, Peppones said markets have a fresher and larger selection. "It's a win-win. We're certainly happy," said Purves, the market co-owner. *Julie Muhlstein: 425-339-3460; muhlstein@heraldnet.com.*

Seniors to get checks

Checks worth \$40 for use at many area farmers markets will be distributed, on a first-come first-served basis, to qualified older adults through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. You must be a Snohomish County resident 60 or older (55 and older if American Indian). Photo ID required. Income must be below 185 percent of federal poverty level: \$1,722 monthly for one person; \$2,333 monthly for two; add \$611 per person for larger households. Checks available at:

- Everett Farmers Market: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday and July 8, Marina Village off West Marine View Drive.
- Senior Services of Snohomish County: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 8225 44th Ave. W., Suite O, Mukilteo.
- Bakerview Apartments: 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, 1401 Poplar St., Everett.
- Stocker Farms: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 11, 10622 Airport Way, Snohomish.
- Mukilteo Farmers Market: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. July 11, Lighthouse Park, 609 Front St.

Osprey fuels uproar in Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — Recent crashes involving the U.S. military's latest transport aircraft are fueling an uproar in Japan that could threaten plans to deploy them to Okinawa by the end of the year. Following an uproar on

Okinawa and in another city likely to host the Bell Boeing Osprey aircraft, U.S. officials briefed Japanese government representatives in Washington on Friday. The Osprey craft can fly like a helicopter or an airplane and has been used in combat in Afghanistan and

Iraq. But a crash in April killed two Marines and another last week injured five airmen. Japan's top government spokesman said last week the plan to deploy the aircraft this year couldn't move forward until Tokyo received assurances of its safety.