

Tribune

Sports,
page 5
Mukilteo news,
page 7
Briefs, blotter,
page 10

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Council sees drawing for 2-gate terminal

By KATIE MURDOCH

EVERETT — The Snohomish County Council was shown basic drawings last week for a two-gate terminal for commercial flights and county officials expect to have a draft agreement with one of the airlines interested in offering passenger flights by May.

Once an agreement is reached, the environmental review process would take several months before flights could begin at Paine Field.

The 18,000-square-foot terminal is estimated to cost approximately \$2.3 million and up to \$800,000 for utility hook up costs.

Peter Camp, deputy county executive, said the terminal is not expensive and will not be paid for with taxpayer money.

"That's nonnegotiable," Camp said. "I would not expect or tolerate the taxpayers to take the cost."

Camp briefed the council March 30. Camp said he expects a draft of a lease agreement with Horizon by May.

County Council Chair Mike Cooper said it was the opposite of the mantra "if you build it, they will come." In this case, it is the county will build it only if they do come.

Last year, Horizon Air and Allegiant Air expressed interest in offering passenger flights from Paine Field. At this time, Horizon is further along with plans and is negotiating with the county executive's office to reach an agreement.

"The schematic design for the two-gate terminal is 'right sized' for the level of service identified by Allegiant and Horizon and is of modest cost," Camp wrote in an e-mail. "Its proposed location between the exist-

See TERMINAL, page 3

Union approves furloughs

County Council OKs emergency ordinances to fill \$6.7 million shortfall

By MICHAEL WHITNEY

EVERETT — Snohomish County's largest union representing more than 1,600 government employees decided to cut their pay by about 4 percent rather than lose their jobs to help plug a \$6.75 million shortfall in the general fund.

The County Council approved two emergency ordinances last week. One approved an 11-day unpaid furlough for most nonunion employees, which their union counterparts also will be taking after it was approved among employees represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union. The furlough equates to a 4.23 percent pay cut.

The other ordinance extended the county's hiring freeze through December, exempting the public works department and a limited number of other positions.

For an employee making \$50,000, this equals a \$2,116 loss in income. The union members also won't receive a cost of living adjustment for 2009 or 2010.

Through the union members' ratification, their furlough fills two-thirds of the \$6.75 million hole, AFSCME staff representative James Trefry said.

For members of the 1,600-plus AFSCME, it was a choice between wage cuts or job losses, union president

See FURLOUGHS, page 9



Doug Ramsay photo

Above: Everett Animal Shelter activity director Hilary Hager (left) and assistant manager Shannon Delgado lead two dogs into the city's new shelter on move in day April 1. Another dog watches from its private room. **Right:** Oden, a young shepherd mix, was the first of the animals that was transferred to the new shelter located at 333 Smith Island Road.

Shelter animals settle into new home

By KATIE MURDOCH

Everett Animal Shelter staff escorted dogs last week down long, brightly lit hallways to their new homes in spacious rooms with glass doors.

The animals were moved to the new shelter and tours of the facility were offered to the public last week.

The new shelter cost \$6.4 million. The shelter's grand opening will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 11 at 333 Smith Island Road in north Ever-

ett.

The new shelter is more than 19,000-square-feet — more than double the size of the previous shelter on 36th Street, has increased customer parking and a larger multipurpose room for the public.

The new shelter also has environmentally-friendly features that will keep energy costs low, including a collection system that filters stormwater, solar lighting, a heating and cooling system and thermo windows.



The shelter can hold 84 dogs and 116 cats, 52 more animals combined than the previous shelter.

The new shelter will provide services the previous shelter did not.

Those services include a spay and neuter clinic, a separate adoption lobby, a triage room, grooming room, a place for rabbits, hamsters and mice, an outdoor play area and glass kennel doors to reduce the spread of illnesses.

New group will help people grow vegetables in backyard, community

By KATIE MURDOCH

Everett resident Christina Robertson recalls growing up near the Silicon Valley in California when the land was used for agriculture but is now paved over.

"It used to be lush but now it's paved for industrial uses," Robertson said. "Do they need more industry or more healthy food?"

Robertson learned early to preserve land and she is influencing and teaching her neighbors to do the

same.

Robertson, a master gardener, organized the city's first chapter of the Washington Tilth Association. This is the state's ninth chapter.

The seven-member board is made up of master gardeners, horticulturalists and others with various experience and training in cultivating gardens.

The Everett Tilth chapter plans to promote the benefits of growing your own food throughout Snohomish County through partnerships, educa-

tion and networking.

"It's time to be our own resource," Robertson said.

The group is available to neighborhood residents and organizations that want to learn how to cultivate a garden or need tips to sustain a current garden.

"Anyone who needs our help we'll be there to coach," Robertson said.

Board members are organizing a quarterly newsletter, a seed swapping and networking event, a tour of edible gardens, seasonal gardening

classes and setting up information booths at local events. Most importantly, they are waiting for the random snowstorms to stop so they can begin planting this year.

When it comes to teaching and coaching neighborhoods, the board will focus on organic gardening, soil health, composting, food preservation and starting a community garden.

"It's fun to slow down without cell phones and the Internet," Robertson said. "We can fall back into our natu-

ral rhythm of life."

The group is working with Everett neighborhood groups to create community gardens including the Charles Avenue Garden, the Lowell P-Patch and the Bayside Neighborhood Association.

Robertson said there is a resurgence of interest in food self-sufficiency comparable to the 1970s when our parents and grandparents went "back

See GARDEN, page 3