

Tips' new GM turned around last team. Can he again? C1

THE DAILY  
Herald



Math tricks won't fix state's budget

Jerry Cornfield, B1

THURSDAY, 02.16.12 • EVERETT, WASHINGTON • WWW.HERALDNET.COM • 50¢ (HIGHER IN OUTLYING AREAS)

Red flags for Reardon's run

Records show county exec used public resources to raise campaign cash

By SCOTT NORTH AND NOAH HAGLUND  
Herald Writers

EVERETT — Campaign and office records show Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon spent 2011 making extensive use of taxpayer resources to run for his third term in office. Reardon set aside 124 work hours on his county schedule for campaign work, and made

➤ See a timeline of the investigation and an illustration of how The Herald put the facts together. Page A2

roughly 1,000 calls to campaign staff and those who gave money to his re-election. That amounted to 43 hours spent dialing for dollars from his county phone while he was purportedly managing

county business. A Herald examination also found that Reardon had frequent meetings with his key fundraising consultant during work hours — appointments set up by his county-employed assistant and listed as “staff meetings” on his public calendar. Office holders are prohibited from using public resources for political campaigns. Doing so vio-



Aaron Reardon

lates state elections law and Snohomish County's ethics code, and can lead to steep fines. Before and after the election, Reardon, a Democrat, has insisted that no public resources were used in his campaign and that he only used his county phone for

election-related calls “when I had to reschedule meetings.” He has repeatedly refused to answer further questions, saying he is awaiting results of a Washington State Patrol investigation, launched a few days before the November election. Investigators are trying to determine whether Reardon, who is

See REARDON, Page A2

That's 1 grand roll-out



MICHAEL O'LEARY / THE HERALD

The Boeing Co.'s 1,000th 777 aircraft rolled out of the jet maker's factory in Everett late Tuesday. The twin-aisle airplane was towed to another bay in the factory where it will continue to be worked on for a few days. Boeing plans to deliver the 1,000th 777 in early March to Emirates airline.

Development moratorium put on mill site

The Everett City Council voted on the restriction to give time to consider what's best for the Kimberly-Clark location.

By DEBRA SMITH  
Herald Writer

EVERETT — In an effort to protect a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” the Everett City Council adopted an emergency six-month moratorium on any development at the Kimberly-Clark mill site.

The unanimous decision came without warning to the public late Wednesday night after an executive session. Afterward, Mayor Ray Stephanson said the city wanted to keep a lid on the moratorium to keep any last-minute permits from being filed with the city.

“The development of our waterfront is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Everett, and the city intends to ensure that it approaches future land-use decisions as well prepared as possible to make the best decision for the city's future,” he said in prepared remarks. City attorney Jim Iles told the council the measure was introduced to prevent “undesirable land uses” from cropping up at

the mill site. No one specified just what those undesirable land uses might be. Kimberly-Clark was one of Everett's largest employers, and most of the hundreds of people who worked there no longer do. The mill is expected to be fully closed by the end of March. Kimberly-Clark Corp. was in negotiations to sell its pulp and tissue mill on the

See EVERETT, Page A4

Upbeat Boeing waits for Obama

Boeing's recent success provides the president with a backdrop for his message on encouraging manufacturing.

By MICHELLE DUNLOP  
Herald Writer

EVERETT — When President Obama arrives Friday at the Boeing Co.'s factory here, he'll see a manufacturer on the upswing, with jet orders galore and new employees coming in the door every week. It's precisely the picture of success the president has been promoting: an American manufacturer hiring workers at home rather than sending jobs abroad. Obama started a three-day political trip, which includes eight fundraisers, Wednesday in Milwaukee, Wis., where he toured Master Lock, a manufacturer that has brought jobs back to the U.S. from China. “Manufacturing is coming back,” Obama said. “The economy is getting stronger.” Here in the Puget Sound region, Boeing is booming, having added 8,361 jobs in Washington last year. Those jobs are in support of the company's plan to increase aircraft production at the company's widebody jet site in Everett and the single-aisle 737 assembly facility in Renton. In Everett, where the president will tour the 787 line and deliver a

➤ What to expect: The president's visit on Friday will mean some delays and closures. See where and when to expect disruptions. A7

See OBAMA, Page A7

**DAILY DEAL!**

**SOUND BODY CONSULTING**

**52% OFF**

**\$39 for 3 highly motivational personal training sessions!**

Sound Body Consulting in Mill Creek

**HeraldNet** You must purchase deal online at [www.heraldnetdailydeal.com](http://www.heraldnetdailydeal.com)

VOL. 111, NO. 6 © 2012 THE DAILY HERALD CO.

the buzz

Hold the lettuce

**Dying to get in:** A man who was enjoying a Triple Bypass Burger, which includes 1.5 pounds of beef and a dozen bacon slices, at the Heart Attack Grill in Las Vegas, is now recovering after suffering, yes, a heart attack while at the restaurant. The restaurant, famous for its 10,000-calorie meals, serves free meals to those who weigh more

than 350 pounds (Page A3). Regular customers can also get a special punch card: For every 10 Triple Bypass Burgers you buy you get your choice of an actual triple by-



pass or free catering for your memorial service.

**Plays a mean game of chess, too:** A U.S. astronaut, Daniel Burbank, commander of the International Space Station, shook hands Wednesday with Robonaut, the station's new humanoid robot. “The first human-humanoid handshake in space,” Burbank noted (Page A4). Robonaut then sang “Bicycle Built for Two” and

informed Burbank that he was having difficulty with the pod bay doors.

**Don't know much about history:** On this day in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City (Today in History, Page A4). Next door, the Odd Fellows slapped their foreheads for not taking the Elk name when it was available.

—Jon Bauer, Herald staff

INSIDE

Business . . . . . A6  
Classified . . . . . C7

Comics . . . . . H4  
Crossword . . . . . H4

Dear Abby. . . . . H5  
H&G . . . . . H1

Horoscope . . . . . C7  
Lottery . . . . . A4

Obituaries. . . . . B4  
Opinion. . . . . B7

Sports . . . . . C1  
TV . . . . . H6



Scrambled  
46/39, B8

DAILY



6 42963 433333 9

# Reardon: Evidence of misuse of resources

From Page A1

married, spent taxpayer money on an affair with Tamara Dutton, a county human services employee who also was his classmate at Mariner High School in the 1980s.

Dutton, of Bothell, has refused on-the-record interview requests from The Herald.

Dutton has previously spoken with Seattle media, and did so again on Valentine's Day to say she estimates Reardon spent about a few thousand dollars of county money on their affair. Much of that, for a trip to Chicago in 2010, was repaid within weeks by the Democratic Leadership Council.

As details of their reported affair grab attention, those who monitor government, political campaigns and work for those seeking office are taking note of how Reardon blended his personal political campaign with his public duties.

Among the records released so far is evidence that Reardon frequently and consistently used county resources for his political campaign.

It should be well understood by politicians that taxpayers do not provide a piggy bank of public money to use in re-election campaigns, said Ron Dotzauer, Dotzauer, of Snohomish, for decades has been a go-to political consultant for Washington Democrats who aspire to higher office.

"It is against the law in the state of Washington to use public facilities or public equipment for campaign purposes," Dotzauer said. "That is not appropriate. And it is illegal."

If Reardon used public resources to get re-elected, Dotzauer said, "it's going to cost him money." And it's expensive to run for public office.

Reardon paid Seattle political fundraising consultant Colby Underwood \$41,000 to work on his campaign. Underwood helped Reardon take in almost \$400,000 in donations.

Emails show that "in-office staff meetings" were scheduled to accommodate meetings with Underwood, who is well-known in state and county political circles and, standing nearly 7 feet tall, is hard to miss.

He was often seen coming and going from meetings with Reardon in the executive's office on the sixth floor of the county building.

Cellphone records show that Reardon exchanged about 500 calls and texts with Underwood via the county-issued cellphone — roughly 10 hours of talking time — in the run-up to the election.

In December, after his county phone records were released to The Herald, Reardon made multiple phone calls to a Herald reporter. While he didn't address documented calls to Dutton, he sought to explain his relationship with Underwood.

Reardon said he and Underwood were discussing a project that could produce electricity from methane gas at the old Cathcart Landfill. Underwood is chief business officer for a Seattle company called Blue Marble Biomaterials.

Underwood's work as a paid campaign employee had nothing to do with those meetings, Reardon said. "My dominant relationship (with Underwood) is regarding his role in alternative energy," Reardon said.

Underwood did not respond to phone calls and emails seeking comment.

County council members and other elected officials, including some who have used Underwood to assist their own campaigns, said they'd never heard of Blue Marble Biomaterials or any projects being in the works for the old Cathcart dump.

A public records request filed in December regarding Blue Marble and Underwood has provided no record of any discussions. Reardon's office did hand over a 13-page promotion packet produced by the company, much of it already available on the company's

website.

Comparing Reardon's county office schedule with his county cellphone records show more than 50 times listed as "in-office staff meetings," when Reardon actually was making campaign-related phone calls. Records show 43 hours were spent on such calls.

At times, up to 50 phone calls would be made in quick succession during these meetings, each often lasting under two minutes. Many of the calls were made to Seattle-area professionals, lobbyists and other contributors. Through Sept. 20, Reardon raised \$52,105 from Snohomish County donors, compared with \$167,475 given by those from outside the county.

On Nov. 8, 2011, Reardon beat state representative Mike Hope, R-Lake Stevens, for the \$150,000-per-year county executive position. The nasty campaign involved a Reardon junior staffer spending time on a Friday afternoon using county email to dig up a decade-old Mill Creek Police report involving Hope. He fielded phone calls from Reardon while pressing the city to release the records.

County cellphone records document calls made to Reardon donors, including the Amalgamated Transit Union, the Consumer Fireworks Safety Association, the Broadband Communications Association of Washington and the Washington Aggregate and Concrete Association.

Misuse of public resources on election campaigns is something that the state Public Disclosure Commission investigates, but only after receiving complaints.

The commission has no active investigation into Reardon's 2011 campaign, spokeswoman Lori Anderson said.

She asked if The Herald would provide the records assembled for this story. The newspaper, which generally considers reporters' notes as confidential, declined.

"We're always interested in looking at evidence that people uncover," Anderson said. "After reviewing it, we would have to look at whether we'd file our own complaint if somebody else hadn't filed one."

State law provides for fines of up to \$10,000 for campaign violations. Penalties often escalate if someone has been investigated by the PDC before, she said.

The commission has investigated Reardon twice before. Last June, he was fined \$750, with all but \$250 suspended, for failing to properly disclose who paid for out-of-town travel in 2009. He also was investigated in 2003 in connection with a campaign committee; nothing came from that probe.

Several Reardon campaign contributors said their calls with the executive were about county matters, and the focus was on legislation in Olympia, or area business opportunities.

Joe Quintana, a Seattle lobbyist, wrote Reardon's campaign a \$250 check. Records show two calls to Quintana last year from Reardon's county cellphone: one under a minute, made during a Reardon calling blitz, the other a few days later and about five minutes long.

Quintana said he's confident the longer call was about one of his clients. He said the pitch to contribute to Reardon's campaign came not on the phone but from somebody who asked him to attend a fundraising event in Seattle.

"I thought he was the best candidate," Quintana said.

Others whom Reardon called didn't send him money.

That list includes the National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund, the Washington State Chiropractic Association and a state lobbyist for police unions.

However, two short Reardon calls in early June to the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters brought \$1,600 in contributions — the maximum

allowed under state law.

The calls from Reardon were for campaign contributions, said John Little, who oversees the political work for carpenters in five states.

"The county exec last year ran for election. We supported him. We wrote him checks," he said. "That would be the extent of my contact."

Washington State Patrol investigators appear to be focusing on Reardon's spending while on out-of-town trips. They also obtained call records for the county-owned cellphone Reardon carries, plus his office schedules and thousands of his emails.

The Herald built timelines and databases from those records, and results were compared with campaign-finance reports.

Reardon's government phone bills detail about 10,000 calls and text messages in 2011. Only the numbers dialed, not whom the executive was talking with, are listed. Numbers were matched to people. Not every person contacted was cooperative, so gaps remain in the Herald database.

State Patrol detectives have interviewed some of Reardon's closest employees.

Brian Parry, a former Reardon campaign manager who now works as one of his executive directors, on Tuesday confirmed that he'd recently met with detectives and said the questions he was asked were "pretty vanilla." He also said detectives were leaking information.

People who know how the county's computer system works also have been questioned.

One former county tech employee, who spoke with reporters on the condition that his name not be used, said he told detectives about numerous personal email exchanges between Dutton and Reardon. Computer workers discovered the messages about five years ago when they were asked to copy Dutton's emails as part of an investigation into an unrelated workplace complaint.

The messages documented Reardon and Dutton coordinating their workouts and lunches, and ended with her apologizing for being jealous, the source said.

It isn't clear whether the messages were somehow preserved. In response to recent public disclosure requests, the county has released only a couple of email messages between Dutton and Reardon, the oldest dating to August 2005. All appear to be work-related.

State Patrol investigators recently asked the state auditor's office to examine Reardon's travel records, something auditors routinely do each year. They found "no reportable conditions," but they did identify minor purchasing-related issues they brought directly to the attention of county staff.

The auditor's work attracted the attention of two of Reardon's close political allies from the so-called Road Kill Caucus in the state Legislature.

On Wednesday, the state auditor's office released a Feb. 9 letter it sent state Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Raymond, and Reardon's close friend, Sen. Steve Hobbs, D-Lake Stevens. The pair wanted word on whether state auditors had found anything in their examination.

Next to his wife, Hobbs is the person Reardon talks with most. In 2011, the pair were on the phone about 90 hours, records show.

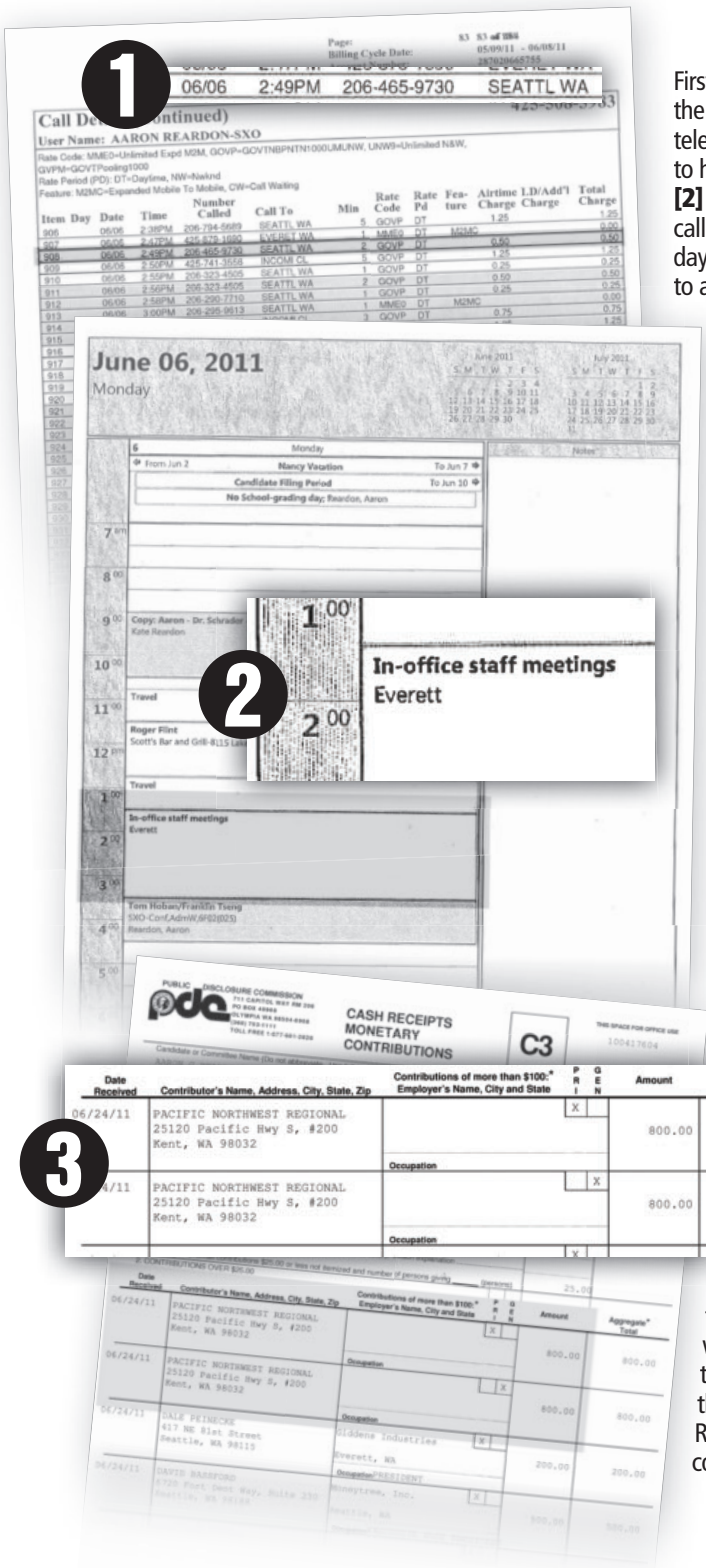
Hatfield was once Reardon's roommate when they served in the Legislature. He said he planned to meet soon with State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste to find out how an ongoing investigation was revealed to reporters in November.

"Let's figure out what happened..." Hatfield said. "I think it threatened future whistleblowers."

Noah Haglund: 425-339-3465, [nhaglund@heraldnet.com](mailto:nhaglund@heraldnet.com).

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

This is an example of how we found evidence that Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon conducted campaign business on government time, using government resources.



First, we compared the executive's county telephone records [1] to his official calendar [2] to see whom he called during the work day. In this case, a call to a lobbyist for the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters occurred during what was described on the calendar as a staff meeting.

When possible, we contacted the person who received Reardon's call to confirm the conversation and determine what was discussed.

Then we checked state Public Disclosure Commission records of campaign contributions [3] to complete the paper trail between the working-hours phone conversation and the executive's campaign for re-election. Here, two contributions were recorded about two weeks after the call placed by Reardon using his county phone.

## TIMELINE

# The Reardon investigation

Key events during the investigation of Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

## Nov. 3, 2011

The Washington State Patrol confirms rumors of an investigation into Reardon's travel using public money. Reardon calls a press conference. He insists he's done nothing wrong and is the victim of a political smear. Few details are released.

## Nov. 8, 2011

Reardon defeats his general election opponent, state Rep. Mike Hope, R-Lake Stevens, to win a third four-year term. Reardon not only triumphs at the polls, he wins the race for campaign cash.

## Nov. 15, 2011

Records obtained by The Herald show the investigation began in late October after a female county employee went to the County Council chairman. She claimed to fear Reardon.

## Nov. 16, 2011

The woman, Tammy Dutton, decides to speak with The Seattle Times. She alleges that Reardon, who is married, took her on county business

trips as part of a long-running affair. She is not named in the story.

## Nov. 17, 2011

Seattle Weekly names Dutton and publishes information from people who claim to have found evidence of an affair. Dutton and Reardon had been romantically linked for months on a website that popped up during the political campaign. Records show the State Patrol seeking three years of Reardon records.

## Nov. 18, 2011

Reardon leaves town after the election, reportedly to go rock climbing in Southern California, where he owns a second home. While still on vacation, he sends an email to The Herald denying misconduct but ignoring questions about his relationship with Dutton.

## Dec. 3, 2011

Records for Reardon's county-issued cellphone become public as part of the State Patrol investigation. They show Reardon making hundreds of calls to his campaign staff, in violation of campaign laws. Reardon insists there is no wrongdoing.

## Dec. 6, 2011

Close examination of nearly 10,000 calls and text messages in 2011 show repeated contact between Reardon and Dutton. A Herald analysis also shows that 20 percent of Reardon's calls in 2011 were to members of his political campaign.

## Jan. 27, 2012

Records related to the Reardon investigation are sought by many reporters and government watchdogs. By late January, more than 5,400 pages of his emails have been released. Most relate to his work at the county.

## Feb. 3, 2012

Attack ads Reardon aimed at Hope are finalists for a national award.

## Feb. 14, 2012

Dutton provides KING-TV an on-camera interview about her relationship with Reardon. She also provides The Seattle Times with records the newspaper says further support her claims of Reardon using public money to advance an affair that began in 2005.

Herald staff

**The Sunday Herald is stuffed full of coupons.**

**Herald**

50% off select items  
Save \$75 on select items  
Save \$99 on select items

**SHOP LOCAL SHOP LOCAL**

**OVER 5000 AUTOS to choose from**

**Autos**

[heraldnet.com/section/SeattleAutoDealers](http://heraldnet.com/section/SeattleAutoDealers)



9 sleeping bags — one  
is right for you  
Outdoors, C8

# The Sunday Herald

05.06.12 • Everett, Wash. • \$1.50 (higher in outlying areas) • HeraldNet.com • Facebook.com/HeraldNet • Twitter: @EverettHerald

## Reardon aide dug up dirt

*County executive's staffer mingled his work day with campaign-related business*

By SCOTT NORTH  
AND NOAH HAGLUND  
*Herald Writers*

EVERETT — Aaron Reardon didn't need to dirty his own hands in unearthing embarrassing information about his opponent in last

year's Snohomish County executive race.

He had placed somebody on the county payroll who frequently devoted his time and office resources to campaign-related activities.

Reardon hired Kevin Hulten in

January 2011 to fill an executive analyst position on the county executive's office team. Hulten, 33, of Granite Falls, was assigned to monitor state and federal legislation and to help Reardon connect with constituents.

Hulten also networked with

three people who participated in an effort to get campaign sanctions against state Rep. Mike Hope, R-Lake Stevens, the Seattle cop running against Reardon. Combined, Hulten traded more than 200 phone calls and text messages with the trio and devoted at least

four hours of time talking with them, close to half of that during work hours.

County phone records show that by year's end, the only county employee Reardon spoke on the

See **AIDE**, Page A5

## Former mill leaves a mess behind

*Contamination including dioxins in waterway will have to be cleaned up*

By BILL SHEETS  
*Herald Writer*

EVERETT — For decades, the Kimberly-Clark plant provided countless jobs in Snohomish County and paper products to millions of people.

Now that it's closed, the plant is leaving behind another, not-so-positive legacy.

Dioxins — toxic substances thought to cause cancer in humans — have been found in the waterway next to the plant at a level 15 times higher than what the state considers safe. The dioxins in sediment under the water are a result of the bleaching process in making paper.

On land, some petroleum contamination has been found at the 66-acre plant site and under what is now a parking lot south of the plant. Oil companies used parts of the current plant site and the parking lot for petroleum storage and distribution during much of the 20th century.

Under state law, at some point it has to be cleaned up. Kimberly-Clark officials say pollution was one reason a potential buyer of the plant balked at the deal last year. The sale could have saved nearly half the 700 jobs on the site.

Without a buyer, Kimberly-Clark closed the plant last month, saying it's difficult to make a profit in the pulp and paper business. The property is up for sale. Most of the pollution was deposited in the bay well before Kimberly-Clark bought the plant in 1995. But under state law, the present owner of a property is liable for the cost of cleanup.

See **MILL**,  
back page, this section



JENNIFER BUCHANAN / THE HERALD

The Kimberly-Clark mill site as seen from the air. The site and the nearby waterways are contaminated and will have to be cleaned up.

### Mill's legacy

■ Take a look at the Kimberly-Clark site as it is now and see what's next, **Page A3**

■ The closure of the mill ends a chapter in Everett history. Hear the stories of the people who worked there at **Heraldnet.com/thelastsmokestack**.



## How long will the cleanup effort take?

The time, money and effort required to clean up after former pulp-and-paper mills similar to Everett's Kimberly-Clark plant can vary, depending on conditions, officials with the state Department of Ecology say.

An example of a successful cleanup can be found not far from Everett.

A lumber mill, and later a pulp mill, operated in Anacortes from the late 1800s through 1978. As with the Everett plant, the operation was owned and operated for

many years by Scott Paper and later acquired by Kimberly-Clark.

After the pulp mill closed, the property was used for other industrial purposes. The plants left behind extensive contamination from dioxins, woodwaste, petroleum and industrial chemicals.

The Port of Anacortes obtained a state grant to pay for half of the \$35 million cost. The port and Kimberly-Clark paid for the rest, said Seth Preston, a spokesman for the Ecology Department.

The waterway next to the plant

was cleaned up over a five-year period ending last May.

The northern part of the site is now a public park, Preston said.

By contrast, the state is still wrestling with a former Georgia Pacific plant site on Bellingham Bay. That site, more than 200 acres, is much bigger than the affected areas in Everett or Anacortes, and contains mercury and several other pollutants. Cost of the cleanup, which has yet to begin, is estimated at \$90 million.

— Bill Sheets, Herald writer

Celebrations . . . **B4**  
Classified . . . **D1**

Crossword . . . **E4**  
Dear Abby . . . **E5**

Horoscope . . . **E4**  
Lottery . . . . . **A2**

Movies . . . . . **E5**  
Obituaries . . . **B7**

Viewpoints . . . **B1**  
Vitals . . . . . **E5**



Estimable  
60/42, **B10**

VOL. 111, NO. 86  
© 2012 THE DAILY HERALD CO.



WIN AN **iPAD or TV** EVERYDAY IN MAY!

PLAY DAILY USING YOUR TOTEM CLUB CARD.

When you win, we'll call you! Now that's friendly.

THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST  
ANGEL OF THE WINDS  
CASINO

877-EXIT-210

5 EXIT 210

WWW.ANGELOFTHEWINDS.COM  
MANAGEMENT RESERVES ALL RIGHTS

