

South Whidbey Record

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009 FOR NEWS THAT CLICKS WITH YOU WWW.SOUTHWHIDBEYRECORD.COM

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Tom and Marty's excellent adventure

Pair beat feet from one end of Whidbey to the other

BY BOB JACOBSON

Tom and Marty

Marty Fisher and Tom McCabe went on a "journey of discovery" from one end of Whidbey Island to the other.

It took three a year. They walked. "It was exciting," said Fisher, 65, of Langley. "We took photos, collected, met people along the way."

It started on New Year's eve for Fisher in 2008. "I was in charge and really discover our island home," Fisher said. McCabe, 60, also of Langley, took a little persuasion.

"Could Marty (I don't see much) have this, he said. But I thought about it. Then I called and asked him if he wanted to be Tom's or Clark's."

The plan was to walk from Ptarmigan Point at the western tip of the island to the Obsequium Pass Ridge at the northeast.

They walked over the route for eight months, averaging about 30 miles a day, taking their cell phone for the summer for travel.

Depending on wind Highway 122 and Highway 20 they walked on quiet country roads, across farms and through logging grounds, often following private trails, on beaches and along state and county park trails.

They started out using two teams to carry the logistical gear, but when they reached Greenleaf, they turned to Mind Travel.



Tom McCabe and Marty Fisher pose on the Ptarmigan Hill Trail in Obsequium Pass, Island Park, on Whidbey Island. They spent a year walking the length of Whidbey Island.

"The less you do, the more you do," Fisher said. "We had to do a little more today to get back to the base camp, but we didn't have to do much more and really enjoyed our carbon footprint."

"We did it here with Whidbey

all over again," he said. "It's not a healthy and it's interesting and more people."

"It was wonderful adventure," agreed McCabe, who had been on the island for seven years. "Had I get to know Marty and his."

That first day hike was on Jan. 21, 2008 from Ptarmigan Point along the country roads on the western tip of the island, and continued through the mountains.

BY BOB JACOBSON

New twist in Wallace case

Victim in 911 case seeks a quarter million dollars from county

BY BRIAN KELLY

South Whidbey Island

The woman who allegedly held captive her Ptarmigan cabin seven years ago (called a 911) claim against Island County, accusing the Island County Sheriff's Office of negligence and causing the deputy who responded to her 911 calls to help as well to be a police officer.

Christine Wallace told she was held against her will and assaulted by Matthew Price during her stay at his family's summer home on Ptarmigan Drive in February 2003. The incident led to one of the biggest scandals in recent history for the sheriff's office after it was revealed a deputy's deputy visited the house later in response to 911 calls from the house, but never talked to anyone at the cabin before leaving. Wallace escaped from the house the morning after the incident was left captive and called police from nearby Ptarmigan Point.

Jan Wallace, the deputy who responded to the 911 calls, was later fired and the controversy over the 911 calls divided the community for many years.

Wallace, 35, said in her lawsuit she alleges that Wallace was negligent in responding to the 911 calls and said the county had not properly trained and supervised its officers. She said the last incident "was not a crime against" her but a "violation of my civil rights" because of the sheriff's office's alleged negligence, abuse, harassment, liability

BY BOB JACOBSON

Diking commissioner resigns amid pump brouhaha

BY BOB JACOBSON

South Whidbey Island

Disputed evidence of Island County Diking District 1 won't leave Bob Kildibers in his second year.

Kildibers, 77, a resident of the diking district's three main basins of commissioners since March, resigned at the board's meeting this night.

Kildibers said in his resignation "he will Whidbey. It is really would have been in three 10 days before now, but I did it last of the things personally."

"I'm leaving 77, probably had a letter do with it," he said.

Kildibers and fellow commissioners Ray Gabelman and Steve Seward have been accused by some diking property owners

angry over a \$225,000 assessment to build a pump.

The pump was put in over Christmas, in time to handle the melt from the recent snow. The district now has 1,000 gallons of water a minute.

"It's a thing of beauty to see that pump running," Kildibers said. "It's something we've wanted for years and years."

Residents opposed to the pump have accused commissioners of paying for the pump through the project without proper notification. The residents say they will continue to oppose the Island County Board of Commissioners to support the diking district's activities said in a new lawsuit to be filed.

Last fall, the county commission decided to get involved, but it was because some members, Steve Price (Johnson and Hugh Bensch).

Besides the new pump, the village residents said they were also concerned about the environmental impact it would have on the wetlands, a wildlife habitat.

Kildibers, who has lived in the district all his life, said that, besides to increase production and development, the water runoff into the wetlands is probably "a benefit of the greater" there it was when the water was pretty low during winter was put in.

Kildibers spent most of the summer years recovering in the district, going down in the middle of the night to clean wetlands at low tide.

He said, Tom Kildibers, was a diking

commissioner for many years, he said.

"The best of it is the pump assessment," he said. "Ray Gabelman and his boys do that one."

"The granddaddy helped to build the dike," he said. "His knowledge of the area and the history were invaluable."

Kildibers said he will and would still accept applications for summer to complete Kildibers' term. They are to make a written resolution to the county commissioners and board.

Kildibers said he would like to see some more from the diking district community

BY BOB JACOBSON