

# Member Happenings...



## Lake Pend Oreille Cruises Featured on Good Morning America

On Sunday, September 7th Lake Pend Oreille Cruises will be seen across the nation on ABC's Good Morning America show. Business owner Linda Mitchell was contacted by the producer with a special interest in the lake and wildlife in the area. She arranged a five hour charter with both tourists and locals aboard. Mitchell explained the tourists were quite excited to learn that a film crew would be on their boat excursion after booking their tours.

Good Morning America also interviewed wildlife biologist Tom Whalen with Idaho Fish & Game and long-time resident Skip Pucci.

For more information about Lake Pend Oreille Cruises, call 255-5253.

## W Cleaners, Sandpoint Signs & Graphics, Mountain Horse Adventures Recognized for Pollution Prevention Achievements

Pollution Prevention Week is an annual event designed to draw attention to the economic and environmental benefits of pollution prevention and to recognize businesses and organizations that have implemented pollution prevention practices.

Pollution prevention is source reduction and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, or protecting resources through conservation.

"Pollution prevention provides both economic and environmental benefits by reducing both the cost and volume of toxic materials," explains Joanna Pierce, Pollution Prevention Specialist at the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). "It can be as simple as changing a process, using different raw materials, modifying a product, or preventing leaks and spills."

To commemorate Pollution Prevention Week this year, September 15-21, DEQ invited Idaho businesses and industries to apply for recognition as Pollution Prevention Champions. To qualify, applicants had to demonstrate how they had incorporated pollution prevention into daily operations and show documented reductions in such areas as raw materials or toxic materials purchases, hazardous or solid waste generated, gallons of water or energy or fuel used, and dollars saved by these efforts.

A total of nine businesses were selected as Pollution Prevention Champions, including Sandpoint's W Cleaners, Mountain Horse Adventures, and Sandpoint Signs & Graphics.

**W Cleaners** was recognized for its successful efforts to reduce air emissions and hazardous wastes in its cleaning processes and to conserve energy and water. The company uses less-toxic petroleum solvents and a wet cleaning process that does not generate hazardous waste, air emissions, greenhouse gases, or ozone-depleting substances. In addition, W Cleaners developed a hot water retrieval system to collect and reuse left over condensate stream from the boiler to heat water for the washing machines.

**Mountain Horse Adventures**, which provides guided horseback rides on Schweitzer Mountain, is a conservation-minded business that purchases weed-free hay, mulches manure from its horses to be used as fertilizer for pastures and for erosion control on embankments, and relies on biodiesel fuel made from soy in all its trucks and farm equipment. Mountain Horse also maintains riding trails by picking up garbage and conducting erosion maintenance.

**Sandpoint Signs & Graphics** is committed to providing its customers with environmentally friendly products. The company uses paints, sealers, stains and coatings that produce little or no air pollutants, resulting in reduced hazardous waste from paint toxins and improved outdoor and indoor quality for its customers and employees. The company also sells paint products with zero and low pollutants. Recycling of used products and purchasing recycled products are common practices at Sandpoint Signs & Graphics, which recently converted all lighting to energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs and switched to LCD computer monitors.

Kudos to W Cleaners, Mountain Horse Adventures, and Sandpoint Signs & Graphics for their successful efforts to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and prevent waste!

To learn how to put pollution prevention to work for your business, contact DEQ's Pollution Prevention Specialist, Joanna Pierce, at 373-0146 or [Joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Joanna.pierce@deq.idaho.gov). More information about pollution prevention is also available on DEQ's Web site at [www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution\\_prevention.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution_prevention.cfm).

## Nicholas Peacock BENEFIT CONCERT

*His Chance to Walk & Run*



September  
13th  
4-8 p.m.  
Bonner County  
Fairgrounds

Donations can be placed to "The Benefit Fund for Nicholas Peacock" at Panhandle State Bank.

# Tourism News...

## 2008 Summer Tourism Review

From June to August in 2008, our Visitor Center had 6,914 tourists compared to 10,712 in 2007, a 35% decrease from the previous year. Evidently the soaring gas prices and economic shift have taken a toll on Greater Sandpoint.

Of the 474 tourists who signed in at the Visitor Center throughout 2008, over half of the visitors (245) were from Canada, most likely due to being at par with the American dollar. 101 visitors, or almost a fifth, were from California. Not surprisingly, 83 came from Washington and interestingly 38 were from Arizona.

Visit Sandpoint members, are you already doing radio, print, or television ads outside of Idaho and need some funds to offset the costs? If so, we might be able to help you. Simply call 263-0887 or e-mail Amy Little at amy@sandpointchamber.com.

## Visit Sandpoint Updates

- The Chamber welcomes back Terese Luikens, who recently completed an internship with us, as a part-time employee in our Visitor Center; and the Chamber would like to thank Lauren Anderson and Janelle Hawkins for working with us this summer and wish them success in their upcoming academic year.
- Do you have a computer to spare? The Chamber Visitor Center is in need of a basic computer with Internet Explorer for visitors to look at our members online. Please call the Chamber at 263-0887 if you could donate equipment.

## Visitor Center Stats

	July 2007	July 2008	June 2008	2008 YTD	2007 Totals	2006 Totals
Visitors	3,960	2,564	1,735	7,509	19,285	16,781
Info Calls	860	1,018	865	3,746	8,660	7,566
Email Requests	137	92	108	471	992	309
Vacation Packages	92	65	66	349	719	556
Relocation Packages	15	7	5	43	146	223
Chamber Website <i>Personal Visits</i>	11,128	10,090	10,890	52,022	88,265	—
Visit Sandpoint Website <i>Personal Visits</i>	7,772	6,682	6,063	24,825	55,711	—

## Visitor Center Staff/Volunteers

### VISITOR CENTER STAFF

Corrie Greene,  
Operations Manager  
info@sandpointchamber.com  
Ext. 202 (Membership), Ext. 205  
(Bookkeeping)

Melody Circo,  
Carena Martinez,  
Terese Luikens  
Visitor Center & Administration  
visit@sandpointchamber.com  
Ext. 201

### VISITOR CENTER VOLUNTEERS

Jerri Anderson  
Realtor, Coldwell Banker Resort

Kathy Hubbard  
Bonner County Daily Bee

*Thank you to our dedicated volunteers!*