

Ed Stern: Tapping in to telecommuting

By JENNIFER MORRIS
 jmorris@northkitsapherald.com

Ed Stern can't pinpoint the moment in time he became an enthusiast; he suspects he's been one since childhood.

In a sleek home office (home mega-office might be a better term for the small, tech-heavy and highly connected outbuilding that houses a phone system fancier than those in some skyscrapers) Stern is doing something familiar. He's establishing a business from scratch; at 55, it's the third time he's done so.

But this time he's doing it differently, and he's enthusiastic about the change.

Stern, a four-term Poulsbo city councilman, is doing his day job from home these days, a move in line with a message he often touts in the political sphere: Telecommuting, he says, is a "perfect model" for keeping cars off roadways and keeping commuters in their communities and with their families.

It's a burgeoning option, mostly for those who deal with an "intellectual inventory" rather than work with their hands.

"And it does work," he says.

If the daily commute was cut by 10 percent, meaning each commuter worked from home one day every two weeks,



Jennifer Morris/Staff Photo

Ed Stern has long touted the benefits of telecommuting.

gridlock would be alleviated and the dollars currently used for infrastructure expansion could be funneled back into maintenance, he said. The difference in cost, he added, would be billions.

Stern also advocates increasing fiber-

optic broadband infrastructure. He sits on the Association of Washington Cities board, and serves as an adviser for Gov. Christine Gregoire's Commute Trip Reduction board. He brings the issue to the Puget Sound Regional Council, where

he serves in the economic development district.

Last year he helped steer the Kitsap Telework Pilot Project, a state legislature-commissioned project through the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council that resulted in an online template for employees and businesses to implement successful telework programs.

Stern was one of the first in Poulsbo to apply for permitting specific to a home office for his newest venture, a branch of investing company E.K. Riley. (Though certainly not the first home office; most are under city radar.) Now he contends his impact on his neighborhood is lesser than when he drove to work each day.

In 1986 Stern founded Kitsap's first Edward Jones office. He opened shop in Poulsbo, despite the company wanting him to locate in Silverdale.

"I chose Poulsbo very deliberately," he said. Decades ago he predicted it would become the "crossroads" of the West Sound. There are now 35 Edward Jones offices in the county.

Stern also opened a Piper Jaffray branch in Poulsbo; its stocks ticker could be seen along State Route 305.

Before moving to Poulsbo, Stern

SEE STERN, A11




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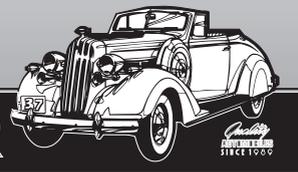




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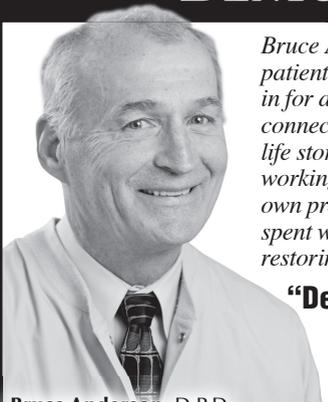




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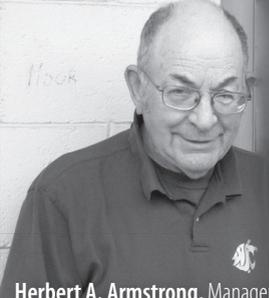
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MORROW

CONTINUED FROM A2

head of the Satsop River. They later moved to Elma, where Morrow would graduate from high school.

Her family valued education and often let others stay with them. It was there,



Morrow

Morrow believes, her commitment to community was fostered.

Now Morrow, 85, has traveled the world, touching down on every continent but one, Antarctica.

Her other civic service includes: being a Kingston Port Commissioner; being a Red Cross swim instructor for more than 30 years (after conquering a fear of water); volunteering for the North Kitsap Mentor program; and serving on the Martha and Mary Corporate Advisory Board. She's been named a Person of the Year by the Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce.

In 2008, "Ardis, Do you have a story for us?" was published based on Morrow's regular funny tales and jokes she delivers to the Rotary Club each Friday morning. The book benefited Eli's Place and sold out.

Lately there's been pressure for a reprinting, or perhaps a second volume.

Morrow, never without a quip or humorous fact, could easily meet the demand.

WALLER

CONTINUED FROM A5

"It's kind of pushing toward someday if I want to become a principal," Waller said.

However his career continues to develop, Waller will be happy as long as he can be a positive influence on his students and remain among the community he loves.



Waller

"We have some wonderful friends here," he said. "The schools are wonderful, the community is wonderful. We're happy that we're still here, and I don't foresee us going anywhere."

SULLIVAN

CONTINUED FROM A7

and non-tribal members. The Point Casino and Gliding Eagle Marketplace brought a steadily rising flow of money to the tribe, though growth has slowed in the last two years. Sullivan said the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe needs to follow the lead of Suquamish and the Jamestown S'Klallam tribes, which have had success diversifying economically.

"I think we're moving a little behind to be honest," Sullivan said, "and we want to change that."

The tribe is also continuing to seek grant money for cleanup on Port Gamble Bay. Sullivan said he wants to keep cleanup

RUDE

CONTINUED FROM A8

below 30 until recently.

The membership at the Boys and Girls Club has been increasing steadily. The Kingston chapter now has more than 50 members, which he hopes will double in the near future, Rude said.



Rude

While some may be intimidated by the workload, Rude said he is happy to do it and still finds time to relax. Along with DeBoer, Rude likes to take some time to play guitar.

"With everything going on in life, it's nice to relax and put things aside for a few minutes," DeBoer said.

as a priority as Olympic Property Group prepares to expand the town of Port Gamble across the bay.



Sullivan

"We want to do it in a way that we won't be closing the bay in 10 years," Sullivan said.

Sullivan isn't the only young tribal member looking to the future.

Other tribal members are returning from universities to give back to the tribe. Sullivan pointed to Youth Program Manager Kelly Baze and newly named Child and Family Services Director Jolene Sullivan as examples of young members setting a good example for the tribe's youth.

"There are a lot of people to look up to," he said.

STERN

CONTINUED FROM A4

worked for the city of Livingston, Mont., where he led development of the country's first municipal wind farm. The resulting Energy Innovator award he received from the American Public Power Association in 1984 sits in his new home office, a silver light bulb encased in glass.

Poulsbo has quintupled in size since Stern arrived in the 80s. Now, as a councilman, he hears often from his

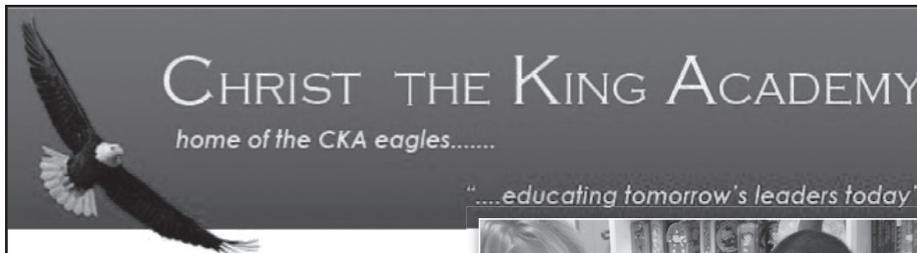
constituents. As the city grows and transforms, he listens to citizens who say city leaders, in one way or another, are "going to ruin Poulsbo." It's a phrase he's heard for years.

And that comment is a good thing, he says, because it proves the little town by Liberty Bay still holds the charm citizens cherish.

"In the meantime people are fighting to live here," he said.



Stern



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