draws

critics

Aim is to cut

overtime; union cites reserves

CENTRAL KITSAP - Overtim

(ENTRAL RITSAP — Overtime is under attack at Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue. The fire district, which paid out nearly \$900,000 in extra shifts in 2013, will re-duce the mandatory number of firelighters that must be at work in an effort to reduce that cost. "Our guess is that it will substantially reduce over-

substantially reduce over-time," said Fire Chief Scott Weninger.

and that the district's response times to emergen-cies will suffer.

"We feel they've neglect-ed to educate the public,"
Smith said.

The cuts will come at CK's Chico station, which only recently was staffed with two full-time firefighters.

staffed with two full-time freefighters. Overtime costs have grown from about \$538,000 in 2010 to \$886,000 this year. The district had planned to spend about \$709,000 in 2013. Central Kitsap uses three shifts, each staffed with 25 firefighters, to man its five stations from East Bremerton to Seabeck. Un-

er the previous standard, 9 of the 25 had to show up

CK's fre commission Nov. 12 — with commissioner Dick West dissenting — the minimum is now 17. Like all careers, firefight-ers get sick, take vacation and require training that

and require training that takes them away from duty Unlike other careers, their 24-hour shift schedules

Ecosystem scouts Fewer on duty

From the majestic great blue heron to the tiny western sandpiper, Puget Sound is home to an amazing assortment of marine birds. The marbled murrelet, featured here, has one of the most unusual nesting behaviors in

the bird world. Inside, we profile a dozen birds common to Puget Sound.

Found from Alaska to Central

NESTS, EGGS & HATCHLINGS In Puget Sound region.

■ They lay only one egg

FORAGING PATTERNS

Parents fly from nest

May fly 50 miles between its nest and

■ Birds link THE THREATENED MARBLED MURRELET to healthy habitat

DABOBBAY – Sunlight glint-ed off the water as the 24-foot research boat headed out of Dabob Bay on a cold November day. Dressed for winter, two expert observ-ers scanned the Hood Ca-

ers scanned the Hood Ca-nal waters for seabirds, one looking left, the other right. "Double-crested cor-morant, one, flying at 112," called out Corey VanStratt, his voice heard clearly over headphones worn by each

"Common loon flushed at 100," said Kathy Gunther a

noment later.

"Four double-crested cormorants flushed, four on the water, at 503," Gunther quickly added.

All the while, Amy Baker, and the water of the while of the while

neters. Then came a payoff ob-Then came a payoff ob-servation — one of several that cold day — when Gun-ther reported, "Marbled murrelet, two on water, plumage class 6, 60 meters out."

Finding marbled murre-lets was rewarding for the sets was rewarding for the research team, because the Navy-funded project is de-signed to figure out where the birds go in winter — a time when they are dressed in their striking black-and-white humans.

to be an odd bird, not well

26 years later, Powers set to retire

■ Port Orchard councilwoman's tenure praised

By Chris Henry

PORTORCHARD - Carolina Poss-

public service.

Powers has served on the surgood of the service o

RIGHT: Port Orchard City Councilwoman Carolyn Powers, who is retiring after more than 25 years of public service, is photo-graphed in her home Wednesday, Powers, a Democrat, also served one term in the state House of Representatives.



FROM THE COVER

6A » Sunday, December 15, 2013 » KITSAP SUN

SEABIRDS

In the spring, the female

lays a single egg on a moss-covered branch in a large, old-growth tree. She and her

covered transmit at James and the master take turns it ending the mest and flying as much as 50 miles to the sea to catch fish for their box chick. The adults typically make this adults typically make this about a month, until their chick is ready to the strange evolved in such a strange evolved in such a strange evolved in such a strange adhough old-growth trees although old-growth trees although the chick is ready to the water. Other members of the auk family, to which they belong, generally line wow, and not in trees at all.

in colonies, foften in burneys, and not in trees at all towns, and not in trees at all towns, and to the trees at all towns, and towns, and town and town species — are truly a diverse group. They come in our properties to great abbe herons. Some live in Puget Sound all towns are the second of seebfids in Puget Sound all tween Canada and Mexico. The witnering propulsion of seebfids in Puget Sound the summer propulsion, reaching a peak of perhaps to the summer propulsion, reaching a peak of perhaps the summer propulsion from the summer propuls of the summer propulsion from the summer propulsion from the su

Situated at the top of Pupel Sounds complex found web, martine Birds food web, martine Birds complex food web, martine Birds for the pupel so that developed new 'visial signs' indicators for the pupel so that developed new 'visial signs' indicators for the "They're almost a direct measure of the health of the food web."

KNOWING THE BIRDS

NOWING THE BIRDS
Because they are able
to make choices, seabhrds
might be viewed as scouts
might be viewed as scouts
the control of the control
tent of the control
tent of the birds that
came and went could be
tracked by humans, their
presence or absence would be
presence or absence would be
sping right — or wrong —
with the quality of habbat in
a specific area. But, despite
several new and ongoing
several new and ongoing
the control
tent of the control
tent of

The boat used in seabird research by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife follows a specified course each time it goes out. Trained observers stand behind the boat's cabin, one watching for birds on the right side, the other on the left.





populations are increasing.

Target for 2020: Puget
Sound Partnership
recently adopted a set of
"vital signs" indicators
to measure the health of
bird populations, both
terrestrial birds and
marine birds. No target for
2020 was proposed.

INDICATORS: SEABIRDS



searchers for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have implanted satellite transmitters in some birds to track their migrations and identify favored locations. Radio Station northwest of call Citizen science," he Marysville in Sonbomish said. "I believe it will pro-County. It's one of the last wide avery valuable-piece of coll-growth stands in that information." I be compared to the state of the

birds frijing to and from the
August of the New YookLawystan he's he's hooLawystan he's he's hoo

Lawystan he's hoo

translet by Fundament to that complete the same summer to the state of the state of

FROM THE COVER

KITSAP SUN & Sunday, December 15, 2013 & 7A

