

# DAILY RECORD

Published in the Heart of Washington / DailyRecordNews.com

Good afternoon

Thursday

June 11, 2009

Vol. 108, No. 138

50 cents

## UW ideas may be key to better Roslyn economy

By MARY SWIFT  
staff writer

**R**OSLYN — The empty buildings in Roslyn's business district speak for themselves: Making a go in tough times is a challenge.

"It's slow, but steady," say Tom Ballard and Suzanne Altomare, owners of the Roslyn Natural Market who acknowledge this past year has been a struggle.

Just down the street, Marko's Place tavern is closed. So is Jones, briefly operated as an upscale wine and coffee bar before closing its doors and sitting vacant. Last November it was reincarnated as Jones Steakhouse by new owners. They've since shut the doors. A message on the business' phone says only that it was closed "due to unforeseen circumstances."

Farther south, the building that was home to Kitchen Sink, a specialty shop offering wine, kitchen and bar products, is still unoccupied. So is the building that once housed the Pioneer Restaurant and Sodylicious Bar.

But there are hopeful signs. Jim Swanson, a Seattle businessman, has applied for a business license to open a restaurant at the site of Pioneer. Swanson could not be reached for comment but he's said to be planning an opening in early July. Marko's Place also is expected to reopen under new ownership.

And there could be even better news ahead if students from the University of Washington are right.

Last Monday, UW senior John Todd stood in the meeting room of the old Northwest Improvement Co. building surveying a crowd of about 45 people.

Todd, a slender, dark-haired Montanan, is headed to Harvard University next fall for an advanced degree in architecture.

For the past 10 weeks, he's been one of a dozen students taking part in the Storefront Studio, a School of Architecture program in which students work with a community to develop a plan that enhances the authentic character of the community while improving its economic viability.

The process involves a series of meetings between students and community members to make sure what the project reflects is what the community deems important.

Roslyn's character, made rich by history, provided plenty of fodder, Todd said.



Joe Whiteside / Daily Record

Cars line Pennsylvania Avenue in Roslyn Tuesday afternoon near First Street.

For the first time in the University of Washington's Storefront Studio program's history, Professor Jim Nicholls, who supervises the program, said it plans to bring the Storefront Studio back to Roslyn next spring.

"I think this is the beginning of a long relationship," he said.



Mary Swift / Daily Record

University of Washington architecture professor Jim Nicholls, who supervises the Storefront Studio, explains some of the details of the program's proposals to a crowd gathered at Monday's presentation.

"For me the challenge was trying to make sure what I did fit with what the community wanted," he said. "The best part was working with the people themselves. Roslyn's such

a unique place. It's original. That makes it exciting."

In front of him, people moved along walls hung with photographs of how Roslyn looks now

and changes that might enhance it in the future.

Mayor Jeri Porter, a member of Roslyn Revitalization, the community organization that brought the Storefront Studio project into the town, was clearly pleased with what she was seeing. Porter said she thought the project had done a good job of capturing — and honoring — Roslyn's history and character in a way that will help strengthen the town's economy.

"I think they 'got' it," she said.

Alice Davis, a native of Roslyn who now lives in San Diego but has a home at Pineloch Sun, also appeared impressed.

"We're very much interested in this," she said as she studied photos of suggested changes.

Across the room, Jenny Aurit, who coordinated the Storefront Studio effort for Roslyn Revitalization, pointed to photographs illustrating some of the changes the UW students envision. At least one is due this summer. Students plan to paint an image of railroad tracks along the street from Runje Park to the NWI Building.

"Between the tracks they'll have historic facts," she said. Plans call for "shadows" (basically light silhouettes related to the coal mine trains) to be painted along the way.

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### ON THE RECORD

#### Local

**Billboard artist:** A Cle Elum-Roslyn Elementary School fourth-grader was one of the two top prize winners in the state's Bridging Future Art and Essay Contest.

In detail, Page A3.



**Pot busters:** The Kittitas County Sheriff's Office received a grant to assist in a marijuana eradication program.

In detail, Page A3.

#### Region

##### Killer Bees:

Workers cleaning up the Hanford nuclear reservation are going after radioactive wasp nests.



The Tri-City Herald reports 6 to 12 inches of top soil are being dug up this month from 6 acres near the H Reactor. And, workers will dig up more individual mud dauber wasp nests spread over about 75 acres of the nuclear reservation in southeast Washington.

The contractor handling the clean-up, Washington Closure, says the nests were all built in 2003 when water was used to dampen dust during demolition of an H Reactor basin. That attracted the wasps that used the mud to make tube-shaped nests for eggs. Spokesman Todd Nelson says the nests are "fairly highly contaminated."

#### Coming Friday

Saturday marks the 118th commencement for Central Washington University. The Daily Record will check in one last time with two graduating seniors and report on their job hunting efforts. Read more in Friday's paper.

Steak Special  
of the Month

Shrimp

\$15.99