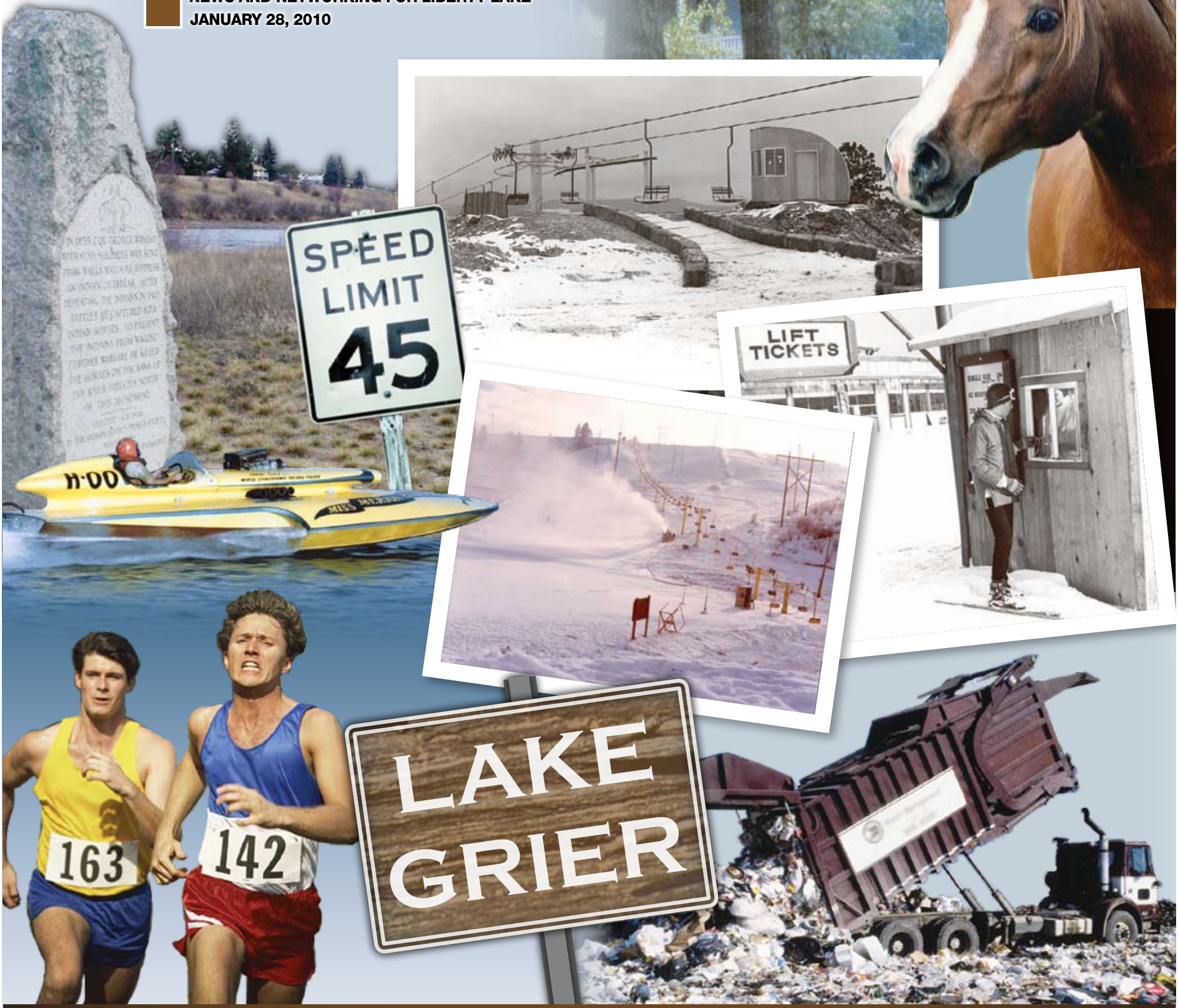


# THE Splash

NEWS AND NETWORKING FOR LIBERTY LAKE  
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## Did You Know?

Some well-known and not-so-well known factoids about Liberty Lake PAGE 8

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cris Kaminskas is pictured with her son, Kyle. Kaminskas is the newest member of the Liberty Lake City Council after being appointed last week to fill a vacant seat.

# Determined to serve

Kaminskas takes office after third attempt at Council

By Hope Brumbach  
SPLASH EDITOR

Cris Kaminskas has spent the last eight-plus months pursuing a Liberty Lake City Council position.

Last spring, she lost a Council appointment to fill a vacated seat. In the fall, she lost a closely contested race to Josh Beckett for an open position.

Last week, her perseverance paid off.

The newest Council member recently answered some questions for The Splash about her determination to serve, her hopes for her position and some tidbits about her life the community likely doesn't know.

**Q.** You've had a long road to the City Council. What kept you motivated to continue pursuing a seat?

**A.** I knew that this was something I really wanted to do. When I lost in November, I decided to get involved with the community in a different way. I was going to volunteer for Friends of Pavillion Park but (when) Patrick resigned I decided to give it another try. I don't give up very easily. Like I said, everything happens for a reason.

**Q:** What was the most difficult part about your path to the City Council?

**A:** It was difficult for me to accept the fact that so many people just didn't care about or pay attention to either of the council races in the November election. I wish more people would pay attention and get involved.

**Q:** What was your first reaction after your appointment last week to the

## profiles:

CRIS KAMINSKAS

### Age

41

### Family

Husband Scott (married for 14 years in May); son Kyle, age 7

### Employment

Senior program manager, KeyTronicEMS

### Education background

Bachelor's degree in psychology from Miami University in Ohio, work toward a master's degree in business at the University of Tampa

### Hobbies

Music, reading

### Favorite vacation destination

Lake Lure, NC

### Personality trait valued in others

Fairness

### Last book read

"I, Alex Cross" by James Patterson

### Talent you'd most like to have

"I'd love to know how to play the violin."

### Lived in Liberty Lake

Three and a half years

### Life motto

Everything happens for a reason

### Council?

**A:** I was glad that the time and effort that I've put in finally paid off.

**Q:** What do you hope to accomplish first now that you're a councilwoman?

**A:** Long term, I'd like to see Liberty Lake become a destination place. I want people to say, "Let's go spend the day in Liberty Lake." I envision people coming to spend the day shopping in specialty stores, eating in cute, neighborhood restaurants and telling their friends what a great place this is.

See KAMINSKAS, page 7

# W

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## Police Report

The following incidents, arrests, calls for service and citations were reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department for Jan. 19-25.

### Arrests and incidents:

• **Suspended license** — A 34-year-old Post Falls woman was arrested Jan. 19 on the 1500 block of Liberty Lake Road for driving with a suspended license. The officer recognized the driver from a prior arrest.

• **Suspended license** — A 25-year-old Ritzville man was arrested Jan. 22 at Harvard and Mission for driving with a suspended license. During the arrest, the officer found that the man is a registered sex offender, on active probation and there are several protection orders against him involving teenage females. The man had a female teenager in the vehicle, and the officer found she was not listed in the protection order, but the girl's mother in Ritzville was unaware of her companion or whereabouts. The suspect's probation officer told police the man was not to leave Adams County or to be around minors. The man was booked into jail and arrangements were made for the passenger to return to Ritzville.

• **DUI** — A 47-year-old Liberty Lake

woman was arrested Jan. 23 on Liberty Lake Road for driving under the influence. Police received a citizen report of a possible drunken driver, and the officer located the vehicle and determined the driver was driving under the influence.

• **Domestic violence** — A 19-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested Jan. 24 on the 800 block of Stevenson Court for domestic violence assault and domestic violence malicious mischief. Officers responded to a domestic violence in progress call and determined the suspect physically assaulted her mother and pulled a mirror off the wall, breaking it and damaging the wall.

• **Suspicious circumstances** — Police are investigating suspicious circumstances at Taco Time in Liberty Lake at 1421 N. Liberty Lake Road. Police learned that a friend of an employee at the fast food restaurant wanted to rob the establishment when the employee was on shift. The friend asked the employee to wait to call police when the robbery occurred. The employee reported the conversation to management, who contacted police. The suspect, who police say is in Spokane County Jail for outstanding warrants, has

See **POLICE**, page 11



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# THE Splash

Volume 12, Issue 4

**On the cover:**

Splash design concept by Sarah Burk

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The Splash is published weekly on Thursdays and is distributed free of charge to every business and residence in the greater Liberty Lake area. Additional copies are located at more than 100 drop-off locations in Liberty Lake and Otis Orchards.

**Submitted materials**

Announcements, obituaries, letters to the editor and story ideas are encouraged. Submit them in writing to editor@libertylakesplash.com or bring them by The Splash office. Timely submissions should be received by Friday at noon for best chance of publication in the following week's Splash.

**Advertising information**

Information about classified and display advertising is on page 14.

**Subscriptions**

Liberty Lake residents receive a complimentary copy each Thursday. Subscriptions for U.S. postal addresses outside of the 99019 ZIP code cost \$50 for 52 weeks and \$30 for 26 weeks. Send a check and subscription address to P.O. Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019 or call 242-7752 for more information.

**Correction policy**

The Splash strives for accuracy in all content. Errors should be reported immediately to 242-7752 or by e-mail to editor@libertylakesplash.com. Confirmed factual errors will be corrected on this page in the issue following their discovery.

**Memberships**

The Splash is an award-winning member of the National Newspaper Association and Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

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## Calendar

**JANUARY 28**

Noon: Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary meeting, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

**JANUARY 30**

8-10 a.m.: CVHS Graduation Night pancake breakfast benefit, Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Pines and Mission

10 a.m. -2 p.m.: Spokane Regional Health District Free car seat check, George Gee, 21502 E. George Gee Ave.

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: "Hoops for Haiti" Shoot-a-thon fundraiser, the HUB, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave.

**FEBRUARY 2**

7 p.m.: Liberty Lake City Council meeting, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive

**FEBRUARY 3**

6:45 a.m.: Liberty Lake Kiwanis meeting, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive

10:30 a.m.-noon: Spokane Valley's Mindful Mamas, Liberty Lake Municipal Library's meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Liberty Lake Senior Lunch Program, Liberty Lake City Hall

Noon-1 p.m.: Liberty Lake Lions Club meeting, Guardian Angel Homes, 23102 E. Mission Ave.

5:45 p.m.: Liberty Lake Toastmasters, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

6-8 p.m.: Liberty Lake Library open chess, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

6:30 p.m.: Scope meeting, Liberty Lake City Hall

6:30 p.m.: "Different Drummers" author book signing, Liberty Lake Municipal Library

**FEBRUARY 4**

Noon: Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary meeting, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

## Community Briefs

**Kiwanis to raise funds for Haiti**

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis is donating \$2,000 to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Kiwanis is giving the money to Surgical Implant Generation Network (SIGN) Feb. 10 at the Richland Kiwanis meeting. SIGN is planning to set up makeshift operating rooms in Haiti. Volunteer doctors travel at their own expense, and all donations go directly to the field, said Liberty Lake Kiwanis member Pat Dockrey.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake, P.O. Box 384, Liberty Lake, WA 99109.

For more information about SIGN, visit [www.sign-post.org](http://www.sign-post.org).

**HUB to host 'Hoops for Haiti'**

Shoot hoops and help raise money for earthquake relief in Haiti this Sunday at the HUB Sports Center.

The shoot-a-thon event is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HUB, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave.

Participants are asked to bring cash or donation checks made out to Red Cross Haiti Relief. The goal is \$25 per donation.

Participants also are asked to bring a basketball.

Each person who brings a donation will shoot 250 free throws. The event will include food, music, raffle items, contests and prizes.

For more information, visit [www.94x50hoops.com](http://www.94x50hoops.com), e-mail [bballshooting@94x50hoops.com](mailto:bballshooting@94x50hoops.com) or call 340-3537.

All of the money raised will provide medical aid, water, food and shelter for survivors of the Haiti earthquake.

**'Different Drummers' authors sign books in Liberty Lake**

Local authors are having a book-reading and signing event Feb. 3 at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Lyle Hatcher, a Liberty Lake resident, and Don Caron recently authored "Different Drummers," a book based on Hatcher's childhood experience.

The event will be at 6:30 p.m. at the library, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

**Self-help author to sign books**

Liberty Lake resident Donalie Harwell Moote, a self-help author of "Life is Like a Restaurant ... Full of Choices," will hold a book signing Saturday in Coeur d'Alene.

The event is 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Borders, 450 West Wilbur Ave.

**'Art for you to love' at library**

Dianne McDermott, who specializes in portraiture, illustrations and local landscapes, is the featured artist at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library in February.

McDermott's show — themed "Art for you to love" — will be on display at the library, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

A reception will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the library with Valentine goodies and an oil portrait on canvas demonstration.

**Library holds book sale**

The FRIENDS of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library group is holding a used book sale Feb. 13.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. event will be held at the library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The sale includes hardbacks and paperbacks, fiction and nonfiction, children's books, biographies, recipe books, home decorating and more.

Proceeds will go toward items to be used at the library.

FRIENDS also is holding its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 at the library. The community is invited to attend.

**LLSWD hosts conference**

The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District is helping host an annual Eastern Washington and North Idaho Regional Lakes Conference in early February.

The free annual conference, held this year on Feb. 6, brings local residents and lake associations together to discuss lake and watershed issues. This year's theme is "Making a Difference in Lake and Watershed Management."

Also hosted by the Spokane Community College Water Resources Program, the ninth annual conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Spokane

**See BRIEFS, page 5**

## WATERSHED WATCH

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- Citizen Involvement

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COMMUNITY

BRIEFS

Continued from page 4

Community College Lair, Student Union Building, 1810 N. Greene St. in Spokane.

For more information, contact LLSWD Lake Protection Manager BiJay Adams at 922-5443, ext. 230, or [bijay@libertylake.org](mailto:bijay@libertylake.org).

RSVP to Adams by Feb. 1.

**'Lightning Thief' party at library**

Celebrate the release of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

The movie release party is at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The event will include games, trivia, activities and a chance to win movie passes. Come dressed as your favorite character.

For more information, contact Tracy at 232-2510.

**Tickets on sale for WSU game**

The city of Liberty Lake is offering discounted tickets to a Washington State University basketball game in Pullman on Feb. 20.

Tickets are available for \$10 each to

the 2 p.m. game featuring WSU Cougars versus USC Trojans. Ticket-holders are responsible to provide their own transportation to the game.

The deadline to order tickets is Feb. 7. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.libertylakewa.gov/recreation](http://www.libertylakewa.gov/recreation).

For more information, call City Hall at 755-6726.

**Breakfast to benefit CV grads**

A pancake breakfast to benefit the Central Valley High School Graduation Night 2010 will be held Saturday at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar on Pines Road in Spokane Valley.

Tickets for \$6 will be sold in advance by calling Robin Brown at 999-8134 or available for purchase at the door.

The breakfast will be from 8 to 10 a.m.

**Free car seat check offered**

The Spokane Regional Health District is sponsoring a free car seat check Saturday in Liberty Lake.

A certified child passenger safety technician will inspect car seats from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at George Gee, 21502 E. George Gee Ave.

For full list of community briefs, visit [www.libertylakesplash.com](http://www.libertylakesplash.com).



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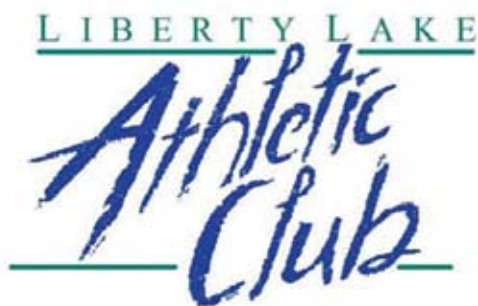
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## NEWS

# Group appeals Lancaster rezoning



SPLASH FILE PHOTO

The view from the south at the Lancaster property is shown in this photo. The Spokane County Commissioners recently approved a zoning change for the 3.6 acres.

## CAUSE objects to lakefront property change

By Hope Brumbach  
SPLASH EDITOR

A local citizen group has appealed a decision by the Spokane County Commissioners to rezone a hotly debated 3.6-acre lot on the north shore of Liberty Lake.

Earlier this month, CAUSE, an organization of local residents concerned with development in the Liberty Lake watershed, filed the appeal with the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

"What I marvel at (is) how many people were against it," Steve Shirley, CAUSE president and a Liberty Lake resident, said of the commissioners' rezoning decision. "I feel they've thumbed their nose at all these people who have had input."

In December, the commissioners approved a change from rural traditional zoning to a low-density residential for the property, which has been owned for more than 50 years by Liberty Lake's Lancaster family.

The decision went against the recommendation of the county's planning commission and against vocal opposition by neighbors and others, who said they were concerned about the precedent set by the rezoning and the environmental impact of such a development on the lake.

Commissioner Mark Richard said in December that the application was approved with the stipulation that a development agreement be reached between Spokane County and Lancaster Enterprises LLC, requiring the Lancasters to follow through

with their stated intention of separating the parcel into no more than five lots used specifically for single-family residences.

A low-density residential zone normally can include as many as six units per acre. Richard also said he would ask the family to consider limiting building height to one-story on the property.

Richard said in December that one reason the commissioners didn't come to the same conclusion as the planning commission was that the planners "kind of wrangled with issues that are really supposed to be wrangled with at the building permit phase." Capital facility concerns can be expressed once the application reaches that phase, he said last month.

Richard said he discussed the application with the county's legal counsel and determined that approval "met the test of the law" and thereby would not set a legal precedent. As far as a political precedent, Richard said the property is so unique it would be rare to find another that could be approved citing the same case commissioners used in this instance.

The CAUSE group, however, disagrees.

"It is opening the door. Land uses are established by precedent," Shirley said. "Four houses will not be the end of the lake; it's what if that happens at Sandy Beach?"

The Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board is holding a pre-hearing conference with the involved parties early next month. From the day the appeal is filed, the board has six months to issue a decision, if the case runs its course, according to a board representative.

Richard and the Lancaster family could not be reached for comment regarding the appeal.

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PROFILES

# KAMINSKAS

Continued from page 2

**Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge to you personally as a city official?**

**A:** I think the biggest obstacle is making sure I fully understand both sides of an issue before voting.

**Q: You've talked a lot about your goals for the city. Could you summarize the top-three issues you'd like to address?**

**A:** I guess the first would be to manage business and residential growth so that they support each other's success. Anything beyond that is hard to say. I'm not coming into this with an ax to grind or a chip on my shoulder about any issue. For now, I want to get my feet wet and take things as they come. I'd like to hear from residents and businesses to understand what the biggest things are that they want to see addressed.

**Q: What was your backup plan if you weren't chosen for the Council?**

**A:** I would have volunteered with Friends of Pavillion Park if this hadn't worked out. They're a great asset to this community and are an important part of attracting people from beyond the community's borders. I probably would have run again (for City Council) in 2011, maybe depending on who was running again, circumstances, which positions were up for election.

**Q: Tell a little about your current position with KeyTronic. What was your career path leading to your current employment?**

**A:** I started as a Program Manager in electronics contract manufacturing 16 years ago when I lived in Tampa, Fla. I've worked for three different facilities in that time frame under six different corporate owners. I moved from Cincinnati in 2006 to take the job

at KeyTronic as senior program manager. I wasn't looking for a new position, it just came up and it was a great fit. I see it as another one of those "everything happens for a reason" moments in my life. On a daily basis I work with engineers, buyers, quality, planning and manufacturing personnel both at KeyTronic and at my customer to make sure a project is completed on time, meets financial goals and exceeds the customer's quality expectations.

**Q: Could you share some-**

**thing that most people in Liberty Lake wouldn't readily know about you?**

**A:** Not too long ago I was an excellent pianist and vocalist. Unfortunately, I haven't spent much time lately keeping up those skills.

**Q: This is a session of "would you rather." I'll give you two scenarios, and you choose which one you prefer.**

**Would you rather boat on Liberty Lake or relax on the beach?**

Relax on the beach

**Would you rather dine out or cook at home?** I don't really cook

**Would you rather take a road trip or travel to a destination location?** Road trip with no plans

**Would you rather watch a movie at home or host a party for friends?** Watch a movie

**Would you rather drink coffee or a soda?** Diet Coke — I don't like coffee

**Would you rather attend the Winter or Summer Olympics?**

Summer

**Would you rather eat Mexican or Italian food?** Definitely Italian

**Would you rather read classic literature or a murder mystery?** Murder mystery

**Would you rather live without a car or a cell phone?** If I pick the cell phone, can I have a horse?

**Would you rather follow American Idol or the NFL?** Probably NFL



Dawn M. Swanson, MD

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# Did you know?

## 10 facts about Liberty Lake



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROSS SCHNEIDMILLER

Holiday Hills ski resort operated in the 1970s on what now is called Legacy Ridge. One ski lift accessed three runs: beginner, intermediate and advanced.

**By Hope Brumbach**  
SPLASH EDITOR

Did you know the county's garbage used to pile up near the hill at Country Vista Apartments?

That skiers once swished down the slopes on the hilltop now known at Legacy Ridge?

That developers planned to construct a regional mall on the Safeway site long before Spokane Valley built its shopping mall?

Liberty Lake is a community rich with history and interesting factoids, and in honor of those times gone by, here is a list of 10 tidbits — some well-known and not-so-well-known — about Liberty Lake (which once was called Lake Grier).

### 1. Ironman Coeur d'Alene used to loop through Liberty Lake

Most residents likely will remember that the grueling Ironman race in neighboring Idaho once looped through Liberty Lake on the route to 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking and 26.2 miles of running.

The bike course swept through the northeast corner of the community along Appleway Avenue and closed the roadways to other traffic.

In 2007, Ironman switched course to the north, rerouting the bike portion of the event to Hayden. Post Falls city officials had asked for reimbursement for extra city services used during the race, and some race participants said the course interest and variety could be improved.

The race director called the Hayden course better and safer.

### 2. Liberty Lake once was known as Lake Grier

U.S. Army Col. George Wright (more on him later) led battles against Native Americans living in the Liberty Lake area in the mid-1800s. After winning his best-known battle in 1858, he named Lake Grier (what is now called Liberty Lake) in honor of Maj. William Nicholas Grier, who led battles elsewhere in the region.

The name didn't stick, however. Settlers who came to the area following the Civil War disregarded the military's designation. Liberty Lake is named after Stephen E. Liberty, who homesteaded in 1871 near the lake, along with other settlers. Liberty carried mail over the Mullan Trail in its early days and also served as a guide.

### 3. A regional shopping mall once was proposed for Liberty Lake

In the 1980s, Cafaro Co. out of Youngstown, Ohio, proposed a regional shopping mall for Liberty Lake. The proposed \$60 million project on more than 100 acres stalled, however, after a series of lawsuits mired it down in the spring of 1987.

Opponents of the project, which would have been located on the present Safeway site and Liberty Lake Commerce Center, said the developers needed to prepare an environmental impact statement.

When first proposed in 1986, the project was supposed to be 907,000 square feet and expected to provide more than 1,600 jobs, according to newspaper archives.

### 4. Col. George Wright slaughtered hundreds of horses near Liberty Lake

One of the most traumatic acts in the mid-1800s war between the U.S. government and Native Americans in the Inland Northwest occurred near Liberty Lake.

U.S. Army Col. George Wright, commanded to win decisively against the Native Americans, instructed his soldiers to slaughter about 800 horses belonging to the tribes of the area, according to historical accounts.

The animals were killed Sept. 8 and 9, 1858, along the banks of the Spokane River. Even 50 years later, the physical evidence was still there, with bleached bones of the horses spotted along the river.

Wright wrote of the act: "I deeply regretted killing those poor creatures, but a dire necessity drove me to it."

In 1946, an 8-foot granite marker was



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

A monument commemorating the slaughtering of about 800 horses in the mid-1800s is located along the Centennial Trail due north of First Liberty Apartments about one mile east of the true location of the incident. The monument was moved in 1964 from its original placement in 1946.

installed along the river to commemorate the spot. It later was moved in 1964 about a mile east of the true location.

### 5. A garbage dump operated near Liberty Lake's Country Vista Apartments

A 45-acre open-pit dump operated for decades in the hills near Liberty Lake, south of Interstate 90 and a mile west of Liberty Lake.

The Greenacres dump, near the hill now occupied by Country Vista Apartments, closed in the early 1970s.

**See FACTS, page 10**



An open-pit garbage dump used to operate for decades about a mile west of Liberty Lake before it closed down in the early 1970s.

STOCK PHOTO



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## COVER STORY

## FACTS

Continued from page 8

In 1979, a drinking well downhill from the dump was contaminated by industrial solvents and heavy metals, according to newspaper accounts. The well did not draw from the Spokane Rathdrum Aquifer.

By the early 1980s, the Greenacres dump was among the first 500 landfills to be placed on the federal Superfund cleanup list.

## 6. Legacy Ridge was once a ski resort

In the 1970s, the large hill on the west side of the city, formerly known as Carlson Hill and now known as Legacy Ridge, was used as a ski and snowmobile recreation destination.

Holiday Hills, developed by Chuck Williams, offered a lodge and restaurant, one ski lift and three runs. Liberty Lake historian Ross Schneidmiller remembers the resort making snow for the runs, which still can be seen today marking the hillside, Schneidmiller said.

An RV park with an A-frame office also



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROSS SCHNEIDMILLER

Miss Marion Bluegrass, a well-known hydroplane racing craft, jets across Liberty Lake, which was home to hydroplane racing until about the mid-1970s.

offered camping in the summer, according to historical accounts.

Due to financial difficulties, Holiday Hills closed by the end of the decade.

## 7. Liberty Lake used to host hydroplane boat races

Racing boats on Liberty Lake started in the 1900s, said Schneidmiller, the Liberty Lake historian, but the hydroplane boat racing revved up in the 1940s off of

Sandy Beach.

Some of the biggest names and boats in the sport raced across the waters at Liberty Lake at breakneck speeds.

“You could hear the roar of the hydros forever,” Schneidmiller said. “There were some of us that loved it, let me tell you.”

Schneidmiller remembers the racing coming to an end in the mid-1970s. Residents around the lake likely tired of the noise and bustle, he said.

## 8. Zephyr Lodge was rumored to be a brothel

Zephyr Lodge, now a Christian retreat center, started in the early 1900s when Charles Traeger constructed a lodge and casino on the east side of the lake adjacent to Liberty Lake County Park.

Traeger spared no expense in decorating the two-story, 20-room inn, according to a 2004 article written by Keith Yates in “Nostalgia Magazine.” Zephyr Lodge Casino, along with the dance hall, hotel and restaurant, did well. Yates wrote that music from the piano and vocalists could be heard at all hours across the lake.

Mary Floy Dolphin, whose family settled in the area around the same time, said her relatives told stories about people riding boats from the west side of the lake to Zephyr, since there were no roads to the lodge at the time.

“Liberty Lake was the place to go back in the day with its dance halls and merry-go-round,” she said in an interview with The Splash for a 2009 article. “Zephyr Lodge was known as a speakeasy way back then and a house of ill repute.”

## 9. Liberty Lake once was considered “Spokane’s Inland Seashore”

Far from being private, Liberty Lake once had half a dozen resorts operating along its banks at one time and was considered “Spokane’s Inland Seashore.”

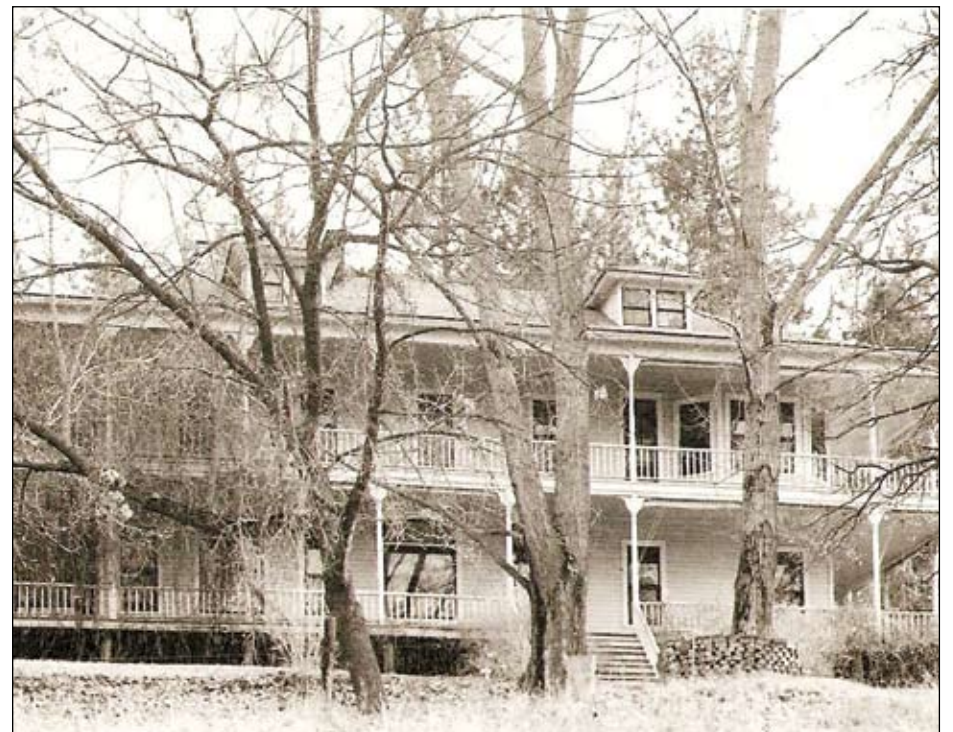
In the early 1900s, visitors could rent boats from the Liberty Lake Boat company, enjoy live band music and dancing at the pavilion, stay at resorts and enjoy all-Valley picnics. Silver City, on the site of the old Liberty Lake Park, offered a Ferris wheel, swing ride and a carousel with hand-carved wooden tigers, horses, frogs, cats and dogs. The carousel remained at the park until 1961. By 1951, according

**See FACTS, page 11**



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ROSS SCHNEIDMILLER

Holiday Hills resort was used as a ski and snowmobile recreation destination. It closed in the late 1970s due to financial difficulties. An RV park with an A-frame office also offered camping in the summer, according to historical accounts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Zephyr Lodge, now a Christian retreat center, started in the early 1900s when Charles Traeger constructed a lodge and casino on the east side of the lake adjacent to Liberty Lake County Park.

COVER STORY/NEWS

FACTS

Continued from page 10

to historical accounts, six resorts operated on Liberty Lake with four public beaches.

By the 1960s, however, many of the attractions had closed: the dance pavilion at the old Liberty Lake Park burned, the lake's water quality began to decline and by the 1970s, more resorts had closed and the Liberty Lake Park area was converted into a housing development.

In 1991, the last resort closed at Sandy Beach.

**10.** Country Vista Drive used to have a 45-mph speed limit

For newcomers to Liberty Lake, the 35-mph speed limit on Country Vista Drive west of Liberty Lake Road might not seem abnormal.

But less than two years ago, the road



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A 1913 Herschell-Spillman Carousel graced Liberty Lake Park from 1923 to 1961. Today, it is still in use on the campus of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

that some residents have termed "the tarmac," stretching between Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley, sported a 45-mph speed limit. City officials changed that in 2008, citing the need for consistency and

safety, especially as development along the road continues to build.

Some residents were not pleased, complaining that the lower speed limit was unnecessary and inconvenient.

POLICE

Continued from page 3

a history of drug use and possession of loaded handguns, according to the police report.

• **Suspended license** — A 32-year-old Greenacres man was arrested Jan. 23 on the 22300 block of Appleway Avenue for driving with a suspended license. Officers originally were dispatched to the Zip Trip for a disorderly subject, who had yelled at store employees after pumping \$30 of gas and having no money to pay. Police found the suspect driving from the store and determined his license was suspended. A family member came to the store to pay for the gas, and the suspect was trespassing from the establishment.

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- Agency assist 1
- Animal problem 1
- Comm. vehicle inspection 1
- Car seat inspection 4
- Domestic violence 2
- Fugitive 1
- Suspicious person/circumstance 1
- Traffic offense 4

Citations:

- License and plates required 2
- Disabled parking 3
- DWLS 5
- Liability insurance 5
- Speeding violation 5
- Parking prohibited 1
- Assault IV 1
- Malicious mischief 1

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## Survey Results

Nineteen readers responded to our online survey, "Community Report Card Revisited," that was on our Web site the past three weeks. The survey, a replica of a survey of the community taken just more than a decade ago, looks at seven quality of life/service areas in Liberty Lake. Survey responders were asked to assign a letter grade to various issues within each category. Following are the results:

### 1. WATER/SEWER ISSUES

**Summary:** Really nothing but high grades in this area, particularly in water quality (14 As), sewer service (12 As) and Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Service (12 As). Stormwater runoff received the lowest grades, with almost as many Cs (8) as As (4) and Bs (5).

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** Virtually identical.

**Selected comment:** "We are very lucky to have the (LLSWD) — one of the best in the state, one of the most affordable and taking care of the environment all around us ... the watersheds, lake and river."

### 2. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

**Summary:** Sidewalks and trails and bike and pedestrian trails both scored big with 13 As. Freeway access and capacity was the worst graded in this category, receiving more Ds (6) than anything else. Survey comments referred to the lack of a traffic signal at the westbound off-ramp's intersection with Harvard and Mission as the main reason for low grades.

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** Anything related to trails received a C in 1999, revealing how far the trail system has come in the past 10 years. Another big stride forward was noted in safe traffic speeds, which received a D a decade

ago but received 11 As and Bs (against only 3 Ds and Fs) today. Mass transit received a slight upgrade to a B average from a C, but received more comments than anything else (see below).

**Selected comments:** "Would love to see light rail into Spokane in my lifetime" and "Need weekend and evening bus service to downtown."

### 3. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

**Summary:** Friends of Pavillion Park and community activities received nothing but high grades (including 13 As), while residents expressed concern for the protection of both the watershed (7 Cs) and forest/open space (6 Ds).

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** Not a lot has changed in this category in 10 years, with the only difference being the aforementioned Pavillion Park/activities item bumping from a B to an A.

**Selected comment:** "We can always improve our protection of the natural beauty that surrounds us such as the lake and the open space. Friends of Pavillion Park have done a wonderful job in creating real meaningful community events."

### 4. UTILITY SERVICE

**Summary:** Every issue in this category received every grade in the book with the exception of snow removal, which received every grade but an F. The most common concerns were street repair and cable TV service, which both received 4 Ds and an F.

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** While the grades may have been all over the board, all were markedly better than a decade ago, when nothing averaged better than a D. Perhaps the biggest step forward came in snow removal, which went from an F average to more than half of respondents marking an A or B.

**Selected comment:** "Have you looked at the street between Safeway and Albertsons? What a mess! We have these beautiful brick planters indicating the Liberty Lake border, but generally newcomers get off the freeway and turn south, seeing this patchwork stretch of road and completely bypass the brick entrance. Oy vey!"

### 5. COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Summary:** Police (14 As), school (13 As) and fire (10 As) services received some of the best grades in the entire survey. With a C-plus average, animal control services was the worst graded in a very well-received category.

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** In a notable improvement of how they were viewed a decade ago, library facilities (from F to B), police (D to A) and medical/dental services (F to B) received favorable grades.

**Selected comment:** "We have a great

school at Liberty Lake but we need more of them. A new high school, a new middle school and a new elementary school would be a great asset to the community."

### 6. PLANNING/LAND USE

**Summary:** Half of the respondents gave Ds and Fs to the quality of planning and development in Liberty Lake. When asked the quality of specific types of developments, residential had a B average while both commercial and industrial landed solid Cs. The storefront vision that reduced street setbacks (see Walgreens) and erosion of hillside land were typical reasons given for lower grades.

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** If any category fared slightly worse today than a decade ago, it was this one. The quality of planning and development went from B averages to D averages, while everything else held fairly steady.

**Selected comment:** "Hodgepodge commercial development — why no 'city center'? It's all about driving because it's so scattered."

### 7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

**Summary:** Most As? The fire district commissioners (5). Most Fs? Spokane County Commissioners (5). Most every other area of representation lived between Bs and Ds.

**Comparison to 1999 survey:** Transportation planning and the library board both left F territories for a B-minus average. Of course, the library board today is different than it was in 1999 for most of the community with the addition of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

**Selected comment:** "Too few city residents participate in city government. County residents, who want to participate, are over the line and left out."

## Letter to the Editor

### Thanks to the community

Late last year, our daughter had complex medical issues, requiring extended medical attention. Since that time, our family has been overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and graciousness of so many from our community. Assistance has come from new friends, complete strangers, neighbors, parents of classmates, many local churches and the kind staff and teachers at Liberty Lake Elementary School (what an amazing school). So many wonderful dinners just showed up.

We were raised to personally thank those who help you, and have struggled with keeping up with the sheer number of people that have come to our aid.

Please know that your efforts and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by our family. What you did mattered, a lot. We have been truly touched and blessed through your hands. Please accept our humble thanks. May God bless you all.

The Barr family  
Liberty Lake

## Ripples

### Blog for Haiti victims

Liberty Lake blogger Crystal Rodgers, who offers money-saving tips through coupons and sales, used her blog, FrugalChicLiving.blogspot.com, to raise funds for earthquake victims in Haiti.

In the days following the earthquake, she blogged that her family would donate their store savings from the week to the American Red Cross, in addition to 25 cents per comment on the post and 50 cents for every link. Her blog received 30 comments and 23 links in response to the effort.

*Ripples features interesting Liberty Lake-connected tidbits. To submit an item, e-mail editor@libertylakesplash.com.*

### About the Opinion Page

The Splash opinion page is intended to be a community forum for discussing local issues. Please interact with us by sending a letter to the editor or Liberty Lake Voices guest column for consideration.

Letters to the editor of no more than 350 words or guest columns of about 700 words should be e-mailed to editor@libertylakesplash.com or mailed to P.O. Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. A full name and telephone number must be included for purposes of verification. A photo of the author must be taken or provided for all Liberty Lake Voices guest columns.

The Splash reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Business complaints or endorsements will not be accepted, and political endorsement letters will only be accepted if they interact with issues of a campaign.

Views expressed in signed columns or letters do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its staff. Editorials, which appear under the heading "Splash Editorial," represent the voice of The Splash and are written by Publisher Josh Johnson.



## THREE CHEERS



### Cheer 1: Coach Freddie Rehkow, Central Valley Girls Basketball

Coach Rehkow has led the Lady Bears basketball squad to six straight victories and a spot all alone in first place in the GSL with a conference record of 7-1. Rehkow and the girls squad are looking to take the next step this season after bowing out in districts last year.

### Cheer 2: Joseph Guerrinha, Central Valley Basketball

CV junior Joseph Guerrinha had a big

week behind the three-point stripe in Central Valley's losses to Ferris and Gonzaga Prep. Guerrinha had seven threes over the course of the two losses and is averaging just under 10 points a game on the season.

### Cheer 3: Dan Schoultz, Central Valley Wrestling

Dan Schoultz, a sophomore who wrestles at the 285-pound weight class, is currently 7-1 in league matches while picking up six pins along the way. Schoultz's only loss has come from North Central High School.

## Scoreboard

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Standings

Team	League	Overall
Gonzaga Prep	8-1	13-1
Mead	8-1	10-4
Shadle Park	6-1	10-3
North Central	5-2	7-6
Ferris	6-3	8-6
Lewis and Clark	4-5	6-8
Rogers	3-5	7-7
University	2-6	5-8
East Valley	2-6	3-11
Central Valley	1-7	5-8
Mt. Spokane	0-8	1-13

#### Results

1/19 CV vs. Ferris	69-50	L
1/22 CV vs. Gonzaga Prep	72-36	L

Ferris	2-7	3-11
Rogers	0-8	0-14

#### Results

1/19 CV vs. Ferris	52-33	W
1/22 CV vs. Gonzaga Prep	70-56	W

### GYMNASTICS

1/21 CV vs. Mead	161.475-148.0	L
1/21 CV vs. Mt. Spokane	148.0-147.80	W
1/21 CV vs. Shadle Park	148.0-147.525	W
1/21 CV vs. L & C	148.0-0 NA	W

### WRESTLING

1/20 CV vs. Gonzaga Prep	47-18	W
1/21 CV vs. North Central	35-29	W

### SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 28**  
7 p.m., CV Wrestling at University

**JANUARY 29**  
5:30 p.m., CV Boys Basketball at Mt. Spokane  
7:15 p.m., CV Girls Basketball at Mt. Spokane

**JANUARY 30**  
2:45 p.m., CV Boys Basketball at North Central  
4:30 p.m., CV Girls Basketball at North Central

**FEBRUARY 2**  
5:30 p.m., CV Girls Basketball vs. Rogers  
7:15 p.m., CV Boys Basketball vs. Rogers

**FEBRUARY 4**  
5:30 p.m., CV Girls Basketball at Lewis & Clark  
7:15 p.m., CV Boys Basketball at Lewis & Clark

## CVHS Sports Roundup

### Girls continue winning streak

The Central Valley Lady Bears continued their hot start to the season, picking up two league wins and moving into sole possession of first place in the GSL. CV knocked off Ferris 52-33 behind balanced scoring, which saw Brandy Johnson leading the way with 10 points. Against Gonzaga Prep, the Lady Bears used a strong second quarter to open a 12-point halftime lead on the way to a 70-56 victory. Brooke Gallaway had a team-high 20 points, including three shots from long distance while Loree Hill added 18 points for CV, who earned their sixth consecutive win in the process.

### Boys drop two league games

The CVHS boys basketball team continued to struggle in league play last week with losses to Ferris and first-place Gonzaga Prep. Against Ferris, the Bears got off to a slow start, trailing by 12 at the half on their way to a 69-50 defeat. CV was led in scoring by Joseph Guerrinha, who had 16 points and was the only Bear in double figures.

Gonzaga Prep dominated CV from the

outset, building a 20-point halftime lead and a 37-point lead after three quarters, cruising to a 72-36 victory. Gaven Deyarmin was the only player in double digits with 12 points.

### Grapplers split league meets

The CVHS wrestling team defeated Gonzaga Prep 47-18 before dropping a close match to North Central 35-29. Against Gonzaga Prep, the team picked up pins from Dan Bentley, Conner Szott and Dan Schoultz on their way to the win. In their match with North Central, the Bears got in an early 26-10 hole and could not rally, losing their first league meet of the season.

### Gymnastics squad takes second

In a GSL meet featuring Shadle Park, Lewis and Clark, Mt. Spokane, Mead and Central Valley high schools, the Lady Bears came in second place behind Mead despite not having any gymnasts finish in the top five in the all-around competition. CV's top finisher in any of the disciplines was McKenzie Lancaster, who took third place on the beam.

# Send us your sports!

Think your results belong on the scoreboard? If you're from Liberty Lake and you play a sport, then they certainly do.

Or maybe you have a team photo you'd like to pass along.

Either way, The Splash wants submitted information from or about Liberty Lake residents.

E-mail the information to [editor@libertylakesplash.com](mailto:editor@libertylakesplash.com) or drop it by our office at 2310 N. Molter Road, Suite 305.



# Thank you for your support!

The Splash is grateful to the readers who recently supported our voluntary subscription drive. Thank you so much for championing community journalism in Liberty Lake and for backing our efforts to mail The Splash to the entire community each week.

Sincerely,  
The Splash team

# THE Splash

NEWS AND NETWORKING FOR LIBERTY LAKE

2310 North Molter Road, Suite 305 • Liberty Lake  
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CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 14

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In Biz

Papa Murphy's hosts fundraising competition for CVSD seniors

Papa Murphy's, 1334 N. Liberty Lake Road, is participating in a fundraiser to benefit Grad Night for Central Valley School District seniors.

Now through Feb. 2, store-goers can present a coupon indicating which CVSD high school — Central Valley or University — for Papa Murphy's to make a cash donation for their senior party.

The school with the most donations earns an additional pizza donation.

Papa Murphy's will donate \$3 for any family-size, \$2 for any large and \$1 for any medium pizza purchased at regular menu price during the fundraiser.

Other participating Papa Murphy's include the Spokane Valley stores, 13514 E. Sprague and 9122 E. Sprague. Coupons are

available at the stores or in the high school offices.

Group to discuss mobile platform development

The Spokane Mobile Users and Developers Group will meet at 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at Twist Café & Coffee House, 23505 E. Appleway Ave., Ste. 100 in Liberty Lake.

The group meets monthly to discuss current mobile development interests.

The Feb. 4 meeting, hosted by Liberty Lake-based Gravity Jack, features a guest speaker from phonegap.com to discuss platform development for iPhone, Android and Blackberry.

Gravity Jack preps for app launch

Gravity Jack, a custom software developer in Liberty Lake, recently announced that it raised \$250,000 in seed money for an

"augmented reality" project that will soon be released, according to a press release.

The company, headed by Liberty Lake residents Luke and Jennifer Richey, plans to patent the concepts in February for the iPhone and Android application project.

Itron nets India contract

Liberty Lake-based Itron, a maker of smart utility meter systems, reported recently that it landed its first automated water-meter reading contract in India.

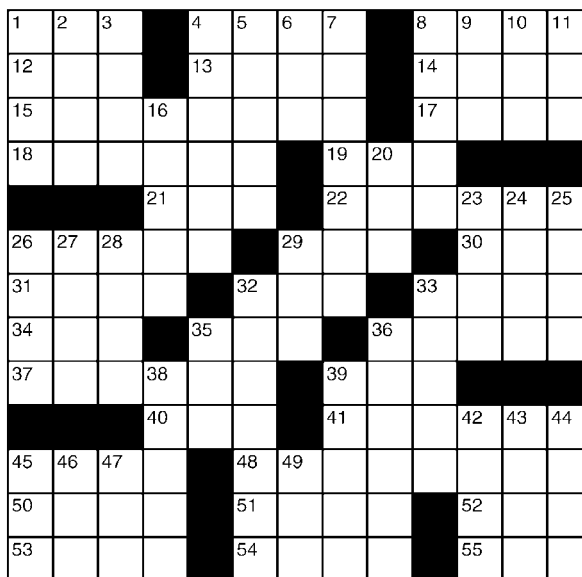
The company says it will deliver 150,000 of its meters to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai over the next two years.

In Biz features Liberty Lake-connected business and tidbits. Contact The Splash with business news items at editor@libertylakesplash.com.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Humbug!"
4 Trade
8 Leno's feature
12 Expert
13 Gyro holder
14 Fight the clock
15 Michael Jackson album
17 Previously owned
18 Shadow location
19 Honest politician?
21 Chemical suffix
22 Comic "married" to Fang
26 Sired
29 Visibility hindrance
30 Galena, e.g.
31 Ear-related
32 Indulge in pugilism
33 Check bar codes
34 "— Town"
35 Tussaud's medium
36 Stickup job
37 Extremely impressive
39 Bovine utterance
40 Sapporo sash
41 Entertained
45 Piece of work
48 German poet/



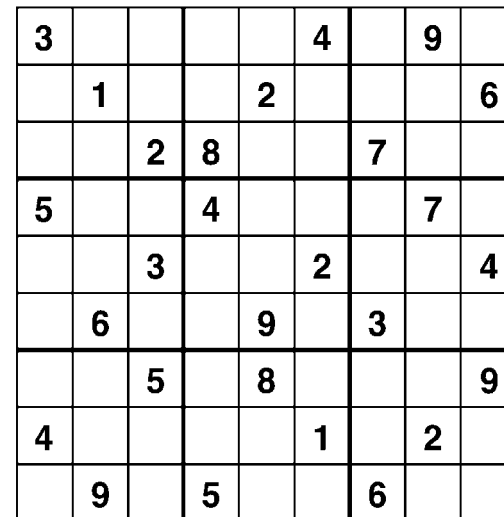
- dramatist
50 Leak slowly
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56 Dramatist
57 Inhumane
58 Possesses
59 Capades site
60 Homer's neighbor
61 Flanders
62 Of the upper hipbone
63 Huge
64 Places
65 History chapters
66 Musical based on "La Boheme"
67 Amazon.com buy
68 Needle case
69 Any of the Dionne quintuplets
70 Henhouse threat
71 Starbucks
72 employee
73 South Korean capital
74 Symbol of intrigue
75 Basis for grits
76 "The Biggest —"
77 "Real Time" moderator
78 Punch
79 Architect Saarinen
80 Plumbing problem
81 La-la preceder
82 "The Raven" writer
83 Submachine gun
84 Greek workplace

DOWN

- 1 Decrease
2 Needing liniment
3 Roll call reply
4 Immobilizer
5 Dorian Gray's creator
6 Corroded
7 Seeming contrad-

Weekly SUDOKU

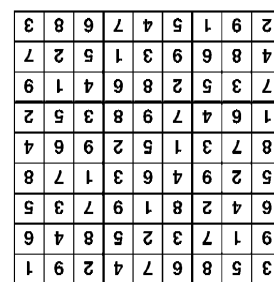
by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ HOO BOY!



THE Splash

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## Splash Travels



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Liberty Lake resident James Evans skied in British Columbia at both Red Mountain Resort and Whitewater Winter Resort and took along The Splash.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Luke Richey and his son, Rhorke, hold The Splash at the Tacoma Dome for a monster truck show.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Laura Rydell (Liberty Lake resident) and John Chalich (Bay-area resident who grew up in Liberty Lake) last summer swam SharkFest, the 1.5-mile swim from Alcatraz to the mainland in 60-degree water. Also pictured are: Jay and Sandy Rydell, Tanya Chalich and children, Gabriele and Eli, Kyle Rydell and children, Aleah and Kaleb.

### Local Lens

Share your snapshots for The Splash's photo page.  
E-mail [editor@libertylakesplash.com](mailto:editor@libertylakesplash.com) with scenes from around town, community events and Splash Travels.

## Then and Now



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ROSS SCHNEIDMILLER



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOE HAMILTON

At top: Members of the Spokane Skating Club enjoy the ice of Liberty Lake near crown point (on west side of lake), circa 1922. Charlie Young, the owner of the general store in Liberty Lake at the time, pulled his stage coach onto the ice to serve refreshments.

Above: Liberty Lake transformed into a icy scene this winter, with residents taking to the lake for ice skating recreation.

## AAU hoopsters



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Emerald City Smoothies fourth-grade girls AAU basketball team won first place in the Santa Slammer basketball tournament in December. They won second in the Boo Ball tournament in October. Pictured are (Liberty Lake residents in **bold**): (back row) **Madison Papich**, **Kelsey Gumm**, Megan Stark, Hailey Christopher, **Bryn Anderson** and Claire Dingus; (front row) Abby Gennett, **Carissa Ball**. Not pictured are coaches Tom Dingus and **Ron Anderson**.