

A recipe for **YES**

Conceived by listening, learning, proponents believe CV bond has ingredients for success **PAGE 12**



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LLSWD's utilitarian utility man

Skipworth shares vast experience with board

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

As someone who has spent most of his professional life in the water industry, Steve Skipworth understands the importance of a ripple effect.

He saw it at Vera Water and Power where he worked for 32 years, rising to the rank of director of operations for a utility widely respected for its quality customer service and community involvement. He found a similar degree of accountability at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District when he was appointed to replace Harley Halverson on the Board of Commissioners in 2007, joining an effort recognized on a national scale for its priority on water protection and environmental stewardship.

Skipworth has run alone on ballots in 2008 and 2013 following his appointment as commissioner. He is now in the second year of his second six-year term.

A native of Spokane, Skipworth grew

up in the Spokane Valley area and graduated from Central Valley High School in 1968. He moved on to Eastern Washington University, where he earned a degree in Industrial Technology Construction in 1972.

In 1974, Skipworth was hired by Vera Water and Power, a publicly owned utility that provides water and electricity to approximately 10,000 residents of Spokane Valley. Vera's roots go back to 1907 with a hand-dug well that was the source of irrigation for area farms and orchards. Skipworth called the utility home until his retirement in 2006.

Skipworth and his wife, Jill, are proud parents of two sons, both graduates of CVHS and EWU. They also have five grandchildren. Jill taught in the Central Valley School District for 33 years and is now retired, leaving more time for home design and construction. Steve and Jill have designed three of their homes and built two of them.

The Splash caught up with Skipworth recently to talk about watershed protection, the legacy of LLSWD and the realities of running alone on a commissioner's ballot.

Q. How did your experience at Vera Water and Power prepare you for your duties as LLSWD commissioner?

A. Two ways. First was the 32 years in the public utility business that gave me the knowledge to know the workings and operation of a public utility district. Second was that I had 19 years working directly with and for a district board. With over 40 years in the industry, not much surprises me anymore.

Q: What did you know about LLSWD before you became a commissioner?

A: The water industry in the Spokane area is a tight group. We work together in many ways. Because of that and because I lived in the Liberty Lake community, I was friends with LLSWD's (then) General Manager, Lee Mellish. I had been to the district office a number of times for meetings and to visit with Lee.

Q: Being a commissioner is an elected position. Other than a few races over the past decade, we really haven't seen much competition on the ballot,



NewsMaker Q&A

including the last two that you've appeared on. Why do you think?

A: I'm not sure. Hopefully the community has trust in the board. I know when we had to fill a board position after Commissioner Frank Boyle passed, we had five outstanding applicants.

Q: You took over for a well-respected leader in Harley Halverson, whose roots go back to Hewlett Packard and the early days of development in the Liberty Lake area. How challenging was that transition?

A: I had met Harley and knew what an outstanding person he was. I knew I couldn't replace the history he had with the district and the Liberty Lake community. Tom Agnew and Frank Boyle lived on and by the lake as did Harley. I felt that the lake was in good hands with them on the board. What I wanted to do was hopefully represent the folks within

See SKIPWORTH, page 4

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NEWS

SKIPWORTH

Continued from page 2

the city of Liberty Lake. That doesn't mean that I feel more city than lake. I have always felt that we are a community and have always made decisions that I thought was best for the people of the Liberty Lake community.

Q: Speaking of transitions, the district has had its share of change in the last few years with Frank Boyle passing away in 2012 and Lee Mellish retiring in 2013. How do you think LLSWD has handled these major shifts in leadership?

A: We have been blessed to have had two outstanding people step forward. Commissioner Kottayam "Nata" Natara-jan is great. He really cares for the people and the community of Liberty Lake. He adds a lot to the board. Our new General Manager BiJay Adams was promoted from our lakes and water resource manager position with 10 years with the district. He also has been great. Because of them, the transitions have gone well. For Tom and I, we feel pretty lucky that the transitions have brought few challenges.

Q: Last year, the district was heavily involved in the debate over the proposed installation of ground source heat pumps at the Lakemore development in the eastern part of the city. The developer, Whitewater Creek, ended up withdrawing its application near the end of 2014. Looking back, how would you rate the district's response to this issue?

A: When the district found out what the developer was planning on doing with regards to the ground source heat pump system, we didn't have a choice but to get involved. When we found out that they were look-

ing at penetrating the aquifer, steps were taken to take control. Aquifer protection is very high on our list of responsibilities, and we were concerned with the potential of contamination of our sole source of drinking water. That is why we assumed lead agency status. I have been to a few meetings both at the local and state level since where we have been discussing this situation.

Q: As a native of the area, what are you most proud of when it comes to themes like water protection and environmental stewardship?

A: Over the years, I have been able to see what many communities have to do to produce safe drinking water. We are so fortunate to have a clean reliable source of drinking water in our community. I want people to be able to live their lives without worrying about if their drinking water is safe. To do that, we need to be responsible for the environment we live in. I am very proud of the people of our community with helping us protect what we have.

Q: The district is working on the second phase of an upgrade to your wastewater treatment plant. How do you feel this is progressing and do you think the new facility will be able to meet the stringent standards that will be required by 2021?

A: We are on schedule for the upgrade of the reclamation plant. The numbers show that we will be close with what technology is available. I'm concerned with being able to attain the quality of effluent coming from plant that the Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency are asking of us. We all are concerned with the environment, but to the level that is attainable and financially responsible.



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

Steve Skipworth has served on the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Board of Commissioners since 2007, when he replaced longtime Commissioner Harley Halverson. A native of Spokane and graduate of Central Valley High School, Skipworth worked 32 years for Spokane Valley-based Vera Water and Power. He is pictured above at LLSWD headquarters next to a photograph of Liberty Lake, circa 1982.

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Q: The district and the city of Liberty Lake have had a roller coaster relationship since incorporation became official in August 2001. While things appear cordial now, do you think there are still any residual effects from the city trying to take over LLSWD over a decade ago?

What is it: The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District is a lead organizer of this free conference covering topics like student research, state programs, local stewardship and invasive plants and animals. Call for more info at 922-5443 or register online at lakesconference.libertylake.org.

A: I hope we have moved on. The city and district each have certain responsibilities to the people of our community of Liberty Lake. Today we work well together. The city and district staffs are communicating and know they need to serve the people.

Q: Those familiar with the

history of LLSWD know it began with a grassroots effort to save Liberty Lake in the early 1970s, but it's clear this focus is ongoing. Last fall, the district worked with Spokane County to install three new units that filter out toxins from the lake. How would you describe overall lake health on the district's current priority list?

A: We can't ignore any of our responsibilities. We have comprehensive plans in place that give us a view of our needs for the future for our sewer, water and lake departments. Funding is always a concern, but we can't ignore our community needs or requirements. We have a very good lake manager who keeps us in the loop on not only the health of the lake but what is happening within its watershed.

News Briefs

Crashes cause pileup on I-90

Traffic on I-90 just east of Liberty Lake was reduced down to one lane in each direction Jan. 14 due to two separate crashes.

The first collision started around 9 a.m. in the east-bound lanes when a driver reportedly did not check his blind spot prior to changing lanes. When debris from that crash crossed the median and hit a car traveling west, it caused a chain reaction near the stateline area.

The interstate was backed up for several hours until late morning as Washington State Patrol troopers sorted out the accidents involving nine cars. Three people were taken to the hospital, but no serious injuries were reported.

Return ballots by Feb. 10

Registered voters have until Feb. 10 to return their ballots for the February special election on measures for several local

school districts as well as the Spokane Valley Fire Department.

Central Valley School District is asking voters to pass a capital improvement and construction bond that would raise nearly \$122 million without raising taxes (due to the expiration of a previous bond). In addition, West Valley and Freeman School Districts are putting forward replacement levy requests that would be continuations of current levies that will expire at the end

of 2015 without voter approval.

The Spokane Valley Fire Department is also seeking to extend its Maintenance and Operation Levy for four years, 2016-2019. More information can be found at www.spokanevalleyfire.com.

Voters who did not receive a ballot during the final week of January can contact the Spokane County Elections Office at 477-2320. For more information, go to www.wei.sos.wa.gov/county/spokane.

February is Dental Discount Month

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NEWS

Police Report

The following items were reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department from Dec. 22 to Jan. 26. They are listed in chronological order.

Incidents and arrests

• **Suspicious circumstance** — At 9:44 a.m. Dec. 23, LLPD responded to a hotel located at the 2300 block of North Madson Road for a suspicious circumstance. A guest who had recently left told the maids to throw away his clothes. While cleaning the room, the maid reportedly found a weapon. An officer arrived to take custody of the weapon, and it was found to be an air soft pistol.

• **Reckless driving** — A man was arrested at 1:15 p.m. Dec. 25 at Mission Avenue and Drummond Road for reckless driving. He was driving at speeds of 70 mph in a posted 35 mph zone when he passed an officer. The officer activated his emergency lights, and the vehicle continued at a high rate of speed toward a couple out walking their dog. The vehicle then slowed and turned abruptly pulling onto the shoulder and up onto a curb. The man refused to speak to officers and was booked into jail.

• **Burglary** — At 9:06 a.m. Jan. 5, LLPD received a report of an occupied burglary at the 23000 block of East Boone. A

Calls for service

Abandoned vehicle	1
Agency assist	1
Alarm	3
Animal problem	1
Assault	1
Burglary	3
Child abuse or neglect	1
Citizen assist	2
Citizen dispute	2
Disorderly conduct	3
Domestic violence	1
Drug sale/manufacturing	1
DUI	1
Fugitive	3
Impounded vehicle	1
Malicious mischief	2
Missing person	1
Not classified	5
Parking problem	1
Property theft	4
Suspicious person/circumstance	10
Traffic offense	23
Trespassing	1

Vehicle prowling	1
Vehicle theft	1
Weapons offense	1
Welfare check	1

Citations

Allowing unauthorized driver	2
Defective muffler	1
Display registration (snowmobile)	1
Driving without a license	3
DUI	2
DWLS	24
Expired registration	4
Fugitive	1
Ignition interlocks	2
Liability insurance	8
Licenses and plates required	1
Refusal to give info to police	1
Resisting arrest	1
Speeding	14
Transfer of ownership	2
Use of cell phone	1

— Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department, Dec. 29 to Jan. 26

man reported that sometime during the night of Dec. 29, an unknown person had entered the home through a door to the backyard, walked through the home while his family was sleeping, taken a duffel bag with miscellaneous items, then proceeded to the garage where a bike estimated at \$300 was taken.

• **Trespassing** — At 6:51 a.m. Jan. 13, LLPD responded to a trespassing call at the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive. A complainant reported a male sleeping near the entrance. An officer made contact with the man, who reported he was homeless and had been sleeping at the location for a couple months. The officer advised him the business requested he be trespassed, and the subject headed towards Spokane Valley on foot.

• **Vehicle prowling** — At 3:29 p.m. Jan. 15, LLPD responded to a vehicle prowling at the Harvard Road Trailhead. A man reported someone broke the passenger side window out of his vehicle and took a diaper bag containing two wallets, for an estimated loss of \$370.

• **Pursuit and arrest** — A 22-year-old Post Falls man was arrested at 12:41 p.m. Jan. 16 at the 2300 block of North Madson Road. An officer was dispatched after a complainant reported a man had stolen a master room key to the hotel and was going room to room taking items. An officer arrived and spoke to the subject, who was being detained by an employee at the time. When he was asked to stand, he became agitated and jumped out of the second-story window. The officer gave chase and located the man at a nearby RV center, where he began darting in and around

vehicles. The officer was able to take the man into custody, where a large amount of methamphetamine, two full magazines and drug paraphernalia was found. A short time later, a fully loaded handgun was found that the man had thrown into the grass nearby sometime during the altercation. He was transported to an area hospital for injuries he sustained from jumping out of the window and was later transported to the Spokane County Jail.

• **Disorderly conduct** — At 1:30 p.m. Jan. 17, LLPD responded to East Appleway Avenue and North Meadowwood Lane for a disorderly conduct. The complainant reported a man with brown hair, a black leather jacket and black teeth asked him for money. When the complainant denied the request, the subject started jumping up and down making strange sounds and yelling. Upon officer arrival, the subject had left the area.

• **Hit and run** — A man was arrested at 10:49 a.m. Jan. 20 for a hit and run traffic accident. A complainant had reported his vehicle was struck sometime during the weekend while parked on the side of the road. Pieces of the suspect vehicle were found and collected at the scene. On Jan. 20, an officer was driving and spotted a vehicle missing pieces consistent with those found at the scene. The man was pulled over and placed under arrest for hit and run.

• **Vehicle theft** — At 7:49 a.m. Jan. 22, LLPD was dispatched to the 24000 block of East Desmet Road for a vehicle theft. A man reported his work-issued vehicle was stolen from his driveway sometime during the night.



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NEWS

Council divided on proposed changes to sign code

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

The message resonated as if printed in blinking, neon font — the Liberty Lake City Council is far from a consensus on any alterations to the municipal sign code.

The Jan. 20 council meeting featured a long-awaited list of recommendations from Studio Cascade, a consulting firm hired by the city last year to review opinions of the existing sign code and compile recommendations for possible changes. City Administrator Katy Allen began the workshop with a brief summary of the city's official take on signage that emphasizes "quality of life, the environment and economic vitality," while finding a middle ground between the priorities of residents and the marketing realities of local businesses.

While establishing "the harmony of architectural design and greenspace" may be the city's lofty vision when it comes to sign regulations, achieving it may prove to be more problematic than first imagined. Chaz Bates of Studio Cascade reminded council on Jan. 20 that the company had been charged to lead a process that involved "studying the code, understanding the issues, recommending direction and amending the code, if necessary."

The recommended direction includes allowing free-standing electronic changeable signs along Interstate 90 and similar monument signs on major arterials like Appleway and Country Vista. A pair of electronic changeable signs, owned and operated by the city, would promote community events. Also advised is a clarification on the standards and locations of wall signs. Any new signs would need to adhere to current standards outlined in the sign chapter of city's comprehensive plan.

Studio Cascade consulted with a stakeholder group of around 30 that included members of the City Council and the community development committee, citizen volunteers, the city planning commission and representatives of the business community. A public workshop was held at City Hall last September to gather feedback. The planning commission voted in support of Studio Cascade's recommendations at its meeting on Jan. 14.

"The consensus we got was that it is time for Liberty Lake to catch up with technology," Charles Matthews of the planning commission told council on Jan. 20. Matthews added that many of the current signs around town are "almost illegible."

City Council Member Bob Moore, a former member of the planning commission, expressed concern that a preponderance of electronic changeable signs would disrupt the established aesthetic standards that now define Liberty Lake.

"It seems to me that if we're saying there can be a multitude of electronic changeable signs, it would be contradictory to the purpose section of the sign code," Moore said. "There are a few places where these signs would be great, but I can't see opening up the floodgates to do that."

Moore suggested some electronic changeable signs might be considered on a variance basis.

"I haven't seen businesses clamoring at these meetings for electronic changeable signs," Moore said.

Council Member Shane Brickner voiced support for the recommendations, saying that he talks to residents from time to time about new businesses in the city but often finds "they don't know where they are."

Council would need to initiate an amendment process to the sign code by the beginning of April to have any potential changes take effect. Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskis said she would like the city to gather more feedback before moving forward.

"The people who live here need to have a say in what their city looks like," Kaminskis said.

Others around the dais, such as Council Member Keith Kopelson, said such input should have been gathered already along with examples of what the new signage would look like. Studio Cascade contracted with the city for around \$25,000 to complete the study.

"I was hoping for something more substantial," Kopelson said.

A number of citizens spoke in favor of amending the code on Jan. 20, including Jordan Dummitt of Liberty Lake-based Rn'R RV, who said it would appreciate being able to include multiple RV manufacturers on signage that would draw customers off I-90. Katherine Morgan, new CEO of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, also voiced support for code changes that would allow businesses to broaden their marketing efforts.

Steve Kempf of Liberty Lake-based Mountain Dog Sign Co. urged council to include each of the recommended options in their amendment initiative so all those

See COUNCIL, page 9

IN THE BOOKS, ON THE DOCKET

A look back and ahead at news from City Hall

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

In the Books (January)

- On Jan. 6, Council heard an update on the return of Liberty Lake Days, the community celebration that originated in 2010 but was discontinued after 2013. The festivities earned a \$30,000 earmark in the 2015 budget. This year's event, renamed "Barefoot in the Park," is set for July 24-26 and will be combined with a popular barefoot soccer tournament that has been held the last two summers. The revised agenda will include a "Taste of Liberty Lake" culinary competition, vintage car show, historical display, kayak demonstrations, food, vendors and more.

- City Administrator Katy Allen told council that the snowfall on Jan. 4 prompted clearing of every street in the city at a cost of \$4,700. The city is also looking at acquiring a new tractor that would replace an aging rendition and address clearing in parking lots and on local trails.

- Allen reported on the update to the city's comprehensive plan, a municipal blueprint for building and development. Council approved a scope of services and fee schedule for Greg Dorhn & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$29,978 to address the work. Dorhn served as a consultant for the city of Spokane Valley on its comprehensive plan and comes "highly recommended," according to Allen.

- Allen told council that deficient lighting issues — blinking beacons at the new pedestrian crossings and a power outage affecting the lights at Pavillion Park — would be addressed and covered by warranty.

- The city placed a copy of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan on its website — www.libertlakewa.gov — on Jan. 14. Citizens are encouraged to review the document and forward comments to municipal staff prior to final approval later this year.

- Mayor Steve Peterson presented a certificate of appreciation to Larry Rider, deputy chief of support services with the Spokane Valley Fire Department on Tuesday. Rider began his career with SVFD in 1980 and is retiring this month.

- Allen gave an overview of the region's "report card" as compiled by Greater Spokane Inc. The regional chamber of commerce has been meeting with cities, including Liberty Lake, to determine

the strengths and weaknesses of the area when it comes to economic development and drawing companies into the community. The overall grade hovered around a B average with the region earning high marks in transportation, utilities, sustainability and regulatory approaches while scoring low in business climate and incentives for companies.

- Allen gave an update on standing water at the Liberty Lake Ballfields, noting that the site's contractor has been placed on notice and could be held responsible for reparations depending on the cause of the flooding. Emphasizing "the solution will not be expensive," Allen said the city will be able to further address the situation when the weather turns warmer and drier.

- Finance Director R.J. Stevenson gave an overview of social services funding approved by council in the 2015 budget. He recommended that the governing board outline its goals and outcomes as well as a proposal and application in draft forms for community groups interested in a share of the allotted \$10,000.

- The first read took place on Jan. 20 for an ordinance that would broaden the zoning regulations for businesses that sell, process or produce marijuana-related products within city limits. A second read and a council vote was set for a special council meeting on Jan. 27, after Splash press deadline.

On the Docket (February)

- Stevenson will lead a workshop discussion on municipal purchasing policies at the Feb. 3 council meeting.

- JoAnn Jenkins, longtime permit technician and information specialist with the city, will be retiring Feb. 3. The process has begun to hire Jenkins' replacement.

- A presentation on the Rocky Hill master plan is scheduled for the Feb. 17 council meeting.

- Stevenson and Kevin Schneidmiller of Greenstone Homes will provide an update on a pair of funding mechanisms for the River District — Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) at the Feb. 17 meeting.

- Council will hear and vote on a second read ordinance regarding policies that address minors in consumption of marijuana on Feb. 17.

- The city has put a hold on a project that would add a restroom and storage facility to the ballfields property. Council will wait until the results of the Central Valley School District bond election on Feb. 10 to discuss plans that could include a community swimming pool near the fields. Council will hold a workshop on the pool at its Feb. 17 meeting.

NEWS

COUNCIL

Continued from page 8

with a stake in the discussion “will know all the things that you’re considering.”

Bates said there should be other considerations on the table, such as the allowable brightness of electronic signs and frequency of rotating messages. Studio Cascade’s list also included a stipulation that the changeable monument signs be shut down between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Council Member Dan Dunne, also a former planning commission member, said a thoughtful approach to electronic changeable signs can make all the difference.

“Design standards can make a sign not so visually distracting,” Dunne said. “We need a process of public discussion on why this is an important possible change for our city.”

Steve Skipworth, a Liberty Lake resident and commissioner with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, leaned toward a more conservative approach to signage. Skipworth pointed to the example of Scottsdale, Ariz., which has incorporated, in his words, signage “that gives a reflection of what the community is.”

“Please consider the character and aesthetics of your community,” Skipworth told council.

When the discussion subsided, Allen said she was hearing a mandate of “more time, more information” from the council. She said she would meet with Kaminskis to discuss the next steps in the process.

Pavillion Park concession stand update

In the other major workshop discussion on Jan. 20, council heard a breakdown of options for capital upgrades at Pavillion Park. SPVV Landscape Architects was commissioned by the city to generate design drawings and cost estimates on proposed improvements such as a new concession stand, expanded women’s bathroom and storage space.

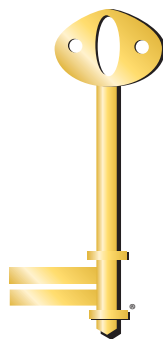
Allen told the governing board she received the report on Jan. 16 from SPVV that featured three options. The first included the addition of a concession facility on the eastern end of the current structure at a cost of \$66,000. The second scenario would expand the women’s bathroom, add a new roof to the existing building and add more storage room at a pricetag of \$180,000. The final option would include all of the improvements and run the city \$246,000.

In December, council balked at a proposal in Peterson’s original budget for 2015 that would have added a permanent concession stand for \$85,000.

Council Member Hugh Severs said the city might want to reconsider adding another storage site after a similar project at Rocky Hill Park and another one slated



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See COUNCIL, page 38



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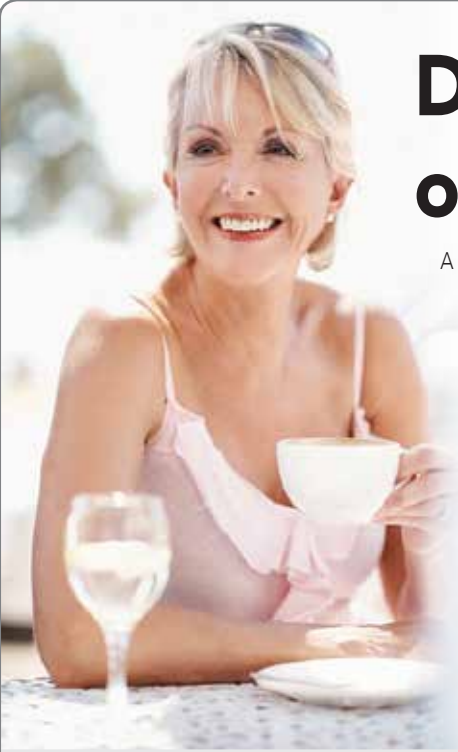
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— Dr. Timothy J. Casey
Liberty Lake resident
Member, American Dental Association



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Bond built, in part, on lessons from defeat



Superintendent Ben Small leads a groundbreaking celebrating the 25th anniversary of the district's early childhood program and its planned future home, the vacant Yokes building on Sprague. The facility would be remodeled with funds from the Feb. 10 bond.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

With an ear toward past objections, proponents think makeup of current school construction bond has ingredients needed to pass

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Listen and learn, a pupil often hears.

Proponents say leaders have listened and learned — in high volume — to blend the ingredients in a \$121.9 million Central Valley School District construction bond before voters Feb. 10.

Supporters also think this package — without raising taxes — has the ingredients needed for passage, which requires voter approval by a supermajority of 60 percent. The district hasn't received such a nod since 1998, for a \$78.1 million bond to rebuild its two high schools.

To craft the current measure, input came from more than 4,000 citizens. It took more than 18 months of planning, discussion, and analysis. The district also mulled concerns voiced during four failed bond requests, occurring from March 2003 to February 2011.

The 2015 bond package merges a list of critical projects districtwide along with safety upgrades, all while not raising taxes, said Marty Dickinson, co-chair of the Vote Yes Campaign.

"I think the No. 1 message here is the district listened to the community, meeting after meeting, to thousands of people saying this is what we want, but by the way, we don't want you to raise the tax rate," Dickinson said.

"I think if you look at the school projects, you'll see it's across our footprint. We're addressing seven existing schools, plus building a new one, plus doing some preliminary planning for a new high school. We're not just looking right in front of here; we're planning for years to come."

Residents also have urged infrastructure improvements for safety and secured-access features at schools that were built decades ago, Dickinson said.

"Chester, Ponderosa, Sunrise and Greenacres — all of those schools have significant safety issues," she said. "Layer on top of that, those schools are growing, so you have to be able to renovate and expand."

Other plans include construction of a K-2 school on land adjacent to Liberty Lake Elementary School, renovation and expansion at Evergreen Middle School, and expanded and added space for the elementary schools of Opportunity, Greenacres, Chester, Sunrise and Ponderosa.

Plans also call to renovate the former Yoke's grocery store at 16 N. Progress for the alternative Barker High School and the Early Learning Center. Funds would allow early planning for a high school at 16th and Henry; acquiring land for North Pines Middle School; adding four Summit School classrooms at the Blake facility; and replacing a gym roof at Horizon Middle School.

Turning Voter Tides

Some voters who previously voted "no" or were undecided say they plan to say "yes" Feb. 10.

Rocky Hill resident Crystal Rodgers was part of a 2011 Vote No Campaign for the previous bond because that plan would have bused neighborhood grade-schoolers away from Liberty Lake to a then-proposed elementary school at Mission and Long in Spokane Valley. This time, Rodgers says she approves of the current bond's proposal to build a K-2 school next to LLES.

Under the new plan, LLES would shift to serve grades 3 to 5. The nearby recently built city ball fields would remain intact.

"I definitely plan to vote yes this time," Rodgers said. "Most definitely this bond addresses prior concerns. This time, it means they won't send Rocky Hill kids to another school, and it's going to expand Liberty Lake Elementary."

Although some concerns linger, she said they aren't pressing enough to pull support for schools.

"I'm still concerned about the high school that needs to be built," Rodgers said. "They say they're going to talk about it right now, but it's an issue that needs to be addressed."

Central Valley resident Rosemarie Bisiar, who attended a Jan. 15 bond meeting at

See BOND, page 13

Do you support the Central Valley School District bond issue and why?

Question posed to residents at various public locations in Liberty Lake



Ty Fowler,
Central Valley resident

Yes, because I like supporting schools. I voted yes the last time. It will update the schools that need to be updated.



Lara Tebo,
Liberty Lake resident

Absolutely Yes. I have three kids: one in high school, one in middle school, and one in elementary school. The schools have been overcrowded so long that we

can't support keeping kids in Liberty Lake and they're getting bused out. We also need to keep up maintenance on schools that are falling apart.



Leland Staley,
Liberty Lake resident

I think so, yes, because if you don't have good education, you have to incarcerate them, and it's cheaper to pay to educate. I did work at a prison and there were a

bunch of kids in their 20s there, but they weren't educated.



Jennifer Spinden,
Liberty Lake resident

Yes, because it doesn't raise our taxes. It's just a continuation of what we're already paying.



Jeanne Fredrickson,
Liberty Lake resident

I'm a little iffy but I think yes. I'd be much happier if they were building a middle school there behind Liberty Lake Elementary instead of an elementary site, but I

think schools are important.



Sowmya Surapaneni,
Liberty Lake resident

Yes, because I think that's the only way the schools will improve, especially with no taxes added. I think if this bond doesn't pass, none of the other bonds would. This

is a replacement bond. It's better for schools, especially to ease the overpopulation.

COVER STORY

Rosemarie and Christopher Bisiar of Greenacres visit with Central Valley School District Assistant Superintendent Jay Rowell at an open house at Liberty Lake Elementary School on Jan. 15. The district held three informational open houses about the bond and levy in mid-January.



SPLASH PHOTO BY TREVA LIND

BOND

Continued from page 12

Liberty Lake Elementary, was unsure about parts of the bond, but she said information gained at the session moved her toward likely voting in favor of the entire package.

“We had a couple of questions,” Bisiar said. “Evidently, they aren’t on this particular bond. We were concerned about the property for the high school, where there is no sewer and not the typical infrastructure in place, but they’re only discussing it now. I’m inclined to vote yes now.”

Amber Gilbertson has two young children and lives near LLES. She also came to view bond material.

“I’m actually really excited about this bond,” she said. “This considers the growth we’ve had, to give every kid the opportunity to go to a school in their own neighborhood.”

Liberty Lake residents Jerrol and Lori Olson also attended. Both are district employees, he as Ponderosa Elementary principal and she as an interpreter for the hearing-impaired, but they said the need for facility upgrades grew evident as their four children attended district schools.

“When our kids attended Liberty Lake Elementary, it was at capacity then,” Jerrol Olson said. Their eldest was there in 1999. “Soon after, they added two classrooms that were immediately filled. There’s been additional growth in Liberty Lake with no additional capacity.”

Lori Olson said she and her husband grew up attending Central Valley schools.

“We see the need,” she said. “Many of the school have not changed in years. The need for safety is a huge concern.”

Other 2015 bond proposals

In addition to plans for the K-2 school, proposals would open up much-needed space for students at Greenacres Middle School, the district has said, because of plans to renovate and expand Evergreen Middle School.

The K-2 Liberty Lake facility would provide space for up to 624 students to attend their neighborhood school, rather than being bused to the Barker-area Kindergarten

Center or to Broadway Elementary School.

Voter approval of the 2015 bond measure also would mean a state match at \$58 million for construction funding, said Kim Pearman-Gillman, also co-chair of the Vote Yes group.

The local tax rate would remain at \$1.96 per \$1,000 assessed value, because the current bonds that paid for Central Valley and University high schools are about to be paid off. The strong messages from voters for no increased taxes while still taking care of school infrastructure came across loud and clear to the district, Pearman-Gillman said.

“The school district took the approach of looking at what are our highest needs and prioritizing those,” Pearman-Gillman said. “They really looked at every piece of the infrastructure and also considered growth in the Valley. They considered what people want the most, while listening to people who say, ‘Take care of our schools but do it without raising taxes.’”

“That state matching funding keeps it at the same tax rate,” she added. “If we don’t pass our bond, we won’t get that \$58 million. Schools help grow our economy. It’s a top factor for people choosing to locate a business and among people who are looking for places to live.”

The Vote Yes group is sponsored by a nonprofit called Central Valley Citizens for Education. As of mid-January, opposition groups to the bond — if any — weren’t highly visible or vocal. Past objections ranged from fighting a tax increase to arguing that former plans were overwhelming.

Dickinson said the 2015 bond proposal gives answers to past and future concerns.

“This bond does what the community told us they wanted,” she said. “It comes down to we need safer facilities. We have to address a growing Central Valley School District. We’ve grown by more than 10 percent the last 10 years, and this addresses what we will need to accommodate students based on projections of another 900 students in coming years.”

“We have done our planning and homework about what we really need in the district from a facility-planning perspective, and from what’s the appetite of voters. We’re simply asking them, ‘Please renew the tax rate.’”

Bond FAQs

The following answers to frequently asked questions regarding the bond were provided by Melanie Rose, Central Valley School District spokeswoman or taken from ones already listed on the district website at www.cvsd.org.

Why a K-2 school in Liberty Lake?

Our enrollment projections tell us we need to add elementary capacity for 624 students in the eastern portion of the district. The district currently owns two elementary sites — the property in Liberty Lake and the property at Mission and Long (west of Barker in Spokane Valley). Analysis of enrollment projections and housing growth tells us that without a new school in Liberty Lake, we’d be busing 300 students away from their neighborhoods. Rather than purchasing a new elementary site in Liberty Lake, our school board listened to our community’s desire for a practical approach and decided to use the site we already own to build a new elementary school.

What about the kindergarten center?

The center currently serves all kindergarten students from Liberty Lake and Greenacres elementary schools. With the renovation and expansion of Greenacres Elementary and the addition of the K-2 school in Liberty Lake, allowing kindergarteners to return to their neighborhood schools, the Kindergarten Center would close, since it would no longer be needed. The school board will then consider options for the vacant building.

How were community concerns addressed?

Much has changed over the past four years in terms of enrollment growth and the community’s desire to improve school safety and security. As our Capital Facilities Planning Committee worked to develop a recommended package of projects for the February 2015 bond, there were several important steps taken to evaluate and analyze the needs of our district now and into the future. We commissioned a comprehensive enrollment study (available online); the availability of the former Yoke’s building allowed us to create a permanent home for Barker High School and the Early Learning Center, at a cost far less than build-

ing new schools, as well as creating space to house students during construction (see “Why Yoke’s?” online); and, we engaged in a significant virtual conversation with our community about facilities planning using the Thoughtexchange process (see “Join the Conversation” results online). The construction bond package addresses as many of these needs as possible without raising the tax rate.

Will school attendance area boundaries change?

Yes. Voter approval of the bond will necessitate boundary changes across the district. School Board Policy 3131 outlines a comprehensive process for making attendance area boundary changes that begins with the formation of district-wide committee representing all stakeholders and includes public input. The process would begin following voter approval in February 2015.

Why not just add more portables?

Portable classrooms are a temporary solution already in place at nearly one dozen Central Valley schools. Portables are costly to purchase and install — up to \$300,000 each. They are less secure than housing students inside school buildings.

How does the K-2 school tie together the property and ball fields?

The Central Valley School District worked closely with the city of Liberty Lake to develop the plan for the ball fields, with a future school in mind. Now that a K-2 school is planned for the vacant land adjacent to Liberty Lake Elementary (which will become a school serving grades 3-5), the ball fields will remain as an important community resource.

Is the district hearing much resistance to this bond, compared to the past?

We’ve been hearing a lot of positive comments about the bond proposal and have been working hard to inform and educate our community with facts and information. The bond proposal directly responds to the issues and concerns of most importance to our community, critical feedback we gathered through the Thought exchange process last spring. We’ve received strong endorsements from the city of Liberty Lake City Council (unanimous) and the Spokane Home Builders Association.

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First cards for first graders

Initiative empowers elementary students with library cards

By **Lauren Campbell**
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

According to the Learning First Alliance public education collaborative, first grade is when children define themselves as good or bad readers. That decision can follow them for life, with kids who are good readers in first grade being more likely to be in the top quartile of readers and even more likely to graduate from college.

Melanie Boerner, youth services librarian for Liberty Lake Municipal Library, is starting an initiative to encourage local students to find themselves on the positive end of that spectrum.

Over the next month, Boerner will visit first grade classrooms and explain the library to students. At the end of the presentation, each kid will receive their own library card and card holder, a symbol of independence and access to unlimited books.

Library cards can be particularly exciting for young students because they can be seen as a marker of maturity.



SPLASH PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

The Liberty Lake Municipal Library is planning an initiative to get library cards in the hands of every local first grade student.

"First grade is a turning point," Boerner said. "It's a great age to catch them and get them interested in books."

The program will include a class field trip to the library and asks each first grader to bring their family to the library twice during the year as well as participate in the Summer Reading Program. To encourage participation, incentives such as books and pencil holders will be given to the students on their first few visits to the library.

The Fallbrook Library in San Diego, where Boerner worked before coming to Liberty Lake six months ago, held a similar program. They served 1,200 students in the first year, and saw a 90 percent completion rate.

"It was wonderful to see, and I knew it would work in a small community like Liberty Lake," she said.

Outside of classroom initiatives, Boerner said that most kids who get their first library cards ask their parents to bring them to the library and sign them up, rather than it be-

ing something that the parents encourage. This, she says, is because of the excitement of having a "grown-up" card of their own.

"It's usually the first card they have that they can sign and put in their wallet," Boerner said. "I remember when I got my first library card, and it felt so adult."

Elementary school libraries often don't have a wide variety of books and other materials for kids to borrow, Boerner said, so the community library can serve as a bridge, adding more resources for children. She wants students to know that the library has more to offer than books, such as audiobooks, movies, music and online resources for future research projects they will have to do as they progress through their education.

By reaching students when they are young, Boerner hopes to encourage a life-long habit of reading.

"We're raising them to be library lovers," she said.

Book Review

Novel explores ties of depression-era characters



By **Shardé Mills**
LIBERTY LAKE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

In "Serena" by Ron Rash, a wealthy couple mercilessly build a lumber empire in the Appalachian Mountains. Newlyweds Serena and George Pemberton rule over a logging empire in North Carolina during the onset of the Great Depression. Steeped in the pursuit of money, power and greed, the couple advances their agenda at any cost—from the lives of their workers and the health of the land, to Serena's relentless hunt of



George's ex-lover, Rachel, and their infant son.

For readers who enjoy strong characters, Rash has created an ensemble cast of personalities that reveal the stark and moving reality of life during the Great Depression. They embody and exemplify the humanity behind jealousy, long-

ing, mercy and hope.

Central to the plot, Serena is a ruthless but beautiful character, who simultaneously provokes feelings of hate and fascination. Will George challenge his wife to spare the life of his son? Will Rachel escape? Is Serena too powerful to defy? Fraught with suspense, vivid imagery and a surprising ending, "Serena" is an enthralling read.

Be sure to read this captivating book before the movie release in March. The movie features Jennifer Lawrence as the alluring Serena and Bradley Cooper as her tragic but callous husband, George.

Shardé Mills is the adult services and reference librarian at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Friends hold Valentine auction

Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library is currently holding a "Be My Valentine" silent auction through Feb. 11 at the library.

Twenty Valentine baskets for that special mom, dad, wife, husband or friend are available to bid on at tables in the library. Many of these baskets are filled to the brim with gifts, and bidding starts at just \$5 on some baskets. Winners will be notified Feb. 12.

The silent auction benefits the Friends of the Library and will be used for future projects of our library. For more, call 232-2510.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jan. 30 | Women's book study 6:30 to 8 p.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. Women 18 and older can attend the study "Grace For The Good Girl" by Emily P. Freeman. It will continue on Friday nights in February. For more: 210-9779

Feb. 1-11 | "Be My Valentine" fundraiser Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Twenty Valentine baskets are available to bid on; winners will be notified Feb. 12. This silent auction benefits the Friends of the Library and will be used for future library projects. For more: 232-2510

Feb. 5, 19 | Movies at the Library 6 to 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The Feb. 5 film is based on the comics, "Guardians of the Galaxy" and the Feb. 19 feature will be "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." For more: 232-2510

Feb. 6 | VCS PreK & Kindergarten visitation 9 to 11 a.m., Valley Christian School, 10212 E. 9th Ave., Spokane Valley. For more: 924-9131 or www.valleychristianschool.org

Feb. 7, 21 | STEM-tacular Saturdays 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The balsa bridge building competition challenges kids ages 10 to 14 to design and build a model bridge that demonstrates scientific concepts. Prizes will be awarded. To register or for more: parksrec.libertylakewa.gov

Feb. 9-14 | Blind Date with a Book Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. This program is for adults and teens. For more: 232-2510

Feb. 11 | Library Resources workshop 4 to 5:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Bring your portable device to learn about the Library's eBook and eAudiobook collections. For more: 232-2510

Feb. 12 | VCS Preview Night 6:30 p.m., Valley Christian School, 10212 E. 9th Ave., Spokane Valley. For more: 924-9131 or www.valleychristianschool.org

Feb. 14 | Valentine's Day

Feb. 14 | Valentine's Day party for kids 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. This event is for kids in kindergarten through second grade. For more: 232-2510

Feb. 14 | Date Night Challenge 5 to 9 p.m., Liberty Lake Church, 704 S. Garry Road. To learn more or register kids for this free event: www.libertylakechurch.com

Feb. 16 | Presidents Day

Feb. 21 | White Night of Hope 6 p.m., Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. This white carpet, semi-formal event featuring dinner and dancing is a fundraiser for GraceSon Housing, an organization helping teen moms and their children. To register or for more: gracesonhousing.ejoinme.org/wnoh or 939-5370

Feb. 25 | Research & Beyond workshop 4 to 5:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Ever have a question you couldn't answer with a simple Google search? We will take you beyond Google and Wikipedia to help you research the best materials for your question or project. For more: 232-2510

Recurring

Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library 4 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month, Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake 6:45 a.m. Wednesdays, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22510 E. Country Vista Drive. For more: www.libertylakekiwanis.org

Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary Club Noon Thursdays, Meadowwood Technology Campus Liberty Room, 2100 N. Molter Road. For more: 922-4422

Liberty Lake Lions Club Noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Barlow's Restaurant, 1428 N. Liberty Lake Road. For more: 869-7657

Liberty Lake Municipal Library 23123 E. Mission Avenue. 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, toddler story time; 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Create space for kids; 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, preschool play; Noon Thursdays, Baby lap-sit story time; 4 p.m. Thursdays, Teen makers; 7 p.m. Thursdays, pajama story time; 10:30 a.m. Fridays, preschool story time; 4 p.m. Fridays, Lego club; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Knitting Club; 1:20 p.m. Saturdays, kids craft. For more: 232-2510

Liberty Lake Toastmasters 5:45 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave. For more: 208-765-8657

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month, Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. For more: www.pancan.org or 534-2564

Senior Lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, Talon Hills Senior Complex, 24950 E. Hawkstone Loop. Seniors age 60 and older invited; recommended donation \$3.50.

Spokane Valley Writer's Group 6:45 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of every month, Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. This supportive critique group welcomes adult writers. For more: 570-4440

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Feb. 26 | Worship Night 7 p.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. For more: 210-9779

Feb. 26 | "Nonsense A-Men!" 7:30 p.m., Spokane Civic Theater, 1020 N. Howard, Spokane. Proceeds from this performance will benefit CVHS 2015 Grad Night. Tickets cost \$35. To purchase tickets or more: 216-9607 or sorth@cvsd.org

Feb. 27 to March 15 | "American Idle: Murdering the Music" Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. During this dark comedy, contestants start going down, one by one, during the live show. For times, tickets and more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Recurring

Spokane Valley Camera Club 7:15 p.m., third and fourth Monday of the month (September through April), Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave. All levels of ability—students through experienced photographers—are invited to learn. Social events include field trips and workshops. For more: 951-1446 or www.sv-cc.org

CIVIC & BUSINESS

Feb. 12 | Keep Your Heart Healthy 11:30 a.m., Garden Plaza of Post Falls, 545 N. Garden Plaza Court, Post Falls. This free workshop with a complimentary lunch is presented by Dr. Michael Meza. To RSVP or for more: 208-773-3701

Feb. 13 | Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL) 12:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Portal, Mica Peak room, 23403 E. Mission Ave. The topic for this month is the ins and outs of taxes, what's new and what's changing. For more: www.womenexecutivesoflibertylake.com

Feb. 25 | Open House 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Garden Plaza of Post Falls, 545 N. Garden Plaza Court, Post Falls. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. To RSVP or for more: 208-773-3701

Recurring

Central Valley School board 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, CVSD administration building, 19307 E. Cataldo, Spokane Valley.

Liberty Lake City Council 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

Liberty Lake Library Foundation Noon the first Wednesday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Community Briefs

Tickets on sale for dance

Tickets are on sale for the 10th annual Father Daughter Dance to be held 7 to 9 p.m. March 7 at CenterPlace Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley.

Presented by Liberty Lake Kiwanis and the city of Spokane Valley, the theme for the night is Alice's Evening in Wonderland. Tickets are \$45 per father/daughter couple and \$20 for each additional daughter.

To purchase tickets, call 688-0300 or visit www.spokanevalley.org/recreation.

Mark calendar for egg hunt

Liberty Lake's 19th annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held 11 a.m. April 4 at Pavilion Park. Toddlers through fourth grade students are invited to participate.

Pre-registration is required due to the volume of participants. Registration for the hunt, which is \$3 or six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, will be 5 to 8 p.m. March 30 and April 2 at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. To help or for more information, contact Alisha Davis at 921-6746 or davis72205@hotmail.com.

Kiwanis scholarships available

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation is seeking candidates for its 2015 scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors or a former recipient who is continuing his/her education.

Graduating seniors from Liberty Lake, students related to a current Liberty Lake Kiwanis member, seniors from East Valley, Central Valley or West Valley school districts or other community members deemed eligible are encouraged to apply by the March 31 deadline.

Applications are available at high school counseling offices or online at www.libertylakekiwanis.org. For more information, contact Nick Nickoloff at 928-8290.

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, is currently soliciting funds for its annual club gift campaign to help the club achieve its mission of providing student scholarships, promoting social services and supporting other charitable organizations in the community. Checks can be mailed to Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 384, Liberty Lake, WA, 99019.

Liberty Lake Merchants Association

11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Liberty Lake Portal, 23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 120. For more: 999-4935

Liberty Lake Municipal Library board

10:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Liberty Lake Planning Commission 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

See CALENDAR, page 18

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5:30-7:30pm

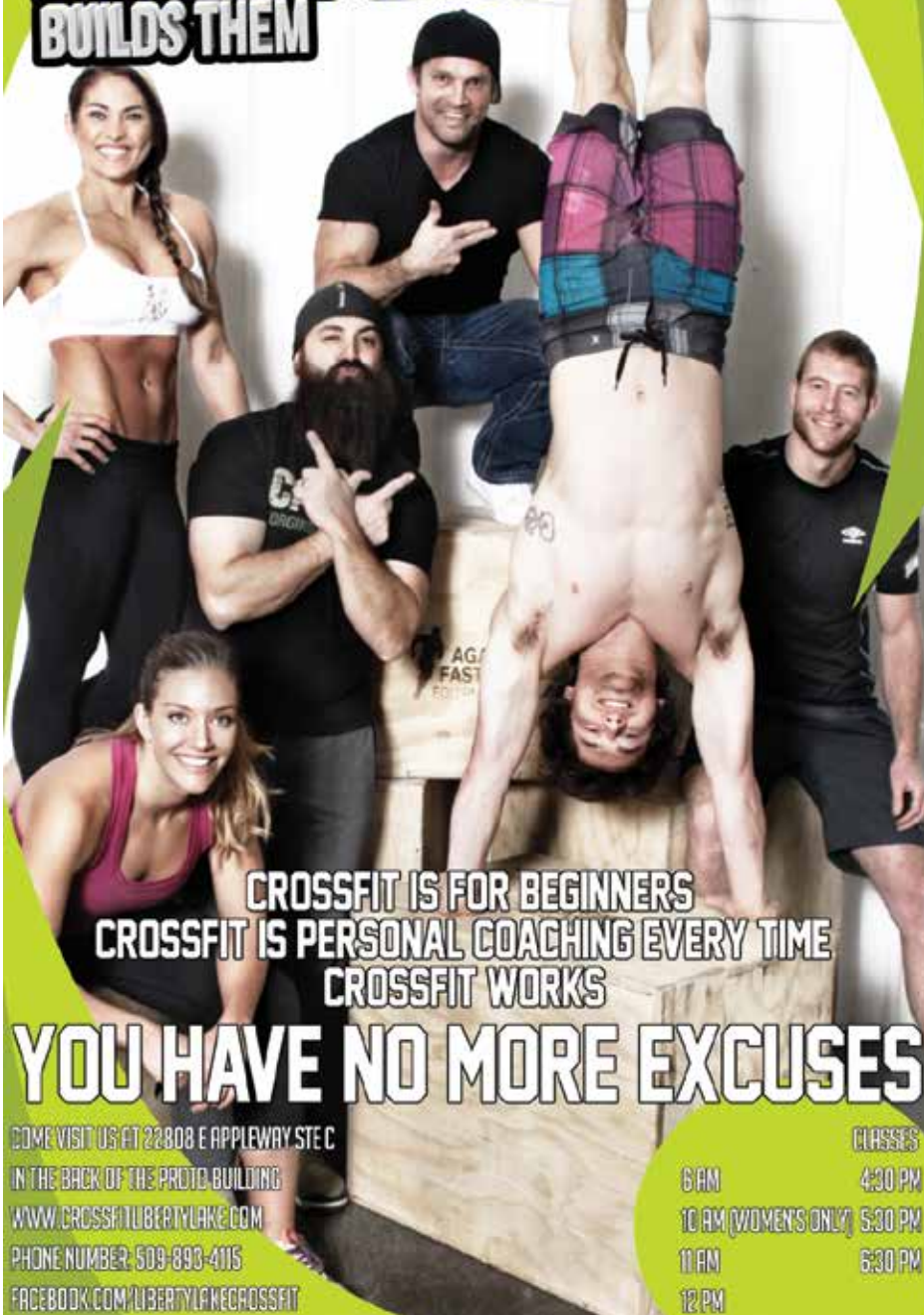
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11 AM 6:30 PM
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LIBERTY LAKE KIWANIS AND THE CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY PRESENT THE 10TH ANNUAL Father Daughter Dance 2015



Alice's Evening in Wonderland



Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♥ 7 - 9pm

Doors open at 6:30pm
CenterPlace at Mirabeau Point
2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley

Area Wide Event • Semi-Formal Attire is Recommended

Tickets: \$45 per couple

Additional daughters \$20 each

To purchase tickets:

CALL: 688-0300

OR VISIT: spokanevalley.org/recreation
and click on the online program registration link. Space is limited, early registration is encouraged!

FOR QUESTIONS CALL:

Linda 951-3573 or Pat 979-6652

Ticket price includes long-stem rose, favors & refreshments!

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Music by Complete Music DJ Services



COMMUNITY

GRACESON HOUSING FOUNDATION PRESENTS



WHITE NIGHT OF HOPE

*a white carpet event featuring dinner
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[semi-formal white attire]

**Walk in the light of hope for
teen moms and their children.**

February 21, 2015 • 6PM • Spokane Convention Center
Register online gracesonhousing.ejoinme.org/WNOH

— 509.939.5370 or 916.501.7273 —

CALENDAR

Continued from page 16

Liberty Lake SCOPE 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District board 4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

HEALTH & RECREATION

Feb. 1 | Eclipse Volleyball Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 2 | Coed 4v4 volleyball league begins 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. This 8-week Monday night session runs through March 30. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 3 | 21-day Purification Program meeting 7 p.m., Intelligent Balance Spinal Care, 2310 N. Molter Road, Ste. 108. This free informational night will explain the program (held Feb. 16 through March 8) by a registered dietician and includes a patient guidebook and all supplements necessary for a 21-day cleanse. Cost for the program is \$300 and includes the items mentioned above. For more: www.drkimshplet.com or 924-4443

Feb. 7 | Warrior Camp Proving Ground MMA Event 7 to 10:30 p.m. HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Cost is \$20-30 and tickets can be purchased at Warrior Camp, 5027 E. Trent, Spokane. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 8 | Sideout Classic Volleyball Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 15 | Sweetheart Shoot-Out Futsal Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Boys and girls U7 through U14 are invited to participate. Registration is \$125 per team, due by Feb. 6. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 16 | HUB Multi-Sport Kids Camp 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Boys and girls in first through sixth grade are invited to come sample a variety of sports. Cost is \$55 (or \$30 for half day option). For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Feb. 28 | Apex Volleyball Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Recurring

Bloomsday registration open Online registration is now open for the 39th annual 12-kilometer race in downtown Spokane. Those who sign up by Feb. 8 have a chance to win one of three Apple iPad mini 3 tablets. To register or for more: www.bloomsdayrun.org

Riverview Little League Baseball registration open Regular registration closes March 8, and late registration closes March 15. For more: www.eteamz.com/riverviewlittleleague

Windermere marathon registration open Registration for the June 7 marathon or half marathon from the Valley area to Spokane is open. To register or for more: www.windermemarathon.com

See CALENDAR, page 19

COMMUNITY

Education Brief

Colleges honor local students

The following Liberty Lake students were recently recognized by colleges for their academic performance or meeting graduation requirements. Information was provided via press releases submitted from schools.

Arizona State University (Tempe, Ariz.)

Dean's List, 3.5+ GPA
Jordyn Awbery, Mackenzie Via

Eastern Washington University

Dean's List, 3.5+ GPA
Jack Applegate, Max Barham, Kelsey Baycroft, Dexter Calkins, Joel Christensen, Sunny Collins, Micah Duncan, Jared Fincher, Evelyn Fletcher, Kimberly Foley, Savannah Hoekstra, Emily Hollenbeck, Ryan Hotchkiss, Kimberly Jones, Sophie Kaatz, Kyle Kallestad, Victoria Lechner, Alexis Marlatt, Jordan Marlatt, Maria Mccauley, Kelsey McCune, Claire McMichael, Kellen Middleton, Iliya Mikheyev, Michaela Mitchell, Arin Mitchell, Abby Pedersen, Arianna Rios, Brady Sanders, Wendy Shaw, Bhavneet Sidhu, Acacia Smith, Miranda Spencer, Jessica Stelzer, Adam Stintzi, Courtney Tibesar, Ashtyn Turnbow, Nicholas Valentine, Makayla Williams

Gonzaga University

President's List, 3.7+ GPA
Grace Pariseau

Michigan Technological University

(Houghton, Mich.)
Dean's List, 3.5+ GPA
Emma Zellmer

Spokane Community College

Honor Roll, 3.0+ GPA
Katlyn Anderson, Jason Biggs, Kelsey Bliss, Sara Borgman, Kristin Bradford, Kelly Campbell, Danielle Cosper, Chanse Cramer, Cole Craypo, Nicole Crist, Laura Gilbert, Shenice Gillespie, Patrick Grady, Tyler Gumm, Ronald Hayes, David Hunton, Keith Hyle, Mallory Jones, Jamie Kappler, Diana Karptsov, Madison Lacross, Maci McClain, Elizabeth Monsey, Sheena Moya, Lisa Nash, Janelle Nguyen, Krysta Oglesbee, Chad Ohl, Roman Oleynik, Mckenzie Quaintance, Desiree Russell, Stephanie Scheurer, Logan Schwartzenburg, Michael Sherry, Kendyl Spencer, Brandon Stalker, Andrew Stewart, Heather Sutton, Daniel Taylor, Lydia Tombarelli, Jessica Unruh, Sarah Vogel, Scott Webb, Ann Welzig

Spokane Falls Community College

Honor Roll, 3.0+ GPA
Jessie Angle, Samantha Avey, Matthew Busch, Amanda Chandler, Mindy Curry, Chase Davis, Allison Dimmler, Zachariah Duncan, Stephen Ertel, Seiji Furukawa, Amber Gimlen, Ronda Gimlen, Micaiah Gray, Kathleen Hagmann, Matthew Hommel, Noah Huth, Nathaniel Koch, Jesen Korver, Brittni Ludington, Alexandria Mclaughlin, Trevor Mitchell, Jessica Neihoff, Karissa Olson, Christopher Pittella, Jordyn Sandford, Jordan Semler, Chadwick Smith, Hong Sun, Cody Tibesar, Tyler Valentine

CALENDAR

Continued from page 18

KidFIT Spokane HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. This children's movement and fitness program offers classes in dance (ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop), gymnastics and cheerleading for girls and boys ages 3 and older of all levels. Join anytime. For more: 953-7501 or www.kidfitspokane.com

Realistic Wellness 8:30 a.m. Saturdays, Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission Ave. This co-ed exercise class is for all levels. For more: 210-9779

HUB Sports Center 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Various activities and events occur throughout the week including:

- Badminton open gym: 7 to 9 p.m. Tues.,

\$5/person

- Basketball open gym: Noon to 1 p.m. Tues., \$4/person

- Pickleball drop-in: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.; 6 to 8 p.m. Sun. \$2/seniors (\$4/non-seniors)

- Table Tennis: 7 to 9:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; \$3/player

- Classes including Bootcamp Fitness Training, Keno Karate, Modern Farang-Mu Sul, Wing Chun Kung Fun and Sushu Kung Fu. See website for cost and times.

All calendar listings were provided to or gathered by Splash staff. If you would like your event considered for the community calendar, please submit information by the 15th of the month to calendar@libertylakesplash.com.

WATERSHED WATCH

GET INVOLVED, TAKE THE PLEDGE!



The Liberty Lake Watershed Pledge is a community action project to protect our rivers, lakes, streams and the aquifer. Our everyday activities can contribute to pollution in our watershed.

To find out what you can do to protect your watershed log onto pledge.libertylake.org and TAKE THE PLEDGE!



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View all of the content in The Splash at:

www.libertylakesplash.com

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Free Educational Workshop: Keep Your Heart Healthy I Presented by Dr. Michael Meza

February 12, 2015 • 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a complimentary lunch

After Hours Business Fair

Come see us for delicious snacks and a chance to win a gift basket! February 17, 2015 • 5 to 8 p.m. Coeur d'Alene Resort Convention Center

Open House

February 25, 2015 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served

Life Care Center of Post Falls Educational Series

February 25, 2015 • 1 to 2 p.m.

Live Music and Social Hour

Come enjoy refreshments, snacks and dancing! Every Friday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.



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Dad, daughter make it 10 for 10 attending dance

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

A family photo shows a beaming 8-year-old Kathryn Munro in a pink and peach party dress next to her dad, Jeff Munro, the first of nine such father-daughter portraits. A frame awaits No. 10 to mark all the years the two have attended the Father Daughter Dance, and both say they won't miss the event's 10-year anniversary March 7.

For the festivities at CenterPlace, they also will follow their traditions of dressing up, going out to dinner beforehand, getting their portrait taken, and hitting the dance floor a few times.

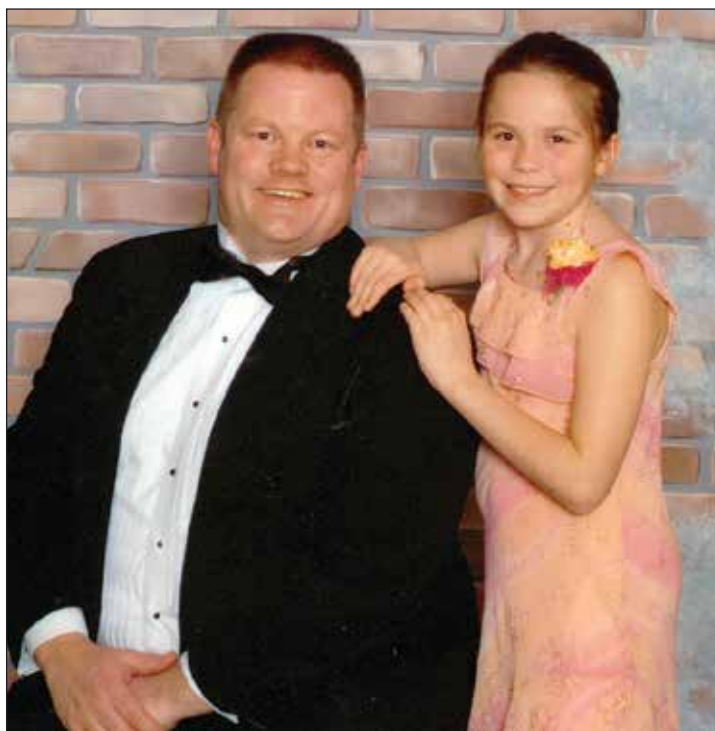
Kathryn is now an accomplished 18-year-old high school student at Central Valley, but Jeff Munro said he still sees glimpses in his mind of her at age 8 whenever they dance together at the event.

"We've danced together usually more than once when we're there, and at that moment, every time, I remember when she was 8," Jeff said. "Just to be enthralled at that little girl and be amazed at this beautiful young woman at the same time is a wonderful thing to experience."

"It's been sort of a benchmark to watch her grow up. You have birthdays, vacations, but the Father Daughter Dance has been one of those moments."

Kathryn remembers early dances held at Liberty Lake Elementary, until the event grew too large and moved eight years ago to CenterPlace. At those early-year dances, she ran around more with young friends, but that practice morphed into her focusing on individual time with her dad.

Also early on, father and daughter would usually have dinner with a group of dance-



SPLASH PHOTO BY
TREVA LIND

Jeff and Kathryn Munro have attended the Father Daughter Dance organized by the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club since it was founded. The 10th anniversary event is March 7, and Kathryn is now a senior in high school.

At left, Jeff and Kathryn are pictured from the very first dance in 2006.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

bound friends. In the latter years, however, just the two of them went to a nice restaurant. Jeff lets Kathryn select where to eat.

"It became more of a time to hang out with my dad," Kathryn said. "I think my favorite part is the dinner before because we get to sit and talk. I get to dress up, go out to dinner with my dad. Usually, it's Hay J's or Red Robin. It's just a special time with my dad."

In addition to dinners and dancing, Jeff has another favorite memory of Kathryn at the annual event.

"Kathryn has a very generous spirit," Jeff said. "One year she won a basket at

the dance, and there were several younger girls around her who were just thrilled at what was in the basket, so she shared items in the basket with them. That was Kathryn just being Kathryn."

The music at the event is fun as well, both said, including a mix of contemporary and older songs. Jeff, glancing over at Kathryn with a smile, added, "I dance with you every time they do 'Butterfly Kisses.'"

Kathryn said the dances always have a good selection of popular music played by a DJ.

"They'll do some of this era music for the kids, and some of the era for our dads,"

profiles:

KATHRYN MUNRO
AND JEFF MUNRO

Ages

Kathryn, 18, Jeff, 50

Day jobs

Kathryn, Central Valley High School student; Jeff, small business owner

Family

Wife and mom, JoLynn; son and brother, Brian, 15

Time as Liberty Lake residents

13 years

Favorite hangout

Kathryn: Starbucks in Liberty Lake. Jeff: Pavillion Park in the summertime; I love the events.

she said. "I think last year they played, 'Let It Go,' and they probably will again this year. They've played Taylor Swift and Hannah Montana. They've played 'Brown Eyed Girl' almost every year.

"They do a few slow dances. When you're dancing more popular dances, you have to watch for the littler girls doing the Conga or dancing up on the stage. I just go have fun. My dad does, too."

She also said organizers create fun around numerous gift baskets for raffle, because families buy the raffle tickets and many of the little girls go around and find the baskets they want to put tickets toward.

"They have about 20 baskets, and I've won three baskets over the course of nine years," she said.

Jeff said Kiwanis organizers go the extra mile each year making the young ladies feel special and creating elegant decorations with balloons and table centerpieces. Each girl receives a flower, he added. The night also has a fun theme. While he is a Kiwanis member, he gets to sit this night out to be with his daughter.

"The club and the lady organizers do such an amazing job just creating this event, and because of what they do, every girl just feels like a princess," Jeff said. "They've created a really first-class event."

"It's an overall experience with many highlights," Jeff added. "We make it an event. We get our picture taken. We have dinner beforehand. We get punch, and we'll look at the baskets."

He plans to help in future years at the dance, if Kathryn isn't able to make it while in college.

However, Kathryn said she does plan to continue going with her dad to the annual event if school doesn't take her too far away.

"If I stay close to home, I'll make a point to go," she added.

She hasn't yet decided which university

See DANCE, page 28

IF YOU GO ...

The 10th annual Father Daughter Dance

The dance will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. March 7 at CenterPlace Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley. Presented by Liberty Lake Kiwanis and the city of Spokane Valley, the night's theme is "Alice's Evening in Wonderland." Tickets are \$45 per father-daughter couple, and \$20 for each additional daughter. To purchase tickets, call 688-0300 or visit www.spokanevalley.org/recreation. Seating is limited at 600; tickets must be purchased in advance.

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LibertyLakeChurch.com



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The Wave

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YOU had to DO What?!?

Museum shows kids
how life used to be

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Have you ever called your grandma using Facetime or Skype? Or how about something as simple as getting a glass of water from a dispenser on your fridge or going tubing behind a motorboat?

Did you know that 100 years ago, if a boy or girl your age saw you doing any of those things, they wouldn't be able to believe their eyes?

Making a phone call, getting a glass of water or even crossing a lake or river worked very differently not that long ago.

While no one could see 100 years into the future from 1915, you can find out how a lot of things worked in the past. You might just have the same reaction: You won't be able to believe your eyes!

The Spokane Valley Heritage Museum is a nearby place that has displays to show you how people used to live many years ago. The building they are located in is actually over 100 years old itself!

The Current talked to Museum Director Jayne Singleton about things she likes to show kids to illustrate how being a boy or girl in Spokane Valley used to be much different. Here are four of her favorites.

1. Talking on the phone

The first phone call was made from Alexander Graham Bell to his colleague, Thomas Watson, on March 10, 1876. It was not made with an iPhone 6 Plus!

His idea was that the sound of people's voices could be turned into an electrical signal down a wire of any length and then turn back into a sound someone else could



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

Phones like this were used to contact a switchboard operator, who would find out who you were calling and connect you.

hear on the other end.

At the Spokane Valley Museum, they have several examples of how older phones worked, including an actual switchboard that would be run by a human being — an operator. If you wanted to you're your grandmother, the switchboard operator would literally take your phone line and plug it into your grandma's phone line so that you could hear each other.

You can use the switchboard or make a call on a rotary phone and see how it works at the museum.

2. Crossing the lake or river

In our community, the Spokane River separates it north from south. Suppose you wanted to cross this river 200 years ago.

There were no bridges, so a man named Antoine Plante started a service to take people and their supplies across the river on a special boat called a ferry. Plante's Ferry Park is named after him, and it's

See MUSEUM, page 23



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

This dugout canoe is at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum. It is shown with animal furs inside of it. It is about 200 years old.

Wondering about Wonderland?



Written under the pen name Lewis Carroll, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is a fantasy book filled with all kinds of peculiar and interesting creatures. The author, whose real name was Charles Dodgson, published the book in 1865 about a young girl's adventure in a strange world, and several movie variations have been created over the years.

See how much you know about this classic story by taking the trivia test below. Circle the choice you believe is correct, and then check your answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. What was the first Wonderland creature that Alice saw?

- A) The White Rabbit
- B) The March Hare
- C) The Caterpillar
- D) A gopher



2) The Queen of Hearts wanted her roses to be what color?

- A) Yellow
- B) Pink
- C) White
- D) Red



3) What type of animal swept away the path that Alice uses in the forest?

- A) Bird
- B) Dog
- C) Walrus
- D) Skunk



4) In the croquet game, what animals were used?

- A) Flamingos and hedgehogs
- B) Rabbits and ostriches
- C) Gophers and cats
- D) Dodos and turtles



5) What did the flowers think Alice was?

- A) A girl
- B) The Queen
- C) A flower
- D) A weed



6) The White Rabbit was really late for what?

- A) The Caucus Race
- B) Tea party with Mad Hatter
- C) Announcing the Queen's arrival
- D) Date with Mrs. Rabbit

10th annual Father Daughter Dance

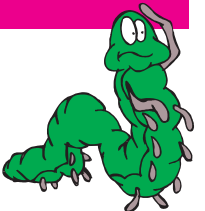
March 7 • 7 to 9 p.m.
CenterPlace at Mirabeau Point
2426 N. Discovery Place,
Spokane Valley

Alice's Evening in Wonderland is the theme at this event presented by Liberty Lake Kiwanis and the city of Spokane Valley. Semi-formal attire is recommended; girls with any type of father figure are encouraged to attend.

Tickets are \$45 per couple (\$20 per additional daughter). Space is limited. For tickets or more information, visit www.spokanevalley.org/recreation or call 688-0300.

7) Who wished Alice a happy un-birthday?

- A) The Caterpillar
- B) The White Rabbit
- C) The Cheshire Cat
- D) The March Hare and Mad Hatter



8) Alice was put on trial for what reason?

- A) Participating in the Caucus race
- B) Following the White Rabbit
- C) Making the Queen lose her temper
- D) Cheating at a game she played with the Queen

9) When the Cheshire Cat disappeared, what was the only part that remained?

- A) His smile
- B) His tail
- C) His eyes
- D) His ears



10) The dormouse always fell asleep in what?

- A) Flowerpot
- B) Teapot
- C) Bowl
- D) Mug

Sources: www.disneyclips.com/funstuff/alicequiz.html, www.funtrivia.com/en/subtopics/Alice-in-Wonderland-Book-9157.html

COMMUNITY

MUSEUM

Continued from page 22

where his ferry service was located.

Even before Plante ferried people across the river, the local Indians would use canoes to travel on the many local rivers and lakes.

The museum is home to a canoe like this that was made by the Nez Perce Tribe. Called a “dugout canoe,” it was made by burning out the center of a large log. Stone tools were then used to further shape the canoe so there was a place for people to sit.

3. Getting a drink of water

During the summer, the museum opens up an outdoor area behind it that includes water pumps. Remember that glass of water we talked about? There were no sinks in houses or showers that just provided water by turning a knob.

If you needed a drink, or water for cooking, cleaning or bathing, you would go outside and use a pump.

This sort of thing wasn't exactly convenient in the middle of winter. Brrrr!

4. Going to the bathroom

Speaking of not convenient in the middle of winter, imagine if your bathroom wasn't



SUBMITTED PHOTO

down the hall.

Instead, what if it was down the hall ... and through the living room ... and out the back door ... and across the yard ... and located in a small wooden shed that didn't have any heat or air conditioning.

“This was the toilet, even into the early 1900s in the Valley,” Singleton said.

The museum has an outhouse to show kids what it was like — but fortunately it's not there for people to use.

“It's a one-holer with a dummy sitting on it,” Singleton said.

At left, kids tour many outdoor museum displays during the warmer months, including this interactive display where people can operate pitcher pumps. “Kids can pump water and learn what it was like before indoor plumbing,” said Jayne Singleton, director of the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum.



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

The outhouse at the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum greets visitors with the sign, “the way it was.” Fortunately, the museum encourages the modern idea of having visitors utilize the restrooms inside.

To learn more about how life used to be in Spokane Valley, visit the museum with your parents at 12114 E. Sprague Ave. You can find out more by calling 922-4570 (don't worry, cell phones will work) or using that fancy thing called the internet at valleyheritagecenter.org.



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www.GrowUpSmiling.com

Crazy-in-love cartoon characters

Many popular movies and TV shows build storylines around love, and kids' shows are no exception. For this activity, match the cartoon character with his love interest. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ 1. Wall-E | A) Ellie |
| _____ 2. Simba | B) Celia |
| _____ 3. Tramp | C) Eve |
| _____ 4. Lightning McQueen | D) Faline |
| _____ 5. Woody | E) Fiona |
| _____ 6. Pongo | F) Isabella |
| _____ 7. Buzz Lightyear | G) Jessie |
| _____ 8. Mike Wazowski | H) Lady |
| _____ 9. Bambi | I) Little Bo Peep |
| _____ 10. Phineas | J) Nala |
| _____ 11. Fred | K) Perdita |
| _____ 12. Peter Pan | L) Rapunzel |
| _____ 13. Flynn Rider | M) Sally |
| _____ 14. Carl | N) Wendy |
| _____ 15. Shrek | O) Wilma |

A heart-y dose of stats

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Did you know that if you lined up the 8 billion conversation heart candies produced each year, they'd reach from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona and back again 20 times? Check out more random facts and figures about Valentine's Day below.

498 A.D. The year Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day

1840s The first mass-produced valentines were sold in the U.S.

150 Millions of cards and gifts given each year for the holiday

58 Millions of pounds of chocolate candy purchased during Valentine's Day week

1902 Year Necco first printed conversation hearts (Sweethearts)

15 Characters that fit on a Sweetheart, eight on top and seven on bottom

8 Billions of conversation hearts made each year

100,000 Pounds of conversation hearts made daily



Sources: www.infographicpost.com/awesome-facts-about-sweethearts/2013/02/13; www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day/interactives/valentines-day-by-the-numbers

Answers to Wondering About Wonderland: 1) A; 2) D; 3) B; 4) A; 5) D; 6) C; 7) D; 8) C; 9) A; 10) B; 11) C; 12) J; 13) H; 14) M; 15) K; 16) K; 17) G; 18) B; 19) D; 20) F; 21) I; 22) N; 23) L; 24) A; 25) E

The Fountain

About and for Liberty Lake seniors

Brought to you by



New author: 'Never give up' on your goals

LL woman crosses published book off her bucket list

By Sarah Robertson
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

One of Liberty Lake's newer residents is now a published author.

On Jan. 28, Soul Mate Publishing released Alene Gibbons' first novel, "Experiment in Terror." Written under the pen name Alene Anderson, the novel is a suspenseful thriller with a bit of romance. It is the first of the Koehler brother mysteries.

It has been a lifelong dream of Gibbons to write and publish novels. It is now something she can cross off her bucket list.

"I've been interested in writing for years and years, but it was hard with work and family," she said.

At 76, Gibbons is thrilled to have her first novel published and two more already accepted for publication. She developed the series based around two brothers.

"Experiment in Terror" takes place in Boulder, Colo., Gibbons' hometown for many years. She also lived in Los Angeles and worked for GUESS Jeans, which sets the stage for her second book, "Seams of Destruction." Set in the fashion industry, the novel also features scenes in Venice and Milan.

Since retiring in 2012, Gibbons has been working on her bucket list full time. In 2013, she and her granddaughter made the grand voyage to Italy, which she described as the trip of a lifetime. Gibbons is also about to graduate with her associate degree.

Surely her list must be nearly complete, but Gibbons' keeps adding to it. Her next goals are to finish her third novel and find an agent.

"If you have a dream or a goal, you should never give up on it," she said. "I don't think you're ever too old to achieve your goals. Always think positive."

Gibbons moved to Liberty Lake in 2012 in order to be closer to her daughter, Deborah, and her grandchildren. Her other two children are in Arizona, which makes for a nice break when the weather is cold.

"Everyone here is so friendly," she said. "I'll be glad to spend the rest of my life here."

To an outsider, many of the things in Gibbons' life may seem daunting if not plain impossible to overcome. As Gibbons'



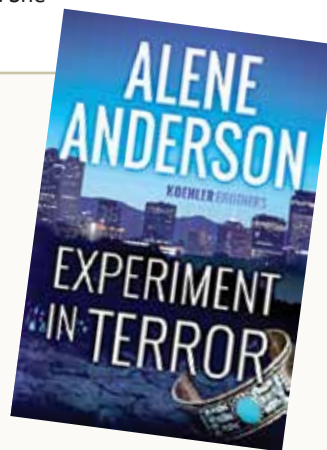
Alene Gibbons recently published her first book, "Experiment in Terror," which is a suspense novel with a bit of romance. She said writing a novel has been her lifelong dream.

SPLASH PHOTO BY
TAMMY KIMBERLEY

FOR MORE ...

Written under the pen name Alene Anderson, "Experiment in Terror" is available now at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or through Soul Mate Publishing's website, www.soulmatepublishing.com.

Anderson's second book will be available this summer, and her third sometime next year. For a sneak peak of "Experiment in Terror," check out www.aleneanderson.com.



daughter, Deborah Maynes, will tell you, her mother never gives up.

"She's an inspiration to me because she went back to school and will graduate, and she will realize her lifelong dream of publishing," Maynes said. "Circumstances sometimes push them back, but you can realize your dreams."

Maynes recalls that her mother and other family members were in a gondola accident in Vail, Colo., where she was very badly hurt.

"She lost her sister-in-law and was lucky to survive," Maynes said. "She also beat colon cancer. My mom always had a lot of faith and determination. If you're around her, you'll always see a miracle."

Maynes also marvels at her mother's willingness to take in a foster child. Her

foster brother, Tim, is blind, and doctors thought he would remain in a vegetative state his entire life. But Maynes remembers her mother working with him every day—teaching him how to sit up, walk, dress himself and eventually become independent. Tim now lives on his own in Denver, Colo.

Gibbons and her ex-husband had two biological children along with an adopted daughter and foster son. Maynes recollects a happy childhood and a strong relationship with her mother.

"She was my best friend growing up. I could talk to her about everything. We loved skiing together. Mom would take us on trips. Dad ran his own business, so Mom always made sure we got our fun in," Maynes said.

Fountain
profiles:

ALENE GIBBONS

Age
76

First published book

"Experiment in Terror" released Jan. 28, 2015

Pen name

Alene Anderson

Favorite activities

Biking, tennis, hiking and being outdoors

What I love about Liberty Lake

"I love the library. They can get books from all over the area. I love the view of the lake and the golf course. For a town of this size, it has a lot of good places to eat."

Gibbons' strong sense of family came from growing up in a close-knit minister's family. Though born in Iowa, her family moved around the country because of her father's ministerial calling.

"We didn't have a lot of money growing up, but we always found money to go on interesting trips around the U.S.," she said.

Another fond memory is reading with her mother and sister. And, perhaps not so coincidentally, Gibbons' mother penned stories as well. She wrote for Sunday school papers and published a few books in her lifetime.

While her life has been full of adventure, Gibbons is happy to "stay home and write now." But she offers advice for anyone who'll listen.

"Never give up. Always keep learning. Embrace life. You stay young as long as you can stay active."

— King Crossword — Answers

S	M	A	R	T	O	B	S	E	S	S		
B	O	O	B	O	O	G	L	A	N	C	E	
B	R	A	Y	E	R	R	E	N	T	A	L	
C	A	T	S	T	I	E	S	I	M	A		
			S	M	U	T		S	A	T		
D	U	O		A	R	C	S		D	I	C	E
O	F	F	I	C	E	H	O	L	D	E	R	S
C	O	C	O		D	I	N	E		S	O	P
		O	N	O		N	I	G	H			
C	P	U		S	I	G	N		A	M	I	D
H	E	R	O	I	N		L	I	B	I	D	O
I	S	S	U	E	D		A	R	I	S	E	N
P	O	E	T	R	Y		W	A	T	T	S	

COMMUNITY

Trivia Test

1. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the largest bay in the world?
2. **RELIGION:** Who is the patron saint for mountain climbers?
3. **MOVIES:** In which Harry Potter movie was the Whomping Willow introduced?
4. **TOYS:** What was the name of the British version of America's "G.I. Joe"?
5. **LITERATURE:** When was the novel "Gone With the Wind" published?
6. **MYTHOLOGY:** In Greek mythology,

- who slew the Minotaur?
7. **MUSIC:** "The Last Waltz" was a documentary of the final concert of which rock group?
 8. **TELEVISION:** What was Chandler's last name on the sitcom "Friends"?
 9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What institution declares itself to be the largest library in the world?
 10. **LANGUAGE:** What is an onomatopoeia?

— 2015 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Checking the worth of china, mixing bowls

'Collecting' by Larry Cox
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Q: I have a set of egg cups that are marked "Union Pacific." A railroad buff has told me the pattern is Desert Flower. — *Steve, Riverside, Calif.*

A: Egg cups have become one of the most popular collectibles in recent years. Still being produced, they attract collectors on several levels. Prices can range from inexpensive to many thousands of dollars. Your Union Pacific set is probably worth about \$90. Be aware that railroad china is being reproduced, so when buying, do your homework and be cautious.

Q: I have a set of five Stone Craft mixing bowls that originally belonged to my mom. Are they worth keeping? — *Susan, Wheatridge, Colo.*

A: Your mixing bowls, also called pink and blue because of their color, were made by McCoy and are very collectible. In fact, in recent years I have seen mixing bowls double and triple in price at most of the antique malls and shops I have visited. Your McCoy set was made during the 1970s and is valued at about \$250, according to Mark Moran, author of "Warman's McCoy Pottery" (Krause, \$24.99)

Q: My dad was a career military man and was stationed in Germany in the 1950s.

During this period, he began collecting Hummel figurines when he could find them. I have his collection, and even though I have no plans to sell them, I wonder if you can recommend a good price guide so I can have a better idea of current values. — *Alice, Casper, Wyo.*

A: There are several excellent references available, but my favorite remains "M.I. Hummel: Figurines, Plates, Miniatures & More" by Robert L. Miller and published by Portfolio Press.

Q: I purchased a Gouda ashtray at a yard sale several weeks ago. I paid \$35 for it, and I wonder if it is worth more. — *Susan, Hammond, Louisiana*

A: Gouda pottery was first produced in Holland during the 17th century. Two companies — Zenith pottery and the Zuid-Hollandsche — were instrumental in making the pieces collectible throughout the world. After checking online and in several of my reference books, I believe your ashtray is probably worth about \$25.

Write to Larry Cox in care of KFWS, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to questionsforcox@aol.com. Due to the large volume of mail he receives, Mr. Cox cannot personally answer all reader questions, nor do appraisals. Do not send any materials requiring return mail.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Intelligent
- 6 Haunt
- 12 Kid's injury
- 13 Quick look
- 14 Donkey, often
- 15 Vacationer's car, possibly
- 16 Eliot-based musical
- 17 Haberdasher's rackful
- 19 "— Believer"
- 20 Pornography
- 22 Perched
- 24 Pair with an air
- 27 Lobs' paths
- 29 "Galloping dominoes"
- 32 In people?
- 35 "Ice Loves —"
- 36 Eat
- 37 Bribe
- 38 Yoko of music
- 40 In the offing
- 42 Core of a PC
- 44 Autograph
- 46 In the thick of
- 50 Smack, so to speak
- 52 Basic drive

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12								13				
14								15				
16					17	18				19		
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24	25	26		27			28		29		30	31
32			33					34				
35					36					37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54								55				
56								57				

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 54 Gave out | 10 Con game | segment |
| 55 Up | 11 Actress Ward | 39 Wicker |
| 56 Verse | 12 Telly option | willow |
| 57 Actress Naomi | 18 Pruritic | 41 Custom |
| | 21 Buddy | 42 Dale's pal |
| | 23 Do sum work? | 43 Mexican money |
| DOWN | 24 Medico | 45 Race place |
| 1 Marsh bird | 25 Faraway transport? | 47 Atomizer output |
| 2 Castle protector | 26 "Certainly" | 48 Date of destiny |
| 3 Chasm | 28 Marc Mezvinsky, | 49 Dress in |
| 4 Fish eggs | to Bill and Hillary | 51 Chic no more |
| 5 — soul (person with angst) | 30 — -Magnon | 53 Playwright Levin |
| 6 Shrek, e.g. | 31 Sixth sense | |
| 7 Consecrate | 33 Charged bit | |
| 8 — Diego | 34 Journey | |
| 9 Things | | |

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Answers to Trivia Test 1. Bay of Bengal 2. St. Bernard 3. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" 4. Action Man 5. 1936 6. Theseus 7. The Band 8. Bing 9. The Library of Congress 10. The imitation of natural sounds through words like "arf."



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Beachside lots attracted buyers to lake

Wicomico Beach established in early 1900s

By Ross Schneidmiller
LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Upon retirement from active business in early 1907, Roderick MacKenzie, Liberty Lake's first modern day visionary and developer, sold his entire west-side holdings to the Palouse Land Company. This included the hotel that bore his name as well as 806 acres. Prior to selling those interests, he granted a railroad right of way to the Inland Empire Railway Company.

Aware of the Railway's plans to run a spur-line into the lake, the land company purchased 1,000 acres in total. Upon this land they planned to build Spokane's greatest and most popular summer colony. The tracks connecting Liberty Lake Junction to the shoreline were completed and ready for the inaugural trains on June 12, 1907.

About a month later the land company began an aggressive newspaper campaign.

"Pitch Your Tent At Liberty Lake," read the headlines in the July 10 issue of The Spokesman Review. It would be another three weeks before the company would begin selling lots, yet they were already trying to motivate potential buyers to the lake.

The summer colony was named Wicomico Beach. Pronounced "We-co-meco," the name was made up but ads proclaimed it was an Indian word meaning, "Where Homes are Building."

The MacKenzie Hotel was newly furnished and renamed the Wicomico Inn. They declared that its first-class accommodations and dining room made Wicomico Beach one step closer to becoming the ideal summer resort of Spokane. It opened on Aug. 1, the same day lots became available for sale. Located inside the inn was the sales office for the development.

The targeted buyers were the Spokane business community. Ad after ad heralded the benefits of getting out of the city during the summer: a refuge for her people during the heated season with all the conveniences and none of the inconveniences of the city. It was only 40 minutes from Spokane by electric train. The businessman could attend to business every day in the city, and after the day's work was over come home to Wicomico and enjoy the rest he would not otherwise get. Pure spring water would be piped to every lot. A concrete dam and reservoir was built to collect the water from three large springs. The water was used both domestically and for watering lawns



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The striped roller shades on the right side of the F.O. Berg summer home on Lilac Lane, circa 1920, were most likely from the families' business, F. O. Berg Tent and Awning Co.

A temporary tent home on Wicomico Beach decorated for the Fourth of July is shown in this circa 1909 photo.



and gardens. The homes would have the conveniences of electricity, telephones and sewer just like the city. But unlike crowded busy cities, restrictions were in place insuring privacy and tone.

The development comprised some three hundred lots platted in four tiers all facing the lake. The size of the lots varied somewhat with the curve of the beach, but most of them measured about 50 x 120 feet. Because the ground rose as it receded from the beach, most lots had a view of the lake. Access to the lake was afforded all lot owners. However, access was limited to the purposes of "bathing, boating and fishing." This gave the land company the ability to restrict activities they felt detracted from their development and hindered the tone of a relaxing, family-friendly environment.

Building restrictions prevented the erection of shacks or unsightly structures. One was not obligated to build, however, until the buyer desired. In the meantime, the owner was allowed to camp in a tent on the lot.

The development company did not have the infrastructure in place for building to commence until 1909. Buyers took advantage of the clause concerning tents—erecting some that were quite substantial. All 25 of the beachside lots on Saltese Avenue, known today as Lilac Lane, were sold by 1910. In that same year, 20 of those 25 lots either had a home, was under construction or in the planning stages. Within a few years several more of the primary lots sold and building commenced. It would take several years for the secondary lots to build out.



Neighbors & Neighborhoods

A 2015 SERIES PRESENTED BY THE
LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

- The owners of the Palouse Land Company, David Ham and Wilbur Yearsley, reorganized their business in September of 1907 adding D. Ryrie and Shirley Philbrook to the firm renaming it Ham, Yearsley, Ryrie & Philbrook. By 1909 Philbrook was gone and in 1910 the name Liberty Lake Land Company, a corporation of the remaining three owners, was used in conjunction with the development.
- By 1910 the land company platted the First and Second Acre Additions to Wicomico Beach on land they owned west of the first plat. This added the potential to purchase tracts from 5 to 40 acres.
- As more cottages were built, the spring water system became inadequate. To address the problem, a second water system was added pumping water from the lake. After this was installed, the spring water system was used only for drinking and cooking purposes.
- The electrical system for Wicomico Beach residences was taken over on May 1, 1931, by the Washington Water Power Company which today operates as Avista Utilities.
- The original sidewalk on Wicomico Beach was made of wood.
- In addition to individuals, a number of Spokane fraternal organizations and clubs purchased lots for the purpose of building clubhouses.

Wicomico Beach still exists. All the summer homes except for one have become year round residences. The developer's vision of a commuter colony became a reality and remains so today.

Ross Schneidmiller is president of the Liberty Lake Historical Society.

COMMUNITY

Obituaries

Esther M. Lancaster

June 27, 1918, to Dec. 20, 2014

Esther "Sunnie" Lancaster, 96, was born June 27, 1918, in Spokane to Einar O. Fieldstad and Anna M. Arntzen Fieldstad, both emigrants from Norway. She joined her family at their home at 29th and Perry. Later, the family built a homestead on Bowdish, where she attended Opportunity Grade School, West Valley High School and then obtained a B.S. from the University of Washington with degrees in botany and biology. Esther completed a master's degree at Fort Wright College in general science.

As a young person, she worked as a cook at Spokane Ski Lodge, Postell Produce as a clerk, and Boeing Aircraft as production illustrator, where Esther met her husband, Bill R. Lancaster. They were married at the Denny Park Lutheran Church in Seattle on June 19, 1943. After the end of World War II, they moved to Spokane. Sunnie worked at the Finch Arboretum as acting director and Spokane Parks Department naturalist. She then became a school teacher and taught at Libby Junior High, North Cen-

tral High, Continuation High School and University High School. Before retiring, she spent one year as a professor at Whitworth College.

Her hobbies included outdoor recreation, skiing, traveling and doll collecting. Sunnie loved reading and writing on subjects such as Indian lore, natural science, anthropology, survival and Bible study. She was a lifelong member of the Spokane Falls Doll Club and Beachcombers Garden Club of Liberty Lake, where her family has resided since 1956.

Sunnie passed away at the Good Samaritan in Spokane Valley on Dec. 20, 2014. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; sister, Lillian Sorenson; and brother, Norman Fieldstad. She is survived by her son Gary (Gail) R. Lancaster; three grandchildren, Paula (Pete) Lupi, Amy (Michael) Jeske, and Bret R. Lancaster; great-grandchildren, Tabitha, Cody, Garrett Lupi and Ian Jeske, and many nieces and nephews.

A special thank goes to the staff of the Good Samaritan of Spokane Valley, where she resided the last few years of her life.

A funeral service was held Dec. 29 at Thornhill Valley Chapel. A memorial service at the Good Samaritan Community Center will be held at a later date.

Robert Sullivan

Nov. 10, 1932, to Jan. 4, 2015

Bob Sullivan was born on Nov. 10, 1932, in San Francisco, Calif. His parents, Frank and Alice, raised him along with his twin sister, Alice, sisters, Gladys and Anita, and brothers, Tom and Frank. They lived in the Mission District, which according to Bob was a pretty tough place to live. He said as kids they were given instructions by the nuns at the start of every school year how to respond if there was gunfire. He also told stories of how the priests would give them an assignment due in a fortnight, and everyone would try and get it done by the next day because no one knew how long a fortnight was.

After high school, Bob entered the service and then married Mary Ann on Nov. 28, 1953. He worked as a salesman most of his life and worked well beyond retirement age. After he retired, he worked part time at the golf course and then for The Liberty Lake Splash.

Bob played the piano by ear and enjoyed history, especially military history. He enjoyed rooting for his alma mater, Gonzaga, where he graduated from business school.

Bob was also a lifelong 49ers fan, which made for some interesting Sundays, as his wife is a Seahawks fan.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and daughter, Maureen. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary Ann Sullivan; six children; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A funeral mass was held Jan. 9 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Otis Orchards.

Bob's Irish heritage was very important to him, so here is an Irish Blessing to close:

"May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Editor's Note: Bob Sullivan took a part-time job as our delivery man in his late 70s. He was sharp and friendly with a work ethic and sense of humor that were both first class. He was a proud Marine who served from 1948-1952 (though he modestly declined when I once asked to write a story about him). He lived in Liberty Lake for four decades and seemingly raked each leaf the moment it touched his yard. The few times I covered his route, everyone asked about Bob by name. We loved Bob. I join many who will miss this dear friend. — Josh Johnson

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Shutterbug Snapshot



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Zoë Stephanis, age 10, took this photo from the corner of Inlet Drive and Molter Avenue, just outside the beach area, while on her way to school in mid-January.

Decorating the deck



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marc and Patty Ruggiero displayed Christmas lights on their deck during the Christmas season.

Local Lens

Share your snapshots for The Splash's photo page. Email photos@libertylakesplash.com with scenes from around town, community events and Splash Travels.

Studying up on science



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Science Olympiad Team at Greenacres Middle School led by teacher Patrick Moore prepares for their competition in April.

Season comes to a close



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Beachcombers Garden Club of Liberty Lake celebrated their last meeting of the year at Dona Lettelleir's residence in early December.

Skiing on water



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tom Brattebo shared this photo of his wife, Bette Brattebo, cross country skiing on Liberty Lake. "What else can you do when there's too much ice to swim or boat and too much snow to skate?" he wrote.

DANCE

Continued from page 20

she'll attend. Kathryn stays busy now with three AP classes and a college-level Spanish class. Outside of school and homework, she loves to read, hang out with friends, and watch movies.

Kathryn said she believes that the Father Daughter Dance plays an important role in the community.

"They're important to make our community seem even more friendly and family-oriented, and focusing on everyone from children to adults being happy living here," she said. "There's also connection. It gives us time to just sit and talk, to bond a little more."

Her dad echoed those thoughts. "I think any time you give dads a chance to value their daughters, it's a good thing. This is just time set aside to focus on the relationship."

Jeff said the dance is important on many levels, in addition to the one-on-one quality time.

"I want to set a standard for Kathryn when she's dating, an expectation about how she ought to be treated and how she ought to feel, and I love spending time with her," he said. "It's just a special experience to share with your daughter."

Jeff and Kathryn say many people attend year after year, and a few who have moved away travel back just to go.

"We have cousins who live in Salt Lake City, and they come back for the dance," Kathryn said. "They said they wouldn't miss it because it's just one of those events people don't want to miss."

The rest of the Munro family also has staked out fun during the annual event. Wife and mom JoLynn has taken Kathryn's brother, Brian, to informal mother-son outings with friends during the Father Daughter Dance. Once, mothers and sons had a laser tag fight, and another year, they went bowling.

Each year, Jeff has asked Kathryn again whether she wants to go to the dance or not. Each time, Kathryn has answered yes.

"My commitment to Kathryn is I'll continue to take her for as long as she'll let me," he said.

Kathryn added, "He's said that to me even when I was little. I always have wanted to go."



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Jan Korsten is the owner of The Pottery Bug in Otis Orchards. If you haven't had the chance to paint pottery or try their new fused glass, you are missing a real treat for the whole family! She had some questions about her current insurance coverage. We sat down and found that due to some details on her particular policy, she was able to get more coverage for her business at no additional cost. Jan says, "It has been such a pleasure working with a local professional that is not only fun and friendly, but made me feel like someone really had my back. Since I already had a great rate, Cheloye looked more toward the type and amount of coverage I had. She helped me get more bang for my buck and increased my overall coverage! Thank you Cheloye and Lakeshore Insurance!"



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Thrivent opens LL office

By Mary Kate Koch
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR



SPLASH PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

An established financial services company recently planted new roots in Liberty Lake.

Thrivent Financial partners Scott Schuldt, Steven Eglund and Chris Nurvic moved into a remodeled suite next to the Liberty Lake Community Theatre at 22910 E. Appleway Ave.

Nurvic and Eglund are both full-time partners with several years under their belts working in financial services, and Schuldt is a part-time partner with a wealth of financial knowledge after spending more than 30 years in the business. All three are local to the area.

The trio recently moved their office to Liberty Lake from a location in Spokane Valley.

"We used to be on Argonne in Spokane Valley, but we moved to Liberty Lake for a couple of reasons," Eglund said. "We have lots of clients in the area, so we moved in part to be closer to our client base. We also wanted to take the opportunity to be a part of the exciting growing community of Liberty Lake."

"The move was a combination of things," Schuldt agreed. "Some of the other offices moved downtown, and we wanted to stay in the Valley. Liberty Lake is an exciting, growing area, and we wanted to do something a little different by moving there. I also have two kids and three grandkids who live in Liberty Lake, so I'm there a lot."

Thrivent Financial is a faith-based financial services organization that focuses on being wise with money while still living a generous life. It is a Fortune 500 company that services nearly 2.4 million customers and manages more than \$90.4 billion in assets and \$6.9 billion in total surplus.

"We are a financial services company," Eglund said. "We work with a wide range of investments. We work with brokers, IRAs,

Thrivent Financial opened its doors in Liberty Lake at the end of 2014. They are located in a newly-renovated office space at 22910 E. Appleway Ave., Suite 1.

FOR MORE ...

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401Ks and insurances, which includes anything from life insurance to long-term care. We are also certified financial planners."

Thrivent Financial partners emphasize taking a broad-based approach to financial services because customers commonly have multiple financial goals

and concerns. Schuldt, Eglund and Nurvic are all well-versed in assisting customers in product, issue or values-based approaches to preparing financial futures. Although Thrivent Financial is a large national firm, the Liberty Lake office of Schuldt, Eglund and Nurvic is committed to providing a personal approach to finances.

"We appreciate working with people who want to develop a financial plan that will work for them throughout their lifetimes,"

Eglund said. "Financial needs change over time, and all the different pieces start to get rather complex. We recognize that no one financial plan works for everyone, and we sit down to develop a plan that works specifically for you."

Eglund and Nurvic have worked for Thrivent Financial for six and 10 years respectively, and Schuldt has worked for Thrivent Financial for 35 years. Their commitment to working as a part of the Thrivent Financial firm reflects their dedication to developing relationships with clients and sharing their financial knowledge in order for clients to make better decisions about their financial futures. Schuldt in particular is a fount of financial knowledge after spending a considerable career in the industry.

"I retired from a managing role in 2012 but still wanted to stick around in some capacity," Schuldt said. "I hired [Eglund] and [Nurvic] and enjoyed working with them, so I decided to stay active and pass on some things I've learned. You pick up a lot of information when you're in the business for a few decades, and I think you should share that knowledge."

Schuldt, Eglund and Nurvic may be new to the Appleway suite in Liberty Lake, but they are always looking to expand their services and availability to clients. If nothing else, the Liberty Lake Thrivent Financial office wants to become better acquainted with the community to better serve its financial needs.

"We want people to get to know us," Schuldt said. "We are a faith-based company, and I think the area will be able to use our presence."

In Biz

Susemihl joins Chamber as marketing, events coordinator

Courtney Susemihl began work as the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce's new marketing and events coordinator at the beginning of the year.



SUSEMIEHL

"It is with much enthusiasm that we have Courtney join our growing Chamber," President and CEO Katherine Morgan said. "Her background in development and marketing as well as her authentic passion to further

the vision of our Chamber earned her a place on our team."

Susemihl served as marketing specialist for Sterling Bank for nearly four years where she coordinated local sponsorships and events. Prior to that, Susemihl was the development director at Habitat for Humanity-Spokane and director of devel-

opment and outreach at Hospice of Spokane.

Susemihl holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, communications and radio/television from Eastern Washington University and is a member of Spokane MarCom Association. She is also involved in the community as a LC Instrumental Music Parents Association and a member of Ronald McDonald House Charities Marketing Committee and United Way Allocations Committee.

Horizon absorbs United Health Services Credit Union

Horizon Credit Union recently announced its plans to merge with Spokane-based United Health Services Credit Union.

If approved, United Health Services Credit Union President and CEO Chuck Zeller said the three Spokane-area branches will operate under the Horizon name. The merger would provide United Health Services members access to different technology and services such as managing accounts online, remote deposit, 24-hour

lending and mobile apps.

As of December 31, United Health Services had 8,600 members with an estimated \$99 million dollars in assets. Following the merger, the combined operations will approach \$800 million dollars in assets and will employ 250 people.

Zeller, who's been with United Health Services for 33 years, plans to retire after the merger is complete. He said the 28 employees at United Health Services will be retained.

Horizon Credit Union CEO Jeff Adams says they hope to complete the merger by the end of October. Founded in 1947, Horizon currently has 18 branches in Washington, Idaho and Montana with 53,000 members.

LL author releases new books

Liberty Lake author A.R. Shaw is scheduled to release two new books in the coming months. The third book in her Graham's Resolution series, "The Last Infidels," has a publication release date of March 29.

The other release, "Deception on Durham Road," is a commissioned project for Steven Konkoly's Perseid Collapse series for Amazon's Kindle World Books.

For more, go to www.authorarshaw.com.

OpenEye adds Southeast reps

OpenEye recently announced the appointment of David Hurst and Dean Porter of D. Hurst Solutions as manufacturer's representatives for the Southeast territory including Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Included in the new roles are building the OpenEye brand in the Southeast and providing local customer support.

"We truly offer legitimate solutions to the end-users that our dealers are working with, both in life-safety situations and in internal management situations," Hurst said.

Based in Georgia, D. Hurst Solutions has provided system design and product consulting in the security industry since 1995.

The family that wrestles together...

Liberty Lake's Beard clan known for grappling success

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

It doesn't stretch the imagination to envision a carpet resembling a wrestling mat beneath the furniture in Ron and Cindy Beard's living room.

It is a sport that has consumed the parents and their 10 children, nine of them boys, seemingly forever. Every boy is, or has been, a wrestler. Ron teaches and is the assistant coach at Central Valley.

Three of the children, senior Blake, junior Bryson and sophomore Bridger, currently make up 20 percent of the Bears' starting lineup, and the older two have already combined for five state medals.

Blake, 19, is a two-time defending state champ after finishing fifth as a freshman. Bryson, 17, was third as a frosh and second last year. Bridger, 16, just missed qualifying his freshman year.

Two brothers preceded them and another wave of five, ages 13 down to 6, is yet to come.

The size of the family, passion for the sport, the fact their children are home schooled in a Christian atmosphere, and the alliterative name choices intrigue.

"What the good Lord gave us," Cindy said of their large brood, "we've just been blessed more than we could have imagined. They've been healthy and just been great kids."

A graduate of Mead High School, Cindy met Ron while they were in college in Montana. They've been married 25 years.

As the children began to come, the idea of wrestling as a family activity took root when the boys got older.

Ron, though primarily a football player in college, had wrestled and, says his wife, suggested they try it as a means for personal development.

"I had never been to a wrestling match, ever," Cindy said. "Once we started, they met kids and had a good time with it. It's just been great. There've been a lot of good lessons in it."

Wrestling became a means for togetherness, gaining discipline and learning the value of hard work as much as it was about sports and competition, Cindy said.

"We tried to make a family day of it," Cindy said of the weekend tournaments the boys compete in. "The little kids were not wrestling, and it was a long day. We'd pack a cooler, pack up books and games, grab a corner by the bleachers and throw a blanket



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ron and Cindy Beard's family includes 10 children, nine boys who have become well known for their wrestling prowess, and a girl, Brielle, who has channeled her energies into basketball. The boys, from left, include Bayden, Brenton, Bennett, Braxton (the youngest), Brady (the oldest), Blake, Blaine, Bryson and Bridger. Blake, Bryson and Bridger are currently standouts on the Central Valley High School wrestling team.

down. It was, 'We'd all get Gatorade today,' or 'Mom's going to make cookies today.'"

Brady, now 24, was the first, and over the years the rest followed suit.

He competed at Ephrata and was followed by Brenton, 22, who finished fifth in State 2A while competing at Riverside. After the family moved to Liberty Lake, he would place third for Central Valley in State 4A. He is now competing at Northern Montana.

Blake remembers, before moving to the Spokane Valley, making the two-hour round trips out to West Valley or East Valley from Elk to seek out better practice competition.

"A lot of it," Blake said of his own success, "was looking up to (his older brothers)."

Each youngster has progressed at his own level, said their mother. Some have been more intense than others; none was pushed to continue the sport, but all remain involved.

Rounding out the clan are the only girl, Brielle, 13, and brothers Bennett, 11, Blaine, 10, Bayden, 8, and Braxton, 6.

The younger boys, who Cindy calls "peas in a pod," all weigh within a few pounds

of each other and play football as well as wrestle.

Although the sport has embraced women — girls have their own state classification now — Brielle has channeled her energy into basketball, with a goal of playing varsity at CV when she's a freshman.

"When she was 2 or 3, she thought it (wrestling) would be fun, but we said, no, no, not our girl," Cindy said. "Now she looks back and says, 'Why did I ever think that would be fun?'"

How the children's first names all start with "B" is a story unto itself. It never was intentional. They never knew the gender before each was born, Cindy explained.

"When we had Brady and Brenton, we basically liked the names," Cindy explained. "Ron liked the name Blake for a boy so we went with that not even thinking."

Figuring no. 4 might be their last, Bryson came along. After that it was too late to turn back.

"You know when you're looking for names, it was 'go to the B section of the baby name book,'" Cindy said with a laugh.

The decision was made to home school, in part because they wanted a Christian at-

mosphere, she said, and also to be able to spend more time with the children. It began as a year-to-year endeavor and burgeoned. Bryson and Bridger do take a couple classes at CV. Religion is a big part of their lives.

"I didn't start with the intention of teaching them through high school, but as we went along saw how quickly they could learn and get things done and we could have more time together as a family," Cindy said.

Money, the saying goes, can't buy happiness. As might be expected with a family their size, the Beards live modestly. They don't take fancy vacations, have the extras others expect and drive older cars. They save before they buy and if the children want something, they work to pay for it.

But they have a refrigerator full of food (you can imagine our food bill, Cindy said) and a nice home.

"We don't have a lot of stuff, but we have each other, and we have enough to get by," Blake Beard said after being named Outstanding Wrestler at Central Valley's Inland Empire Classic tournament in December.

They have their faith and the values generated from a lifetime of wrestling. What more could a family ask for?

SPORTS

Rivalries helping sort out CV's basketball, wrestling title hopes

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

There was the Stinky Sneaker, then the Battle of the Bone. Yes, competition between rival Central Valley and University fans was spirited.

But don't forget: Amidst all that action by supporters in the stands, a sporting event broke out on basketball courts and wrestling mats propelling teams and athletes headlong into February's postseason.

And what a compelling four-team boys basketball playoff for Greater Spokane League supremacy it will be. Who can remember when four teams could conceivably have been tied for first place with three games remaining during regular season play?

The outcome of the Stinky Sneaker rivalry game between Central Valley and University held the fates for an undisputed league title in their hands.

And when the game was over, U-Hi may have won the Sneaker for the second straight year, but the Bears had won the game and found themselves alone in first place, at least temporarily, one game ahead of the Titans, Lewis and Clark and Rogers.

They had split with U-Hi, lost to the Pirates for the second time by two points in overtime, then faced surging LC after Splash press deadlines in late January, the outcome determining whether CV was in the driver's seat or whether part of a four-way first-place tie.

CV took an eight-point lead, but the Titans erased the deficit late in the first half to hold a four-point advantage at halftime.

The Bears then went on a 22-8 tear after intermission and had things seemingly in hand leading 42-31 heading into the game's final eight minutes. But three 3-pointers brought the Titans back before Eli Emerson's two free throws saved the

day, 48-45.

With four games remaining, Central Valley's **Michael Hannan** was averaging 15.3 points and **Cameron Tucker** 12.8 points per game, including two non-league contests.

Wrestlers' new season

The winner of the annual Battle of the Bone (also held after press deadlines on Jan. 28) earns a share of the GSL championship, coaching brothers get to lord it over the other and winning team members earn bragging rights before they go their ways this month in search of individual tournament glory.

John Owen usually isn't prone to jockeying his wrestlers around in weight classes in search of an advantage as his brother Don so adeptly does at U-Hi, but he was all in, during a 33-26 victory over North Central last month.

District competition begins Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 6 and ends at the Mat Classic state tournament in Tacoma Feb. 21-22.

The Bears return two state finalists, two-time champion **Blake Beard**, second place finisher **Bryson Beard** and state veterans **Braedon Orrino** and **Chauncy Garrigan**.

The scoring machine

Greatness is writ throughout GSL girls basketball history. Their names can be found from Division I colleges to the WNBA. But Central Valley's **Madison Hovren** will likely have outscored them all by the time her career is said and done.

Five times this year, Hovren has scored more than 30 points in a game, with games of 34 and 32 against rival University. For the second straight year, her season scoring average is "hovrening" around 23 per contest. And the Bears were part of a taut three-team chase for second place in the GSL as the playoffs approach in a week.

For more information, go to www.trailheadladies9.com or call 879-7391.

Johnson named NHL all-star

Liberty Lake native and former Spokane Chief standout Tyler Johnson was named to the National Hockey League all-star roster, though he didn't play in the Jan. 25 event due to an injury.

In his second NHL season, the Tampa Bay Lightning center is eighth in the league in scoring at the halfway point. In late January, he was profiled by USA Today in an article headlined, "Tyler Johnson could lead U.S. World Cup roster."

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Sports Briefs

Trailhead ladies club preps for 2015 season

The Trailhead Ladies nine-hole golf club invites women golfers of all ages and abilities to join them for the 2015 season. Besides weekly play every Wednesday morning April through September, the group enjoys tournaments, socials and PGA clinics.

Registration will be held 10:30 a.m. March 25 at the Trailhead Golf Course Clubhouse, 1102 N. Liberty Lake Road. Cost is \$55 for full membership or \$31 for associate membership (if already a member of another club).



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SPORTS

Nonconformist faces super dilemma



By Chad Kimberley
SPLASH COLUMN

I love sports. I love big-time sporting events. I love championship games and the playoff brackets that lead to said game. I love celebrating amongst friends and frenemies (depending on who is cheering for whom). I love it when the confetti flies at the end of another season, and one team walks off the victors.

And I love it most when it is my team.

But — surprise, surprise — my team is not involved in the Super Bowl that kicks off the beginning of February and brings a close to another NFL season.

And worse yet, everyone I interact with gets to celebrate because their team is in the big game. Every time I walk into the grocery store, pick up some fast food, sit down to eat or run an errand, I am surrounded by dozens and dozens of numbers 12 along with a sea of navy blue and emerald green Seahawk gear.

The folks I run into are giddy to seek back-to-back titles, while I am stuck trying to get excited about another new coach and

general manager combo whom, I hope, can bring back the glory of the 1985 Bears before I am forced to shuffle off to the retirement village someday.

So I am faced with a Super Bowl dilemma. Do I cheer along with my Pacific-based friends and family for the Seahawks, or am I forced to cheer against Seattle but on behalf of the Patriots (who my Bears crushed in 1985)?

Decisions, decisions, decisions.

I remember when I was a kid and had to make a few important sports fandom choices. I needed to pick a college team to cheer for. My aunt and uncle (for whom I bore the ring down the aisle for their wedding looking quite spiffy in my white tux) were huge Iowa State fans along with my grandparents, who lived just a few miles from Ames, Iowa, the home of the Cyclones.

I chose the University of Iowa and became a Hawkeye fan.

My uncle who I thought was the definition of cool was a Minnesota Vikings fan and had convinced his wife to share the same allegiance. He bought me my first set of Topps football cards. He got me my first football.

I chose the Chicago Bears.

I guess I am a non-conformist at heart.

Later in life, I lived in Ohio while refusing to ever shift allegiance to the Ohio State

Buckeyes (and have had to endure the bravado of many friends as the Buckeyes have won a couple of championships). Then I moved to Wisconsin and have had to listen to Packers fans gloat of their success while my Bears served as essentially their welcome mat most seasons.

Yet I stayed loyal to my team and to my deep-seated refusal to jump on the local bandwagon.

So again I come back to my dilemma. What do I do on Super Bowl Sunday? Russell or Brady? Sherman or Revis Island? Gronk or Beast? Happy and Huggy Carroll or Gruff and Grim Belichick?

In the spirit of “Let’s Make a Deal,” I am going to choose door No. 3 and refuse to bandwagon or conform. So, I am cheering for three things on Super Bowl Sunday.

First off, I want a great game. I know my Seahawk friends loved the blowout over Denver last season, as there was no doubt throughout the game that they were going to hoist the Lombardi Trophy as NFL champions. Being a fan in a blowout is great because the stress is off and you get to celebrate, but being a non-fan of the team causes a 43-8 final score to lead to channel flipping by the third quarter. If we could get a Super Bowl finish that modeled the NFC championship miracle comeback and not the AFC dismantling of the Colts by the Patriots, I would be happy to watch that game.

Secondly, I want some great entertainment. I want terrific commercials that make me laugh and immediately start trending on social media. I am hopeful for a half-time show that doesn’t stink royally. I want some crowd shots that are not simply actors doing “promos” for their NBC shows — unless of course it is the cast of Parks and Recreation. I want Idina Menzel to rock the national anthem and then bust into a rendition of “Let It Go.” And I would like to have a game within the game to see who gets more on-screen images, Macklemore or Gisele (early prediction: Gisele wins 4-3).

Finally, I want the Chicago Bears management to watch and learn from both of these teams and franchises. I may not be a genuine fan of either the Seahawks or the Patriots, but I sure would like my team to follow their leads. Find a great quarterback that others may overlook. Build a strong defense, play with some swagger, run the ball effectively and most importantly win consistently each season and compete for championships. That is not asking for too much is it?

My prediction for Super Bowl 49: Seahawks 31, Patriots 28.

My prediction for Super Bowl 50: Bears 77, Bengals 0.

Chad Kimberley is a local teacher and coach. He lives with his family in Liberty Lake.

Santa Slammer champs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The fourth grade girls team NBC Camps Synergy won the championship at the AAU Santa Slammer Tournament in December. Pictured are (front row) Josie Miller, Teagan Colvin, Alex Taylor, Mia Decaro, Libby Awbery; (back row) coach Chris Colvin, Romy Robinson, Talia Emmerson, Lizzy Gresch, Grace Kalua and Malia Ota.

Project Unify plays at HUB



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Valley High School is one of several area high schools to compete in the Project Unify basketball league at the HUB Sports Center in January. This Special Olympics project aims to unite youth with and without disabilities through sports, education and activities.

Ringside action at the HUB



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The preliminary rounds of the 2015 USA Boxing National Championships were held Jan. 19-22 at the HUB Sports Center. Kids in the HUB 360 program also had a chance to get in the ring, as well as hear from WBO Lightweight Champion Terence Crawford.

Letters to the Editor



Blessings Under the Bridge extends thanks to LL

What a great year Blessings Under the Bridge had! We grew faster this past year than ever. We can't say thank you enough for all the amazing blessings because we received so many this year. We are also incredibly touched by the new relationships we have built and maintained.

Let me share some of the highlights of 2014. A huge increase in the number of people we serve every week. An increase in donations of food and other needed items, giving us the ability to serve from seven stations. Other organizations willing to help our friends who join us on Wednesdays. A move into an 8,000-square-foot HUB with a walk-in refrigerator, freezer and massive commercial shelving units. Our first official lease with the city of Spokane. Two vans to transport food and tables. The 4th annual Summer Event that served 650 people. Media attention including a September feature in People Magazine.

We ended our year with our 8th Annual Winter Event. With new features this year and a total of 32 stations, over 1,100 people came together under the bridge. It was our largest event to date. It seems that 2014 brought a movement to Spokane, simply by giving others an exciting option to serve the homeless and less fortunate in our city. The hand that blesses is the most blessed.

Special thank you to all Liberty Lake residents and the following Liberty Lake 2014 supporters: Albertsons, Altek, Anthony Frei (Thrivent Financial), Baker Construction and family, Boy Scouts Austin Wright and Sean Hagerty, Bubbadoz Cart, Emily Osborne (Statefarm), Hay J's Bistro, Express Scripts, Insight, John L. Scott staff and family, Jim Frank (Greenstone), KiDDS Dental, Lakeside Church, Latter Day Saints of Liberty Lake, Legacy Animal Medical Center, Liberty Lake Community Church, Liberty Lake Police Dept., Liberty Lake Running Club, True Legends, Melissa Wilson (31 Bags representative), Safeway, Starbucks, Stepping Stones, The Splash/Current, Tom



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jessica Kovac said many businesses and individuals from Liberty Lake have supported Blessings Under the Bridge this past year, including Bubbadoz, boy scouts Austin Wright and Sean Hagerty, and the LDS Church.

Coffin (Rennaker Financial), Uplift Church, Valley Sports HUB, Vivint and Walgreens.

Blessings Under the Bridge is beyond thankful and blessed by all of our past, present and current supporters since 2007. Together, we have served over 52,000 people. We look forward to expanding our mission and continuing to build our relationship in 2015. We wish you an amazing and Happy New Year!

Jessica and Mike Kovac
Founders of Blessings Under the Bridge

Central Valley is now at a crucial point. The district is growing. Over the past 10 years Central Valley has grown by 1,700 students without building any new schools. An additional 900 students are projected in the next 5 years.

Last spring the CV Facilities Planning Committee considered more than 4,000 community thoughts before developing a bond package to address our district's most urgent needs without raising the tax rate. Community priorities were: school safety and security; children attending schools in their own neighborhoods; a practical, cost effective approach to construction; and projects that doesn't raise the tax rate.

The proposed bond package addresses all three of these community priorities. Voter approval will not raise the tax rate. Our last voter-approved 1998 high schools bonds will be paid off. Levy approval to continue school programs and operations is also crucial and will not raise tax rates.

It is time to approve this bond and levy vote. We must continue our tradition of pride and excellence. Vote yes for CV schools.

Karen Toreson
Liberty Lake

Vote to maintain school excellence

As a Central Valley graduate, resident, parent and retired employee, I have experienced educational excellence over many years. Innovative programs, quality staffing and high academic standards have distinguished Central Valley School District and established a tradition of pride and excellence.

Secure the future of CV schools

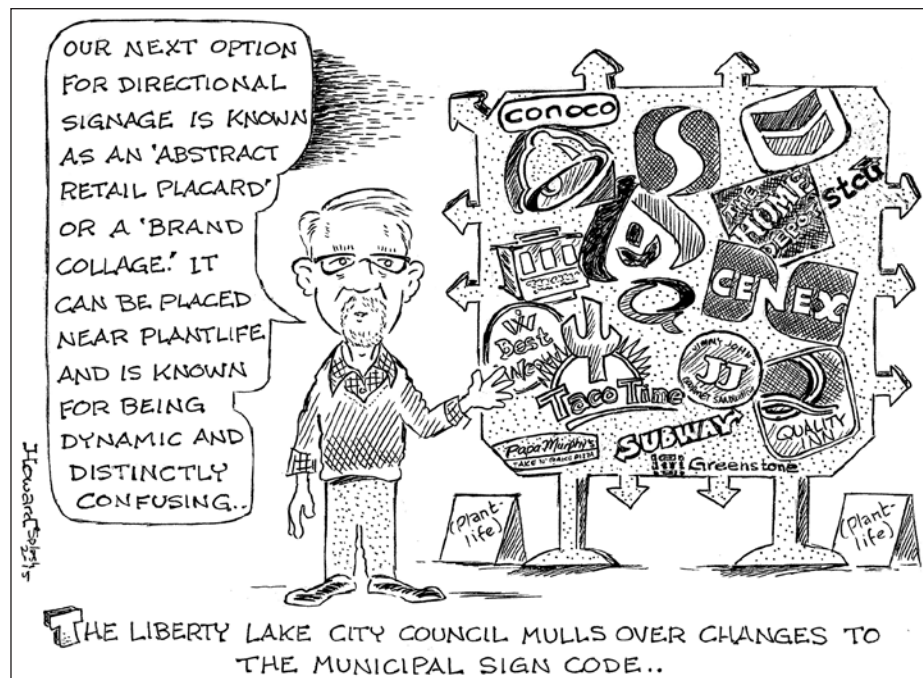
I am urging all taxpayers and citizens to please return your ballot marked with a "yes" vote for Central Valley School District's Bond and Levy measures, right away. Every ballot is so important — and your "yes" vote will help secure the future and safety of our great schools and learning environments for every kiddo.

CVSD is responsible and committed to every child who comes through our doors, regardless of the socio-economic status the child comes from, or the disabilities or obstacles the child may face. But we need more and better facilities to serve these children responsibly and equitably. Our local economy depends on us securing safe and appropriate learning facilities for our students to continue to attract homeowners and citizens to the Spokane Valley, which helps maintain and increase home values — every homeowners' concern.

Our school board has listened to our citizens and committed to not raising the tax rate with these measures, yet we are able to make significant progress with what is quickly becoming a critical issue in our schools. Please help us secure the future of Central Valley schools and our economy; the time is critical.

MJ Bolt
President, Central Valley School Board of Directors

Editorial Cartoon



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 emailed 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 Editor/Publisher Josh Johnson.

OPINION

Honesty builds trust, integrity

By Bryan Jarrett

SPLASH GUEST COLUMN



According to Wikipedia, honesty refers to “a facet of moral character and connotes positive and virtuous attributes such as integrity, truthfulness and straightforwardness, including straightforwardness of conduct, along with the absence of lying, cheating, theft, etc.” Furthermore, honesty means being trustworthy, loyal, fair and sincere. At Partners Advocating Character Education (PACE), the definition for this month’s character trait of the month, honesty, is easily defined as “sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.”

Why is honesty so important? That answer seems easy, right? Being honest is the right thing to do. We have all heard the famous Benjamin Franklin saying, “Honesty is the best policy.” By being honest in our lives, we build trustworthiness and integrity with our family, friends, co-workers, etc. We even hold ourselves accountable.

In the mortgage industry, honesty is sought after in many ways. Whether it is a loan officer applying or renewing their professional licenses, or a borrower completing a loan application, there are laws and regulations to punish dishonesty. Loan officers

are trained to recognize possible dishonesty and ask questions to uncover a reason to be concerned with an applicant or not. The Federal Trade Commission implemented the Red Flags Rule which requires many businesses and organizations to implement a written Identity Theft Prevention Program designed to detect the warning signs — or red flags — of identity theft in their day-to-day operations.

As a parent, honesty becomes even more important as raising children who are honest is vital to shaping their character and setting them up for success. Trust is the foundation of a strong family, and trust is built from consistent honesty. Relationships survive on each person being honest to each other.

Have you ever been dishonest for personal gain only for that poor decision to come back around to bite you? These experiences in life are humbling, right? We are reminded how important being honest 100 percent of the time is as it paves the way for stronger relationships, personal and professional.

How do we do our part to build honesty in our community? That answer is easy — be honest. Support organizations that place value on educating and supporting the same. PACE is a grassroots Spokane Valley initiative to promote the importance of good character through partnerships with schools, businesses, public agencies, residents, faith-based organizations and community service groups. Working from a common list of monthly character traits, partners promote and integrate each trait into the regular activities of the organization. Consider supporting PACE by becoming a partner or friend of PACE.

Bryan Jarrett came to Envoy Mortgage from the insurance profession where thousands of his clients trusted him to insure their assets. Bryan has served on numerous community boards including the EWU Eagle Athletic Association, GSI’s Education Roundtable and the International Trade Alliance. He wrote this column as part of a series highlighting the PACE trait of the month. The trait for February is “honesty.”

community with questionable facts, misstatements and exaggerations. Their timing, by design, makes it impossible for the school district or its supporters to challenge their allegations or correct the misinformation. In contrast, the school district is required to have its information available for public perusal months before the actual vote.

The backers of the group don’t identify themselves on either the material they distribute or their website; and they use addresses that are not linked to their regular residence (one year they listed the address of their vacation home which shared an address with several neighboring properties). When called out on one especially egregious statement — that a district’s levy

Reader Feedback



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

These newer additions to the Liberty Lake landscape stood out to Splash reader Bill Kinnison upon reading January’s cover story about Liberty Lake landmarks.

The January cover story, “Heritage Hall of Fame,” sharing 15 landmarks in the Liberty Lake community, spurred reader feedback regarding other favorite community markers.

Bill Kinnison wrote in sharing photos of two of the newer landmarks: a memorial to Army Sgt. Gregory James Beckham along the northern portion of the shoreline included in the Zephyr Lodge property. Beckham died in 2007 at the age of 33. The owner of the 53-acre Zephyr property, a network of churches, gave permission for the family to place a monument at the site.

Kinnison’s second photo he refers to as the “Nessie statue,” a sea creature that guards the southern point of Dreamwood Bay.

Reader Cindy Esch wrote in about a landmark with special significance: the bench that is dedicated to her father, Lyle M. Domrese, that sits atop Rocky Hill Park with the inscription, “Watching the Clouds” (pictured at right). Her family has a long history at the site, as one of the landmarks that was mentioned in the story, the Rocky Hill Park barn, was built by her grandfather.



SPLASH FILE PHOTO

Finally, who’s to say that landmarks need to be year round? Lisa Klapp shared her favorite landmark: the red-nosed reindeer sign that comes out each winter along Liberty Lake Road.

If you have more information on any of these landmarks, or if you have other favorite landmarks, send them to editor@libertylakesplash.com.

— Josh Johnson, Editor and Publisher



LETTERS

Continued from page 35

‘Citizens’ mislead taxpayers

Duane Alton and his cronies are at it again. Hiding behind the misleading label, Citizens for Responsible Taxation, they have once again plastered the community with a last-minute flyer filled with half-truths and falsehoods in an attempt to undermine passage of the Central Valley School District’s upcoming levy and bond measures.

This group has been using the same stealth tactics for years. They wait until the ballots are scheduled to arrive in voters’ mailboxes, and then they paper the

would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$2,490 over two years instead of the correct amount of \$249 — they issued a late and weak correction stating that is was “just an innocent mistake.” It’s not hard to imagine their response if the school district understated the cost of their proposal by a factor of 10.

Their website (www.taxfacts.com) states that the group is composed of the “... families of two million home-educated children” and the “... families of 5.9 million private-school-educated children.” However, Washington’s Public Disclosure Commission reports that the Alton family provides 99 percent of the organization’s funding. Nowhere on their website can you find names or contact informa-

tion for any of the individuals associated with the group. The return address on their current flyer is a post office box on the South Hill.

An internet search for either Duane Alton or Citizens for Responsible Taxation will reveal the group’s 10-year history of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in attempts to defeat school funding measure across the state. Fortunately, the vast majority of measures they have tried to torpedo have been overwhelmingly approved by citizens who saw through their shenanigans. Hopefully, Central Valley voters will do the same in this election.

It’s time to man-up, Mr. Alton. If you

See LETTERS, page 37

THE Splash

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER **Josh Johnson**
josh@libertylakesplash.com

GENERAL MANAGER **Tammy Kimberley**
tammy@libertylakesplash.com

GRAPHICS EDITOR **Sarah Burk**
sarah@libertylakesplash.com

CIRCULATION **Dean Byrns**
Mike Wiykovics
circulation@libertylakesplash.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Lauren Campbell, Craig Howard,
Chad Kimberley, Mary Kate Koch,
Treva Lind, Shardé Mills, Valerie Putnam,
Sarah Robertson, Ross Schneidmiller,
Erik Smith, Mike Vlahovich

On the cover:

Splash design concept by Sarah Burk

About

The Liberty Lake Splash
23403 E. Mission Avenue, Suite 102
Liberty Lake, WA 99019
Phone: 242-7752; Fax: 927-2190
www.libertylakesplash.com

The Splash is published monthly by or before the first of each month. It is distributed free of charge to every business and home in the greater Liberty Lake area. Additional copies are located at 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. Submissions should be received by the 15th of the month for best chance of publication in the following month's Splash.

Subscriptions

Liberty Lake residents receive a complimentary copy each month. Subscriptions for U.S. postal addresses outside of the 99019 ZIP code cost \$12 for 12 issues. Send a check and subscription address to P.O. Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. Subscriptions must be received by the 15th of the month in order for the subscription to begin with the issue printed the end of that month.

Correction policy

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

Advertising information

Display ad copy and camera-ready ads are due by 5 p.m. on the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. Call 242-7752 for more information.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Continued from page 36

have problems with the school district's levy or bond requests, state them up front and in a timely way so that the school district and supporters have time to respond to your concerns and correct your misinformation. Quit hiding behind disingenuous names and addresses. Let voters make an accurately informed decision about whether or not to support the proposed measures.

Dennis Ray
Liberty Lake

Bond crucial to vitality of community

As a 30-year resident of Central Valley, I am voting yes for the Central Valley Bond and Levy. These two proposals are vital if we want to maintain the economic vitality of our community.

It has been 16 long years since our community passed a bond. It's time we do so again! Today, a number of CV schools are in dire need of upgrades to make them secure, energy efficient and less crowded. Four of our schools have no interior doors to lock in case of an emergency including the school where I teach, Greenacres Elementary. Many schools have the added security risk of portable classrooms.

Our schools are an investment we must maintain in order to attract and keep a healthy business presence which, in turn, promotes strong property values. Central Valley School District has structured this bond to accomplish a great deal without raising taxes while meeting the educational needs of our children. It's a win, win for everyone.

I think back to my grandparents who voted yes for schools in their day so my mother could enjoy art and music. Likewise, my parents voted yes for levies when I was young so I could study music and journalism. In my family being a good citizen meant supporting our local schools. Even as a struggling single parent, I always voted yes for Central Valley schools, so my kids could experience band, sports, art and other activities that helped develop the whole child. Now as a grandmother, I want my grandchildren to benefit from this same rich tradition.

Citizens in Central Valley have always supported our schools. We know that our schools are an anchor in our community. We take pride in the many ways our students excel whether it is in academics, sports, drama or music. From pre-K through high school, Central Valley schools keep our community vibrant and growing.

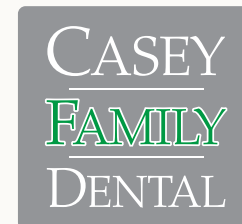
Vote yes, yes for the CV Bond and Levy. Love your school this February.

Jill Moll
Teacher, Greenacres Elementary

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THE Splash

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NEWS

COUNCIL

Continued from page 9

for the ballfields. Severs added that for the \$5,000 fee, SPVV should have a representative on hand to discuss the options in more detail. Council unanimously approved a \$5,000 agreement with SPVV Landscape Architects to proceed with the study during its Jan. 6 meeting.

"We could use the storage, but I'm not strongly advocating for it," Allen replied. "We just wanted to bring back good information for your consideration."

Council Member Odin Langford suggested the city hold a workshop to consider upgrades to Pavillion Park on a broader scale. Others proposed that a larger central storage site at the park would mean doing away with plans for a space at the ballfields.

Several citizens weighed in on the concession stand debate, including Charmaine Peterson who noted that council had recently approved \$30,000 for the revival of Liberty Lake Days this summer. Calculating the shelf life of a new concession stand over 30 years and the cost of the community celebration over that same span, Peterson speculated that "the city could afford a pretty nice concession stand for \$900,000."

Council votes to endorse CVSD capital facilities bond

Come Feb. 10, the Central Valley School District will need a supermajority of at least 60 percent to pass a \$121.9 million capital facilities bond. At the Jan. 6 City Council meeting, the initiative earned an approval rate of 100 percent.

The governing board unanimously voted in support of a resolution that endorsed the funding proposal and encouraged voters to return their ballots by Election Day.

"It's imperative that the public vote," said Mayor Steve Peterson. "You have no complaint if you don't vote."

CVSD Superintendent Ben Small appeared at the Jan. 6 meeting, making it clear that he could not advocate for the council's stamp of endorsement, although Small did

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acknowledge that the upcoming vote "is very important for the city of Liberty Lake and the totality of the Central Valley community."

Small said that up to 300 students in the Liberty Lake attendance area would be bused to outside schools if the vote fails. He added that he has met with city staff to discuss traffic patterns on the roads surrounding the proposed school.

"At least we have an understanding how traffic works around this site," he said.

Prior to the vote, CVSD Board Member Amy Mason, a resident of Liberty Lake, thanked council for considering the endorsement while emphasizing that the district "has been working diligently to solve problems."

CVSD last passed a construction bond in 1998, when voters approved a \$78 million

request that built two new high schools and brought extensive upgrades to several other campuses. The last four bond votes have failed, although supporters of the latest initiative are calling attention to the fact that it will not include a tax increase since the 1998 bond will be retiring.

Council Member Dunne encouraged his fellow city colleagues "to advocate for our schools" by campaigning on behalf of the bond. Better schools, Dunne said, "are critical for the development of our community and our economy."

Over the past decade, the district has reported an additional 1,700 students enrolling at its schools with no new buildings being built. If the funding is approved on the ballot next month, CVSD would add a K-2 elementary school in Liberty Lake and renovate seven other schools, including Greenacres Elementary. The bond would also include safety and security upgrades as well as preliminary designs for a third high school on land at Henry Road and 16th Avenue.

"When people decide where they are going to live, schools are an important part of that," Peterson said.

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CV boasts wins, U-Hi claims shoe during Stinky Sneaker



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Students and staff from two CVSD high schools battled for bragging rights during the annual Stinky Sneaker rivalry game Jan. 22 at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Area. After a night of crazy costumes, skits and cheers, Central Valley High School claimed wins in both games while University High School was awarded the coveted shoe trophy.



The Central Valley girls beat University, 61-42. Senior Madison Hovren, below, had a game-high 32 points along with 15 rebounds.

Later that evening, the CV boys team came out on top with a 48-45 win over U-Hi during a close game.



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Reveal your romantic side throughout February with a luxurious classic room (includes evening turn-down service), a \$40 credit to La Rive Spa, and a \$50 dining credit.

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*Based on availability. Restrictions apply. Offer valid 2/1/2015 - 2/28/2015.

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