

THE Splash

LIBERTY LAKE'S COMMUNITY NEWSMAGAZINE
MARCH 2013

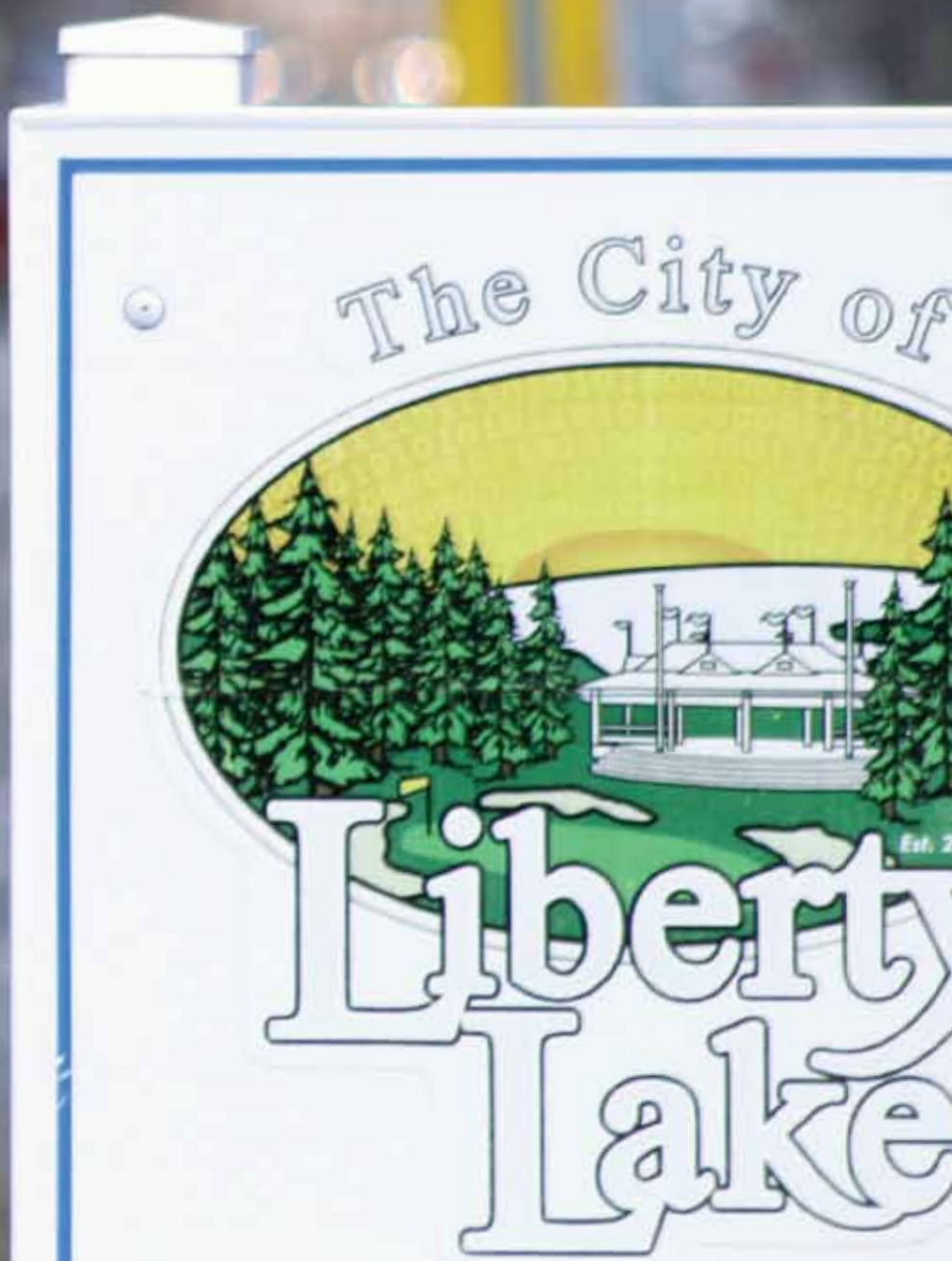
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PAGES 30-32



FAMILIAR
FACE TO
LEAD LLSWD
PAGE 10



EGG HUNT
BATON
PASSES
PAGE 20



KNUDSEN
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PAGE 34



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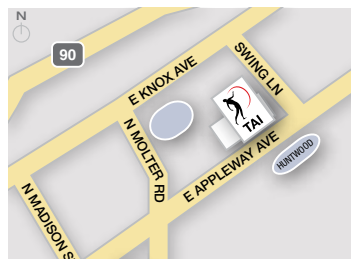
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Stephen Holcomb, Delvone Bullis and Ken Farr work out their extemporaneous comedic touch as part of the Liberty Lake Community Theatre's improv group. LLCT plans to begin a series of Improv Comedy Workshops every other Monday beginning March 4.

Show goes on for LLCT

Theater endured bank fraud and lack of a home, but fortunes may be turning

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF WRITER



As the Liberty Lake Community Theatre hopes it is at long last zeroing in on an arrangement that would provide a permanent home, founder and President Jennifer Ophardt joked the group has placed all its "eggs in one basket."

Of course, that's not true. There are backup options for the nimble organization. But the group hopes its 2013 season schedule (see page 6) will be performed in new, to-be-announced Liberty Lake digs.

It would be a worthy turn of events for 5-year-old LLCT, which has staged productions at six different locations and last year dealt with a bank account fraud that depleted its savings.

The Splash caught up with Ophardt to get up to speed on the ups and downs of the theatre's past and its plans for 2013.

Q. Your last production, "Hit the Road, Jack," featured a bank robbery, but it sounds like the theater experienced a real-life version of bank troubles. What happened?

A. Sadly, our bank account was practically drained twice in 2012 by someone making purchases with our account number via the Internet.

We filed (Spokane Valley) police reports, and although purchases were made on personal accounts — cooking classes, gas purchases in Spokane and even a credit report check — no charges were made. ...

What I am most curious about is how they made these charges. I'm the only one with access to the bank card, so how do they gain access to our account?

I was notified by the bank when charges brought our account below \$20. We got new numbers and cards, but even that is a big inconvenience, especially since a lot of the businesses we use are on automatic withdrawal, and we have to setup all new credit accounts with them.

Q. How did this impact the operations of the theater?

A. The most impact it had on our group was that we were unable to use the funds while the second investigation was going on. This hurts our chances for growth, since currently all our funds go back into the next production.

Thankfully, we have an amazing community. The employees of Safeway heard our struggle and made a generous donation to help keep us on our feet. We are surrounded by truly amazing and compassionate

See LLCT, page 6

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NEWS

Police Report

LLPD hires new records clerk

Sakti Hiatt of Liberty Lake was hired recently to serve as police records clerk and office manager for the Liberty Lake Police Department. She replaces Bobbi Anderson, who is resigning after six years serving the department.

“(Bobbi’s) going to be greatly missed,” Police Chief Brian Asmus said. “She’s an incredible resource for us here, and she has some great people skills that have been able to diffuse some pretty volatile situations.”

Hiatt, who will leave her job with Spokane County, comes to LLPD with office management experience and a degree in criminal justice, Asmus said. Her first day on the job will be March 7.

The following incidents, arrests, calls for service and citations were among those reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department between Jan. 28 and Feb. 25.

Incidents and arrests

• **Stolen vehicle** — At 11 a.m. Jan. 28, LLPD received a report of a stolen vehicle from the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive. The complainant stated his car was taken from the parking lot while he was at work. Police determined the vehicle had been impounded by SPD and was at a tow lot. The complainant was provided the information on the location and how to retrieve his vehicle.

• **Credit card fraud** — At 4:50 p.m. Jan. 30, LLPD received a report at the 23000 block of East Riverside Avenue regarding several unauthorized charges to a debit card. Approximately 10 unauthorized charges were made online between Dec. 4-5 at walmart.com for a total amount of \$483. All the items purchased were mailed out of state.

• **Drug, weapons arrests** — A 29-year-old Spokane Valley man was arrested for possessing methamphetamine and a 42-year-old Airway Heights man was arrested on two counts of possessing dangerous weapons after the pair were stopped by LLPD at 1:50 p.m. Jan. 31. The contact was initially made for a traffic and equipment violation. While the vehicle was being stopped, the officer observed a great deal of movement within in the vehicle and saw the driver hand an object to the passenger. The driver got out of the vehicle, and the officer noticed a knife on the right side of his belt. The subject was detained, and the officer recovered a large knife, brass knuckles, a pocket knife and a third knife and handcuff key on a lanyard around his neck, leading him to be arrested for dangerous weapons. Officers also located a plastic bag in the driver’s pocket that contained a white powder substance. The suspect stated it was “salts.” The powder

did not test positive for methamphetamine but was seized and sent to the crime lab for analysis. The passenger was detained, and officers recovered a pocket knife from him as well as a glass smoking device containing residue. The residue was tested and returned positive for the presence of methamphetamine. The suspect told officers he smoked meth a couple of hours prior to being contacted. Both subjects were booked into the Spokane County Jail.

• **Domestic violence arrest** — A 41-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested at 4 p.m. Feb. 2 in Athol, Idaho, for an incident that occurred at 6:45 A.M. at the 21000 block of East Rockrose Lane. The charges included domestic violence, first degree robbery, taking a motor vehicle without permission and fourth-degree assault. Officers were dispatched to an assault at the address, and the complainant reported her son had hit her and took the keys to her vehicle and was leaving the apartment complex. Officers and deputies checked the surrounding area and could not locate the suspect immediately. The car was entered into the system as stolen, and a regional attempt to locate for the suspect was dispatched. At 3:45 p.m., LLPD was notified the suspect had turned himself in to police in Athol. The vehicle was recovered, and the suspect was booked into Kootenai County Jail.

• **Mail thefts** — At 12:45 a.m. Jan. 31, LLPD assisted the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office on a traffic stop of a vehicle involved in several mail thefts in the area of the 1500 block of South Garry Road. The deputy contacted the driver and located several hypodermic syringes, one of which contained an unknown liquid suspected of being a controlled substance. The passenger was detained by LLPD. The passenger admitted to being with the driver throughout the night and driving around the Liberty Lake area removing mail from several mailboxes. The case was turned over to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office.

• **Suspicious person not really suspicious** — At 6:30 a.m. Feb. 1, LLPD was dispatched to a suspicious circumstances call at the 200 block of North Lindeblad Lane. A neighbor reported seeing an unknown person with a flashlight walking around the home next door, and the door to the home appeared to be tampered with. Officers contacted the homeowners and learned that the homeowner walked out with a flashlight to get the newspaper.

• **Malicious mischief at MeadowWood** — At 9:15 a.m. Feb. 4, LLPD received report of a malicious mischief incident at MeadowWood Golf Course. The complainant stated that damage found on the eighth-hole fairway appeared like someone was doing donuts in a vehicle on the grass. Investigating officers learned a resident who lives along the fairway witnessed the

incident and took video of the subject doing the damage to the course. It appeared an older Ford Bronco was responsible for the damage, which occurred around the first of the year.

• **Domestic violence arrest** — A 23-year-old Spokane Valley man was arrested at 12:15 p.m. Feb. 5 at the 25000 block of East Hawkstone Loop for a violation of a domestic violence no contact order. Officers were dispatched after a tenant reported to the manager of the complex of a possible domestic violence situation at one of the apartments. The complainant provided a vehicle description associated with the call. As officers arrived, they observed the vehicle leaving the parking area with three people. During the investigation, it was determined no assault occurred, however, the arrested man was in violation of a domestic violence no contact order by being in a vehicle with the protected person. He was transported to the Spokane County Jail.

• **Domestic violence arrest** — A 42-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested at 2:40 a.m. Feb. 9 at the 1300 block of North Simpson Road for domestic violence assault and malicious mischief. Officers were dispatched to the residence for a physical fight between husband and wife. Officers learned that during an argument, the wife threw food at the husband, hitting him in the face, then grabbed a Pyrex glass dish and broke it on the floor. The husband went to bed, and the suspect followed him and assaulted him by hitting him in the face and chest and biting his ear. She was booked into the Spokane County Jail.

• **Drug arrests** — Two juvenile boys from Spokane Valley, ages 16 and 17, were arrested at 12:15 a.m. Feb. 9 in the parking lot of Liberty Lake Elementary School for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. While on patrol, the officer stopped a vehicle he observed driving in the parking lot of the school without any headlights. During the contact, the officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana. When asked, the driver stated they had all been smoking marijuana and that there was a “bong” on the floorboard of the vehicle. The driver told the officer they were smoking at a friend’s house. There were a total of four people in the vehicle. Officers obtained consent to search the vehicle and recovered the “bong” and found a second smoking device in the vehicle. After the investigation, it was determined that two of the subjects claimed possession of the items found in the vehicle. Guardians were called for all the subjects in the car, and they arrived on scene and picked them up. Charges have been filed with juvenile court on two of the subjects.

• **Stolen license plate** — At 3:50 p.m. Feb. 11, LLPD received a report of a theft at the STA Park and Ride at the 22400 block

of East Mission. The complainant reported that the front license plate from her vehicle was taken while her car was parked in the lot Feb. 7. The license plate was entered into the system as stolen.

• **Wallet found** — At 4 p.m. Feb. 12, a citizen turned in a found wallet to LLPD, and the officer was able to contact the owner and make arrangements for the wallet to be picked up.

• **Mail theft** — At 12:40 p.m. Feb. 15, LLPD received a report of packages being removed from the front porch of a home at the 1800 block of North Aladdin Road between Feb. 13-15.

• **Reckless driving** — At 2:45 p.m. Feb. 17, a 29-year-old Greenacres man was arrested at the 20500 block of East Mission for reckless driving and DWLS. The driver was stopped for traveling 85 mph in a 35 mph zone. The suspect told the officer he thought he was travelling 100 MPH and that he did not have a license. It was determined his license was suspended.

• **Burglary** — At 9:15 p.m. Feb. 19, LLPD was dispatched to the 1400 block of North Aladdin Road for a burglary report. The complainant stated she noticed someone had broken into her garage Feb. 12, but nothing appeared to be missing. But on Feb. 19, the complainant was cleaning the garage and noticed several items missing, including cooking hardware and tools. The case was assigned to Det. Ray Bourgeois.

• **Warrant arrest** — A 24-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested at 3:40 p.m. Feb. 19 at the 1600 block of North Aladdin Road for an outstanding felony bench warrant for burglary.

• **Mail theft** — At 9:15 a.m. Feb. 21, LLPD received a report of a theft at the 1200 block of North Murray Lane. The complainant stated he was supposed to receive two packages from FedEx on Feb. 19, but they did not arrive. He received a phone call that two empty FedEx boxes with his name on it were located in Spokane and contacted FedEx, who told him the packages were delivered to his address at 10 a.m. Feb. 19.

• **Domestic violence arrest** — A 55-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at the 21200 block of East Country Vista Drive for domestic violence assault. Police Chief Brian Asmus said that under the “letter of the law with domestic violence, it was a mandatory arrest,” but the charges will be dropped. He said the woman assaulted her adult daughter, who allegedly had been stealing items from her mother and pawning them for money, as well as draining the mother’s banking and retirement accounts of thousands of dollars. Asmus said charges of possessing stolen property and trafficking stolen property are being pursued against the daughter.

See POLICE, page 6

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NEWS

THE 2013 SEASON

MARCH 4

7 p.m. Improv Comedy Workshops for ages 18 and up begin on this date and continue on every other Monday following. For more: stephen.k.holcomb@gmail.com

MARCH 22-23

"Reluctant Dragon" (reader's theatre), directed by Vicki Weaver

APRIL 26-27

This event, featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, is a fundraiser for LLCT and will include performances by the Improv Troupe as well as a production of the 45-minute comedy, "Well Written." For more: info@libertylaketheatre.com.

MAY 10-19

"Got it Made," a musical directed by Kevin Kuecken and Jennifer Ophardt with musical director Pamela Brownlee.

JUNE 1

Auditions will be held for "Big Bad," a children's play that will be directed by Vicki Normington.

AUGUST 5

Auditions will be held for "Death by Chocolate," which will be directed by Tiffany Hill.

OCTOBER 5

Auditions will be held for "Tiny Tim's Christmas," a sequel to Charles Dickens "Christmas Carol" to be directed by Adam Sharp.

* *Locations pending. Email info@libertylaketheatre.com for more information.*

LLCT

Continued from page 2

people, which makes staying in Liberty Lake that much more worth it.

Q. Speaking of which, any progress in your search for a permanent home for LLCT?

A. We have been looking for our own space for years, and we're extremely hopeful that we may have found a space that would be ideal for us, not only now but for future growth and development as well.

Q. Any juicy details you can release at this point?

A. Well, it is in Liberty Lake! Picture this: You walk into a lobby where you can visit the ticket booth or concession stand. You can then use the restrooms or go take a seat in the theater to see a production on the main stage. That's right, we could have a rehearsal stage!

Q. You guys have made do with a lot of temporary locations that weren't always that conducive to rehearsals, but you always seemed to make it work? Last season, you used the Kave in Otis Orchards. Would this location continue to be a possible backup?

A. Yes, the Kave would be a backup. It is a great venue, and we aren't the only group that believes so.

And that is our biggest struggle with that venue. Sharing a space with Zumba, karate, Kaleo Church and not to mention all the awesome concerts they host is hard. I am sure most clubs agree, especially when we kind of take over a space with our stage and set.

In fact, building a set can take weeks since we are dependent on the schedules

and availability of our volunteers. This usually means there are faux walls, construction equipment, props, furniture and even personal belongings left behind until the project is done.

Q. Remind me of the locations where LLCT has staged programs since its founding.

A. So far, we have performed at Guardian Angel, Pavillion Park, Liberty Square, Zephyr Lodge, MeadowWood Tech Campus and The Kave.

Q. Compare a homeless LLCT with what you are hoping to achieve should this new location work out.

A. Here are some of our dreams: spring break and summer camps, workshops, day classes for homeschoolers, a children's academy, productions three to four weeks out of each month, on-site storage (although we love our sponsor Storage Solutions), our own lighting (but we love Silhouette Lighting) — and an actual office.

OK, that last one is more for me since right now the theatre "office" and rehearsals are pretty much at my house. A steady place to hold meetings and events — oh, my hopes are up!

Q. When do you find out if this will work out?

A. We are hoping to hear back from the property manager (by March 1). Please keep your fingers crossed. It is going to be tough, but we are confident that our community will support us.

Q. How was the support level for your more recent productions?

A. Our last two productions had multiple sold-out shows, with "I'm Not Ebenezer Scrooge" performing at Zephyr Lodge and "Hit The Road, Jack" performing at The Kave. Our average was 80 at-

tendees a showing.

What a great feeling (although panicked) to have to find and setup more chairs as people are coming in to see the play.

If we get the location, we are looking forward to having our 120 pre-assembled theatre seats to use again (from our days at Liberty Square).

Another one of our biggest struggles with not having a permanent home is that there are still a lot of people that don't know we exist, even in Liberty Lake. Being given the "nomadic theatre" title by The Splash was pretty accurate, although we weren't happy with it. It is hard to grow when it is hard to reach your community.

Q. On the production front, what is LLCT lining up for 2013?

A. We have our season set for 2013 with directors already in place for each production. This is a first for LLCT.

We have had to learn a lot about our community, and there is still a lot for us to learn. One of the many things we now know is that Liberty Lake likes to laugh. Comedies are a must for our group now, which is great because we love putting on comedies. We will continue to stick with little-to-no-name-plays for now, unless a director approaches us with a suggestion and/or a sponsor makes a request.

Q. I know because the location is still up in the air, there are plenty of things still being finalized. What's the best way for people to check in for the latest?

A. We are having our website — www.libertylaketheatre.com — redone by the amazing Rainmaker. Their creativity is overwhelming, and we are blessed to have them working with us. The new site will be up very soon. (People can also) check our Facebook page to see about the changes. Keep in touch!

POLICE

Continued from page 4

• **Possession of a stolen vehicle** — A 44-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested at 6:15 p.m. Feb. 23 at the 1500 block of North Hodges Road for possession of a stolen vehicle and DWLS. While on patrol, the on-duty officer observed a vehicle pulled over onto the shoulder of the roadway on East Mission with a subject inside of the vehicle. The officer ran the license plate, and the vehicle returned as stolen out of the city of Spokane. The suspect vehicle pulled back onto Mission and began driving westbound after the officer drove past. The officer got behind the vehicle and the vehicle pulled into a driveway on Hodges Road. The driver got out of the vehicle and walked out into the roadway, where he was detained for possession of a stolen vehicle. The man told the officer he purchased the vehicle the day before from a person named "Ray" or "Roy" but did not know his

last name. He said he paid \$100 toward the \$500 price and was supposed to give "Ray" the \$400 some other time. The suspect could not provide a bill of sale and did not have keys to the vehicle and told officers he had to touch the battery cables together to start the vehicle. He was taken into custody, and the owner of the vehicle was contacted to retrieve the vehicle. However, the owner of the vehicle also had a suspended license so the vehicle was towed.

Calls for service

Agency assist	7
Alarm	10
Animal problem	2
Burglary	2
Citizen assist	3
Citizen dispute	3
Deceased person	1
Domestic violence	3
Drug possession	1
DUI	5
Family fight	1
Fraud	2

Fugitive	2	Failure to signal	2
Juvenile problem	2	Failure to stop at stop sign	3
Juvenile runaway	1	Failure to use child restraint	1
Lost or found property	2	Failure to wear safety belt	1
Malicious mischief	3	Failure to yield left turn	1
Property theft	5	Ignition interlocks	1
Recovered stolen vehicle	2	Improper pass at curve	1
Suspicion	1	Improper signal	1
Suspicious person/circumstance	9	Liability insurance	31
Traffic accident	5	Licenses and plates required	13
Traffic offense	34	License in possession/display	2
Vehicle prowl	1	Malicious mischief	1
Vehicle theft	2	Minor operating vehicle after alcohol	1
Violation of a court order	1	No splash aprons/fenders	1
Welfare check	5	Parking in handicapped zone	1
Citations		Physical control	1
Assault IV	2	Possession of dangerous weapon	1
Attach plate to vehicle	2	Possession of drug paraphernalia	1
Defective muffler	6	Prohibited turn	1
Defective taillight	1	Reckless driving	1
DUI	3	Reckless endangerment	1
Driving without license/ID	4	Refusal to give info to police	1
DWLS	37	Speeding	27
Failure to have seat belts	1	Use of cell phone	4
		Violation of protection order	1

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NEWS

LL Ball Field, utility tax headline Council's February

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Jennifer Tomlinson can tell you that the search for diamonds in Liberty Lake has resulted in a futile quarry until now.

At the Feb. 19 meeting of the Liberty Lake City Council, the longtime advocate for a local outdoor sports venue was one of the bearers of encouraging news regarding the city's plans for a 22-acre tract of property purchased from the Central Valley School District in November. Tomlinson is part of a committee that includes City Administrator Katy Allen, several members of the City Council and a cadre of residents, all dedicated to developing the Liberty Lake Ball Field into a community hub.

Allen provided the governing board with an update on the committee's progress since their first meeting last month, outlining a design proposal that would include four baseball diamonds, a multipurpose field and a parking area. Allen said the committee has discussed placing baseball as a priority at the site in order to free up space at other parks where the sport is currently played.

Allen also made it clear that nothing is set in stone.

"We, as a committee, are not making any recommendations right now," she said. "This is just what has been discussed."

Allen said a recent tour of Dwight Merkel Sports Complex in northwest Spokane provided the committee with some helpful insight on the potential of an outdoor athletic venue. The \$11 million, 126-acre site opened in 2010 and features softball diamonds, soccer fields and a BMX track.

The committee has also brought up the advantages of installing synthetic turf instead of grass at the field, citing lower maintenance costs and a quicker turnaround on just when the space would be ready for competition. Allen said there would also be an emphasis on the site hosting local teams.

The city has set aside \$500,000 for the project in its 2013 budget and \$1 million over the next five years. Several council members bristled at the idea of issuing city debt for the project, one of the funding options brought up by Allen on Tuesday.

"Whatever we end up doing, we need to pay cash as we go," said Council Member Josh Beckett. "I think we've already shown good faith with the \$500,000 for this year."

Tomlinson said it would be critical for the city to keep the field as a priority, especially in light of the time it has taken to bring the project to fruition. She added that an outreach effort targeting the residential area around the field should also be on the agenda.

"I can anticipate the people living near the field will have some form of negative

comment," she said "We need to be proactive about that."

Mayor Steve Peterson recommended that a flyer indicating plans for the field be distributed to residents and posted at the library.

Meanwhile, committee member Kevin Stocker, a former professional baseball player, said there is still information to be gathered on how the field can sustain itself on some level.

"We haven't really looked at how the fields will make money," he said. "There's a lot of research that needs to be done in that area."

In news surrounding another proposed greenspace, council approved an agreement with Welch Comer Engineers to complete a topographic study that will pave the way for the design of a new trail along Sprague Avenue. Council members also voted in favor of a master agreement with Welch Comer for engineering and surveying services from 2013-2015. Allen said over 40 companies applied to the city following a statewide search. The list was narrowed to eight firms who were interviewed by a committee leading up to the recommendation of Welch Comer.

Beckett and Council Member Keith Kopelson both raised concerns about the master agreement, pointing to potential scenarios in which municipal projects would not be part of a competitive bid process.

"It seems like we're trying to bypass something," Kopelson said. "So we approve a master agreement, they give us a price and then we vote for it. There doesn't seem to be any negotiating process."

Allen countered by referring to state law mandating that engineering services "need to be selected based on qualifications, not price." She added that City Engineer Andrew Staples had closely evaluated Welch Comer's estimate on the topographic work and the cost of \$11,000 — in the context of an overall project pricetag of \$263,000 — appeared to be "a very reasonable fee."

"I appreciate that we want to get the best price for our residents, but as we work with architects and engineers, I don't know that we would get a lower rate from another firm," Allen said.

City Attorney Sean Boutz indicated that the master agreement includes "specific provisions in the contract that makes it a non-exclusive agreement," meaning the city could still negotiate with other engineering firms.

Beckett was the only council vote against the master agreement with Welch Comer and the contract for the topographic study. Kopelson abstained from both votes.

When it came to the decision on a new official city newspaper, the entire council sat in stony silence as the vote for the Spokane Valley News Herald was called. City staff's

IN THE BOOKS, ON THE DOCKET

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

While the printed version of The Splash now delivers Liberty Lake news on a monthly, not weekly, basis, the revised format does not mean missing out on the latest happenings at City Hall. Free online reports recapping discussions of the Liberty Lake City Council are available by email within hours of the most recent meetings by clicking on the subscription link at www.libertylakesplash.com.

On the print side, The Splash will deliver a synopsis of council deliberations over the past month, along with a new feature called "In the Books, On the Docket" which summarizes actions taken by the council since the last issue as well as providing a look at future agenda topics.

Here's a glance at what took place in February and what to expect in March.

In the Books:

February 5:

- The Oath of Office for Officer Jeff Jones was conducted, installing the Texas native as the newest member of the Liberty Lake Police Department
- Resolution 12-164-A was adopted, mapping out TIF/LIFT Priorities for 2013 — 2015

recommendation to go with the weekly paper as the publisher of legal ads — based on a price of 85 cents per line versus \$1.57 charged by the Spokesman Review — drew zero support after the Herald's circulation in Liberty Lake was announced. The paper has eight subscribers within city limits and no distribution racks at local retail sites.

By state law, the city must publish its legal notices in a publication that is distributed on the minimum of a weekly basis. The city's longtime legal publication, The Splash, announced in January that it would begin publishing monthly, beginning with a February issue.

Despite the cost savings of latching on with the Herald, Beckett said the city should think twice.

"If we're trying to be transparent, it doesn't make sense to publish in a paper that residents don't have access to," he said.

A revamped resolution recommending the Spokesman-Review as the official city newspaper will appear on the March 5 council agenda.

- Ordinance 204-A was adopted, outlining a budget amendment for an entry-way at the Liberty Lake Library

- Ordinance 205 failed by a unanimous vote. The ordinance would have allowed political signs in the public right-of-way and a public easement.

February 19:

- Resolution No. 13-165 failed. The resolution would have designated the Spokane Valley News Herald as the official newspaper of Liberty Lake for 2013.

On the Docket:

March 5:

- Eric Sawyer, president and CEO of the Spokane Regional Sports Commission will provide a presentation to City Council on the group's capital facilities plan

- Finance Director R.J. Stevenson will conduct a workshop on sales tax forecasting

- Council will vote on Resolution No. 13-166, designating the Spokesman-Review as the official newspaper of the city for 2013

March 19:

- Stevenson will deliver a presentation on the "a la carte" approach to the utility tax which, as proposed, would involve shifting the amount charged on phone and cable to 5 percent while lowering the charges on electric and gas services to 2 percent and keeping waste management at 3 percent.

Cafeteria approach to utility tax presented Feb. 5

Meanwhile, when it comes to a cafeteria-style approach to the utility tax, it appears the council may need some extra time with the menu.

Finance Director R.J. Stevenson presented the governing board with a hypothetical shift to the embattled tax at the Feb. 5 council meeting, an adjustment that would still raise a substantial amount of revenue to address city streets while moving the heavier burden away from electric and gas and toward utilities like phone and cable.

Currently, the toll on phone, cable, gas, electric and waste management in Liberty Lake is set at 3 percent, a figure established in late 2011 when the City Council voted to reduce the original rate of 6 percent approved in October 2010. Stevenson's scenario would keep waste management at 3 percent while raising phone and cable to 5 percent and dropping gas and electric to 2 percent.

See COUNCIL, page 10



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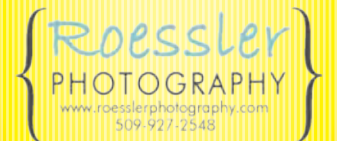
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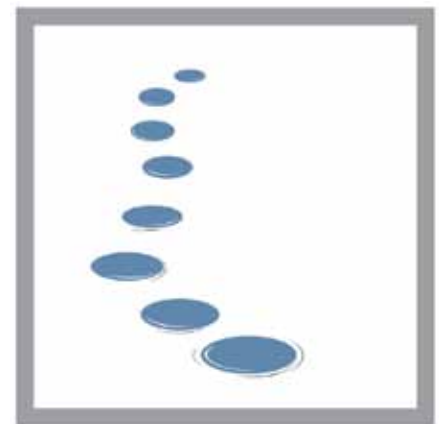


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NEWS

Adams ready for new role as LLSWD manager

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Last April, BiJay Adams celebrated a decade with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District.

As this spring approaches, the longtime lake protection manager will set sail in a new — though not entirely foreign — direction.

Beginning March 1, Adams will take over as LLSWD general manager, replacing Lee Mellish, who has stood at the district helm for 20 years. The selection of Adams was announced at a special meeting of the LLSWD board of commissioners on Jan. 11, concluding a process that began in late December with nearly 30 candidates.

“BiJay is a good pick,” said Mellish, who was scheduled to work through Feb. 28. “He’s smart and certainly has the ability to think things through.”

LLSWD Commissioner Steve Skipworth said Adams emerged as the most qualified applicants among the three finalists who interviewed at district headquarters.

“We felt we had someone in BiJay who cares about the community and had a proven record of excellence as a member of the district staff,” Skipworth said. “I think both he and Lee care very much for the environment but understand the importance of weighing that with the responsibility they have for residents of this community.”

Skipworth added that Adams’ experience on regional and national committees — he was the first person in Washington state to be certified as a lake manager with

the North American Lake Management Society and has been a past president and board member of the Washington State Lake Management Association — stood him in good stead during the interview process.



ADAMS

“All of this background showed leadership skills,” Skipworth said. Adams was originally hired in 2002 as the district’s first full-time lake protection manager, a responsibility previously addressed by Mellish and a temporary staff person. Along with overseeing lake water quality, Adams has served as the water resource manager, educating the public about everything from wise irrigation practices to the benefits of phosphorous-free fertilizer.

Adams’ job as lake protection manager included historical ties to the formation of the district back in 1973, when water quality at the lake had deteriorated to such a degree that public use was discontinued. The replacement of septic tanks and the installation of a sewer treatment system served as the springboards of a new utility and a fresh start for a beleaguered lake.

“The lake was basically dying,” Adams said. “They were able to successfully rehabilitate it.”

With a respect for the district’s past, Adams said he is enthused about the prospects of navigating LLSWD into the future.

“It will be different as far as management of personnel as well as management of what the district’s activities are,” Adams said. “It certainly is a big leap in terms of responsibilities, but I’m looking forward to learning new things.”

Adams, 37, resides in nearby Hayden, Idaho, with his wife and two sons. He is a native of Idaho and graduated from Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston.

While at Lewis-Clark State, Adams worked for Potlatch Corp., a Spokane-based company specializing in diversified forest products. After graduation, he was employed as an environmental water quality technician with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d’Alene.

Yet it was a hire that Adams missed out on in the Evergreen state that likely led to his position with LLSWD. A solid referral from the Washington Department of Ecology resulted in an interview with Mellish.

“I think that’s really how I got that job,” Adams said. “Lee called me and I brought my resume. I didn’t know it, but apparently I made a good impression (with Ecology).”

Skipworth said Adams’ dealings with Ecology and other agencies over the years will be a plus as the district tackles challenges like the mandatory upgrade of the water reclamation plant by March 2018. Adams also brings a wealth of experience working with the city of Liberty Lake, Spokane County and other local jurisdictions. LLSWD Commissioner Kottayam V. Natarajan Jr. said Adams is “one of the reasons people have a lot of respect for the Liberty

Lake Sewer and Water District.”

“BiJay brings a lot of experience managing programs and projects and working with people within the district,” Natarajan said. “He’s resourceful and innovative — just the kind of person we need as the district moves forward.”

With the passing of longtime commissioner Frank L. Boyle last September and the retirement of Mellish this month, LLSWD faces the task of replacing more than four decades of leadership experience. Natarajan, who was appointed in November to fill Boyle’s chair on the board, said he and

See LLSWD, page 32

OPEN HOUSE for Dr. F. Lee Mellish

March 1, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

The public is invited to celebrate Lee Mellish, who has been serving as LLSWD general manager since 1993, as he retires to the great outdoors. During his 20 year tenure, Mellish has been a catalyst for a number of the utility’s successes, including the construction of district headquarters and a major upgrade of the treatment plant. The district was also recognized for a number of honors from the Washington State Department of Ecology while under his leadership. For more details, call 922-5443.

COUNCIL

Continued from page 8

If implemented, the transition would appear to represent a compromise for local businesses like Huntwood Custom Cabinets that have lobbied for the removal of the tax, or at a minimum, a lighter lien on power usage essential to manufacturing. The municipal tax on gas and electric alone is expected to generate \$415,000 toward city coffers this year.

In response to concern from Council Member Lori Olander that the cafeteria option merely shifted the numbers and did not address the pressing issue of reducing or eliminating the utility tax, City Administrator Katy Allen said municipal staff was still trying to determine the amount of revenue necessary to maintain city streets. As part of the budget process for 2013, it was determined that all funds generated by the tax would be dedicated to road preservation.

“We need to take a long-term approach to our streets,” Allen said. “What we’d like to do is bring back to council what we’ll need

to take care of our roads and how to pay for that.”

While Allen brought up June as a possible timeline for the completion of a street preservation plan, Council Member Josh Beckett said such information was long overdue.

“All this should have been done before we passed a budget,” Beckett said. “I don’t want to keep workshoping this. We need to reach a resolution on what we’re going to do with the utility tax.”

In maintaining her stance on the potential expendability of the tax, Olander pointed out that the city “had excess funds from last year” that are now going toward expenditures such as paying off the bond for City Hall.

“I think the big question is ‘Do we need to charge \$664,000 a year in utility tax?’” Olander said. “This is a tax that was supposed to be temporary.”

Stevenson said that while revenue was slightly above projections for last year, the economic forecast “still indicates there needs to be another revenue source to pay for streets.”

Allen and Mayor Steve Peterson both pointed to roads such as Mission, Valleyway and Appleway that are in need of extensive upgrades. Funds from the utility tax also pay for snow and ice removal as well as regular maintenance like patching potholes.

Some residents, like Bob Moore, who serves on the Liberty Lake Planning Commission, take issue with the utility tax being included in the city’s financial strategy at all. Moore reminded council members on Tuesday that the idea to place a levy on utilities originated because of a projected \$700,000 deficit in the budget leading up to 2011.

“The utility tax was never meant to be a perpetual tax,” said Moore during the public comments segment near the end of Tuesday’s meeting. “Now it’s become a regular source of revenue and the city has figured out a way to spend it.”

Another resident, retired civil engineer Dennis Scott, said the city would be wise to look after its roads.

“Don’t put off the care of your roads,” Scott said. “All you need to do is go down-

town and see what happens when you ignore your streets.”

When the city projected the numbers without the utility tax last year, the street fund revealed a deficit by 2015. Council Member Shane Brickner said talk about a shift in the rate among utilities represented “a step in the right direction” while adding that more details on the cost for street upkeep would sharpen the council’s focus on the future of the utility tax.

“Until we get those true numbers on the streets, we aren’t going to know what we’re dealing with,” Brickner said.

Meanwhile, the most anticipated topic of the Feb. 5 meeting — a vote on an ordinance that would have restored the placement of political signs in the public right-of-way — resulted in a unanimous decision opposing a recommendation by the planning commission from last year. A 6-0 vote against Ordinance 205 means the policy will remain as it was for the last election season — no campaign signage on city-owned property within the right-of-way or public easement.

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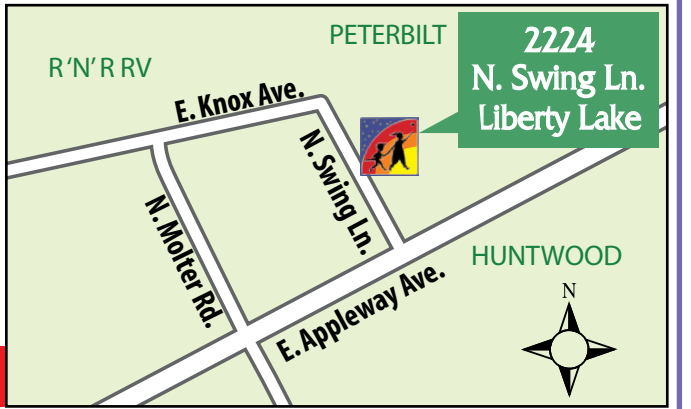
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COMMUNITY

The Splash

Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY

March 1 | Open House for Dr. F. Lee Mellish 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, 22510 E. Mission Ave. The public is invited to celebrate Lee Mellish, the retiring LLSWD general manager. For more: 922-5443

March 1 | March for Meals 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Spokane Valley Mall, 14700 E. Indiana Ave. Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels is holding a walk to raise awareness and money to help feed seniors in our area. Walkers are invited to stop by Cinnabon afterwards for \$1 mini-buns and coffee. For more: 924-6976 or sarahr@valleymow.net

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 | Ebay classes 10 a.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Library Tech Specialist Travis Montgomery will be offering free classes on how to use Ebay every Saturday during the month of March. The classes will cover basic set up of an account for purchasing through Ebay as well as how to use Ebay to sell. For more: 232-2510

March 2 | "Rock Around the Clock" mission auction 5 to 9 p.m., Valley Fourth Memorial Church, 2303 S. Bowdish, Spokane Valley. This free event includes silent and live auctions, fun games, free childcare and an ice cream social. Proceeds benefit short-term mission trips to Papua New Guinea and Slovenia. For more: 924-4525

March 2 | "Evening in Paris" Father Daughter Dance 7 to 9 p.m., CenterPlace at Mirabeau Point, 2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley. This 8th annual event is sponsored by the Liberty Lake Kiwanis and K-Kids. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more: www.libertylakekiwanis.org

March 6 | NW Heritage Alliance Forum Speaker Series 6 p.m. Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main Ave. Explore a bygone era and learn about using the WA State archives database from Tracy Rebstock, Digital Access Archivist. Presented by the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum and hosted by the Spokane Valley Library.

March 7 | Central Valley School District kindergarten registration begins 8 a.m. through normal school hours. Registration packets available in home schools starting February 28. For more: www.cvsd.org/kindergarten.asp

March 7 | Griefshare begins 6:30 to 8 p.m., ONE* Church, 15601 E. 24th Ave, Spokane Valley. The group, which meets weekly on Thursdays until May 30, is a recovery support group for those who have lost loved ones. For more: 993-8276

March 8 | Evening praise service 7 p.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. An evening of contemporary worship, praise and prayer. Free and open to the public. For more: lakesidechurch.cc

March 10 | Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2 a.m.

March 11 | Stepping Stone Kindergarten Enrollment begins Stepping Stone, 23306 E. Mission. Enrollment for the 2013-14 school year opens to the public for the following programs: infants, toddlers, preschool, prekindergarten,



SPLASH FILE PHOTOS

Pat Lutzenberger shared these shots of girls dancing the night away during last year's Father Daughter Dance. The annual event, which is being held on March 2, is sponsored by the Liberty Lake Kiwanis and K-Kids.



kindergarten and before/after school care. For more: 924-0776 or steppingstonelibertylake.com

March 11 | Reading Readiness Workshop 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Children's Library Associate Amy Dickeson is presenting a "Ready to Read" workshop that will cover the six reading readiness skills and provide ideas for using phonics, sight words, context and picture clues as well as ideas on how to motivate reluctant readers. This workshop is for adults only. For more: 232-2510

March 13 | Kindergarten Visitation 1 to 3 p.m., Valley Christian School, 10212 E. 9th Ave., Spokane Valley. Please RSVP for this preview day. For more: 924-9131 or valleychristianschool.org

March 14 | PreK-12 Preview Open House 6:30 to 8 p.m., Valley Christian School, 10212 E. 9th Ave., Spokane Valley. Discover more about school and enrollment. For more: 924-9131 or valleychristianschool.org

March 22 | Greenacres Elementary School

Fundraiser 6 to 9 p.m., Triple Play, 175 W. Orchard Ave., Hayden. Cost is \$15 which provides unlimited use of all attractions and waterpark until close. Stop by the GES table to purchase a wristband in support of Greenacres Elementary School.

March 23 | Edible Books contest 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Adults, children or families are eligible to enter this annual contest with two entry rules: 1) the creation must be edible, and 2) it must relate in some way to a book. Entries should be brought to the library before closing on Thursday evening (unless it must be refrigerated). A popular vote will occur during the times listed on Saturday to determine winners in the Child, Adult, and Family categories. Winners will be announced at 2 pm. Entry forms will be available March 2. For more: 232-2510

March 29 | Good Friday Service 7 p.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. Childcare provided. For more: lakesidechurch.cc

March 30 | Liberty Lake Community Easter Egg Hunt 11 a.m., Pavillion Park. Egg hunt for toddlers through fourth grade. Registration is six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy or \$3 per child. Registration will be held at Liberty Lake Municipal Library 5 to 8 p.m. March 25 and 3 to 8 p.m. March 28. For more: 921-6746

See CALENDAR, page 13

COMMUNITY



SPLASH FILE PHOTO

Kids race to gather candy-filled eggs during the 2012 Liberty Lake Community Easter Egg Hunt. This year's hunt will take place March 30 at Pavillion Park.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 12

or davis72205@hotmail.com

March 31 | Easter

March 31 | Easter drama and worship service 10 a.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. All are welcome to attend. For more: lakesidechurch.cc

Recurring

CV Class of 1958 Reunion The Central Valley Class of 1958 is planning a reunion for August 17 along with a picnic on August 18. If you are a graduate or know someone who might need information, please call 255-6803 or 924-0099 or email jboard58@q.com.

Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library 6 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.

Liberty Lake Lions Club Noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Barlow's Restaurant, 1400 N. Meadowwood Lane. For more: 927-2193 or cheshierll@aol.com

Liberty Lake Municipal Library 23123 E. Mission Avenue. 10:15 a.m. Fridays, baby lapsit story time; 11 a.m. Friday, toddler/preschool story time and songs; 1 p.m. Fridays, story time and crafts for preschoolers; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Knitting Club; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, computer classes; 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, anime club; 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, toddler/preschool story time. 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

Senior Lunch programs 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Liberty Lake City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive, and 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at Talon Hills Senior Complex, 24950 E. Hawkstone Loop. Seniors age 60 and older invited; recommended donation \$3.50.

MUSIC & THE ARTS

March 9 & 10 | CV Spring Arts & Crafts Fair 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturday), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sunday), Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. \$2 admission benefits CV band programs. For more: 228-5100

March 13-16, 20-23 | "Little Shop of Horrors" 7:30 p.m., Central Valley Theatre, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Over 80 CVHS theater and music students will present this Broadway sci-fi classic musical. Ticket prices will be \$10 presale and \$12 at the door. This show rated PG. For more: cvsd.org/centralvalley

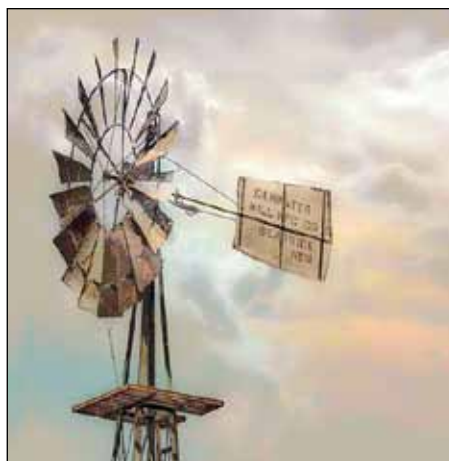
March 16 | Stories & Songs with Bob McCasin 11 a.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The young and young-at-heart are invited to come shake out the winter sillies in the children's room. For more: 232-2510

March 22-23 | "The Reluctant Dragon" This fantasy/comedy will be presented by Liberty Lake Community Theatre at a location and time TBD. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Recurring

Spokane Valley Camera Club photography exhibit Center Place, 2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley. Runs now through March 15. On display Monday through Friday in the reception

See CALENDAR, page 28



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo "Wind Mill" by James Scott is on display with the work of other members of the Spokane Valley Camera Club at Center Place. The photography exhibit runs until March 15.

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- IBS
- ADD

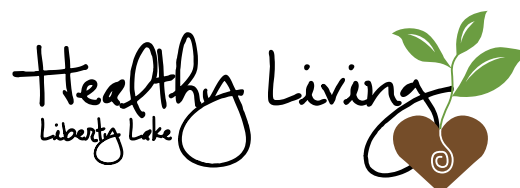
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Sisters share fondness for folk music



WAVE PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

By Tammy Kimberley
WAVE STAFF WRITER

With spunky titles such as “Nail That Catfish to the Tree” and “Aunt Sally There’s a Bug on Me,” it’s easy to see why the Pecha sisters have a smile on their face while playing together.

Anna and Erica, who both turn 13 on Feb. 29, along with younger sister Sarah, 9, have been playing fiddle since their early elementary years. Not only do they enjoy jamming together, but they also have used their musical skills to bring enjoyment to others.

The girls explained that fiddling is different from other types of music in that the music is presented in a tablature. In this system, the music sheet lists what strings you play on the top line and then the fingering on the bottom line.

Erica, Sarah and Anna Pecha show off their fiddling skills in their Liberty Lake home. The sisters, whose great-great grandpa was a fiddler, said they enjoy twin fiddling and chunking, which are different ways the fiddles can play together and complement one another.

“All you need to know is how to read and where your fingers go,” Anna said.

The twins, who are in seventh grade at Greenacres Middle School, said they had to learn to read music and hold their bows differently when playing their violins (another name for a fiddle) in their orchestra class. They said there are differences in the styles of orchestra music and fiddling.

“Fiddling is quick and fun, while orchestra music is slower,” Anna said.

“And pretty,” added Erica. “Orchestra music is slow and flowing. But when you play a waltz while fiddling, it’s also slow and pretty.”

The siblings’ mom, Stacy Pecha, said orchestra music makes her think of concert halls and symphonies, while fiddling brings

images of barn dances and campfires. She said the entire family (including the girls’ dad, Doug Pecha) enjoys traveling, tent camping and playing sports together. While the parents don’t play the violin, they appreciate the way fiddling brings the family together.

Anna started taking fiddling lessons in second grade with prominent fiddling instructor JayDean Ludiker. Erica followed her sister’s path the following year, and then Sarah started fiddling when she was in first grade. They have performed with the Rainbow Fiddle Kids group at different events such as Spokane Indians baseball games, First Night Spokane and Rockin’ B Ranch.

Sarah, a fourth grader at Liberty Lake Elementary School, is the only family member currently taking fiddling lessons. She

said she enjoys having her sisters around to help develop her skills.

“For me it’s fun because if I want to learn a song, I can always ask them for help because they’ve already played it,” she said.

Stacy said her daughters sometimes play impromptu concerts for others, such as at retirement homes or food drives during summer trips to visit family in North Dakota. And the girls carry on a bit of musical family heritage since their great-great grandpa was a fiddler. They recently gained a fiddle that once belonged to him.

But most of all, Stacy said she enjoys watching the three girls play together.

“I love it when they pick up their fiddles and they jam with each other,” she said. “Fiddle music just makes you smile.”

Signs of the Irish

By Tammy Kimberley
WAVE STAFF WRITER

The green holiday celebrated on March 17 recognizes Saint Patrick (387-461 AD), a patron saint of Ireland who is credited for spreading Christianity in that country. Although it’s not a legal or government holiday in the U.S., Ameri-

cans have been celebrating Irish culture on St. Patrick’s Day since the late 18th century. Some cities have grand parades and festivities, such as Chicago which annually dyes the river going through the city green on St. Patrick’s Day. Listed below is some information to help sharpen your smarts on the symbols associated with this merry holiday.



Horseshoe: If you’ve ever wondered why this symbol is in your bowl of Lucky Charms, it’s because they are thought to

bring good luck. In fact, many Irish brides used to carry a real horseshoe on their wedding day for good fortune.



Irish flag: The national flag of Ireland has three colors that each mean something different. Green represents the Gaelic tradition of Ireland, orange symbolizes the followers of William of Orange in Ireland and white represents the peace between the two groups.

Leprechaun: These mythical creatures are believed to spend all their



time making shoes and then storing away all their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. If a person catches a leprechaun, he is believed to have the power to grant three wishes.



Shamrock: Common folklore believes St. Patrick’s used this three-leaved plant to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish people. Now people believe finding the four-leaf variety can bring good luck.

DID YOU KNOW?

- March is Irish American Heritage month.
- St. Patrick’s Day always falls on March 17.
- There will be a St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 16 at noon in downtown Spokane. For more info, visit www.friendlysonsofstpatrick.com.

COMMUNITY

Write a limerick for Wave contest



CONTEST

Sponsored by:
Quiznos

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, The Wave is hosting a writing contest where kids can submit original limerick poems. A limerick is a short, funny poem that is believed to have originated in the Irish county of Limerick.

How do I write a limerick? The last words of the first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and have three "beats" in them. In the same way, the last words of the third and fourth lines rhyme with one another but only have two "beats." The first line often begins with "There once was a..." and usually ends with a person's name or the name of a place, while the last line is

usually funny. Here is an example of a famous limerick:

*There was an old man from Peru,
Who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He awoke in the night
With a terrible fright,
And found out that it was quite true.*

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____


5 _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent's name: _____

City you live in: _____ Phone number: _____

**Contest Deadline:
March 15**



Kids Tell It Like It Is

If you found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, what would you do with it?

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley at Liberty Lake Elementary School



"I would spend it all to get a private jet or a butler."
Jamie Lee, 9, third grade



"I'd buy a rocket."
Brady Thompson, 7, second grade



"I'd give it to Jump Rope for Heart to help people with heart disease."
Luke Sherrill, 9, fourth grade



"I'd give it to a charity or orphanage to help out kids."
Dalton Harriett, 10, fourth grade



"I'd rather have the rainbow than the gold."
Samuel Brown, 10, fourth grade



"I'd buy a skateboard and scooter."
Erik Holtan, 8, second grade



"I would use it for college and to go on a mission."
Jaylee Lake, 10, fourth grade



"I would share it with everyone."
Mercedes Whiting, 8, third grade



"Give some to charity, and if I was older and had kids, I'd give some to them."
Ava Von-Ransom, 8, fourth grade

Who can enter? Kids in kindergarten through sixth grade who live or attend school in Liberty Lake are eligible to enter this contest. Entries will be judged on their creative use of rhyming words. The winner of the contest will receive a \$20 gift certificate to any participating Quiznos in the Spokane Valley area.

Where do I send my limerick? Poems can be emailed to tammy@libertylakesplash.com or turned in to our office, 2310 N. Molter Ave., Ste. 305 in Liberty Lake by March 15. Only submit one poem per person, please. Questions? Email or call 242-7752.

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The Fountain

About and for Liberty Lake seniors

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The Liberty Lake City Hall Silver Café crowd poses in costume during a special "Western Days" event last summer.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Creating community over lunch

Suzi Walden is at home as a Silver Café meal site manager

By Sarah Robertson
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Even after feeding an extra-large lunch crowd, Suzi Walden appears just as chipper as she did that morning. A visitor would hardly know her regular crowd of 45 turned into about 70 people on this day.

Walden is the meal site manager for Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels' Silver Café in Liberty Lake as well as the Valley Senior Center in Spokane Valley.

Since 2004, Walden has worked to create a friendly gathering place for seniors to eat a healthy lunch and connect with one another. Her rule? No one stands in line for food. She makes sure everyone is seated and then she and her volunteers serve their "guests"—just like a restaurant. In Walden's opinion, "they deserve it."

Originally hired as a meal site manager for the Valley Senior Center, Walden splits her time with the Valley and Liberty Lake meal sites. The Silver Café meal sites are operated by Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels. The program is meant to provide a healthy meal for seniors as well as encouraging community and social interaction.

Walden has lived in Liberty Lake just about as long as she has been the meal site manager. She applied for the position after seeing an advertisement in *The Splash*. Walden's journey to Liberty Lake started in Illinois, made stops in Durango, Colo., and Bend, Ore., and then landed here after her daughter settled in the area.

Her professional experience is just as varied. Walden spent much of her career in public relations and producing and direct-

ing festivals — including hydroplane races and Christmas light displays — in various parts of the country. Her first job after moving here was at Templin's Resort in Post Falls.

From the way Walden's face becomes animated as she talks about her meal sites, one might guess this is her favorite job. She talks about the sense of community it gives her and the sense of community she in turn strives to create every day.

Or, as she puts it, "my purpose is to get people to smile. A smile can take away so much. You have no idea what people are coming in with."

Though she warns, "I try not to be a grumpy-looking person, but if I'm concentrating ..."

Walden's face breaks into an infectious smile. Her advice: "Try to smile at people."

Just as quickly, her demeanor changes as she voices her other reason for becoming a site manager.

"A lot of people forget about seniors," she says.

For Christmas, Walden received a plaque with the words, "Faith, Family, Friends." She said her actions and decisions are guided by this phrase. To her, these are the three most important things in life and what she is most grateful for. She keeps this phrase in mind every day, and she considers all the seniors she works with her friends.

For Walden, her job is easy because seniors are "appreciative of the small things." Her favorite parts of the job are making sure

DINE AT THE SILVER CAFÉ

Silver Café meal sites are open to all seniors 60 years of age and older. Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels operates 15 meal sites throughout Spokane County, including Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at Liberty Lake City Hall. Call 924-6976 for a current listing of sites and times.

her seniors are fed and working with the volunteers. It's her goal to make sure that each volunteer can take over and carry on in case something was to happen to her. She is very proud that they all know what to do.

Much of Walden's spare time is also spent serving others. She is very involved in her church, Real Life Ministries in Post Falls. She helps with coffee service, ushering and serving communion to fellow parishioners. On the weekends, you can find her gardening, walking her Bijon-Shitzu, Winston, and getting together with the ladies of the Liberty Lake Red Hat Society. She also enjoys cooking and water aerobics.

She treasures the time she can spend with family, too, and especially her grandchildren, who are now teenagers and going off to college. While Walden moved to the Inland Northwest to be with her family, they are beginning to spread out around the country. Her children and grandchildren live throughout the West and Midwest, giving Walden many opportunities to travel the country visiting family and friends. She is looking forward to the birth of her third great-grandchild this summer.

If she wasn't busy at the Liberty Lake and Valley Senior Center meals sites, Walden would love to be enjoying a cruise somewhere sunny, especially this time of year. She really enjoys Mexico and the Caribbean, but she's not too particular as long as there is sunshine involved. Someday, she'd love to cruise to Alaska.

Walden can be located at the Liberty Lake City Hall meal site on Monday and



Regulars to the Silver Café she runs at Liberty Lake City Hall surprised Suzi Walden in early February for her birthday with a hat, cake, cards and ice cream.

FAST FACTS

SUZI WALDEN

Favorite dessert

Cheryl Seyfert's Dutch apple pie (Seyfert is a volunteer at the Liberty Lake meal site)

Guilty Pleasure

Watching "The Voice" (because she likes watching Blake Shelton)

Things to do before she dies

Take more cruises and share her faith

Most embarrassing moment

Tripping over a curb while strapped to a bass drum during her marching band days back in high school

Favorite restaurant

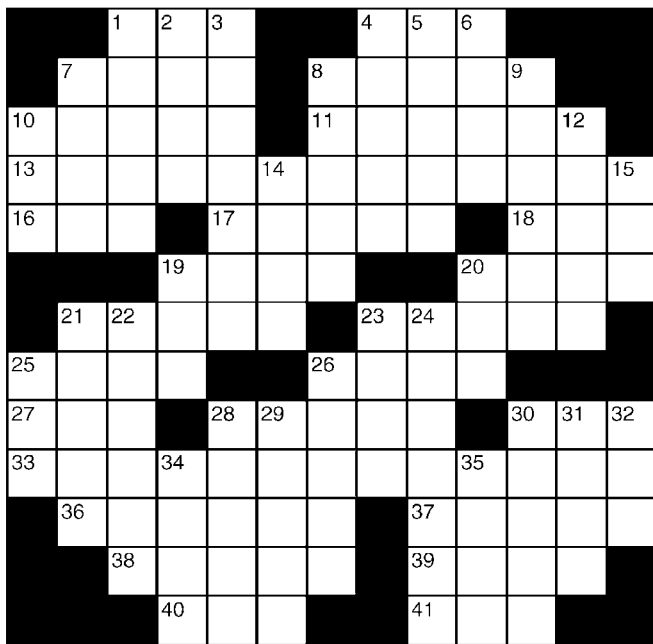
Hay J's Bistro

Wednesday (moving soon to Talon Hills Senior Apartments) and the Valley Senior Center on Tuesday and Thursdays. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at both sites.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Suitable
- 4 Young boxer?
- 7 Litigious sort
- 8 Middle Eastern dish
- 10 Bethlehem's region
- 11 Ball game segment
- 13 New Orleans neighborhood
- 16 Barbie's companion
- 17 Hosiery shade
- 18 Shaft of light
- 19 "An Inconvenient Truth" narrator
- 20 Enticement
- 21 Chris of tennis lore
- 23 19th President
- 25 Leave out
- 26 Cartoonist Goldberg
- 27 Help
- 28 Inscribed pillar
- 30 "Suburgatory"



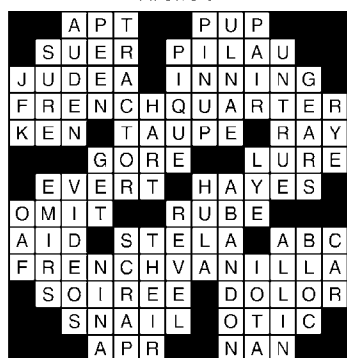
- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 33 Ice cream flavor | 36 Evening affair | 37 Sorrow | 38 Slow critter | 39 Ear-related | 40 Spring mo. | 41 A Bobbsey twin |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
-
- DOWN**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 Poet W.H. | 2 Hammer-head part | 3 Farm vehicle | 4 Piece of cheesecake? | 5 Arm bones | 6 Twosome | 7 Confident | 8 Sharp irritation | 9 False | 10 NYC airport | 12 Toothed wheels | 14 Rodgers partner | 15 "Catcher in the —" | 19 Obtain | 20 Caustic solution | 21 Eastern potatoes | 22 "America's | Funniest Home —" | 23 Island dance | 24 Desert | 25 LummoX | 26 Carouse | 28 Discard | 29 Alternative to "his/her" | 30 Texas Hold'em declaration | 31 United nations | 32 Automobile | 34 1492 vessel | 35 Tittle |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|

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TRIVIA TEST

1. **LITERATURE:** Who created the character of Walter Mitty?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which Central American country has coastline only on the Pacific side?
3. **GAMES:** How many players are on a volleyball team?
4. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president eventually courted and married a woman who was briefly his schoolteacher?
5. **HISTORY:** What was the name of the system of racial segregation used in South Africa in the second half of the 20th century?
6. **MYTHOLOGY:** Which Greek heroine refused to marry any man who could not beat her in a foot race?
7. **ANCIENT WORLD:** What field of study was Euclid known for?
8. **MUSIC:** What is a hurdy-gurdy?
9. **FIRSTS:** Who was the first (and only) woman to win the Medal of Honor?
10. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Why is a catamaran different from other boats?

— **King Crossword** —
Answers



Answers to Trivia Test 1. James Thurber; 2. El Salvador; 3. Six; 4. Millard Fillmore. Millard and Abigail Fillmore were only a couple of years apart in age. 5. Apartheid; 6. Atalanta; 7. Mathematics, specifically geometry; 8. A hand-cranked string instrument; 9. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, for her medical work during the Civil War; 10. It has two hulls



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Railroads, Mullan Trail led way to Inland NW

By Ross Schneidmiller

LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

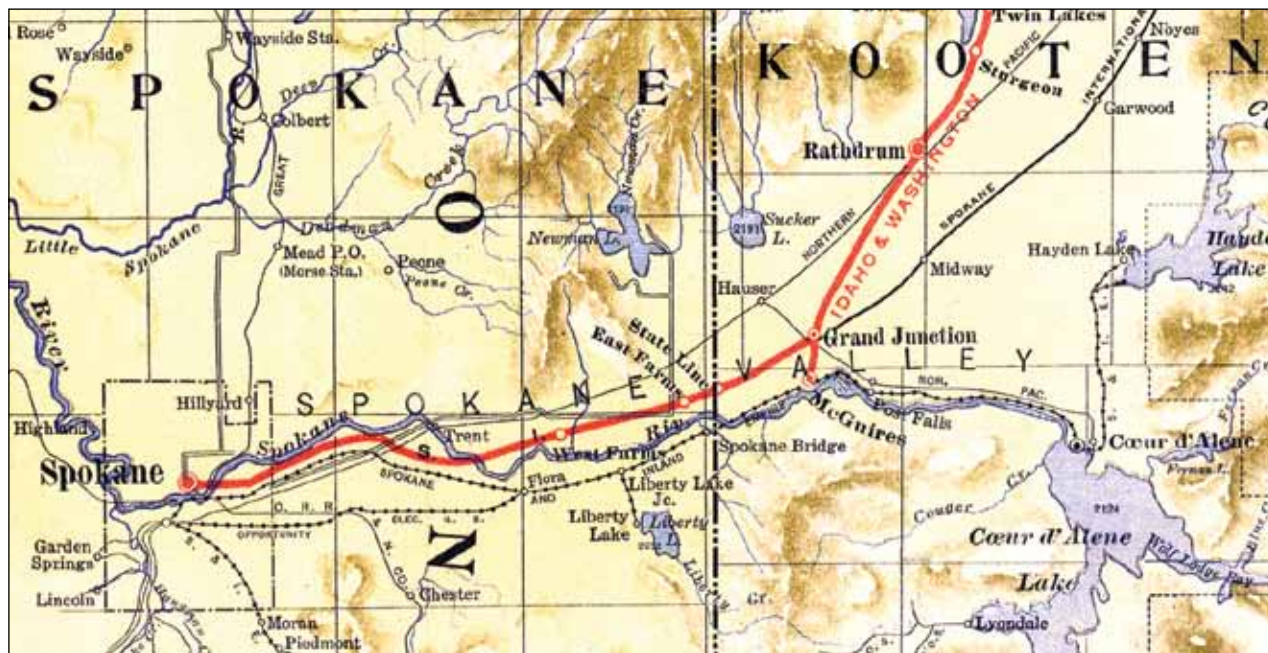
In 1852, not much had changed in the way of transportation in the 46 years since Tecumtee's father, Twisted Earth, met Lewis and Clark near the area where the Snake and Clearwater rivers merge. In the Inland Northwest, people traveled by foot, horseback, buggy or wagon over Indian trails. However, in 1852 to populate the Pacific Northwest and settle this land before other countries, the U.S. government considered an overland route through the area to the Pacific Ocean.

In the spring of 1853, Congress authorized a U.S. Army expedition led by Isaac Stevens, the newly appointed governor of Washington Territory. The purpose of this expedition was to survey a northern railroad route, but to Stevens' credit he kept in mind that the route should be suitable for a wagon road as well. According to Hazard Stevens (the governor's son), it would be difficult to understand the magnitude of accomplishing such a task. The expedition was to traverse and explore 500,000 square miles over two great mountain ranges, inhabited by many Indian tribes about whom little was known.

At the conclusion of the survey, Stevens became a strong advocate of a direct railroad route from St. Paul, Minn., to the Puget Sound. But even though the government had ordered these surveys and there was considerable support for proceeding forward, the Southern states were successful in blocking westward rail expansion before 1860.

In the spring, after the Indian wars of 1858, Stevens went before the War Department and Congress and was appropriated

The population growth of the Inland Northwest was built on a foundation of roads and railroads built in the latter half of the 19th century.



MAP COURTESY OF THE LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

funds for the construction of a military road. This road ran 624 miles from Walla Walla, Washington Territory, near the Columbia River, to Fort Benton, Mont., the navigational head of the Missouri River. John Mullan, who was an engineer in the railroad survey and to whom Stevens added the duty of surveying a wagon road, was selected to lead the project.

Specifications required the road to be 25 feet wide and graded to allow wagon passage. Dozens of bridges were built to cross rivers and streams. Road construction in forested areas was very time consuming. Mullan instructed his laborers to clear these wooded stretches a width of 60 feet to allow sunlight for snowmelt and to minimize blockage from tree falls. The project was completed in 1862 and became known as the Mullan Road. The road's use as a military road, its original purpose, was limited. Its use as a civilian passage from the east was limited as well because it fell into disrepair after a few short years. However, it did facilitate travel to and through the Spokane Valley from its westerly origin.

In the 1860s, gold was discovered in Kootenay, British Columbia, and near Missoula in western Montana. This brought a constant flow of miners through this area. Many came from California. They would travel by boat from San Francisco to Wallula on the Columbia River near Walla Walla, Washington Territory. From there, they would access the Mullan Road and travel north to Spokane Valley and then head east. The road crossed the river near present day Plante's Ferry Park, where Antoine Plante operated a ferry. From there, it continued along the north side of the river towards Idaho. The distance was shorter, however, to follow the south side of the river and cross further east. Mullan

chose the longer route to take advantage of the existing ferry. The river business was a good one and this brought entrepreneurs into the area.

Near the eastern boundary of present-day Liberty Lake was the town of Spokane Bridge. Long before a bridge was built, Chief Quinemose operated a profitable river crossing business at this location. In 1864, Tim Lee, Joe Herring and Ned Jordan built the first bridge on the Spokane River here. It was a toll bridge but because they were able to undercut Plante's prices and the distance of travel was shorter, the ferry crossing went out of business. The bridge washed out multiple times over the years but was always replaced by either the same or different operator.

In 1862, aided by the South's succession from the Union, Congress passed the Pacific Railroad Act. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 going from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to the San Francisco Bay in California. Though not a direct route, this helped settle the Spokane Valley, as pioneers would travel the same way as those California miners did by boat and then the Mullan Road. Then in 1883, former President Ulysses S. Grant drove the final spike at Scenic, Washington, completing the Northern Pacific Railroad from Saint Paul, Minn., to the Puget Sound. The Northern Pacific, which ran on the north side of the river through Spokane Valley, was the first practical way to reach the Inland Northwest and was a boon to the settlement. In 1892, another transcontinental railroad, the Great Northern, reached the area, and Spokane became a railroad hub.

With two major railroads in place, regional and local railroads were built to service the growing need. In 1907, an electric railway connected Spokane to Liberty

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some of the early roads around the lake were built with two horsepower — also known as Kaiser and Sullivan, owned by Osmund Knudsen, who settled above Liberty Lake in 1889.
- Molter Road was the original road into the lake. Liberty Lake Road was the route for the 1907 railway spur line that ran to Liberty Lake Park (Alpine Shores neighborhood).
- Sprague Avenue stopped before the hill near Liberty Lake Golf Course Clubhouse before Homer Neyland (who built Sandy Beach Resort) extended it and developed Neyland Avenue in the 1940s.

Lake, Coeur d'Alene and Hayden Lake and regional resorts were under way. Liberty Lake Park was so successful, it became known as "Spokane's Inland Seashore."

As automobiles became popular and affordable, more and improved roads were built. The primary route from Spokane to Liberty Lake was Sprague/Appleyway avenues. In 1925, Congress passed an act to standardize the naming of highways. This route to Liberty Lake became part of Highway 10. In the 1950s, construction on the Spokane Valley Freeway began. Eventually, all the local roads of the Highway 10 system were replaced by sections of freeway forming Interstate 90. Today I-90 is the nation's longest interstate, covering more than 3,000 miles from Seattle to Boston.

Ross Schneidmiller is president of the Liberty Lake Historical Society and a lifetime resident of the community. Members of the LLHS research and write a monthly history article for *The Splash*.

The DEVELOPMENT of a COMMUNITY

A series from the Liberty Lake Historical Society, appearing in the first *Splash* issue of each month in 2013.

JANUARY: Relocation of the Coeur d'Alenes

FEBRUARY: Formation of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation

MARCH: Transportation Overview

APRIL: Railroads

MAY: Homesteaders

JUNE: Homesteaders in the hills

JULY: Utilities

AUGUST: Church

SEPTEMBER: School


OCTOBER: Commerce


NOVEMBER: Government


DECEMBER: Medical


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COMMUNITY

Community Briefs

Kiwanis scholarship applicants sought

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation is seeking candidates for its 2013 scholarships. Applications are available at local high school counseling offices or online at www.libertylakekiwanis.org. The scholarship application is due March 31.

Students who are eligible for scholarships include: graduating seniors with Liberty Lake zip codes (99019), family of current Liberty Lake Kiwanis members, students enrolled in the following Spokane County School Districts—East Valley, Central Valley, and West Valley, community members deemed worthy by the scholarship committee, or candidates that received a Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship last year.

For more information, contact Nick Nicoloff at 928-8290.

See **COMMUNITY**, page 38

Education Briefs

Brown named to Dean's List

Kendra Felice Brown of Liberty Lake earned a spot on the fall Dean's List for the McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University.

Johnson named to Dean's List

Nicholaus Johnson, a sophomore college of arts and sciences student from Liberty Lake, was recently named to the fall Dean's List at Creighton University. Full-time students who earn a 3.5 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll at the Catholic-Jesuit institution located in Omaha, Neb.

Zellmer named to Dean's List

Liberty Lake's Emma Zellmer was honored on Michigan Technological University's Dean's List for the fall semester. To be included, students must achieve grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Zellmer is majoring in geological engineering at MTU, a leading public research university in Houghton, Mich.

Gonzaga announces honor students

Several Liberty Lake residents recently received honors for the fall semester at Gonzaga University.

Rachel Cernick and Ande Seines earned placement on the President's List. Students must earn a 3.7 to 4.0 grade-point average to be listed.

Christina Davis was named to the Dean's List. Students must earn a 3.5 to 3.69 grade-point average to be listed.

Gonzaga University is a private Catholic, Jesuit, and humanistic university providing education to more than 7,800 students.

See **EDUCATION**, page 38

LL offers community egg hunts

Hunt organizer passes baton on to daughter

By **Tammy Kimberley**
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

A new generation is hopping to the challenge of planning the 2013 Liberty Lake Community Easter Egg Hunt.

The 17th annual event, which typically draws several hundred children and involves thousands of candy-filled eggs, will take place at 11 a.m. March 30 at Pavillion Park. It is geared for toddlers through kids in fourth grade.

Wendy Van Orman, who organized the hunt since its inaugural year in 1997, stated at last year's hunt that she was searching for a replacement. After reaching out to past volunteers via email in early February with no real response, Van Orman's daughter, Alisha Davis, decided to jump in to keep the event alive.

A mother of a toddler and a newborn, Davis said she's also been involved with the event for the past 16 years, even serving as co-chair with her mom.

"Now that I have kids, I didn't want to see it go goodbye," Davis said. "I want to keep it going until somebody is ready to take it over."

Registration for this year's hunt will take place the last week of March at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The two registration times are 5 to 8 p.m. March 25 and 3 to 8 p.m. March 28. Families are asked to bring six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy per child or \$3 per child to register.

Those looking to fill their bellies or visit with the Easter bunny prior to the hunt will not have the option of the pancake feed the morning of the hunt. Representatives of Liberty Lake Kiwanis said the group is not holding a breakfast at the elementary school as they have in the past.

But the Easter Bunny will be present at the park, Davis said, so parents are welcome to bring cameras to take photos of children with the bunny.

Families are also encouraged to dress warmly, bring a basket or bag to collect eggs and arrive early.

"Definitely come 10 to 15 minutes early; don't wait until right at 11," Davis said. "You never know if a balloon will pop, setting off everything early."

Another spring event for older students, The All Fools Hunt, will be held 8 p.m. April 13 at Trailhead Golf Course for young people in fifth through 12th grades. Sponsored by the Liberty Lake Youth Commission, all proceeds benefit Crosswalk, a local homeless shelter for youth.



IF YOU GO...

Liberty Lake Community Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. March 30 at Pavillion Park

Open to toddlers through fourth grade

Registration is required and will be held at Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave., from 5 to 8 p.m. March 25 and 3 to 8 p.m. March 28. Families are asked to bring six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy per child or \$3 per child to register.

For more: 921-6746 or davis72205@hotmail.com

All Fools Hunt

8 p.m. April 13 at Trailhead Golf Course

Open to students in grades 5-12

Cost is \$5. Hosted by the Liberty Lake Youth Commission, all proceeds benefit Crosswalk, a youth homeless shelter.

For more: 710-3638 or john.cvhstuudent@gmail.com

Davis said that volunteers will be contacting local businesses in the coming month to see if they'd like to donate prizes, coupons or money to keep the community egg hunt alive for next year.

Volunteers are also needed to help the day of the event, as well as stuff the eggs during the evening of March 28. If interested, please contact 921-6746 or davis72205@hotmail.com.

SPLASH FILE PHOTOS

Kids of all ages enjoyed last year's community egg hunt at Pavillion Park. This year's hunt, open to toddlers through fourth grade, will take place again at the park on March 30.



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'Freezin' for a Reason'

Special Olympics fundraisers makes a frigid splash in Liberty Lake

By Jocelyn Stott
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Liberty Lake Police Chief Brian Asmus is willing to do a lot of crazy things for Special Olympics, including jumping into Liberty Lake twice an hour from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 22 as a Super Plunger. And then jump in the lake again the next day at noon for the public Polar Plunge fundraiser. Asmus even paid money — and convinced others to pay money — for the chance to take part in “freezin’ for a reason.”

The reason for the stunt is to raise awareness and funds for the Washington Special Olympics, a cause that has been special to Asmus for about 15 years.

“Just knowing that you’re helping challenged athletes be successful at something is a great feeling,” he said. “I think sometimes the volunteers get more out of helping than the athletes get from receiving.”

Asmus led Team Cop-Cicles into Liberty Lake this year as Eastern Washington’s highest donating team at nearly \$11,000. Overall, this year’s plunge was expected to bring in more than \$50,000.

In order to participate in the Super Plunge, held the day before the public plunge, fundraisers had to collect a minimum of \$650 in pledges, while the public plungers had to raise \$50. Asmus’ Super Plungers included his wife, Carol, members of multiple law enforcement agencies and departments, and KHQ weather personality, Leslie Lowe, just to name a few.

While many on the Cop-Cicles team were members of Asmus’ police force, other plungers were community members who took advantage of the close proximity of this year’s Polar Plunge, which was moved to Liberty Lake from Medical Lake for the 2013 event. Eastern Washington University football players took part, as did teams from local businesses like Starbucks, H&R Block and others. About 200 plungers in all took part in the Saturday plunge.

Prior to this year’s event, though, Asmus said he’d only participated in four or five plunges (at one dip each) in comparison to this year’s 25 times in the lake.

Asmus also explained that his police department does a number of other fundraisers during the year to help Special Olympics, and many of them have the same element of fun (with a touch of crazy) to them.

Some of the fundraisers include:

The Torch Run — A team of police participate in carrying the Special

profiles:

BRIAN ASMUS

Leadership

Chief of both the Liberty Lake Police Department and Team Cop-Cicles, a group of polar plungers

Lifetime Polar Plunge count

29 times

Years volunteering for Special Olympics

15

Also known for

Standing on top of doughnut shops to raise money for Special Olympics

Inspiration

Special needs athletes

Olympics torch from the state line to Lewis-McChord Military Base near Tacoma, where the Games are held.

Cops on Top of Doughnut Shops — Asmus collects donations while standing on top of the Krispy Kreme doughnut shop in Spokane Valley.

Over The Edge — Members of the police force rappel from tall buildings in downtown Spokane.

Pull a Plane — A team of officers pulls a small airplane on the runway at Felts Field.

Some ideas are being entertained for future fundraisers as well. Asmus said a short 5K event called Run from the Cops is being discussed. The idea behind it, Asmus said, is that his team could give participants a head start before the police try to catch them. Runners can get pledges to “bail” themselves out of jail in the event that they’re “caught and apprehended.”

Another event may include police officer’s shadowing a server at a local restaurant for a “Tip A Cop” event.

Asmus said he is impressed with the generosity he’s seen from the Liberty Lake community, and he knows that next year’s plunge will be even bigger. He noted a number of businesses like Safeway, Albertsons, Papa Murphy’s, Clark’s Tire and Automotive and First Liberty Apartments were quick to donate to the cause when they learned about it.

The majority of the police department participated in some way to benefit Special Olympics this year, Asmus said. He believes the athletes recognize police officers as protectors, and many of them often face bullying, so the relationship with law enforcement has significant meaning.

“We’re here to help those who can’t always help themselves, and it’s not something we, as police officers, get recognized for,” Asmus said. “They (the athletes) always want a high-five or a hug — we don’t



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Team Cop-Cicles makes the plunge into Liberty Lake on Feb. 23. At about \$11,000, the team raised the most money for the Special Olympics Washington eastern region.



Left: By day, he is Liberty Lake Police Chief Brian Asmus. By the lake in February, he is a Super Plunger, surviving a total of 25 dips into frigid Liberty Lake Feb. 22-23 to raise more than \$4,000 for Special Olympics. Asmus’ team, Cop-Cicles, raised nearly \$11,000. Both were tops in their categories (individual and team) for the event.



SPLASH PHOTOS BY JOCELYN STOTT

A law enforcement dive team ensures no one succumbs to hypothermia during the “freezin’ for a reason” fundraiser.



typically get a lot of hugs as police officers.”

For more information about how to get involved with local fundraisers, events or to donate, visit www.SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

Members of the Eastern Washington University football team ready to take the plunge into wintry Liberty Lake.

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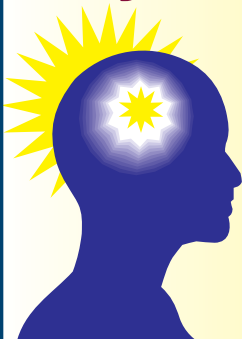
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Shutterbug snapshot

Bonnie Lackey took this photo of a Cooper's Hawk as it stopped its preening for just a moment to peer around to make sure it was safe. She said the bird is a frequent visitor to her backyard as it hunts for dinner at the bird feeders.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Splash Travels



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barbara Hoisington took The Splash on a recent whale watching trip to Maui. Sponsored by the Pacific Island Institute and the Pacific Whale foundation, the Road Scholars tour provided a chance for her to see lots of whales raising babies and getting ready to return to their Alaskan feeding grounds for the summer. Barbara wrote that an estimated 1,000 whales are in the waters around Maui in January.

Student athletes sign letters of intent



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Valley High School held a small gathering in early February to celebrate student athletes who have signed National Letters of Intent to play college athletics. Pictured are (front row) **Natalie Middleton**, soccer at North Idaho College; Katy Weisbeck, soccer at Central Washington University; Paige Gallaway, soccer at Eastern Washington University; Laci Rennaker, soccer at Eastern Washington University; Bailey Bergdahl, softball at Wenatchee Valley Community College; (back row) **Trevor Tomlinson**, baseball at Northern State University (South Dakota); and Austin Rehkow, football at University of Idaho. Students not pictured include Maya Anger and Sidney Thomas, who will both play soccer at Spokane Falls Community College. (Liberty Lake residents highlighted in **bold**.)

A night of Van Gogh and Merlot



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karol Maier, Mary Ellen Steen and Joan Kearney enjoy a painting class held at Twisp last month. Around 25 participants enjoyed appetizers and a drink provided by Twisp while learning how to paint from the folks of Van Gogh and Merlot.

The event benefitted Friends of the Liberty Lake Library. Their next fundraising event will be the annual tea on April 27, and tickets will be available in late March.

DECA claims Geoteaming title



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Valley DECA members took first place at the Western Regional Leadership Conference Geoteaming competition. Team members included (back row) **Alec Bumgarner**, Manoah Ainuu, Brandon Black, **Ryan Wells**; (front row) **Josiah Cunningham**, **Zack Termath** and **Scotty Hilpert**. (Liberty Lake residents are highlighted in **bold**.)

Geoteaming is an outdoor, team-building activity where members use a variety of technology devices such as GPS receivers, PDAs and digital cameras to find hidden caches and answers to puzzles using clues. Over 115 teams competed in the contest.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In early February, Nick and Leslie Zilka and Dave and Carol Johns brought The Splash along when the two couples met for dinner in Auckland, New Zealand.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alicia and Michael Fry recently had a Valentine's Day wedding on the beach followed by a honeymoon at Disneyland. They took The Splash and The Current along to celebrate.

Local Lens

Share your snapshots for The Splash's photo page. Email them to photos@libertylakesplash.com.

LOCAL LENS

Shutterbug snapshot



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michael Hassett captured some shots of icicle rocks along Appleway at the end of January.

Robotics team sets record score



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Team What 2.0 captured the Mechanical Design Award and the Robot Performance Award at this year's Eastern Washington First Lego League state finals in Ellensburg on Feb. 23. Their winning robot performance score was the highest recorded score in the state this year. Pictured are (back row) Jonas LaPier, Josh Sims, coach Tanya LaPier; (front row) Ansel LaPier and Spencer Bringhurst.

It truly is a small world



SUBMITTED PHOTO

While cheering on her daughter who was competing in skiing at the 2013 Special Olympics World Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, LLES Principal Joanne Comer (third from left) had the opportunity to connect with a former student. Zina Hyun (second from right) is a Korean citizen who attended LLES for a few months last year while staying with extended family members who live in Liberty Lake. Zina's family surprised the Comers by coming to the competition, where they had a good time reminiscing about Zina's time at LLES.

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At the Liberty Lake PORTAL

Canopy Zip Tour Planned for Mica Peak

In the early part of the 20th century, Mica Peak had a reputation. Lanterns, flickering on the hillside in the darkness, marked a handful of entrepreneurs operating their moonshine production facilities amidst the prohibition era of the early 1900's. Fast forward 100 years and another entrepreneur is preparing to launch his venture on Mica Peak.

Rik Stewart, founder of Epiphany Applied Concepts, envisions something even more thrilling than moonshine. In conjunction with the Demars Family Trust, Stewart is devising an exhilarating way for people to learn more about the history and geography of the region.

As he continues to work through all the necessary planning requirements, his zip-line canopy tour, traversing the hilltops of Mica Peak, is set to open May 2013. "Our intent is to help people have a better appreciation for the environment, the beauty, and the history of this place," Rik explained. "It's a great way to observe animals without impacting the environment."

With abundant wildlife and beautiful views stretching from Coeur d'Alene to downtown Spokane, the canopy tour will offer riders the thrill of zip-ping along combined with the opportunity to learn about the history, geography, and animal life in the region. "We have moose, lynx, grouse, wild turkeys, birds, elk, deer, and wolves," Stewart explained. And while not every species can be coerced into making an appearance, the odds of viewing these animals in their natural habitat are quite good.

A company out of Portland, Oregon will construct the canopy tour, which will include

a network of platforms that can be reached only by zip line, along with some aerial trekking bridges a bit like you'd see in Lord of the Rings. The longest stretch will be about 1000 feet long, zip-ping 250 feet above a creek that traverses the site. Certified guides will conduct every tour, providing safety instruction and narration. "We'll have a guide at the front and the back to talk about the history, the geology, the environment, and to point out the remnants of moonshiner cabins you can see as you zip along," said Stewart.

The tour will be three hours long. All clipping and unclipping will be done by the trained staff. Each participant will have the option to wear a Go-Cam and capture photos from their adventure. Custom ATV vehicles will take tour participants from the Shuttle stop to the tour start. Riders will meet the tour shuttle at the Liberty Lake Portal, where Epiphany Applied Concepts currently has an office.

Rik loves having his office at the Portal. "They treat you like family," he said. Stewart enjoys the feeling of connection at the Portal and aims to provide that same level of service for those who come to enjoy the canopy tour.



Stewart's wife, decked out with helmet, gloves and harness, is set to zip.

Penwell Balances Price and Protection at new Independent Lakeside Insurance

A long time ago, in a faraway land, life was simple. Anymore, life can be anything but simple, and understanding insurance needs for today's family can be downright overwhelming. Cheloye Penwell, who just opened Lakeside Insurance from her Executive Suite in the Liberty Lake Portal, is prepared to find the solution that provides the best balance of price and protection to suit most every situation.

As an independent insurance agent, Penwell has the ability to draw from the very best products offered by a wide range of companies. Cheloye says her independent status will give her the flexibility to "develop complete solutions to the most challeng-

ing individual and small business situations" that may arise.

We asked Cheloye for some examples of those insurance scenarios that would likely demand the creativity and flexibility she offers. When life is going well, and you own a home, and a lot of toys,

insurance can get complex. Along with policies for Home and Auto, Cheloye will be able to meet your needs when you buy a snowmobile, an RV, or maybe even that second home.

By contrast, when life is not going so well, and you see the flashing lights in your rearview mirror one too many times, insurance can also get complex. "If you have violations of a certain nature, sometimes the company you've always been with is no longer a fit," Cheloye explained. "Because I am independent, and work with everything from 'A+' to 'scratch and dent' programs, I can offer auto and other insurance types to meet most any situation."

In the ten years since becoming licensed in the Insurance industry, Cheloye has often considered becoming independent, and recently decided, "The timing was finally right." She began shopping for office space that would give her the right amenities and the right price. Having looked at many different office buildings, Cheloye said, "Liberty Lake has some really marvelous spaces, but I was probably looking at double the cost in other locations. I would have had to pick up the cost of a lot more amenities and furnishings."

As Cheloye builds this new business from the Portal, she looks forward to what she finds most rewarding. "When I help people understand what they're paying for and why it matters, that is a good feeling and very rewarding," she remarked. Cheloye is planning an open house at her new location in March.

"They're giving me a great space at a great price with great services, and that will allow me to focus on my business."

- Cheloye Penwell
Lakeside Insurance

"At the PORTAL they treat you like family. Often on holidays you get some sort of gift basket and they take care of everything they can for you."

- Rik Stewart
Epiphany Applied Concepts



Cheloye Penwell opened Lakeside Insurance at the Liberty Lake PORTAL on February 15, 2013.

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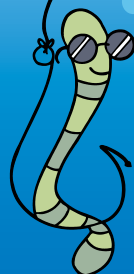
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COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

Continued from page 13

area, the free exhibit is a collection of color and monochrome photographs from members of the club. For more: 924-9754

CIVIC & BUSINESS

March 8 | Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL) meeting 1p.m., Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, 22510 E. Mission Ave. Networking begins at 12:45 p. m. For more: womenexecutivesoflibertylake.com

March 9 | Desperate Housewives Shop Hop 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A day of shopping, tasty treats, new products and free gifts. Participating locations include Orchid Boutique, Jemma Lane Boutique, Simply Northwest and Trellis Marketplace. For more: 927-8206

March 9 | Senior Irish Festival 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1201 N. Evergreen Road, Spokane Valley. The event will feature live music, food and community tours. For more: 922-3100 or evergreenfountains.com

March 15 | Business Connections Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Mirabeau Park Hotel. 1100 N. Sullivan, Spokane Valley. Program will be an overview of crime in the greater Spokane County with Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. Cost is \$25 for members and guests, \$35 for non-members. For more: spokanevergreenchamber.org

March 22 | After-Hours Lucky Social 6 to 8 p.m., The Pottery Bug, 4904 N. Harvard Road, Otis Orchards. Hosted by Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL), this event will include games, snacks, networking, adult beverages and socializing. For more: womenexecutivesoflibertylake.com

March 27 | Spokane Valley Chamber Business Show "Innovative Ideas to Grow Your Business" 2 to 7 p.m. Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, 1100 N. Sullivan. Free to the public. For more: spokanevergreenchamber.org

Recurring

Central Valley School board meeting 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 Municipal Library board meeting 6:30 p.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. A special meeting has been called for March 27.

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 meeting 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

HEALTH & RECREATION

March 1 | Liberty Lake opens for fishing Season continues through Oct. 31. For more: wdfw.wa.gov

March 1 | Model Airplane/Helicopter Fly-In 6 to 10 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Join the Rebel Flyers to beat the cold with two full courts of indoor flying fun. AMA or MAAC membership required to fly. Spectators welcome. For more: 218-5098

March 2-3 | Apex Awareness Volleyball Tournament 8 a.m. (Saturday) to 5 p.m. (Sunday), HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: apexa.org or 953-2234

March 9 | Riverview Little League Spring Training HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Open to ages 4 to 15. Also, registration is now open for the spring season. For more: www.riverviewlittleleague.com

March 16-17 | Hoopster Challenge 3v3 Basketball Tournament 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. This tournament has divisions for both boys and girls teams 4th through 12th grade. Cost is \$95 per team; must register by March 1. For more: 927-0602 or hubsportscenter.org

March 19 | "Reverse Diabetes" seminar 6:30 p.m. Healthy Living Liberty Lake, 2207 N. Molter Road, suite 203A. Call to reserve your seat for this free seminar. For more: 924-6199 or familymedicinelibertylake.com

March 22-24, 29-31 | USA Volleyball Pacific Northwest Qualifier HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Play is also scheduled at the Spokane Convention Center and Eastern Washington University for this tournament, one of the largest annual events in the Spokane area. For more: pacificnwqualifier.org

April 1-4 | Spring Break Multi-Sport Camp 9 a.m. to noon, HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Kids in grades 1 through 6 are invited to this camp which will cover the basic skills in multiple sports including basketball, volleyball, soccer, kickball and more. Cost is \$100 per person; must register by March 20. For more: 927-0602 or hubsportscenter.org

Recurring

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

Pickleball drop-in: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., \$4/adults and \$2/seniors

Basketball drop-in: 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays, \$4/person

Badminton drop-in: 8 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, \$5/person

Windermere Marathon and Half Marathon Early registration for the May 19th race that runs from Liberty Lake to Riverfront Park is available until March 31. For more: windermere Marathon.com

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.

My Favorite Order



SPLASH PHOTOS BY JOSH JOHNSON

Dean Griffin of Post Falls dines most Tuesdays at True Legends Grill, where he recently enjoyed the “homemade lasagna” lunch special.

The order

Homemade Lasagna, from the from the “speedy lunch menu” served Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at True Legends Grill, 1803 N. Harvard Road in Liberty Lake.

Menu description

“Classic lasagna made with mozzarella and feta cheeses served with our signature meat sauce, served with our soup of the day or a Caesar salad.” Griffin paired it with a beef and barley soup and enjoyed the garlic bread that also came with the meal.

The price

\$8.99

The review

Griffin dines nearly every Tuesday at True Legends Grill with other members of the Hauser Lake Gun Club. With close to 200 members and several who meet to shoot on Tuesdays, some go out to lunch afterward. Joining Griffin were Reuben Akino of Spokane, Miles Hyde of Spokane

and Jerome Fink of Newman Lake.

“The lasagna is really good, has a lot of meat in it and the layers are filled with sauce and cheese,” Griffin raved, before adding as his server approached the table: “And the waitress is cute.”

Akino, who has also ordered the lasagna a couple of times, called it “one of those can’t-miss meals.”

Fink, a self-described “soup guy,” added the soup at the restaurant is “world-class.”

“They make a great salmon chowder,” Hyde agreed.

Try it?

True Legends Grill is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to close and on the weekends from 9 a.m. to close. For more information, call 892-3077 or visit www.truelendsgriill.com.

Do you have a favorite order you would like to share with Liberty Lake diners? Send a photo of your order — as well as you enjoying it — to editor@libertylakesplash.com.

In Biz

Unicep announces promotions

Unicep, a company leader in liquid and gel contract filling and packaging, appointed several new leaders to key positions at the beginning of 2013.



TAYLOR

Greg Taylor was appointed president, effective Jan. 1. Taylor joined the company in July 2007 and has managed all aspects of the company through his previous roles as director of program management and vice president of operations.

Jacob Johnson, who has served nine years with the company, was named director of operations. In this new role, he will be responsible for all aspects of the company’s manufacturing including receipt of mate-



JOHNSON



WILLIAMS

rials, warehousing, compounding, filling and packaging.

Eileen Williams, who came to Unicep in March 2012, was named business development manager. Her responsibilities will include developing corporate-level opportunities across market segments and execution of new customer program objectives.

Unicep develops machinery and methods for producing the patented Micro-Dose and Twist-Tip dispensers, as well as

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occur,” STCU President Tom Johnson said.

While exact plans are still in the works, STCU plans to open the Hutton Building branch this year on the main floor of the building, while offering office space for purchase on some floors.

STCU has no plans to give up either its U-District location or its downtown branch, a press release said. Administrative offices and most other back-office functions will remain at STCU’s headquarters building at Liberty Lake.

Founded in 1934, STCU is a not-for-profit cooperative with 113,000 members and more than \$1.7 billion in assets. For more information, visit www.stcu.org/hutton_building.html.

contract packaging and compounding for gels, liquids and lotions for oral healthcare, cosmetic and dietary supplement markets. The company has locations in Liberty Lake and Sandpoint, Idaho.

STCU plans to expand into Hutton Building

STCU announced plans last month to expand into the historic Hutton Building located at 9 S. Washington in downtown Spokane. The move would include opening a new branch location and commercial lending offices.

STCU obtained the Hutton Building by foreclosure in 2012, and the STCU Board of Directors voted in January to turn it into a downtown anchor for the growing credit union, a press release said.

“We intend to continue growing our commercial lending program and it’s logical for us to have a presence where those activities

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

BUSINESS

EYE ON THE BOTTOM LINE

Retail, local investment among indicators of the direction of LL's economy

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

On one hand, some local restaurants are expanding and investing in their properties, and the RV and vehicle sales markets are improving.

On another, major properties like the old Blockbuster Video and Ashley Furniture locations have been vacant for two years or more.

While indicators like property tax and the utility tax are more predictable revenue streams, Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson and Finance Director RJ Stevenson have repeatedly emphasized that the sales tax is the one to watch. Ebbing and flowing along with the economic trends in everything from household spending to real estate sales, Stevenson gives regular reports to the City Council to update and monitor the numbers. His next such presentation will take place at the March 5 meeting.

City leaders watch closely as businesses come and go in the community, and Peterson cited two reasons for a careful eye. Not only do businesses provide more opportunities for sales and the resulting revenue, but they also bring more employees and more potential consumers into the local market.

"We want people to live here, work here and come back and shop here," Peterson said. "The more diverse we are from a retail standpoint is good for us."

He emphasized spending dollars in city limits whenever possible, particularly with the cost of gas just to take a roundtrip downtown.

It's an area where strides can still be made, said Tammy Daley, who owns Expect A Lot Visual Images with her husband, Brian. The couple recently moved their business into a larger warehouse space in Colbert. Daley said while she loves the community of Liberty Lake, she believes it suffers a similar problem to Spokane Valley: It's not a destination for a night on the town or other entertainment options outside of the community's summer events.

"For people who don't live in Liberty Lake, it is a drive-by com-

THE SHIFTY SALES TAX

While revenue from sources like the property tax and utility tax is less likely to fluctuate, sales taxes that peaked in 2007 have been more difficult to predict.

Where is the tax collected?

Common sources of sales tax in the city of Liberty Lake include sales of RVs and vehicles, home sales and revenue from retail sites such as Home Depot, shops and restaurants, Mayor Steve Peterson said.

How much can the city expect to collect?

From a high in 2007 of \$2.2 million, city sales tax revenue steadily declined to \$1.6 million in 2010, the year the City Council decided to add a utility tax to bolster the city budget. In 2011 and 2012, sales tax revenue grew back to about \$1.9 million. The 2013 budget was adopted with a \$1.94 million estimate of anticipated sales tax revenue.

— Josh Johnson

munity for the most part unless there is something you are specifically going there for," Daley said.

Attracting the crowd

Peterson talked of economic development in a scope larger than just attracting business, but attracting people as well. He singled out the Liberty Lake Ball Fields the city is planning to develop adjacent to Liberty Lake Elementary School as both keeping and attracting a customer base in the community.

"Where are they going to eat when they're done playing baseball?" he asked. "You always had to go out of town to get a sandwich. Now you don't."

Of course, attracting business is also a priority. Peterson said work with Eastern Washington University students to study a retail incubator concept as well as TIF and LIFT infrastructure funding in the River District are the types of tools that will enable the city to recruit diverse businesses.

Business friendliness

On the northwest corner of Liberty Lake, Freedom RV has written its own success story. General Manager Mike Stanisich said sales growth of 30 to 60 percent each of the past three years have fueled expansion plans (see page 31). The company is hiring technicians and has grown to 50 employees.

Stanisich attributed the growth to a combination of the company's business model and positive economic indicators such as low interest rates and a healthy stock market — not to any benefit of residing in Liberty Lake.

"The city's not really business friendly as far as advertising and signage," Stanisich said, noting the types of banners and balloons that neighboring businesses in Post Falls and Spokane Valley are able to use to promote themselves. He added the city seems to have become more lenient in the past year.

Daley, whose business was not only subject to signage restrictions but was also tasked with helping other Liberty Lake businesses with their signage needs, was sympathetic to the debate.

"I think the city is really trying to walk that fine line between having a community be aesthetically pleasing and allowing businesses to get their name out there," she said. "It is hard."

She said the sign ordinance had no bearing on Expect A Lot's decision to move.

Meanwhile, city officials gauge how much the stops and starts of businesses like Expect A Lot and Freedom RV impact their ability to maintain Liberty Lake's infrastructure, health and sense of community.

For the first time, the 2013 budget devoted the utility tax funds to road preservation, a move Peterson has said provides a dedicated and reliable source for the needed infrastructure. Meanwhile, he is monitoring the sales tax to see if it will meet what he called a more "traditional forecast" of \$1.94 million for 2013. In 2012, the city budgeted \$1.8 million and collected about \$100,000 more.

"We're very optimistic for the future," Peterson said. "We're very optimistic for this year."

RETAIL SNAPSHOTS

Barlows Restaurant



This rendering shows a new Barlows restaurant location as it would be seen from the corner of Liberty Lake Road and Appleway Avenue. Owners Michael and Alicia Fry said that the business has maximized what it is able to do in its current location at 1400 N. Meadowwood Lane. They plan to move this fall into new construction on the long-vacant lot between Starbucks and Taco Bell in the Albertsons shopping plaza along Liberty Lake Road. For more, see the story on page 31.

San Francisco Sourdough Eatery



Randy Youngdell, who has owned a San Francisco Sourdough franchise in Rathdrum for the past four years, purchased the Liberty Lake franchise (23801 E. Appleway Ave.) earlier this year. He and his son, Riley, who manages the location, closed the store Feb. 1 for six 14- to 16-hour days of remodeling, the vast majority of it done by the Youngdells. The store now offers expanded hours. For more, see the story on page 32.

Cornerstone Pentecostal Church



Cornerstone Pentecostal Church purchased the former Spokane Kia dealership for \$1.9 million last Nov. 26, according to Spokane County records. The approximately 22,766-square-foot structure was built in 2002 and operated as an automobile dealership before being vacated in early 2011.

BUSINESS



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

Owners Michael and Alicia Fry stand on the site where they plan to build a new Barlows Family Restaurant in 2013. The couple plan to break ground this spring and move into the new location this fall.

Barlows growth fuels move

Doubled capacity, addition of dinner next step for eatery

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

A long-vacant lot next to Starbucks will become home to a bigger and better Barlows Family Restaurant in 2013, owners Alicia and Michael Fry announced.

The Frys purchased the lot from Vandervert on Nov. 30 and are working with the developer to build an expanded restaurant on the site.

The new restaurant will double Barlows main-floor seating capacity from 82 to 164 and increase its banquet room capacity from 40 to 60 diners. It will also have room for another 40 to 50 diners on two patios, the Frys said.

Michael Fry said the restaurant has outgrown its current location at 1400 N. Meadowwood Lane. Comparable sales increased 15 percent in 2012, he said, and the new location will also allow Barlows to improve its overall building functionality, expand its parking and add a lounge — but with care taken to maintain the restaurant's core identity.

"The thing everyone loves is the cozy, homey feel, so we're going to replicate the feel without replicating the building," he said.

The expansion will also enable

BARLOWS BACKGROUND

The youngest of eight kids, Alicia Fry moved to Spokane at age 3 and helped as her family operated a Greek restaurant downtown. As an adult, she helped open and operate a family-run diner on the north side.

Spotting a need for a family restaurant closer to her then-Newman Lake home, she opened Barlows Family Restaurant at 1400 N. Meadowwood Lane in Liberty Lake on Dec. 7, 2009. From day one, she has incorporated traditional dishes based on many of her mother's homemade recipes into creating a family dining experience.

Today, Fry's twin sons, Brad and Beaux Dodd, run day-to-day operations as the office supervisor and floor supervisor, respectively.

Fry married Michael Fry on Feb. 14 of this year. Michael, a businessman, started as a customer before dating Alicia and eventually helping to operate the restaurant. The Frys plan to break ground on the lot next to Starbucks this spring.

— Josh Johnson

Barlows to add dinner hours, grow its catering and meeting room capabilities and enlarge its staff from nine to 25 employees, he said.

Alicia Fry, who founded Barlows and said her 30 years in the restaurant industry complement her husband's 20-plus years as a businessman, emphasized that the family atmosphere and the focus on the whole experience will remain at the core of the restaurant's identity.

"Restaurants have become manufacturers of food, not a place for an experience," Michael Fry added. "

Alicia Fry said she is busy working on a dinner menu, and that affordability will continue to be a hallmark of the Barlow's experience, although she said they will add some higher-priced items like a dry-aged ribeye that diners could select if they so desired.

The restaurant will also include a four-sided fireplace and a sensitivity toward its surroundings, the Frys emphasized.

As an example, they said they are taking 30 feet of the east end of their property to make room for delivery trucks in order to avoid any bottlenecks of traffic trying to get to Starbucks.

The couple hope to break ground in April and ideally move in Oct. 1, Michael Fry said, adding that the latest would be November given commitments already on the books.

"We've already booked a Christmas party in a facility that doesn't exist," he laughed.

RETAIL SNAPSHOTS

Expect A Lot Signs



Expect A Lot Visual Images moved out of its offices at 21980 E. Country Vista Drive earlier this year. Owner Tammy Daley said the business consolidated its operations in warehouse space in Colbert. She said the business' specialty of vehicle wraps and decals require installation at temperatures above 55 degrees, limiting its capability to profitably operate year-round in a smaller, retail location. She said the business phone number, 927-3444, is the same, and the business still makes deliveries and sales calls to Liberty Lake "at least once a week."

Freedom RV, Location 1



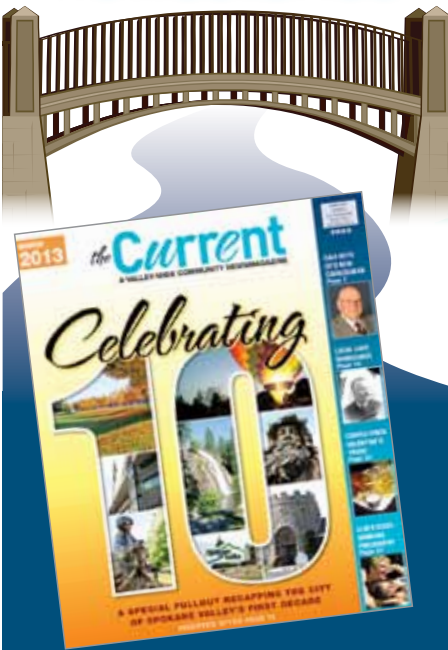
After sales increases of 30 to 60 percent over the past three years, Freedom RV General Manager Mike Stanisich said the business recently purchased four additional acres (pictured) between its sales location at 19605 E. Cataldo Road and the adjacent HUB Sports Center. The business plans to break ground in late March on an expansion of its sales lot that will also enable more vehicle service at the location.

Freedom RV, Location 2



Continued from above, Stanisich also reported that Freedom RV purchased the longtime Bryant Motors facility on the other side of Liberty Lake at 23827 E. Appleway Ave. He said this location will be used exclusively for service for customers who purchase from Freedom RV in order to maximize their turnaround time.

The March Current is on newsstands



SV TURNS 10

Check out our special pullout on the city of Spokane Valley's 10-year anniversary.

THE LAKE MEN

History piece profiles namesakes of local lakes, including Steve Liberty.

CURNOW'S BIG BAND

Liberty Lake musician profiled in The Current's version of our new senior section, The Fountain, sponsored by Evergreen Fountains.

THE WAVE

The Valley-wide version of our kids section, sponsored by KiDDS Dental, features a group of Irish-dancing siblings.

WINTER ROUNDUP

Several Valley area schools saw winter teams advance to state competitions, including the state-champ U-Hi wrestling team.

The March issue of *The Current* is available now at more than 230 locations, or subscribe at www.valleycurrent.com.

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BUSINESS/NEWS



SPLASH PHOTO BY JOSH JOHNSON

SF Sourdough gets facelift

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Randy Youngdell tasted opportunity. A veteran of 35 years in the restaurant industry, Youngdell opened a San Francisco Sourdough Eatery franchise in Rathdrum in February 2009 for the love of a sandwich.

"It's just the quality of it," he said. "I fell in love with the product, and it makes it a lot easier to sell."

When Bernadette and John Oaks decided to sell the Liberty Lake franchise, Youngdell took the opportunity to expand based on the potential of the location.

"I saw the growth potential here, but I was doing double (the business) in Rathdrum," he said, noting the Rathdrum location has greater hours. "I know the demographic and the potential is there, and we're hoping the quality of our service and our product draws more customers."

Youngdell is also expanding the store's hours into the evening, operating from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week (the location is closed Sundays). The store previously

closed in the afternoon.

Youngdell and his son, Riley, took over operations of the store Feb. 1 and immediately closed it for six days to remodel the interior. The store was painted, pictures were hung and a main wall and some cabinets were changed up to open the space further. Along with new menus, Youngdell said the result matches the look the franchise is using to brand its new locations.

Meanwhile, he hopes to pull in new traffic to the location with the expanded hours and expanding catering services to include free delivery (catering had to be picked up in the past). He is also enticing customers with a \$4.99 March special on San Francisco Sourdough's large (7-inch) sandwiches.

"Our large weighs the same as a footlong at Subway," said Riley Youngdell, who manages the location. "We just have more meat."

"I really hope it pulls in some of the people in Liberty Lake and Otis Orchards who have never been here before," Roger Youngdell added. "We want to give them the opportunity to experience the sandwich like I did when I got sold on the product."

LLSWD

Continued from page 10

Adams "are walking into a district that's in great shape."

"We've had a lot of great leaders who have left an excellent legacy," Natarajan said. "I think right now, we have a great team with a good mix of diverse backgrounds."

Skipworth said a potentially turbulent time for the district has instead resulted in a smooth transition.

"We've brought in two individuals who are very well-respected," he said. "It's important from a community standpoint to have these changes without waves of contention."

Adams said he hopes to have a new lake protection/water resource manager hired

by mid-April.

"We'll probably assign more water resource duties to that person," he said.

Mellish has indicated he "is not going anywhere" if Adams and the district need help during the realignment phase. He has already compiled a notebook that contains an overview of general manager duties and "issues the district deals with."

Adams said working with Mellish for more than a decade will be a benefit as he treads into new management waters.

"I've learned Lee's management style and how he's done what's best for the district — those are certainly things I've paid attention to," Adams said. "I'll be developing my management style, but I've definitely learned from Lee's example. I want continuity and to uphold the reputation the district has established."

RETAIL SNAPSHOTS

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches



Although the company has yet to release its official announcement, multiple sources confirmed that Jimmy John's is remodeling 1,430 square feet with plans to open on the north side of the Windermere Real Estate building, 1429 N. Liberty Lake Road.

Curves



After about nine years in business, Curves, 1235 N. Liberty Lake Road, announced plans to close at the end of February.

Great Harvest Bread Co.



Low sales volume was cited as the reason when Great Harvest Bread Co. closed its location at 21651 E. Country Vista Drive late last year. The store had been open for about five years.

Ashley Furniture HomeStore



The 56,500-square foot building Ashley Furniture and Sleep City shared at 21605 E. Country Vista Drive opened in March 2008. Both businesses left in 2011. It has been vacant since.

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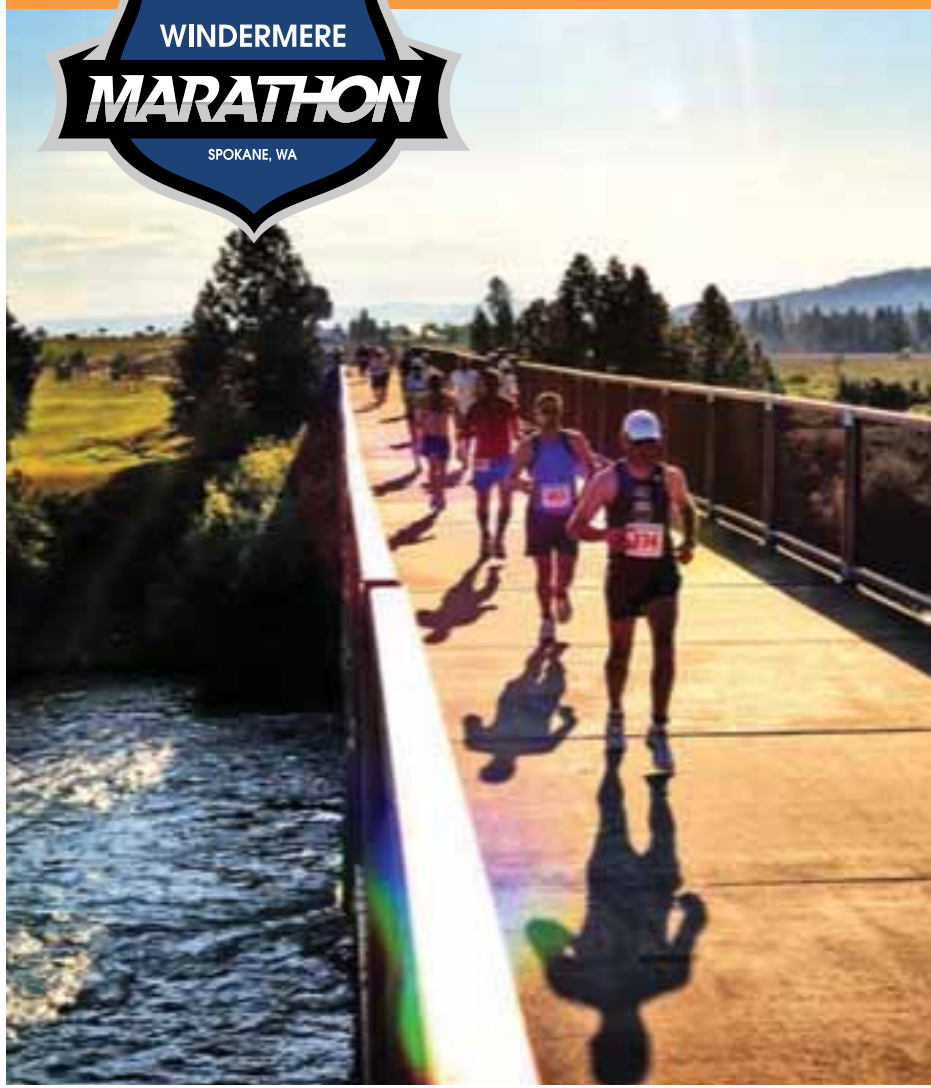

LOOK WHO'S 20!

Save the date: The 20th annual Liberty Lake Community Yard Sales will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 8, 2013. Registration will open in May.

For vendor or general information, contact Liberty Lake Kiwanis members Pat Dockrey (pdockrey@gmail.com) or Scott Draper (scott.draper@edwardjones.com). For sponsorship information, contact Janet Pier at janet@libertylakesplash.com or 242-7752.





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CV sports run through the blood of Knudsens

Wall of Fame-patriarch Ron Sr. now watches son, grandson

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

A.J. Knudsen has not only increasingly become a cog in the Central Valley machine that won its second-straight Greater Spokane League basketball championship and is playing in the state tournament Feb. 28 through March 2 in the Tacoma Dome, but he also carries with it his family's enduring athletic legacy at the school.

The Knudsen name is inextricably linked with Liberty Lake beginning from the late 1800s, when A.J.'s great-great grandfather homesteaded there. And there the family remains five generations later.

Add Central Valley High School to the link, because for some six decades, there has been a Knudsen athlete or coach in CV sports.

The 6-foot-1 junior's grandfather, Ron Knudsen, played in the mid-1950s and then taught and coached three sports at CV for 30 years, including seven as the head basketball coach before his retirement in 1991.

He and wife Linda's daughter and sons — Kelli, Ron Jr., Jack and Eric — were all involved in sports for the Bears in the 1970s and '80s.

Ronnie, though not a teacher, returned to CV as a Bears assistant to coach Rick Sloan and gets to keep close watch on his son. He's been there for 12 years.

Which led me to Starbucks in Spokane Valley for a sit-down over coffee with 75-year-old Ron Sr. The conversation ranged far in subject matter from a ski trip to Austria to the names of three mules he still rides on backpacking and hunting excursions weaved throughout by the thread that is Central Valley.

"I always had a horse and a dog to ride behind me," Ron Sr. recalled of his youth. "It was one heck of a horse."

A friend, Don Jacklin (of the Jacklin Seed family) sold him on the merits of mules that have packed him to hunting sites and wilderness areas as far away as



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Ron Sr., A.J. and Ronnie Knudsen represent three generations of Liberty Lake residents and Central Valley High School athletics. The plaque between grandfather and grandson honors Ron Knudsen's January addition to the CV Wall of Fame. A.J. currently plays for the state tournament-qualifying Bears, while Ronnie, a former standout himself, serves as a CV assistant coach.

Glacier Park. The eldest at 33 is "Sam Mule," who will lead Ron directly to a deer and stop short awaiting the hunt. Then there's "Stormy," born in a snowstorm and "Sadie," short for Mercedes, says Ron, "because she's a smooth ride."

As for the ski trip, that came about when his brother coerced with bargain-rate \$150 round trip airplane tickets to Switzerland. Instead, for 28 bucks they skied on interconnected runs that took them to six Austrian cities.

He said a lady from Great Britain asked him, "Can you believe one family owns this? It's called the Mafia."

Somewhere in there we managed to chat about the family and its CV ties, beginning with Knudsen's own multi-sport athletic and coaching career, which led to a spot in January on the CV Wall of Fame. At times in high school he played four sports — baseball and track and field simultaneously back then.

"To tell the truth, I wasn't very good at either one of them," the Bears 1955 football quarterback and captain quips.

After college, he returned home to the CV school district and home in Liberty Lake.

It was there he had met and married Linda, whose parents rented a cabin in the summer.

"I was selling gas at dad's (Sig's) Resort," he explained. "I had to carry her gas down to her boat — I did that for everybody. When I went skiing, I always stopped at her dock. She told me she'd never move out of the city of Spokane."

She was wrong.

Knudsen's teaching career began at Greenacres Middle School. He asked to help coach football at the high school and was soon teaching there. He coached with two people he admired — CV legends Ray Thacker, who coached basketball for 30 years before Ron succeeded him in 1971-72, and Charlie Dean, who rarely lost in football between 1964 and '74.

"They were both colorful people and both were winners. I could tell stories that would blow your mind," he said. Then he did.

Kelli was the statistician while Ron coached CV to a 103-69 record and fifth place state finish in

1974. She and her husband live at Liberty Lake.

Ronnie and Jack played basketball for different coaches at CV. Ronnie was a guard for Stan Chulich. Though not very tall, he was talented offensively inside.

"Record-wise my senior year wasn't very good," he said.

Jack played for Terry Irwin. He was quick as a cat and defensively inclined, but he tore an ACL just as the playoffs loomed.

Both live at Liberty Lake not far from their parents, as does Eric.

Ronnie explained how he joined Sloan's staff.

"I loved the game, and dad made a huge impression on me," he said. "I wanted to coach."

He got his foot in the door at Evergreen Middle School. He was scouting for the Bears when Sloan asked him if he was interested in coming to the high school.

Third-generation Bear basketball player A.J. (his given name is Austin, but adopted the initials because he had been one of three named Austin on his youth hockey team) grew up playing basketball for his dad.

He is taller and darker haired than father and grandfather.

"He's one who just developed over the years," Ronnie said. "I don't think he's blessed with quick feet, but with determination, heart and character. He's having fun being a defensive guy and scoring when he gets shots."

A.J. played sparingly early in the year. As his minutes have increased, so has his scoring, to nearly 7 points per game with several double figures efforts.

Central Valley went 17-1 to win the GSL title and was 22-2 at this writing and among the eight remaining Class 4A schools preparing for the state tournament in Tacoma, where CV finished second last year.

Basketball has been a vital part of Central Valley's history, with 25 postseason trips and 14 trophies including a state title in 1968 and three second places. The girls have added 15 trips and placed 13 times with three state titles in six finals appearance.

The Knudsens have made a place of their own in CV's history as well.

SPORTS

Wrestling quartet places well at state



By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

During earlier conversations with Central Valley wrestling coach John Owen he offered up this anecdote. His son and previous Bears head coach Tommy, had joked to his dad that any other coach at any other school could succeed with his quartet of Bears standouts.

John wouldn't disagree, although obviously having input from a coach who won numerous national championships at North Idaho College couldn't hurt.

"I think that all year long their records are indicative of what happened," he said at the regional tournament following the performances of junior **Colton Orrino**, sophomore **Blake Beard**, senior **Tanner Davis** and freshman **Bryson Beard**. "Obviously we have some kids ranked really high."

Those words were applicable again for the four at Mat Classic XXV in Tacoma following CV's fourth-place State 4A finish Feb. 15-16.

Orrino and Blake Beard couldn't have been ranked any higher after winning the 132- and 126-pound championships.

Davis placed for the third time in as many tournaments, reaching the finals before losing to a wrestler who had placed second the year before.

And in the first of likely many state appearances to come, Bryson Beard finished third. Among them, the quartet amassed 92 of the 93 team trophy winning points.

Two other state qualifiers, Carson Graham (106), who won one of three matches, and David Shephard (152) also return next year along with most of the Bears lineup. And another Orrino and Beard brother will join them.

Basketball to state

Technically speaking, CV's boys basketball team, among eight remaining Class 4A teams in Washington, qualified for the 2013 State 4A tournament by making the round of 16.

But only eight got to travel to Tacoma, where the Bears finished second last year, making their Feb. 23 Tacoma qualifier against Todd Beamer particularly meaningful. The Bears (22-2) took care of business in a nail-biter, prevailing 61-55 in overtime. **Austin Rehkov** led the way with a double-double (19 points,

13 rebounds), and **Beau Byus** added 16 points. Central Valley opens the three-day state tournament at the Tacoma Dome at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, with a tough quarterfinal draw against the state's second-ranked team, undefeated Jackson High School (24-0) of Mill Creek.

The Bears had to travel to Puyallup to play Todd Beamer after the cold-shooting GSL champions lost 65-54 to Richland, a team they'd beaten by more than 20 points earlier in the year.

But they came back to eliminate Gonzaga Prep for the third time in four meetings, 68-56, remaining alive thanks to a 29-point fourth quarter explosion. **Adam Chamberlin**, who had a team-high 14 points in the loss to the Bombers, shared scoring honors with Rehkov in game two, both with 20 points.

Rehkov was CV's GSL scoring leader at 14.7 points per game, Byus averaged 13.9 and Chamberlain 12.6.

Final stats for girls

CV finished with a 10-11 overall record, losing to Ferris in a tie-breaker for the final berth in the district playoffs.

The loss of **Molly Barnhart** to a knee injury midway through the season was costly. She was averaging in double figures at the time.

Madison Hovren led GSL girls in scoring at 19.4 points per game. **Mariah Cunningham** scored at a 13.8 clip.

Gymnasts place

A young Central Valley gymnastics team made its mark during State 4A gymnastics.

Sophomore **Izzy Erdem** made the biggest splash during the event by finishing first in floor exercise with a 9.75 score during the first day of team competitions. It qualified her for the individual events portion of the tournament, where she tied for sixth.

Freshman teammate **McKinzie Carter** placed among the top 20 in three events while tying for 16th all-around in the meet.

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Did you receive next-day Liberty Lake City Council stories last month delivered straight to your inbox? If you didn't, you haven't signed up to receive Splash e-updates. The ink-on-paper edition may be coming out once a month, but stay connected to the most timely and important news delivered directly to your inbox.

To sign up, click on the box on the top of The Splash home page — www.libertylakesplash.com — and enter in your email address. For more on The Splash's "monthly in your mailbox, timely in your inbox" transition, see The Splash's Jan. 24 cover story, *The Splash of tomorrow*, which is also available online.

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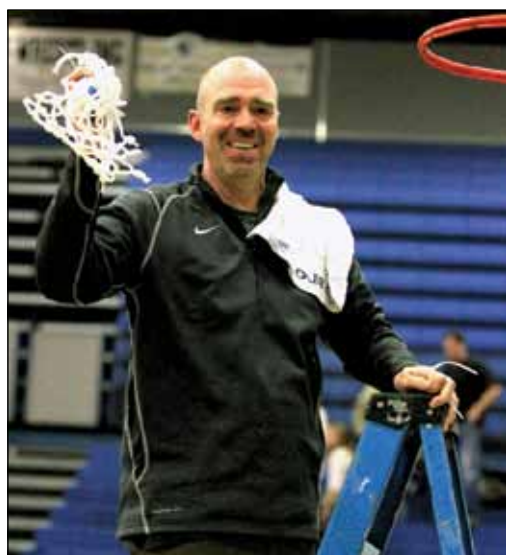
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SPORTS

Cutting down the nets

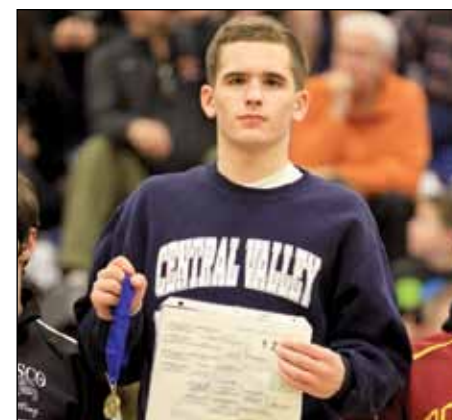


SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ERIK SMITH/ERIKSMITH@SMUGMUG



At the time this issue was being distributed, the Central Valley boys basketball team was one of eight teams readying to participate in the state tournament in the Tacoma Dome. Along the way, the Bears cut down the home court nets after picking up a district championship over Greater Spokane League rival Gonzaga Prep. At left, coach Rick Sloan finishes the job for the Bears. The team was scheduled to open the state tournament against undefeated Jackson High School of Mill Creek at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Jackson, 24-0, is the second-ranked team in the state.

Wrestlers close season strong



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ERIK SMITH/ERIKSMITH@SMUGMUG

At left, Colton Orrino, and above, Blake Beard, both capped off successful seasons by capturing state championships at 132 and 126 pounds, respectively, during the Mat Classic Feb. 16 at the Tacoma Dome. The wrestlers are pictured here earlier in the season.

Bruins take the court



A Greenacres Middle School Bruins basketball team takes to the court during this winter season in this artistic shot.

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ERIK SMITH/ERIKSMITH@SMUGMUG

Lady Cubs claim title



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lady Cubs won their fourth straight title during the 8th grade AAU championship game. Pictured are (front row) coach Ron Hawkins, Anna Gabbert, Courtney Carolan, **Kavina Turpin**, Cassidy Crosswhite, Kalle Crosswhite; (back row) coach **Jason Hull**, Katie Hawkins, **Lacie Hull**, Ricky Behl, **Lexie Hull**, Emily Osmun and coach Scott Carolan. (Liberty Lake residents are in bold.)

Kickin' it in competition



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ten students from Liberty Lake Taekwondo brought home many medals from a recent competition in Missoula. Students pictured with their medals are (front row) Lizzy Oviatt, gold in sparring and silver in board breaking; Finn Scott, silver in forms; Aaron Wright, silver in sparring; Colin Wright, bronze in forms; Aiden Scott, bronze in forms; Gregory Allen, bronze in sparring and board breaking; Alex Wright, gold in forms; (back row) Jackson Scott, bronze in forms; Jasen Oviatt, gold in sparring; Duncan McDonald, silver in board breaking and forms and bronze in sparring.

Local Lens Share your snapshots for The Splash's sports photo page. Email editor@libertylakesplash.com with game shots and team photos.

Diligence pays dividends on the baseball diamond

By Jeff Simmelink
SPLASH GUEST COLUMN



day — regardless of their mental or physical state. The diligent player doesn't require a coach or teammate to encourage them. They visualize the future and establish a plan to reach their goals. Then they stick to it.

Great players aren't great by accident. There are thousands of good players around the world. However,

there are only a few players that perform at the level of an Albert Pujols, Edgar Martinez or Randy Johnson. Aspiring young players tend to only see the results. They don't see the preparation and the relentless pursuit of perfection that these elite players put in behind the scenes. Nobody sees Albert Pujols putting in an hour on a batting tee before every game. Nobody sees Edgar Martinez spending time in the video room prior to each at-bat, studying his previous at-bat and the opposing pitcher. Nobody sees the sweat expended by Randy Johnson as he works with a medicine ball to improve his core strength. They establish their routines and never stray from it. Come rain or shine, great players put their work in. It's not an option. It's what they do. Diligently.

Regardless of your goals, the key to success is what you put into it and the consistency of which you do it. Worthwhile achievements are not found by accident. They begin with a goal and usually include a long journey, a journey ripe with opportunity to deviate off the path. Diligence, the constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken, is the key. Take each step one at a time. Have the faith to trust your vision, put your work in and success is right around the corner.

Now let's get rid of the snow and play some ball!

Jeff Simmelink has been the head coach of the Club Spokane Dodgers since 2001. He was a catcher at Lower Columbia Community College for two years before signing a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians. Simmelink is currently a principal solutions engineer at Itron Inc. in Liberty Lake and an assistant coach with the Central Valley High School baseball program since 1996. He enjoys spending time with his wife of 28 years, two children and his pet bulldog. He wrote this column as part of a monthly series highlighting the Partners Advancing Character Education (PACE) trait of the month. The trait for March is diligence.

"The diligent player doesn't require a coach or teammate to encourage them.

They visualize the future and establish a plan to reach their goals. Then they stick to it."

Baseball is a game of failure. Hall of Fame hitters fail 70 percent of the time. However, players don't see it that way. They see baseball success as the great mountain that needs to be conquered. They revel in the little battles and the opportunity to overcome adversity. Each pitch presents an opportunity to do something great.

With all that failure, you may ask how the great ones succeed. The answer, in a word, is diligence. The dictionary defines diligence as "a constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent exertion of body or mind."

Baseball is a game of preparation and execution. Great players are diligent in their preparation so that when the opportunity presents itself, they are able to execute. They develop the repeatable actions, or habits, that allow their bat to arrive at the correct moment on the correct plane, the fastball that paints the black on the outside corner on a 3-2 count or the ability to pick off the runner at first.

Habits are formed by performing a correct action thousands of times over an extended period of time. We like to call this the daily grind. Players take pride in the daily grind. Great players develop daily routines to hone their game. They put in a constant and earnest effort to perfect these actions every

About the Opinion Page

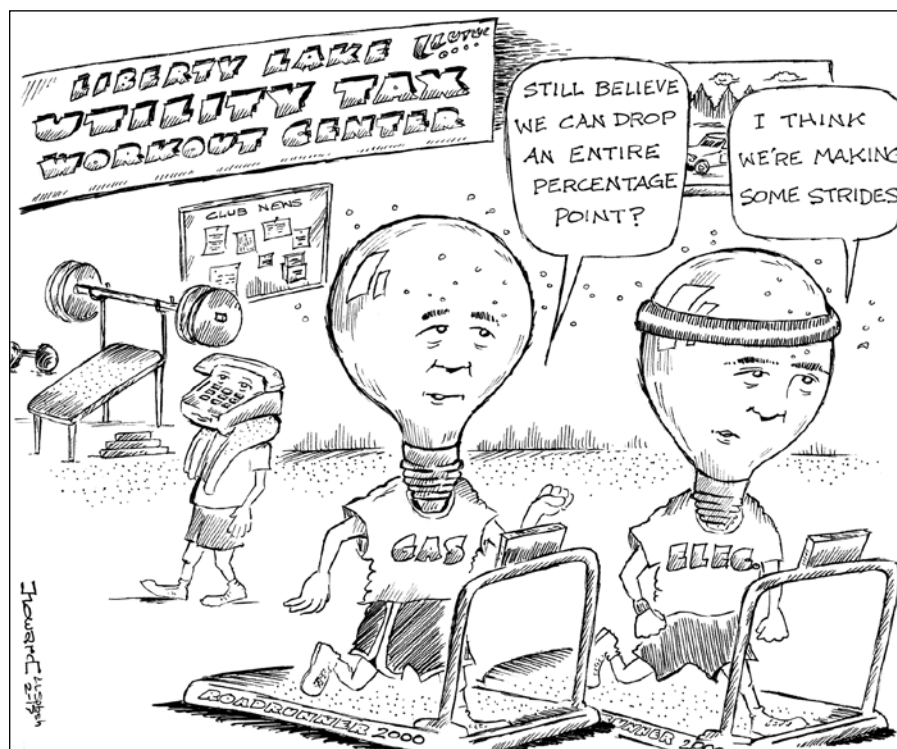
The Splash opinion page is intended to be a community forum for discussing local issues. Please interact with us by sending a letter to the editor or Liberty Lake Voices guest column for consideration.

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.

Editorial Cartoon



Letter to the Editor

Annual campaign helps Kiwanians give scholarships

Each year, the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation conducts its Annual Club Gift Campaign. This year, the campaign will be held during the month of March.

Contributions to the campaign are unrestricted and help the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation achieve its mission of providing educational and vocational (career and technical education) scholarships to youth in the community; supporting and promoting other charitable organizations in the community who have been designated as qualifying organizations under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code; and promoting other social services as well as providing operating funds. Please see our ad in this issue of The Splash.

Many of you are aware of the Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake by our presence in Pavillion Park, where we sell snacks during summer movies and musical events. We also sponsor the Liberty Lake Community Yard Sales, serve hot dogs at the Liberty Lake Elementary School "Back-to-School BBQ" and host the annual Father-Daughter Dance.

A very important part of Liberty Lake Kiwanis' work in our community comes from the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation. Through the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation and the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club, more than \$120,000 in scholarships have been awarded to local students. Last fall at a Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting, I met a recipient of one of our scholarships. Last week, I met a dad whose daughter was helped. We even have

"Through the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation and the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club, more than \$120,000 in scholarships have been awarded to local students."

a new member whose interest in Kiwanis was sparked when his son was awarded a scholarship. We are especially pleased when we help a young person enter school who might not have made that choice without our help.

A substantial part of the funding for the Foundation comes from our annual Golf Tournament, which will take place June 1 at MeadowWood Golf Course. You are welcome to participate.

The Annual Club Gift Campaign is important to the health of the Foundation. We are honored every time citizens of Liberty Lake join us to help fund the Foundation. Any amount is welcome.

If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by making your check payable to Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 384, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. All donations will be unrestricted and allocated according to Foundation priorities.

Please see your tax advisor for specific information regarding the tax treatment of your gift. The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation is a 501(c)3 U.S. charitable organization.

Gail Kalk
President, Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation

THE Splash

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About

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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.

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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.

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

Continued from page 20

LL Kiwanis Foundation seeking donations in March

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation is soliciting funds this month for its annual club gift campaign. Funds from this drive help the club achieve its mission of providing educational and vocational scholarships to youth in the community.

Contributions by individuals are always welcome. Checks can be made payable to Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation and mailed to Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 384, Liberty Lake, WA, 99019. Donations can also be made via PayPal on the group's website, www.libertylakekiwanis.org.

Another fundraising event, the Kiwanis Foundation golf tournament, is scheduled for June 1 at MeadowWood Golf Course. Interested participants can register and find more information on the website.

The Liberty Lake Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. For more information, call Gail Kalk at 747-9144.

EDUCATION

Continued from page 20

LL teen serves as page

Zac Ladd, 16, recently served as a page in the Washington House of Representatives at Olympia sponsored by Rep. Matt Shea. A sophomore at Central Valley High School, he is the son of Mark and Michele Ladd.

As a page, Ladd's duties included delivering messages and bills to lawmakers' offices and to the House floor. Pages also spend two hours each day in a classroom setting learning about state government in the Legislative Page School.

For more information about the House page program, visit www.leg.wa.gov/house.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rep. Matt Shea sponsored Zac Ladd of Liberty Lake as a legislative page.

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Re-reading The Splash

Editor's notes on a new
and expanded issue

By Josh Johnson
SPLASH STAFF COLUMN



Have you ever watched a movie — and then immediately watched it again overlaid with the director's audio commentary? Yeah, me neither. But I've always figured it would either be absolutely fascinating or mind-numbingly dull.

Let's find out, print edition. You've just about reached the end of the March issue of *The Splash*. What follows are a few pieces of "behind-the-scenes" editor's commentary on this issue.

PAGE 1

The *Splash* should have been a little heavier than normal when you pulled it from the mailbox. We're still no Sears catalog — do they still make those? — but this issue is as robust as any we've published, and it's between 100 and 150 percent larger than any of our past seven issues. And in case you thought it's been an awfully long week between Thursdays, perhaps you missed our **announcement in January** that we were moving to a monthly publication cycle in order to take what we're doing to another level (if you did miss it, we've kept the story up on our website for readers to revisit). We hope you have found this issue to be a great first step in that direction.

PAGE 2

Fingers and toes are crossed for the Liberty Lake Community Theatre as it explores the latest option for a long-term facility — in Liberty Lake. Life is not a fairy tale, but if we could write a dream script for this talented troupe, its setting would be in a permanent home.

PAGE 4

Police Records Clerk Bobbi Anderson is retiring from the Liberty Lake Police Department. If you've read her Facebook posts, chatted with her or — like those of us at *The Splash* — enjoyed the distinctive,

handwritten notes she always pens on the first page of her weekly faxed reports ... well, you know the city is losing quite a personality. Best of luck, Bobbi. And happy travels!

PAGE 5

As a dad with two daughters, the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club's annual Father Daughter Dance has become a special annual tradition. This is the first year I'm taking both of them (Jaysa's almost 5 now and loves any excuse to wear a beautiful dress). Add in dance veteran Kylie, 8, and I will officially be the proudest and most fortunate chap in Spokane Valley the night of March 2.

PAGE 7

You know, I've never tried corned beef hash. Maybe this is my month.

PAGE 8

If the city of Liberty Lake's utility tax is to continue — and that is another column in itself that could be called, "It depends on your priorities" — then a cafeteria-style approach makes sense. Essentially, this relieves the burden of the tax slightly on essential services like electricity and gas while bumping it up on other less-critical services. Sidenote: I love the new monitors at the library that scroll through community announcements. It was nice to see the information about how certain low- and fixed-income residents can apply for a utility tax rebate posted recently.

PAGE 9

Dear doctor, how many large sandwiches are acceptable to eat:

- In the month of March?
- In one sitting?

PAGE 10

If Bijay Adams is as good of a general manager — even nearly as good — as he has been as a lake protection manager, then the

LLSWD is in great hands. With this hire, the district has once again shown itself to be on the side of the health, sustainability and beauty of our community, first and foremost. The current commissioners, as well as the late Frank L. Boyle and others who have gone before such as Harley Halverson, deserve kudos for their long-term commitment to protecting Liberty Lake. Save the argument about the appropriateness of environmental regulations that exceed the capabilities of existing technology for another venue in saying this: I've always found it ironic that LLSWD leadership must devote so much energy to meeting the letter of the law of each new environmental regulation when they've been a standard bearer and a bar-setter behind the spirit of these requirements for many years.

PAGE 12

If you desire to support your local community, and particularly its young people, there are few causes as worthwhile as the Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation.

PAGE 15

There once was a *Splash* composition
(Page 39 of the March edition)

To keep readers reading

It seemed it was needing

A limerick just for intermission

PAGE 16

I'm a big fan of Suzi Walden, a woman we should have featured long before now. In another edition of "It's a small world after all," Suzi and I both once called Decatur, Ill., home (my wife is from Decatur). Note to Suzi: When I watch "The Voice," it's also because of Blake Shelton, but I'm not sure we share the same reasoning.

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It's awards season, so I would like to give a "Splashy" to Ross Schneidmiller in the category of "Person I'd Most Like To Have Coffee With In March If Time Were Not An Issue (Other Than My Wife)." I could listen to Ross talk about Liberty Lake history all day. Which is also the problem, as that could make me late for dinner.

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Kudos to Wendy Van Orman for making the Easter Egg Hunt happen for the past 15-plus years, much like Ray and Karen Ruef did with the hunts out at Liberty Lake County Park when I was a boy. And major props to Wendy's daughter, Alisha Davis, who has decided to take the baton despite giving birth to a newborn, Lucas Robert James Davis, on Feb. 22. That Van Orman family has always brought an Energizer Bunny capability to this event and many other community causes. Here's hoping many more volunteers step up to help keep this great tradition going strong.

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I was chatting with Police Chief Brian Asmus the other day when City Council Member Shane Brickner walked into LLPD headquarters to congratulate him on successfully polar plunging 25 times and raising thousands of dollars for Special Olympics. This from Brickner, who walked all night a couple years back — a team of one raising money to fight cancer at the Relay For Life. And I'm sitting there thinking: You know, a 5K Fun Run sounds like eating a cake pop compared to what these guys will do for a cause. Hats off — and we have a Relay team with slots open for "crazy fundraisers" if you're interested.

PAGE 24

Congrats to Barlows Family Restaurant owners Michael and Alicia Fry on their

Valentine's Day marriage (see their *Splash Travels* pic) — and on their growing venture (see also the cover story package).

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Several people have asked: With the changes at *The Splash*, is this all just part of a plan for it to be merged with *The Current*? No, it's not. *The Splash* will continue to focus unapologetically on Liberty Lake and Liberty Lake only. However, as we are members historically, geographically and practically of the greater Valley community, we believe Liberty Lake readers will also find value in *The Current*. Pick one up for free or subscribe for a measly \$12.

PAGE 33

Shameless plug: The 20th annual Liberty Lake Community Yard Sales are looking for a title sponsor and a handful of secondary sponsors. If you recall, the Liberty Lake Kiwanis saved this event a couple of years back, and *The Splash* is partnering with the club again in hopes of making it a success for at least another 20 years. This is a huge undertaking, and the support of the business community (as sponsors) and residents (by actually paying the small registration fee instead of holding a renegade sale) will be vital to its continued existence. Contact Janet at 242-7752 or janet@libertylakesplash.com to learn more about sponsorships.

PAGE 34

Another "Splashy" to give out for the article found here. The category: "Story I Most Wish I Had Assigned To Myself." Mike did a great job reporting it, but I'm a big fan of the Knudsen family. It's the people, more than any other factor, who truly build and shape a community. Liberty Lake is a great measure more special than it would have been otherwise thanks to more than a century of Knudsen investment.

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Go ahead and visit www.libertylakesplash.com to sign up for our e-updates. This is our way of being a monthly in print while dropping the most important and timely information into your inbox as soon as it's available.

PAGE 39

OK, so I guess this is where the credits roll and the "Director's Commentary" thanks all of the folks who made this production possible. So thank you, *Splash* team! Thank you, advertisers! Thank you, readers!

Oh, and thank you, Mom. Given my past experience with these types of DVD add-ons, it could just be you and me left here at the end of this column. Say, do you want to see if Ross would be willing to have coffee with us some time?

Josh Johnson is editor and publisher of The Liberty Lake Splash. Write to him at josh@libertylakesplash.com.



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