The city’s once-debated roundabout marks its first year with a growing list of admirers P. 16

LL RESIDENT Aiming to be Miss Teen Washington USA P. 32

BEARS Borrow from Seahawks with tackle technique P. 40

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Plant manager

Cary oversees flourishing foliage as city horticulturist

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

One day, Joice Cary decided to trade in her calculator for a pair of garden gloves.

Things have never quite been the same for Cary ever since, as a career in banking and financial planning was replaced by a vocation that involved a different kind of green. The transition has been successful on a variety of fronts, according to the Sacramento, Calif., native, whose stress level has dissipated like a field of stubborn weeds after a thorough hoeing.

In April 2013, Cary was brought on as Liberty Lake city horticulturist, tasked with overseeing the vast array of plants, flowers and trees that have made Spokane County’s easternmost jurisdiction a regional flora gem. For Cary, the move represented the latest rung on a professional ladder that includes stops at Gaiser Conservatory in Manito Park, a Cheney nursery and as the horticulturist at Riverview Retirement Community. She has also owned and managed her own gardening business.

In Liberty Lake, Cary is responsible for the inventory of ornamental plant material that gives the city its distinctive, well-manicured look. Her arena of maintenance includes landmarks like Pavilion Park, Trailhead at Liberty Lake golf course, Rocky Hill Park, the Liberty Lake Arboretum, the Municipal Library, Harvard Road roundabout, or, in Cary’s words, “any area that has pretty plants.”

Cary’s plant pedigree includes an associate of science degree from North Idaho College, an associate of arts degree from Spokane Community College and degrees in horticulture and greenhouse management from SCC. She has also earned volunteer status at the prestigious U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., where she will wrap up her designated 100 hours of service later this year.

Cary’s job typically spans from the end of March to the early part of November, or when the frost settles in. As part of her role in maintaining Liberty Lake’s designation as an official Tree City with the National Arbor Day Foundation, Cary defers to Parks and Open Space Superintendent Jennifer Camp concerning the care of trees along streets and in parks. This year, she and

See HORTICULTURIST page 4

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**Horticulturist**

Continued from page 2

Camp pruned the lower branches on less-ageous trees like those along Country Vista Drive to the east of City Hall.

Each weekday during the growing season, Craig makes her rounds in a signature white municipal truck, “meeting the nicest people and their dogs,” whether she's planting 850 geraniums in the spring, checking in on the Monarch Butterfly Garden at Pavilion Park or nurturing the 50 plants that occupy the grounds around City Hall, Craig is ready with a smile and a helpful word of advice about local greenery.

Craig and her husband, Chris, live in north Spokane and have two kids and two grandkids. The Splash caught up with the city’s frontline in foliage recently to inquire about the state of vegetation in Liberty Lake.

Q: When were you first hired as the city horticulturist in Liberty Lake?

A: My first impression was lots and lots of green with many beautiful and established trees. Liberty Lake is truly a Tree City.

Q: What were some of your first undertakings as city horticulturist?

A: I needed to become familiar with the scope of my responsibility so I did a plant inventory and assessment. Liberty Lake has many nice, established plants that were in need of pruning and trimming. I spent most of my first season here pruning, trimming and cleaning. Some shrubs and trees needed to be brought back to a more proportionate size in relation to the beds they occupied. Some trees also needed lower limbs removed to raise the canopy. The process of rehabilitating a large shrub or tree takes several years, so this is ongoing, but I feel that the heavy lifting is now done.

Q: Along those same lines, how much autonomy do you have in your role? If you like rhododendrons, can you plants hundreds around City Hall?

A: Wow, wouldn’t that be amazing. But, no, I can’t plant hundreds of rhododendrons around City Hall; that would be very expensive and would lack balance. Mayor (Steve) Peterson, (City Administrator) Katy Allen and Jennifer (Camp) know the big picture concerning city green space development and projects. I take care of these projects after they are installed, such as the Library Reading Garden, the Harvard Road roundabout and the future Town Square. I do make decisions concerning flower and plant material when adding or changing smaller landscaped areas, and I work within a budget. Some of these areas are the Trailhead sign and golf course beds, Rocky Hill shelter beds, Pavilion Park sign and around the flag poles. My goal is to create a feeling of visual harmony throughout the city, to reflect the community aesthetic and to add color using sustainable methods and perennial plants.

Last fall, I planted 1,100 bulbs at Founder’s Corner and will add another 1,800 in Pavilion Park this year.

Q: Tell us about your efforts with the Liberty Lake Arboretum. This was a project that was in the works for a number of years. Do you think it’s met up to the hopes that supporters had for it?

A: The supporters should be very proud of creating such a legacy. A city arboretum is a project for visionaries — not an instant gratification moment like a pot of geraniums. Finch Arboretum in Spokane is decades old and is still experiencing growth and change. I love the arboretum and pay special attention to the specimen trees growing there. Did you know that there is a beautiful thriving redwood growing at the north side of the community garden (in the arboretum)? Redwoods are not native to our area and are difficult to establish, which makes this tree a joy to behold. This fall we will be adding more aspen to the grove. Also Garth Davis, forester for Spokane County Conservation District, has given the city a ginkgo and a catalpa tree. Garth has participated in our Arbor Day celebrations and tree plantings. He is a great resource and toured the arboretum this spring answering my questions and concerns. The SCCD also maintains a tree nursery that the city has access to for future plantings. The arboretum is a jewel in the Liberty Lake landscape and will become more beautiful as it ages.

Q: You made an interesting career transition from the world of banking and finance to horticulture. Tell us about that move, why you made it and how things have turned out.

A: Things have turned out well. I gave up an office and the stress of watching markets rise and fall for open spaces, boots and the satisfaction of watching plants grow. Although managing money can be exciting and challenging, I just didn’t love going to work every day. My super supportive husband, Chris, convinced me that it is OK to do work that I love. So with his financial support and the blessings of my family, I started off in a new direction. I went back to school and starting working summers as a private gardener, a nursery worker and spent one year at the Gaiser Conservatory in Manito Park. This doesn’t mean that my current work isn’t stressful. The work that all of the city employees do is on display every day, and we do pride in that. I also have a responsibility to the taxpayers to make careful decisions about how their money is spent. Plants are expensive and will die if not cared for properly, that is a waste of resources. But now I look forward to coming to work in the morning.

Q: Tell us about your involvement with the campaign to restore the Marian J. Schneidmiller Memorial Rose Garden at Pavilion Park.

A: This wasn’t really a campaign, mostly a conversation with the right people. When I first came on in 2013, I noticed the lack of roses in the Rose Garden. Jennifer (Camp) said that she would like to have the area re-established. I contacted Ross Schneidmiller and was able to get interesting background about his family and the area. Ross and his brother donated 15 of the 24 roses planted in the garden. Three original roses remained for a total of 27 plants. This spring the bed was cleared of spirea and the plum trees. The plum trees were struggling and broken, so it was appropriate to remove them. I amended the soil with nutrients and compost and planted the roses in June of this year. There is a range of types, colors and fragrances. All the roses are labeled for easy identification.

Q: The city recently took over landscaping maintenance at the Harvard Road roundabout from the Washington State Department of Transportation. What are some of the challenges in overseeing this site?

A: The medians are more difficult to maintain because of the traffic. I can’t park my work truck directly next to the work area so I have to haul tools and plant debris back and forth across road. Not a huge challenge, just inconvenient. Also, the area is large and wasn’t maintained on a regular schedule after installation last year. I have some catch-up work to do to get this area looking as pretty as the designer intended. The plants will continue to grow and fill in next year, and it will become a lovely welcome to the city.

Q: From your time in Liberty Lake, what are some of the plants that grow best here? How about those that struggle?

A: That is a tough question because there are several “depend” — depends on the location, amount of water, amount of sun, amount of nutrients, etc. This is true for plants that struggle and plants that thrive. Two rules of thumb would be to use plants that are hardy to your zone, our area is normally Zone 5, and be aware of the soil, which is usually alkaline in our area.

Q: Finally, there are some who feel people either have green thumbs or plants literally wither in their presence. For those of us who have never had any aptitude for gardening or taking care of things with leaves, is there hope?

A: Absolutely. I can’t cook but haven’t given up the challenge. Gardening is an exercise; you can make it what you want. Plant a pot of pansies or an acre of potatoes and enjoy. Plants can be forgiving and there are tons of resources available to get answers. I will put in a good word for the WSU Master Gardeners, and not just because I am one. Call, email or drop by the free, open clinic at 222 N. Havana for expert advice. Gardening is a healthy activity. It involves sunshine, fresh air, movement and mind peace.
The Splash OCTOBER 2014

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City switching to private option for waste

By Craig Howard
Splash Contributor

In June, Spokane County received word that the city of Spokane Valley would not be on board when a new interlocal agreement for solid waste management set sail this fall.

On Sept. 2, it was Liberty Lake that jumped the county ship.

By a unanimous vote, the governing board directed city staff to draw up a contract with Waste Management Inc., a private company that collects refuse from over 20 million customers in the U.S. and Canada. The agreement will also include Airway Heights-based Sunshine Disposal and Recycling on the disposal side.

Spokane County is preparing to take over regional disposal services from the city of Spokane on Nov. 16. The county had offered Liberty Lake a seven-year deal with an early opt-out after three years. Liberty Lake's contract with Waste Management and Sunshine will run for 10 years with an optional six-year add-on if agreed to by both sides.

Waste Management has been responsible for garbage collection under the current system.

Kevin Cooke, utilities director for Spokane County, made his case before council at its Sept. 2 meeting, describing how the county program would function as a non-profit enterprise fund.

“We see it as our duty to keep rates as low as we can,” Cooke said.

Waste Management’s contract came in at $94.75 a ton compared to the county’s offer of $10,000 a year. City Administrator Kat Allen emphasized that the numbers did not present an “apples to apples” comparison primarily because the county would manage and administer a collection and disposal plan whereas the city will be required to do so under the Waste Management agreement.

“We’ve tried our best to get the information to you,” Allen said. “I don’t want to pit one against the other. There are advantages and disadvantages to both.”

The weekly fee proposed by Waste Management was $12.99 per household, plus a 3.6 percent tax and the cost of a yearly bulky waste community cleanup event. The county submitted an estimated charge of $13.39.

Sunshine Disposal President Marc Torre chimed in before the council’s decision, saying the Waste Management/Sunshine contract represented “a known cost and long-term stability.” He also asserted that the competitive bidding process had influenced the county’s price. Sunshine is currently in the process of building a new transfer station on University Road in Spokane Valley.

“If we weren’t in the discussion, the county rate would be $120 a ton,” Torre said.

With Spokane Valley, a city of some 91,000 residents, opting out of a regional solid waste program earlier this year, Allen expressed concern over the economy of scale involving the county’s new system.

“I wonder how the operation can run with small, unincorporated areas and small cities,” she said.

In addition to one community-wide bulky waste event each year, the Waste Management proposal includes a $3,000 annual donation to the city “to support community activities.” The agreement will also provide free waste management at municipal facilities, a value of $5,500 a year.

Waste Management will forward the city a one-time payment of $15,000 to develop, manage and administer a collection and disposal comprehensive plan. The city will also reap 1 percent of the gross revenue (around $10,000 a year) to facilitate the plan.

Garbage from Liberty Lake will wind up in the Wenatchee Landfill owned by Waste Management. The Columbia River Landfill will serve as a backup site.

In raising the motion to vote for the Waste Management proposal, Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskas said she was wary about Spokane County’s lack of experience in the dynamics of disposal.

“They don’t have things ironed out yet,” Kaminskas said.

As theproprietor of its own waste management plan, the city will also be eligible for certain grant funding that it could not procure as part of an interlocal agreement.

“We appreciate the vote of confidence,” said Tami Yager, public sector manager for Waste Management.

Update on Lakemore ground source heat pumps

Maintaining confidence in the city’s water supply emerged as the other main topic of conversation at the Sept. 2 council meeting.

Allen described how the city had filed a mitigated determination of non-significance (MDNS) on Aug. 29 related to the closed loop ground source heat pump borings being proposed for the Lakemore development. Lakemore is a component of an extensive mixed use, master planned development orchestrated by Whitewater Creek, Inc. in the eastern part of the city.

The proposal description describes how Whitewater Creek “seeks to provide approximately 700 closed-loop ground source heat pump borings for energy efficient heating and cooling of commercial units, single family residences and multi-family buildings.”

The city recommended eight requirements as part of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, including a pilot, or test well, constructed under the supervision of a licensed Washington state hydrogeologist.

The city also asked that Whitewater provide the city and the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District with “as-builds” showing the location of each well before any

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CITY

Continued from page 6

ground source heat pump is activated. The applicant is also being asked to provide an emergency plan and protocol in any case involving contamination of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

In issuing the MDNS, the city reviewed and considered input from the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, Spokane County Utilities, the Washington State Department of Health, Model Irrigation District, Idaho-Washington Aquifer Collaboration, Department of Ecology, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board and Consolidated Irrigation District.

The MDNS also includes 20 comments from concerned citizens. The document can be found on the city’s website — www.libertylakewa.gov:

“We’re getting a lot of questions about the Lakemore ground source heat pumps,” said Mayor Steve Peterson on Sept. 2.

While the city is designated as the lead agency on the SEPA review, the mayor said it would make sense for LLSWD to inherit that role moving forward.

“The district knows water issues and the aquifer the best,” Peterson said.

LLSWD Commissioner Steve Skipworth told the mayor and council that the district is “the responsible party for wellhead safety” and said LLSWD would be discussing the Lakemore situation in detail at its next meeting. The following Monday, Sept. 8, Skipworth and his fellow LLSWD commissioners, Tom Agnew and Kottayam V. Natarajan Jr., voted unanimously in support of the district assuming lead agency status on the project (see story elsewhere in this issue).

Even before assuming lead agency status, LLSWD General Manager BiJay Adams said the district has done its due diligence looking into the Lakemore application, including hiring an outside hydrogeologist to evaluate the developer’s proposal.

“The district has spent a significant amount of time researching this,” Adams said.

Later, at its Sept. 16 meeting, Council unanimously approved the finalization of the Lakemore addition plat in the eastern section of the city. City staff emphasized the approved plat includes traditional heating and cooling systems, not the alternative mechanisms.

Council briefed on response to I-90 chemical spill

The Spokane Valley Fire Department always has a presence at meetings of the Liberty Lake City Council. On Sept. 16, the agency report was more extensive than usual as Deputy Chief Andy Hail shed light on an event that shut down the area’s main transportation corridor for 19 hours.

Hail described how hazmat crews from the city of Spokane were called in to address the situation, identifying a leak of a chemical known as anhydrous trimethylamine. Meanwhile, WSP closed traffic on I-90 in both directions, diverting vehicles through Liberty Lake on Appleway. Liberty Lake Police Chief Brian Asmus characterized the massive detour as “quite an undertaking.”

Hail said the decision to close the freeway was based on creating a buffer zone of at least 350 feet from the area of the spill. The chemical poses both a respiratory and cardiac threat.

“We made the right call to shut down the freeway,” Hail said. “We’d like to thank the public for their patience. It’s not easy to be stuck in traffic like that.”

A pair of LLPD officers required treatment on the scene after being exposed to the chemical while channeling traffic, Hail said. Both are reported to be doing fine.

By the morning of Monday, Sept. 15, Hail said there was discussion of evacuating businesses and residences between Molter and the state line as hazmat crews continued their efforts to clean up a spill of approximately five gallons. Ultimately, a decision was made to set up “shelters in place,” with officials standing watch at various sites.

Students at Liberty Lake Elementary School were kept inside on Monday as a precaution. Officials with the East Valley School District let parents know that buses would be delayed on Monday due to traffic disruption.

Interstate 90 was reopened at 8:25 a.m. on Monday. Hail said SVFD and other responders would be reviewing the response to the incident later this month.

“We need to review this very critically,” he said. “We’re going to be better as a result of this.”

Hail commended the driver who made the initial emergency call after sensing something was not quite right.

“Fortunately, we had a citizen who smelled something, called and this truck got pulled over and maybe it saved some lives,” he said.

Council denies Holt Group zone change proposal

City Council voted unanimously on Sept. 16 to deny a request by the Holt Group, a Vancouver-based developer for a zone change on a parcel at the corner of Henry Road and Sprague Avenue. The proposal would have transitioned the property from R-1 single-family residential to M-2 community center, mixed use.

See CITY, page 11
Workshop explores possible changes to city sign code

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Bill Grimes has made it clear that when it comes to the future of signage in Liberty Lake, nothing is set in stone — or neon or blinking lights.

Grimes, principal of the Spokane-based community design firm of Studio Cascade, presided over a workshop last month that delved into potential changes to the city’s existing sign code. The discussion was part of the Liberty Lake planning commission’s monthly meeting and included representatives of the City Council as well as municipal staff.

“This is so you can tell us what you’re thinking in terms of signs and what our next step should be,” Grimes told attendees during the Sept. 10 gathering at City Hall.

In June, council unanimously approved a contract with Studio Cascade to review the city’s approach to signage. The standards, established after incorporation in 2001, have established an aesthetic baseline in Liberty Lake but also drawn criticism from some business owners who say the regulations are overly restrictive.

“The city made it clear that we should approach this with an attitude of ensuring the community’s prosperity while also respecting the things that make Liberty Lake a special and unique place,” Grimes said. “Community image is a community resource, and that’s something the city has the authority to regulate to some degree.”

The city’s current sign code is characterized by guidelines not seen in surrounding communities. The document prohibits electric signs with alternating messages as well as reader boards. There are also restrictions on signs in residential areas. Each business within city limits is allowed a double sided “A-frame” sign measuring six square feet while free standing signs along the Interstate 90 corridor have a ceiling of 30 feet.

Mayor Steve Peterson said the code was structured to minimize the sort of visual clutter seen to the west of Liberty Lake.

“In the first year of incorporation, the conversation was, ‘We don’t want to be like Sprague Avenue,’” said Peterson. “We still don’t want to turn into Sprague, but I think we have a lot of work to do on the business side of signage.”

Grimes pointed out that some commercial locations grapple with “awkward site plans” that make it difficult for customers to locate a store without more apparent signage.

“There are places that have little visibility from the street,” he said.

Pointing to the example of the signature sign in downtown Spokane that advertises Luigi’s Italian restaurant, Grimes added that a creative approach to design can “capture the local mystique.”

When businesses do attempt to create an advertising draw, it doesn’t always resonate, according to Mayor Pro Tem Kris Kamin-skas, who said some retail sites have logos and designs that are difficult to decipher.

“Even driving by those, I can’t figure out what they say,” she said.

In surveying citizens and businesses about the sign statutes, Grimes said he was met “by an array of interesting perspectives.”

“There seemed to be an appreciation for the sign code among residents but not so much by businesses,” he said.

Wayne Frost attended the meeting as a board member of the HUB Sports Center, a multi-purpose venue tucked back off I-90 in the western section of the city. Frost said a site like the HUB, which has historically struggled with visibility, should be able to secure directional signage that guides visitors from the freeway to the building.

“There needs to be a distinction within the code for places of import to the city,” Frost said.

AllSport, a location that also runs parallel to the freeway, was represented by Eric Holt at the meeting. Holt grew up in Liberty Lake prior to incorporation and said he appreciates the look of the community but remains hopeful that the code could be restructured to help businesses on the promotional side.

“It’s tough to get people’s attention,” Holt said. “I’m not saying I want electronic signs, but it would be nice to have a little more flexibility. It would help us to get more attention of people driving down the freeway.”

City Administrator Katy Allen said that “while the sign code is complicated, it’s complicated for a reason.”

“I think people sometimes get caught up in the regulations and lose sight of the reason or the goal,” she said.

Council Member Odin Langford pointed out that geography and logistics should be considered when sign placement and characteristics are on the table.

“A sign facing I-90 might be OK, but the same sign facing a residential area might not,” he said. “We have to look at the loca-


cation, the building types and what you’re trying to accomplish.”

The workshop included an activity that separated attendees into four groups. Each group was tasked with picking one of three scenarios for signage, beginning with the status quo. The second option allowed for electronic changeable signs along the freeway and at least one digital community-oriented sign at city gateways. An expanded sign area would also be permitted in commercial areas featuring multi-tenant buildings.

The third option included all of the additional signs in the second scenario as well as electronic changeable monument and wall mounted signs along both Country Vista and Appleway corridors. The second and third alternatives each stipulated that any electronic signs would take into account motorist safety by limiting brightness and frequency of change.

When the discussion subsided, two of the groups leaned toward the second option while the remaining two sided most with the third scenario.

“I think what I’m hearing is that we need to make some adjustments to the sign code and focus on the non-residential areas of the community,” Grimes said.

Grimes told attendees that Studio Cascade hope to have its recommendations to the City Council toward the end of the year. A recap of the workshop will be included in council packets for the Oct. 7 meeting, while Grimes said he would work with city staff to schedule a community open house on signage in the next couple of months.

“We need a code that allows for some flexibility,” said Mike Kennedy of the planning commission. “This has to be the most fair, the most transparent and most documented process.”
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Police Report

The following incidents and arrests were among those reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department from Aug. 25 to Sept. 8 and Sept. 15-22. There was no report for the week of Sept. 8-15.

Incidents and arrests

- Camper theft — At 11:56 a.m. Aug. 25, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Cataldo Avenue on a report that a camper that was on the lot and was being consigned was stolen sometime during business hours.
- Harassment arrest — A 62-year-old Greenacres man was arrested at 2:03 p.m. Aug. 25 at a business on North Liberty Lake Road after allegedly saying he was going to kill the complainant after he was asked to put out a cigarette in the establishment.
- Alcohol theft arrest — A 41-year-old Spokane Valley man was arrested at 4:22 p.m. Aug. 26 for theft at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road. The man had reportedly left a store without paying for alcohol, then was located by police. The man then admitted to taking the liquor.
- Bicycle theft — At 9:30 a.m. Aug. 27, LLPD responded to the 20000 block of East Meyers Avenue on a report that someone had entered a garage and stolen a bicycle valued at $995 sometime over the weekend.
- Molestation allegation — At 10 a.m. Aug. 27, LLPD responded to East Sinto Avenue for a report of child molestation. The incident was placed under investigation.
- Vehicle prowl — At 9:54 a.m. Aug. 30, LLPD responded to the 1900 block of North Holl for a vehicle prowl. A complainant reported his vehicle had been entered sometime during the night, and a total of $180 in items were taken along with two sets of keys. There was no damage to the vehicle.
- Camper theft — At 11:10 a.m. Aug. 31, LLPD responded to the 1900 block of East Cataldo Avenue on a report that someone had cut a hole in the fencing and entered three different camper units, taking items. The incident was placed under investigation.
- RV suspicious circumstances — At 12:03 p.m. Sept. 2, LLPD responded to the 1900 block of East Cataldo Avenue on a report that an RV that was parked in a secure location had been entered by an unknown person, and blood could be found inside. An officer arrived and observed no damage or forced entry to the RV; he then collected the evidence. The incident was placed under investigation.
- Vehicle prowl — At 7:25 p.m. Sept. 3, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Shannon Avenue for a report that sometime during the night, an unsecured vehicle had been entered and an item valued at $200 had been stolen.
- Suspicious person — At 9:32 p.m. Sept. 3, LLPD responded to the 1300 block of North Liberty Lake Road after a complainant reported she had locked herself in the bathroom of the location after a male transient refused to leave the store and asked if he could spend the night at her home. Officers arrived and advised the male he had been trespassed from the location and needed to move on.
- Domestic violence — A 23-year-old Spokane man was arrested at 2:06 a.m. Sept. 6 at the 24000 block of East Spotted Owl Lane for two counts of domestic violence, two counts of fourth-degree assault, one count of malicious mischief, third-degree domestic violence and one count of interfering with the report of domestic violence. The man was seen fleeing an apartment by an officer who was approaching the residence after a 911 call was received from the location. The officer spoke to two female victims who reported the man had physically assaulted both after not being allowed to leave the location with his daughter due to a high level of intoxication. Both victims were observed to have serious injuries. The man was booked into the Spokane County Jail on the charges listed.
- Bicycle theft — At 1:47 p.m. Sept. 6, LLPD received a report of theft from East Mission Avenue. The complainant reported his son’s $300 bicycle was stolen in June.
- Domestic violence — At 2:05 p.m. Sept. 6, LLPD responded to the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive for a violation of a court order and domestic violence. An officer received a call from a known individual who was in obvious distress and unable to speak freely on the phone. The officer arrived at the location and learned the suspect had fled. Charges were forwarded to the prosecutor after the victim reported the suspect had pointed a knife sharpener and a pointed file at her neck saying he was going to kill her, then himself, in front of law enforcement.
- Agency assist — At 8 p.m. Sept. 14, LLPD responded to an agency assist at East Appleway Avenue and Country Vista. Two officers conducting traffic control in connection with the chemical spill on nearby Interstate 90 were treated by medics after incurring breathing problems from exposure.
- Theft — A 61-year-old Tacoma woman was arrested at 2:18 p.m. Sept. 15 at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road after reportedly trying to leave the store with over $500 in merchandise. She was booked into the Spokane County Jail.

Calls for service

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Aug. 25 to Sept. 8 and Sept. 15-22. (There was no report the week of Sept. 8-15.)

Abandoned vehicle 1
Agency assist 3
Alarm 2
Assault 1
Burglary 7
Child abuse or neglect 1
Citizen assist 2
Citizen dispute 1
Deceased person 2
Domestic violence 3
DUI 3
Family fight 1
Fugitive 2
Harassment 1
Indecent exposure 1
Lost or found property 4
Malicious mischief 2
Property theft 5
Repossession of property 1
Robbery 1
Suspicous person/circumstance 4
Traffic accident 2
Traffic offense 12
Vehicle prowl 2
Vehicle theft 1
Violation of court order 1
Welfare check 3

Citations

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Aug. 25 to Sept. 8 and Sept. 15-22. (There was no report the week of Sept. 8-15.)

Dangerous weapons 1
Driving without license with ID 1
DUI 1
DWLS 9
Expired registration 2
Harassment 1
Liability insurance 6
Speeding 9
Speeding in school zone 1
Theft 1
Use of cell phone 1

- Suspicious person — At 12:12 a.m. Sept. 16, LLPD responded to the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive after a woman reported seeing an unknown male subject standing outside her bedroom window.
- Arrest — A 34-year-old Spokane Valley man was arrested at 1:53 p.m. Sept. 16 at the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive for violation of a protection order, assault, unlawful imprisonment and malicious mischief. He was transported to the Spokane County Jail.

See POLICE, page 11

Calls for service

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Aug. 25 to Sept. 8 and Sept. 15-22. (There was no report the week of Sept. 8-15.)

Abandoned vehicle 1
Agency assist 3
Alarm 2
Assault 1
Burglary 7
Child abuse or neglect 1
Citizen assist 2
Citizen dispute 1
Deceased person 2
Domestic violence 3
DUI 3
Family fight 1
Fugitive 2
Harassment 1
Indecent exposure 1
Lost or found property 4
Malicious mischief 2
Property theft 5
Repossession of property 1
Robbery 1
Suspicous person/circumstance 4
Traffic accident 2
Traffic offense 12
Vehicle prowl 2
Vehicle theft 1
Violation of court order 1
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Citations

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See POLICE, page 11
CITY

Continued from page 7

The Holt Group was represented at the meeting by Rian Tuttle. Frank Ide of Spokane-based Taylor Engineering also spoke in support of the zone change that would have allowed for land uses such as apartment complexes and office buildings.

“This is the city’s western gateway,” Ide told council. “Now is the time, with a new property owner and an expired plat, to explore this zone change.”

Ide described how the proposed freeway interchange at Henry Road would mean increased traffic in the area, positioning a mixed use development along a major transportation corridor. He referred to the decision of the Spokane County hearing examiner in support of the proposal. The Liberty Lake planning and community development department had also emerged with an affirmative opinion after reviewing the Holt Group’s appeal.

Yet the failure of the developer to establish a strategy for the land raised red flags for some, including the Liberty Lake Planning Commission, which voted unanimously to reject the zone change. While a site or development plan is not required by the city, the nebulous approach to the property left residents like Robin Ray concerned.

“Our main concern is we’d really like to know what the plan is to go in there,” Ray told council. “There are too many possibilities of what could be in an M-2 zone.”

Tuttle emphasized that the Holt Group’s intention was “not to build homes, but to deliver finished lots to builders in this community.” Ide added that the southern portion of Legacy Ridge, which extends up a significant slope, has never allowed for the density of development (four units per acre) allowed in the city’s comprehensive plan.

Ray Ripley, who lives on North Henry, wondered why an area that has historically supported single-family residential development would be transitioned to a use out of character for the neighboring land.

“It’s really disturbing to see that no one seems to care about what happens to our property values,” Ripley said.

Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskas said she couldn’t support a proposal that represented a detour from the city’s development road map.

“I understand all the points that have been made but what seems to be missing is the vision for our city,” she said. “I don’t see how this change could fit into what we see for that area.”

POLICE

Continued from page 10

• Burglary — At 10:27 p.m. Sept. 16, LLPD responded to the 1600 block of North Cirque Lane for a residential burglary and theft. The complainant reported a total loss of $390.
• Burglary — At 7:03 a.m. Sept. 17, LLPD responded to the 1800 block of North Holland Road for a burglary. The complainant reported her garage had been entered sometime during the night and $430 in items were stolen from her vehicle.
• RV burglary — At 10:29 a.m. Sept. 17, LLPD responded to a report at the 19000 block of East Cataldo Avenue that multiple RV units had been entered and flat screen televisions stolen. The incident was placed under investigation.
• Robbery and threat — Charges have been forwarded to the prosecutor for a woman who is currently being sought by authorities following an incident at 4:26 p.m. Sept. 17 at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road. The woman was observed taking an estimated $111.07 in merchandise from a store, and when confronted by staff, she stated she would “stab” the employee. She left the location before officers arrived, and charges of robbery, theft and possession of stolen property were forwarded against her.
• Indecent exposure arrest — A 43-year-old Coeur d’Alene man was arrested at 11:21 p.m. Sept. 18 at the 24000 block of East Spotted Owl Lane for indecent exposure.
• Alcohol theft arrest — A 54-year-old Spokane Valley man was arrested at 4:11 p.m. Sept. 20 at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road after he was observed stealing alcohol from a local grocery store amounting to $314.34. He was booked into Spokane County Jail.
• Burglary — At 9:46 a.m. Sept. 21, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Shannon Avenue for a burglary. The complainant reported someone had entered the garage sometime during the night and taken an estimated $775 in property.

An early-morning truck fire on Sept. 17 briefly interrupted commuters. The fire was quickly contained by the Spokane Valley Fire Department.
LLSWD steps up as lead agency in Lakemore proposal

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Just over a week after the city of Liberty Lake issued its opinion on a proposal to add 700 ground source heat pumps to a residential project orchestrated by a Hayden-based developer, the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District moved to the forefront of the discussion.

The LLSWD Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Sept. 8 to assume lead agency status in reviewing the plan by Whitewater Creek Inc. to install wells that would be submerged 450 feet into the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and power the heating and cooling systems for the Lakemore mixed-use development in the eastern section of Liberty Lake. The district supplies potable water to around 9,000 residents through the sole source aquifer.

“The importance for the district to step up is for protection of the aquifer and the sole source of drinking water to our customers of Liberty Lake,” said LLSWD General Manager Biljay Adams.

As the lead agency, LLSWD will now move forward on an environmental impact study (EIS) under the umbrella of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Public comment on the scope of the EIS will be received until Oct. 31. The district will then work with a consultant to generate the document and afterward determine whether or not to grant water and sewer permits to Whitewater Creek on behalf of Lakemore.

At their Sept. 8 meeting, LLSWD commissioners expressed concern with various aspects of the proposal, including the depth of the wells and the use of a substance called bentonite slurry, an absorbent clay that is injected into the borings.

“How do you mitigate something that goes wrong with these?” asked Commissioner Kottayam V. Natarajan Jr. “You can’t just dig down 450 feet and take it out.”

In speaking with a variety of qualified people about the project, Commissioner Tom Agnew said he was left feeling more tenuous than assured.

“These are environmentally conscious types who think geothermal is a great idea, and none of them expressed anything but concern or reservations about this,” Agnew said. “I don’t know why the experts are so skeptical. It makes me concerned.”

“I don’t say it’s a bad system. But not having a lot of science on it, we have to make sure we’re protecting the aquifer.”

— STEVE SKIPWORTH

The city of Liberty Lake issued a mitigated determination of non-significance (MDNS) related to the Lakemore proposal on Aug. 29. As part of the SEPA review, the city outlined eight requirements for Whitewater Creek before moving forward with the project, including the construction of a test well under the supervision of a licensed Washington state hydrogeologist. LLSWD was among eight agencies to contribute comments to the MDNS. The state Department of Ecology, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board and Spokane County Utilities also added input, among others.

LLSWD brought on GeoEngineers, a Spokane-based firm with experience in local geology and hydrogeology, to conduct a study of the hydrogeological findings submitted by Whitewater Creek. That research and a list of 39 questions and comments from LLSWD was issued to the city on Aug. 21.

“It is a lack of knowledge about the potential threats and safety of these systems coupled with the lack of regulation in environmentally sensitive areas that is of serious concern,” Adams wrote in a cover letter to the city that accompanied the 22-page report.

Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson said the city completed the MDNS under the auspices of the SEPA because the proposal for the Lakemore development goes through the city initially “from a development and building application standpoint.”

“The district had concerns about their wells and our water supply,” Peterson said. “They are the purveyor for us to that resource. They and the groups they work with across the region wanted more analysis and input. For this project, it only made sense to let them be the lead agency or coordinator. They will be the arbitrator for a final solution. We are happy they stepped up to the task.”

While the district’s gathering on Sept. 8 did not include a large crowd, several attendees added their input to the conversation. Corky Witherwax, a consultant who has worked with Whitewater Creek, but was not representing the company at the meeting, described bentonite slurry as an inert substance consisting mostly of water that is used commonly in the drilling of wells.

Witherwax, who once served as the president of the Garwood Water District in Idaho, said the term “geothermal” can sometimes generate inaccurate interpretations.

“I understand the concerns,” he said. “I just hate to say ‘geothermal’ because it denotes a different type of heating source. It’s just that you have the transfer of heat out of the ground.”

Mike Galante, district manager with the North Kootenai Water and Sewer District, submitted a letter to the city opposing the project and urging LLSWD to “ask the city to reconsider their position.”

“There is a lot of concern over what would happen if a leak developed,” said Gallante. “The concern is real.”

Natarajan pointed out that the long-term impacts of bentonite have yet to be determined.

“We have to make sure that stuff is as inert 50 years from now as it is today,” he said.

Todd Prescott, owner of Whitewater Creek Inc., stood up for the systems under scrutiny when responding to questions from The Splash, saying the wells provide safe and sustainable energy.

“If you research ground source heating systems, specifically the ground source heat pump systems, you will find the reliability, safety and efficiency of this technology is of the highest caliber,” Prescott said. “The technology allows for safe, renewable and efficient ground source energy.”

The Liberty Lake City Council unanimously approved the Lakemore plat at its Sept. 16 meeting with the understanding that the development would include traditional heating/cooling systems unless a determination on the ground source heat pumps is confirmed.

Prescott said Whitewater Creek “will not be installing heating/cooling systems until we complete the process currently under discussion with the lead agency.”

“We believe we have provided comprehensive due diligence documentation to the city of Liberty Lake and other agencies interested in the project development and infrastructure elements,” Prescott said. “Additionally, we have met all elements included on the environmental checklist. Our goal is to work collaboratively with the lead agency to determine and fully address impacts determined to be significant or necessary.”

Commissioner Steve Skipworth said the district was “concerned about the protection of the aquifer as a whole, not just in Liberty Lake.”

“I’m not saying it’s a bad system,” Skipworth said. “But not having a lot of science on it, we have to make sure we’re protecting the aquifer.”

Peterson expressed confidence that the process would generate a positive result.

“The city and the district have been working well together, and we jointly want what is best for our community,” he said. “I believe we will have the best outcome as we look at adopting new technology in our buildings here in Liberty Lake as well as the region.”
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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless telephone. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home High-Speed Internet service up to 1.5 Mbps for $9.95 per month for the first 12 months of service. Please call 1-866-541-3330 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline for more information.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

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October 21
Sunrise Elementary School • 14603 E 24th Avenue

October 22
Central Valley High School • 821 S. Sullivan Road

October 24
Adams Elementary School • 14707 E. 8th Avenue

October 28
Horizon Middle School • 3915 S. Pines Road

October 29
Spokane Valley Tech • 115 S. University Road

November 4
Ponderosa Elementary School • 10105 E Cimmaron Road

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A CIRCLE OF ADMIRERS

Harvard Road roundabout earns stellar reviews in first year

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

The intersection at Harvard Road and Mission Avenue once represented perilous passage for Kim Middleton.

For nine years, the Liberty Lake resident and University of Idaho employee commuted to Coeur d’Alene before being transferred to Post Falls a year ago. While she would often exit the freeway early and head home on Appleway, a trip to a grocery store in Liberty Lake meant navigating a conflux that saw an average of more than two collisions a month between May 2010 and February 2012.

“It was scary,” Middleton said.

Since Oct. 11 of last year, the once-daunting juncture has become more manageable for Middleton and other motorists. It was on that day that the Harvard Road roundabout officially opened, carrying thousands of vehicles a day through a pavement version of a revolving door.

“I think the roundabout has been great,” Middleton said. “It seems to really help with the flow of traffic. It’s definitely less scary than it was.”

A roundabout ribbon cutting on Oct. 25, 2013, tied a ceremonial bow on arguably the most talked about transportation project in Liberty Lake’s brief history. A memorandum of understanding with the Washington State Department of Transportation was approved by the City Council in June 2012, although work did not begin on the roundabout until Aug. 16 of last year.

“There was a bit of concern on the ability of the roundabout to handle the traffic volume and how much more it would cost than a standard traffic light,” said Mayor Steve Peterson. “The concept was great, though, and added to road beautification. I’m delighted how the project turned out and how our citizens have really embraced the roundabout. A year later, we’re still receiving compliments.”

The idea hits the streets

On Dec. 13, 2012, Liberty Lake City Hall hosted an open house to discuss the logistics of the proposed roundabout. Daryl Hagseth, owner of Storage Solutions, was one of several attendees to express concern with the safety of the interchange at Harvard and Mission.

“I worry about people who have to drive through that intersection,” said Hagseth, who oversees storage locations on both roads.

Other issues emerged at the meeting, including the ability of semi-trucks, emergency vehicles and other large rigs to negotiate a roundabout. Meanwhile, businesses owners brought up the impact construction might have on customer traffic.

Looking back, Liberty Lake City Administrator Katy Allen said the site made sense for a roundabout.

“Originally, I believed that the location was ideal for a roundabout based on technical elements,” Allen said. “But I knew the best test would hinge on a driver’s personal experience navigating it.”

One year after its completion, the roundabout at Harvard and Mission roads in Liberty Lake appears to have solved many of the safety and traffic flow concerns that plagued the intersection in years’ past. Many residents and businesses have provided positive feedback to the city of Liberty Lake.

Roundabout ruminations
City leaders reflect on the one-year anniversary of the Harvard Road roundabout

Compiled by Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

“I think the roundabout has worked great, has been very effective overall and looks really good. I think it’s very efficient but still wonder if we could have accomplished the same goal with a light system at over half the cost. I’ve heard that people appreciate the roundabout, but a lot of people tell me they feel it could have been done cheaper.”

— Mayor Pro Tem Kris Kaminskas

“I use that exit/intersection multiple times per day, and when I heard a roundabout was going in, I couldn’t think of a better solution. Since the first week of construction, when traffic was re-routed to a roundabout style, things clearly flowed better at any time of day. More importantly, it’s clearly safer.”

— Council Member Hugh Severs

“I thought it was an awesome idea that would benefit the city and its transportation needs which would result in improving safety as well. Initially, the negative feedback was reversed when residents were educated on our reasoning and benefits of the project. Fears also were resolved once the project was complete and residents were able to use it.”

— Council Member Keith Kopelson

“We did have some issues with WSDOT regarding the cost of management on the project, which were resolved through negotiations. It proved to be a good learning project for all of us. Those lessons learned went into the construction of Town Square, Liberty Lake Ballfields and the projects being planned for Liberty Lake Road and Appleway reconstruction.”

— Mayor Steve Peterson

“We did receive many questions before the project started. Now that the project is complete, the positive comments overwhelmingly outnumber the negative comments. The traffic flows safely, efficiently and many really appreciate the new entrance to Liberty Lake.”

— City Administrator Katy Allen
Circle of change
A brief history of the modern roundabout

By Craig Howard
Splash Contributor

One of the predecessors of the modern traffic roundabout is named after an explorer who set out to prove that the world was round, not flat.

Columbus Circle in Manhattan, N.Y., not far from Central Park, is considered a "circular junction" and first began transporting vehicles through its 360-degree intersection in 1904. It predated the first roundabout prototype in Great Britain, at Letchworth Garden City, by five years.

It is the Brits, however, who are credited with designing the first rendition of the modern roundabout, distinguished for its characteristic of allowing the right-of-way to vehicles within the sphere. Motorists on the perimeter are to refrain from merging unless there is a safe gap in revolving traffic. The Transport Research Laboratory established the format which was accepted as the standard for all roundabouts in Great Britain by 1966.

Today, France leads the world in roundabouts with well over 32,000. Great Britain is a close second with an estimated 25,000.

The first modern roundabout in the U.S. was not installed until 1990. When the project was completed in Summerlin, Nev., local news stations featured reports on the puzzlement of motorists adjusting to the circular procession of traffic.

There are currently 120 roundabouts in Washington state, according to the Washington Department of Transportation, with many more in the works. The city of Spokane leads the Inland Northwest with half-a-dozen, followed by Spokane Valley with three. There are two in Liberty Lake (the other is by Half Moon Park in the River District). In the U.S., there are now more than 3,000 roundabouts.

"People are getting used to them if they aren't already," said CarolBelle Branch, spokeswoman for the city of Spokane Valley. "They're really effective at slowing down traffic, but they also keep traffic moving."

Variants of the modern roundabout can also be found in the greater Spokane area, including a compressed rendition known as a traffic calming circle that is often installed at residential neighborhoods to slow down traffic. Traffic circles, or rotaries, are expanded forms of the roundabout, often including stop signs or traffic signals.

Art installations are a common trait of many roundabouts, featuring everything from ornamental carvings to ornate landscaping. Roundabout sculptures in Bend, Ore., have been honored with numerous accolades for their contributions to community art, while over 3,300 roundabouts in France include some sort of decorative element.

Due to their record of improving safety at intersections, roundabouts have earned the support of many civic groups throughout the world. In 2007, a collection of pedestrian advocates in Kinston, N.C., campaigned for roundabouts at all major intersections in their community.

The Splash October 2014 •

Multimedia agencies respond to chemical leak on I-90

A hazardous material leaking from a tanker truck caused Interstate 90, Appleway West of Liberty Lake and part of the Centennial Trail to be closed Sept. 14.

The truck was stopped at the I-90 State Line Port of Entry facility around 1 p.m. where Spokane Valley Fire and the Spokane Fire Department's regional hazardous material team responded to the incident. It was determined that vapors from a liquid called anhydrous trimethylamine were leaking from a valve. The chemical is known to cause respiratory and cardiac problems.

Other agencies including the Liberty Lake Police Department provided support as the group set up a 350-foot evacuation zone and instructed those living within a half-mile radius to shelter in place. Detours from I-90 remained in place until around 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Local fire quickly contained

Smoky conditions around Liberty Lake on Sept. 18 were due to a fire along Saltuse Lake Road in Greensacres. Spokane Valley firefighters helped contain the fire that started late afternoon, and four aircraft also dumped water and retardant on the fire.

While a few homes were under voluntary evacuations, no homes were damaged in the blaze that burned between 10 and 15 acres.

Check out The Current for election coverage

Liberty Lake resident and incumbent Spokane County Treasurer Rob Chase is among many vying for county or statewide office this fall. Ballots will be mailed mid-October and can be dropped off at ballot drop boxes located outside library locations throughout Spokane County.

Coverage of the Nov. 4 election is available in The Splash's sister publication, The Current, which is on Liberty Lake newsstand now and online at issuu.com/valleyCurrent.
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ROUNDABOUT
Continued from page 17

of WSDOT and the city as “very positive overall” in terms of reducing impacts on surrounding businesses.

“There were a couple of Saturday closures and we were at City Hall at 8 a.m., Monday morning to talk about it,” Gee recalls. “I was pleasantly surprised. They worked very well with us.”

A year after the roundabout went online, Gee describes Liberty Lake’s transportation landmark as “phenomenal.”

“I’d seen how successful they’ve been on the west side of the state,” Gee said. “This has been great for customers. I think it’s beautiful. I love the way they’ve decorated it.”

Hagseth said he heard “the occasional comment” from customers who were anxious for the project to wrap up, although no one indicated that they avoided Storage Solutions because of the ongoing work at the intersection.

The funding traffic jam

Nearly six months after the roundabout opened, City Council was still clogged in a debate with WSDOT over the final cost of the project.

In March, Allen reminded the governing board that the agency’s management fee was still being billed at $249,000, a hike over the original estimated price of $192,629.

Eventually, the city agreed to a payment that sapped all the contingency funds set aside for the project. The city did save $2,800 on the WSDOT bill by taking over maintenance of the landscaping on the roundabout earlier than scheduled.

McCallum, who moved on to be a project engineer on the North/South Freeway project in April, said estimating management fees on a project “is always a challenge when you have to make adjustments in the field.” The heavier than anticipated vehicle volume meant higher traffic control costs, McCallum claimed, particularly if the project was to remain on schedule.

“With traffic control, there’s an understanding that you’re providing your best estimate at the start,” he said. “You have to adjust to whatever happens.”

Council Member Shane Brickner is among several around the dais who are still less-than-ecstatic over the final funding scenario.

“I feel that the overall project cost was inflated, and if there were unforeseen management expenses, they should have eaten those costs,” Brickner said. “If it was a materials cost issue, I get that but the overall management cost and bonus for speeding up the project does not seem appropriate to me.”

Staples said WSDOT should be commended for their work, despite going over the initial projection.

“I believe we received a very good product in the end,” he said. “That is in large part due to WSDOT’s efforts. The construction costs ran higher than anticipated, and that was unfortunate. However, WSDOT did work earnestly to control costs where they felt they could, and we are appreciative of that.”

Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskas said the city should learn a lesson from the project and the corresponding quarrel over its price tag.

“I’m still very unhappy about the averages,” she said. “WSDOT needs to review their processes and figure out a more accurate quoting and project tracking system.”

Last lap

The final cost for the roundabout checked in at $1.722 million with a considerable chunk — $953,000 — coming from a federal grant through the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. The city’s portion turned out to be $769,000, with $685,000 of that generated from the Harvard Road Mitigation Fund, a program that sets aside dollars for road infrastructure improvements. The balance of $84,000 came through the streets capital fund.

Because the project is eligible through a funding mechanism known as the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT), the city will be requesting a reimbursement from Spokane County in the amount of $694,000, according to Finance Director R.J. Stevenson.

While there may still be some grumbling about the numbers, particularly related to the WSDOT bill, the steady progress of vehicles around the junction of Harvard and Mission is a welcome addition for residents like Middleton who said she would like to see another roundabout installed at the intersection of Mission and Molter.

Allen said plenty of positive feedback has been received at City Hall over the past year, including a letter from “a grandmother in Post Falls” who visits family in Liberty Lake.

“Before the roundabout was built, she prayed every day that she would be able to make a left-hand turn onto Harvard Road,” Allen said. “She shared that the roundabout was the best solution.”

Another comment came from a resident of north Spokane who was so impressed with the roundabout that he has started a campaign for a similar project in his community.

“He had heard how well it worked and how it was a wonderful gateway to Liberty Lake,” Allen said. “He came out to take a look and is now working with his neighbors and a county commissioner to build one just like ours.”

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LL fields celebrated America’s pastime

By Ross Schneidmiller
LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Unlike Cooperstown, when you think of the resort era of Liberty Lake you probably do not associate it with baseball. However, when you consider the multitude of games played here over the years, maybe you should.

The competitive cornerstone of almost every company or organization picnic held at Liberty Lake Park was the baseball game. The picnic organizer would come up with different ways to pick teams. The Crescent, Spokane’s popular department store, held a game rivaling the Riverside and Main Avenue Stores in some years; in others, it pitted Selling versus Non-Selling employees. The two teams of the Association of Optometrists game of 1917 were the Convexes versus the Concaves. In a less politically-correct time, the Odd Fellows game in 1910 featured the Fats versus the Leans. It was conceded that the drivers should win the ball game at the picnic of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Express Handlers at Liberty Lake in 1925 for they were “husky” and hardened by their outdoor life. However, an audit of the runs showed the office men in the lead 25 to 20. The headline in The Spokesman Review on June 29, 1925 (a day after the game) proclaimed, “Pen Pushers Trim Huskies.”

Often the ballgames, where the team members were selected for the events, were more about fun rather than serious competition. Large crowds would attend the games and many dressed in elaborate costumes for the day’s activities. They were usually quite boisterous chanting cheers and rooting on their teams. The umpire who oversaw the rules might modify them favoring one team over another if the bribe (usually food from one of the park’s concessions) was high enough. This could lead to the umpire’s peril, however, as the crowd could determine that a dunking in the lake might affect the game’s outcome.

If the team members were members of an established team, the games were highly competitive. This was the case with the Butchers and Grocers picnic. Each year two amateur teams from businesses that were part of that association were chosen for the feature ball game. In 1915, the baseball game was between Welch’s Market and Tru Blu Biscuit Co. The teams were two of the fastest amateur squads in the city. Welch’s won the game 8 to 5, snapping Tru Blu’s 20-game local win streak.

The Liberty Lake Park baseball field, one of the nicest in the area, saw other action too. Gonzaga College played a number of games there over the years. Both amateur and semi-pro league games were played on the field as well.

In 1911, Lew Hurtig, Liberty Lake Park’s newly hired manager, organized the Liberty League made up of semi-pro teams including the Liberty Lake Nine, Liberty Lake Specials and Kalez Park. Area towns were represented with squads from Dishman, Veradale, Greenacres and Post Falls. Several ball clubs from Spokane businesses and associations entered the league too.

The Liberty Lake Nine was one of the strongest teams in the league. This was due in large part to the team’s kid pitcher, 18-year-old Ted Welch. By Aug. 16 of that year, the star pitcher had won 17 of 20 games and struck out 337 batters at an average of 16 per game. He was a versatile player, pitching both right- and left-handed and had an effective drop ball. At the end of the season he signed a contract with the Spokane Indians playing in one game in the fall of 1911. Although he played well in his debut, the Indians sold his contract the following winter to a team in Wichita, Kansas. The Liberty League did not appear to continue beyond its inaugural season.

Baseball at Liberty Lake was not just for the men. There were plenty of battles between women’s teams and kids of all ages, and the concession stands had plenty of peanuts and Cracker Jacks to supply the spectators. Baseball was a big part of Liberty Lake’s past, and with the new fields the city of Liberty Lake has installed, it appears it will continue to be.

Ross Schneidmiller is president of the Liberty Lake Historical Society and a lifetime resident of Liberty Lake.
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oct. 4 | Town Square dedication 10 a.m., 1420 N. Meadowwood Lane. A ribbon cutting event will be held to celebrate the grand opening of Town Square. For more: www.libertylakewa.gov

Oct. 4 | Grandparents’ Toolkit 2:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Come learn ideas for educational and fun things to do with grandkids when they visit. For more: 232-2510

Oct. 11 | Christmas/fall bazaar and rummage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Otis Orchards Community Church, 23304 E. Wellesley Ave. There will also be a car care event where car owners can receive a car wash and a free pre-winter safety and winterizing checkup, weather permitting.

Oct. 11 | Find Your Family: Gift of Family History 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., LDS Church, 21022 E. Wellesley, Otis Orchards. For more: 893-2587 or www.gifttofindyourfamily.com


Oct. 19 | Stop Violence Against Women Day 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln Street, Spokane. The free Take Back Your Life resource fair is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gala is from 4 to 7 p.m. and costs $25 per person ($30 at the door).

Oct. 22 | Community Connections 7:30 to 9 a.m., Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Interested community members, business leaders and others are encouraged to come hear students and teachers spotlight key programs and innovative strategies used to engage students in learning. Also held the following locations/dates: University High School (Oct. 15), Sunrise Elementary (Oct. 21), Adams Elementary (Oct. 24), Horizon Middle School (Oct. 28), Spokane Valley Tech (Oct. 29) and Ponderosa Elementary (Nov. 4). To RSVP or more: 228-5400 or www.cvds.org

Oct. 23 | Books n Brew 6:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. This book club will be discussing Jess Walter’s collection of short stories “We Live In Water.” For more: 232-2510

Oct. 23-24 | Fearless Conference 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Pentecostal Church, 21226 E. Mission Ave. The public is invited to this two-day conference that will explore the hidden occult messages in song lyrics, music videos and concerts. For more: www.spookaneecornerstonechurch.org

Oct. 25 | Craft bazaar 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood. The sale includes lots of craft items, quilts, beautiful photographs and baked goodies. For more: 924-8607

Oct. 26 | PurpleLight event 7 to 8 p.m., Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. The candlelight vigil will commence National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in November by remembering those who have fought pancreatic cancer and honoring survivors. For more: www.purplelight.org or www.pancan.org

Oct. 30 | Halloween party 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Crafts, games, prizes and fun will be part of this library bash, as well as the opportunity to win a tasty treat for a $2 entry in a cake walk. For more: 232-2510

Oct. 31 | Halloween Nov. 3 | Candy buyback 4 to 8 p.m., KiODS Dental, 1327 N. Stanford Lane, suite B. Candy can be bought and exchanged for $1 per pound during this event. The candy must be unopened and children must be accompanied by an adult. For more: www.growupsmiling.com

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

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

Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary Club Noon Thursdays, Meadowood Technology Campus Liberty Room, 2100 N. Molter Road.

Liberty Lake Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Liberty Square parking lot, 1421 N. Meadowwood Lane. The market runs Saturday mornings through Oct. 11. For more: www.libertylakefarmersmarket.com

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

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

Liberty Lake Toastmasters 5:45 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District building, 22510 E. Mission Ave. For more: 208-705-8657

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pancreatic Cancer Action Network of Spokane is organizing a PurpleLight event to help raise awareness about pancreatic cancer. The event will take place on October 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library. The event will feature games, prizes, and a candlelight vigil to honor those who have been affected by pancreatic cancer. For more information, please visit www.pancan.org

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

Spokane Valley Writer’s Group 6 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of every month, Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. This supportive critique group welcomes adult writers. For more: 570-4440

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Oct. 2, 5 | “Stocking Stuffers” auditions 6 p.m. (Oct. 2) and 2 p.m. (Oct. 5), Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleyaw Ave. All ages are invited to audition for LLCT’s holiday production; no experience or preparation needed. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Oct. 4 | This, That or the Other 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleyaw Ave. This performance by LCT’s comedy improv troupe is for ages 21 and older. Tickets are $10 and include one adult beverage. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Oct. 10-11 | Cowboy Supper Shows Rockin’ B Ranch, 3912 Spokane Bridge Road. This is the final weekend of the 20th anniversary commemorative performances. For more: www.rockinbranch.com or 891-9016

Oct. 15 | Liberty Lake Art Society reception 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Members’ artwork will be exhibited in the library during the month of October. For more: 232-2510

Oct. 21 | Dessert and a Show 7:30 p.m., Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. The Central Valley High School Marching Band and Color Guard will perform their 2014 production of The Sun | The Moon followed by dessert in the Commons. For more: cvmbpublicity@hotmail.com

Oct. 24-Nov. 2 | “This Old Haunted House” Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleyaw Ave. Tickets are $12 for this comedy appropriate for all ages. For show times and more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Oct. 27-28 | “Twain’s Tales” auditions 6:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleyaw Ave. Roles for the readers theater production in November are available for ages 16 and over. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

Oct. 29-31 | “The Haunting of Hill House” 7:30 p.m., Central Valley High School Theatre, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Tickets are $10 ($8 on opening night) for this PG-13 play. Performances continue Nov. 1, 5, 6 and 7. For tickets and more: www.cvtheatre.com

Recurring Art Showing Twisp Café, 23505 E. Appleyaw Ave. Art by local artists Francis Martin and Pennie Woods is on display through Oct. 3. For more: 928-8551

See CALENDAR, page 23
LIBERTY LAKE CITY COUNCIL 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

LIBERTY LAKE LIBRARY FOUNDATION Noon the first Wednesday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Liberty Lake Portal, 23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 120. Open to business professionals interested in promoting business in the greater Valley area. For more: 322-8953

LIBERTY LAKE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD 10:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

LIBERTY LAKE SCOPE 8:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.

LIBERTY LAKE LEAGUE 2 p.m. at Liberty Town Hall, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake uterus, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL BOARD 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Public School Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SPORTS COMMISSION 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Public School Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE TOWN HALL MEETINGS 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake uterus, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD 5 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake South School District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE WATER DISTRICT BOARD 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Water District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION 5 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Water District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE WATER DISTRICT BOARD 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Water District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION 5 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Water District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE WASTE WATER DISTRICT BOARD 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Waste Water District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE AIRPORT BOARD 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Airport Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT 3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Board of Adjustment, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE BOARD OF APPEALS 3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Board of Appeals, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Development Commission, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Economic Development Corporation, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Human Services Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE HOUSING AUTHORITY 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Housing Authority, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE PARK DISTRICT BOARD 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Park District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake Recreation District Board, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake School District Board of Education, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake School District Board of Trustees, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake School District Board of Appeals, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF AUDITORS 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake School District Board of Auditors, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

LIBERTY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, Liberty Lake School District Board of Appeals, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

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Friends’ projects bolster library programs

Group invites community members to volunteer

By Mary Kate Koch
Splash Contributor

The Friends of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library may have some new faces on the board, but their mission to support the library remains the same.

President Lorraine Halverson, Vice President Cindy Troxel, Secretary Karol Meyer and Treasurer Gloria Higginson took office on July 1, and that’s when the real work began. According to Halverson, the Friends are really striving to make the library a place for the community to come to and engage with each other.

“The Friends foster a close relationship between the library and the community, and we take pride in wanting our library to be the heart of the community,” Halverson said.

In order to do this, the Friends have a wide array of events and projects for the community to get involved. There are three major projects that the Friends put on every year.

The first of these projects is sorting all of the books that come to the library during the first and third week of every month. According to Halverson, the Friends try to keep books modern and, except for the classics, almost all the books are published in 2005 or later.

During November and June, the Friends also plan two large book sales. The sale in June coincides with the community-wide Liberty Lake yard sale. In addition to promoting reading materials to the community, these sales both support the programs of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

The third major project is the annual spring tea that the Friends group traditionally puts on in April. This spring tea includes a catered luncheon and the proceeds benefit more library programs.

In addition to these annual projects, the Friends also sponsor smaller events throughout the year. The library hosts a story hour for children in an effort to get kids engaged and reading. For Halloween, the Friends are planning a carnival of sorts complete with booths, prizes and costumes.

“It’s a fun way to experience the library,” Halverson said. “We really want to encourage people to come into the library and see what there is.”

In fact, just spreading awareness about what the library offers is a large part of the Friends’ mission.

“About 90 percent of what the library does now is non-books,” Halverson said. “I don’t think most people know that.”

Halverson said that the Friends are really interested in increasing community involvement and awareness with their group. On September 18, the Friends officers hosted a membership event to explain what it means to be a “friend” to the library and encourage community members to volunteer with the group. This membership drive meeting was the first of its kind as the Friends try to boost their numbers, according to Halverson.

Aside from helping to plan and participate in major projects throughout the year, Friends also meet monthly to discuss and support the activities of the library. Those interested can sign onto an email list for communication and updates within the group.

For more information on volunteering and supporting the library, email FriendsLLLLibrary@gmail.com.

Book Review

Spokane is Reading pick provides tale of unconventional family’s ties

By Daniel Pringle
Liberty Lake Municipal Library

Spokane is Reading’s selection for 2014, “Swamplandia!” by Karen Russell, finds a family splintering after the loss of its center, alligator-wrestling mother Hilola Bigtree, to ovarian cancer. The star attraction at their theme park, Hilola’s death, coupled with a slick new competitor, seems to usher in slow but certain doom for the Bigtrees. When father, Chief, and daughter, Osceola, retreat into denial and escapism, it is up to the other children, Kiwi and Ava, to try to save them in their own way.

Kiwi and Ava follow separate paths into alien underworlds. Kiwi takes a humiliating job with the World of Darkness, Swamplandia’s corporate competition, to raise money to pay off their debt. When Osceola begins communing with the spirit world and takes off to elope with her spectral groom, Ava must pursue her to the other side to try to keep the family together. Chief Bigtree disappears to the mainland to put a plan he calls “Carnival Darwinism” into action that will thwart the encroachment of “The World.”

Outside the comfortably familiar dangers of their gator pits, the Bigtrees struggle in the greater world, and discover the strength that their unconventional family brings them. Apart, they lose everything. But by coming together, they realize that one another are all they’ll ever need. Mixing fantastical realism and a darkly comic touch, Russell brings the dank closeness of the Everglades and the foreboding of a future obscured wholly to life. Visit spokaneisreading.org for a schedule of events on Oct. 16.

Daniel Pringle is adult services and reference librarian at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.
Bringing home a black belt

Respect, discipline taught through martial arts

By Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

When Tarik Donoho attended his first karate class four years ago, he said he immediately knew he wanted to pursue getting a black belt. So he continued taking classes two or three times per week at Warhorse Karate in Spokane Valley and practiced on his own throughout the week.

Tarik’s mom, Kristina Donoho, said it took little effort to encourage his ambition but it did take some planning on behalf of his parents.

“Karate takes a lot of time and effort, so we scheduled everything around karate times,” she said.

But the hard work of the Liberty Lake boy paid off last summer when Tarik tested for and received his black belt.

Damon Tong, master instructor and owner of Warhorse Karate in Spokane Valley, said that achieving a black belt means the student has reached the first level of proficiency in defending himself. He described the process as a minimum of four years of regular training, as well as completing tests in self-defense skills (karate), grappling skills (jiu jitsu) and sparring (kickboxing).

“It took a lot of hard work, determination and never giving up,” Tarik said.

Kristina said it took almost two hours of testing and hard cardio in order for Tarik to achieve his goal.

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Autumn adventures

Check out these opportunities to have a sweet and spooky Halloween season!

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley
Splash Staff Writer

Family fun on the farm
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends, Oct. 4-26
Carver Farms

Kids and their families are invited for free hayrides in the large, 9-acre pumpkin field at this annual event in the Newman Lake area. With popcorn, caramel corn and caramel apples, pumpkin-gatherers can enjoy tasty treats in the outside autumn air.

For more: www.carverfarms.com

“This Old Haunted House”
Oct. 24-26, 30 and Nov. 1-2
Liberty Lake Community Theatre

There are many twists and turns in the plot of this comedy that takes place on the set of “This Home Restored,” a nationwide home improvement TV show. With ghosts, suspense and a surprise ending, this Halloween production is sure to entertain young and old.

For times and more: www.libertylakecommunitytheatre.com

Halloween Bash at the library
5:30 to 7 p.m., Oct. 30
Liberty Lake Municipal Library

The annual party will feature free crafts, games and prizes, courtesy of Friends of the Library and staff. Party-goers will also have the chance to participate in a cake walk for $2 per person.

For more: www.libertylakewa.gov/library

Exchange candy for cash
4 to 8 p.m., Nov. 3
KiDDS Dental

KiDDS Dental is partnering with Banner Bank to pay children $1 for each pound of candy they donate for military men and women. Candy must be unopened, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Kids will also have a chance to decorate cards to go with the care packages.

For more: www.growupsmiling.com

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Active life doesn’t slow down for Metting

By Sarah Robertson
SPASHL Contributor

The first thing you notice about Elsa Metting is her beautiful blue eyes. As you get to know Metting, you realize she is in the midst of a great adventure she calls life and having a grand time. And having recently celebrated her 90th birthday Aug. 7, she has made no plans to slow down.

The Liberty Lake resident still plays golf and lives an active life.

“We all admire Elsa for her spirit and competitive attitude,” fellow golfer Patsy Lynn said.

The roots of her still-active lifestyle date back to her earliest years. Born to Finnish immigrants in the small town of Poland, Ohio, she is the second youngest of eight siblings.

“I had four older brothers, and I always wanted to keep up with them,” she recalls. “They made me competitive. The first things I learned were how not to cry and how to lose.”

Metting played a little bit of everything. Her first love was figure skating. “Everybody went skating in the winter, so I did,” she said. “I grew up playing ice hockey. We had ice all winter long. When it froze, it stayed frozen.”

For a time, Metting belonged to a small figure skating club in Akron, Ohio, while her husband was a medical intern. The club was led by an instructor who worked with Olympic skaters in the 1950s.

While Metting would have enjoyed turning her love of sports into a career, “it was cheapest to go into nursing,” she said.

Metting returned to nursing at Deaconess. “It was the only time I got to meet Saudi wives,” she said. “They had to paint the golf balls red so you could find them in the sand — you golfed in the sand.”

Metting’s favorite part of living overseas was the cheapest to go into nursing. "I've never been so surprised," she said. "We were on alert."

Early in their married life, Frank was part of a MASH unit in the Korean War. He was one of only six out of 206 that made it out alive from his unit. Metting recalls gratefully that Frank made it home with only a minor injury. Their first child, Frank Blaine Metting Jr., was born on Frank’s way home.

Not long after the birth of their second child, Glynis, Metting and her family moved to Saudi Arabia when Frank took a job as a doctor. He eventually became medical director for an oil company. They lived there for five years.

Her favorite part of living overseas was meeting “very interesting people,” she said.

Metting also recollected the first Palestin-ian-Israeli uprising in 1956.

“Frank came home and told me to pack one bag,” she said. “We were on alert!”

While in Saudi Arabia, the Metting family took time to travel to places such as Istanbul, Rome, Capri, Majorca, Madrid, Athens and many other destinations.

Metting’s favorite place to visit was Finland — perhaps it was a bit of a homecoming. “I met relatives I didn’t even know I had,” she said.

The family stayed with Metting’s cousin, Velma. They spent two weeks relaxing and meeting family.

“It was a huge villa sitting on a lake,” she said. “We liked to sit in the sauna and then run into the lake.”

For her 90th birthday, her friends at the golf club surprised her after a tournament.

“Told everyone two years in advance to make sure they made it,” she said. “We had 65 for dinner. Twenty-five flew and stayed for a week. It was great!”

Since her children and grandchildren were all in Washington State, Metting made the move to Liberty Lake in 2001. Her eyes sparkle when she talks of all the family dinners and get-togethers and their “running game of Hearts.”

Her love for golf even took her to England, Scotland, New Zealand and Australia to play.

So how did Elsa Metting ever end up in the Inland Northwest? After time spent in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where she represented the state in a national bowling competition, Frank took a job as medical director for Kaiser Aluminum. The Mettings spent 14 years on Spokane’s South Hill. Metting returned to nursing at Deaconess.

“It was the longest place I ever lived.”

But Frank’s job took them back to Ohio, and after his death in 1986, Metting stayed in Ohio because of family and golf.

“That’s where we started golfing,” she said. “There was nothing else to do. … The golf is very good in northwest Ohio.”

Metting went through nursing school in Youngstown, Ohio, near the end of World War II and became a cadet nurse.

At age 90, Elsa Metting can still often be found on the golf course. Her favorite thing, however, is spending time with her family, including her grandson, Beau.

Metting’s favorite place to visit was Finland — perhaps it was a bit of a homecoming. “I met relatives I didn’t even know I had,” she said.

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At home with family. “We love taking turns cooking,” Metting said.

Favorite activity
Golf

Her journey took her to Crile Hospital in Cleveland, where she met her husband, Frank Metting, a serviceman who served stateside during the war.

Metting recalls how she met her husband: “He wrote to me, and the next time I saw him, that was it,” she recalled. “I just knew if I married anyone, his name would be Frank.”

The couple married in 1948.

“I loved his intelligence, and he was very good looking,” she said.

Her favorite part of living overseas was meeting “very interesting people.”

Metting remembers her husband taking care of an emir of an eastern province. Later, he took them out to his oasis to meet his friends.

“It is the only time I got to meet Saudi women,” Metting recalled. “They were his wives.”

While abroad, the couple took golf lessons.

“It was so hot, we decided to bowl,” she said. “They had to paint the golf balls red so you could find them in the sand — you golfed in the sand.”

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METTING, page 29

See METTING, page 29

— King Crossword —

Answers

TAR O GAS BREW
INITIATE RAN
EIGHTEEN UNIT
EEL TONICS
STORM BILE
HAGS BEELINE
ERR ARENA ERO
SEAPORT GASP
PECOS PETERS
FEDORA SRI
AGOG DITESMOI
MANE ELEPHANT
EDGE SEW ARES
‘Quite a bargain’ for fruit jar

‘Collecting’ by Larry Cox
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Q: At a farm sale earlier this summer, I bought several older fruit jars. One is especially interesting. It is a “Leader” jar with glass lid and wire bail. It is a quart-size jar and is olive green in color. Even though I have several vintage fruit jars, I have not seen another one like it. I paid $25 for the jar. — Melissa, Covington, La.

A: Bill Schroeder wrote what I think is one of the best references in this field of collecting, “1000 Fruit Jars Priced and Illustrated” published by Collector Books. I found your jar in this guide, and according to Schroeder it is extremely rare. How rare? He believes it is worth about $1,000. The olive green jar is extremely desirable and you obviously got quite a bargain.

Q: I have a large decorative bowl marked “Amphora.” I have not been able to find the company listed in any of my reference books. — Jonathan, Wheaton, Ill.

A: The Amphora Porcelain Works was one of several pottery companies that operated in the Teplitz-Turn region of Bohemia during the late 19th and early 20th century. Prior to World War I, Bohemia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Art pottery identified with this mark is collectible and sometimes can be quite expensive. It would not surprise me if your bowl is worth several hundred dollars, especially if it is in good condition.

Q: I purchased an old candlestick Western Electric telephone at a garage sale. I would like to restore it so I can actually use it. Do you have any suggestions? — Phil, Albuquerque, N.M.

A: Ron Knappen buys, sells and refurbishes old telephones, and he might be able to help you. He carries an impressive inventory of old and new parts. Contact is Phoneco, Inc., 19813 E. Mill Road, P.O. Box 70, Galesville, WI 54630; www.phonecoinc.com.

Q: I have a Charlie McCarthy “Game of Topper,” which originally belonged to my dad. Is it worth keeping? — Henry, Arkadelphia, Ark.

A: The board game you have was made in 1938 by Whitman and Company and is worth about $45. This assumes it is complete and in reasonable condition.

METTING
Continued from page 28

“She doesn’t complain about her game or moan over a bad shot,” Lynn said. “And she is always excited to play well and enjoys golf and the ladies — which at 90 is very encouraging to the rest of us!”

Most people do seem surprised that a woman of 90 is so active, but as her grandson, Beau, will tell you, “Part of it is her genetic make-up, but she survives because she’s optimistic and keeps moving. She tries to act with integrity and admit when she’s wrong.”

Lynn would agree: “We all admire her ‘can do’ personality.”

But Metting has a different take.

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But Metting has a different take.

“I’ve been very lucky,” she said.
Visiting ‘This Old Haunted House’

LLCT Halloween production aims at laughs for the whole family

By Lauren Campbell
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

This Halloween season, Liberty Lake Community Theatre will be presenting “This Old Haunted House,” a fun, Scooby-Doo style mystery featuring a ghost, treasure, slapstick comedy and plenty of subplots that all come together for a show the whole family will enjoy.

The performance takes the audience to the set of “This Home Restored,” a home improvement program that features renovations of some of the grandest homes in America. The current episode centers on the renovation of an old home that is rumored to be haunted and features a cast of outsize characters.

As the show progresses, the local historical society and the former owner’s heirs all seem to have a motive for faking a haunting, but plenty of people believe it to be real, including all of the contractors in the area. This leaves the television show with a less-than-competent team, including plumber Snake Rooter and electrician Buzz Anderson. The production combines both slapstick and more subtle comedy to make a show that Director Trudy Rogers says will both entertain kids and have jokes for adults.

The main character in the show is the host of the home-renovation television show, and Rogers chose to cross-cast this role (which the script referred to as “Brad”) as a female, played by Wendy Carroll. There are practical reasons for this: In community theater, it can be difficult to find enough male actors to fill the roles. However, Rogers said, it also simply made sense.

“I wasn’t thinking about switching the gender, but then Wendy came in to audition, and it just made sense,” Rogers said. “In this day and age, you can be a woman and be a general contractor.”

In fact, she switched the gender of a number of the main characters so she could cast them with the best actors she had available without worrying about gender.

Switching things up is nothing new for Rogers.

“Trudy has a unique ability to bring out hidden talent of all the actors and throw in a twist that makes it more fun for the audience,” said Jerry Uppinghouse, who plays Spats, a character he describes as a “cowardly gangster.” He said he has worked with Rogers on a number of productions.

Uppinghouse added that community theater is a great way to be entertained and support your local community at the same time.

“Liberty Lake is very fortunate to have a local community theater which offers the performing arts experience to all ages and abilities — and for a very affordable price,” Uppinghouse said. “I hope the community will come out and support the actors and the theatre in this fun, for-all-ages production.”

IF YOU GO ... 
“This Old Haunted House”
Where: Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22810 E. Appleway Ave.
When: 3 p.m. Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2; 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1
Cost: $12 general admission, $10 for seniors 65 and older, $8 for youth ages 3-12 and free for children 2 and younger. Tickets available at the door.

Cast: Jerry Uppinghouse, Judy Black, Charlotte DiCicco, Mary Jo Rudolf, Wendy Carroll, Dan DiCicco, Jean Simpson, Erica Smith, Charmaine Peterson, James Maurer, Rodney Duross, Brenda Duross, Jazmine (Jazzy) Hernandez, Daniel Vickrey, Tom Rogers and Sheri Beck
Crew: Trudy Rogers, director; Karen Duross, co-stage manager; Dorene Hodin, co-stage manager; James Sanders, lights/sound tech; Jennifer Ophardt, set designer; Jill Boles, costume designer; Victoria Musengo, back stagehand; Rick Pentland, set construction

From left, Wendy Carroll, Mary Jo Rudolph and Charlotte DiCicco get into character as Sam, Esther and Emma, respectively, during rehearsals for the upcoming Liberty Lake Community Theatre production of “This Old Haunted House.”
The Splash

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Embracing the pageantry

LL resident vying this month to be Miss Washington Teen USA

By Mary Kate Koch
Splash Contributor

While most teenagers are just worried about making it through their classes and landing a date to Homecoming, Central Valley High School junior Davy Flambouras is worrying about her performance in the fast-approaching Miss Washington Teen USA pageant.

Although she is now the reigning Miss Spokane Teen, Flambouras, who lives in Liberty Lake, almost didn’t get involved in the pageantry. While competing in pageants was something she had always seen in movies and on TV, she did not know how to get involved in real life despite her interest.

It was not until Flambouras took a school trip for the state DECA tournament in Seattle last March that she learned about the Miss Washington Teen program from a recruiter.

“I was at the mall shopping with my friends when all of a sudden I got stopped by a girl named Christine Serb, and she said, ‘You are so beautiful. You look like Miss Universe,’” Flambouras said.

At first, Flambouras just blushed and thanked her, but the more Serb talked, the more Flambouras’ interest was piqued.

“She started telling me all about it, and I ended up talking to her for about an hour,” Flambouras said.

After this initial meeting at the mall, Serb then invited Flambouras and her mother, Dale Flambouras, to an informational meeting about the Miss Teen USA program. Both mother and daughter quickly fell in love with the idea as they listened to the goals and benefits of the program.

“I didn’t really know much about it before then,” Flambouras said. “It’s one of those things that you see on TV all the time, but you never really know how you can get involved with it. It was cool I got the opportunity to try.”

While Flambouras signed up for fun, she knows how serious the competition can be. Accordingly, Flambouras created a preparation schedule that has kept her very busy, even over the summer when most other kids her age were relaxing.

“I’ve been trying to get a gym schedule going because of the swimsuit section,” Flambouras said. “Then, I had to get alterations on my dress, I’m getting extensions, I have to go to Seattle for my workshops, and I’m prepping for the choreographed dance we have to do.”

About once a month, Flambouras and her mother drive to Seattle for workshops hosted by the pageant. These workshops focus on building pageant skills and range from learning interview techniques to mastering model walking.

“There’s a lot to do,” Flambouras said. “You know, you want to do well, you want to get up there and be the best. That’s the hard part, knowing that you want to win, but realizing you can only do the best you can.”

Flambouras and her mother also have to go to Seattle for most of their pageant shopping because Spokane does not have the market for pageant supplies. The dress, shoes and jewelry Flambouras will wear in the pageant were all purchased in Seattle.

This is one of the downsides of the program, according to Flambouras. Competing in the pageant requires frequent traveling to the western side of the state, and few pageant activities are held around Spokane.

Unlike states on the East Coast, where hundreds of teen girls will sign up to participate in their state’s pageant, Washington often has only a couple dozen participants. Even fewer girls from the eastern side of Washington participate in the pageant because the pageant is hosted in Seattle.

However, Flambouras said her family is fully supportive with all the traveling and training her bid to be Miss Washington Teen USA requires. Since most kids her age are involved in club sports that also require a lot of time and money, Flambouras’ parents are treating this pageant run as if it were her sport. Flambouras has never been that interested in competitive sports anyway.

“I don’t like to run,” Flambouras said.

Instead, Flambouras would much rather meet new people, and that is exactly what this program is built for.

In order to secure her title, Flambouras had to commit to getting $1,095 in sponsorships. Although a parent could technically pay the full amount, that is not what the pageant organizers want the girls to do. The aim of the sponsorship is to get the girls to network and make connections with their communities. Flambouras was eager to make these connections and sent out letters to friends, family and local businesses.

“I like collecting the sponsors because I get to talk to people I might not have been able to talk to,” Flambouras said. “And I really like walking in the shoes, too.”

After securing her title, Flambouras then had to commit to selling at least 25 tickets to the pageant. Ideally, she would like to sell more in order to bring more awareness to the program.

“One of my goals is to meet new people and make new friends,” Flambouras said.

Part of the Miss Teen USA pageant is scholarship money available to participants and winners. Flambouras is only a junior in high school this fall, so she has yet to decide on a field of study, but she would love to attend Washington State University.

“I thought about cosmetology for a while, but I realized I better was putting make-up on myself than other people,” Flambouras said. “Now, I’m thinking about working with animals.”

The Miss Washington Teen USA will be held on Oct. 18-19 at the Highline Performing Arts Center in Burien, Wash. The winner will move on to compete in the Miss Teen USA pageant.
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Thank you to our amazing community of rescues, shelters, and animal advocates! Kerry & Christy said themselves how proud their mother would be to witness the care and generosity shown at the Pawpular Companions 4th Annual Mutt Strut, a special day held in honor of their mother, life-long animal advocate, Chris Anderlik. All pledge monies raised help Higher Ground Animal Sanctuary continue to support our local shelters, provide veterinary care and foster for animals in need, and offer opportunities for humane education in our communities. Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers! To Julie Crispigna for every thoughtful touch. Many thanks to our sponsors, Spokane Federal Credit Union, Big Trout Lodge Liberty Lake, Classic Clips at Ponti, Cullings Family Dentistry, Doggyland Day Care, Farmers Insurance - Niles Agency, George Gee Automotive, Greenstone, Comfort Inn – Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake Vet Center, Legacy Animal Medical Center, Stimulus Realty, ZRT K9 Services. Additional thanks to Continental Contractors, Dr. Scott Ralph Orthodontist, FS, Happy Tails Canine Massage, KiDDS Dental, SCOPE. A GREAT BIG HUGE THANK YOU TO MARA & CARL OF PAWPULAR COMPANIONS PET SUPPLIES, WHO TRULY MAKE WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE!

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A sunset symphony

Spectators enjoyed a summer evening set to music on Aug. 30 when the Spokane Symphony played a free concert at Pavilion Park. Tom Specht shared these photos of FOPP’s last summer event.

An electric event

The Sierra Club was on hand to educate people on the benefits of electric cars during National Drive Electric Week. The Tango (below left) was one of the unique cars at the Sept. 20 event in the CorkHouse Restaurant parking lot.

Saying thank you

A worker from Desserts by Sara hands out a free cookie to an eager customer during Customer Appreciation Days Sept. 20 at the Liberty Lake Farmers Market. Pumpkins, gourds and other autumn items could be found throughout the booths during one of the final weeks of the 2014 market season.

A fashionable affair

The Central Valley High School DECA group hosted a Sept. 10 fundraiser for Crosswalks Teen Shelter that raised over $1,400. The fashion show was organized by juniors Lela Cooper, Abby Rogers and Jamie Machtmes.

An everyday hero

The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club recently recognized Safeway Store Manager Dan DiCicco as an Everyday Hero for his support of local causes such as 2nd Harvest, Liberty Lake Community Theatre and the Kiwanis Club. DiCicco, a Liberty Lake resident, also acts for the community theater.
**LOCAL LENS/COMMUNITY**

**Shutterbug snapshot**

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

**4-H winner**

Samantha Brumwell, 15, won first place in the 4-H steer competition this year at the Kootenai Fair. The Liberty Lake resident is pictured here with her cow, Max.

**Local Lens**

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

**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

**Education Briefs**

**Orenstein receives scholarship**

The Alumnae Association of the College of Saint Teresa (Winona, Minn.) recently awarded a scholarship to Liberty Lake resident Mara Orenstein.

According to a press release, The College of Saint Teresa closed in 1989 but alumnae can still sponsor themselves or anyone else for a scholarship award.

Orenstein is a student at Seattle University.

**WSU releases honor roll**

Washington State University recently recognized students who made the President’s Honor Roll for the 2014 summer semester. Students must earn a grade a GPA of 3.75 in order to be eligible.

Liberty Lake residents on the list included Cj Marie James, Malia Iwalani Listella and Breanne Jackee Stachofsky.

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LLES wins recycling award

Liberty Lake Elementary School recently was awarded a prize for recycling the most pounds of clothing and shoes during the school year via a bin in the parking lot.

According to a press release, ten schools in the Inland Northwest participated in the contest sponsored by Gemtext Spokane.

“We are proud of the support that our students and their families have given to this program and are so pleased to be the recipient of this award,” LLES Principal Joanne Comer said in the release.

Becci Carlson, market manager for Gemtext Spokane said the organization was excited to partner with local schools to raise awareness about this recycling opportunity.

“Liberty Lake Elementary is a second time recipient of the award, “ she said.

As a result of the win, Liberty Lake Elementary received a cash prize from Gemtext. The school has recycled over 15 tons of shoes and clothes for the program to date.

Holiday ball tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the 16th annual Liberty Lake Holiday Ball to be held 5 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane. Tickets are $75 per person and include an evening dinner and dancing with silent and live auctions.

This event is a fundraiser for concerts, movies and activities that take place throughout the Liberty Lake community during the summer. To purchase tickets or for more information, go to www.pavillionpark.org.

CV craft show slated for November

A fall craft show benefiting the Central Valley High School marching band and color guard is scheduled for Nov. 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the high school, 821 S. Sullivan Road in Spokane Valley.

Admission is $2 at the door. For more information, email cvmbpublicity@hotmail.com.

Exchange program seeks volunteers

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is looking for volunteers to serve as area representatives in the community. ASSE provides academic year and semester exchange programs in the United States for high school students from around the world.

Duties include recruiting and screening prospective host families, interviewing students to study abroad and supervising exchange students, a press release said. Area representatives are compensated based on the number of students they supervise.

For more information, call 800-733-2773 or email assouest@asse.com.

Larry Parrett

Sept. 2, 1951 to Aug. 29, 2014

Larry Parrett, 62, lovingly known as L.P. passed away on Aug. 29, 2014 in Sandpoint, Idaho, after many years battling with heart disease. Sandy, his loving friend, remained by his side.

Larry was born in Chicago’s Southside Sept. 2, 1951, to Maurice and Edwina Parrett. He learned to fish as a “little scraper” digging up worms anywhere he could find them. Larry’s father died when Larry was 16 and, being the oldest boy of eight children, became a provider for himself and assisted his mother in providing for his siblings. He learned to work and truly was a “working person.”

When in a position to help others while working at Four Season Auto Parts, Larry provided employment for friends and family. He later relocated to Minneapolis and for years worked in daycare and child development. His unique patience, smile and joy blessed the lives of many children and their families.

Needing a change after 22 years, Larry relocated to Liberty Lake where his brothers Maurice Jr. and Sheldon resided. All who knew Larry felt his passion for fishing. Larry loved to fish with his son Lawrence; they were inseparable “fishing buddies.”

Thèmes of Larry’s life were family, work, love, joy and the outdoors. Larry had many of the characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ and his faith in Jesus deepened later in his life, filling him with even more joy. He touched many with his example of faith and became a “fisher of men.”

Larry is survived by his sons Melvin Johnson and Lawrence (Anne) Parrett; their mother Ivory Johnson; his grandchildren, Talani and Lawrence Jr. and his loving siblings, Francina, Michael, Marlena, Maurice Jr., Sheldon, Benita and Rietta. Memorial Services in Larry’s honor were held Sept. 2 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Liberty Lake.
I’m concerned about my memory. Can I take a test to find out if everything is OK?

By Susan Ashley, MD

Challenging the mind early with education and stimulating work, and later in life with reading, socializing and computer use, may help keep it thinking clearly into old age, according to new research.

In the study of people in their seventies and eighties without dementia, those with more years of education, mentally stimulating jobs and greater amounts of cognitive activity in middle and later life started experiencing memory and thinking problems up to nine years later than those with the least enriched lives.

Although education and employment seemed to be more important overall, mid- and later-life cognitive activity accounted for at least a few of the extra sharp-witted years. And those with less education early in life saw the largest benefit from mental stimulation in later life.

To gauge the effect of exercising the mind regularly later in life, the team used questionnaires to assess how challenging the study participants’ school and work had been, as well as how much they challenged their brains during their middle age and later years with activities like reading, socializing or using a computer.

Men and women who had more years of education and worked in a mentally stimulating job, experienced mental decline about five years later than people with less education or those who worked in more manual jobs, according to the results published June 23 in JAMA Neurology.

But it was encouraging how much later-life activity seemed to make a difference for people who had less education and less stimulating jobs.

Regardless of education and work history, people who challenged their brains at least three times per week delayed the onset of cognitive decline by more than three years compared to those who did less.

“Individuals with greater educational/occupational ‘brain reserve’ are more resistant to the effects of cognitive decline,” said Kevin Duff. “However, if you don’t get this reserve early in life, then it appears that cognitive stimulating activities in mid/late life can also have beneficial effects.”

Duff, who was not a part of the new study, is a neuropsychologist at the Center for Alzheimer’s Care, Imaging and Research at the University of Utah Health Care in Salt Lake City.

Other studies have supported the notion that cognitive activity at various points throughout life is protective against cognitive decline and dementia.

It makes sense that challenging yourself mentally “keeps brain connectivity up and running.” Compared to dementia, cognitive decline is mild, Duff said.

“It does not tend to interfere with daily activities, like driving, managing meds, handling money, cooking,” he said. “When it does get so severe that it interferes with daily activities, then we usually diagnose this as dementia.”

Stimulating activities could include reading, doing crossword puzzles, playing bridge, painting, taking a class at a community college, playing a musical instrument, or even playing video games he said. People should pick activities they enjoy because they are more likely to keep doing them, he advised.

These results could be useful both for individuals and for public health authorities, Vemuri said.

“For people with low education, if you’re able to help them by providing mentally stimulating activities later in life, that could delay cognitive decline by three years, and that really is a big number,” she said.

Another great mental activity? Learn a new language and visit the country where it’s spoken! And remember, don’t forget your fish oil, the brain’s best source of food.

If you have concerns about your memory, the newest technology is an in-office procedure called a QEEG, or quantitative EEG. Covered by medicare, it can help differentiate true dementia vs simply an aging brain, or learning difficulties.

Dr. Ashley is board certified in Family Medicine and in Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine. She provides a mix of traditional with alternative medicine and specializes in bio-identical hormones for both men and women.

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Qualfon has plans to grow in Liberty Lake

Rebranding of Center Partners facility part of transition

By Valerie Putnam

A call center located at 1730 N. Madson in Liberty Lake is in the midst of a transition.

Qualfon, a leading business process outsourcing and call center provider based in Colorado, acquired the call center from Center Partners this spring. While Center Partners announced plans to lay off nearly 600 employees at the Liberty Lake location a year ago, Qualfon has reversed course at the location and is in hiring mode, advertising recently for aspiring employees to visit www.qualfonjobs.com.

The next stage for the company is to increase its brand awareness in the local market.

"Center Partners brand is being slowly dissolved and transitioned over to Qualfon," explained Brian Kearney, Qualfon's vice president of marketing. "We have already begun this process. Eventually, every visual sign of Center Partners will be gone, but you will still recognize a continuity of business practices and operational excellence."

Along with the new name, Center Partners will operate as a fully integrated part of Qualfon, adopting the company's people-focused strategy and mission of "making people's lives better" and "to be the best BPO". BPO stands for "business process outsourcing, which is where a business contracts out the operations and responsibilities for specific functions.

"We found an outstanding business in Center Partners that shares the same people-oriented approach and is a perfect fit to diversify our client base," Qualfon CEO Mike Marrow said in a press release.

According to Kearney, as part of the company's new focus, Qualfon's chief mission officer is creating more employee-supported programs. The company recently hired an activities coordinator to implement "Fun Clubs," caring programs and community service opportunities for both employees and their families in the Inland Northwest corridor sites. "These initiatives are backed by Qualfon's mission office," Kearney said, "and are specifically designed to offer educational workshops, programs and services that help employees, families and the Liberty Lake community at large."

The combined experience of the two companies reaches across multiple industries, such as communications, retail/commerce, technology and financial, providing a more diverse client portfolio.

"Qualfon discovered a complementary business in Center Partners," Kearney said. "(It) acquired Center Partners with the vision of one stronger organization that provides an expanded global footprint with a solid United States presence."

Most of acquisition details were not disclosed publicly, except for the fact that Qualfon purchased Center Partners in a cash transaction.

"Qualfon has been a financially stable and steadily growing business," Kearney said. "Qualfon's executives felt it was a smarter business decision to remain a debt-free company, and we were positioned to purchase Center Partners out right — so we did."

Prior to the purchase, Center Partners was in business for more than 17 years, with six centers across Idaho, Washington and Colorado. The company was headquartered in Fort Collins, Colo. It's first contact center site was in Coeur d'Alene, with less than 500 employees.

The Liberty Lake Center Partners location opened in 2011 and is currently staffed by 300 employees.

"Our plan for the Liberty Lake location is to utilize it to its full capacity and stabilize the business here for many years to come," Kearney said.

Center Partner's 2,500 employees will be added to Qualfon's estimated 11,000 employees globally. These employees are located in Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Kentucky, Mexico, South America and the Philippines.

Qualfon was founded in 1996 and operates out of a virtual global corporate structure. Departments are located in different areas around the world. The sales, marketing, client services and CEO are located in the United States, where as the finance, human development and information technology departments are located in near-shore and off-shore locations for financial savings. The company began as an IVR provider for clients and soon partnered with companies like IBM and AT&T to provide sales and customer support for ISP services.

"This is an outstanding time to add more clients from Center Partners and expand our U.S. footprint," Kearney said. "The acquisition enables Qualfon to be even more competitive in the mid-tier BPO market."
Spokane Valley Chamber hires new president & CEO

Katherine Morgan, a Liberty Lake resident, was recently chosen from 25 applicants to lead the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Morgan’s first day was Sept. 21. She replaces Eldonna Shaw, who led the business organization, which is headquartered in Liberty Lake, for 13 years. Morgan is a native of the area and has worked in jobs locally and in the Midwest.

“There are great opportunities all over the country, but opportunities like this in my backyard are very few,” Morgan told The Splash’s sister publication, The Current, for a profile that appears in the October issue.

A reception is planned from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 23 to meet Morgan and unveil a new Chamber logo and image that was in the works before Morgan arrived. The event will be held in the Fireside Lounge of CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Place. The public is welcome to attend.

Gravity Jack creates app for Maroon 5

Gravity Jack, a Liberty Lake tech company, recently designed and created an app for pop rock band, Maroon 5.

Developed for use on smartphones and tablets, the app enhances the album art on the band’s new album as a means to capture the attention of a younger generation. Using a technology called augmented reality, a user can focus over the band’s CD artwork and watch music videos on the screen via their mobile devices.

Currently the app is available for Apple devices, with an app for Android devices expected in the near future. For more, visit www.gravityjack.com.

Fall Festival of Homes brings inaugural Festival of Chefs

The Spokane Home Builders Association will present the second weekend of Fall Festival of Homes Oct. 3-5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Spokane area. The 10th annual free event is proclaimed as the largest new construction show in the Inland Northwest, and maps of the featured homes are available at www.spokanefestivalofhomes.com.

New this year, the Festival of Chefs offers the public an evening of touring new construction homes while sampling local cuisine and beverages. Sponsored by Washington Trust Bank, the event runs from 4 to 8 p.m. Oct. 2. Tickets are $35 per person; participants must be 21 years or older.

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The Splash
CV takes a nod from rugby, Seahawks in teaching new takedown techniques

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

What do rugby and football have in common? On the surface, very little.

Rugby is a fast-paced game, a sort of soccer-football hybrid. Its players are unencumbered by the body armor that enshrouds today’s football players, lending itself to more violent contact.

Yet rugby is having a definite impact on Central Valley’s football program because the two sports have something in common — tackling. While Bears fans might not notice a difference, coach Rick Giampietri said he has adopted a program devised by Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll.

The idea, Giampietri said, is to make the game safer in the wake of nationally publicized concern over concussions. In response, Carroll’s program developed a tackling method adapted from rugby’s rules.

“Those rugby guys are tougher ‘n hell,” said Giampietri, marveling at the physicality of players who scrum without the benefit of padding. The game is non-stop. The ball can be lateraled and passed sideways or backwards and kicked any direction.

What led to Carroll’s innovation is that rugby tackles cannot be made around the neck or above and must be done with shoulders, players will be flagged.

Borrowing from rugby’s rules, Carroll developed the football style back when he coached at USC. It’s changing the way football people think, and Carroll believes it’s safer. He has put out a 20-minute video that Giampietri said everyone has access to.

“Jerry Parrish, president of the (Washington State Coaches Association), sent it to me just after (CV assistant coach) Ryan Butner found it online,” he said.

The video is fascinating, showing live examples of the new technique and juxtaposing them with clips of rugby matches. Because it’s safer, Seahawks even practice tackling in shirts and shorts — using pads as the opposition. In the introduction, Carroll says, “I’m passionate about keeping standards high and making the game as safe as possible.”

The clinic emphasizes shoulder leverage tackling on the near shoulder and leg rather than putting your head to the opposite and into the ball carrier, and is divided into six segments — the Hawk tackle (“We call it the Bear tackle,” Giampietri said), Hawk roll tackle, profile tackle, strike zone, tracking and compression.

Key components of this style of tackling are “eyes through the thighs, wrap and squeeze, drive for five.” On the Hawk tackle, the shoulder contacts the thigh, the tackler wraps up the legs and drives forward five steps if the ball carrier doesn’t go down immediately.

With the Hawk roll tackle, the defender wraps the legs and rolls the runner to the turf, similar to a wrestling takedown.

A profile tackle contacts above the waist at the near pectoral area, wraps and “drives for five” through the ball carrier’s body.

The strike zone is the equivalent of baseball’s (purported) area — below the neck and above the knees, contacting with the shoulders the entire time. Carroll says in the film that the defender’s aiming point is determined by the runner’s position; he maintains the aggression and competitiveness inherent to football, but is safer because the helmet is out of play.

Tracking describes how a defender closes on the ball carrier, while maintaining leverage and squaring shoulders into position.

“Tracking is the biggest thing,” Giampietri said. “Theirs are from 20 yards out, but they’re a little different athlete.”

The compression segment showed examples of how to employ those tackles when two or more defenders descend on the ball carrier.

Through CV’s first three games, one-sided losses to Coeur d’Alene and Lake City in Idaho followed by a narrow victory over GSL foe Lewis and Clark, results were mixed. But the Bears are young and inexperienced.

“A lot of guys were wide-eyed,” he said. “There were a lot of first-time starters.”

Giampietri stands solidly behind the new tackling system. As the players get comfortable, “it’s going to be a benefit to us,” he said.

CCA runners place second

The high school cross-country team from Classical Christian Academy placed second at the Kiwanis Invitational Jamboree Aug. 28 in Post Falls.

Branden Zurfluh, who is a Liberty Lake resident, placed third in the team competition with a time of 21:43. Other team members included Josiah Coad, Eli Coad, Corbin Shults, Logan Shults and Taylor Burke.

Mällinen wins tour title

Liberty Lake resident Max Mällinen clinched the 2014 Sports Car Club of America’s U.S. Majors Tour national championship in September. At just 16 years and 90 days old, a press release said he was the youngest American Formula F champion to date.

“I am thrilled to win the 2014 US Majors Tour title,” Mällinen said. “It is great to have won a National Championship at 16 in such a competitive and historic class as Formula F.”

After a successful debut season in the No. 10 Spectrum 014/Honda from Swan Motorsports, Mällinen collected four wins, six podiums and six front row starts. He also lowered two track records in his seven Majors races, the release said. All the tracks Mällinen saw over the course of the season were brand new to him.

With the national title in hand, Mällinen is focused now on the SCCA’s season-ending national championship race, the Runoffs, taking place Oct. 10 at the famed Laguna Seca circuit in Monterey, Calif.

Mällinen is a junior at Saint Georges School in Spokane.
‘Little Orrino’ off to strong start for CV

Central Valley’s football team lost two of its first three games, but may have found a running back.

The Bears allowed 107 points and scored but 35 in losses to Idaho powers Coeur d’Alene and Lake City before surpassing 20-19, in their Greater Spokane League opener.

The revelation was sophomore Braeden Orrino, who rushed for 190 yards on 50 carries.

“Little Orrino did a pretty good job for a sophomore,” coach Rick Giampietri said after the season opener against Coeur d’Alene. “He was wide-eyed in the first half, but in the second half he started breaking tackles.”

Getting young, first-time players settled in by the time the GSL opener against Lewis and Clark rolled around Sept. 19 was the goal. Although the Bears netted just 77 yards rushing (while allowing the Tigers 301), Orrino gained 90 and scored all three touchdowns.

Volleyball team wins Festival

Central Valley had an auspicious start to the season, winning the Yakima Sundome Festival for the first time and going unbeaten in non-league encounters.

The Bears then swept Mt. Spokane to open the GSL and rallied from a 2-1 games deficit to beat Mead In a match of league title contenders.

The Bears were first in their pool, winning five of six games in Yakima. They beat Ellensburg 25-7, 25-14 in the first round of the tournament. They rallied past both Lynden-Christian in the semi-finals and North Kitsap for the championship match, losing the first games of both 20-25.

But they bounced back 25-13, 15-7 in the former and 25-17, 15-9 in the latter.

In other matches, CV beat Lewis and Clark, Lake City, Gonzaga Prep in non-league and Mt. Spokane in the GSL opener. The match against Gonzaga Prep was hard-earned in four games. Hitters Kazlyn Roullier and Jade Montgomery were tough up front, buoyed by setters Meghan and Jade Rockwood.

Soccer champs perfect

The defending state champions won five non-league matches before opening the season Sept. 24 against Mt. Spokane.

Abetted by stout defense, new goalkeeper Chloe Scholtz allowed but one goal in the five matches. Kelsey Turnbow scored five times and had two assists.

Mixed results over land

Central Valley’s boys cross country team scheduled called for matchups against the league favorites early in the season, losing to Mt. Spokane and North Central in the first two meets.

The Bears, third in state last year, were missing top runner Briton Demars, which possibly cost them a win over the Wildcats, who eked out a 26-29 decision. The girls, fourth in state last year, were victorious in two meets, but also have been beset by injuries.

Slow pitch status quo

The Bears lost to rival University 9-6 in a showdown, as usual, of league unbeaten, after winning five games in a row. In one game, Shayla Vegas was 5-for-5, hitting for the cycle and driving in 10 runs. She and pitcher Makenna Wasteney have been the offensive catalysts. Wasteney had four home runs, and in one game drove in seven runs.
Bears fall to Coeur d'Alene

The Central Valley Bears suffered a 50-14 loss to the Coeur d'Alene Vikings on Sept. 5.

Shootout champs

A team consisting of Madison Reynolds, Tomekia Whitman, Cheyanne Parker and Ahnika Chalich won the 8th grade girls bracket in the Coeur d'Alene Shootout. (Liberty Lake residents are highlighted in **bold**.)

LLRC joins with Flying Irish

Members of the Liberty Lake Running Club joined with the Flying Irish club recently for a run downtown.

Boys U9 team takes first

SSC Shadow U9 Boys placed first in the Pend Oreille Cup Soccer Tournament Sept. 6-7. Pictured are Race Maes, Michael Ham, Michael Pennestreri, Lachlan Sandford, Grayson Landers, Ray Connolly, Jared Greiner, Kolby Roche and Nick Anderson. Team members not pictured are Josh Fawson, Braxton Ferriero and John Fox. The team is coached by Scott Pennestreri and Kristen Maes. (Liberty Lake residents are highlighted in **bold**.)

RIM riders

Several local residents participated in the RIM Ride Sept. 14 that departed from Liberty Lake. Clockwise from above are Marlene, Paisley and Mackenzie Ray; Dan and Shanna Dunne; Chris and Josie Anderson; and Charmaine Peterson.

Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY GOLF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8/25 Spokane Valley Women’s League</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight A: Gross, Kay Riplinger, 46; Net, Dorene Meltingtallow, 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight B: Gross, Jen Jensen, 54; Net, Evanlene Meltingtallow and Christine Hillsabeck, 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight C: Gross, Barb Byington, 53; Net, Patty Bondelos, 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight D: Gross, Geri Vance, 70; Net, Nancy Moore, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip in: Kristi Peplinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8/26 Liberty Lake Women’s Club</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results of the three-week Club Championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Championship Flight: Joyce Skidmore defeated Jackie Babin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Flight: Chrissie Tamura defeated Honey Conlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Flight: Elise Bozzo defeated Margie Tibbits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolation Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Championship Flight: Net, Giuse Peters, 68</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Flight: Net, Leslie Sweeney, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Flight: Net, Lee Sondelman, 73</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8/27 MeadowWood Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Play of the Day: Cha Cha Cha Team Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Place: Lee Sonderman, Marie Nelson, Sharon Schoen, Paula Heimbgner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Place: Patsy Lyn, Jean Hatcher, Bette Harmon, Carol Albrozzi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8/28 Liberty Lake 9-Hole Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Flight: Gross, Judy Cameron and Robin McKee, 45; Net, Nancy Lampe, 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Flight: Gross, Denee’ Leineau, 57; Net, Judee Fowler and Arla Beck, 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Flight: Gross, Luana Hages, 59; Net, Wilma Capaul, 37</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9/2 Liberty Lake Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Game: Best nine, minus half handicap</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Flight: Net, Marlin Meola, 33; Net, Cheryl Hull, 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Flight: Net, Chris Timar, 33.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Flight: Net, Penny Lancaster, 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>D Flight: Net, Elise Bozzo, 33</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9/4 Liberty Lake 9-Hole Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Flight: Gross, Robin McKee, 47; Net, Roxy Powell, 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Flight: Gross, Judee Fowler, 55; Net, Deanna Hauser, 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Flight: Gross, Margaret Chesley, 67; Net, Luana Hages, 39</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9/8 Spokane Valley Women’s League</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight A: Gross, Marie Neumayer and Dorene Meltingtallow, 49; Net, Diane Perry, 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight B: Gross, Sammie Fletcher, 55; Net, Christine Hillsabeck, 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight C: Gross, Barb Byington, 60; Net, Sandy Nowalski, 38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight D: Gross, Geri Vance, 77; Net, Nancy Moore, 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Handicap: Renee Bondelos, 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip in: Nancy Moore on #2, Gail Bailey on #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birdsies: Barb Byington on #3, Dorene Meltingtallow on #5</td>
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<td>Count your Putts: Kris Pedrinski and Kathy Zinkgraf, 17</td>
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<td><strong>9/9 Liberty Lake Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Game: Medal Play</td>
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<td>Low Gross: Patsy Lynn, 86</td>
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<td>Low Net: Elise Bozzo, 61; Lee Sondelman and Penny Lancaster, 71</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9/10 MeadowWood Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Count your Putts: Kristi Peplinski and Kathy Zinkgraf, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdies: Barb Byington on #3, Dorene Meltingtallow on #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Handicap: Renee Bondelos, 57</td>
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<td><strong>9/11 Liberty Lake 9-Hole Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Flight: Gross, Kathy Camyn, 55; Net, Roxy Powell, 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Flight: Gross, Deanna Hauser and Lorraine Martin, 58; Net, Darlene Reilly, 39</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Flight: Gross, Pat Reiter, 64; Net, Luana Hages, 39</td>
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<td><strong>9/17 Liberty Lake Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Game: Liberty Cup and Putting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall winner: Net, Elise Bozzo, 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Flight: Patsy Lynn and Joy Nicholson, 30 putts</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Flight: Gloria Cash, 34 putts</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Flight: Margie Tibbits, 30 putts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Flight: Elise Bozzo, 34 putts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9/18 MeadowWood Women’s Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Game: Team Event, 3 out of 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Place: Gross, 254; Sandy McLaughlin, Suz Stone, Sue Lightfoot, Susan Oberlink</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Place: Net, 213: Leslie Sevigney, Jackie Babin, Sue Meyer, Diana Sisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9/18 Liberty Lake 9-Hole Club</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Flight: Gross, Kathy Camyn, 56; No low Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Flight: Gross, Sade Ruekert, 55; Net, Mary Lou Nowalski, 33; Chip-in Net, 54, Arla Beck, 39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3rd Flight: Gross, Wilma Capaul, 69; Net, Emma Long, 37
The definition of football

Uncovering what makes so many so connected to the gridiron

By Chad Kimberley

SPLASH COLUMN

Fall is officially upon us, which means a constant stream of football running across fields, screens and tablets for the next several weeks. For some readers out there, that is cause for celebration as there might not be another reason to leave the comfort of your couch or favorite recliner until after the New Year's ball has dropped on 2015.

There are others who enter a season of confusion (you are the guy on the defensive side allowed to essentially do the latest dance craze on one side of the ball while the offensive tackle slightly shifts his right quad and it is a penalty flag), dread (does every date night with my significant other have to be at a sports bar) and disbelief (how is it possible that there are games on every Saturday morning through the season). We immediately have a bond that comes from the loyalty of college football.

High School Football = Opportunity

One of the reasons many fans are drawn to high school football is a bit of pride (my alma mater), reflection (my glory days) — but most importantly, opportunity. High school football is the last level where kids of all sizes, shapes and abilities get an opportunity to strap on the pads, race through a jumbo banner made by the cheerleaders and sprint onto a field with their families and friends cheering.

There is great joy when you witness a young man make his first tackle, haul in his first pass or even sprint down for his first kickoff coverage. And for every parent, sibling and friend, it is their opportunity to scream like crazy and celebrate their loved one. This moment will soon pass, as slightly less than 5 percent of high school players make it to the collegiate level, so this opportunity is what makes high school football a Friday fixture for many fans.

College Football = Loyalty

The flag. Nothing helps explain college football more than the passionate WSU fans who take their Cougar flag to each and every ESPN College Gameday telecast. Whether they are at enemy territory in Eugene, Ore., down south in Tuscaloosa, or even up at a small school in Fargo, N.D., the WSU fans make it a point to show their loyalty to all of the college football landscape.

This is what makes college football so unique. While I may not bleed crimson and gray, I do have nice shades of black and gold that cover my classroom and my kids’ backs as I represent my Iowa Hawkeyes. There is nothing more exciting for myself as an Iowa fan than when I wear my colors and come across other Iowa fans in the Pacific Northwest. We immediately have a bond that comes from the loyalty of college football.

Professional Football = Royalty

Despite being among the biggest, strongest, toughest athletes in professional sports, the NFL is all about royalty. Teams fight all year long to make the playoffs, win their way to the Super Bowl and ultimately watch the confetti fly as they earn a massive, overpriced ring to wear the rest of their days. Yeah, if that seems odd to you, I am with you. Yet winning the ring is proof of their entrances into the NFL royalty.

There is a second sense of royalty which makes the NFL popular among fans and followers. Merchandise sales. The players, teams and leagues all make money as fans spend thousands of dollars on official jerseys, Madden video games, trading cards and nearly limitless other means to show the support for their team. In fact, as I sat in church this morning, I saw numerous Wilson, Lynch and Sherman jerseys — with an Earl Thomas thrown in for good measure.

Currently the NFL is the “king” of the professional sports world, whether you measure that by television ratings, attendance, sales, franchise values and nearly every other tangible ranking system. Yet with all the recent news of abusive players, serious and long-term head injuries and a commissioner that seems to be lacking transparency, the league could be losing their throne if they are not careful as they go forward.

Fantasy Football = Community

This one in many aspects encapsulates all the other reasons and rationales of football fans. I have been in a fantasy football league for over a decade now with friends from the last couple of locations I have lived, and I stay in this league for the simple idea of community. Fantasy football is how we all stay connected. Fantasy football is the backdrop of weddings (we planned trades at the bachelor party), births (my buddy Thomas is getting a little Chicago Bears shirt for his soon-to-be Cleveland Browns-indoctrinated son) and ample amounts of trash talk which ends good naturedly 90 percent of the time.

There is no greater joy than getting together with nine other buddies on draft day, drinking and eating for multiple hours and randomly picking professional players — even kickers — who you will now cheer for or rail against for the remainder of the NFL season. Of course, all this cheering and railing will be done with a backdrop of nine other league mates trash ing you throughout the season. You just can’t get community like that via other means.

The lesson is over and now a confession will be made. I, like many of your spouses, co-workers and neighbors am afflicted with the love of football on all four levels. So for the rest of this fall into the winter, I will be cheering hard for the Bears and Scotties (CV and Freeman), the Hawkeyes, the Bears and the Pitfall (my fantasy team so named for the classic Atari game) — while trying to plan my date nights and getaways around the television schedule.

And if all my teams struggle or fail, the beauty is by the end of the football season a beautiful phrase is just around the corner. “Pitchers and catchers report.”

Chad Kimberley is a local teacher and coach. He lives with his family in Liberty Lake.
Being a community ‘teammate’ is part of our responsibility

By Erik Puthoff

The fall season is upon us, and with it comes the return of football. The sights and sounds are vivid. Stadiums will be filled with people collectively cheering and rooting for their team.

Football has rooted itself deep in American culture. It’s a mainstay of our media, and the game has become a popular conversation topic within our social circles. Whether you’re a fan of the game or not, you can’t help but take notice; it’s football season in America.

Fans of the game love to talk about their favorite team and their hopes for its success. Those who aren’t fans, however, see a field of organized chaos. What they may fail to notice is that each player plays a vital role to the overall success of the team. Players have a responsibility to perform in various roles to the best of their abilities. Yes, they must work together to strive toward the same goal: winning. Each of them has individual duties to perform and a responsibility to encourage those around them. A strong team can overcome even the greatest odds. Maybe the great football coach, Vince Lombardi, said it best: “Individual commitment to a group effort. That’s what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

It is here where the similarities between a successful football team and a healthy community shine brightly. We each have a responsibility to perform our roles to the best of our abilities and encourage others to do the same. When those around us stumble and fall, we must remember our responsibility as a teammate and offer to help them get up off the ground. In athletics, we consider this good sportsmanship. In life, it’s called being a good person.

Our community depends on all of us. It doesn’t stop with us as individuals. We are one team. We must urge the organizations and corporations within our community to do their part and give back. They have a social and moral responsibility to participate and engage with the community. They should be encouraging their peers to do the same. We have a responsibility to search for companies and organizations that support our shared community values and support them with our patronage. We should expect them to contribute to the community if they want to be a part of it. After all, community is everything.

Being responsible doesn’t just benefit ourselves and our loved ones, it affects us all as a community. We become strong by fulfilling our responsibilities. Like the legendary British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said, “The price of greatness is responsibility.”

Erik Puthoff is a community development officer for STCU working to bring financial literacy into the community. He volunteers on multiple boards, including PACE and the Spokane Parks Foundation. He wrote this column as part of a series highlighting the PACE character trait of the month. The trait for October is responsibility.

Steve Peterson
Mayor, Liberty Lake

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LETTERS
Continued from page 44

Growing ostomy awareness

Most fear hearing the dreaded words: “You’ve got cancer.” However, there’s another “C” word that few talk about — a colostomy. Eight years ago, when my radiation doctor said I needed a colostomy, I had no idea what he was talking about. Later, I feared what it would be like to live with one.

Saturday, Oct. 4, is International Ostomy Awareness Day. An ostomy is a surgical procedure to temporarily or permanently re-route your elimination system. It uses an external bag to remove liquid or solid waste. Due to complications from a disease or an injury, over one million Americans have an ostomy. Each year, over 130,000 people receive these life-saving surgeries.

At the monthly Spokane Ostomy Group, I’ve met remarkable men and women, young and old, who inspire me to live a full life, to overcome my fears and to gain practical tips. An 86-year-old amputee with a colostomy enjoys his birthday every year by going waterskiing. Several members wear two bags — a urostomy for liquid waste and a colostomy for solid waste. They are so attractive and well-dressed that you’d never guess what’s tucked under their jeans.

Another recently commemorated the 36th anniversary of her ileostomy that’s helped her cope with Colonis and raise three healthy children to adulthood. She continues to exercise almost five days a week, attending Pilates classes, running or walking.

Celebrate Ostomy Awareness Day by being grateful for the simple things in life you might take for granted. Be patient if someone’s taking longer than you expect in a restroom. For more information, contact the United Ostomy Association of America at www.uoaa.org, or visit the Spokane Ostomy Group I facilitate on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Providence Sacred Heart Hospital.

For more information, contact me at 255-6676 or weller.susie@gmail.com.

Susie Leonard Weller
Liberty Lake

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Liberty Lake sites participating in Festival of Chefs include Greenstone Homes in the River District, 19840 E. Indiana Ave., featuring cuisine by Ferrante’s Marketplace Café, and Greenstone Homes in Rocky Hill, 24929 S. Stonecreek Ave. featuring Hay J’s Bistro.

For tickets and more information, visit www.spokanefestivalofhomes.com.

STCU named to 2014 list of healthiest credit unions

Depositaccounts.com recently named Spokane Teachers Credit Union to the 2014 edition of the Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions in America. STCU stood out in all the primary evaluation categories including deposit growth, capitalization and Texas ratio.

Texas Ratio is determined by comparing the total value of risk loans to the total value of funds the bank has on hand to cover loans. Loans at risk are not backed by the U.S. government and are more than 90 days past due.

For more, visit www.depositaccounts.com.

Itron appoints new VP, CFO

Itron recently appointed W. Mark Schmitz as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Schmitz has 40 years of experiences in finance and executive leadership roles across the manufacturing, service, retail and technology industries including his most recent role as CFO for Afghanistan Industries, a global multi-industry corporation in Kuwait.

“Mark is an accomplished executive with a proven track record of success, including leading the finance organizations at several large, global manufacturers,” Itron president Philip Mezey said in a press release. “We are confident that Mark will help drive our business to the next level.”

Schmitz said he looks forward to working closely with the Itron team to contribute to the company’s growth and success.

“Itron has several important strategic initiatives underway, and I am excited to join the company and help oversee the successful implementation of these efforts,” Schmitz said.

Schmitz will succeed Steven Helmrecht as Itron’s CFO. Helmrecht will remain with Itron through December 31 to facilitate a smooth transition.

For more, visit www.itron.com.
Big hearts, big haul
September drive provides huge boost to Food 4 Thought

By Shaun Brown
Splash contributor

At 8 a.m on the morning of Sept. 20, Al Smith was first to pull up and unload his Food 4 Thought donation on the curb of the church across from Liberty Lake Elementary. It was the start of the flood in what proved to be an amazing outpouring of community generosity for the homeless students in our Valley school districts.

308 volunteers from the Kiwanis, the CVHS leadership class, and the seven congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints combined for 1,257 hours of service and approximately 8,500 pounds of food. The cars just kept coming and coming. Missionaries and young people from the church formed an assembly line to pass the bags from car to ramp to back of truck. As the bins filled to overflowing, more volunteers transferred bags to banana boxes so they could be stacked atop the bins.

Meanwhile, Food 4 Thought founder Pat Dockrey stood in the parking lot with a handful of envelopes that finally grew beyond his ability to hold.

“I’ve been getting donations in the mail all week,” Dockrey explained. “In addition, volunteers were bringing in many donations along with the food, and some residents pulled in just to write a check. Last week, Dockrey and his Food 4 Thought volunteers packed take-home bags for 185 of the 800 homeless kids in our Valley school districts.”

“We hope to do a lot more than that now,” he said.

The Food 4 Thought drive was made possible by the hard work of volunteers and the generous donations of many local organizations. Liberty Lake Kiwanis funded the discount printing provided by UPS Store in Liberty Lake. Safeway, Albertsons and Fred Meyer donated bags and made sure their shelves were stocked with the items on the Food 4 Thought list. Tierpoint printed posters, and The Liberty Lake Splash and The Current donated space in the paper to get the word out. Central Valley High School was gracious enough to let one group of volunteers operate out of its parking lot. And Valley Partners sent a truck and driver to transport the donations.

When Frank Davis, the Valley Partners truck driver, arrived at noon to see the loaded truck, he said, “this is exciting” — and then walked around to check the tires and axels for clearance.

“I think we can make it,” he announced, as the door rolled down on the evidence of the huge hearts that exist within the Liberty Lake, Otis Orchards, Greenacres and Spokane Valley community.

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