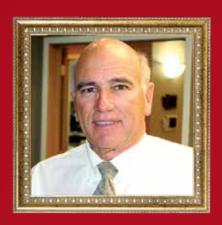
LIBERTY LAKE'S COMMUNITY NEWSMAGAZINE

























Resolve Community members strong personal and corporate aims for 2016 PAGE 14

Community members share aims for 2016 PAGE 14

INSIDE: NEW OWNER, TEAM TO CAPTAIN THE SPLASH | PAGE 2

Splash greets 2016 with new owner

FROM STAFE REPORTS

As The Splash voyages into a new year, a new crew will be at the helm.

Ben Wick has purchased The Splash and its sister publication, The Current, from Josh and Kim Johnson, owners of Peridot Publishing LLC. The first issue for Wick's new team, which includes his wife, Danica, as graphic artist and longtime Splash contributor Craig Howard as editor, will be the next one – the February 2016 edition.

"I am really excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Liberty Lake Splash," Wick said. "I look forward to meeting and working more with the Liberty Lake community and am happy to say that The Splash is continuing on and will keep focusing on our local community."

Wick, a Spokane Valley native, just wrapped up four years on the Spokane Valley City Council. He is involved with a multitude of local boards and causes in between serving as information systems manager for Spokane Industries.

"I have really enjoyed being more involved with the community and working with all of the great people while serving on the Spokane Valley City Council," Wick said. "As my City Council term comes to

an end, I still have a passion for our community and jumped at the opportunity to be a part of The Splash. Josh has done a great job with The Splash and The Current, and I look forward to putting in just as much passion."

Wick was similarly thrilled to tap into the talents and experience of Howard, a veteran community journalist who is among a small number of people who has maintained a steady presence at Liberty Lake City Council meetings since 2002. Howard originally covered the city in 2002 for the Spokane Valley News Herald, where he worked for a decade. In recent years, he has covered Liberty Lake as a contributor for The Splash.

"Craig has done a great job covering news and events in Liberty Lake," Wick said. "His knowledge, experience and creativity will be a great part of the new team moving forward."

From both the outside and the inside, Howard has admired The Splash's role serving Liberty Lake since its founding in 1999.

"Over the years, The Splash has established great brand recognition as well as reader and advertiser loyalty," Howard said. "I'm excited to continue covering the news of this area in a way that is unique,

engaging and distinctly local. Community journalism in Liberty Lake is alive and well."

Howard added that Wick's lifelong love of the greater Spokane Valley area makes him a natural successor for both The Splash and The Current.

"Ben has his roots in this community and genuinely cares about his neighbors," he said. "I really believe he is a great match for both the Splash and Current. He wants to tell the stories that interest our readers while exploring new avenues that will contribute to the long-term success of both publications. This is a win-win for sure."

Howard noted he looks forward to continuing to work with longtime Splash contributors, including veteran journalists Mike Vlahovich and Treva Lind.

Founded in 1999, The Splash has been honored with numerous awards over the years for its journalism and design, as well as for its investment in the community. It was named the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce's small business of the year for 2013 and is a two-time Community Service award winner, an annual honor given by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

See SPLASH, page 4

Breaking down the transition

New owner and publisher
BEN WICK

With a Spokane Valley family heritage that lands his family on the Washington State Pioneers list, Ben's connections in the community are both deep and wide.



WICK

He served on the Spokane Valley City Council from 2012 through 2015 and has served on several local and regional boards, including most recently as chairman of the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. He is information sys-

tems manager for Spokane Industries and a summa cum laude graduate of Eastern Washington University in computer science.

His community involvement is wideranging, from serving as a member of the SNAP Financial Access board and as past chair of the Spokane County Fair & Expo Center's advisory board to memberships as diverse as Spokane Valley Kiwanis and the Inland Northwest Llama Ranchers. He lives in Spokane Valley with his wife, Danica, a graphic artist who will work on The Splash, and their two children. The family is kept company by an Australian Shepherd named Dundee and, yes, llamas.

He can be reached at ben@libertylakes-plash.com.

*New editor*Craig Howard

Craig has been covering Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley since 2002, many of those years as news editor for the Spokane Valley News Herald. He is also a longtime contributor to The Splash and



HOWARD

The Current, and he has had stints as a reporter for three other community newspapers. He also is editor of the online Latter-day Sentinel and a contributor for Northwest Runner. He received his journalism degree from

the University of Oregon in 1992.

Craig has worked in communications and development with SNAP since August 2012. He currently serves on the board and is a past president of the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council. He is also a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest and a member of the Greater Valley Support Network. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children.

He can be reached at craig@liber-tylakesplash.com.

What's happening to Peridot Publishing?

The core team isn't going anywhere and can still be found working away in their Liberty Lake Portal building offices. With its new focus on special publications, the team is working on the 2016 Liberty Lake Guide. Reach them at:

Peridot Publishing 23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 102 Liberty Lake, WA 99019 509-999-4567

> josh@peridot.info (Josh Johnson, publisher)

tammy@peridot.info
(Tammy Kimberley, general manager)
sarah@peridot.info

(Sarah Burk, graphics editor)

A word of thanks



By Josh Johnson SPLASH STAFF COLUMN

They say journalism is the first draft of history, and so I have been blessed with the opportunity to write and edit 12 years of rough copy about my hometown. It is hard for me to emphasize enough how much of a privilege this has been. I've experienced the joy of spotlighting the accomplishments of kids whose parents I once rode the school bus with. I've taken notes from the front row as our community has developed. I interviewed my grandparents when they were named grand marshals of the Fourth of July Parade, and in the years to follow I edited their obituaries, welling with both tears and pride.

Who gets to do a job like this? It has been a beautiful match: I'm truly passionate about our mission of "informing, connecting and inspiring communities," and this just happens to be the community where my grandparents spent decades living and working in local schools, where my parents raised my four siblings and me, where my heart remains.

As I close out my time as owner and publisher of The Splash, that heart is full. There are more thank-yous to share than space allows, so for the purposes of this column I will focus my gratitude on the people who I was blessed to work alongside.

First and foremost, the good Lord has given me a wife that shares my heart to live life on purpose. Kim is always up for an adventure, but her special skillset is in bringing meaning and richness to the journey. Without her, my schedule would be full. With her, my life is full. Publishing The Splash was a dream of mine, and Kim has encouraged and stood with me all along the way (and kept the books, and sold ads, and slept on the office couch as I sent that final page in the middle of the night ...).

Tammy Kimberley and Sarah Burk joined the business about the same time (nearly eight years ago), and both are continuing on as our company transitions to new things. If you have liked anything you've seen in our pages during that time, chances are their fingerprints are all over it. There are people who have crazy talent and people who have crazy work ethic. These are usually not the same people. Exceptions: Sarah and Tammy. Peridot Publishing struck lightning twice. What's more, the pages

See THANKS, page 4

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NEWS

SPLASH

Continued from page 2

The Splash has been owned by Peridot Publishing since March 2004, at that time purchased from founding owners Shaun and Nathan Brown. Josh Johnson has served as publisher since that time, adding the Liberty Lake Community Directory to the publishing mix in 2006. Two long-tenured Peridot Publishing employees, Graphics Editor Sarah Burk and General Manager Tammy Kimberley, are continuing on with the Peridot Publishing team as it shifts focus in 2016. Peridot's next publications will be distributed in April: the 2016 Liberty

Lake Guide and its Spokane Valley counterpart. This will mark the 16th annual iteration of the Liberty Lake publication, which in previous years was referred to as the Community Directory. Plans for future special publications are in the works and will be announced later in 2016.

"While this move creates margin in our life for some new adventures ahead, Kim and I will always have a special place in our heart for The Splash," Johnson said. "The bittersweet nature of this transition is improved by the fact we leave the publication in great hands. Ben, Danica and Craig share our love for this community and our dedication to hands-on, local journalism. We will be cheering them on."

THANKS

Continued from page 2

of hundreds of past issues are filled with their hearts. They truly love this community and have poured themselves into never settling on a single aspect of The Splash. I admit it, Sarah and Tammy, your standards are even higher than mine.

My brother, Bo, was our first hire in 2004. He is the type of person who makes you sick because not only does he literally know how to do anything, but he is the only male in the family who doesn't appear to be balding. While his career has taken him elsewhere, he never left The Splash because he keeps answering his brother's phone calls.

The rest of the siblings all have clocked hours at the business as well. My sister, Bri Kirsch, did a masterful job with design and sales. Zak and Mike have delivered thousands and thousands of newspapers over the years, and Mike's charm paid dividends when he built the distribution list for The Current, as many businesses took a chance and opened their doors to a new publication.

I never paid my parents, Gary and Karen, but even if I did it wouldn't dent my indebtedness. They have lent unending encouragement, assistance and timely prayers to support us along the journey.

Evan Jensen, Hope Brumbach and Kelly Moore are top-notch journalists who taught me much while building a strong (and award-winning) reputation for our newspapers. Craig Howard, Chad Kimberley, Mike Vlahovich, Treva Lind, Valerie Putnam, Craig Swanson and so many others have shared their writing talents with us over the years. And a special thank you to the teams at the Liberty Lake Historical Society and Spokane Valley Heritage Museum, who have been responsible for one of our most popular standing features — the history page.

Janet Pier is a tireless professional who took such great care of our business partners for many years. Cindy Esch also deserves special mention for building new advertising avenues into Spokane Valley and truly inspiring our team as she battled — and beat — cancer.

Kelli Dexter was our office manager for many years, and she kept all of our systems rolling while sharing a wit, wisdom and camaraderie that truly built up our team.

I've been so blessed with great designers over the years, so a huge thank you to Jill Hacker, Tom Stover, Hannah Johnson and Karen Sutula for helping us nail the presentation time and again.

Bob Sullivan was one of Liberty Lake's unsung heroes. He passed away last year, but I was blessed by his example, his work ethic and his humor. He distributed papers for several years, and the last paycheck I wrote him was mailed shortly after his 80th birthday. Pamela Aguilar and Sandy Johnson were also exceptionally reliable and friendly shuttling newspapers all over the community. Our current distribution team of Mike Wiykovics, Dean Byrns and Stefanie Byrns have continued the tradition seamlessly. We are so blessed, and a special thank you to Mike for taking our statistical tracking of distribution to new heights.

I said I would focus this column on my coworkers, but that takes nothing away from my gratitude to this community — advertisers, readers, neighbors and friends. You have embraced, encouraged and supported us along the way. It has meant more than I could ever express.

The Splash is entering a new chapter in its history, and I am excited for Ben Wick and his team. Ben, this is a great gig.

Meanwhile, I'm not packing up my desk. Peridot Publishing is still in Suite 102 of the Liberty Lake Portal building, so come say hello. We have some projects in the hopper I am particularly excited about introducing to you later in 2016.

I will, however, be shifting my hours a bit, providing margin for Kim and I to pursue some other priorities and opportunities that are on the horizon. The page has turned, and new adventures await — time to get started on the next, first draft.

Josh Johnson is owner of Liberty Lakebased Peridot Publishing LLC. He can be reached at josh@peridot.info.

NEWS



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

R.J. Stevenson took over as finance director for the city of Liberty Lake in September 2011 after serving as the assistant finance director in Washougal, Wash.

Frontline fiduciary

Stevenson has overseen city finances since 2011

By Craig Howard

SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

When R.J. Stevenson was introduced as Liberty Lake's finance director in September 2011, the Clark Kent glasses, distinctive goatee and contemporary attire represented a refreshing look at City Hall. Suddenly, it was hip to be a municipal employee.

The Michigan native quickly acclimated to his new surroundings, earning the respect of colleagues and citizens with an approach to city finances as cool as his appearance. Doug Smith, the Community Development director at the time, lauded Stevenson's "easygoing manner and evenkeeled disposition."

Being calm and flexible came in handy during Stevenson's first year in Liberty Lake, a time characterized by concerns over the ripple effect from the ongoing national recession, a recently implemented 6 percent utility tax and talk of cuts to community institutions like the library and Trailhead Golf Course.

Liberty Lake had been without a full-time finance director since 2008, when Arlene Fisher left to become city administrator in Cheney. For years, the duties were handled



Newsmaker Q&A

by Smith and Administrative Services Manager Jessica Platt. Stevenson arrived after serving as the assistant finance director in Washougal, a city of around 15,000 near Vancouver.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in accounting from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., Stevenson left the Midwest for Oregon to crunch the numbers at Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. An avid skier and outdoorsman, Stevenson had found a good fit in the snow of the Northwest. Eventually, he left the mountains for the urban slopes of Portland and an accounting job with Cascadia Behavioral Health Care.

Stevenson entered the municipal world of finances when he signed on with Washougal, spending time as city accountant and interim finance director in addition to his assistant finance director role. When he began looking to flee the region's damp weather, Stevenson realized the pursuit of drier conditions "basically eliminated everything along the I-5 corridor."

Stevenson now considers the Inland Northwest home, along with his wife and three children. The family abode also includes two dogs, a pair of parakeets and the possibility of several chickens by spring.

See STEVENSON, page 6



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NEWS

STEVENSON

Continued from page 5

You arrived in Liberty Lake at a relatively turbulent time for the city. The utility tax had been in place for less than a year, sales tax revenue was still recovering from the recession and City Council was divided on ways to stabilize the budget. How daunting was it to take over as finance director in the middle of that?

I was hired in September of 2011, so the utility tax had already been in place for nine months and revenues had been starting to increase again. It was also an election year as well with Mayor (Steve) Peterson in the running to return. Yes, it was a challenging start. However, I did have an advantage of being new and bringing a different, maybe even a fresh, perspective. My goal was to try and provide valuable information to the mayor, council and citizens to make an informed decision, but I was not the only new person coming on. Throughout 2012, there would be four new council members, an interim city administrator and a new city administrator.

Q: How did your experience as assistant finance director in the city of Washougal prepare you for your new role in Liberty Lake?

A: In late 2009, I was the interim finance director in Washougal when the recession was taking effect. The city was going through a very turbulent time, revenues were dwindling, the 2010 budget was not balanced, and it was time for the city to tighten its belt. It was during that time, working with a consultant to really understand the city's revenues, that we looked at what mistakes the city had made in spending and the longterm effects of those decisions and how to try and correct those mistakes. We also explored what other revenue opportunities were there and how to take a long-term look at how city services were deployed and would the revenue be there to support these

Q: What were some aspects of Liberty Lake's financial profile that stuck out to you in that first year?

A: Spokane Valley Fire was its own district and is funded by its own property tax levy. Water and sewer was its own district and is funded by its services. With these services out of the equation, the city can focus its resources more directly to police, parks, planning, building and library services.

Q: What were some of your initial impressions of the Liberty Lake community?

A: Clean and green — seriously. When I first drove into the city from the west, it was brown right up to the point when you entered the city. Seeing golf carts everywhere on the streets and sidewalks was different from most places, but it makes perfect sense because who else can hop in a golf cart and head to the store for milk and grab a coffee and a snack, stop by a park or even head to the golf course.

Q: There are so many facets to a municipal budget. How would you best characterize the city's prioritization of spending?

A: Provide great service to the citizens who live here. If you look at page 33 of the 2016 budget, there is a graph that shows how the dollars of the city are spent —- police being the highest priority. Parks, streets and capital are the other components.

Q: The utility tax has been the subject of some controversy since it was implemented in 2011. What do you think that revenue stream has meant for the city, particularly since the funds have been dedicated to roads?

A: When I started, I looked at the revenue streams in place and the city services provided. While financially the city was in a good position, without a new revenue stream, it would be difficult to make capital improvements, especially to roads. With the utility tax in place, the city has retired two loans, made improvements to Valleyway and Mission Road, made pedestrian crossing improvements and utilized the revenue as a match for three road projects funded by the State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). One of those TIB projects was completed this year (Appleway), with two more projects ahead (Liberty Lake Road and Mission/Molter intersection). Without this revenue source, these projects would have been difficult to fund.

Q: Most cities have certain business sectors that are reliable sources of sales tax revenue. In general, what are top generators in Liberty Lake?

A: Auto and RV dealerships. There is also one big box store here in Liberty Lake that helps.

Q: Every year, the question of raising property tax by the allowable amount comes before City Council. You recommended a hike of 1 percent for 2016 that council decided to bypass. Why did you support the increase?

A: City population is growing at 5 percent, operating expenses, specifically police and library, are currently growing at 2 to 3 percent per year and revenues need to keep pace with that. We are fortunate that sales tax is performing as well as it is to help with

that growth. However, recessions do happen like the last one in 2009-2010, and a recession will have an impact on the sales tax and possibly other revenue sources. What makes cities different from the private sector is that when revenues like sales tax drop, the demand for services that the city delivers does not drop. Also, when times are good like now, the city is growing, service demands grow, that the property tax should grow with it at the 1 percent. My concern is that there will come a time when we need it, like during a recession, and that is when the city may be forced to institute its banking capacity, and the increase is three times greater in an environment where citizens would be looking for relief because of the recession.

One of the graphs that I love in the budget is the general fund expenditures by revenue source for the 2016 budget. The concept is to identify the revenue source with the expenditure. Why does police receive a bulk of the property taxes in the graph? Because I believe if you ask the citizens, public safety would be at their list of most important to fund. Most of the other revenue sources except property tax can be attributed to a specific function — like permits are directly attributable to the building and planning department. Utility tax is spent on streets. Sales tax becomes the plug to fill in any gaps.

One more thing I like about local government is that I can see how my tax dollars are being spent. When you review your property tax statement, you know the portion that goes to the city is being spent on public safety in Liberty Lake and that the portion that goes to the fire district goes directly to provide fire and EMS services in this area. Whereas the amount that goes to the county or even that state, you really do not know where that is being spent even if it stays in this area. I know that a portion of your portion of the taxes that were paid to the county in 2015 went toward purchasing the transfer stations — not a direct benefit to the citizens of Liberty Lake.

Q: Finally, you moved to Eastern Washington to get away from the rain and closer to good snow skiing. How has that worked out?

A: I was warned that there would be a lot of snow. I grew up in Northern Michigan, so in maybe a weird way, I was looking forward to the white stuff on the ground. But in the last four years, it hasn't quite lived up to my expectations —- maybe this year. Overall, we are enjoying the area. The parks and hiking trails around here are very nice. Since the city has been looking at an aquatic facility, my family spent some time investigating the local aquatic facilities in the area as research to help get an idea on how they are operated. That has been enjoyable.

Police Report

The following items were among those reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department from Nov. 16 to Dec. 14. The report is listed in chronological order.

Incidents and arrests

- Vehicle prowl At 7 a.m. Nov. 17, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Indiana Avenue where a complainant reported that sometime during the night, \$210 in items were stolen from inside two vehicles parked in the driveway.
- Burglary At 9:16 a.m. Nov. 20, LLPD responded to a commercial burglary at the 1700 block of North Madson Road. Complainants reported someone had pried the door to the business open and stolen over \$4,000 in copper sheets from the production area. The incident was placed under investigation.
- Domestic violence At 12:24 p.m. Nov. 21, LLPD responded to the 21000 block of East Country Vista Drive on the report that a male subject had kicked in the door at the location in order to collect his belongings after he and his girlfriend had broken up.
- Theft At 12:56 p.m. Nov. 23, LLPD responded to the 21000 block of East Country Vista for a theft. Complainant reported furniture that had been sitting on the patio of her business had been stolen. Estimated loss of the items is \$125.
- Rock through window At 1:18 a.m. Nov. 29, LLPD responded to the 23000 block of East Settler Drive for criminal mischief. Complainant reported someone had thrown a large rock through her front window, causing \$500 in damage.
- Hit and run At 10:38 a.m. Dec. 1, LLPD responded to a hit and run at the 23000 block of East Mission Avenue. Complainant reported that while inside the location, someone had caused damage to the driver side of her vehicle estimated at \$2,000.
- Burglary At 9:34 a.m. Dec. 3, LLPD responded to the 21000 block of George Gee Avenue for a burglary. Complainant reported that someone had entered the garage and taken the stereo out of a vehicle that was

See POLICE, page 8



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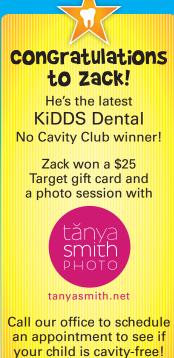
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NEWS

POLICE

Continued from page 6

recently acquired. Estimated loss to the business is \$1,000.

- Solicitation arrest A 26-year-old from Kent, Wash., was arrested at 9:49 p.m. Dec. 4 for soliciting without a license. He was arrested after it was found he was soliciting door to door selling vacuums without the proper licensing.
- Burglary At 10:45 a.m. Dec. 7, LLPD responded to the 25000 block of East Hawkstone Loop for a commercial burglary. Complainant reported that sometime during the night, the business had been entered and over \$4,700 in materials taken. Damage to the property was estimated at \$120. This incident was placed under investigation.
- Arrest A 28-year-old Colbert man was arrested at 11 a.m. Dec. 7 at the 1100 block of North Liberty Lake Road for DUI, possession of stolen property and trafficking in stolen property. A complainant called 911 after observing the man sitting in his vehicle while pumping gas with a band around his arm and a needle in his forearm. Officers arrived and observed the man to be slumped over in the vehicle with a belt secured around his arm. He was arrested on warrants for controlled substance violations and other outstanding violations. He was transported to LLPD, where a blood warrant was procured and executed. Upon search of his vehicle, he was found to be in possession of stolen property from a burglary that took place earlier in the month. The victim of that burglary came to the police department to identify the stolen property. Among the stolen items were business checks, golf clubs and a backpack containing multiple wallets. The man was then booked into the Spokane County Jail on a total of 10 felonies.
- Tree triggers alarm At 8:28 p.m. Dec. 10, LLPD responded to an alarm at the 22000 block of East Mission Avenue. Upon arrival, an officer found a Christmas tree had fallen over, setting off the alarm.
- Burglary At 10:36 a.m. Dec. 10, LLPD responded to the 400 block of North Timberfield Lane for a burglary. Complainant reported someone had entered the home and taken over \$1,000 in collectable coins. This incident was placed under investigation.
- Assault arrest A 25-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested at 9:42 p.m. Dec. 10 at the 22000 block of East Country Vista Drive for domestic violence assault. Officers arrived and spoke to both parties. The woman claimed she had been punched in the face by the complainant. However, the complainant had recorded the incident without the woman's knowledge and provided the

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Agency assist	1
Alarm	7
Animal problem	1
Assault	1
Burglary	5
Citizen assist	4
Citizen dispute	2
Criminal mischief	1
Domestic violence	4
Drug sale/manufacturing	1
DUI	3
Forced sexual assault/rape	1
Fraud	3
Lost or found property	1
Malicious mischief	1
Not classified	11
Property theft	2
Suspicious person/circumstance	5
Traffic accident	4
Traffic offense	12
Vehicle prowl	1
Welfare check	3

Citations

Assault	2
Driving in violation of restrictions	2
Driving without license with ID	1
DUI	1
DWLS	15
Expired registration	4
Failure to dim headlights	1
Failure to stop	2
Failure to wear safety belt	2
Following too close	1
Harassment	1
mproper pass at curve	1
mproper signal	1
Liability insurance	5
Malicious mischief	1
Solicitor/peddler license	1
Speeding	16
Speeding in school zone	1

Reported by the Liberty Lake Police
 Department, Nov. 16 to Dec. 14

video to an officer. Due to the video provided, officers determined the woman was the primary aggressor during the incident, and she was arrested and booked into Spokane County Jail for fourth degree assault, domestic violence.

- Assault arrest A 34-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at the 24000 block of East Spotted Owl for fourth degree assault and harassment. Complainant reported the woman verbally assaulted her in front of children and spit on her, and provided video evidence confirming the complaint.
- **Child rape** At 6:51 p.m. Dec. 13, LLPD responded to a sex crime involving the rape of a minor child. The incident was placed under investigation.

NEWS

SVFD Report

A total of 83 emergency calls originating in the greater Liberty Lake area* were reported by the Spokane Valley Fire Department between Nov. 19 and Dec. 13, as follows:

Emergency medical service calls Motor vehicle accidents Fires 3 Service calls 2 **Building alarms** 7 Hazardous materials Steep angle technical rescue Unauthorized burning 3 Dispatched and cancelled en route 5

*This report reflects the service area for SVFD Station No. 3 in Liberty Lake, which includes areas inside and outside of city limits

Highlighted calls

- Unauthorized burning Just after 3 p.m. Nov. 22, SVFD crews were dispatched to the 1700 block of South Liberty Drive in response to a possible illegal burn. Crews found the homeowner illegally burning a pile of pine needles. The homeowner was apologetic and unaware of the ongoing Spokane County restriction on burning yard waste at any time. The homeowner extinguished the fire. A second call came in about 10 minutes later, also reporting the same fire.
- Structure fire SVFD crews responded to a drive-by report of flames on the side of a home in the 18700 block of East Marlin Drive shortly after 7:30 p.m. Nov. 26. Crews found a singlewide mobile home on fire with flames spreading quickly from the front to the rest of the home. The occupant and dogs escaped unharmed. The home was completely destroyed, including about \$80,000 worth of motorcycles parked inside. The fire was believed to have been started by a 55-gallon drum being used as a fireplace just outside the home.
- Motor vehicle accident SVFD crews responded to a one car accident at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at 21200 East Country Vista Drive. A minivan had driven through a fence and landscaping surrounding a parking lot at the Country Vista Apartments. The driver was removed from the vehicle on a backboard and transported to the hospital. The cause of the accident is unknown.
- Steep angle technical rescue A hunter in the woods behind the 3200 block of North Rocky Hill Lane fell in the steep terrain and became trapped at about 4:15 p.m. Nov. 29. SVFD crews were called to the scene and performed a steep angle technical rescue, with the assistance of the landowner in his pickup truck. The hunter was transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation.



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JANUARY 2016 • **11** The Splash

NEWS

2016 budget finalized

By Craig Howard

SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

New Year. New budget.

On a festive night at City Hall that included holiday treats, sparkling lights and plenty of accolades for municipal employees, the City Council rang in a financial gameplan for 2016 that featured very few changes from the initial budget Mayor Steve Peterson introduced back in October.

The budget — all \$11.6 million of it was unanimously approved 4-0 on Dec. 15 by a governing board missing three representatives with excused absences. Finance Director R.J. Stevenson wound up fielding 31 "mayor's budget questions" from council addressing the document Peterson first revealed on Oct. 20. Before the final vote was cast, \$9,500 had been added for Liberty Lake Days along with a \$6,000 increase in the city attorney contract.

The final budget also reflects no change in the property tax despite a recommendation by Stevenson to raise the rate by the allowable 1 percent. Council originally voted on Nov. 24 to bypass the hike and "bank" the increase for a future year. On Nov. 30, the board convened for a special meeting to reconsider the vote, with Council Members Dan Dunne and Hugh Severs supporting an amendment to reverse the resolution and install the 1 percent upturn. Ultimately, the change failed to gather enough momentum to earn approval.

In his brief summary of the budget prior to the Dec. 15 vote, Stevenson told council that revenues for 2015 are surging ahead of projections to the tune of \$200,000. The surplus has been driven by a banner revenue year from sales tax, utility tax and building permits.

"The news is good," Stevenson said.

The city has just a pair of ongoing capital projects that will impact the 2016 budget, Stevenson added. The renovation of Liberty Lake Road is slated to break ground in the spring while ongoing pedestrian safety improvements are also in the cue. The city earmarked \$200,000 for the design portion of Liberty Lake Road in the 2015 budget.

The city has set aside nearly \$2.4 million for 2016 in the street capital projects fund. The municipal budget will end the year on a healthy note with a fund balance of just over \$2 million.

When asked by Council Member Bob Moore how the restructuring of the parks and recreation department would be reflected in municipal expenditures for 2016, Peterson said the transition would save the city \$140,000.

Stevenson presented council with the idea of creating dedicated capital funds for three specific areas in 2016, beginning with \$100,000 for community messaging brought about by the new changes

to the sign code that will soon take effect. A total of \$100,000 is already included in the budget for the project. Stevenson also raised the possibility of an underground utility fund (\$25,000 for 2016) and a building contingency fund (\$125,000). Council Member Odin Langford echoed his council colleagues in attendance in asking that the actual vote on the new capital funds be tabled until a larger quorum could discuss the transition.

Tie voids planning commission change

Council considered an ordinance on Dec. 15 that proposed to change the residency requirement of planning commission members. Moore, who once served on the planning commission, brought the idea up in the fall, asserting that commission delegates should be required to live within city limits just as members of the City Council.

Since the city incorporated in 2001, the planning commission has allowed for two of seven seats to be occupied by non-residents. Peterson said the contingency was a way to include representation from south of Sprague Avenue while permitting nonresidents who owned property in Liberty Lake to have a voice in the city's approach to development.

In his written response to Moore's proposal, Planning Commission Member Larry Laux said "the existing ordinance allows for diversity and broadens the scope for those who have an interest in our community to serve on the planning commission."

In gauging opinion on the suggested changes at its last meeting, the majority of the planning commission weighed in to keep the requirements the same. Currently, Stan Jochim is the only member who resides outside city limits.

On Tuesday, Dunne — who also spent time on the planning commission — said he opposed the new ordinance since council already had the final say on who is named to the group. When votes were cast, Dunne and Council Member Keith Kopelson opposed the ordinance while Moore and Langford supported it. The 2-2 tie negated passage.

See COUNCIL, page 12

IN THE BOOKS, ON THE DOCKET

A look back and ahead at news from City Hall

By Craig Howard SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

In the Books (December)

- Council approved a contract with Gregg Dohrn of G.R. and Associates for work on the city's development regulations in 2016.
- Mayor Steve Peterson acknowledged Jeff Nelson for reaching the decade mark as an employee in the city's maintenance department. Jennifer Camp, parks and open space superintendent, and Trevor Ragan, maintenance worker, were co-recipients of the Mayor's Recognition award.
- · Police Chief Brian Asmus honored Officer Jeff Jones with the Chief's Award, Officer Austin Brantingham with the Sergeant's Award and Officer Mike Bogenreif with the Officer of the Year Award.
- · Steve Skipworth, commissioner with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, told council that LLSWD is looking at the prospect of installing pipes for reclaimed water when the city renovates Liberty Lake Road next year.
- Peterson presented Phil Champlin, executive director of the HUB Sports Center, with a proclamation acknowledging Nov. 21, 2015, as "Hooray for the HUB Day." The Liberty Lake-based facility celebrated its one millionth visitor in October.
- Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Commissioner Kottayam V. Natarajan Jr. told council that the annual beach and leaf cleanup generated 12,433 pounds of refuse, including 560 pounds of phosphorous removed from the watershed.
- In early December, City Administrator Katy Allen and City Engineer Andrew Staples visited Seattle to pitch a progressive design-build concept for

the Town Square project that is slated to include a community center and pool. Later in the month, the city received news that the state Project Review Committee had given its stamp of approval to the Liberty Lake project.

- · City officials met with the Town Square project steering committee on Dec. 8. The city is targeting a bond vote in August to generate funds for construction.
- The city received good news from the state Transportation Improvement Board in the form of a \$560,000 grant for the proposed traffic roundabout at Mission and Molter. City Engineer Andrew Staples said the funds represent around 70 percent of the overall cost of the project, scheduled for construction
- Police Chief Brian Asmus told council he was "proud of how the city worked together" in response to the Nov. 17 windstorm. Asmus said a small number of trees fell in Liberty Lake while power outages were limited to parts of the River District and areas in the far eastern portion of the city. The library and City Hall were opened as warming shelters in response to the

On the Docket (January)

- A workshop to discuss Spokane Transit Authority services in the city and select a representative to the STA board is scheduled for the Jan. 5 council meeting
- A presentation and update will be given on the Orchard Park project.
- Council will discuss and approve an on-call agreement and authorize the mayor to enter into the agreement.
- Reconfirmation of planning commission members is scheduled for the Jan. 5 council meeting.
- Council is expected to award the contract for Liberty Lake Road improvements and the Mission/Molter Road roundabout.
- A second read ordinance, adopting a lodging tax increase, is on the agenda for the Jan. 19 council meeting.

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NEWS

COUNCIL

Continued from page 11

Council addresses property tax hike on Nov. 24

The first vote on the property tax increase for 2016 took place on Nov. 24 at a meeting that was originally scheduled for the previous week but canceled due to the windstorm. Each year, the city has the option of adding 1 percent to the rate.

Stevenson reminded council members that the overall uptick in assessed property

value would mean a lower rate even with an additional 1 percent. In 2015, Liberty Lake checked in with \$1.196 billion in estimated property value, while the number is charted at \$1.259 for 2016. The rate stood at just over \$1.76 per \$1,000 in 2015.

The numbers were not sold on Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskas, who opposed the 1 percent change mainly due to the city's robust reserves.

"I cannot in good conscience support this increase when I consider our ending fund balance of over \$2 million," she said.

Dunne countered, saying the hike was

"more about sustaining the property tax rate from the previous years as opposed to increasing it."

In referring to the importance of property tax in funding the police department and library, Dunne added that revenue has historically been "inelastic" when compared to the volatility of sales tax. Moore, who spoke out against the 1-percent proposal, said property tax has not been without its own elastic features related to the upsurge in assessed value.

When the vote was finally called on the resolution, Dunne and Kopelson cast their support for the increase. Kaminskas and Moore were in opposition. The 2-2 tie — Langford, Severs and Shane Brickner missed the meeting with excused absences — meant the rate will not change for 2016. By statute, Peterson is not permitted to break a council draw in financial-related matters.

On the average, a 1 percent transition for 2016 would have meant \$4 more on property valued at \$250,000. The change would have netted the city around \$21,000 in additional revenue. Liberty Lake's rate of \$1.74 for 2016 will be lower than the neighboring jurisdictions of Spokane Valley, Millwood and Spokane. Adding in property tax from the Spokane Valley Fire District, Central Valley School District and five other entities, Liberty Lake property owners will pay \$14.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2016.

Council hears plans for Orchard Park

At the Dec. 1 council meeting, the governing board heard an overview of plans for Orchard Park, a sprawling greenspace in the River District that would complement the city's existing inventory of large-scale recreational sites headlined by Pavillion Park and Rocky Hill Park.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to enjoy a park in our own area," said John Harris, a resident of the River District at the meeting. "It will be refreshing."

Like many citizens who call the north side of Liberty Lake home, Harris and his family face a trek when accessing larger parks in the more developed portion of the city. While the River District is known for its smaller "pocket" parks, the burgeoning area still lacks a site featuring amenities like tennis courts and multi-use fields.

Harris has been joined by fellow residents of the River District in providing feedback on how Orchard Park might take shape. The city held its first public meeting on Oct. 8 and followed it up with another workshop on Nov. 19. On Dec. 1, Amanda Tainio, the city's planning and building services manager, said combined attendance for the meetings checked in at around 50 people.

"We want to make the park a fit for this part of the community," said Tainio as part of her "Envision Orchard Park" presentation. "It will be a walkable, bikeable park centrally located in the western part of the River District and on the same scale as

Rocky Hill and Pavillion parks."

The city has earmarked \$2.5 million for the first phase of the project. Tainio told council that the plan is to have an application to the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) ready by May 1. The city is eligible for up to \$500,000 in RCO matching funds, a funding approach that behooved both Pavillion and Rocky Hill parks.

At the public meetings, residents have chimed in on various features they see as priorities for Orchard Park, including multi-use fields, a play structure, shade trees, a splash pad and picnic shelter. There has also been talk of an amphitheater while the grounds will likely include pathways linked to the existing trail system.

Referring to landmarks like the old dance pavilion at the lake that was replicated at Pavillion Park and the rustic barn that sits on the perimeter of Rocky Hill, Tainio said the city is considering a combined theme at Orchard Park that would pay homage to the area's rich railroad history and the fruit orchards that once flourished in the rural surroundings.

Despite the recent activity surrounding Orchard Park, the wait will be considerable according to the timetable provided by Tainio on Dec. 1. They city won't hear an answer on the RCO grant until 2017 and, if all goes as scheduled, the park would celebrate grand opening of the first phase in 2018.

The city is in the process of selecting a consultant for the park design and will update council at the first meeting in January.

City honors DiCicco

Open chairs were scarce at the start of the Dec. 1 meeting as the city honored longtime grocery manager Dan DiCicco, now nearing the end of a long career. Employees, family and friends were in attendance to honor the man known by many as "Safeway Dan."

Hired by Safeway in 1970, DiCicco moved to Liberty Lake 15 years ago from Sandpoint when the company opened a store on Liberty Lake Road. Known for his friendly nature and commitment to a variety of civic causes, DiCicco was described by Mayor Peterson as "someone who is always looking out for our community."

"I think I speak on behalf of the entire city when I say how much we appreciate Dan," Peterson said. "He's a person I consider a mentor."

DiCicco remained manager when the store changed hands from Safeway to Haggen earlier this year. As the result of a decision in bankruptcy court, Haggen announced closure of the site in September. DiCicco said on Tuesday that Yoke's would be taking over the location and opening sometime in February.

"Hopefully, everyone will be back," DiCicco said, referring to his staff, many of whom have been employed at the store for a decade or more.



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



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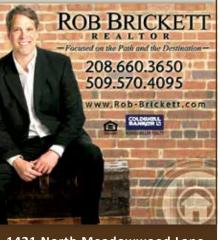


Welcome 2016!









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Destination: Change

Community figures dial up resolutions for New Year

By Craig HowardSPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

It's estimated that around 40 percent of Americans will make some sort of New Year's resolution heading into 2016. Dropping pounds, debt and unproductive time headline many lists, while adding hobbies, wisdom and better health compete for the top spot on the annual inventory of goals.

While the prioritization of upgrades might make sense with the start of a fresh year, retaining focus for a dozen months can be a different story. It turns out resolve requires a considerable helping of perseverance. Confucius may have said it best over 2,500 years ago — "When it is obvious that a goal cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."

In Liberty Lake, civic-minded goals have formed the foundation of what Mayor Steve Peterson commonly refers to as "Spokane County's premier address." When the lake itself became a quagmire of swirling sludge in the early 1970s, a group of residents resolved to clean it up, leading to the formation of the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District.

Similar grassroots efforts led to the construction of Pavillion Park, a world-class trail system and a library that began with citizens setting a goal of collecting books to stock the shelves. When it became clear in the late 1990s that Spokane County could not provide adequate coverage for the burgeoning area, a dedicated group formed an objective to put incorporation on the ballot, leading to the passage of cityhood in November 2000.

How important are goals? Ralph Marston, publisher of over 5,000 inspirational sayings on his site, "Daily Motivator," since 1996, offered this equation: "Your goals, minus your doubts, equal your reality."

When cognitive science pioneer Stephen Duneier went about setting resolutions for 2012, he mapped out a dozen "learning" and a dozen "giving" goals for the New Year. Referred to as "12 for 2012," the ambitious lineup included reading 50 books over 52 weeks, learning how to conquer headaches, running a half marathon and taking up the unicycle. On the

charitable side, Duneier built homes for those in need of shelter, signed up to be an organ and tissue donor, knitted items for Warm Up America and encouraged others to "pay it forward."

Keeping with the theme of a dozen, the Splash asked 12 recognizable residents to tell us about their aspirations as the calendar turns. Respondents come from a variety of fields, including government, business, the nonprofit realm and more. Those who answered gave us a pair of resolutions — one on the personal level and another with a broader theme related to the community, a business or a cause. The result is an impressive list of micro and macro objectives that, if accomplished, should have a noticeable ripple effect on Liberty Lake.

Let the betterment begin...



Katy Allen

City Administrator, Liberty Lake

Micro

To focus more on what is important while remembering the "3 L's," which are to live, laugh and learn. I need to stop and smell the roses, enjoying the moment and those I'm fortunate to call my friends. To be less serious and more joyous while seeking ways to connect more often with family, friends and colleagues — and I need to lose the same 15 pounds that was on my resolution list for 2015!

Macro

Contribute more to the community and to celebrate life in Liberty Lake, our mayor and council and our incredible city staff.



Brian Asmus

Chief, Liberty Lake Police Department

Micro

Spend more time with my family, specifically my dad and brother and his family that all live on the west side of the state. I have made time for my career and several volunteer organizations and excuses seem to prevent me from making the trip over to visit more often.

Macro

Professionally, I am committed to ensuring that Liberty Lake remains one of the safest cities in Washington by encouraging positive partnerships with the residents and business community and providing the officers with the training and equipment necessary to accomplish the mission.



Shaun Brown

Community volunteer, co-founder of The Liberty Lake Splash

Micro

I have a goal to make time to become very informed about the candidates for the 2016 election.

Macro

On May 5, 2015, I wandered into the Liberty Lake Library shortly before noon and glanced at the bulletin board. I saw an announcement for a National Day of Prayer Celebration being held at Pavillion Park at noon. I was thrilled to discover this event and rushed over to the park to join a handful of people from our community, singing patriotic songs and sharing thoughts about

our great country. I set myself a goal for 2016 to help get the word out about this great event so more people can attend.



Phil Champlin

Executive Director, HUB Sports Center

MICRO

I would like to be more active in 2016. I want to take more advantage of the activities and opportunities at the HUB Sports Center where I work.

MACRO

To continue collaboration with community groups to provide events and activities at the HUB Sports Center. To raise the necessary capital to purchase the HUB Sports Center and retain it as a permanent resource to this community for generations to come



Pat Dockrey

Executive Director, Food 4 Thought; longtime member, Liberty Lake Kiwanis

Micro

Personally, my wife and I are going to be downsizing in the next few years. Deciding exactly how that will work is a continuing process. What we agree on is that we will be staying in Liberty Lake.

MACRO

I encourage citizens to get informed about the upcoming city capital improvements. There are some important issues to be decided. Come to a council meeting to get your questions answered and make sure your voice is heard. I also encourage

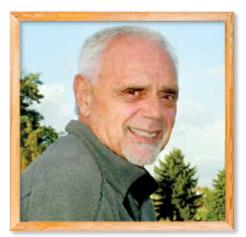
See CHANGE, page 15

COVER STORY

CHANGE

Continued from page 14

everyone to spend some time as a volunteer. Scouting, schools, churches, charities — they all need volunteers to do their job.



Jim Frank

Founder, Greenstone Homes

Micro

I'm working a little less now that our company has been handed off to a younger generation of leaders. The new year will be one of personal change. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to mentor those now in leadership roles and the opportunity to spend more time with my family and 11 grandchildren.

Macro

Liberty Lake has always stayed ahead of the need for community services — 2016 provides an opportunity to focus on the need for park, recreation and community center issues. Finalizing the design of the proposed community center/library/swimming pool in the town center location and the planned Orchard Park in the River District neighborhood will set our direction for many years. As a community, we need to resolve to put out best efforts into these projects.



Cris Kaminskas

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Liberty Lake

Micro

Instead of focusing on breaking bad habits, I like to focus on establishing new or

improved goals — but why wait until Jan.1? Start now! After taking almost a year off from running, I've already started an improved training plan so I can run my first 50K trail race this summer.

MACRO

Continue to improve communication with the community and educate them about what goes on in our city. More specifically, to provide unbiased information regarding the upcoming pool and community center at Town Square so voters can make a well-educated decision when the bond measure comes up for a vote in August.



Jessica Kovac

Co-founder, Blessings Under the Bridge

Micro

My New Year's resolution is to find balance. Spend more time with God, my family and myself. Be a better mother, wife, grandmother and friend. Live life simpler, less stressed and laugh more. Learn to slow down and breathe and finish my book.

Macro

To see people live, love and serve. My hope is to see more people doing more to help others in a way that comes without strings, conditions and hesitation. I would love to see those I serve find hope and happiness. Finally, that I can see and bring more Blessings Under the Bridge.



Pamela Mogen

Director, Liberty Lake Library

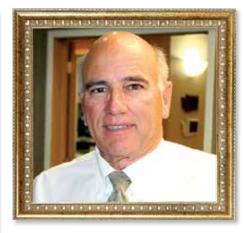
Micro

My most exciting personal resolution for 2016 is to visit my three sons in Texas,

Wahington, D.C., and Germany. Number two is to start writing my fifth book (as Pamela Aidan). My third resolution is to finish knitting my first pair of socks!

Macro

My goal for the library in 2016 is to enhance its role as the community's center, its "third place," fostering communication, collaboration and high quality educational opportunities. Our first step in 2016 will be to add Gale Courses to our digital offerings. I also look forward to the possibilities created by a new library home that will truly reflect its role as a civic and cultural landmark.



Steve Peterson

Mayor, Liberty Lake

Micro

Many people do not know that I am a student pilot and have been off and on for 35 years. In 2016, I will get my private pilot's license. To that end, I have been earnestly flying to build my flight hours so will be eligible to test out in 2016. Lesson learned: Never give up on your goal!

Macro

My city resolution is for us to reach out more to our community and engage them as we bring our projects forward. Our goal will be greater city presence on social media and try to encourage attendance and comments at our council meetings.



Steve Skipworth

Commissioner, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Micro

For 2016, I'm personally looking at working harder at retirement. Hopefully I'll do better.

Macro

As for the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, we will continue to serve the community of Liberty Lake with the same dedication we have in the past. This year, we will be starting our next upgrade to the water reclamation plant. The district has spent the last year finalizing the plans and lining up the financing, everything is coming together — not an easy task. I'm very proud of our staff. Also, I'm hoping for snow and rain — crazy I know, but needed.



Wayne Williams

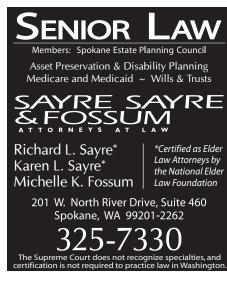
President and CEO, Telect

Micro

My goals for 2016 include the following: Read the entire bible in one year; it took me two years before. Do one fun thing a week for myself. Weekly "date night" with my wife as we enter our 32nd year of marriage. Invest in my children and their spouses as a life mentor. Play with and teach my grand-children about legacy and technology.

Macro

Invest in my "2:30 Team" of five people — those that I know will be there for me at 2:30 a.m., if needed. Hit greater than 20 percent revenue and gross margin growth for our business. Be a mentor to others in my spare time. My best to others as they, too, identify what can be impactful in their lives throughout the coming year. Happy New Year!



16 • JANUARY 2016 COMMUNITY The Splash



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■■■ Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jan. 1 | New Year's Day

Jan. 2 -3, 9-10 | Christmas tree recycle 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan, Spokane Valley. Local Boy Scout Troop 400 will be recycling with proceeds going to support the troop with 50+ boys from across the Spokane Valley. Minimum suggested donation is \$5 if you drop off the tree or \$10 if picked up from home (within approximately 10 minutes of CVHS and Liberty Lake area). To register for pick up or for more: www.troop400.net/trees

Jan. 2 | Stem-tacular Saturday 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Learn about electricity using snap circuit kits. Build models of doorbells, burglar alarms, radios and more. For more: 232-2510

Jan. 6 | Grange potluck and meeting 6 p.m., Tri Community Grange, 25025 Heather St., Newman Lake. A potluck will be followed by a 7 p.m. meeting for this community-based service organization. For more: 481-7447 or geje2@yahoo.com

Jan. 7 | Downton Abbey Party 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Celebrate the last season of Downton Abbey with likeminded fans, get movie and books suggestions to sustain you once the show ends, and play Downton Abbey games. Enter to win a copy of season 6 when it comes out Jan. 26. To register or for more: 232-2510 or https://goo.gl/tmwC4X

Jan. 12 | Winter Reading Program begins Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123

E. Mission Ave. The program is open to library users of all ages and runs through Feb. 27. The more you read, the more chances you have to win prizes. For more: 232-2510

Jan. 13 | STEM Academy Information Night 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Spokane Valley Tech, 115 S. University Road, Spokane Valley. For more: www.spokanevalleytech.org

Jan. 14 | Gut Health Workshop: Food/Body Connection 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Learn how food affects your health, as well as how to improve your immune system and select healthier food choices. The three-part series will continue on Feb. 4 with Gut Connection: You Are What You Can Digest and March 10 with Create Health with Real Food. For more: 232, 2510

Jan. 17-23 | Seek Week 7 p.m., Lakeside Church, 23129 E. Mission. This annual week of worship and prayer will have a daily theme of prayer for the community, families and children, our nation and more. For more: 210-9779 or lakesidechurch.cc.

Jan. 18 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 21 | Budgeting 101 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Take control of your finances with a budgeting plan that is simple and effective. Learn the importance of setting financial goals as well as steps to a successful spending plan. For more: www.stcu.org

Jan. 21 | Relay for Life Kickoff 6:30 to 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Elementary School, 23606 E. Boone Ave. An evening of food, music, games and prizes will kick off planning for the 2016 Liberty Lake Relay for Life that will be held June 4 at the school. For more: libertylakerelay@gmail.com or 242-8303

Jan. 22-24 | Living with Forgiving retreat 6 p.m. (Fri.) to 1 p.m. (Sun.), Immaculate Hearth Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., Spokane. Liberty Lake resident Charlie Finck will lead this forgiveness retreat. Cost is \$192 per person, \$294 per couple or \$100 for commuters. To register or for more: www.ihrc.net or 448-1224

Jan. 28 | Movie night: "Goosebumps" 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The public is invited to a free viewing of this PG-rated movie. For more: 232-2510

Jan. 29 | Storytime featuring Caldecott winners Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. For more: 232-2510

Recurring

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

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

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

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

Liberty Lake Municipal Library 23123 E. Mission Avenue. Toddler and preschool story times, Create space for kids, Baby lap-sit story time, Lego club, Knitting Club, kids crafts and more. For times and more: 232-2510

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Jan. 4, 5 | "On Having Good Fortune" auditions 6 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. Ages 18 and

See CALENDAR, page 17

JANUARY 2016 • 17 The Splash

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

Continued from page 16

up are encouraged to audition for the show performing March 3-12. For more: facebook. com/libertylaketheatre

Jan. 23 | "This, That or The Other"

8 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. Tickets are \$7 at the door for this improv show. For more: facebook.com/ libertylaketheatre

Jan. 29 | Live music Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. A variety of local musicians will perform. For more: facebook.com/libertylaketheatre

Jan. 30 | Play In A Day Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. For more: facebook.com/libertylaketheatre

Recurring

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

— Next meetings are Jan. 18 and 25

CIVIC & BUSINESS

Jan. 12 | Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL) 12:45 to 2 p.m., True Legends, 1803 N. Harvard Road. The group will focus on goal setting for the new year. For more:

Jan. 22 | Gem of the Valley Gala: **Annual Awards of Excellence** 5:30 to 9 p.m., Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Road. The public is invited to this 13th annual event featuring auctions, dinner and awards program to highlight businesses and individuals in the community. Tickets are \$55 per person; VIP tables are \$600 for preferred seating for eight. For more: www. spokanevalleychamber.org

Recurring

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

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

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

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

Liberty Lake Municipal Library board 10:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

Liberty Lake Planning Commission

4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each

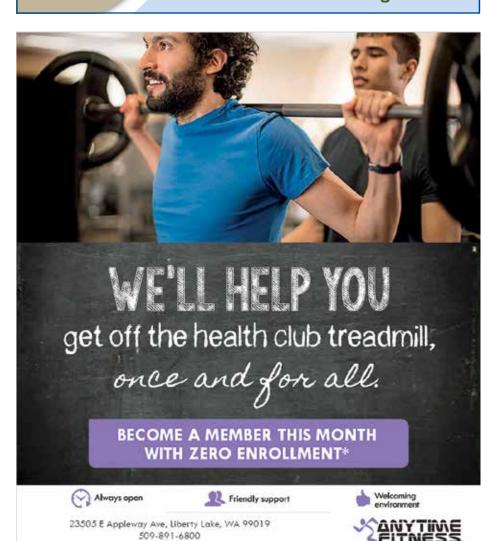
month, City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive.



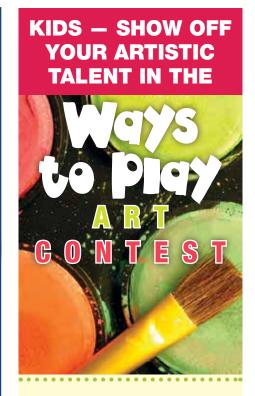
OPEN REGISTRATION: January 1st to March 8th **LATE REGISTRATION:** XXXXIII March 9th to March 15th

🚺 Find us on facebook or at www.riverviewlittleleague.com

Get to a healthier place:



onytime fitness.com



Elementary kids who live or attend school in Liberty Lake are encouraged to enter this contest for the 2016 Liberty Lake Guide by following three simple steps:

Draw, color or paint a picture of what it means to play in our community, whether that be a place to explore, experience nature or enjoy time with friends!

2 Drop off your artwork by **JANUARY 15**

to the Peridot Publishing office (23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 102) with your name, age, school, grade and contact info.

6 Discover if your picture is featured in the Guide coming out in April 2016. Prizes from community businesses will also be awarded to top entries.

Draw. Drop off. Discover. It's that simple, so get creating!

> **Questions?** Email guide@peridot.info



See CALENDAR, page 18

COMMUNITY

Community Briefs

LL Relay for Life kicks off

The 2016 Liberty Lake Relay for Life will host a kick-off meeting Jan. 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Liberty Lake Elementary School, 23606 E. Boone Ave.

The public is invited for an evening of food, music, games, prizes and more to prepare for the actual Relay event on June 4 at Liberty Lake Elementary.

For more, contact Kevin Johnson at libertylakerelay@gmail.com or Taylor Johnson at 242-8303 or taylor.johnson@cancer.org.

Residential info sought for Liberty Lake Guide

The Liberty Lake Guide is currently soliciting residential information to be included in the 2016 book. Listings typically include last and first name, address and residential phone number.

Residents who are new to the area or who have recently changed their address or phone number are encouraged to email the correct information to guide@peridot.info to guarantee inclusion in the annual publication. Those who have submitted information for past directories are encouraged to confirm their information for the 2016 directory.

The Guide purchases listings from local phone providers, but residents have the option of requesting their information not be included by emailing guide@peridot.info by Jan. 15.

Photo contest entries due

The Liberty Lake Guide is looking for photos that convey what makes Liberty Lake a unique place to live for its annual photo contest. The deadline to enter this contest is Jan. 15.

Whether it's a breathtaking outdoor scene or a beautiful shot of residents gathering at a local event, shutterbugs are asked to submit images capturing the essence of the community. Selected images will be featured in the 2016 Liberty Lake Guide.

Amateur or professional photographers

age 16 or older are eligible to enter. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. For rules and details, click www.liber-tylakesplash.com/special/photo_contest. asp.

Public invited to annual lakes conference

The 15th annual Regional Lakes Conference will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 6 at Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St.

Jeremy Jenkins, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District lake protection manager, is serving as conference organizer. Topics covered at this free conference will include student research, state programs, local stewardship and invasive plants and animals.

To register or for more, call 922-5443 or visit lakesconference.libertylake.org.

GraceSon hosts fundraiser

GraceSon Housing, an organization that provides housing and hope to teens moms and their children, is holding a semi-formal event 6 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Liberty Lake resident Holly Haneke is the executive director of the non-profit.

The fundraiser is described as a beautiful, bright evening with dinner, music and dancing. Semi-formal, bright attire is requested. Tickets cost \$75 per person, \$600 for a table of eight of \$750 or a table of 10.

To register online, visit http://graceson-housing.ejoinme.org/BNOH.

Tickets on sale for dance

Tickets are on sale for the 11th annual Father Daughter Dance to be held 7 to 9 p.m. March 5 at CenterPlace Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley.

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

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

CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

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

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

HEALTH & RECREATION

Jan. 1 | Riverview Little League registration opens Register online to play baseball in the Valley area. For more: www.riverviewlittleleague.com

Jan. 3 | Frost Fest Volleyball 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. Scrimmage other U12, U14 and U16 teams. Cost is \$100 per team. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Jan. 8 | Warrior Camp MMA Event 7 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. The cost of admission for these live MMA Cage Fights is \$20-30. Tickets can be purchased at Warrior Camp, 5027 E. Trent in Spokane. For more: www.warriorcampfitness.

Jan. 9-10 | Spokane Health & Fitness

Expo 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sat.) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sun.), Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, Spokane Valley. This expo will provide free classes, health tests, samples and more. Admission, which is good all weekend, is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids ages 6 to 12. For more: www. spokanehealthfitexpo.com

Jan. 9 | Elks National Hoop Shoot

3 p.m., Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Kids between the ages of 8 and 13 are invited to show their skills at the free throw line. The contest sponsored by the Elks is open to boys and girls. Contestants are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the event to register. Contestants who win the National title at the National Finals will have their names inscribed in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. For more: www.elks.org/hoopshoot

Jan. 10, 24, 31 | Evergreen Region Volleyball Tournament HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www. hubsportscenter.org **Jan. 22 | Stinky Sneaker games** 5 p.m., Spokane Arena, 720 W. Mallon, Spokane. Central Valley and U-Hi boys and girls varsity teams will play their annual rivalry game. For more: www.cvsd.org

Jan. 24 | Futsal Fest Adult Tournament 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. There are divisions for men, women and coeds, as well as high school, under 30 and over 30 players. Cost is \$175 per team if registered by Jan. 4 (\$200 after this date). For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

Jan. 27 | Battle of the Bone Wrestling 7 p.m., University High School, 12420 E. 32nd Ave., Spokane Valley. U-Hi will host this rivalry wrestling tournament versus Central Valley. For more: www.cvsd.org

Recurring

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

Windermere marathon registration

open Registration for the June 5 marathon or half marathon from the Valley area to Spokane is open. Cost is \$80 for marathon and \$75 for half marathon; prices will increase after Jan. 31. To register or for more: www. windermeremarathon.com

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

- Badminton open gym: 7 to 9 p.m. Tues., \$5/ person
- Basketball open gym: Noon to 1 p.m. Tues. and Thurs., \$4/person
- Pickleball drop-in: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.; 7 to 9 p.m. Sun. \$2/seniors (\$4/non-seniors)
- Table Tennis: 7 to 9:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; \$3/player
- Classes including Keno Karate, Modern Farang-Mu Sul, Wing Chun Kung Fun and Zumba Aerobics. See website for cost and times

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



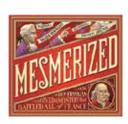
Book Review

Author helps kids explore scientific method

By Jandy Humble

LIBERTY LAKE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

In Mara Rockcliff's "Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France," Ben Franklin journeys to France to seek their help for the American



Revolution. While there, he finds France abuzz by the work of Dr. Mesmer and his magic wand. Dr. Mesmer is able to cure everyone's ailments. How

does he do it? Will Ben Franklin be able to figure it out?

Through a captivating plot and brilliant illustrations by Iacopo Bruno that draw you in, Rockcliff teaches children about history, science and the powers of the human mind. Geared toward those in grades 2-5, readers are sure to be as mesmerized as the characters in Rockcliff's book. This is a new book at the library, so come check it out!

Jandy Humble is youth services librarian at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Library Briefs

Reading Program starts Jan. 12

The library's Winter Reading Program begins Jan. 12 and runs through Feb. 27.

Open to readers of all ages, one completed book equals one entry slip eligible for prizes. More information will be available at the library the beginning of January.

Calling all tweens and teens

Interested in joining a tween or teen book club? Or are you in need of volunteer hours and willing to plan fun events for teens in the community?

Ages 12 and up can sign up for the book club at http://goo.gl/forms/nTSCvjmPEX or submit information to volunteer at http://goo.gl/forms/x9Q8fVhgT4. For more, contact Jandy Humble, youth services librarian.

Coming up in February...

The library is looking forward to a fabulous series of events in February, including:

- Valentine's Day card-making activity, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. Kids ages five and up are invited to create personalized cards.
- Book exchange, Feb. 11, 4 to 6 p.m. In celebration of International Give a Book Day, the library is hosting an exchange of newer, undamaged books.
- Movie night featuring "Hotel Transylvania 2" (PG), Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.

Volunteers keep library functioning smoothly

By Tammy Kimberley SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wondered how the Liberty Lake Municipal Library staff keeps the shelves stocked with books in their appropriate places? Or how they find time to decorate for the holidays or prepare activities for the children's department?

The simple answer is that they don't do it alone. The work of volunteers is critical to the running of the library, said Adult Services Librarian Shardè Mills.

"We have a smaller library staff and really depend on the volunteers to help us maintain the library," Mills said. "We go through so many books on a daily basis, the time and energy that goes into putting them back on the shelves is considerable. We depend on our volunteers to keep us running smoothly."

The library currently has about 10 regular volunteers who help repair broken items and assist with projects in addition to shelving books. Some know every book in the children's department and help keep it clean and organized, which Mills said can be quite an endeavor. Many of the volunteers are committed to coming in weekly and providing special help when big events arise.

The Splash recently caught up with three library volunteers to ask three questions about why volunteering is rewarding... and how more help is always needed.

Kristie Garner, 68, volunteering since 2009

Why did you decide to volunteer at the library?

I love children. I had worked in the CV district as a teacher's aide for kids with special needs, from preschool all the way through age 21. On the day that the library was moving to its current location, I went down and said I wanted to help. They needed the shelves cleaned off, so I spent eight hours for five days cleaning them. I physically helped them put together the children's section, and that's where I've been ever since.

What tasks are you responsible for?

I'm old but I'm strong and limber. I decorate for the holidays with another volunteer. I also prepare projects for the kids to do. If they decide to add more bins in the children's section, I do it. If they don't have projects for me, then my job in my mind is to try to get my hands on every solitary book every week.

What do you appreciate most about the library?

The staff tries so hard to get into the

new century and technology aspect. They brought in tablets for children in our section. I've always liked the library, and I just love being around the children.

Cindy Jonz, 69, volunteering since 2011

Why did you decide to volunteer at the library?

I am a retired school teacher—I taught seventh grade English for 32 years—so books and reading will always be important to me. I thought about what I wanted to do, besides spend time with my grandkids, and how I wanted to give of my time to the community.

What tasks are you responsible for?

A lot of everything. When I started, it was mainly shelving books. I also found that I could help parents or middle-school children find books of interest, because of my teaching field. I can also check in books. Because Liberty Lake is part of larger consortium, there are people who put holds on books in our system — we have to check those in and make sure they get to the right library. I help prepare for parties or special events — whatever is coming up.

What do you appreciate most about the library?

I've been impressed from day one with the staff. All of the staff are so well-trained on the use of the computers, very knowledgeable and friendly. They are wonderful people, very community-oriented.

Madison Flint, 16, volunteering since 2013

Why did you decide to volunteer at the library?

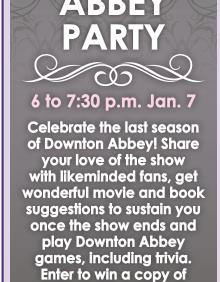
As part of Central Valley High School requirements, students have to volunteer for community service hours. I was looking for a local place to serve. I volunteered in libraries in elementary and middle school so I thought it would be a good fit for me.

What tasks are you responsible for?

I shelve books or help patrons find books they're looking for. I can also pull holds. If they come up to me and ask to find a book on any topic, I can direct them to where they should look for it. I can pretty much find anything there.

What do you appreciate most about the library?

I appreciate the environment, and I like to help other people. Also, the staff is great. You don't have to commit crazy amounts of time—even a little bit helps. They can always use help shelving books, plus it's really fun.



LAUNCH INTO 2016 AT YOUR LIBRARY!

season 6 when it comes

out Jan. 26. Registration

required at https://goo.gl/

tmwC4X or call 232-2510.

Budgeting 101

6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 21

This STCU workshop will help you take control of your financial life with a simple, effective budgeting plan that covers the importance of financial goals, five steps to a successful spending plan, managing your plan and setting goals to put your plan into action.

Gut Health Workshop: A Three-Part Series

Learn how food affects our health, how to improve your immune system and how to make healthier food choices. Classes build upon one another with time between to practice and implement changes.

Come to all classes or a select few, beneficial for all!

Session 1 – Food/Body Connection: "When the Outside Meets the Inside"

6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 14

Session 2 – Gut Connection: "You Are What You Can Digest"

6 to 7 p.m. Feb. 4

Session 3 – "Create Health with Real Food"

6 to 7 p.m. March 10



www.libertylakewa.gov/library 23123 E. Mission Ave. Liberty Lake • 232-2510 **20** • JANUARY 2016 **The Splash LOCAL LENS**

Splash Travels



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Clockwise from above: Adam and Robyn Zahand took The Splash along on a summer trip to Scotland and Ireland where they visited the Bunratty Castle in Ireland.

David and Carol Johns and Lane and Joni Hubbard packed The Splash when they traveled to Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island, Bahamas. They were there to cheer on the Gonzaga Bulldogs at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Shane Brickner poses with his friend, Kevin, and The Splash while in San Francisco cage diving for great white sharks.

HUB celebrates 1,000,000



Shutterbug Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Michael Hassett recently shot several local wildlife photos (clockwise from above): An otter eating a fish caught in a frozen Saltese Flats pond; a cedar waxwing on a snowy day; a northern harrier (also known as a marsh hawk) hunting in Saltese Flats; and a mountain chickadee along the Liberty Lake trail.











shared photos of her cats, Bella and Christmas spirit.





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

McCaslin visits Pioneer School



Fourth District State Representative Bob McCaslin visited Pioneer School recently to discuss citizenship.

The HUB staff welcomed their one millionth patron, seventh grader Alexys Deatherage, on Nov. 21.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



LOCAL LENS

Boo Ball champs



The 5th grade boys championship trophy in Spokane AAU's November Boo Ball Tournament was captured by the No Mercy Ballers team. Pictured are coach Fred Miller, Jalen King, Scotty Hocking, Eli Williams, Dakota Means, Jamil Miller, Kohlby Sorweide, Isaac Richardson, Max Allen and coach Tommy Williams (Liberty Lake resident highlighted in bold).



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The 6th grade boys NBC Stars team took home the AAU Boo Ball Championship in their age division. Pictured are Trey Arland, Dayton Wells, Joey Neer, Tayshawn Colvin, Tyler Mumm, Dylan Darling, Braden Schmidt and Ryan Griego.



CALLING ALL

We are looking for photos that convey what makes Liberty Lake a unique place to live for our sixth annual photography contest. Whether they capture the beautiful landscape, the bustling activities or the varying seasons, we're asking photographers to share photos that communicate the essence the community.

The winner's photo, along with other selected images, will be featured inside the newly rebranded 2016 Liberty Lake Guide. Prizes will be awarded as well, so be sure to shoot and share local photos with the Guide!

- Photographers (amateur or professional) age 16 years and older are eligible to enter.
- Deadline is January 15, 2016. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners.
- Visit www.libertylakesplash.com for a complete set of rules.



Peridot Publishing of Liberty Lake is sponsoring this contest.

guide@peridot.info

These are a few of your favorite things ...

SHARE FAVORITES • HONOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS • ENTER TO WIN

Our annual publication, the 2016 Liberty Lake Guide, is landing April 2016, and we want to incorporate your favorites into this year's publication. How can you be involved?

STEP 1:

Choose at least 10 of the categories below, and send in your "favorites" (and, as much as you are able, WHY they are your favorites) to favorites@peridot.info by Jan. 15.

You can also mail your entry to PO Box 363, Liberty Lake WA 99019, or fill out the survey at www.libertvlakesplash.com/surveys. if you prefer. And yes, you can answer all 20 if you want to, you overachiever!)

STEP 2:

Look for your answers to be interspersed throughout the new 2016 Liberty Lake Guide. (Hint: This is a great way to give a public "tip of the cap" to local people and other standouts. We plan to cram as many "favorites" into the publication as possible.)

STEP 3:

Include your name, city of residence, email address and phone number with your entry, as each person who responds by the deadline is entered to win a \$100 gift card to a local business of your choice. (That's a lotta lattes — or whatever you choose to spend the dough on.) Winner will be contacted by Feb. 1.

We will only use your phone number or email address to contact you if you win the drawing — they will not be shared or reproduced publicly.

My local favorites:

- 1. Neighbor
- 2. Teacher
- 3. Nonprofit or community organization
- 4. Community member or volunteer
- 5. Business person or employee
- 6. Medical/dental care provider
- 7. Government official or employee
- 8. Event
- 9. Business
- 10. Place to be pampered
- 11. Coffee shop order
- 12. Thing to order at a nearby restaurant
- 14. Running route (or bicycling route)
- 15. Natural landmark or scene
- 16. Place to play (park, recreation area, golf course, etc.)
- 17. Exercise amenity (a place, partner or thing)
- 18. Lake activity
- 19. Item of local trivia or nostalgia
- 20. Thing about living here

By sharing your favorites with us, you acknowledge that your name and favorites may be published in our 2016 Liberty Lake Guide.



purposes only

Remembering JFK insider's Liberty Lake visits

Pierre Salinger's White House role scored phone for the Joy family cabin

By Edward Joy

LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pierre Salinger, President John F. Kennedy's press secretary, first visited Liberty Lake in the summer of 1956 and married my sister, Nancy, in June 1957. He made several subsequent visits to our cabin prior to Kennedy's election in November 1960.

The election changed my brother-inlaw's life. Overnight, Pierre Salinger became a household name, recognized everywhere. When Pierre and Nancy paid our family a visit in the summer of 1961, he could no longer arrive or depart without arousing the eager curiosity of just about everyone. Pierre was always jovial and friendly and became well known to many Liberty Lake residents. He could often be seen on our sandy beach taking a swim, playing a round of golf at the original Liberty Lake course, or holding forth with a political discussion, often with cigar in hand.

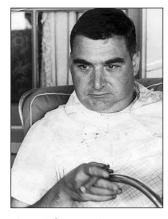
To our family, he seemed just like the Pierre we had known before the election but now with a vitally important position in the White House. Now he had to be within contact of the President at all times. My father, Harper Joy, treasured his time at the lake as his private refuge from the pressures of business, and he steadfastly refused to have a telephone installed. We are talking about a rotary-dial landline here! That would never do for the President's press secretary. A precondition for Pierre's visit to the Joy family cabin in August 1961 was that a private line phone be installed. Dad reluctantly agreed but insisted that he would have the phone removed immediately after the visit. Ironically, the Joy family, including Dad, quickly became accustomed to having a phone and it never was removed!

Pierre and Nancy again visited in the summers of 1962 and 1963, but their visit for the Joy family reunion in August 1963 was to be his last. The terrible events of Nov. 22, 1963, changed everything for my brother-in-law. He remained on as President Lyndon B. Johnson's press secretary for a few unhappy months, and after an unsuccessful run for a vacant U.S. Senate seat in California in 1964, he left the political arena and returned to his first vocations: journalism and writing.

Edward Joy is the youngest child of Harper and Dorothy Joy. He grew up spending summers at his family's cabin along Wicomico Beach at Liberty Lake.



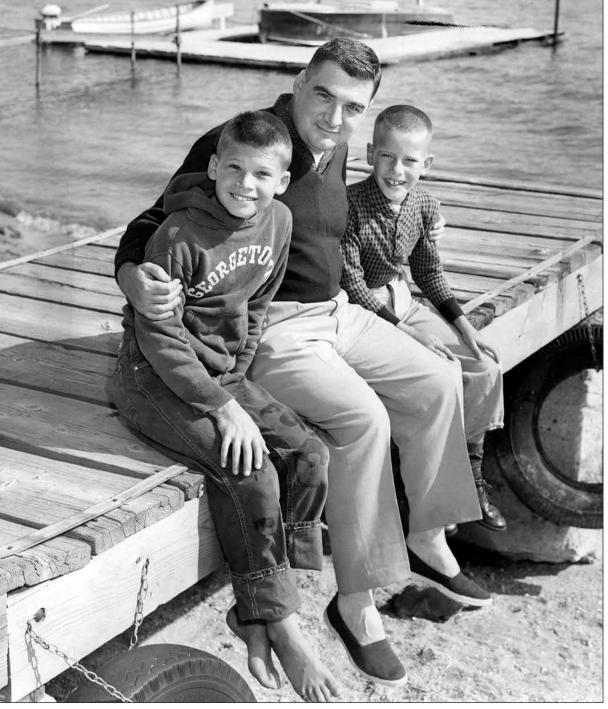
Pierre Salinger was the press secretary for President John F. Kennedy. Salinger spoke with the 35th U.S. president most every morning and night and served in his administration from January 1961 until Kennedy's assassination in November 1963. The two are shown together in this circa 1962 photo.



Pierre Salinger enjoys some solitude on the porch of the Joy family lake cabin during a 1961 visit to Liberty Lake.



Pierre Salinger's U.S. Senate run was the subject of this Time Magazine cover story from Oct. 16, 1964.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pierre Salinger enjoys time with sons Marc, left, 11, and Stephen, 8, in front of the Joys' Liberty Lake cabin in this 1961 photo.

In Biz

Fieldhouse Pizza to open soon

Fieldhouse Pizza and Tap House is scheduled to open in January at 1235 N. Liberty Lake Road. The restaurant will serve pizza, pasta, sandwiches, soups and salads and will also have a full service bar including a selection of wines and rotating local beers on tap.

Spokane-based Nelson+Phelps Hospitality Inc. began remodeling the 5,000-square-foot space last summer to accommodate dining for families and sports teams. The new location will employ approximately 20 to 30 people, according to owner Liz Nelson.

The company's original Fieldhouse restaurant is located at 4423 W. Wellesley on Spokane's north side. Owned by Liz and Curt Nelson and Todd Phelps, Nelson+Phelps Hospitality began in 2006 and also owns and operates Steelhead Bar and Grille, Selkirk Pizza and Tap House, Morty's Tap and Grille and The Beryl Seafood and Steakhouse.

Yoke's comes to LL

Yoke's Foods, Inc., recently announced it acquired the store lease and certain assets from Haggen Holdings, LLC, for the location at 1233 North Liberty Lake Road. The acquisition closed Dec. 8.

A press release said Yoke's anticipates investing over \$1 million over the next three months to improve the store for the Liberty Lake community.

The Liberty Lake location will be the company's thirteenth store. The independent regional grocery chain is based in Spokane and has locations in the Spokane area, Tri-Cities and north Idaho.

"We're thrilled to become a part of the Liberty Lake community," Yoke's Fresh Market CEO John Bole said. "We are committed to the communities in which we live and work, and we are proud to be 100 percent employee-owned."

Staffing for the Liberty Lake store will occur in early 2016. Updates will be posted beginning in mid-January on the Yoke's website, www.yokesfreshmarket.com.

STCU adds regional managers

STCU recently promoted or hired four

people to regional positions that oversee multiple STCU branch locations.

Brandy Schloss oversees STCU's Moran Prairie, South and Cheney branch locations. A 10-year employee, Schloss previously managed the STCU's South Branch and is working on her bachelor's degree. She volunteers with Reach for the Future, which helps students prepare and pay for post-secondary education.

A 17-year STCU employee, Lisa Chitwood oversees STCU's South Valley, Valley and Liberty Lake branch locations after previously managed the credit union's North Branch. Chitwood holds as associate's degree from North Idaho College and a bachelor's in finance from the University of Idaho.

Nikki Butler oversees STCU's Indian Trail, North and Northtown Square branch locations. A 10-year employee, Butler previously managed the Northtown Square location. She holds an associate's degree and is working on a bachelor's degree. Butler also volunteers with Reach for the Future.

Jon Holland joined STCU in July and oversees STCU's Hutton, Downtown and U-District branch locations. He has a bachelor's degree from Boise State University and previously worked as Alaska USA Federal Credit Union. The U.S. Army veteran served in Operation Just Cause in Panama and with 101st Airborne Division in the Gulf War. Holland will also oversee the Qualchan Branch, slated to open in 2016.

Family Home Care recognized

Family Home Care was one of 13 companies honored at the 6th annual Washington Family Business Awards by Seattle Business magazine in November. Family Home Care won the top spot in the midsize firm category.

"We are deeply honored to be recognized for the work we have done to create a company that is founded on the value of family and lives family values," said Jeff Wiberg, president and CEO. "Being in a family business is challenging; we are pleased that the systems and goals we adhere to are seen as best practice."

Family Home Care, 22820 E. Appleway, has over 325 employees that serve hundreds of clients in the Inland Northwest.



members of the Wiberg family, who own Family Home Care, were in attendance at the ceremony that honored their busi-

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sports Briefs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sarah Nicholls posed with Olympian Missy Franklin during the AT&T Winter National Swimming Championships.

Nicholls competes in national meet

Sarah Nicholls, a Central Valley High School sophomore and member of the Coeur d'Alene Area Swim Team, competed at the AT&T Winter National Swimming Championships in Federal Way in early December. She qualified for this meet as a 15-year-old, making her one of the 30 youngest athletes out of the 700 swimmers in attendance.

In the 100 breaststroke, her time of 1:13.21 finished 56th overall. In the 200 breaststroke, she entered the meet seeded 72nd and finished 47th with a time of 2:39.51.

Winter Nationals attracts many of the best swimmers of all ages from around the country. Olympic gold medalists Michael Phelps, Missy Franklin and Nathan Adrian competed over the course of the three day meet against dozens of other Olympians, as well as several Division One university teams including Stanford and Michigan.

Free throw contest to be held at CV

A free throw shooting contest for boys and girls ages 8 to 13 will be held 3 p.m. Jan. 9 at Central Valley High School, 821 S. Sullivan Road. Those interested in showing their skills at the free throw line just need to show up 30 minutes early.

The Elks is in its 87th year of sponsoring the Elks Free Throw Hoop Shoot contest. For more, visit www.elks.org/hoopshoot/.

Speedskating duo claims medals

Liberty Lake residents Lucas Kinney, 13, and his father Russell Kinney, 57, recently competed in a speedskating competition in Tacoma that was held in conjunction with the National Speedskating Circuit (NSC) races.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lucas Kinney and Russell Kinney show the medals they won at a speedskating competition held Thanksgiving weekend in Tacoma.

Russell wrote that the race was a cool experience to see the best inline skaters in the world. At one point, Lucas raced in a Pro-Am relay race that paired him with another competitor in his age bracket and a professional NSC skater.

Inline Speedskating was adopted in the 1980s and is considered a candidate in future Olympics. Russell described the sport as "rollerblades on steroids," with larger wheels and custom fitted boots for a much faster ride.

This father and son duo practices with the Coeur d'Alene Inline Speedskating Team located at the Skate Plaza roller rink in Coeur d'Alene.

SEE MORE SPORTS ON P. 25



1235 North Liberty Lake Road, Suite 104

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LIBERTY LAKE





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Are you playing fair?

By Steve Wilson SPLASH GUEST COLUMN



As I pulled on my striped shirt and adjusted my hat prior to walking onto CenturyLink Field, I was thinking about two of the players on the Seattle Seahawks football team. As a referee in the National Football League, I am charged with a single assignment: to be fair. I cannot prejudge anyone or any team. I must be objective on every play, from the beginning of the game until the final gun sounds.

And yet, I simply could not get these two players out of my mind. The media had spoken about them and their on-field issues. So I made a conscious decision to speak with them prior to the game. I caught one of the player's eyes, and he came over and called his teammate with him. The first thing I did was to encourage each one of them to have their very best game. I expressed how hard I knew they had worked this past week to prepare and that I had done the same thing to prepare myself to be at my best.

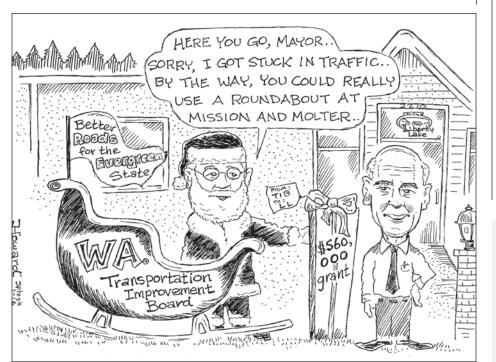
I wanted them to know that even though I had read many articles and heard several television stories relating to their actions on the field, that I would not prejudge them whatsoever. I would be looking for them to perform at their very best within the rules of our game. We parted ways with a handshake and a smile.

The Arizona Cardinals kicked off that day ... and play after play I saw these two Seahawks perform much differently than I had witnessed on film or in the media. They were encouraging and complimenting their opponents on almost every play, and our game was as smooth as any game I have officiated during my career. Very few flags were thrown, and the teams played inspired football.

Fairness always begins with the right attitude toward others. Don't prejudge anyone until you've had an opportunity to meet them and understand their story. Life will be so much better if you give others the benefit of the doubt.

Steve Wilson, former NFL Official (#29), joined the National Football League in 1999. Prior to that, Steve refereed for 18 years in major college football, which included the Pac-10 Conference. He graduated from East Valley High School and Whitworth University. He was one of the first members of the PACE leadership team. He wrote this as part of a series on the PACE character traits of the month. The trait for January is "fairness."

Editorial Cartoon



View all of the content in The Splash at:

www.libertylakesplash.com

Letter to the Editor

Liberty Lube deserves praise

It is not often that I recognize a business. But when a local business excels at what they do, I feel compelled to recognize them. Liberty Lube is one such business among many great local stores here in Liberty Lake.

I always take my vehicles to my dealership for service even when out of warranty. However, one day I decided to take my 2010 Forester to Liberty Lube and check out the local service and compare it to the big box maintenance shops. I was really surprised at the level of service, facility and price. The facility is well maintained and purpose-built. The technicians access your car via a lower bay and do a multi-point check. The waiting room is clean and warm with complimentary water, coffee and tea. Seating is comfortable and a TV is there for your distraction.

You meet with the technician to decide what is to be done, they compare what lubricants were used previously, and then confirm the service. If they find any deficiencies, they bring it to your attention along with cost to repair. In my case, they found a light bulb not working and it cost \$3 for a new one. The total cost of service was perhaps 60 percent of a similar service at a dealership.

Where Liberty Lube really differentiates itself from other "quick" lube stations is their commitment to service, pricing and no misleading maintenance issues or scare tactics. This is a big deal and I am so proud to have them here in Liberty Lake. Liberty Lube performed head and shoulders above other vehicle service providers and they captured my future business. And fellas, I would have no hesitation sending my better half, who is less mechanically inclined, to have her vehicles serviced with no hesitation! (No offense intended for the mechanicallyinclined ladies out there!)

> Tom Henderson Liberty Lake

About the Opinion Page

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

Letters to the editor of no more than 350 words or guest columns of about 700 words should be emailed to editor@libertylakesplash.com.

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

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The Splash is published monthly by or before the first of each month. It is distributed free of charge to every business and home in the greater Liberty Lake area. Additional copies are located at dropoff locations in Liberty Lake and Otis Orchards.



Submitted materials

Announcements, obituaries, letters to the editor and story ideas are encouraged. Submit them in writing to editor@libertylakesplash.com or bring them by The Splash office. Submissions should be received by the 15th of the month for best chance of publication in the following month's Splash.

Subscriptions

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

Correction policy

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

Advertising information

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

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SPORTS

CV basketball off to hot start



By Mike Vlahovich SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

You'd likely have to go back to the infancy of high school girls basketball to read a dominant individual stat line like this.

Central Valley sophomore Lexie Hull scored 39 of her team's 49 points in the Bears 14-point victory over rival University.

Hull was averaging 24 points per game, nearly 40 percent of the team total, as CV jumped off to a 4-0 start. Going into Christmas break, they had extended that to a 7-0 start, including a victory against another top league contender, Lewis and Clark, on Dec. 19.

Both the Bears girls and boys teams were predicted to be the Greater Spokane League favorites. The senior-dominated boys stumbled a bit early, losing at Gonzaga Prep 68-51, but had consistent double figures effort by Cameron Tucker and Josh Thomas and an added lift from Ryan Rehkow through their first four games.

Thomas was averaging 15.5 points per game and Tucker 12.0 through four games. CV stood at 5-2 heading into the holiday

Wrestlers hit the mats

Central Valley wrestlers had a successful start under new coach Shaun Williams.

The Bears opened the league season with a pair of dominant wins over Ferris and Gonzaga Prep and placed third in the Inland Empire Classic, hosted by the Bears.

The Bears had individual champions in Bryson Beard and Braeden Orrino, the latter winning his 145-pound weight class by pin in the third round. Christian Hill at 120 pounds and Wyatt Whickam at 285 finished second.

Other placers were Zach Stratton (170) third, Bridger Beard and Gage Connole fourth and fifth (138), and Tyrell Sims (113) fifth.

Youth is served

Central Valley's gymnastics team is young, but it didn't stop them from opening the season with victory over Mt. Spokane, University, Cheney and Lewis and Clark.

There are only three seniors on the Bears team, including state placing veteran McKinzie Carter, Savannah Folsom and Bethany Gehrett, and no juniors.

The roster includes eight sophomores and six freshmen for coach Kim Brunelle.

Carter and Folsom helped CV to a 162.575 score, the highest among all schools for the first week of competition.

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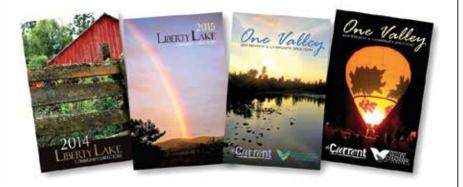
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Community for your continued support of this year's Holiday Ball. It was a fantastic, event that further strengthens the mission of FOPP. We are energized by your generosity and are excited to get working on our events calendar for 2016!

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