

THE Splash

LIBERTY LAKE'S COMMUNITY NEWSMAGAZINE
MARCH 2015

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Time for a turn?

While some hope to stay the course with Liberty Lake's famously firm sign code, recommended changes are receiving traction

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FIREWORKS
SHOW TO
JULY 4 | **PAGE 6**



HISTORICALLY,
LAKE WAS AREA'S
SOCIAL HOT
SPOT | **PAGE 34**



FRIENDSHIP
SPURRED LAUNCH
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New pillar at the park

Frank takes over as FOPP president

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Joe Frank can remember when Pavillion Park emerged from a pedestrian patch of land to become a thriving community gathering place more than two decades ago.

His father, Jim — founder and CEO of Greenstone Homes — was part of a grassroots effort to make the park a reality along with fellow community advocates like Lud Kramer, Margaret Barnes, Ross Schneidmiller and Leslie Zilka in the mid-1990s. Friends of Pavillion Park was formed as the programming branch of the greenspace, organizing a summer concert and movie series that has become one of the region's most popular draws.

Born in Spokane and raised in Liberty Lake, Joe graduated from Gonzaga Prep High School, his dad's alma mater. He helped coordinate the first movie agenda

in the park before taking off for Seattle in the fall of 1996 to attend the University of Washington, where he majored in mechanical engineering.

While respecting the success and impact of Greenstone, Frank set out to forge his own professional path after college. He headed to the east coast and Connecticut, latching on with Kimberly-Clark Corp., a company founded in 1872 and known primarily for production of paper-based consumer products. Frank spent 2000 to 2005 working for the company out of its Appleton, Wisc., office.

"I was always interested in what my dad did with Greenstone, but I wanted to do my own thing," Frank said of his early career journey.

In 2005, Frank moved back to Spokane and began working for Greenstone as a project manager, eventually transitioning to purchasing manager. The next step up the ladder came when he was named general manager of Greenstone's home building division. When Jason Wheaton retired as Greenstone president, Frank was named his replacement and has held the position since the early part of last year.



A Cup of Joe

Newsmaker Q&A

While his dad still serves as CEO, Joe now oversees the day-to-day operations of the company, a network that includes a quartet of successful branches — construction, residential development, commercial

development and multi-family.

In late January, Frank became president of another local and well-respected entity when the FOPP board elected him as president. His tenure at the helm is officially a year, although a number of previous leaders, like Frank's predecessor, Bob Schneidmiller, have served longer.

Between Greenstone, FOPP and family duties — Joe and his wife, Laura, are parents to three kids — Frank has little time for golf these days. He says he is looking forward to leading FOPP with an acknowledgement of the past and an eye toward the future, possibly adding new events to the agenda and, in his words, "getting the community more involved while making sure we grow with the community."

The Splash caught up with Frank recently to chat about Greenstone, his new role at FOPP and the dynamics of Liberty Lake's most popular greenspace.

Q. You were around when the first stage of Pavillion Park began in 1995. What are some of your favorite memories of the park over the last 20 years?

A. There have been a lot of amazing memories for me over the years. I think the memories that ring strongest in my mind though are the first time type of event. I still remember the very first movie screen we had — it had to be three or four times heavier than the one we have today. It was a challenge, to say the least, to move around. The first time we had Shakespeare in the Park, we were all so excited about the huge crowd we got on the first year, but then as the show was going we began to realize we started the show too late. It kept getting darker and darker and by the end of the show you could barely see the actors, but the Montana Shakespeare group made the best of it and put on a spectacular show. Last year was the first year we did a new release movie. We did a "Frozen" sing-along. This was especially memorable because I now have a 5-year-old daughter and she was so excited. I think we had 2,000 people to that movie. Definitely our biggest draw for a movie.

Q: As you begin this new role as president of Friends of Pavillion Park, what

See FOPP, page 4



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NEWS

FOPP

Continued from page 2

do you see as some of your primary priorities and responsibilities?

A: I have one goal as the president and that is to ensure we grow and evolve as an organization to meet the needs of today's Liberty Lake community. Liberty Lake has changed a lot over the years, and we need to make sure the type of events and programs we put on are evolving with the community. After all, our organization is about bringing the community together to celebrate, so our events need to appeal to a large audience.

Q: You've been involved in the coordination of the Holiday Ball in the past. Would FOPP ever consider adding another fundraising mechanism to compliment this event?

A: Adding other fundraising events is a discussion we have every year. Honestly, it is one of the biggest struggles for us. We understand we need funds from the community to continue to offer the programming we do, but at the same time we want all of our events, even the Holiday Ball, to be about bringing the community together to celebrate. It is a fine balance for us in keeping the Holiday Ball from being "just another fundraiser." We spend a lot of time and effort in trying to make it feel more like a community party and less like a charity auction. We will continue to have the discussion of an additional fundraiser but, at this time, no big changes on this front.

Q: The city of Liberty Lake has invested in a number of improvements at Pavillion Park recently, including new lighting, shade sails and the Fallen Heroes Circuit Course. Last month, City Council approved funding for a permanent concession stand, more storage and expansion of the women's bathroom. How would you describe the collaborative investment in the park and its programming between the city and FOPP?

A: The city has been one of our biggest supporters all along. They have a true appreciation for the events we put on and support us with dollars and staff every year.



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

Joe Frank was named the new president of Friends of Pavillion Park in late January. Frank serves as president of Greenstone Homes and has been involved with FOPP as a board member and volunteer. Joe's father, Jim, was part of the original group that rallied support for the park and a summer entertainment series over 20 years ago.

The relationship we have with the city is a true partnership — it is a win-win all the way around. We are extremely excited about the city's decision to put in some capital improvements to Pavillion Park. It's the crown jewel of our park system and in order to keep it that way it will require some capital improvements from the city. I think this decision shows that the city understands this. These changes will allow for even a better experience for people coming out to enjoy the many events that happen at Pavillion Park every year.

Q: The city has announced that it will bring back Liberty Lake Days this summer, featuring an expanded format. How do you see FOPP's involvement with this restored event in late July?

A: This year Liberty Lake Days is a three-day event revolving around a Barefoot in the Park soccer tournament. I personally think the soccer tournament is a great event

for Liberty Lake and, with the growth the tournament has seen over the last few years, it has the potential to be a truly regional event for Liberty Lake. We provided some advice and thoughts on the weekend but that is about the extent of our involvement, though I am very excited to attend.

Q: Greenstone has been so integral in forming the texture and tone of the Liberty Lake community. As president of the company, how do you see your role in continuing that influence?

A: I think when I look back at the people that truly influenced what Liberty Lake is today, it was a great deal of amazing and passionate people. It was people like Lud Kramer who had the original vision for a city in Liberty Lake. It was families like the Schneidmillers who showed a true dedication and stewardship to this community. For Greenstone, Liberty Lake is our home, and as the president, I can only hope to carry on the passion and dedication for this community that those before me built.

Q: Is your appreciation for the community and the impact of Greenstone and your dad different from when you were growing up here?

A: Honestly, I have always had an appreciation for the vision my dad has had. I could see his passion and dedication for making communities that were so much different from the other new neighborhoods being built. I think the difference I see now is how much work it was for him, to build the company he built. It was a different model and a different way of thinking in Spokane. I think when you look around 50 years from now the communities my dad built will be crown jewels of Spokane.

Q: You were part of the summer movie

and concert series from the very beginning. What are you looking forward to the most about mapping out this year's schedule?

A: For me it is not the scheduling of this year's events that gets me excited. What I am most looking forward to is getting the community more involved with our group. It is important we keep working to grow and evolve, so it is how we are going to grow and evolve that has me most excited. I look forward to engaging the community more this year to see what other opportunities there might be to continue to strengthen the amazing community we have.

Q: What are some of the parallels you see between the respective missions and priorities of FOPP and Greenstone Homes?


A: I think Greenstone and Friends of Pavillion Park have a very common vision. Both groups are looking at creating a community that is more than just the houses and buildings that make it up, but providing opportunities for people to gather and interact. Each organization plays a different role in this endeavor, but both are critical roles.

Q: Finally, what do you like most about living, working and volunteering in the Liberty Lake community?


A: Liberty Lake has always had a focus of getting residents out of their houses and enjoying time with friends, family and neighbors. It is a combination of parks, lakes, golf courses, trails and even the Spokane River that help support this identity. It is this identity that attracted me and my family to live here after moving back to Spokane in 2005, and it is this identity that we love today.

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NEWS

New city fireworks display creates double bill with traditional lake show

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

For nearly a quarter century, Denise Coyle has been coordinating a July 4th fireworks display over Liberty Lake.

This year, the traditional lake show will have some company on the Independence Day stage.

The city of Liberty Lake will sponsor its own fireworks show as part of the annual July 4th community celebration at Pavillion Park, complimenting an entertainment agenda organized by Friends of Pavillion Park. City Council unanimously approved a contract with Western Display Fireworks Ltd. on Feb. 17, making the event official.

City Administrator Katy Allen said the decision to take on a fireworks show came about after the city continued to hear concerns about the visibility of lake fireworks from Pavillion Park.

“What evolved over the past several years, and was brought to a head last summer, was that the firework display was becoming less and less visible from Pavillion Park,” Allen said. “Last year, a very large crowd assembled at Pavillion Park and the fireworks were not visible at all. When attendees, donors and sponsors realized that you had to be near the lake to see anything, it created significant traffic congestion and other public safety concerns as well as very negative comments from attendees.”

Coyle, who spearheads the lake show entirely through donations through the Liberty Lake Fireworks Fund, said news of the city’s plans came as a surprise.

“Of course I was disappointed when I heard about it,” Coyle said. “I know there’s a lot of talk that’s going on right now, but we just want to make sure people know that our show is going to be no different this year than it has any other year. We’re going to make it a nice community event. Having a negative attitude about it doesn’t do anyone any good. We all have to march



SPLASH FILE PHOTO

Spectators viewing the annual community fireworks show from Pavillion Park have become increasingly concerned about a lack of visibility in recent years. In response, the city of Liberty Lake has booked a second show that will launch from the nearby Liberty Lake Ballfields.

forward. It will be a great day for everyone.”

Coyle reconfigured the display several years ago in hopes of reaching the sight line over the park. Tree growth, she said, has made that accessibility increasingly scarce.

“The other thing is a lot of people at the

park are sitting down in that bowl area in front of the pavilion, that also makes it difficult to see the show,” she said.

In the past, the Fireworks Fund has collected donations during the Independence Day celebration at Pavillion Park. While that will not occur this year, Coyle remains hopeful that collections through

the group’s website, at the Liberty Lake Farmers Market, the July 4th parade and other avenues will carry the event.

Between the fireworks, insurance, ropes and buoys for the docks, advertising and other incidentals, Coyle said the event’s budget runs right around \$12,000. The city’s contract with Western Display Fireworks is listed at \$10,000.

“My biggest concern is that all the people who donated to our display last year may not donate this year,” Coyle said. “Some people might say they don’t want to pay if there are going to be free fireworks at the park.”

Coyle has met with Allen and Mayor Steve Peterson to discuss the situation. Allen told attendees at the Feb. 17 council meeting that FOPP and Greenstone have decided to forward any donations received at the park this year to the Fireworks Fund. Coyle said she understood that FOPP, Liberty Lake Kiwanis and Greenstone — entities that have all contributed toward the lake show in the past — “are going to make a little larger donation toward the display than they did last year.”

“I believe that coordinating with Denise will ensure that we have a wonderful Fourth of July celebration,” said Mayor Peterson. “She and her family will continue the tradition they have set of an annual fireworks display on the lake.”

Allen echoed Peterson’s thoughts regarding the city’s respect for the festivities south of Sprague.

“The 4th of July fireworks over Liberty Lake has been a long tradition,” she said. “The event’s longevity speaks to the community’s support through their donations and sponsorship over many years. Both the city and the original organizers from the lake have the same goal — to have a safe and fun celebration of our country’s birthday. This will be our first year for us, and we can make adjustments in the future as needed.”

FOPP President Joe Frank voiced his support for both the lake show and the city’s inaugural display.

“I know there is some concern in the community regarding two competing shows, but I do not see it that way,” Frank said. “I see it as one larger community show. The show over the lake has been a long tradition for our community, and we want it to continue to thrive, which is why both Friends of Pavillion Park and Greenstone will continue to support this

See FIREWORKS, page 7

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NEWS

News Briefs

Election results provide support to schools, fire department

Local residents backed schools and the fire department during the Feb. 10 special election.

As of press deadline, Central Valley School District Prop 1 for a construction bond received 64 percent of the vote. Prop 2 for the renewal of the CVSD levy came in slightly higher with 68 percent of the vote.

Spokane Valley Fire Department Prop 1 passed with an overwhelming 72 percent of the vote.

Results were expected to be certified on Feb. 24. For more, go to www.spokanecounty.org/elections.

Interlocal agreement reached for emergency system

The Spokane County Board of Commissioners recently signed a 15-year agreement between the county and city of Spokane to implement and maintain a new Emergency Dispatch Response and Records system.

The New World Systems suite will replace the current system, which is almost 20 years old. It will provide better access to reliable data as well as the ability to share data between law enforcement agencies, a press release said. The cost of the new GIS-centric (map-based) system is \$2.9 million.

For more, visit www.spokanecounty.org.

FIREWORKS

Continued from page 6

show financially.”

Coyle said crowds on the Lilac Lane side of the lake display should be able to see the Pavillion Park fireworks, but the majority — those from the fringe of the Liberty Lake Golf Course to the Liberty Lake County Park — will not have visibility. The city fireworks will launch from Liberty Lake Ballfields, just to the northeast of Pavillion Park.

The roots of the lake display go back to the 1950s and Coyle's grandfather, Homer Neyland, who owned and ran Sandy Beach Resort. After a hiatus, Ross Scheidmiller was part of a team of five who brought the event back in 1990. Scheidmiller expressed concerns with adding another local show on the 4th.

“I see issues with two displays,” Schneidmiller said. “First, it would hurt fundraising for the lake display. Second would be coordinating the timing of the displays. It would be distracting and far less than ideal if the displays happened simultaneously. If they would go one after the other, which would go first?”

Both events are scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. Coyle said “there might be some coordination” between the two demonstrations with the lake show planning for some larger illuminations early on that will be visible from Pavillion Park.

Frank said having a pair of shows will bring a new dimension to the local July 4th festivities.

“The Friends of Pavillion Park are extremely excited about the added 4th of July show,” he said. “It will add a reason for people to come out for our 4th of July concert and stay for the fireworks show. Over the past few years, we have had a lot of negative feedback regarding not being able to see the lake firework show from Pavillion Park. I believe having two

shows in our community will be a big draw to the region.”

It's that draw that concerns Bruce Andre, who has lived near the lake since 1996. Andre noted that the influx of people from Pavillion Park after the July 4 concert to vantage points for the lake display has created issues with traffic and safety. He recalled the situation in 2005 when a man suffered a heart attack at a lakeside home and emergency vehicles struggled to get to the scene.

Andre has towed the barge out that is used for the lake fireworks launching pad the past couple years. He said one of the options that hasn't been discussed is bringing in temporary bleachers in order for more people to see the show over the lake.

Andre also expressed concern with the city's show originating from a dense residential area.

“I've never seen a major show that close to civilization,” he said. “I just hope there's no wind that night.”

As for the city starting its own fireworks tradition that coincides with the lake show, Andre said most people he's talked with “don't really have an opinion.”

“To me, it seems like a lot of money for the city to expend,” Andre said. “This doesn't seem like the best-directed use of city funds.”

For her part, Coyle said she is focused on viewing the development with a glass-half-full mentality.

“I want this to be a wonderful celebration of our country and the phenomenal place that we live,” Coyle said. “The city really wants to put on their own display, and that's fine. We live in an absolutely wonderful community, and we can either take this bend in the road as a negative or a positive, and I choose to take it as a positive. It's not necessarily what I would like; it is what it is, and we're going to make it a positive.”



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NEWS

Council approves upgrades for park, ballfields

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

It began as a presentation about lack of adequate storage, progressed into a squabble over long-range vision and culminated in a narrow decision on a funding compromise that will bring improvements to a pair of Liberty Lake greenspaces.

While it was far from simple, City Council eventually voted 4-3 on Feb. 17 to support a budget amendment that will fund a permanent concession stand, additional storage space and an expanded women's restroom at Pavillion Park. The vote will also mean the construction of a storage facility and restrooms at the Liberty Lake Ballfields.

Council had already agreed on \$245,000 for upgrades to the ballfields this year. City staff came back with a reduced amount of \$136,000 for a revised version of the project. The addition of amenities at Pavillion Park brings the total expenditure to \$388,000 with the money slated to come out of the city's Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) fund, reserved for capital facilities. Taking into account the previously ap-

proved \$245,000, the budget amendment translates to an additional \$143,000.

The breakdown of costs at Pavillion Park includes \$160,000 for the restroom, \$56,000 for the concession stand and \$6,000 to cover the installation of electrical outlets for events. Another \$30,000 will be set aside for design procurement and contingencies.

"Seeing what we're getting now, I'm thrilled with the planning process," said Council Member Hugh Severs, who applauded city staff for dramatically reducing the ballfield costs with a utilitarian storage shed and bringing the renovation of the Rocky Hill barn — also to be used for storage — in at \$40,000 under budget.

Others around the dais, like Council Member Odin Langford, were not as enthused.

"When the mayor introduced \$85,000 just for a concession stand (at Pavillion Park) last year, there was no mention of a bathroom," he said. "Now we absolutely need a bathroom. This is great planning. I bet if we took a couple of more months, we could run it up to \$1 million."

Langford, Keith Kopelson and Bob Moore voted against the funding measure. Cris Kaminskas, Dan Dunne, Shane Brickner and Severs cast affirmative votes.

Jennifer Camp, parks and open space superintendent, told council that lack of storage room is becoming a serious issue with the main space at City Hall now overflowing. The addition of the ballfields and Town Square Park last year meant the city bringing on more maintenance equipment.

Decentralizing storage by moving equipment to, or at least nearer, the respective site that requires maintenance would increase efficiency, safety and productivity, Camp said.

"It would help to go from centralizing storage like we are now to divvying it up to the places we need it the most," she said.

Kopelson expressed concern that the proposed expenditures were not brought up during the 2015 budget planning process last year.

"What happened in the last six months to make this a priority?" he said. "I find it

frustrating. It seems like whatever direction council gives, it doesn't matter."

Moore said it appeared the city "is in a reactionary mode rather than being proactive" while adding that "council and staff are both responsible for this situation."

"Why don't we consider beforehand what the maintenance and facility needs are going to be?" he questioned.

City Administrator Katy Allen said there has been a pragmatic evaluation of existing storage scenarios and potential solutions.

"I think we've done a pretty good job assessing what our needs are," Allen said. "This came about because of a combination of new facilities coming online and seeing how much more efficient and responsible we can be with the addition of the barn."

Predicting the requirement of future provisions is far from an exact science, Mayor Steve Peterson emphasized. Pointing to the example of Trailhead Golf Course and the increased utilization of the venue over the years, Peterson said "the issue here is more

See COUNCIL, page 9

IN THE BOOKS, ON THE DOCKET

A look back and ahead at news from City Hall

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

In the Books (February)

- Council heard a preliminary report on the idea of a community aquatic facility from Michelle Griffin, parks and recreation coordinator, and Amanda Tainio, planning and building services manager. The Town Square Park site was presented as the most feasible property for the pool while costs — a 12,000-square-foot venue runs an average of \$3 million — were also discussed. The city is hoping to finalize the type of facility, location, master plan and grant possibilities this year. "We're looking at what kind of facility we want, how much we should spend and how do we pay for it," City Administrator Katy Allen said.

- Kevin Schneidmiller of Greenstone Homes presented an update on construction in the River District, the city's burgeoning northside development. Council unanimously approved a resolution that will utilize funds from the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) to cover improvements in the area this year, such as the extension of Indiana Avenue east of Harvard Road and the addition of

a new road (Wellington) east of Harvard, a new sewer lift station and other infrastructure upgrades. "I think it's important that Greenstone and the city continue to collaborate and communicate about these spaces because, at the end of the day, we all want to make it right," Schneidmiller said.

- Travis Montgomery of the Liberty Lake Municipal Library was selected as a presenter for the state library information technology training program.

- Council unanimously approved an ordinance that prohibits minors in consumption of marijuana connected to statewide Initiative 502 that took effect last year. The ordinance adds clarification to an existing law that prohibited minors in possession of marijuana. Police Chief Brian Asmus said the city's stance is being looked at as a standard by a number of other jurisdictions in Washington.

- Council held a special meeting on Feb. 24 to review the municipal comprehensive plan. The gathering at City Hall featured an open house format with information on the plan's priorities and a review of the public participation process.

- Council voted unanimously to award the bid for equipment installation at the next Fallen Heroes Circuit Course to Wm. Winkler Co. in the amount of \$73,688.36. The approval included a \$1,300 contingency to be managed by staff.

- Ann Swenson, longtime city clerk, was named City Clerk of the Month for Washington state.

- The city learned the Henry Road/I-90 interchange project, estimated at \$26.5 million, has made the first round of cuts on the House Transportation Bill under consideration in during the current legislative session in Olympia.

- Council voted to award a contract with Western Display Fireworks Ltd. for the city's July 4 celebration and authorized Peterson to sign an agreement for the festivities. Allen said the city was working with Denise Coyle, organizer of the established Independence Day fireworks display at the lake, to minimize conflict between the two events. (See separate story in this issue.)

On the Docket (March)

- The city will hold a workshop on the sign code at its March 3 meeting. Council has until April 1 to initiate the amendment process in the comprehensive plan to include proposed changes to the code, such as electronic changeable signs along I-90 as well as thoroughfares like Country Vista and Appleway. Similar signage operated by the city to promote community events has also been proposed along with a clarification of wall sign standards.

- Looking ahead to the spring, the city has announced a bulky waste cleanup event to be held Saturday, May 16, at Town Square Park. Sponsored by Waste

Management, the day will include collection of collection of disposed appliances, mattresses and other large items.

- Council will hear a presentation from city staff on the rotation schedule for municipal non-public safety vehicles at its March 3 meeting.

- A first read ordinance on interim zoning text amendment for mobile food vendors is scheduled for March 3, with Tainio making a presentation on the topic. There has been talk of allowing vendors to operate beyond the current zoning of special events. A public hearing and second read ordinance on the proposed amendment is part of the March 17 agenda.

- Waste Management Inc., which was awarded Liberty Lake's waste collection contract last year, will provide an update on its commitment to provide a \$5,000 community donation as part of its agreement with the city.

- Council has voted to cancel its regularly scheduled April 7 meeting due to heavy agendas in March and spring break.

- Council will participate in a workshop discussion on the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Plan update on March 17. A first reading on adoption of the document is also on the agenda.

- Tainio will conduct a workshop on the Rocky Hill Park Master Plan on March 17.

NEWS

COUNCIL

Continued from page 8

from a perspective of management and the allocation of funds.”

“The point is we are looking ahead,” he added. “The plan we came back with pretty much meets our basic storage needs.”

Council receives encouraging financial report

Liberty Lake Finance Director R.J. Stevenson strides to the podium at City Hall with an air of confidence these days, and the first council meeting of February was no exception.

Hired by the city in 2011, Stevenson arrived at a rare time of fiscal turbulence for Spokane County’s easternmost jurisdiction. A year earlier, staff had raised the possibility of a \$700,000 deficit going into the next budget cycle along with proposed cutbacks at the municipal library and city-owned golf course. While coping with drastic declines in sales tax revenue, the city implemented a controversial 6 percent utility tax on phone, cable, gas, electric and garbage bills in late 2010 to offset the anticipated losses.

Despite dark clouds of economic gloom, Stevenson found a silver lining in August 2011, shortly after his hire.

“I’m enthused about the budget process,” Stevenson said. “My goal is to provide a framework for what they’ve put in place and look at where the city wants to go financially.”

Liberty Lake would gradually weather the storms of the Great Recession to see retail activity and construction return to pre-recession levels. The utility tax was eventually reduced to 3 percent across the board with funds now dedicated exclusively to street improvements.

While municipal finances may have stabilized in recent years, some on City Council expressed hope that city staff could provide a more detailed chronicling of the balance sheet. Moore, appointed to the governing board last June, brought an extensive background in banking and finance to his new role and requested that Stevenson lead the charge to gather and distribute regular updates on revenue and spending.

The latest report came on Feb. 3 as Stevenson provided a recap of December 2014 numbers, highlighted by revenue for the general fund and street budget coming in above projections at \$6,736. The two funds draw income from property tax, sales tax and utility tax as well as other municipal revenue. Meanwhile, expenses from both funds registered below the projected \$7,084 amount for the month at \$6,534.

The December totals paralleled a trend for 2014 that featured total city revenues of \$6.7 million eclipsing overall expenses

of \$6.5 million. The reserve fund balance now stands at \$1.2 million.

“We had an excellent year,” Stevenson said.

The numbers comprise a summation for council known as the “financial dashboard,” a monthly check-in that premiered last November. The dashboard features a gauge of the latest state of the general fund and street fund that can range from the low end of “fundamental fiscal stress” requiring council action all the way up to “exceeding expectations.” The city currently sits at the positive end of the spectrum.

Sales tax revenue in 2014 was up 21 percent from the previous year, finishing at \$2,582,630. Retail pillars like RVs, cars and housing drove the increase. Income from building permits weighed in at \$384,703, up 8 percent from 2013, while property tax brought in \$1,887,225.

Returns from the utility tax also soared in 2014. The total of \$727,435 represented an upturn of just over \$72,000 from 2013. Stevenson pointed to a trio of reasons for the increase, starting with a \$25,000 windfall from the garbage tax the city received after Waste Management corrected a mistake in the application of the tax. A hike in natural gas rates and colder than normal temperatures also contributed to the revenue surge from the gas tax.

Stevenson’s presentation also included

a look back at city projects from the past year, divided into work above and below \$500,000. In the costlier category, the Liberty Lake Ballfields were completed on budget while Town Square Park came in below budget.

A slew of remaining projects, including the shade structure and lighting at Pavilion Park, the library reading garden, roof at the library and police building, improvements to pedestrian safety and the banquet area at the Trailhead clubhouse were all completed at below the projected amount. Upgrades to the barn at Rocky Hill Park, translating into added storage, are nearly finished and on track to check in well below budget.

“This was a report card,” said Mayor Peterson after the meeting. “It shows good leadership and good stewardship of the citizens’ money. Financially, Liberty Lake is doing exceptionally well. It’s a ripple effect of a safe, clean and green city.”

Pavillion Park Master Plan

With council mulling over the possible addition of the permanent concession stand and other amenities at Pavillion Park, the city provided a review of the master plan for the greenspace on Feb. 3. Amanda Tainio, planning and building services manager, led a presentation that included input from Mike Terrell, a Liberty Lake-based landscape architect who

worked on Pavillion Park when it rose from an obscure patch of farmland in the mid-1990s.

The first phase of the park began in 1995, spurred by community advocates like Lud Kramer, Margaret Barnes, Jim Frank, Ross Schneidmiller and Leslie Zilka. The space where the trademark pavilion stands today was originally slated for the playground that now sits in the eastern part of the park.

“It was the Friends of Pavillion Park saying the bowl area needs a shelter and a stage so we can have community events,” Terrell said.

While areas like the basketball court and horseshoe pits may not be utilized to the degree as tennis courts and the baseball diamond, the city received enough feedback to leave both in place when planning for the Air Force installment of the Fallen Heroes Circuit Course last year.

Tainio said around 90 percent of the park is now built out, with the exception of a ruddy dogleg portion to the south. There has been talk of adding a community garden to the space. Recent improvements to the park include new lighting in the parking lot and along walkways, irrigation upgrades, landscaping features and replacement of the shade sails on the pavilion.

“If done right, you can add a few more amenities,” Tainio said.

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NEWS

Police Report

The following items were reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department from Jan. 25 to Feb. 23. They are listed in chronological order.

Incidents and arrests

• **Malicious mischief** — At 2:22 p.m. Jan. 25, LLPD responded to the 1700 block of North Aladdin Road after a man reported that a male in a green vehicle had pulled up to him and asked, “how’s your car running?” The complainant didn’t think much of it at the time, but a short

while later a tire fell off his vehicle. He was advised by the tow truck operator that someone had loosened his lug nuts.

• **Suspicious couple** — At 12:30 p.m. Jan. 27, LLPD received a report from the 1100 block of North Tanglewood Lane that a young couple had looked at the basement area being rented out by a local woman. Upon their departure, the woman researched the couple and learned they were involved in multiple burglaries and thefts in the area. Officers were notified

and performed extra patrols in the area.

• **DV arrest** — A 33-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested at 8:37 p.m. Jan. 27 at the 1900 block of North Sedge Lane for domestic violence assault. A woman reported she and her husband were fighting, and he had slammed her arm in the door. The man was cited for assault, but was not booked into the Spokane County Jail due to a medical issue.

• **Theft** — At 7:47 a.m. Feb. 4, LLPD responded to the 1800 block of North Pepper Lane for a theft. A man reported staying at the location overnight and upon leaving in the morning found that his work truck had been entered and various tools and items had been taken from the tool box. Total estimated loss is \$1,228.

• **Stuffed theft** — At 5:26 p.m. Feb. 5, LLPD responded to a report of a theft at the 1600 block of North Winrock Street. A man reported someone had stolen a \$300 stuffed gorilla off his porch.

• **Assault arrest** — A 32-year-old Liberty Lake woman was arrested at 2:26 a.m. Feb. 6 at the 24000 block of East Spotted Owl Lane for assault. Witnesses observed the woman strike a victim in the face close to 10 times. As she was being placed in the patrol vehicle, she proceeded to kick the officer in the legs. Once in the vehicle, she began kicking the passenger door with enough force the officer stopped the vehicle, and two deputies arrived with leg restraints. After being restrained and belted in, she was transported to an area hospital for evaluation. Shortly after, she was cleared and booked into Spokane County Jail for assault.

• **Dual arrest** — A man picking up his child from a residence on North Garry Road dialed 911 after an argument escalated over tax money, resulting in the Feb. 6 arrest of two Liberty Lake women, ages 25 and 46. The arrest took place at 3:29 p.m. The 25-year-old woman was reportedly demanding tax money and shut the door on part of the complainant’s body as he was attempting to exit the home. The man proceeded to his vehicle, and as he was backing out of the driveway, the same woman reportedly stood behind, blocking him. She then reportedly started to hit her arm and say, “look mom, he’s hitting me.” At this point, the man got out his cell phone and began recording the incident. As he placed his phone on the passenger seat of the vehicle, the 46-year-old woman reportedly opened the door, reached in and grabbed the phone, walking away from the vehicle. The man reportedly got out of the vehicle and tried to get his phone back, but the older woman handed it to the younger, who proceeded to run into the home, locking the door. The 46-year-old woman then yelled, “delete the video,” which was later confirmed by

Calls for service

Agency assist	1
Alarm	3
Assault	4
Attempted theft	1
Burglary	3
Child abuse or neglect	1
Citizen assist	4
Citizen dispute	6
Deceased person	1
Disorderly conduct	2
Domestic violence	4
Drug possession	2
DUI	1
Fraud	2
Fugitive	1
Harassment	2
Juvenile runaway	1
Littering	1
Malicious mischief	4
Missing person	1
Not classified	1
Obstructing justice	1
Property theft	3
Suspicious person/circumstance	7
Threatening	2
Traffic accident	1
Traffic offense	16
Vehicle prowl	3
Welfare check	2

Citations

Allowing unauthorized to drive	1
Assault	4
Controlled substance violation	2
Display registration (snowmobile)	2
DWLS	18
Expired registration	8
Failure to obey traffic control	3
Failure to stop at stop sign	1
Failure to wear safety belt	3
Failure to yield	2
Improper tinting/coloring windows	1
Liability insurance	8
Malicious mischief	1
Speeding	4
Theft	3
Use of cell phone	1

— Reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department Jan. 25 to Feb. 23

neighbors who witnessed the incident. The 25-year-old woman was booked into jail for assault, and the 46-year-old was cited for theft.

• **Assault arrest** — A 30-year-old Spokane man was arrested at 9:13 p.m. Feb. 6 at the 1300 block of North Liberty Lake Road for assault with a knife. He reportedly stabbed a male known to him in the chest area, causing a laceration approximately 12 inches in length. The victim was

See POLICE, page 11

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\$3860

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NEWS

POLICE

Continued from page 10

taken to a local hospital for care, and the Spokane man was booked into Spokane County Jail on charges of first-degree assault.

- **Theft arrest** — A 20-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested at 9:30 Feb. 10 at his home on East Broadway after being visible on video surveillance when stealing a bottle of alcohol from a Safeway in Spokane.

- **Vehicle prowler** — At 9:45 p.m. Feb. 11, LLPD responded to the 21000 block of East Indiana Avenue for a vehicle prowler. A woman reported a gym bag containing \$549 in items was taken from her vehicle.

- **Mischief arrest** — A 19-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested on at 7:24 p.m. Feb. 13 at the 2000 block of North Sedge Lane after reportedly making threats and acting out of control. He was located near the Spokane River, and when officers transported him back to the location of the complaint, they observed the residence had been ransacked. He was arrested for malicious mischief and transported to the Spokane County Jail.

- **Theft arrest** — A 46-year-old Spokane man was arrested at 4:54 p.m. Feb. 15 at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road for theft. Employees at the location detained the man after he attempted to steal five packages of meat totaling \$133.42.

- **Burglary** — At 6:42 a.m. Feb. 17, LLPD responded to a burglary at the 20000 block of East Deschutes Avenue. A man reported that when going out to his garage in the morning, he noticed the door was open and his vehicle had been rummaged through. A mountain bike was stolen from the garage at an estimated cost of \$1,000.

- **Swastika appearance** — At 12:04 p.m. Feb. 19, LLPD responded to a report of malicious mischief at McKinzie and Sprague. A complainant reported someone had scratched a swastika symbol into the sidewalk and requested the city remove it.

- **Commercial burglary** — At 10:22 a.m. Feb. 21, LLPD responded to a commercial burglary at the 1200 block of North Liberty Lake Road. An unknown person is thought to have gained entry to a recently closed business and then broken into an adjoining business through the drywall. A total of \$462.17 in cash was stolen. The incident was placed under investigation.

- **Suspicious vehicles** — At 9:55 p.m. Feb. 21, LLPD responded to the 19000 block of East Cataldo Avenue regarding a pair of suspicious vehicle calls. Upon officer contact, it was determined two security guards working the same location reported on each other's vehicles.

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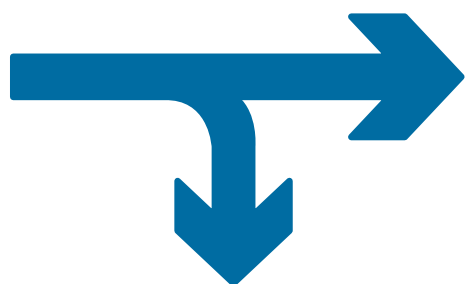
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ReasSIGNment



Liberty Lake reevaluating its distinctively rigid signage standards

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Not long after Amanda Tainio started working for the city of Liberty Lake in early 2002, she began the monumental task of compiling a detailed inventory that would include every sign within municipal limits.

The diverse list numbered well into the hundreds and included everything from dancing facsimile dogs to flapping banners to bus benches plastered with colorful logos. With Liberty Lake's first official sign code earning approval by City Council in February 2002, the index would be the starting point in determining compliance with new guidelines designed to bring the city a more cohesive and polished look.

"It was about going through and notifying people we had a new sign code," Tainio recalls. "We were a mini-Sprague Avenue back then. It was definitely a different look than it is now. It took us about a year to get everything cleaned up."

Tainio, who now serves as Planning and Building Services manager, has been dealing with the local signage debate for more than a dozen years now. At least once a week, she answers questions about exactly what is permitted under the most conservative regulations in Spokane County.

"We get calls not only from existing businesses but from businesses looking to locate here," Tainio said.

In the past few weeks, Tainio has issued permits to two existing businesses seeking to improve existing signs under the current code. Yet another was issued to a new establishment preparing to hoist up retail signage of their own. Tainio also realizes that if certain changes are made to the city's comprehensive plan later this year, the processing of sign permit requests might well overshadow the Herculean effort it took to compile a signage inventory.

Looking for direction on signage

Last July, City Council voted unanimously to hire Studio Cascade, a Spokane-based consulting firm, to evaluate the sign code. The company would be paid \$25,000 to gather public input from local stakeholders, delve into options and emerge with recommendations for the planning commission and council.



SPLASH PHOTOS BY CRAIG HOWARD
Monument signs like those for the River District and Taco Time have been staples of the Liberty Lake sign code for years now. A compromise to allow temporary 'A-frame' sandwich board signs, such as the one for the Silver Cafe below, was reached in 2010.



"The city made it clear that we should approach this with an attitude of ensuring the community's prosperity while also respecting the things that make Liberty Lake a special and unique place," said Bill Grimes of Studio Cascade at a public workshop last September. "Community image is a community resource, and that's something the city has the authority to regulate to some degree."

After months of research and interviews, Studio Cascade came up with a list of recommendations, including the addition of electronic, changeable signage along Interstate 90. Similar digital technology was proposed on a reduced scale for Appleway Avenue and Country Vista Drive while the option of the city owning and operating such signs to promote community events also made the list. Finally, the code's section on standards and location of wall signs would be clarified.

When presenting the potential shifts to City Council on Jan. 20, Chaz Bates of Studio Cascade emphasized that the process centered around "studying the code, understanding the issues, recommending direction and amending the code, if necessary." The city's planning commission had voted less than a week earlier to support the recommendations.

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

At the workshop last fall, Mike Kennedy of the planning commission reminded those in attendance that reviewing the sign code "has to be the most fair, the most transparent and most documented process possible."

"We need a code that allows for some flexibility," Kennedy said.

Now City Council must decide by April 1 whether or not to initiate an amendment process to the comprehensive plan that would allow for some combination of the proposed sign code changes to take place. If the amendment process begins, a whole new round of public input would be conducted, culminating in a recommendation by the planning commission and a vote by City Council that could make the transition a reality.

If approved, the new standards for signage could be implemented as early as this fall.

Historical markers

Judi Owens was part of Liberty Lake's inaugural City Council following incorporation in August 2001 and served on the governing board for the next decade. She recalls the conversation about signage being one of the top priorities discussed by various transition teams after the vote for cityhood passed.

See SIGNAGE, page 13

COVER STORY

SIGNAGE

Continued from page 12

“There was talk about that even before there was a City Council,” Owens said. “We didn’t want the big, gaudy signs. Everyone agreed that keeping things lower-key made sense.”

After incorporation, efforts on the sign code began in earnest, led by Community Development Director Doug Smith. In six months, council had passed the document and the process of bringing signs into compliance had begun.

“Signage was the first thing that was addressed because it was the biggest issue out here,” Tainio remembers. “With something like temporary banners, people would have a bunch of them that were falling off fences.”

Mayor Steve Peterson, who served from 2001 to the end of 2007 and resumed his role from 2012 to present, said city leaders “set out from the beginning to ensure we didn’t end up looking like Sprague Avenue” when the transition away from unincorporated Spokane County took place.

“We didn’t want that inconsistency,” Peterson said. “That was the common thread. From our perspective, our goal is to make Liberty Lake a well-visioned and designed community that fits the artistic palette. The whole thing is we’ve invested heavily in trails and parks and cleanliness. We know the businesses are going to be in a certain area.”

In late 2009, City Council included a line item of \$100,000 in the following year’s budget for a wayfinding sign program that would feature store locators, entrance signs and business district monuments in brick and stone. While the idea for the up-scale directional placards never did take flight, the city did make a compromise, allowing portable sandwich board, or “A-frame,” signs in 2010.

“We talked a lot about how people would find businesses in Liberty Lake,” Owens said. “We had always talked about having directional signs. I thought when they started talking about signage again, they were finally going to get around to doing some of those things we had talked about, but now it looks like they’re looking at something else.”

Owens, who still lives in Liberty Lake, expressed concern about the city “yielding to businesses” in the most recent signage debate.

“I’m not for a lot of the big changes they are proposing,” she said. “Why would we want to be the same as everyone else when it comes to signage? I think businesses here



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

Central to the current signage debate is whether special considerations should be made for freeway frontage signs, which currently require a ceiling of 30 feet and an absence of changeable electronic messaging.

have opportunities right now for signage. There are also other opportunities to advertise than putting up a great, big sign. I’ve never thought that belonged in Liberty Lake and still don’t.”

Smith reiterated the city’s focus on aesthetic continuity in 2010 when the clamor for a different approach to signage was being spurred by many local businesses.

“One of the original considerations of incorporation was how to deal with the threat of billboards and other signs,” Smith said. “It impacts the community as a whole. When you have signs and banners all over the place, it runs counter to the goals we’re trying to achieve.”

Owens was in attendance at the Feb. 17 City Council meeting, imploring the governing board to retain the original regulations that have given Liberty Lake its trademark look.

“We’ve set some standards, and I would like to see them stay in place,” she said.

Freeway features

Last month, Spokane Valley RV, just to the west of Liberty Lake city limits, ran a sale connected to President’s Day. The site along Interstate 90 was festooned with ban-

ners, balloons and even an oversized dirigible ape adorned in stylish shades. The company’s large, electronic sign overlooking the freeway featured news of the sale along with a rotation of various other messages.

The trio of RV companies within Liberty Lake boundaries — Freedom RV, Camping World and R n’ R RV — include towering signage that borders I-90, yet all three comply with the city’s ceiling of 30 feet and an absence of electronic changeable messaging.

Jerry Wagner, longtime general manager at R n’ R RV, has been talking with city representatives for years about adjusting their sign policies.

“The issue is we’re a retail business along the freeway, and we need to be able to advertise brands we carry,” Wagner said. “A digital sign just allows you the capability of changing a message. Part of the problem is, when that subject is brought up to people, they have a perception of something that is erratic and visibly obtrusive. The whole problem, even with some of the council, is they don’t really understand that the digital sign doesn’t have to look any different than my existing freeway sign right now, except it’s a little clearer to read and it doesn’t sun

fade over time.”

As the dealer for more than a dozen of the top manufacturers in the RV industry, R n’ R would like to get the word out to those passing by on I-90, Wagner says.

“Nobody knows what brands of RVs we carry,” he said. “We’re not looking to stir up the residents. We appreciate the area we are in. All we’re asking is for the city to allow the digital sign and then tell us the guidelines of how often we can change the message.”

Wagner’s homework on the topic includes excerpts from sign codes for Spokane, Spokane Valley, Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, Airway Heights and Spokane County, all of which allow electronic changeable signs with various restrictions around daytime and evening brightness as well as message frequency.

In addition to the Spokane Valley RV sign, motorists traveling east toward Liberty Lake these days are greeted by a handful of electronic message boards, from the mammoth, scoreboard motif near the International Gateway Corporate Park in Post Falls to the digital display outside Furniture Row near the Evergreen exit that is currently out

See SIGNAGE, page 14



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COVER STORY

SIGNAGE

Continued from page 13

of commission.

Eric Holt of AllSport, another Liberty Lake business with I-90 frontage, didn't quite endorse digital, alternating signs at last September's workshop, but said he welcomed shifts in the current code.

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

If the code is altered, Wagner said the cost of the electronic signs will have an impact on how many begin to appear along the freeway corridor. If council does not vote to move ahead with the steps toward amending the comprehensive plan, there is a provision in city law that allows a local business faction to initiate the process for a fee of \$2,500 plus \$200 for a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) study and any cost of public notices. While council would have the final vote, Wagner said such a campaign is a possibility.

"The cost of a sign is going to be some-

where between \$50,000 to \$100,000, so a \$2,500 fee is pretty minimal," he said. "Another thing is these signs are not cheap, so it's not like everyone's going to be able to put one up even if they allow them. They're very cost-prohibitive."

Wagner maintains that a reasonable approach to electronic alternating signs would not have a drastic impact on the look of Liberty Lake.

"There are backlit signs everywhere in this town," he said. "A digital sign doesn't have to look any different. It's just about changing the message. That's one of the main reasons we paid the high price for retail frontage."

Near the highway's horizon

Directional signage has been a dilemma for the HUB Sports Center going back to 2004, when the multi-purpose building premiered as Sports USA. Phil Champlin, the venue's current executive director, arrived in 2009 and has heard no shortage of chatter about the difficulty in finding the site, tucked off I-90 on Cataldo Avenue.

"We do have people that struggle to find the place and know that it's here for the community," Champlin said. "Our challenge is that, being a parcel off the freeway,

we would need an off-premise sign, but that would take other businesses within our business district to go in on it, and Freedom RV and Camping World don't need additional signage. We could put up a monument sign at ground level, but if you've ever driven in here, that kind of sign is not going to help us. We need something we can elevate. We can put up A-frame signs for special events, but that's a Band-Aid."

Wayne Frost, a HUB board member, attended the sign workshop last September and spoke to the need for "a distinction within the code for places of import to the city."

Champlin said he applauds the city's pragmatic approach to signage but expressed hope that the code would eventually become more flexible for the HUB and businesses throughout municipal limits.

"They're being very cautious with signs that go into the community, which is great because you maintain the look the city already has," Champlin said. "But it also sounds like they're looking at allowing businesses to market themselves better. I'm glad they're looking at changes. We're hoping we can get something that will let people know this great facility is in Liberty Lake. I hear what other people hear, that it's prohibitive

for some businesses to come to Liberty Lake because of the sign code and their ability to let people know where they're at."

Brandon Hunt of Huntwood Custom Cabinets understands the challenge of directing customers to a storefront. While Huntwood's center for manufacturing and administration is located on Appleway, the business also operates a retail site on Mission called Bargain Hunt. In 2002, the store was required under the new code to reduce its frontage sign to 8.5 feet, a significant drop from the previous marquee.

Now Hunt is hoping the city will look at allowing some leeway on wall sign standards. The back of the Bargain Hunt building is well off the freeway but still visible to passing motorists. Currently, a large truck with the company's logo serves as the store's most visible signage.

"It would be nice for people not to get frustrated trying to find your place," Hunt said.

Hunt is not as keen on electronic changeable signs, saying he favors a sign code "that is practical and has some standard of dressiness but doesn't go overboard."

See SIGNAGE, page 15

Temporary electronic sign draws diverse reaction

By Craig Howard
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Motorists along Country Vista Drive near Liberty Lake City Hall on Feb. 3 were greeted by a colorful array of illuminated messages trumpeting everything from Habitat for Humanity to the celebration of Mothers' Day.

City Administrator Katy Allen shed light on the beaming placard at the City Council meeting that evening, explaining that it had been placed near the road to provide an example of the electronic, changeable signs being proposed for different areas of Liberty Lake, from thoroughfares like Appleway and Country Vista to the I-90 corridor. This city has also discussed the idea of putting up similar signs to promote community events.

The mostly generic sign stood for just over a week, enough time for the city to gather plenty of reaction from residents through a short survey. Support for community messaging resonated through much of the input while many chimed in

with concern that such signage be limited to I-90 if it was allowed within the code.

At the Feb. 17 council meeting, Allen said the demo sign had been placed on the south side of I-90 near R n' R RV. The digital sign will also be situated temporarily on the southeast corner of Country Vista and Liberty Lake Road that has been mentioned for community messaging.

Regarding the experiment near City Hall, Allen reflected that while the demonstration "was a good opportunity for feedback," it fell short of illustrating how such signage might blend into the city's terrain. Questions also remain about the level of brightness and frequency of messaging that would be allowed on electronic signs.

"It wasn't a great demo — it wasn't really representative of the type of sign, location or messaging that you might see," Allen said.

Allen said those ingredients may have had something to do with the tone of comments — over 250 in total — that the city received via email. A sampling of citizen sentiments follows:

- "It should be at the entrance to the city like at I-90 and Appleway."
- "Looks very industrial, reminds me of a construction zone."
- "I could support for special events but not for permanent placement or regular use."

- "It looks unprofessional and cheap; the welcomes by the freeway roundabout and by the golf course look so much more professional."

- "Near I-90 is fine, but in town they are light pollution and distracting to drivers."

- "Hate electronic reader board in town, but I think it would be fine along Appleway or I-90."

- "FINALLY... The city has been clamoring for these for several years!! Thank you!!!!"

- "Communication is critical and we need message boards!"

- "I like the idea of message boards that can be changed to pass current news of events and warnings, etc."

- "I-90 I can live with, absolutely not anywhere else with the exception being for community purposes. On the freeway it is probably fine. Most of us moved here for the small town atmosphere."

- "I realize that the sign example is just that an example, but I don't like the colors."

- "I don't like the signs on trailers though, should be something classier. Also you need to consider putting a stop sign in the parking lot of the bus transfer area."

- "Step into the 21st Century. I am more concerned about the aesthetic appearance (color, condition, trim, etc.) than the fact that the content of these signs is electronically changeable. These



SPLASH PHOTO BY CRAIG HOWARD

The city has been testing temporary electronic signage at various places in the community to gather public input.

are just boxes with lights, like any other backlit sign."

- "We are losing market share to Post Falls dealers due to not being able to promote through signage along I-90."

- "Changeable message signs are informative and reusable, and I fully support using these wherever possible."

- "I would only like to see this type of sign if there are restrictions on the size."

- "I am looking forward to a community message board! This would be a convenient smart, logical and up-to-the-minute way to inform citizens of activities going on in our community. Would like to see the sign a little smaller and not as bright. But overall a great community asset for Liberty Lake."

COVER STORY



SPLASH PHOTOS BY CRAIG HOWARD

Phil Champlin, executive director of the HUB Sports Center, says finding the popular facility that attracts many out-of-town guests has been an ongoing issue. 'We need something we can elevate,' he said. 'We can put up A-frame signs for special events, but that's a Band-Aid.'

Similarly, Bargain Hunt is an example of a secondary lot seeking greater interstate exposure.



SIGNAGE

Continued from page 14

"You'd like to be able to spruce things up a bit, but you don't want to become like Sprague Avenue," he said.

Changing times, changing signs

Peterson was living in the Puget Sound area when Issaquah went through a sign squabble of its own in the 1970s. The suburb of Seattle near the shores of Lake Sammamish had to decide how a growing commercial sector would be permitted to advertise. Peterson remembers the city reaching an aesthetic balance over time.

"They had a restrictive sign code to start," he said. "They've changed it since, but you're not overwhelmed by signage there. It's in the freeway retail corridor, not in their neighborhoods."

When it comes to promoting local commerce, Peterson emphasizes that a pro-business approach has a dramatic ripple effect on the texture of the community.

"One thing people need to realize is their property tax pays for the police and the library," he said. "All the other money for city staff, council, the trails, the parks, the streets, comes from retail sales tax. It accounted for well over \$2 million last year. Those are our businesses. We need to make

sure they're successful, and signage is a part of that. The aesthetics of this city are great and we want to maintain the aesthetics of the signage, but I think the citizens have to understand that if products are not being sold, we're not collecting retail sales tax. It affects the sustainability of the city."

A workshop on the sign code is scheduled as part of the March 3 council meeting. City Administrator Katy Allen said she is hopeful that the discussion will shed light on a complex topic.

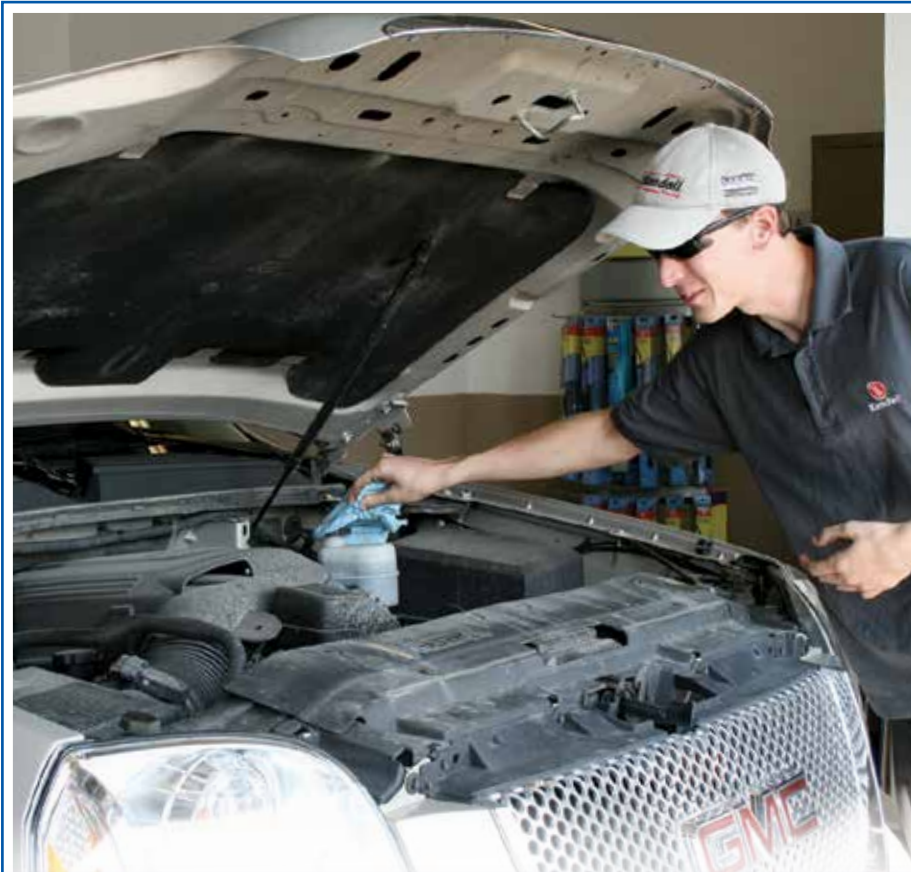
"What we're striving for is listening to our residents and listening to our businesses and seeing if there's a code that could work for both," Allen said. "The recommendation came forward, now it's going to be up to our council to evaluate the policy and modify it, approve it or deny it."

Peterson said adding the sign code recommendations to the amendment process would allow for wide-ranging public comment and more time to evaluate the potential impact of various types of signs.

"If the council wants more public involvement and feedback, why would you not put that forward in the amendment cycle?" Peterson said.

A number of electronic changeable signs, including a subtle design set in brick

See SIGNAGE, page 17



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COVER STORY

SIGNAGE

Continued from page 15

outside Horizon Credit Union on Country Vista Drive, remain as carryovers from pre-incorporation standards outlined by Spokane County. Peterson said such messaging offers a better alternative to some of the standards currently in place.

“Do you want a bunch of sandwich board signs that get swept away by the wind or a classy monument sign like the one at Horizon that has changeable electronic messages?” he said. “That’s my question, ‘What is really cluttered?’”

Allen says she “remains optimistic that there will be a happy medium” in the deliberation over signs.

“Over time, I think cities have gotten smarter about what works with signs in their cities,” she said. “We all appreciate the look we have in Liberty Lake. It’s quaint, walkable, safe and clean. Those are all things that residents want to preserve. We also have businesses that want to let people know where they are.”

Awaiting counsel from council

With City Council having the final say on signage, all those interested in the future of the sign code will be tuned in to the discussion around the dais this month. Opinions on the governing board vary substantially, from those who say Liberty Lake should remain unmoved on signs to those who lean toward a more malleable approach benefiting businesses.

“I absolutely feel there can be a balance and needs to be,” said Council Member Shane Brickner. “If we want to progress as a city and develop our commercial growth, this is an area we have got to look at. I think with as long as we set the standards, it will be great growth for our community and local businesses.”

Council Member Keith Kopelson said he sees “nothing new as far as technology is concerned” since the council’s last review of signage.

“I believe our current codes are consistent with the beauty and charm of the city we all love,” Kopelson said. “I am not convinced that the majority of the residents of the Liberty Lake are interested in a change of these ordinances. We should not make changes that only a few business owners requested or a minority of residents want. I encourage and appreciate open communication from all interested parties and careful consideration when looking to change things that might not be broken.”

Council Member Odin Langford said the latest faceoff over signage “is not a city vs. business problem” since both entities want commerce to thrive.

“It has been my experience that most Liberty Lake businesses want more advertising space on their buildings, not new signs costing thousands of dollars,” Langford

said. “Personally, I believe that the business community could be better served as a group if the current sign space limitations were loosened.”

Langford added there is no denying that Liberty Lake is known for its signature look, based in no small part on a distinctive sign code.

“None of the existing businesses in Liberty Lake located here because of our sign codes,” he said. “However, all of the planned developments were designed with aesthetics, light pollution, sign distraction and safety regulations in mind, which contributed to the current standards.”

If the sign code does undergo a makeover, Langford said the challenge will be to establish some degree of symmetry in the adjusted terrain.

“If you were to ask 100 businesses in Liberty Lake if they wanted more advertising space over the current limitations, almost all would surely say ‘yes,’” he said. “If you were to ask 100 businesses in Liberty Lake what they wanted that new advertising space to look like, almost all would have different visions.”

Like Kopelson, Mayor Pro Tem Cris Kaminskas says she wants to make sure council takes into account the priorities of citizens.

“People move to Liberty Lake for the aesthetics,” Kaminskas said. “If they wanted a proliferation of electronic signage, they could go to Spokane Valley, Spokane, Post Falls or Coeur d’Alene. There are numerous examples of cities across America who have stuck with toned-down, traditional signage and been successful. There are even towns that don’t allow any backlit signage, and these towns are known for their aesthetics.”

Kaminskas says an overlooked piece of the sign puzzle involves “several businesses that located here because they liked the restrictive signage.”

“What about them?” she asked. “It’s vitally important that we represent everyone, not just the special interest groups. More signs and/or more distracting signs are not the answer. Any changes to the signage along the business district in Liberty Lake — Country Vista, Liberty Lake Road, Appleway — will have a lasting, long-term effect on the city, a negative one.”

The current City Council roster includes two former members of the planning commission, Dan Dunne and Bob Moore. Dunne said the key in any discussion about electronic changeable signs needs to include a clear definition of the ground rules.

“If there are controls to how information is depicted in an electronically changeable sign, they can fit aesthetically into our city’s character,” Dunne said. “Businesses, as well as residents, choose to call Liberty Lake home because of the well-defined character of our city. A portion of that character is defined in the city’s commercial sign code, which has previously never allowed electronically changeable signs. I believe

that these signs have not been previously considered only because design standards defining the operation of electronically changeable signs have not previously been considered.”

Moore is far from agreement with his former planning commission colleague, calling the recommendations for revolving digital signs “unacceptable.”

“The proposals are not only inconsistent and contradictory with the existing signage standards, but also will compromise the aesthetic character of our community,” Moore said. “There are probably some isolated instances where the extenuating circumstances could justify electronic messaging signs in Liberty Lake. I have suggested in public meetings that these exceptions could be handled through a variance approval process to include citizen and business involvement, city staff, the planning commission, with final approval by City Council. This process would result in only the deserving exceptions being approved as opposed to possibly hundreds of electronic signs being allowed under the existing proposed changes.”

Council Member Hugh Severs said he understands the challenge faced by RV and auto dealers in marketing a variety of brands as well as rotating sales under the existing code.

“I believe Liberty Lake can address the issues at hand and come up with a reasonable balance between business signs and city aesthetics,” Severs said.

The city, meanwhile, could benefit from a more advanced method to publicize a year-round schedule of community events and public safety messages, Severs said. The city currently utilizes several large sandwich board signs that can be switched out depending on the promotion.

Severs also supports a clarification of the sign code “so it can be easily read and understood by business owners” as well as an “update of the archaic and unreadable ‘A-board’ signs and allowing for instances of electronically changeable signs” with standards such as stone veneer settings and directives on brightness, types of displays and message frequency.

“With the clarity in the code and specific architectural standards for electronic signs, I believe we can come up with a very nice balance that not only keeps Liberty Lake’s aesthetic appeal intact, but enhances it while being more business friendly,” Severs said.

For Tainio, the latest discussion means an opportunity to craft a clear message on the direction of local signage for the foreseeable future.

“For the businesses, we want to establish consistency and clarity,” she said. “We also want to know what is important to our residents. We want everyone around the table to discuss this and emerge with a balance that works for the entire community. Then we want to move on.”



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Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 | Got Questions About Life? 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Uplift Church, 23423 Swing Lane. The public is invited for a free dinner and discussion during all five Sundays in March. For more: 218-1648

March 2 | Documentary showing: “Somm” 1 to 3 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. “Somm” shows a humorous, emotional and illuminating look into the mysterious world of the Court of Master Sommeliers and follows a few hopefuls as they try to become the ultimate experts of wine. For more: 232-2510

March 5 | CVSD kindergarten registration begins Parents are encouraged to visit the CV Kindergarten Center starting on March 5 to get their child registered for kindergarten. To enroll, the child must be five years old on or before August 31. For more: www.cvsd.org

March 5 | Movie showing: “Big Hero 6” 6 to 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Attendees are welcome to bring a sack dinner; popcorn will be provided. For more: 232-2510

March 7 | STEM-tacular Saturdays 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. The Dig & Play Dinosaur Class will teach children about dinosaurs where they get to unearth six lost dinosaurs from a plaster block, which are actually markers in a board game. The kit includes a game to take home. Class is for ages 7 and up and costs \$14. To register or for more: parksnrec.libertylakewa.gov

March 7 | 10th annual Father Daughter Dance 7 to 9 p.m., CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley. Presented by Liberty Lake Kiwanis and the city of Spokane Valley, the theme for the

night is Alice’s Evening in Wonderland. Tickets are \$45 per father/daughter couple and \$20 for each additional daughter. To purchase tickets or for more, call 688-0300 or visit www.spokanevalley.org/recreation

March 8 | Daylight saving time begins

March 9 | Fall enrollment opens Stepping Stone, 23306 E. Mission. Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year opens to the public for infants through kindergarten; before and after school care are also available. For more: 924-0776 or www.steppingstonelibertylake.com

March 11 | Library Resources workshop 4 to 5:30 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Learn how to efficiently use search engines and how to evaluate the websites you find. Attendees should have basic knowledge of using a mouse, scroll bars and web browsers. You can bring a laptop or tablet if available, but not required. For more: 232-2510

March 13 | Book Tasting 1 to 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Just like speeding date, but with a book! Sample a few of the newer books at the library and take home your favorite. Bring a book to swap and you’ll go home with one to borrow and one to own. For more: 232-2510

March 17 | St. Patrick’s Day

March 18 | STCU workshop: Prevent Fraud & Identity Theft Noon to 1 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Join STCU experts for an informative workshop on spotting fraud warning signs, learning about trending scams and getting resources to keep your finances safe. A complimentary lunch will be served. To register: stcu.org/workshops.html

March 19 | Movie showing: “Night at the Museum: Secret at the Tomb” 6 to 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Watch Ben Stiller and Robin Williams, in his last major motion picture, as they try and save the magic behind the Tablet of Ahkmenrah. For more: 232-2510

March 24 | Prospective Kindergartners Day 9 to 11 a.m., Pioneer School, 618 N. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Pioneer School, a school for highly capable students, is now accepting applications for 2015-2016 kindergarten and first grade students. Space is limited for Kindergarteners Day. To RSVP or for more: 922-7818 or www.pioneerschool.com

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

March 26 | Crafts with Corks 6 to 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Municipal Library meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Use wine corks to create a craft project. Supplies provide by the library. If you have a glue gun, x-acto knife or extra corks, bring them with you. To register or for more: 232-2510

March 30, April 2 | Registration for annual Easter Egg Hunt 5 to 8 p.m. (Mon.) and 4 to 6 p.m. (Thurs.), Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave. Liberty Lake’s 19th annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held 11 a.m. April 4 at Pavillion Park for toddlers through fourth grade students. Pre-registration is required which is \$3 or six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy. For more: 921-6746 or davis72205@hotmail.com.

March 31 | Kiwanis scholarship deadline The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation is seeking candidates for its 2015 scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors or a former recipient who is continuing his/her education. Graduating seniors from Liberty Lake, students related to a current Liberty Lake Kiwanis member, seniors from East Valley, Central Valley or West Valley school districts or other community members deemed eligible are encouraged to apply. For more: 928-8290 or www.libertylakekiwanis.org

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 Library Room, 2100 N. Molter Road. For more: 922-4422

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Feb. 27 to March 15 | “American Idle: Murdering the Music” Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. During this dark comedy, contestants start going down, one by one, during the live show. Tickets cost \$12. For times, tickets and more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

March 6-8 | Custer’s Spring Arts & Crafts Show 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sat.) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sun.), Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St. Custer’s 38th Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Show features 300 professional artists and crafters from across the United States selling gift items, specialty food and home decor. Admission, good all weekend, is \$7 for adults and free for children 12 and under. For more: www.custershows.com

March 7, 9 | Auditions for “A Little Princess” 1 p.m. (Sat.) and 6 p.m. (Mon.), Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. All ages are invited to audition for this Reader’s Theater show performing March 20 and 21. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

March 18-28 | “Funny Girl” 7:30 p.m., Central Valley Performing Arts Center, 821 S. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley. Tickets are \$12 for this production by the CVHS Theatre Department. For tickets and more: www.cvtheatre.com

March 20-21 | Readers Theater: “A Little Princess” 7 p.m. (Fri.) and 2 p.m. (Sat.), Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. For tickets and more: www.libertylaketheatre.com

March 21 | This, That or the Other 8 p.m., Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22910 E. Appleway Ave. Tickets are \$7 for this PG13 improv comedy. For more: www.libertylaketheatre.com



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THE Splash | *the Current*

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A patient of mine who wore dentures once told me how she chose what to order from a restaurant menu. Her question was not, "What looks delicious?" It wasn't even, "What would be healthy for me?" Instead, she was looking to order the few limited items that she knew she could chew. Her life changed dramatically when we were able to replace her dentures with dental implants instead. While dentures give you about 25% the chewing power of normal teeth, implants provide an actual replacement for natural missing teeth and restore over 90% chewing power. Secured in the gum or jaw, this method of placement makes them the most natural tooth replacement system. In short, they look and feel like your own teeth. You even care for them as you would your natural teeth. While dentures can be initially more affordable, their removable nature not only makes them less reliable, but less functional as well. Dentures require maintenance and care that is both time-consuming and potentially costly over time. We would be happy to visit with you or your loved ones about whether dental implants are right for you.

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COMMUNITY

Community Briefs

Splash increases kids content

Starting with the March issue, The Splash is dedicating four pages to a pull-out with information and activities just for kids and their parents.

This content, known as The Wave, started back in 2008 to provide educational stories, contests, seasonal activities and other interactive features geared toward elementary-age kids. The new format will offer additional puzzles and contests, as well as share more thoughts from local kids.

“Our mission as a publishing company is to inform, connect and inspire communities — and that certainly includes the kids in our community,” Publisher Josh Johnson said. “We want to promote the good stuff local kids are doing and partner with others in developing their interest in reading and the world around them.”

The Splash is looking for business partners to sponsor these pages. If interested, call 242-7752 or email advertise@libertylakesplash.com.

Memorial service to be held for longtime LL resident

A memorial service for Esther “Sunnie” Lancaster will occur 2 p.m. March 21 at the Good Samaritan Community Center, 17121 E. Ave. in Spokane Valley. Family and friends are invited to stay for a luncheon immediately following that will be served by the Liberty Lake Beachcombers Club.

A member of the Liberty Lake community since 1956, Lancaster passed away at the Good Samaritan on Dec. 20, 2014.

FOPP announces 2015 board

Friends of Pavillion Park recently elected board members for the coming year. Joe Frank was elected president. Other officers selected included David Himebaugh, vice president; Sara Gile, treasurer; and Thomas Specht, secretary.

The non-profit group is looking for others to join them in providing the community with opportunities for recreation, education, entertainment and the arts. For more info, visit www.pavillionpark.org.

Local author wins award

A book by Liberty Lake resident Charles F. Finck received an honor from the Illumination Book Awards. His book, “As We Forgive Those: How to Forgive Others, Ourselves and God” was named the 2015 Bronze Medal winner in theology.

Art scholarships available

The Spokane Valley Arts Council is offering four \$1,000 scholarships to area high school seniors. Students must be enrolled in a high school within Central Valley, East Valley or West Valley school districts.

They do not have to be currently enrolled in art at school to apply.

Qualifying students will be invited to show and sell their work at the annual Artist Showcase Art Auction on May 30, where patrons will vote on their favorite piece to receive the \$1,000 Lynn Baiter Scholarship.

Deadline to apply is May 1. For criteria or more information, visit www.spokanevalleyarts.org.

Grange holding traffic forum, spaghetti feed in April

The Tri-Community Grange is sponsoring an open forum regarding traffic concerns as well as a spaghetti feed during the month of April.

A Newman Lake town hall meeting will held 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 21 at the grange building, 25025 E. Heather Lane (Newman Lake), regarding traffic concerns and options at Starr and Trent Roads. Representatives from Washington State Patrol, Department of Transportation, Spokane County Sheriff’s Department, Spokane County and local school districts will be present. For more, call 226-5334 in the evenings.

The grange is also hosting a fundraising spaghetti feed from 4 to 7 p.m. April 19. Cost is being determined, and proceeds will help provide dictionaries for third grade students in the East Valley School District as well as go toward building maintenance. For more, call 481-7447.

Education Brief

Colleges honor local students

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

Creighton University (Omaha, Neb.)
Dean’s List, 3.5+ GPA
Nicholaus Johnson

Montana State University (Billings, Mont.)
Dean’s List, 3.5+ GPA
Brock Benzel, Rachel Casey

Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, Idaho)
Dean’s List, 3.5+ GPA
Amanda Olsen

Whitworth University
Laureate Society, 3.75+ GPA
Cheyenne Gibson, Lori Kallestad, Nicole Kallestad, Dakota Klamovich, Moisey Mikheyev, Karly Rasmussen, Tanner Walker

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COMMUNITY

Obituary



Austin James Taylor

April 19, 1987, to
Feb. 8, 2015

Austin James Taylor, age 27, beloved son, brother and friend, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Feb. 8 in Spokane, Wash. Austin was born Easter Sunday, April 19, 1987, in Edmonds, Wash., and later moved to Liberty Lake where he grew up. Austin received his education at home. As an active member of Awana, he received its highest award, the Citation.

After completing high school in 2006, Austin joined the Marines, served a tour of duty in Iraq and received the rank of Corporal. Austin received an honor-

able discharge from the Marine Corps in 2013. He went on to study to become a biomedical technician and was at the top of his class. He was not able to complete this goal because cancer entered his life. He fought a brave battle with a strength of spirit not often seen in one so young. Austin enjoyed giving. It was a sweet game of his to figure out special gifts for his loved ones.

Austin is greatly missed by his sweet dog, Millie. He is survived by his loving parents, Jim and Merry Taylor; sister, Kelsey Taylor; and brother, C. Marshall Taylor. Respected and loved by so many, he is also survived by his grandparents Bob and Darlene McDonald and many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral services were held Feb. 13 at Valley Assembly of God.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 18

Recurring

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

CIVIC & BUSINESS

Feb. 27 | Business Connections Lunch:

Play It Forward 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. The meeting will feature a panel discussion about the value of community involvement to help shape the future. For more: www.spokanevalleychamber.org

March 10, 12 | Social Security: Strategize

to Maximize Noon to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m., Thrivent Financial, 22910 E. Appleway Ave, suite 1. The public is welcome to come learn how to sort through hundreds of options to help ensure the choices you make are right for you. To RSVP or more: 928-2435

March 13 | Women Executives of Liberty Lake (WELL)

12:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., Liberty Lake Portal, Mica Peak room, 23403 E. Mission Ave. During this social cooking hour, attendees will learn how to prepare a quick, satisfying meal. For more: www.womenexecutivesoflibertylake.com

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.

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

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

board 4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

HEALTH & RECREATION

Feb. 28 to March 1 | Apex Volleyball

Tournament 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

March 5 | Liberty Lake Running Club

starts 6 p.m., Twisp Café & Coffee House, 23505 E. Appleway Ave., Liberty Lake. The group meets weekly for a 3-mile run through October. In addition, they will have a St. Patrick's Day run on March 12. For more: kathyawhybrew@msn.com or 924-9806

March 7-8, 14-15 | State Middle School

Basketball Championships 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. The top girls teams will battle March 7-8, while the boys will play March 14-15. Tournament passes range from \$5 to \$15. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

March 15 | Riverview Little League

Baseball registration closes Tryouts will take place March 4 and 7 at Valley Christian School, 10212 E. 9th Ave., Spokane Valley. Regular registration is until March 8; late registration closes March 15. For more: www.eteamz.com/riverviewlittleleague

See CALENDAR, page 22

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deadline: **March 15**



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TRYOUTS, AGES 4-12**

March 4 (6 to 8 p.m.)
& **March 7** (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
at Valley Christian School

10212 E 9th Ave, Spokane Valley



Find us on facebook or at
www.eteamz.com/riverviewlittleleague



COMMUNITY

Plans underway for community egg hunt

By Sarah Robertson
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Find your Easter baskets and fancy hats, it's that time of year again. The 19th annual Liberty Lake Easter Egg Hunt is April 4.

More than 300 children are expected at Pavillion Park to collect as many of the 2,000-plus eggs as they can find. Last year's attendance ran over 350, and organizers Alisha and Brian Davis expect just as many kids this year.

The event will be much the same as years past — sticking with a much-loved tradition. Children from toddler to fourth grade will have a chance to enjoy candy-filled eggs, prizes and, of course, meet the Easter Bunny.

“We have an awesome new banner that was donated from Liberty Lake Community Church, and the areas will be a little safer with new stakes and ropes for the kids,” Alisha Davis said. “Other than that, we plan on having as much fun as years past.”

It takes many hands to produce the Easter egg hunt. Davis begins planning for this hunt “about two months in advance.” Though, this year, she started much earlier with the impending arrival of her third child this winter. Much of her time is spent planning, reserving the proper facilities and visiting local businesses for donations. Extra help is always appreciated.

“We need close to 30 volunteers a year to help make this hunt possible,” she said. “The tasks are pretty simple and easy. Some of the tasks would be for four to six people to help set up the boundaries and areas, two to three people in each age group spreading out eggs and collecting them when the hunt is over and four people working in the information booth handing out prizes. Those are some of the major things that happen the day of the hunt.”



SPLASH FILE
PHOTOS

The annual Liberty Lake Easter Egg Hunt returns at 11 a.m. April 4. Volunteers and donations are sought for the event. Contact Alisha Davis at 921-6746 or davis72205@hotmail.com for more information.



IF YOU GO ...

Liberty Lake Easter Egg Hunt

April 4 at 11 a.m. • Pavillion Park

The hunt is open to toddlers through fourth grade, but registration is required to participate. Registration, which is \$3 per child or six plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, takes place 5 to 8 p.m. March 30 and 4 to 6 p.m. April 2 at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

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

Davis also is looking for a group to help put together a couple garbage bags full of mismatched Easter egg halves before the hunt. If you would like to help, you can contact her at 921-6746.

Davis is happy to continue such a special community tradition but is looking for a group or individual to permanently take over the planning and organization of the hunt.

“It really is not as daunting as you may think, and we would love to see it keep going for future generations,” she said. “It doesn't take a lot of your time, just a really good checklist.”

“Since I have been a part of this event for 19 years, I have seen the hunt at all angles. ... It has always been my favorite to watch the reactions of the littlest kids with the Easter Bunny and watching them go for eggs. They happen to be the funniest groups because either you have the child wanting specific colors of eggs or just the one egg they found at the starting line.”

This year's registration is at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library (23123 E. Mission Ave.) from 5 to 8 p.m. March 30 or 4 to 6 p.m. April 2. The cost is \$3 or six candy-filled eggs per child. Registration is required.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 21

March 20-22, 27-29 | Pacific Northwest Qualifier (PNQ) Volleyball 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., HUB Sports Center, 19619 E. Cataldo Ave. This tournament is one of USA Volleyball's national qualifying tournaments. For more: www.hubsportscenter.org

March 25 | Trailhead Ladies Nine Hole Golf Club registration 10:30 a.m., Trailhead Clubhouse, 1102 N. Liberty Lake Road. Enjoy casual golf, tournaments, socials and PGA clinics with women golfers of all ages and abilities. Play for this weekly

league is Wednesday mornings April through September. Cost for full membership is \$55 (or \$31 if already a member of another club). For more: www.trailheadladies9.com or 879-7391

Recurring

Bloomsday registration open Online registration is now open for the 39th annual 12-kilometer race in downtown Spokane. To register or for more: www.bloomsdayrun.org

Ice Breaker Run registration open This 10K race on April 12 at Hauser Lake County Park benefits Double J Dog Ranch. To register or for more: www.doublejdogranch.org

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

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

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

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

- *Badminton open gym: 7 to 9 p.m. Tues., \$5/person*
- *Basketball open gym: Noon to 1 p.m. Tues. and Thurs., \$4/person*
- *Pickleball drop-in: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thurs.; 6 to 8 p.m. Sun. and Wed. \$2/seniors (\$4/non-seniors)*
- *Table Tennis: 7 to 9:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; \$3/player*
- *Classes including Bootcamp Fitness Training, Keno Karate, Modern Farang-Mu Sul, Wing Chun Kung Fun and Sushu Kung Fu. See web-site for cost and times.*



A special section
just for kids

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DEDICATED TO *dance*

Sisters study the art of ballet and take the stage in local productions

By **Tammy Kimberley**
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Kaelyn Frederick's journey into dance began when she was just a toddler. Noticing that her daughter was motivated more by music than sports, Katie Frederick started Kaelyn in piano lessons, which led to dance classes.

Over the years, Kaelyn, 15, has been involved in jazz, modern and tap dance, but her true love is ballet. Due in some part to her example, Kaelyn's younger sisters Emma, 9, and Maia, 7, have discovered they also enjoy ballet. The Frederick family has found itself immersed in dance, with the three sisters being involved in local performances with The Academy of Dance as well as the Spokane Youth Ballet.

The girls were recently cast in roles for "The Dancing Princesses" put on by the Spokane Youth Ballet in February at the Fox Theater in Spokane. Kaelyn was one of the princesses, while Emma was a flower and Maia was a silver firefly.

"When Kaelyn first performed, she was a flower," Katie said. "It's fun to see it come full circle."

Maia, who has been taking ballet for a year and a half, said she looks forward to the performances because there are "tons of people and lots of flowers."

"I like it when I'm on the stage 'cuz I get to show off," Maia said. "Plus I get to dance with my sister, Kaelyn."

The girls train at The Academy of Dance in Spokane Valley, led by Kristen Potts. Maia

attends lessons two days a week, while Emma takes classes four days a week.

Kaelyn, a freshman at CV, said she is at the studio six days a week for an average of two to three hours each day. She is hoping her time and dedication will pay off with a college dance scholarship.

"Our studio is a place where you can get enough training to pursue a career in it," she said. "Every year (Kristen) has us write down what we're looking to achieve. You have to be willing to work at the stuff you're not good at, which takes a lot of time and effort."

Besides being one of the girls' instructors, Kristen also serves as artistic director of the Spokane Youth Ballet. Emma said Kristen does her best to make sure the dancers all know how to perform the right way.

"She corrects you in a nice way," Emma said. "She doesn't just let you keep doing it if you're doing it wrong."

Kristen's teaching and skill has brought a lot to the community, Katie said. With each

of the productions — which have varied from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to "Hansel and Gretel" — Kristen intertwines dancers of all ages and skill levels to create an actual story and true ballet experience.

"We've lived all over the country and been part of many studios, but I've never been as impressed with a studio as I've been with hers," Katie said.

According to Kristen, learning ballet technique and artistry while having fun are just some of the benefits of kids being involved in a serious classical dance program. Other advantages include self-discipline, focus, confidence, fitness, courtesy and respect toward others and one's self, critical thinking skills, musicality, memory skills and positive self-esteem.

She believes that once a child finds something he or she is passionate about, they should focus on that.

"Persistence and focus leads to mastery, mastery leads to confidence and this spills over into all paths they might choose to walk during their lives," she said.

Kaelyn described her dance friends as her second family. Even though many of the dancers go to different schools and vary in age, she said that the time they spend together in dance has made them close.

"I love that it's a second family there," Katie said. "Kristen has been a good role model for the kids. She has really helped them develop and become better dancers."

profiles:

FREDERICK GIRLS

Ages

Kaelyn, 15
Emma, 9
Maia, 7

Family

Parents, Justin and Katie; brother, Kenton

Pets

Dog, Zoe

Years lived in Liberty Lake

Five years this summer

Activities enjoyed together

Ballet, watching movies



SUBMITTED PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF
SCOTT MARTINEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Maia, Kaelyn and Emma Frederick recently performed with the Spokane Youth Ballet in "The Dancing Princesses" at the Fox Theatre. Kaelyn (above) has been a part of multiple productions put on by The Academy of Dance, where the girls all take lessons.

COMMUNITY

Celebration of reading across the country

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Did you know there is an annual celebration to promote reading among youth? Read Across America Day will take place March 2, and many schools, libraries and public figures will host activities to encourage reading in the community.

The National Education Association came up with the idea for this special day in 1997 and decided to recognize it on March 2, which is the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Born Theodor Seuss Geisel, he first started signing his cartoons "Seuss" while in college. He published 46 children's book that are known for their imaginative creatures and crazy words and rhyme.

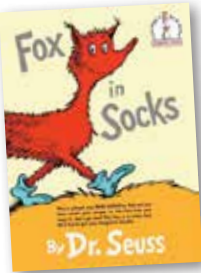
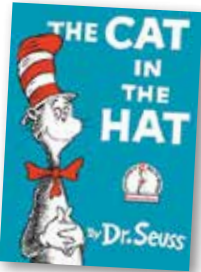
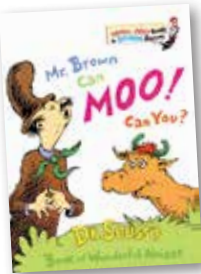
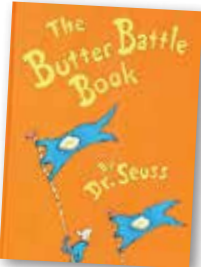
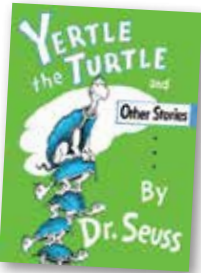
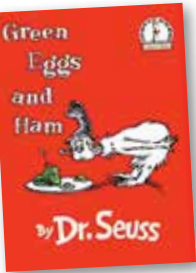
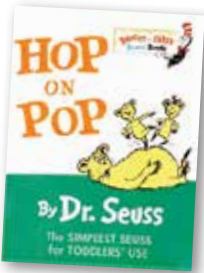
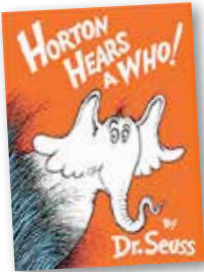
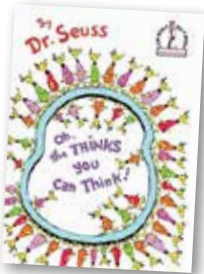
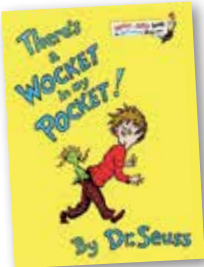
Dr. Seuss' final book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go" was selected as the theme for the 2015 Read Across America Day. On March 2, Dr. Seuss Enterprises plans to launch a website for kids ages 5 to 19 to share stories of how they're "moving mountains" in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

To learn more, visit www.seussville.com/kids-moving-mountains/ or www.nea.org.



Getting hooked on a book

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we're recognizing some of his most well-known books full of rhyme and alliteration. Match the description below to the appropriate book cover. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.



- 1) A fedora containing a feline
- 2) Jump on your father
- 3) Mammal with stockings
- 4) A round object with pork
- 5) An elephant listens to a tiny person
- 6) A strange-named reptile
- 7) A creature's in my garment
- 8) A text about margarine and the military
- 9) Stuff you can ponder
- 10) A farmer sounds like a bovine

Source: www.seussville.com

Unscramble Seuss stars

It's true that a lot of the characters in Dr. Seuss books have silly names, but none quite as crazy as the ones below. Unscramble letters to reveal famous people or creatures in Dr. Seuss books.

- 1) het rolax
- 2) chnirg
- 3) teechness
- 4) varmin k yoomen
- 5) der shif
- 6) tonroh
- 7) dinyc olo
- 8) lasly
- 9) kotcew
- 10) xam

Source: www.seussville.com

By the Numbers

1990
Year published

5 to 17
Ages the books is intended for

56
Number of pages in the book

300,000
Copies sold each spring

98 plus 3/4
Degree of success guaranteed in the book

Source: www.cnn.com/2015/01/22/living/feat-seuss-oh-the-places-youll-go-25/

Getting hooked on a book answers: 1) The Cat in the Hat; 2) Hop on Pop; 3) Fox in Socks; 4) Green Eggs and Ham; 5) Horton Hears a Who; 6) Yertle the Turtle; 7) There's a Wocket in my Pocket; 8) The Butter Battle Book; 9) Oh the Thinks You Can Think; 10) Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You? Unscramble Seuss stars answers: 1) The Lorax; 2) Grinch; 3) Sneetches; 4) Marvin K. Mooney; 5) Red Fish; 6) Horton; 7) Sally; 8) Horton; 9) Yertle; 10) Max



GRAB THE ATTENTION OF KIDS AND FAMILIES!

The Wave is bigger and better than ever, and your business or organization can be a part of it by becoming a Wave partner.

What is The Wave? It's what you are holding in your hands — a special pullout section geared toward elementary-age kids and their families in the Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake communities. The Wave runs monthly in The Splash and The Current — that's 18,000 copies!

Wave partnership packages include advertising and logo recognition in every issue. For more, email advertise@valleycurrent.com or call 509-242-7752.

COMMUNITY

An egg-cellent way to welcome spring

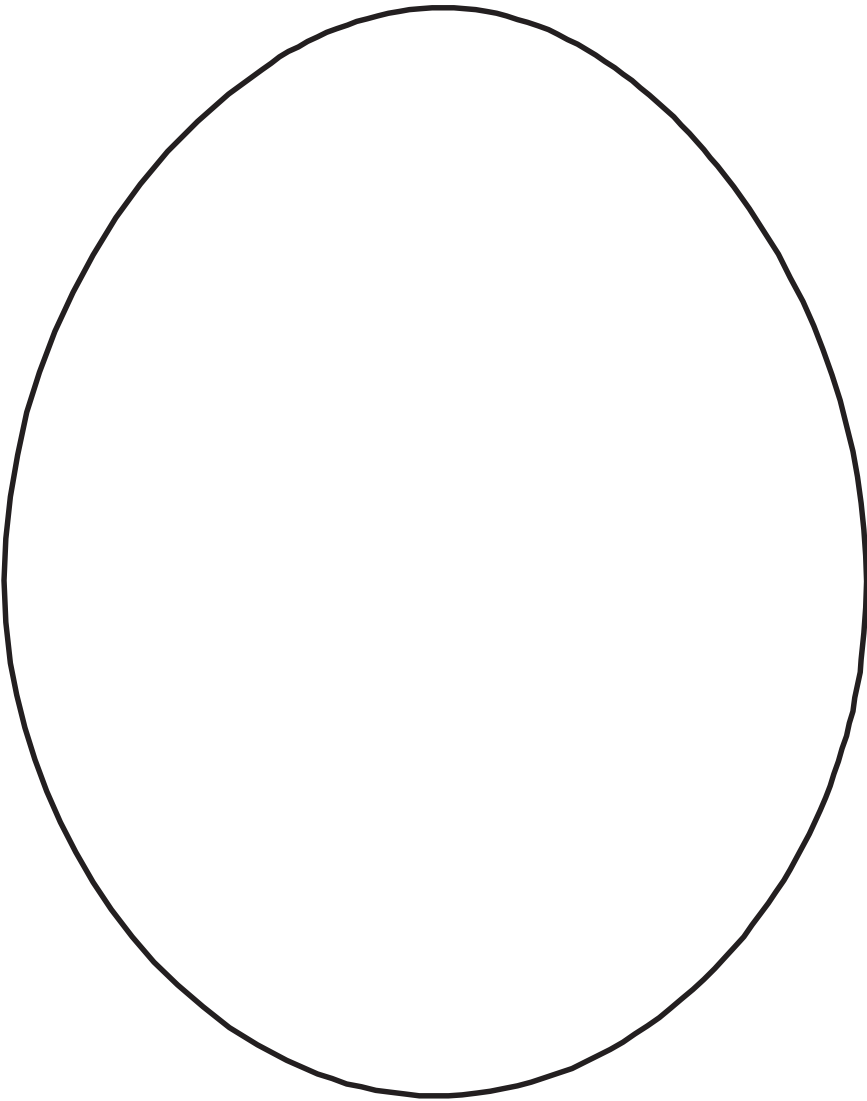
Kids encouraged to enter Wave coloring contest

March brings the official start of spring, and The Wave wants to recognize this special season. While March 20 welcomes the first day of spring, Easter is right around the corner on April 5. Enter our spring contest simply by using your creative talent to decorate this spring sheet.

You can make it classic or crazy, serious or Seussical. Our judges will select the most creative, colorful picture to feature in the next issue of The Splash. The winner will also be awarded a special spring prize package.

This contest is for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade who live or attend school in Liberty Lake. Only one entry per person, please. Don't delay — the deadline to enter is March 13!

Submissions can be scanned and emailed to tammy@libertylakesplash.com or delivered to our office, 23403 E. Mission Ave., Suite 102 in Liberty Lake by March 13.



Name: _____

Age: _____ Phone number: _____

Parent's name: _____

City you live in: _____

Kids Tell It Like It Is

What is your favorite book and why?

Compiled by Tammy Kimberley at Liberty Lake Elementary School



“The Day the Crayons Quit.’ The crayons are mad at Duncan because they don’t like how he’s using them.”
Sarah Abshire, 7



“Encyclopedia Brown’ ‘cuz he solves mysteries.”
Gabriel Mitchell, 8



“The Battle of the Labyrinth.’ It has fighting with the Cyclops, the guy with one eye.”
Connor Crumbley, 9



“Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever’ is a really funny book, especially when the doll that Greg loses comes back to haunt him.”
Tucker Stocum, 9



“The Hobbit.’ It’s very exciting and leaves you hanging. You can’t put down that book.”
Diego Annett, 11



“The Gollywhopper Games’ because it has cool gizmos and gadgets and lot of puzzles.”
Jack Gavin, 11



“Prisoner B-3087.’ It is very emotional; I cried.”
Haileee Templeton, 10



“The ‘Puppy Place’ books. I like it when the family finds a home for the puppies.”
Samee Patch, 7



“Sleeping Beauty’ because it has a happy ending.”
Paige Huntsinger, 7



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58 years of lovin' Liberty Lake

By Sarah Robertson
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

If you ask Elizabeth “Liz” Kiblen what people might find interesting about her, she will promptly tell you her only “claim to fame” is being one of three surviving triplets.

This is impressive enough, and then you realize that Kiblen at 86 was born in 1928. Unexpected triplets born on the doorstep of the Great Depression is even more amazing.

Kiblen must have heard the story over and over because she can recall it with ease. Elizabeth, Thilo and June were born on the family farm in Orofino, Idaho, with no doctor. Their parents were at a bit of a loss for names so Thilo is named after their maternal grandfather, Elizabeth after their paternal grandmother and June after the month of their birth.

When a doctor finally arrived, Kiblen’s family was told that she and her brother and sister would not survive. She says her mother tucked them behind the woodstove to keep them warm. Whatever the family did for them worked, because all three four-pound babies survived.

Not only did the triplets survive, grow and thrive, but Kiblen recalls a happy childhood. “We didn’t know we were poor!”

Kiblen remembers the fun of growing up on a farm, even during the Depression. “There was always food to eat on a farm.”

One of her favorite memories of the farm is building a playhouse with her siblings on the property. (She also has an older brother, Marion.) It even had cooking capabilities.

Although Kiblen easily recalls “lovely times,” she is amazed at the generosity of her parents during such a difficult period in American history. Kiblen’s family eventually lost their farm, but before it happened, her mother and father took in three farm workers. They were able to give the men shelter in the bunkhouse and food to eat.

“Even though the times were so bad and there was no work, my parents said they could always use a little extra help,” Kiblen said.

Kiblen’s daughter, Barbara Ferrell — also a Liberty Lake resident — believes that her grandparents’ generosity is a major influence in her mother’s life.

“She is very giving,” Ferrell said. “She would give family or friends the shirt off her back or money or whatever they need.”

Ferrell also notes that the Depression left a lasting mark on her mother, as it did on



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Elizabeth Kiblen has lived in Liberty Lake for nearly six decades. Above, Kiblen is pictured with her triplet siblings, Thilo and June, who were born on the family farm in Idaho.

many of the same generation.

“She learned to be very frugal and has a lot of respect for the value of a dollar,” she said.

Some of Ferrell’s favorite memories of childhood perhaps come from her mother’s frugal ways. She remembers what an amazing seamstress her mother is. She felt like the luckiest girl on the block with all the “really cool” clothes her mother would sew for her Barbies.

“She taught me how to sew buttons on,” she said. “We really had a lot of fun.”

Though Kiblen had a lovely childhood during the Depression and clearly learned some valuable skills, hard times did befall her family. After losing the farm, her family, like many others in Idaho, moved to find work in the logging industry.

They ended up in Pierce, Idaho, a logging town that Kiblen describes as a beautiful place. She especially remembers school with her siblings in a one-room schoolhouse that accommodated grades one through eight.

“Mrs. White was our teacher in first through fourth. I don’t know how she did it. We always just seemed to get along,” Kiblen said. “I always liked school. I could never do math, but I had wonderful grades otherwise. I loved being with friends.”

Kiblen enjoyed school enough to work toward her teaching certificate after finishing high school. However, fate — or her instructors — had a different plan.

“Our teacher said we were here to meet husbands,” Kiblen said.

And half way through her courses, Kiblen met her husband, Mitchell, in 1947, and they married that same year. While Kiblen did return to classes, she eventually dropped out because of the birth of her first son, born on the day her husband graduated.

Kiblen’s husband was from Spirit Lake, Idaho, but he found work as a coach and teacher in the Spokane area. By 1957, they had settled in Liberty Lake, and that is where Kiblen has lived ever since. In fact, within the past few years, she moved out of her longtime home into a condo, and her son moved in.

What was Liberty Lake like 58 years ago? According to Kiblen, “It was wonderful. We lived near apple orchards and there was lots of open space for the kids to run.”

Her children loved to swim in the lake in the summer and skate on it in the winter. They were just starting the golf course, and most of the family took up golf, too.

Ferrell remembers that the kids around the lake left home in the morning and ran around all day. Each house had a different whistle, so the kids knew when to check in.

Kiblen spent much of her time taking care of her four children. She was a Camp Fire leader and loved camping out at Liberty Lake County Park. Ferrell remembers, “She is the best fire starter!”

Fountain profiles:

ELIZABETH “LIZ” KIBLEN

- Age**
86
- Hobbies**
Watercolor painting, gardening, and refinished antique furniture
- Biggest Change in Liberty Lake**
“I’m amazed by the growth. It’s still a nice place to live. They’ve done wonderful planning.”
- Favorite Activities**
Antique shopping in Post Falls and Coeur d’Alene, and the occasional game of bridge

Longtime friend, Polly Soderquist, remembers meeting Kiblen in the 1960s. Both were charter members of the garden club and fast friends ever since.

“She is a very loyal friend,” Soderquist said. “She has strong opinions, but they are well thought out.”

One of Soderquist’s favorite memories of her friendship with Kiblen is a road trip they took to Southern California to see the Van Gogh exhibit at the Getty Museum. Both ladies are big fans of the artist.

And if Kiblen’s life doesn’t sound busy enough, she also went back to school after her children were grown and fulfilled a life-long dream to become a nurse. She retired after 19 years at Deaconess.

“I always wanted to be a nurse,” Kiblen said. “It was part of God’s plan. I loved it!”

Now Kiblen feels lucky still to be in Liberty Lake with all of her children nearby. However, she does miss her grandchildren.

“I just love my grandkids,” she said. “I used to take them to the lake, and they are spread out all over now. I really miss them.”

— King Crossword — Answers

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

COMMUNITY

Trivia Test

- 1. GEOGRAPHY:** What South American country lies between Colombia and Peru?
- 2. ANATOMY:** What is the common name for the maxilla?
- 3. U.S. STATES:** What is the state capital of Michigan?
- 4. LITERATURE:** What was the name of the alchemist who invented the Philosopher's Stone in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- 5. MUSIC:** What is a quadrille?
- 6. TELEVISION:** What was the name of

the competing bar in the comedy show "Cheers"?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: By what other name do most people know Esther Pauline Friedman?

8. AD SLOGANS: "The dogs kids love to bite" were made by which company?

9. SYMBOLS: Which month of the year is named after the Roman god of war?

10. SCIENCE: What is the chemical element symbol for tungsten?

— 2015 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Appraising souvenirs and such

'Collecting' by Larry Cox
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Q: I began collecting turn-of-the-century souvenir tumblers several years ago. I now have a few dozen and wonder if they will ever increase in value. They seem to sell in the \$10 to \$25 range, the same as when I first began collecting. — *Paula, Wheatridge, Colo.*

A: Your pieces sound like examples of flashing. According to "Glass A to Z" by David Shotwell, this type of glass is achieved when a thin layer of glass — usually colored — is applied over one that is clear or lightly tinted. The process involves dipping the object into molten glass, a process quite different from that of making cased or overlay glass, which requires a thicker layer. Most of the pieces I've seen are either amber or ruby color and, as you indicated, almost all have been souvenir pieces. In my personal collection, I have a small toothpick holder in ruby glass that has the inscription "From Cora and Clem ... World's Fair 1904." This is fairly typical. Since it is a World's Fair item, it might be worth a little more than many of the others I've seen in shops and at antiques malls.

Q: A number of years ago, my husband took me to London to celebrate our anniversary. During that trip, we saw "Miss Saigon" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. It was one of the most thrilling nights of my life. I would like to find one of the posters from that production. Can you help me? — *Barbara, Rochester, N.Y.*

A: "Dress Circle" was the go-to shop for memorabilia concerning London theatrical productions. It closed in February 2013, but the company continues to do business online. I checked its website and found a "Miss Saigon" poster for about \$12. Contact is info@dresscircle.com, and <http://www.dresscircle.com>.

Q: I have a 78-rpm recording of "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters. Do I have a rarity? — *Sue, Kileen, Texas*

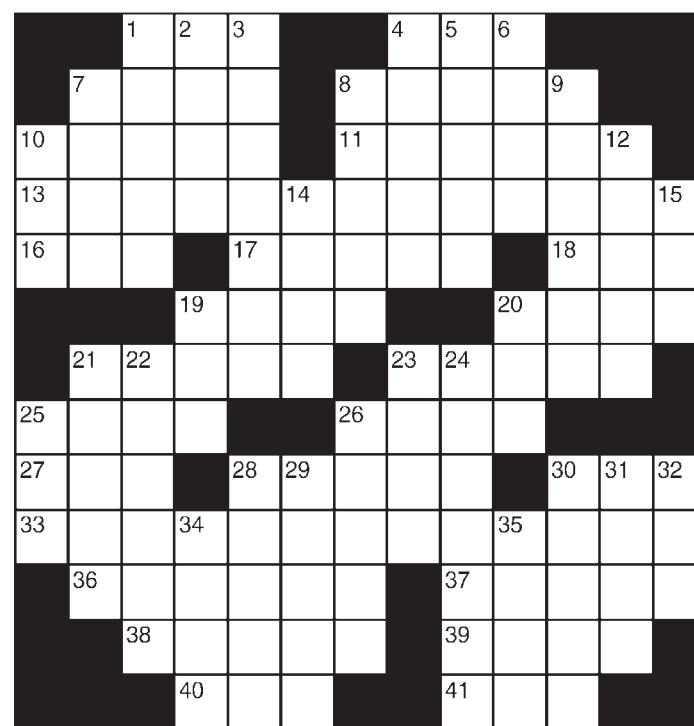
A: Not really. Your recording was issued by Decca in 1951, and even though it charted and peaked for 11 weeks, it is not considered scarce. In a good condition, it would probably sell for a dollar or two.

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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 — de deux
- 4 Rotating part
- 7 St. Louis landmark
- 8 Sorcerer
- 10 Durable wood
- 11 Obliterated
- 13 Jake and Elwood
- 16 Foundation
- 17 Kin of linen
- 18 Also
- 19 Accomplishment
- 20 Fragment
- 21 Scrub, as a space mission
- 23 Old-hat
- 25 Pitcher type
- 26 Taverns
- 27 Petrol
- 28 Wails like a banshee
- 30 School org.
- 33 Golf course maintenance crew
- 36 Concoct
- 37 Canonical hour
- 38 Small plateaus
- 39 Rooster
- 40 Bashful



41 Before

DOWN

- 1 Exultant
- 2 Teen's complexion
- 3 Unscrupulous lawyer
- 4 Yuletide rendition
- 5 Playing marble
- 6 Dog-sledding
- 7 Competent
- 8 Deserve
- 9 Boil
- 10 Recede
- 12 R2-D2, e.g.
- 14 Lake vessel
- 15 Bribe
- 19 Supporting
- 20 Dol. fractions
- 21 Prize
- 22 Suit, old-style
- 23 Sand formation
- 24 Lack
- 25 Ovum
- 26 Chinese dogs, for short
- 28 Deli turnover
- 29 English homework, often
- 30 Pound pieces
- 31 "Star —"
- 32 Fool
- 34 Prior nights
- 35 Indigent

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Answers to Trivia Test

1. Ecuador
2. Jawbone
3. Lansing
4. Nicolas Flamel
5. Dance with four couples in a square formation
6. Gary's Olde Towne Tavern
7. Ann Landers
8. Armour
9. March (Mars)
10. W



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Big Hero 6 Movie Night

6 to 8 p.m.
March 5

Free popcorn
(and feel free to bring a sack dinner)



A 'VINTAGE' MONTH

March adult programming swirls around the theme of wine

Documentary Film Showing: *Somm*

1 to 3 p.m. March 2
A must-see for wine lovers, this film follows six men pursuing the title of Master Sommelier (bring a sack dinner, free popcorn)

Book Tasting

1 p.m. March 13
Get a "taste" for what's on our new shelves, and bring a favorite book to swap for a month

Cork Creations

6 to 8 p.m.
March 26
Ideas for what you can do with all those wine corks!



Liberty Lake Municipal LIBRARY

www.libertylakewa.gov/library
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Friends carry on tea tradition

By Lauren Campbell
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Each year, the Friends of Liberty Lake Municipal Library hosts a high tea to raise funds for the library. Since it's a municipal library, the group provides a large portion of the funding for the library's many programs, including crafting groups, kids programs and holiday events.

This year's tea will be held April 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Meadowwood Technology Campus. Tickets are \$20 per seat. Ross Schneidmiller, president of the Liberty Lake Historical Society, will be the guest speaker. A silent auction will also be held, with items donated from the community. The Friends are hoping to raise \$5,000 to support library programs.

The tea began a decade ago when Pat Lutzenberger attended a high tea at a local church. She thought it was a fun, unique way to spend an afternoon, so she borrowed the idea to use for the library. That first tea was held on May 1, 2004, and was attended by about 80 people. The Liberty Lake Kiwanis Club donated food and advertising money, and the Friends raised money through ticket sales and a silent auction.

"I just think it's wonderful to see how the community has come together and

kept this event going," Lutzenberger said.

This year's tea has a theme of history, and the Friends are excited to share the history of Liberty Lake. Cindy Troxel, vice president of Friends, is also the chairperson of the annual tea. Troxel described this year's themed decorations and food as things that would belong in the "olden days," all homemade, all natural, with many finger foods.

Troxel believes the library is one of the greatest resources in the city of Liberty Lake.

"It's progressed into a resource center — this place where you can go if you have a desire to learn anything," she said.

Troxel is particularly excited about the children's summer reading program that hundreds of kids participate in each year, which encourages kids to read books and have the chance to win prizes.

"Friends developed as a liaison between the library and the public to fund extracurricular programs," she said. "The summer program particularly is a great opportunity for kids to keep up their skills and have something fun to do."

The Friends group has grown exponentially in the last few years, Troxel said. When she moved to Liberty Lake from Geneva, Switzerland, three years ago after her husband passed away, there were only about five people involved. Now there are close to 25.

"The first thing I did when I moved here was join the Friends, and it's been the best thing I ever did," Troxel said.

New members are always welcome, she said, and information is available in the Friends corner of the library. The annual tea has grown quickly along with the group, she added.

"Each year, it gets a little bigger," Troxel said. "We're thinking this might be the year we sell out — the excitement has been enormous."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first tea held by Friends of Liberty Lake Municipal Library was on May 1, 2004, at Liberty Lake Elementary School.

IF YOU GO ... Friends Spring Tea

April 25, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Meadowwood Technology Campus,
2100 N. Molter

"Celebrating our Heritage" is the theme for this fundraiser hosted by Friends of Liberty Lake Municipal Library. The annual event includes a silent auction, finger foods, desserts and tea. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at Liberty Lake Municipal Library.

Library Briefs

March is the time to read

Liberty Lake Library is encouraging kids in their love for reading during the month of March. In conjunction with the annual Read Across America program, the library is sponsoring a month-long event for ages 4 through third grade with a Dr. Seuss-styled reading program and prizes.

There will also be a birthday party for Dr. Seuss on March 2 at 4 p.m. with book readings, games, crafts and treats. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed as a children's book character for a costume contest.

Library celebrates wine

It's Vino appreciation month with a selection of adult wine-themed activities happening at the library.

On March 2 at 1 p.m., the library will offer a showing of the documentary, "Somm," which follows a few hopefuls as they try to become the ultimate experts of wine. Get a taste of what's new on library shelves during a Book Tasting on March 13 at 1 p.m. Discover what to do with wine corks during Crafts with Corks that will be held 6 p.m. March 26. To register or for more information, call 232-2510.

Adjusted hours for March

The library will be closed March 12 for annual inventory. In addition, the library will open late at 1 p.m. on March 26.

STCU holds workshop

STCU is offering a free financial work-

shop at noon March 18 at the library. The workshop is titled, "Prevent Fraud and Identity Theft." A light meal will be provided. To register or for more information, visit www.stcu.org.

Friends to sell Easter buckets

The Friends of Liberty Lake Municipal Library will be selling Easter buckets in late March and early April as a fundraiser. For more information, contact Lorraine Halverson at 255-9215.

Volunteers needed

The library is in need of volunteers who are available on Mondays to help library staff with shelving. For more information, call 232-2510.

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John Niece, President
Liberty Lake Kiwanis Foundation
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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Alaina Stevenson, pictured at left with husband, Kyle, and sons Beau and Bryce, created a program called Beau's Baskets of Hope to provide support and resources for families whose children have Down syndrome.

Mom creates Beau's Baskets of Hope

By Lauren Campbell
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Five years ago, when Alaina Stevenson's first son Beau was born with Down syndrome, she found herself in a state of shock, and without any source of support.

"When we were given the diagnosis, a social worker came in to our room and gave us an overwhelming book of medical jargon," she said.

She went where many go with questions — to Google. Everything she read just left her more scared for her son's future. She describes her feelings as a bit of a grieving process, even as she had her baby boy in her arms.

What she really needed was encouragement.

"It can be a really scary and shocking time," Stevenson said. "For a while, (my husband and I) just wanted to run away. I want other parents to know that all the feelings they're having are normal."

When Beau was a toddler, she created

a program, Beau's Baskets of Hope, to donate welcome baskets to other parents of children with Down syndrome. She held a fundraiser in her hometown of St. Maries, Idaho, to raise money for the first round of welcome baskets.

Stevenson donated the first basket to Deaconess Hospital, where Beau was born, on his third birthday. Due to medical privacy laws, she leaves the baskets at the hospital to be delivered to new parents by nurses on duty.

The baskets, which are now in 10 area hospitals and two genetic counseling offices, include diapers, children's books, stuffed animals, baby accessories, contact information for Down Syndrome Connections Northwest, and literature about Down syndrome.

"I wanted people to know that they have support and to have the chance to just be congratulated on this new life," Stevenson said.

Not all of the recipients of the baskets reach out to Stevenson, but many do, although sometimes it can take a year or

profiles:

ALAINA STEVENSON

Age
32

Family
Husband, Kyle; sons, Beau and Bryce

Dream vacation
Somewhere tropical where I can unwind and relax.

Favorite hobby
Any activity outdoors — running, snowshoeing, hiking, etc.

Something unique about you
I'm an identical twin.

two. Many parents have told her that the basket was a beacon of hope in a scary time for their family.

"From the moment we first saw our precious baby girl, we both knew in our hearts that she had Down syndrome," said Beth Hohenstreet, mother of an infant with Down syndrome, via email. "It is hard to describe all the strong emotions we felt that day: there was a strange mixture of love, fear, faith and sadness ... A ray of sunshine and hope came into our room that afternoon ... a nurse entered

See BASKETS, page 33

PROFILES

BASKETS

Continued from page 32

carrying a huge, lovely basket. ... We can't seem to find words to adequately describe what that basket did for us. Our spirits were immediately lifted — someone knew what we were going through! Others saw our baby as a gift worth celebrating, and they even took time, energy, and money to show us just what a precious gift we had."

Since she began distributing the baskets, Stevenson has given baskets to 45 families. She is now on the board of Ds Connections, and the project has become an official part of its budget. Stevenson and her family moved from Idaho to Liberty Lake a few years ago.

One of the mothers who received a basket is a woman from Troy, Idaho, and she proceeded to start a website and Facebook page, called Special Miracles. She wrote about the baskets in one of her newsletters, and shortly after, Stevenson was contacted by people around the world about starting a similar program in their area to support other parents.

The Ds Connections Northwest group also provides support for families as their kids grow up. Parents can reach out to

"I wanted people to know that they have support, and to have the chance to just be congratulated on this new life."

— ALAINA STEVENSON

other parents who have experience with Down and receive support as well as recommendations — for a great dentist, a speech therapist or activities that their children have enjoyed. The organization hosts events where families can come together for a fun day, and each family there has experience with Down.

Down syndrome is caused by an extra replication of the 21st chromosome, causing people to have three instead of the standard two. Because of this, World Down syndrome Day is on the 21st of March — 3/21. Down Syndrome International encourages people to talk about Down syndrome on that day, to increase awareness and discuss the myriad possibilities available to people with the condition.

To find out more, search for Beau's Baskets of Hope on Facebook.

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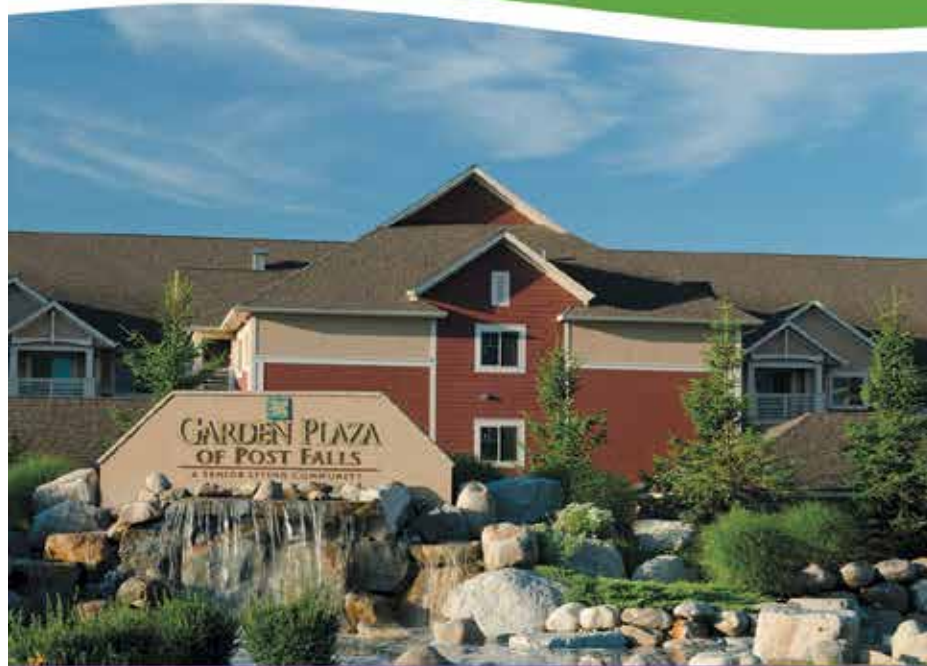
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PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A group of people enjoy afternoon refreshments along Liberty Lake's Wicomico Beach in this 1913 photo.

SOCIALIZING AT THE LAKE

By Ross Schneidmiller

LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As the "Killarney" darted over the finish line, young Harold Gallagher (who accompanied his father) unfurled the American flag and the race was won. The silver cup Commodore A. E. Gallagher received for the victory was inscribed with the following: "First prize, Annual Regatta, Liberty Lake, September 10, 1907." It was the first launch regatta to be held at the lake and had been arranged by the summer residents who dwelled in camps and cottages along the lakeshore.

The day of the race, the water was perfect for such an event. Nearly without a ripple, the water was so smooth, the reflection of Big Rock could be seen from the west shore. About an hour before the race, boats belonging to summer residents started to take their positions around the course. People were seen on all sides of the lake waiting for the race to start. As the five launches decked in colorful bunting crossed the starting line, a mighty roar could be heard from the spectators. The betting was spirited among both the men and the women, with most of the wagers being placed on the two favorite boats, the "Killarney" owned by Gallagher and the "Me Too" owned by Raymond Siefert. At the halfway point, the "Killarney" only had a narrow lead over the "Me Too" but started to extend it on the homeward trip. Making the round trip in just 20 minutes

over the three-mile course, Gallagher and his boat would have bragging rights over his fellow competitors, who were also his friends and neighbors at the lake.

Rest and relaxation along with recreation may have been the motivation to purchase property at the lake. Advertisements for Wicomico Beach, Liberty Lake's summer colony, promised a break from the demands of society. However, lounging in the hammock with a cool summer breeze soon took a backseat to entertaining family and friends. Liberty Lake's first cottage owners brought the social activities, which they were accustomed to while residing in Spokane's premier neighborhoods like Rockwood and Summit, to the lake.

In 1910, to get better acquainted, the summer residents held a dance. The organizers succeeded in getting exclusive use of the Dance Pavillion at Liberty Lake Park. The largest committee established was for invitations. This most likely was because the invitations were made by hand and would have been passed out in person to all the camps and cottages around the lake. The reception committee included some of the community's longest residents, including Mrs. MacKenzie and Mrs. Kalez who, along with their families, were well known resort operators. Five men were chosen to be floor managers, including Mac Pugh, the residing Spokane County Sheriff who had a place at the lake.

The inside of the Pavillion was decorated

for the occasion with streamers of bunting, flags and Japanese lanterns. In addition to cottagers and campers around the lake, invited guests from the city arrived on a special train. Promptly at 8:20 p.m., the dance began with a grand march, where guests promenaded onto and around the dance floor.

Billed as an old-fashioned dance, the program included fiddling favorites like "The Virginia Reel," "Old Dan Tucker" and "Money Musk" for the dancing pleasure of young and old attendees. It was a real family affair.

The dance was a success, and new residents continued to socialize together, often having dinner parties. On Aug. 23, 1910, The Spokane Daily Chronicle described one such party: "Mr. and Mrs. George T. Carr were hosts at one of the jolliest parties of the season at Liberty Lake Friday evening when they entertained a number of campers at Whist and Pit, after which a delicious supper was served. The house was prettily decorated inside with sweet peas, ferns and sunflowers, while Japanese lanterns hung in profusion on the porch and grounds."

Liberty Lake Park, known as Spokane's Inland Seashore, quickly became one of the area's most popular destinations. The band concert held there on July 4, 1910, drew a crowd estimated at 12,000. Those who had established camps or cottages at the lake found themselves at the place to be.



Neighbors & Neighborhoods

A 2015 SERIES PRESENTED BY THE
LIBERTY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

- In July 1909, Spokane's latest musical organization, "The Inland Quartet," serenaded various campers and cottagers at Liberty Lake for two hours one evening.
- Whist is a classic English trick-taking card game which was widely played in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Pit is a fast-paced card game for three to seven players designed to simulate open outcry bidding for commodities. The game was developed for Parker Brothers and first sold in 1904.
- The society pages of Spokane newspapers often told the happenings of Liberty Lake's summer residents.
- Camps and cottages often had clever names like "Linger Longer Camp" or "The Seldom Inn."

It became common for lake residents to invite guests to spend the day or weekend with them at the lake. These gatherings usually included swimming and boating as well as less strenuous activities like cards. In the evening, they often attended the dances at the Pavillion. If the hosts wanted a night off from cooking for their guests, they could enjoy a fine meal at one of the eateries around the lake. Better yet, at the end of the dance the train service could return their company to Spokane, giving the hosts a chance to return to a quieter, more relaxing cottage. Other times, the night was far from over and they would return to their camp or cottage to enjoy a bonfire on the beach along with refreshments.

Liberty Lake saw a major transformation over the three summers since the railway added a spur line to the lake in June 1907. As the summer residents were closing up their camps and cottages for the season in 1910, they were looking forward to next year at the lake. But first they needed to go home for some rest and relaxation!

Ross Schneidmiller is president of the Liberty Lake Historical Society.

COMMUNITY



LLCT brings talent show parody to life — or to death

'American Idle: Murdering the Music' runs through March 15

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Beginning in late February, Liberty Lake Community Theatre will perform a comedy spoof on one of television's most popular talent shows. This production running until March 15 also throws a little mystery into the mix.

"American Idle: Murdering the Music" is in fact a murder-mystery comedy all rolled into a singularly fun performance, said Tiffany Hill, who is co-directing with husband Seneca Hill.

"There is singing, but the worse the person sings the better," said Tiffany Hill. She has worked in theater since age 4 and is now 32.

"It's a funny show that everyone will love," she said. "If you want a night of not having to think of anything and just want to laugh, come see this spoof."

The play appeals to all ages, according to Hill.

"If they know the people in American Idol, they'll like it because it kind of pokes fun at the people in the show," she said. "I think especially teenagers will like it."

Of course, the play includes a character called Ryan Seasunk, a hyperactive emcee of the most popular talent show in America. Seasunk is played by Chris Bastible. He is joined in hosting by a snooty, annoyed co-host who is called Brianna Dunklefunkle, performed by Alyssa Jordan.

As viewers tune in, the top 10 finalists perform for a lively studio audience and for three in-fighting judges, who coincidentally have the monikers of Simon Callous, Paula Abominable, and Randy Jackalacka. Those characters are tackled by actors Tim Hill as Simon, Vicki Normington as Paula, and Tim Michael as Randy.

Winning the contest takes a backseat to survival as death threats are soon realized and the contestants start going down, one by one. Wanting the live show to go on, the ratings-hungry producer Joanna keeps hiding the bodies backstage during commercial breaks. However, at the show's end, the killer is revealed.

Normington is Tiffany Hill's mom. Hill said her mother got her involved in stage performances at an early age, as well as both of her sisters.

"We're very much involved with Liberty Lake Community Theatre," Tiffany Hill said about herself and her husband. "We live in Spokane Valley, but I wanted to get involved in a smaller-niche community theater. They're very open, easy to work with and supportive. My husband is new to theater."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Under the direction of Tiffany and Seneca Hill, a talented local cast is staging the comedic mystery, 'American Idle: Murdering the Music' at the Liberty Lake Community Theatre through March 15.

IF YOU GO ...

"American Idle: Murdering the Music"

Where: Liberty Lake Community Theatre, 22810 E. Appleway Ave.

When: 2 p.m. Feb. 28, March 8 and March 15; 7 p.m. Feb. 27-28, March 5-7 and March 12-14

Cost: \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors 65 and older, \$8 for youth ages 3-12 and free for children 2 and younger. Tickets available at the door.

Cast: Chris Bastible, Alyssa Jordan, Vicki Normington, Tim Hill, Tim Michael, Jean Simpson, Alicia Townsend, Casey Townsend, Greg Bretti, Tyler Degenstein, Bekah Blowers, Kevin Keucken, Grace Nall, Russia Demitro, Sandi Wastenev, Kristi Kellar, Katie Simpson, Jill Boles and Sydney Wastenev.

Crew: Seneca and Tiffany Hill, directors; Ken Boles, stage manager; Jill Boles, costumer; Dennis Middleton, set designer; Sean Boles, spotlight; Jon Mittler, lights; and Rick Pentland, sound.

Jean Simpson, who plays in the show as American Idle's production assistant Hannah Hapless, said the play balances great humor with a bit of mystery.

"The audience may be genuinely surprised at the outcome," Simpson said. "Keep in mind it is a mocking of that famous Idol show."

Simpson's youngest daughter, Katie Simpson, also appears in the play as one of the contestants. Katie performed in high school theater, and she appeared at age 17 in a full-length feature film, "The Mooring."

"This cast is crazy good, and we are having a blast," Jean Simpson said.

Splash Travels



At left: Former Liberty Lake residents Darin and Erica Al Dhahi (left) hosted Todd and Benita Humphreys in Tampa Bay to watch Liberty Lake's Tyler Johnson and the Lightning beat the Colorado Avalanche in a shootout (3-2) on Jan. 17.

Below: While in Washington D.C. to speak at a Senate Hearing to fix No Child Left Behind education law, Liberty Lake native and Seattle teacher Rachelle Moore, along with her mother Liberty Lake resident Marlane Moore, took some time to explore the city and show their Liberty Lake and Seahawks spirit.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Shutterbug snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

In early February, Michael Hasset found a pair of great-horned owls back at last year's nest. He said the female appeared to be sitting on eggs while the male watched from his perch in a nearby tree.



Loving the library



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kids participated in the Lego Mania contest and the Valentine's Day party held at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library in recent months.

CCA wins Think Award



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Classical Christian Academy's I-BOTS FTC Robotics Team took home the Think Award in late January at Montana State University. Pictured are (front row) Logan Shults, Aaron Rosenberg; (back row) Ethan Hanson, Luke Larkin, Josiah Coad, Elisha Coad, **Branden Zurfluh** and Corbin Shults. Not pictured is Richelle Manson. (Liberty Lake resident highlighted in bold.)

Make way for March



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Amber Englehardt shared a picture of her cats, Romeo and Jasper, getting ready for St. Patrick's Day.

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www.facebook.com/LibertyLakeOrganicMarket

Liberty Lake Organic Market opened Feb. 3 at 21980 E. Country Vista Drive, Suite 100.

Liberty Lake Organic Market launches

By Mary Kate Koch
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

While organics may be confusing or intimidating to some, Kramer McNett and Heather DelCarlo have found their passion in it. After a transformative stint in Hawaii, Liberty Lake locals McNett and DelCarlo moved back to the area and launched the Liberty Lake Organic Market.

“My girlfriend and I lived in Hawaii for a while and enjoyed going to the local farmers market,” McNett said. “That access to local produce is something we wanted to bring to the community when we moved back to Liberty Lake. We started the store because we have a passion for organics.”

When McNett and DelCarlo lived in Hawaii, they practiced vegetarianism, but have returned to an omnivorous lifestyle since moving back to Liberty Lake. However, they still try to restrict gluten from their diets and eat organic as much as they can. The pair are applying the diet and lifestyle expertise to running the new market.

An organics store stocks more than just fresh produce from local farmers. The Liberty Lake Organic Market also offers grass-fed meats, vegetarian protein alternatives, gluten free foods, teas, hygiene products and many other organic items. All of these products are as locally sourced and preservative-free as McNett and DelCarlo can find them. According to McNett, the Liberty Lake Organic Market has

a price range comparable to Main Market in downtown Spokane, which they view as both a competitor and role model.

“We work with Spokane Family Farms, Rocky Ridge Ranch and Ronnigers Organics, as well as Bare Culture and Namaste in Coeur d’Alene,” McNett said. “These meetings are casual. We identify organic products that are healthy and good, and then work to partner with the company. The difficulty has been getting in touch with local farmers. They are busy guys.”

The Liberty Lake Organic Market had its soft opening on Feb. 3 and was met with favorable reviews from community members who expressed appreciation for the new addition of local organics suppliers. McNett and DelCarlo are still planning on a grand opening somewhere in the near future.

“We are still hoping to have a grand opening later in the spring,” McNett said. “We are aiming for that to be around March or April, but it will be a little weather dependent. We want the farmers to have as much produce as possible for the opening.”

McNett and DelCarlo are the co-owners and co-managers of the store. According to McNett, while both of them have had lots of experience in the industry, this is their first shot at business ownership. McNett is enjoying the opening as a fun learning experience.

“My favorite part so far has been the



SPLASH PHOTOS BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

people we’ve met,” McNett said. “We’ve met a lot of people who have the same interests as us and have learned a lot from them. Meeting people with food allergies has also been an enlightening experience. We’ve learned how difficult everyday grocery shopping can be for them. We’re here to make their life a little bit easier.”

Although the Liberty Lake Organic Market is still brand new, McNett already has dreams of expanding the store in an effort to become a community center for any organic product need. This eagerness is congruent with McNett and DelCarlo’s desire to learn as much as they can about

the nuances of organics and dietary needs.

“In the future, we want to add a deli,” McNett said. “We have a drive-thru window already, and we want to begin selling drinks through that soon. We will serve kombucha (a sweetened, fermented tea), organic coffee, smoothies and juices so that we’re geared toward offering as many local options to the community that we can.”

With a passion for both organics and filling a role in the community, McNett and DeCarlo are happy to serve as liaison for anyone feeling that organics are a little confusing or intimidating.

BUSINESS

In Biz

Himebaugh joins Baird

David Himebaugh recently joined Baird as a senior vice president and financial advisor in its Spokane wealth management office. Previously with Wells Fargo, Himebaugh has more than 25 years of industry experience.



HIMEBAUGH

Baird is an employee-owned, international wealth management, capital markets, private equity and asset management firm. The firm's wealth management business encompasses more

than 800 financial advisors serving clients through more than 80 offices in 26 states with client assets of more than \$100 billion.

Ferrero brings business to LL

Switch Up Web & Marketing recently moved into suite 220B at the Liberty Lake Portal building, 23403 E. Mission Ave.

Liberty Lake resident Jennifer Ferrero founded the full-service website development and marketing agency company in 2011. The business offers strategic planning, including communications development along with design, copywriting and production of all materials needed to conduct business.

For more information, visit www.switchupweb.com.

Chamber honors award recipients

The 12th annual Gem of the Valley Gala was held Jan. 31 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel by the Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce to recognize business and community achievements. The 2014 Harry E. Nelson Citizen of the Year Award went to Marlene "Marti" Hollenback, community contributor and dealer principal/president of Dishman Dodge Ram Chrysler Jeep.

The Chamber also recognized Dick Brantley and John Guarisco for their work within the organization. Brantley was

named Chamber Ambassador of the Year and Guarisco as Chamber Volunteer of the Year.

Three of the Valley's school districts selected educators of the year: Jennell McLaughlin, Central Valley School District; Jerry Call, East Valley School District; and Warryn Hansen, West Valley School District.

Other winners of the 2014 Awards of Excellence, as voted by the Chamber's membership, were as follows:

Charity/Cultural Services:

GSC Meals on Wheels

Community Caring Award:

Toys for Tots

Entrepreneur Award:

Barry Baker

Small Business of the Year:

Simply Northwest

Large Business of the Year:

Mirabeau Park Hotel

Padden sponsors bill to aid small businesses

A bill sponsored by Senator Mike Padden to provide tax relief for Washington small business owners recently was approved by the Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee.



PADDEN

Senate Bill 5339 would create a deferral from the business-and-occupation tax during a small business's first three years of existence. The bill now moves to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Senator Padden represents the 4th Legislative Districts which includes Colbert, Greenbluff, Liberty Lake, Millwood and Spokane Valley.

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

IntelliTect appears at career fair



SUBMITTED PHOTO

IntelliTect was invited by Central Valley High School to take part in CV's career fair on Feb. 3. IntelliTect's HR Director Anne Beard and Vice President of Professional Services Philip Spokas spent the day talking to Central Valley students about exciting careers in software development.

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BUSINESS

Physzique expands facility, locations

LL-based business opened two new locations in January

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

More than a dozen people jogged across a wide, newly expanded exercise floor at the Liberty Lake Physzique on a recent Thursday morning. A fitness trainer led the exercises.

To serve a growing number of clients, Physzique just finished an expansion at its Liberty Lake facility to go from 1,800 square feet to just over 6,000 square feet of space, most of which makes up its fitness area.

Amy Hunt, co-owner of the Liberty Lake-based business, says word-of-mouth referrals and a popular series of 12-week challenges for clients to reach goals have fueled fast company growth that now includes operating five separate clubs. Two of those centers just opened in January.

"At the same time we opened in Coeur d'Alene in January, we also opened in Kennewick," Hunt said. "We have pretty aggressive growth plans. We plan to open four studios a year in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. We're looking to open a second Tri-Cities location this summer and another in Yakima this fall."

She and her husband, company founder Zach Hunt, are at the helm of Physzique that has its Liberty Lake club at 1611 N. Molter and other Spokane area centers at 8117 N. Division and on the South Hill at 2101 E. 29th.

She said Zach started the company nine years ago when he began private fitness training with a few clients, and his training style soon became popular. Today, she said the business still strives for a fun environment that keeps a focus on individuals within small groups.

"We wanted to pair together nutrition with the fitness," she said.

Amy Hunt has national certifications in exercise and strength conditioning, as well as nutrition training. Her husband has an Eastern Washington University degree in exercise science and nutrition.



Zach and Amy Hunt own Physzique Fitness, which celebrated the expansion of its Liberty Lake headquarters as well as two new locations recently.



SPLASH PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

Physzique's 12-week challenges started about four years ago. The focus includes a weekly weigh-in, unlimited regular workouts, and nutrition counseling during the challenge period to help the participants reach weight-loss goals.

Each session ends with a celebration party to give recognition to all participants as well as prizes to people who achieved top weight loss. The red-carpet treatment for all participants is held at a local convention venue, usually for 500 to 900 people, with invited families and friends.

"At the end of 12-week challenge, we give out cash prizes," Hunt said. "For each studio, we give \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third. We just introduced a \$5,000 award across our five studios for the top winner. It's all based on percentage of weight loss."

Everyone dresses up for the black-tie affair, and all participants receive accolades on stage, she said. Before and after photos are shown on screen, and trainers describe people's successes. The night also includes photographers, food and drinks.

"It was just a way for us to provide that personal accountability with a personal trainer in a small group setting," Hunt

said about the 12-week challenge. "If people have unlimited time to lose weight, I found that they become unmotivated. We settled on 12 weeks because we felt that was enough time to make lifestyle changes, and to focus both on the exercise and nutrition more."

"Our business is by far growing by word of mouth. People finish the 12-week challenge, and other people see the results. Most of our new members start on the challenge."

The business charges a \$50 registration for the challenge, along with weekly membership dues, which Hunt said, "we try to keep that between \$20 and \$25 a week."

Physzique's Liberty Lake space is leased and also has offices for company headquarters. Across its centers, Physzique employs 30 full-time, of which 18 are trainers and the others are in administrative and management.

The Liberty Lake workout space has open rubber flooring for cushioning.

"Our training style doesn't include use of a lot of equipment," Hunt said. "There is some weight lifting and Plyo boxes. Our workouts are combination of weightlifting, body weight exercise and cardio."

Trainers regularly change up workouts,

she added, and can work with people who need modified exercises because of pre-existing injuries. She said nutrition coaching is focused on good balanced meals, and plans can be individualized with clients as needed.

"About 80 percent of our challengers stick around for at least a year," Hunt said. "Some have been with us for five or six years, and some of my most loyal clients are right here in Liberty Lake. We have a lot of repeat business. Clients might take the summer off and come back."

Most clients are from 35 to 50 years of age, both men and women, but some are younger or past retirement age as well.

"We do have clients as young 12 and one who is 73," Hunt added. "She can run circles around some of the youngest people."

"I can say that most of us are in this business because we're very passionate about helping people. When we see a client overcome a physical or mental obstacle they think they can't, it's very rewarding, and seeing people make those lifestyle changes definitely makes it worthwhile."

"We feel we're making a difference at Physzique because the majority of people we draw have never worked out or set foot in a traditional gym."

SPLASH PHOTO BY TREVA LIND

IF YOU GO ...

Physzique

1611 N. Molter, Liberty Lake

For more: 891-7886 or
www.facebook.com/physzique

Why Gonzaga will win it all



By Chad Kimberley
SPLASH COLUMN

I love being a teacher. I love inspiring and educating. I love explaining and encouraging. And, of course, there are moments when my students teach me those life lessons that I am supposed to be offering to them.

Out of a recent conversation came a quote that will remain with me for quite a while — “bitterness sucks” — and with those words I had to come face to face with the realization that I am a bitter sports fan. I struggle with celebrating with others when their team finds success and my team finds the toilet. When the room full of Seahawks fans groaned as New England intercepted the potential Super Bowl winning touchdown pass, I silently high-fived the other bitter Bears fans who might have been watching the game.

So, due to these insightful group of students, I am going to turn a leaf with this column. I am going to go from being a bitter fan to being a celebratory fan for my local friends. As

March Madness descends upon us, I am faced with the reality that if my Iowa Hawkeyes make the tournament, it will probably be as a No. 8 or No. 9 seed, which likely means a one win and done tournament run.

But for the Bulldog fans among us, this could very well be the year they make a run throughout March and finish their season in early April by cutting down the nets. And honestly, they are due. Since the magical run in 1999 where they came up one win short of the Final Four, they have played in 15 straight tournaments and their record is 16-15, including a streak of five straight second-round exits.

During that time, all sorts of mid-majors — Dayton, Wichita State, Butler, VCU, Davidson, George Mason, Kent State, Tulsa — have made it to the Elite Eight or the Final Four while Gonzaga has yet to return to the glory of '99. Another second-round exit may cause Gonzaga to gain the title of “best mid-major to not make the Final Four.”

Yet, I believe this could be the year.

Honestly, after seven years out here in Eastern Washington, I may be starting to become a GU fan. Don't get me wrong, my Hawkeyes still rank 1-4 on my top five list, but GU is starting to work its way into that final spot. I even have a GU sweatshirt that I may pull on once my Hawkeyes are eliminated (although I didn't buy it as it was a freebie from a camp I took my basketball team to this summer). I took my daughter and some friends to a women's game last year and had a great time, and I may even have to buy some gear for the kids if we continue to live out here in Liberty Lake.

So as I put my bitterness aside, I want to lay out what I believe will be the steps that the Bulldogs will take to be the last team standing when they play “One Shining Moment.”

First Round: Over the last 15 years, the Bulldogs have only gone out in the first round three times, and that was when they were a No. 6 or higher seed. At the same time, there has NEVER been a No. 1 seed to lose in the first round since the tournament expanded in 1985, so the best move for GU will be to close out the regular season without another loss, roll through the WCC postseason tournament and earn the No. 1 seed and a first-round victory.

Second Round: The Bulldogs have had a rough run of it the last few years. They have lost here as a No. 1 seed to an eventual Final Four Wichita State team and also as No. 8 seeds to the top team in their bracket. But this year the key for them will be KeyArena. If GU runs through the rest of the year and earns the No. 1 seed, it is

likely they will be placed in Seattle, and I trust all the local fans that trek across the pass will bring an energy that the team will feed off of and not let them experience another second-round exit.

Sweet Sixteen: This may be the “trap” game for the Bulldogs in the tournament. After five years of second-round exits, GU will be celebrating making it to the Sweet Sixteen, and their reward will be matching up with, in all probability, a No. 4 or No. 5 seed out of a major conference (like Oklahoma or Utah), or even a mid-major such as VCU or Wichita State. The European connection of Przemek Karnowski and Domantas Sabonis become household names as the inside game of GU powers them into the Elite Eight.

Elite Eight: In many ways, this is the hardest game of the tournament run. You are literally one step away from the Final Four, one step to the culmination of years and years of hard work by players and coaches. And GU has one important aspect that they can tap into that many programs don't have in this day and age of one-and-done college basketball: seniors, and even more important, senior guards. I can see the game coming down to one possession or even one free throw, and the senior guard trio of Kevin Pangos, Gary Bell Jr. and Byron Wesley ensure the Bulldogs go to the ultimate dance.

National Semifinal: I am predicting blowout here. Primarily for two reasons: first off, I am running up against my word count for this column. Secondly, I think Gonzaga may end up matched up with a fellow mid-major, and this lopsided win clearly sets them apart as the best mid-major in the nation.

Championship Game: They say defense wins championships and because of that I am imagining either Gonzaga playing Kentucky or Virginia for the national championship. With both teams giving up just over 50 points a game, the outcome will be decided by one statistic in which Gonzaga leads the nation — shooting percentage. In a game where there will be limited opportunities to score, you have to make the shots you get, and by that GU wins 58-56. Just for irony's sake, the game-winning shot to beat Kentucky will be made by their own transfer: Kyle Wiltjer.

P.S. This whole column is invalid and moot if the Iowa Hawkeyes end up with a No. 8 seed and play GU in the second round. If that happens, Iowa gives GU their sixth straight second-round loss.

P.P.S. The GU women make it to the Elite Eight.

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

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SPORTS

Hull twins carry on Bear legacy

By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

The apple, the saying goes, doesn't fall far from the tree. And in the case of Central Valley basketball, three generations of one family branch has produced extraordinary fruit.

It is a story at once chock-full of success tempered with a tinge of sorrow.

John Hull, the progenitor, did his All-City part during the Bears 1960s mini-dynasty that placed between second and eighth in four successive state tournaments. He and wife Cheryl's three sons — led by Jason and including his fraternal twin Chad and older brother Mark — played together for CV teams that spanned three varsity seasons through 1990, and also included a state placer.

Now it is Jason's twin daughters' turn. Freshmen Lexie and Lacie became instant cogs on this year's Bears' girls post-season qualifier.

Sadly, John was unable to witness his granddaughters' accomplishments, a fact that brought both Cheryl and Jason to tears while recounting the story. He died from cancer in 2012.

"He would have enjoyed watching them so much," Cheryl said. "When these girls were born, he was beside himself. He thought the sun rose and set on them."

Jason added, "He always wanted to talk about the girls. I knew what he'd miss was not being able to watch them at this level this early. He was pretty intent on being supportive of his granddaughters."

John and Cheryl met on a blind date when they were seniors in high school. The year before she had been a cheerleader at West Valley and he played on CV's sixth-place finishing team when both schools qualified for state in 1962. The Bears reached the state semifinals and

all their losses that year were by a single point.

The next year Hull, who by then had grown to 6-foot-5, was CV's second leading scorer on a fifth-place state finisher, the team losing just four times during his varsity career. He would go on to play at Western Washington University. He and Cheryl married and later returned to the Spokane Valley from Wisconsin, with three toddlers, a year apart, in tow, to be closer to family.

He would change careers, and she would eventually begin a 30-year teaching career at Bowdish Middle School and they settled in the Ponderosa where the boys would learn basketball in a neighborhood cul-de-sac and hone their game.

"I played with them two-on-two in the street," Cheryl recalled. "If John had a meeting or something (in youth ball) I would do practice. I'd play with them and it was fine until sixth grade and then it got too rough."

They eventually found themselves attending dad's alma mater where then-CV coach Terry Irwin and John had been teammates.

Jason, 6-5 like his dad, made varsity as a sophomore in 1988 and was one of the team's leading scorers off the bench when the Kevin Stocker, Mark Arland-led Bears finished fourth in state.

"That was really fun," Cheryl said. "Lu Stocker and I were the laundry women. No one was assigned to wash the uniforms. We'd go to the laundromat and talk about the games."

The next year, he, Mark, then a senior, and Chad would at times find themselves on the court at the same time. "That was pretty cool," Jason said.

Especially so for the proud parents. "Jason passed to Chad,



GAME PHOTOS COURTESY OF
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ERIKSMITHPHOTOGRAPHY

The Hull twins, Lacie (24) and Lexie (10), have been major contributors to Central Valley's success this season, despite being freshmen. The team was two points away from a berth in the state tournament this year. The Hull family has a long tradition of success at CV, including father, Jason, and grandfather, John, who passed away from cancer in 2012. Pictured below, clockwise from bottom left, are Jason, Lacie, Cheryl, John, Lexie and Jaime Hull.



See TWINS, page 43

SUBMITTED PHOTO

SPORTS

Beard brothers impress at Mat Classic



By Mike Vlahovich
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

The brothers Beard did their jobs for the Bears in guiding Central Valley to a seventh place finish at the 4A State wrestling tournament during Mat Classic XXVII in Tacoma.

Blake Beard won his third straight state title shortly after **Bryson Beard** had secured CV's first title of the meet, held the last weekend in February. Meanwhile, sophomore **Bridger Beard** earned a medal in his first state trip.

"They wrestle like they practice," coach **John Owen** said of the elder Beards. "I think they wrestle as hard as a college wrestler does. They don't hold back."

Bryson won 3-2 in overtime for his title, after winning easily to get to the finals

Blake wrestled a tough opponent after breezing to the final and was the aggressor from the outset, Owen said. A second-period escape held up in the 1-0 triumph.

"They don't have a fear factor at the end of a match," Owen said. "They wrestle hard in the first period and they wrestle hard in the last period."

Bridger bounced back from a second-round defeat to place fourth.

"Here's a kid who never placed in the Inland Empire tournament," Owen said. While technically still learning, "what he makes up for his mistakes is he keeps going all the time. He's one of those guys who has learned how to win."

After finishing second in district and regional tournaments and winning six of seven matches in the first round at state, CV's second round and wrestle-back matches in the afternoon proved to be disastrous.

The team had aspirations of bringing home a trophy, but wound up seventh. The good news, however, is that only Blake Beard graduates from this year's state contingent.

Timing right for Bears

Timing was everything for Central Valley's boys basketball team, which became

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TWINS

Continued from page 42

Chad to Mark, Mark to Jason. I don't know what I would have done if one of them would have hated playing basketball," Cheryl said.

Jason took it the farthest. He was remarkably consistent at CV, scoring 247 points as a sophomore, 256 as a junior and 246 as a senior in the Greater Spokane League. His career total 997 is second overall in Central Valley history.

He became a four-year starter at Whitworth, missing only three games and averaging 12.3 points and 5.3 rebounds for his careers. His 1,348 points are ninth career for the Pirates and he is 12th career in rebounding.

"I wanted to stick around," said the admitted homebody and Whitworth was the perfect fit. "I was All-District my junior and senior years and honorable mention All-America. It worked out good."

He met his wife Jaime nearly 20 years ago and their twin daughters are continuing the Hull legacy. The freshmen got their height from their dad and granddad. Each stands 6-1 and resembles John.

"Oh my gosh," Jason said. "I saw some old pictures from my mom. Dad and their body types are exactly the same, real lean. I told people I was lean. He was leaner; definitely a string bean. They're the spitting image."

But the two have their differences. Despite her height, Lacie has been a point guard since third grade, her dad said, and would rather pass than shoot. Not that she can't shoot. Lacie has scored in double figures in nearly half of CV's games. He said she's more introverted than her sister.

Lexie plays inside, uses her length to good advantage and prefers the physicality of the game. Through 22 games she was averaging nearly 13 points including a pair of 21-point outbursts during the playoffs.

"There's a long line of competitive people in our family," Jason Hull said in something of an understatement. "They get their competitiveness probably more from each other than from me or their mother."

As for grandma, it's been refreshing to cheer for girls after all those years chasing after her boys.

"Boys are just different," Cheryl Hull said. "Grandkids are where it's at."

CV alumnus supports athletes



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIK SMITH; FACEBOOK.COM/ERIKSMITHPHOTOGRAPHY

Will Davis, a former Central Valley graduate who now plays for the NFL, congratulates Central Valley boys basketball players after a recent win.

Hawks win championship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A YMCA fourth grade boys basketball team, the Spokane Hawks, was named the Competitive League Tournament Champions of the 2014-15 playoffs. Pictured are (top row) **Landon Minnick**, Hayden Mayer, Dylan Skaife, **Brennen Brulotte**, **Zac Olson**, **Patrick Reilly**; (bottom row) Gunner Schmerer and Shawn Monroe. (Liberty Lake residents are highlighted in **bold**.)

Prepping for the season



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Liberty Lake Running Club had a get together in January at True Legends Grill. The group will host its regular weekly runs beginning March 5 at Twisp Café & Coffee House.

The truth about diligence

By Vladislav Gordeyev
SPLASH GUEST COLUMN



Diligence can be defined as careful and persistent work or effort. This characteristic is very important to me and my life. Without diligence, nothing good or interesting can happen.

I remember the time my dad bought a broken car. It was last summer. I was 11 years old. I was playing with my cat named Reggie. I heard a huge noise and I looked out the window. I saw my dad towing the black, Toyota Prius. It looked like a “junkie,” about to fall apart.

He towed it into our garage and told me it was going to be the best car ever. He says that a lot. I couldn’t possibly imagine how he thought that. It was in pieces! Over the next couple of weeks, dad woke up super early in the morning so he could get to work early. That way, he could get home sooner and have more time to work on this car. Basically, he spent dawn to late night working. As I went to bed every night, I could still hear him working in the garage.

He never gave up. He kept at it, night after night. This showed me a great ex-

ample of diligence. My family shows me a great example of this trait, and I will try to be this same way. Because he chose to work so hard and not give up, in two months, the car was perfectly finished and driving like crazy! We drive it now!

In my life, so far, I realize that the example of diligence helps me a lot. When I learned piano, my teacher wanted me to go to a competition at Gonzaga. My first reaction was, “No way.” But my mom talked me into it. She told me that I was ready and that I shouldn’t be nervous. She believed in me. I decided to take a chance. I worked really hard on my songs. I practiced two hours a day. When the day of the competition came, I practiced on the Gonzaga piano to get used to it. My teacher took us to a room with three judges. I was so super nervous that I thought about running out of the building. But I didn’t.

I was up first. My opponents — a girl and a boy — went after me. Out of all the songs in the world, the boy chose the exact same song as me! When I was finished, I felt relieved. The judges took 5 minutes to decide what score to give everyone. It turned out that they gave me 99 percent — the highest score in my age bracket! All that practice paid off. And, I got to play on a national radio station.

If I could give advice to kids my age, it would be to learn something and keep at it. Don’t give up. Being good at something takes hard work. Diligence. If you keep trying your hardest, it pays off. That is what I know for sure.

Vladislav Gordeyev is a sixth-grader at Trent Elementary. He was born in Spokane and lives with his parents and siblings. Vlad plays violin, hockey and soccer, and he loves kiwi ice cream and traveling with his family. He wrote this column as part of a series highlighting the PACE trait of the month. The trait for March is diligence.

About the Opinion Page

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

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

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

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

Letter to the Editor

Keep existing sign code

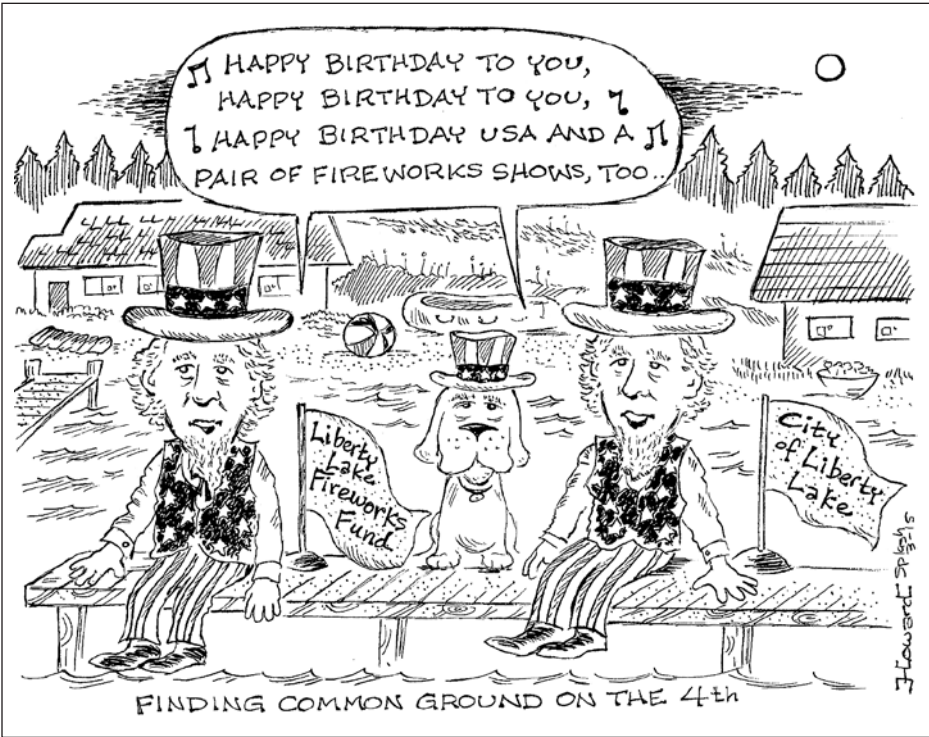
Establishing the existing sign code is among the city of Liberty Lake’s best accomplishments. Allowing larger, higher or electronically changeable signs will degrade the aesthetic quality of our commercial areas.

I urge the Liberty Lake City Council to take the long view with regard to business friendliness. While some businesses may desire to install more aggressive signage, most commercial businesses ultimately choose to locate and expand in vibrant, aesthetically pleasing communities.

Paul Humphreys
Liberty Lake

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Editorial Cartoons



THE

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Josh Johnson

josh@libertylakesplash.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Tammy Kimberley

tammy@libertylakesplash.com

GRAPHICS EDITOR

Sarah Burk

sarah@libertylakesplash.com

CIRCULATION

Dean Byrns

Mike Wiykovics

circulation@libertylakesplash.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Lauren Campbell, Craig Howard,
Chad Kimberley, Mary Kate Koch,
Treva Lind, Sarah Robertson,
Ross Schneidmiller, Mike Vlahovich


On the cover:

Splash design concept by Sarah Burk

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

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As prep winter sports season winds down, many area teams and individuals fared well

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SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

Continued from page 43

the Greater Spokane League’s representative to the round of 16, which represents a berth in the regional round of the state basketball tournament.

The other three advancing teams from Eastern Washington came from the Mid-Columbia and Big Nine Conferences.

It was a wacky road the Bears (20-5) wound to get there, including four games they divided against rival University, three of them decided by a basket.

CV won the even numbered games, and that’s what mattered most. The teams split during regular season, the Bears winning game two 48-45. In the district playoffs, the league co-champions lost a fourth quarter lead and game to the Titans 50-48.

But in sub-regional, they rallied from a huge deficit to nudge U-Hi 55-53, then beat Mead 54-51 to carry on. Such was life in the Greater Spokane League, where no team was dominant, the seventh-place Panthers became 4A district champions and second-seeded Bears were in a loser-out situation four straight games.

Over the course of district and sub-regional playoffs, season scoring leaders

Michael Hannan and Cameron Tucker averaged 15.6 and 14.0 per game in five outings. Hannan had 24- and 25-point efforts and Tucker a 23-point night.

At press time, the Bears were scheduled to face Moses Lake Feb. 27, with a berth in the March 5-7 state tournament at the Tacoma Dome at stake.

Carter comes through

Central Valley gymnast McKinzie Carter proved one of the best at her craft as the 2015 WIAA 4A State gymnastics meet bore out.

Carter finished second during individual events balance beam competition with a 9.3 score, just .025 points out of first, and was seventh at 9.475 during floor exercise.

The day before during team competition, Carter shared 12th all-around at 35.4.

She tied for second on beam, tied for seventh on floor exercise and placed 16th on vault.

Season ends for girls

Central Valley’s girls basketball team came up two points short in their bid to advance beyond subregionals, bringing their 2014-15 season to a premature end.

The Bears lost 58-56 to Walla Walla in the game for a berth in the 4A state round of 16 teams.

The game was close, with the Bears taking a six-point lead into the final quarter, but unable to hold on over the final eight minutes and ended the season with a 19-5 record. It also brought to a close the record-setting career of Madison Hovren.

She became Central Valley and the Greater Spokane League’s all-time leading scorer. Hovren finished this season with 517 points and a 21.6 average in 24 games overall.

Meanwhile, freshmen twins Lexie and Lacie Hull got their careers off to a fine start. Lexie finishing with 320 points and a 13.3 average, Lacie with 227 and a 9.5 average.

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Totes share comfort with cancer patients

LL resident inspired to create 'Chemo Comfort Bags'

By Treva Lind
SPLASH CONTRIBUTOR

Some 60 Chemo Comfort Bags ready for delivery in February held practical gifts like blankets, but also a whole lot of community love, said Liberty Lake organizer Kelsy McHenry.

The totes given to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatments are stuffed with other comfort items like hand cream, water bottles, crossword puzzles and warm, fuzzy socks.

"It's spreading the love," McHenry said. "There is no joy in cancer, but it's spreading the love."

"The goal is for the recipient to receive a bag with the gifts filled with love from their community. It's at no cost to them. It's just a nice surprise in a really dreary situation, honestly."

McHenry, who sells merchandise for Thirty One Gifts, has a personal connection she said is her inspiration for the project. Her friend since childhood and now Liberty Lake neighbor, Laurie Denney, was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2013, and over the course of treatments, underwent 20 rounds of chemo and seven and a half weeks of daily radiation. She had a bi-lateral mastectomy.

"To watch someone who is like your sister go through that, it hit home," McHenry said. "Everything changed in her life with a phone call on a Monday morning, and it affected everyone around her."

She gave Denney a Thirty One Gifts bag filled with a few items she could take to treatments. She later filled 12 bags to give to other cancer patients last year, but then decided to expand the project after she got thank you notes back on how much they were used. She also saw a newspaper clipping about a Thirty One Gifts representative in another state doing a similar project.

Thirty One Gifts is a direct-sales retailer of functional, fashionable totes, purses, home accessories and organization items that can be personalized, she said.

McHenry spread the word on Facebook and elsewhere that she planned to make Chemo Comfort Bags an ongoing project, including a focused drive around this time each year. That drew wide response from people who wanted to sponsor the \$25 cost per bag, which is a Thirty One Gifts' eight-pocket utility tote.

"I'm using the money from donations to purchase the bags, and then I'm using



Kelsy McHenry carries a few of the totes she has packaged together for cancer patients.

SPLASH PHOTO BY TREVA LIND

my commission to fill them with product and purchase more bags, so I always have more on hand," McHenry said. "Many people have donated \$25 for the totes. They were so willing to give because they have all been affected in one way or another by cancer."

McHenry separately bought some of the gifts to put into the bags, and many businesses have donated items to include as well. Donors include Itron, Liberty Lake's Madd Hatters that made 63 handmade hats, Heaven Scent Bath & Body, State Bank Northwest, Oral Defense, Spokane Valley dentist Dr. Sue Weishaar, Inland Imaging and Rockwood.

Among sponsors of bags, a few people requested that one go to someone specifically, which McHenry arranged. Most of the \$25 contributions were flat-out donations or given in remembrance of someone so that a card could be included. McHenry also has a consultant in her group that prepared 12 Chemo Care Bags separately, so about 75 total bags were set to go to people in this area, she said.

The bags come in different colors and patterns, such as polka dots and florals, as well as ones for men in solid black and

FOR MORE INFO ... Chemo Comfort Bags

Kelsy McHenry
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navy. McHenry also has prepared bags suitable for children that would hold coloring books, crayons and smaller hats. She recently ordered 10 hot pink totes as well.

Patients can use the bags to carry the different items they need while waiting during appointments or going through lengthy treatments, McHenry said.

"They might bring books," she said. "With the bags, they're also bringing blankets, warm fuzzy socks. Others things in the bags are donated items like a water bottle, organic lip butter and specialized ice chip lozenges because people get really a dry mouth condition from chemo treatments or radiation. There is sugar-free gum, a chemo-care mouth wash, a sick sack from Inland Imaging, a

pen, crossword puzzles, word searches, hand cream and hand sanitizer."

McHenry sought to include some gifts for the bags she thought would bring joy. Others are functional from what she learned people needed through the experience of her friend.

She plans to have some bags prepared on a regular basis, in case someone calls and needs one.

"I'll still take the sponsoring of totes, so I'll keep some bags on hand throughout the year ready to go for that next loved one who has been diagnosed," she said. "I've also told people if you have loved ones you know, let me know."

She planned to have her friend Laurie Denney help her deliver 63 bags before the end of February to different cancer treatment facilities around Spokane. "We're hoping we can go into the waiting room and personally deliver them."

"I'm inspired to help others," she said. "Cancer is a scary word, and when someone is diagnosed, usually it's out of the blue. They don't know what to expect. They're thrown into all these diagnoses and treatments. This is a way maybe to help soften the blow."

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