

THE **Splash**

NEWS AND NETWORKING FOR LIBERTY LAKE
DECEMBER 10, 2009

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Scenes from the Season

Photos from community holiday events, pages 8 and 13

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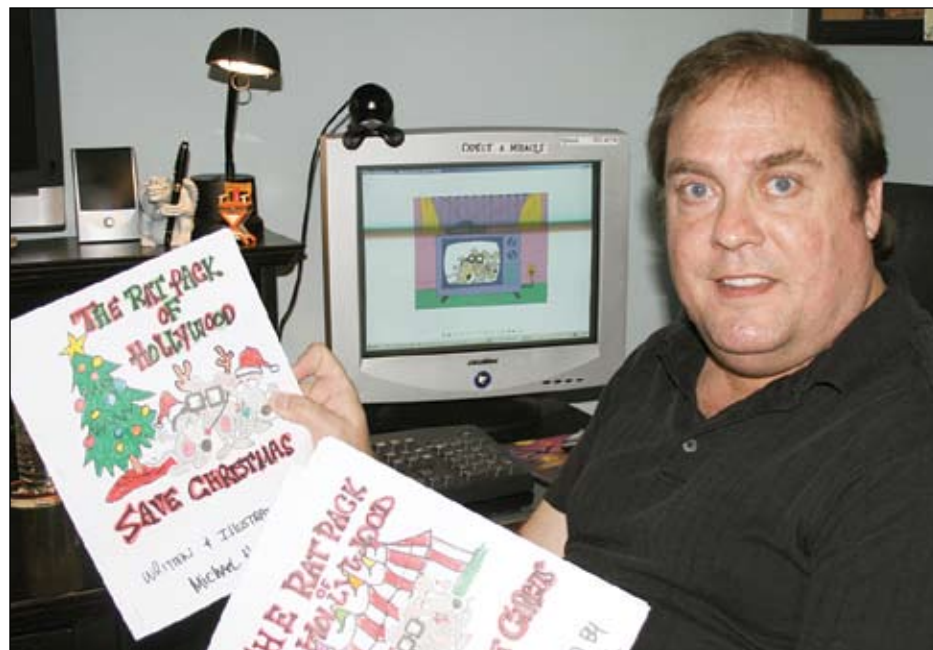
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From clown to cartoonist



SPLASH PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

Liberty Lake resident Michael Houbrick shows off some of the storylines he's created featuring his children's cartoon, 'The Rat Pack of Hollywood.'

LL man embarks on 'Rat Pack' project after entertaining career

By **Tammy Kimberley**
SPLASH STAFF WRITER

Even though he left the Spokane area to "see the world" as an employee in the entertainment industry, Michael Houbrick eventually found his way back to the Pacific Northwest. But along the way he had a chance to rub shoulders with a number of celebrities while engaging in a variety of projects on the Hollywood scene.

Michael Houbrick recently sat down with The Splash to share about his life experiences and how they have helped shape his current project, "The Rat Pack of Hollywood."

Q. How did you become involved in the entertainment business?

A. After graduating from high school, my twin brother Matthew and I decided to go to clown college. After 10 weeks of training, we were offered a contract from Ringling Brother Barnum & Bailey Circus. We were the first twin clowns in the history of the world.

Since I grew up in Spokane, it was interesting to travel all over and experience the world. It made me a better person.

profiles:

MICHAEL HOUBRICK

Age
49

Childhood

Grew up on the South Hill; graduated from Ferris High School

Years lived in LL

Three

Previous jobs

Clown, comic-strip creator, stand-up comedian, Hollywood talent agent

Most recent project

Developing a children's cartoon called "The Rat Pack of Hollywood"

How to keep tabs on the Rats

twitter.com/TRPOH; trpoh.blogspot.com

Q: Did you do any amazing tricks or feats as a clown?

A: We did a mirror routine that was fairly popular. We were with them for two years and after that, we moved to Los Angeles to do stand-up comedy together.

I found out later that I wasn't that funny and didn't do good magic, so I went on to work for Universal Studios doing publicity and promotion for their television shows and movies. I discovered that I would rather create ideas for people than perform in front of people.

See **CARTOONIST**, page 9

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THE Splash

Volume 11, Issue 50

On the cover:

Splash photos by Hope Brumbach and Chad Kimberley

Staff Index

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About

The Liberty Lake Splash
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The Splash is published weekly on Thursdays and is distributed free of charge to every business and residence in the greater Liberty Lake area. Additional copies are located at more than 100 drop-off locations in Liberty Lake and Otis Orchards.



Submitted materials

Announcements, obituaries, letters to the editor and story ideas are encouraged. Submit them in writing to editor@libertylakesplash.com or bring them by The Splash office. Timely submissions should be received by Friday at noon for best chance of publication in the following week's Splash.

Advertising information

Information about classified and display advertising is on page 14.

Subscriptions

Liberty Lake residents receive a complimentary copy each Thursday. Subscriptions for U.S. postal addresses outside of the 99019 ZIP code cost \$50 for 52 weeks and \$30 for 26 weeks. Send a check and subscription address to P.O. Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019 or call 242-7752 for more information.

Correction policy

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

Memberships

The Splash is an award-winning member of the National Newspaper Association and Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.



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Calendar

DECEMBER 10

Noon: Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary meeting, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.-noon: Inland Northwest Blood Center drive, Liberty Square Building, 1421 N. Meadowwood Lane
11 a.m.: Liberty Lake Poetry Club, Liberty Lake Municipal Library, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

DECEMBER 14

6:30 p.m.: Central Valley School Board meeting, 19307 E. Cataldo

DECEMBER 15

7 p.m.: Liberty Lake City Council meeting, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive

DECEMBER 16

6:45 a.m.: Liberty Lake Kiwanis meeting, Liberty Lake City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive
10:30-noon: Spokane Valley's Mindful Mamas, Liberty Lake Municipal Library's meeting room, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Liberty Lake Senior Lunch Program, Liberty Lake City Hall
Noon: Lions Club meeting, Guardian Angel Homes, 23102 E. Mission Ave.
5:45 p.m.: Liberty Lake Toastmasters, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

6-8 p.m.: Liberty Lake Library open chess, 23123 E. Mission Ave.

6:30-8 p.m.: Liberty Lake Community Theatre meeting, 1421 Meadowwood Lane, Ste. 130

7 p.m.: Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District meeting, Denny Ashlock Building

DECEMBER 17

Noon: Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary meeting, Denny Ashlock Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave.

Community Briefs

Give the gift of blood

The Inland Northwest Blood Center is asking for the gift of life-saving blood during the holiday season at a drive this Saturday in Liberty Lake.

The blood drive will be 10 a.m. to noon at the Liberty Square Building, 1421 N. Meadowwood Lane.

One pint of blood can potentially save three lives, according to the INBC.

Applications due for tourism funds

The city of Liberty Lake and the Liberty Lake Lodging Tax Advisory Committee are requesting applications for the 2010 Tourism Promotion Funding Program. Fund-

ing may be used for tourism marketing and promotional activities, as well as operation of tourism-related facilities. For more information, visit www.libertylakewa.gov/finance or City Hall, 22710 E. Country Vista Drive. Applications must be submitted by noon on Dec. 31.

Barker to hold holiday craft fair

Students in the Barker Learning Center's School to Life Program will hold their annual Holiday Craft Fair on Friday.

The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 13313 E. Broadway in the Central Valley School District.

A wide variety of holiday-themed painted
See BRIEFS, page 5



'Tis the Season

Take a carriage ride

Private carriage rides are being offered between 5-8 p.m. at City Hall this Friday and also Dec. 18.

Cost is \$45 per group for a 30-minute ride. Maximum capacity is 12 people. Reservations can be made at City Hall or on the city's Web site, www.libertylakewa.gov.

Christmas light list available

A final list of the homes that registered for the Christmas light tour in Liberty Lake will be released Friday and available on the city's Web site, www.libertylakewa.gov, at City Hall and some local businesses.

Donate for the food drive

The city of Liberty Lake is collecting food items for 2nd Harvest Food Bank. Donations of cash or non-perishable items will be accepted at

City Hall until Dec. 18. If City Hall is closed, food items can be left in the front atrium.

Central Valley holiday activities:

- Dec. 10: Central Valley High School Holiday Choral Concert, 7 p.m.; Greenacres Middle School Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.

- Dec. 15: CVHS Winter Holiday Band Concert, 7 p.m.; Greenacres Elementary School third-grade music concert, 7 p.m.; Liberty Lake Elementary School fourth-grade Christmas program, 7 p.m.

- Dec. 16: LLES Holiday Store, 4-8 p.m. Kids are invited to spend a festive evening with their families while shopping for parents, siblings and friends in a supervised environment. Many gifts are available for under \$5; the event also includes free gift-wrapping, crafts, cocoa and candy canes.

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COMMUNITY

BRIEFS

Continued from page 4

wooden items will be on sale. Items include lighted snowmen and trees, painted chairs, pots, snowmen and wreaths, along with holiday napkins and a variety of painted plaques. The special needs students in the School to Life Program (ages 18-21) paint and assemble the items and will be on hand to assist customers.

All proceeds from the fair help support the School to Life Program, which provides job skills training and real world experience for the students.

For more information, call 228-4074.

Lions Club invites new members

The newly formed Liberty Lake Lions Club invites new members to attend an upcoming meeting, scheduled for Dec. 16.

The noon gathering is held at Guardian Angel Homes, 23102 E. Mission Ave. Lunch is available for \$4.

The Liberty Lake Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, which aims to identify and meet needs within a community, especially with eyesight issues and youth programs.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

For full list of community briefs, visit www.libertylakesplash.com.

Education Briefs

CVHS principal earns GSL honor

Central Valley High School Principal Mike Hittle has been named the "Distinguished League Principal of the Year" by peers in the Greater Spokane League.

Hittle, who is in his eighth year as CVHS principal, is one of 35 nominees for Washington State High School Principal of the Year, according to a district news release.

That award will be announced in February.

Central Valley HS students named 'commended scholars'

Ten Central Valley High School students recently were named National Merit "commended scholars" by the scholarship program, according to a district news release.

Nathaniel Coulson, Kaitlin Gillespie, Hallie Himmelreich, **Philip Keeve**, Michael Lucas, Brian Moore, Ashley Renz, **Janni Sun**, Rachel White and **Helen Yuan** (Liberty Lake residents in bold) ranked in the top 5 percent of all students taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

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Barlows sets the table

Family restaurant opens this week in former Stilos building

By Hope Brumbach
SPLASH EDITOR

The wait is over. The owners of Barlows Family Restaurant opened the doors this week to the highly anticipated restaurant, offering espresso, breakfast and lunch service.

Barlows, located in the former Stilos Steafood & Steakhouse at 1440 N. Meadowwood Lane, offers American-style food at moderate prices, said owner Alicia Dodd.

"We are open and ready to rock and roll," Dodd said Monday, the first day of business. "I couldn't be more pleased with everybody's response."

Barlows, which now employs 11 people,



SPLASH PHOTO BY HOPE BRUMBACH

offers an espresso drive-through starting at 5:30 a.m. and sit-down food service from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week.

The restaurant will eventually add dinner, a service bar and evening entertainment with local musical artists, Dodd said. She also plans to add delivery service, but for now, customers can call or fax pick-up orders, Dodd said.

On Monday, business was steady, Dodd said, and one of her customers already is prodding her to offer dinner.

Barlows Family Restaurant opens this week for breakfast and lunch. The owner plans to add dinner and delivery service in the future.

■ ■ ■ In Biz

WELL to discuss vacations

The next meeting of Women Executives in Liberty Lake (WELL) is at noon Friday at the Denny Ashlock Building,

22510 E. Mission Ave.

The free event will feature Margie Basaraba with "CheckItOutTravel," who will discuss online vacation booking.

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



Holiday Ball A Special Thanks

Friends of Pavillion Park can not thank the Liberty Lake Community enough for its support of our Annual Holiday Ball. It was a fantastic event that further strengthens the mission of FOPP, which is to bring a true sense of community to our city. We are energized by the generosity of our local businesses, government officials, and citizens, and are excited to get working on our events calendar for 2010! Please keep up to date with all of our happenings by visiting www.pavillionpark.org.

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Former LL Councilman to serve probation

Saysr pleads guilty to fourth-degree assault

By Hope Brumbach
SPLASH EDITOR

A former Liberty Lake City Councilman received two years probation and will undergo a domestic violence evaluation after he assaulted his wife.

Brian A. Saysr pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault last week in Spokane County District Court. He originally was charged with felony second-degree assault stemming from an incident last spring at the couple's then-Liberty Lake home.

Saysr was arrested in late August, five months after the incident and less than a week after his estranged wife reported it to Liberty Lake police.

Saysr, who had been serving as mayor pro tem, resigned from the City Council April 14 citing unspecified health issues. He had served on the Council since Liberty Lake's inception in 2001 and had unsuccessfully run for Spokane County Commissioner in fall 2008. He had

missed multiple Council meetings without notification before his resignation.

The victim, who has since filed for divorce, told police that she and Saysr were arguing March 25 about daycare issues when he grabbed a phone from her hands and then blocked her exit from the room. He then threw a porcelain dinner plate, striking her in the head and causing her to temporarily



SAYRS

lose vision and consciousness. She suffered a deep laceration that required six stitches.

The woman told police she was experiencing increasing anxiety over the incident, prompting her report in August.

The sentence approved last week gave Saysr a suspended \$5,000 fine, suspended 365 days in jail and requires him to undergo a domestic violence evaluation, which could result in recommended treatment. He also is prevented from owning a firearm.

Police Report

The following calls for service, citations and arrests were reported by the Liberty Lake Police Department for Nov. 30-Dec. 7. Details of incidents and arrests were unavailable this week.

Calls for service:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Agency assist | 2 |
| Commercial vehicle inspection | 1 |
| Harassment | 1 |
| Obstructing justice | 1 |
| Theft, property, other | 2 |
| Traffic offense | 1 |
| Vehicle prowl | 3 |

Citations:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| License and plates required | 1 |
| Disabled parking | 1 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| DWLS | 1 |
| Liability insurance | 1 |
| Failure to stop at red light | 1 |
| Failure to stop at stop sign | 1 |
| Speeding violation | 2 |
| Negligent driving, second degree | 1 |
| Obstructing law enforcement | 1 |
| Resisting arrest | 1 |

Arrests:

- A 25-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested Dec. 2 for driving with a suspended license and outstanding warrants.
- A 26-year-old Liberty Lake man was arrested Dec. 2 for obstructing justice and resisting arrest.

News Brief

Pharmacy to offer swine flu clinic

Medicine Man Pharmacy in Liberty Lake is offering two swine flu vaccination clinics for the public.

The clinics will be Dec. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the pharmacy, 23801 E. Appleway Ave.

The vaccinations are for ages 10 to 64 and will cost \$12.

The pharmacy has 100 injections and 100 nasal sprays.

No appointment is required. Adults will need photo identification, and an adult must accompany those under age 18.



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A ball of a time

See page 13
for additional
holiday photos

SPLASH PHOTOS BY HOPE BRUMBACH

About 250 people decked out in finery attended the 11th annual Friends of Pavillion Park Holiday Ball Saturday at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane.

The event raised about \$47,200, organizers said. The Ball is the sole fundraiser for the FOPP, and the money supports free community summer concerts, movies and student scholarships. Last year, the event raised about \$50,000.

'We were thrilled with the number of people that attended and continue to be amazed by the generosity of our community,' organizer Laura Frank said.

This year's event featured a champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres, three-course dinner, silent and live auctions, dancing and music by the band Mon Cheri.

The 12th annual Holiday Ball is scheduled for Dec. 4, 2010, at the Davenport.



PROFILES

CARTOONIST

Continued from page 2

Q: What were some of the projects you worked on during your time in Hollywood?

A: Some of the projects include "We are the World" charity single, "Madcap Magic" TV show and the new "Leave It to Beaver." There were around 10 TV series and about 25 made-for-TV movies I worked on.

I also am very proud of my campaign running Eddie Haskell for president. That was a great deal of fun.

Q: Who is the most fascinating celebrity you've met?

A: Without a doubt, Michael Jackson. He saw my brother and I perform as clowns at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Orlando back in

the early 1980s. We started hanging out with him some and doing sketches and going to movies. He even took us to his home.

Michael was so misunderstood ... but to those who really knew him, he was the kindest, most sincere person we had ever met. If he ever said he would do something for you, he would and he never asked for anything in return.

He was very intelligent and also very creative — not just as a singer or dancer. He loved to draw and write, which are two passions of mine as well.

Q: You have quite a collection of autographed memorabilia. Do you have a particular one that is meaningful?

A: Two pieces from Michael Jackson stand out as my favorites. I have a pen and ink drawing that Michael drew for me. I

only know of about five drawings that he ever did like this.

I also have a copy of the out-of-print autobiography of Charlie Chaplin that Michael autographed. One day Michael asked if I had read Charlie Chaplin's autobiography

because he said the struggles that my twin brother and I had were similar to Charlie Chaplin's struggles to get into show business. Four years later, out of the blue, I was with Michael having dinner and he said, "I

See CARTOONIST, page 11

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| Beautiful 4bd/3ba on Golf Course w/ main flr mstr and utilities. S. Bartel 999-4935 | | Last 2bd/2ba 3rd floor unit, 1063sq ft. Maint. free living. Terry White 879-2570 | |
| 24328 E. PINEHURST LN. | \$529,900 | 19395 W. MINCODA LN. | \$695,000 |
| Golf course views, 4bd/3ba, lower lvl fully fin. w/ patio. S. Windhorst 879-0223 | | 3br/3ba Quality built, amazing views on 23 ac. Brooke Adams-Carey 208-755-2989 | |
| 24005 E. ALKI LN. | \$399,000 | 6605 N. VINCENT LN. | \$355,000 |
| 4bd+office/3ba on the 2nd green of Meadowwood Golf Course. L. Peters 990-6388 | | Fully finished 3400sqft rancher on 8.34 acres. Connie Eigell 953-3839 | |
| 911 S. WRIGHT | \$379,900 | 5900 N. STARR RD. | \$348,900 |
| Beautiful Liberty Lk View, Wicomico Beach Access. Sandra Bartel 999-4935 | | "A Story Book Farm Home" on 5 acres w/milking station. Char Detro 216-2511 | |
| 283 N. LEGACY RIDGE DR. | \$349,900 | 25220 E. LINCOLN DR. | \$339,900 |
| 3br/3ba Craftsman Rancher, bright open w/great rm concept. J. Frieling 998-3470 | | 3br/3ba with staircase to large private master suite. Bob Solom 994-2223 | |
| 1506 N. TERRACE LN. | \$310,000 | 25807 E. OLYMPIC AVE. | \$219,900 |
| 3bd/3ba Maintenance free living. Approved short sale. Dan Lysek 994-5535 | | Split entry on oversized lot w/shop & storage shed. Trevor Windhorst 216-2090 | |
| 23135 E. SETTLER DR. | \$299,900 | 10503 N. MCCOY RD. | \$212,000 |
| Large 2 story with 7bd (4bd up) & 4ba, move-in ready. Lori Peters 990-6388 | | One level 1782 sqft, 4bd/2ba rancher on 6 ac. Victoria Vaillancourt 208-661-9238 | |
| 1503 S. LIBERTY DR. | \$299,900 | 24820 E. SAN CARLOS AVE. | \$185,000 |
| 3bd/2ba Charming Country Cottage in Liberty Lake. Sandra Bartel 999-4935 | | Completely remodeled 4bd/2ba w/Lg fenced 1/2 acre lot. M. Dhaenens 385-9090 | |
| 22811 E. CLEARWATER | \$259,000 | 1739 N. CARSON RANGE ST. | \$253,000 |
| 2,272 sf, 3bd/3ba low maintenance luxury condo. Marilyn Dhaenens 385-9090 | | 3bd/2ba Rancher with an abundance of upgrades! Mike Racine 710-9243 | |
| 27011 E. EASTLAND DR. | \$189,000 | 25742 E. HAUSER LK. | \$180,000 |
| 4bd/2ba fully renovated w/4-car tandem gar. Trisha Washington 385-8228 | | Gorgeous 1 1/2 story well maintained home on .71 acres. Cynthia Stevens 701-6174 | |
| RECENTLY SOLD IN OUR AREA | | | |
| 23325 E. MAXWELL AVE. | \$198,000 | 22855 E. COUNTRY VISTA #454 | \$119,000 |
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| 27011 E. EASTLAND DR. | \$189,000 | 1406 N. ALADDIN RD. | \$107,000 |
| 4bd/2ba fully renovated w/4-car tandem gar. Trisha Washington 385-8228 | | 3bd/2ba Delightful dbl-wide mfg w/ covered deck. Joe Mann 951-8367 | |

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Start your search on Windermere.com and find houses that are open this weekend.

Inlet transforms into a frozen playground



SPLASH PHOTO BY TAMMY KIMBERLEY

Joe Hamilton and Kendra Ottum slap around a hockey puck on the ice at Liberty Lake last Friday. A variety of children and adults skated, slid and enjoyed the frozen inlet over the weekend.

Splash Travels: Turkey Trot



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A group of local residents and guests from out of town celebrated Thanksgiving with the second annual Turkey Trot beginning at Pavillion Park, running three miles on a course down Molter, Inlet drive to Liberty Drive and then up Country Vista back to Pavillion Park.

Local Lens

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

Rocky Hill wrapped in fog



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rocky Hill is shown on an early Monday in late November from the home of Debbie Fucile.

CVHS students take over Safeway



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Valley High School entrepreneurship students pose for a photo last month after 'taking over Safeway' in Liberty Lake. Students worked in 11 different departments and job shadowed Safeway employees.

Pictured are (Liberty Lake residents in **bold**): (front row) **Carissa Balmes**, **Kassie Panther**, Brooke Jackson, **Sydney Hamilton**, **Rebecca Kissack**, **Sara Hemenway**; (middle row) Charlotte Diccico, Scottie Johnson, Nick Pendergrass, Ben Sauter, Tanner Markham, Nathan Pederson, Kevin Schell, Wendy Broom; (back row) **Tarik Jensen**, **Patrick McNeil**, Dan Hays, Sam Neumann, Erich Graff, **Shaun Monaghan**, Michael Kilduff and Joe Britt.

www.SPOKANECHIEFS.com



GAME SATURDAY 12/12

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Sponsored By: THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



Game Time: 7PM



For Tickets Call 509.535.PUCK

PROFILES

CARTOONIST

Continued from page 9

got that book for you." I was like, "What book?" and he gave me the book.

I also like the pictures at the White House meeting President and Mrs. Clinton. It was just cool to be invited to the White House to meet the president.

Q: How long have you been drawing cartoons?

A: I've been drawing since I was a little kid. I drew a cartoon for a while titled "Mr. Brick" that was published in Daily Variety (a business journal for the entertainment industry) and other California newspapers. Everything in my mind is a cartoon.

Q: How did you come up with the idea for The Rat Pack of Hollywood?

A: I had moved to Liberty Lake and was trying to find a regular job after I'd been out of work for a while. I was just sitting at home one day thinking, "I can't do anything anymore because Hollywood has been taken over by a lot of rats." It just clicked — why don't I create rats that stand up and talk like humans?

Q: Tell a little about these rats and what they do.

A: The rats are in a band called Hollywood Rats. They travel the country singing their music — like the Partridge Family, only rats. There are no people or animals in the cartoon. It's a make-believe utopia where rats rule.

Q: You mentioned that one of the rats, Jensen, was named after your neighbors. How did this come about?

A: I had some serious health issues this past year, as well as difficulty trying to find a job. No matter what I was going through, all of my Liberty Lake neighbors helped me out. Most notable were Mark and Kerry Jensen and their five children, so I named a rat "Jensen" after them.

Most of Jensen the Rat's characteristics are a result of my observation of the Jensen family or ideas submitted directly by the family. I've been able to beta test my drawings and sense of humor on the (Jensen) children before submitting it to publishers and to the Hollywood community. I love their candor and honesty.

Q: Why is being a family-friendly form of entertainment important to you?

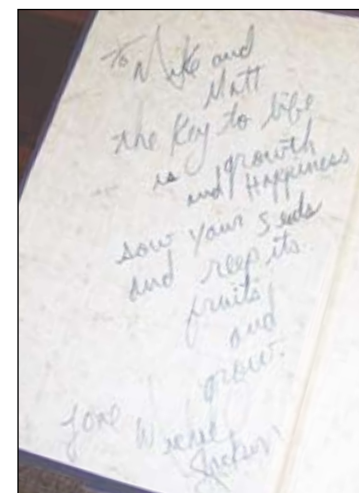
A: I long for the days of yesterday when families could sit down and actually watch TV together! Recent sensational stories like Balloon Boy or Adam Lambert's appearance on the American Music Awards are filling the TV screens, but what parent wants to sit down with their children and watch that type of sensational programming? The Rat Pack of Hollywood will be refreshing entertainment the whole family can enjoy together without being embarrassed or inappropriate.

Q: Where are you in the process of getting your rats out in the public eye?

A: Currently I am in the process of shopping a children's picture book deal with a national publisher. I also have a few production companies and networks I am targeting for development and distribution of the animated series. I have the passion — there will just have to be some Hollywood magic that takes it to the next level.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/ARTWORK

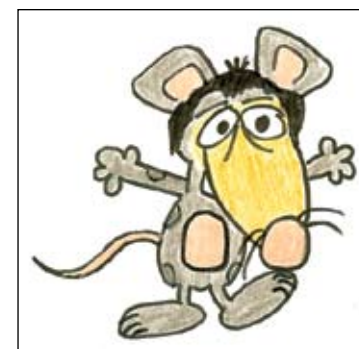



A photo (above) with President Bill Clinton and a book autographed by Michael Jackson (above right) are two of Michael Houbrick's favorite pieces of memorabilia from his time working in the Hollywood entertainment industry. Jensen (lower right), one of Houbrick's cartoon rats, is named after Houbrick's neighbors Mark and Kerry Jensen and their five children.

Q: What are your goals and dreams for the Rat Pack?

A: Immediately, I'm hoping that the Rat Pack can help save my house and keep me working. I

would love to do a line of children's books and then take it on to television. I want to use my vast experiences to help my future while not selling out — that's my dream.





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Splash Survey

Vote on the top stories of 2009



For The Splash New Year's edition, we will reflect on some of the top stories of 2009. And we want your opinion on the headlines that caused the biggest wave.

Vote by visiting www.libertylakesplash.com and clicking on the "surveys" tab.



HOLIDAY FOCUS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Last winter, you wrote to tell us of Liberty Lake's many "Snow Angels" who helped neighbors during our record-setting winter. Whether or not the snow buries us again this holiday season, The Splash would like to learn more about the special people in your neighborhood. Recognize these neighbors by writing editor@libertylakesplash.com (or PO Box 363, Liberty Lake, WA 99019). We will feature these submissions during the holidays. Thanks in advance for helping us recognize acts of neighborly kindness.

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 e-mailed 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 Publisher Josh Johnson.

Liberty Lake police on alert

By Brian Asmus
SPLASH GUEST WRITER



Safety is priority after police-targeted violence

This is a difficult time for the law enforcement community in our state. Officers are on heightened alert as they are being targeted for violence. Four Lakewood police officers were shot and killed

as they completed paperwork while inside a coffee shop. One Seattle police officer was shot and killed, and his partner was shot and wounded as they were parked on the side of the road in a patrol car.

As a result, a directive was issued to Liberty Lake police personnel asking them to be vigilant, to be aware of their surroundings at all times and to not become complacent.

Our officers' priority is safety. The officers have taken an oath to protect the community that they proudly serve. They are also responsible for their safety and are committed to going home to their families at the end of their shift. The officers that were killed were targeted because they

were police officers. The assailants did not know them; there is nothing to indicate that the assailants were specifically looking for these individuals. They were murdered because they were the police.

Our own officers here in Liberty Lake have received threats of being killed. These threats are not taken lightly. I am asking for your understanding and empathy when contacting our officers. They will be extremely cautious when approached by members of the community. Do not mistake their situational awareness and vigilance as rude or disrespectful.

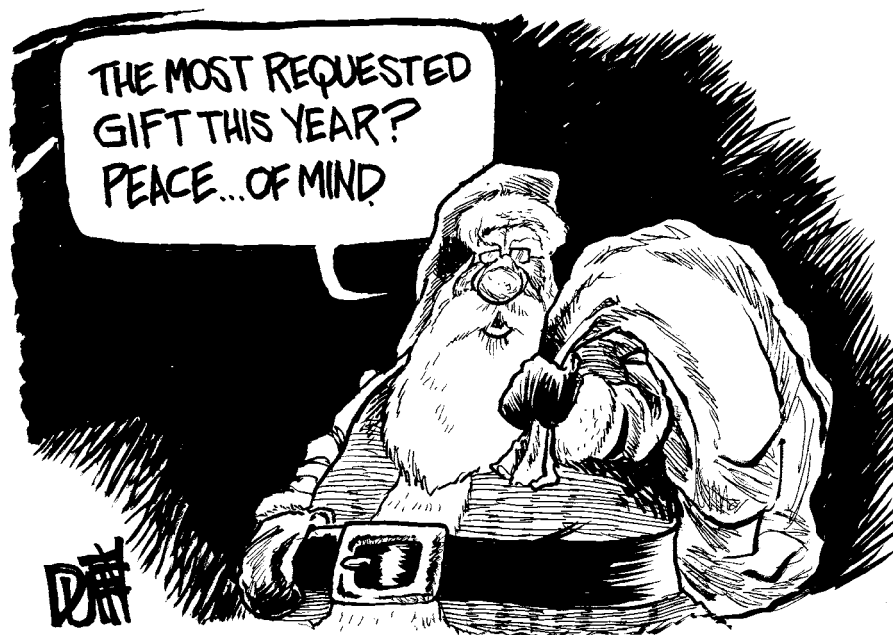
We feel that our profession is a calling; we understand, prepare and train for the dangers and know that we put ourselves in harms way every day we put on the uniform and check into service. We do not do this job for the glory or for the purpose of seeking recognition or appreciation. We choose to do this job to serve the community. However, I would ask the Liberty Lake community to support the law enforcement officers in these challenging times, and simply thank them for their service when you see them.

We are praying for the families of the fallen Lakewood officers: Sgt. Mark Renninger, age 39 with 13 years of law enforcement experience, survived by his wife and three children; Officer Ronald Owen, age 37 with 12 years of law enforcement experience, survived by a former wife and a daughter; Officer Tina Griswold, age 40 with 14 years of law enforcement experience, survived by her husband and two children; Officer Greg Richards, age 42 with eight years of law enforcement experience, survived by his wife and three children. Some of our own officers have worked and trained with these brave men and woman. One of our former police officers is now a detective with the city of Lakewood, and I have had an opportunity to talk to him about the shootings. Five officers who volunteered to attend the memorial service at the Tacoma Dome will represent our city.

I am humbled by the number of letters, e-mails, phone calls and visits that our agency has received since this tragedy expressing concerns, thoughts, empathy and prayers for our safety. On behalf of all of us at the Liberty Lake Police Department, I thank you for this. Your support means more than you know during this difficult time for all of us.

Those interested in supporting the families of the slain officers are welcome to make a donation through the Lakewood Police Independent Guild Benevolent Fund at P.O. Box 99579, Lakewood, WA 98499.

Brian Asmus is the police chief of the Liberty Lake Police Department.



"Among the latest layoffs are twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords-a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids-a-milking..."



Ring in the holiday

SPLASH PHOTOS BY CHAD KIMBERLEY



Nearly 350 people rang in the holiday season last week at Liberty Lake's sixth annual tree lighting ceremony. The turnout was a new attendance record, city officials say.

At right: Members of the Central Valley High School acapella choir were on hand to bring some Christmas cheer through song before the tree lighting ceremony.

Below: Kids place their food donation into the barrels supporting the Inland Northwest 2nd Harvest Food bank. As of Tuesday morning, the city has collected 400 pounds.



Above: Families and friends lined up to take horse drawn carriage rides around Liberty Lake. The 15-minute evening rides were free and sponsored by STCU.



Local kids pose for a photo with Santa Claus after sharing with him their gift wishes for Christmas morning.



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PET TIP OF THE WEEK:

Cold Weather Tips
 For the sudden onset of cold weather remember:

- 1) Your pet needs fresh water that won't freeze
- 2) Increase your pet's food by 20%
- 3) Have a shelter where your pet can get out of the wind and cold
- 4) Watch out for antifreeze leaks, it is deadly
- 5) Cats will sleep on car engines to stay warm, so bang on your car's hood before starting



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In order to be considered for the following Thursday's Splash:

- CLASSIFIED ADS must be received by noon Monday.
- DISPLAY AD COPY must be received by noon Friday.
- DISPLAY ADS (CAMERA-READY) must be received by noon Monday.
- INSERTS must be received at least 9 days in advance.
- LEGAL ADS must be received by noon Monday.

Placing classifieds

Classifieds must be placed online at www.libertylakesplash.com or in person at 2310 N. Molter Road, Suite 305. Ads are not accepted by phone, e-mail, fax or postal mail.

Advertising inquiries

Display, insert or legal ad inquiries can be made by phone at 242-7752 or e-mail at advertise@libertylakesplash.com.

Advertising integrity

Inaccurate or deceptive advertising is never knowingly accepted. Complaints about advertisers should be made in writing to the Better Business Bureau and to advertise@libertylakesplash.com. The Splash is not responsible for the content of or claims made in ads.

BULLETIN BOARD

Did you know: the Liberty Lake Library has a number of volunteers who keep our stacks neat and tidy? Stop by the library or call 232-2510.

Mindful Mamas (Spokane Valley): This parenting support group meets 10:30-noon on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at Liberty Lake Library, Meeting Room. Breastfeeding questions answered. Kid friendly, parents/caregivers welcome.

EVENTS

Personalized children's artwork framed and gift wrapped as a surprise for Christmas! Upcoming kid's Art Workshops are Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. at The Art Chalet of Liberty Lake. (ages 5 and up) \$27 plus \$3 for frame. Call 255-9600 or go to: www.theartchalet.com.

FOR RENT

\$875 - 2 story townhouse, 2-bed 1.5-bath in Liberty Lake. New carpet, new paint, gas fireplace, 2-car garage, pool! Washer, dryer, fridge included! Rent includes water, sewer, garbage, snow removal, yard maintenance. Call Joel, 509-868-5264.

Executive home in Legacy Ridge. Craftsmanship is evident everywhere. 3 bedrooms, each with its own bath, 2 fireplaces, including master suite. Office, great room, gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances, covered patio/porch wraps around rear of the house. Hardwood, granite and tile. Walking trails, parks and greenbelts. \$2,200 monthly 509-216-8240.

LAKEFRONT

813 S. LIBERTY DRIVE: One bedroom apt. on the lake with large yard, covered parking, w/d. Water, sewer, garbage incl. \$570/mo., 981-4943.

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FURNITURE

Bush Furniture swing-out armoire, great for smaller tvs or computer: \$50. Call for pictures, 926-3010

Sofa, \$125; six foot, plaid and in good condition. 893-2330, evenings.

White Ikea twin bed with pull-out bed underneath. Includes 2 mattresses - like new, \$225. Great for guests and sleepovers. Sewing table, \$100. Weight bench and weights, \$50. Call 255-9668.

MISC. FOR SALE

Looking for X-mas gifts, stocking stuffers? Assorted Xbox games \$5 each. Call Jon for titles, 255-5235.

Misc. for sale: Free-standing double closet rack, \$10. 2 brass lamps, \$15 both. 2 lampshades, \$5 both. Box fan, \$5. Call for pictures, 926-3010.

U-CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

\$25 DOUGLAS FIR! Come and choose your family Christmas tree. Harvest it fresh to last nice and green through the holiday season. Located along the beautiful Spokane River in North Greenacres at 17725 E. Montgomery Ave. Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 4pm. Call for availability of other times or questions, 928-7127.

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Goodan Painting. Interior painting, 25 years experience. Liberty Lake resident, quality work at a reasonable price, references available. Call Tom Goodan, 924-3342, GOODAP-055MS.

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WANTED

Old wooden water skis wanted, pairs preferred, but single skis OK also. Call Kim at 255-9385 or 954-8098.

Single mom of 4 needs bunk beds or 2 twin beds. Call Kay 255-6379.

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THE Splash

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THREE CHEERS



Cheer 1: Bryce Kananowicz, Swimming

Thirteen-year-old Liberty Lake resident Bryce Kananowicz broke one of the oldest Inland Empire swimming records in the 13-14 year-old division in the 200-meter backstroke with a time of 1:57:14 at the recent Turkey Trot Invitational swim meet in Cheney. Kananowicz, who swims with the Coeur d'Alene area swim team, is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation by USA Swimming in the 100 and 200 backstroke.

Cheer 2: Scott Simon, Central Valley Boys Basketball

Simon, a senior, led the way for the Bears in their season-opening win over Chiawana High School by scoring 11 points along

with pulling down nine boards and handing out five assists.

Cheer 3: Brooke Gallaway, Central Valley Girls Basketball

Gallaway, a sophomore, scored a team-high 14 points for the Lady Bears in their season-opening loss to Chiawana High School.

Swimming to a new record



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bryce Kananowicz (right) poses with coaches Bob Wood and Luke Stocker at the recent Turkey Trot Invitational in which Kananowicz broke a 15-year-old record in the 200-meter backstroke.

CV Sports Roundup

CVHS basketball wins one, loses one in season starters

The Central Valley High School basketball squads got off to a 1-1 start to the season as the boys team won their opening game and the girls squad lost. In the

boys 69-53 win, the offense was balanced with four players in double figures while the defense held Chiawana to just 10 first-half points. Jake Estey led the Bears with 13 points while Joe Arlt chipped in 12, Scott Simon 11 and Damond Justus added

10. The Lady Bears in contrast struggled to get their offense going in their 44-34 loss to Chiawana, topping seven points in a quarter only once. Brooke Gallaway led CV scorers with 14 points while Loree Hill led the team with 11 rebounds.

Sports Brief

CV hosts workshop for athletes

Central Valley High School is hosting an informational workshop for student-athletes and parents about NCAA Division 1 and 2 athletics.

The meeting will take place Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Central Valley High School theatre.

The workshop is designed to provide information regarding high school course requirements to meet NCAA academic admission standards. Topics such as scholarships, recruiting regulations and eligibility will be discussed. Dan Ross from Eastern Washington will lead the workshop and also will answer questions for student-athletes.

For more information, call 228-5100.

Scoreboard

BOYS BASKETBALL

12/5 CV vs. Chiawana 69-53 W

GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/5 CV vs. Chiawana 44-34 L

SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 10

7 p.m., CV Wrestling vs. Mead

DECEMBER 11

4:30 p.m., CV Wrestling Inland Empire Tournament at CV

5:30 p.m., CV Boys Basketball at Rogers

7:15 p.m., CV Girls Basketball at Rogers

DECEMBER 12

9 a.m., CV Wrestling Inland Empire Tournament at CV

DECEMBER 13

5:30 p.m., CV Girls Basketball at Mead

7:15 p.m., CV Boys Basketball at Mead

DECEMBER 16

7 p.m., CV Wrestling at East Valley

DECEMBER 17

6 p.m., CV Gymnastics at Ferris

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Branch
- 5 Scoundrel
- 8 Break suddenly
- 12 Hebrew month
- 13 Bullring cry
- 14 Ringlet
- 15 Apportion (out)
- 16 CB kin
- 18 Nassau's island group
- 20 Mountain nymph
- 21 "The Da Vinci Code" author
- 22 Sky safety org.
- 23 Unkempt
- 26 German city
- 30 Noah's craft
- 31 Monkey suit
- 32 Back talk
- 33 "The Firm" author
- 36 Ballroom dance
- 38 Whammy
- 39 Has the ability
- 40 "Monopoly" building
- 43 Soccer star wed to a Spice Girl
- 47 Moorish kings' palace
- 49 Emanation
- 50 Venetian blind piece

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | | 20 | | | |
| | | | 21 | | | | 22 | | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | | |
| 33 | | | 34 | 35 | | | | | 36 | 37 | | |
| | | | 38 | | | | | | 39 | | | |
| 40 | 41 | 42 | | | | 43 | | | | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 47 | | | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | |
| 50 | | | | | | 51 | | | | 52 | | |
| 53 | | | | | | 54 | | | | 55 | | |

- 51 "Of course" ex. payment
- 52 Harness part 8 Sacred 34 Scabbard
- 53 "Thirty days beetle 35 Captain's place
- 54 Ram's mate 10 Met melody 36 Pouch
- 55 Wood-shaping tool 11 Trudge 37 Turkey's capital
- 17 Wander 39 Stop
- 19 Spring time 40 Corned beef recipe
- 22 Office transmission 41 — podrida
- 23 Periodical, briefly 42 ust one of those things
- 24 Mess up 25 Schuss 43 Concoct, in a way
- 26 Drone 44 Colored
- 27 Einstein's birthplace 45 N. Mex. neighbor
- 28 Cage component 46 ion's pride
- 29 Univ. transcript stat 48 "See ya"
- 31 April 15

DOWN

- 1 Child of 54-Across
- 2 Concept
- 3 Geometry or algebra
- 4 Rye and pumpernickel
- 5 "Yankee Doodle" man
- 6 "Sad to say ..."
- 7 Obama, for

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | | | 5 | | 7 | | |
| 4 | | | 3 | | | | | 2 |
| | | 5 | 8 | | 2 | | 6 | |
| 8 | | | 7 | | | 3 | | |
| | 5 | | | 9 | | | | 4 |
| | | 2 | | | 8 | 9 | 7 | |
| 6 | | | | 8 | | | | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | | | | 4 | | 1 | |
| | | 7 | 1 | | | 8 | | |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Answer

Solution time: 21 mins.
Answers

we are seeing a bright future!

new name! second location! third doctor!
same exceptional service!



Ellingsen-Paxton-Johnson is expanding our family to include Liberty Lake!

After serving the Spokane Valley for 18 years, Ellingsen-Paxton Orthodontics is pleased to announce their new second location in Liberty Lake and welcome Dr. Bret Johnson to their orthodontic practice. Dr. Johnson, a former patient of ours, returns home to Spokane to join us as Ellingsen-Paxton-Johnson Orthodontics.

Drs. Ellingsen, Paxton and Johnson will be sharing in the treatment of patients at both offices. Rather than the traditional one-doctor approach, we view our shared-patient approach as a huge benefit to each of our valued patients. Instead of receiving care from only one Doctor, our patients receive a second or third opinion every time.

Our Liberty Lake location is in full operation welcoming children and adults.

New patients are always welcome!

*complimentary
new patient exam*

No referral necessary



ellingsen • paxton • johnson
orthodontics

rick ellingsen, dds, diane paxton, dds, bret johnson, dds

epjortho.com

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