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TASK 4: PLASTIC CAP RECYCLING ART PROJECT
SUMMARY REPORT
January 1 - June 30, 2012

The plastic cap art project was an amazing community effort that brought awareness about the impact of plastics in the marine environment and what people can do to help make a difference. The Skagit County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) partnered with several other organizations, businesses, and community volunteers to help create large murals made out of recycled caps and lids. The murals were used as an educational platform to carry out the message about plastics and brought many themes to the school: they commemorated the school's commitment to meal-time recycling which was featured in the Anacortes American, a reminder of how plastics can harm the marine environment, and how we can all make a difference by applying the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) to our daily lives. Several students even pledged to participate in community trash clean-ups. The murals will remain on display at the Island View Elementary School in Anacortes.

The Girl Scout Troop #42328 and several volunteers kicked off the plastic cap and lid collection campaign in January. Plastic cap collection centers were located at Safeway, the Anacortes Senior Center, Skagit County Public Works, and Island View Elementary. The volunteers were able to collect more than enough plastic caps and lids from the local community to create the murals. Several organizations and businesses donated funding and supplies to build the murals: the Skagit MRC provided \$500 for supplies, Frontier Industries donated the plywood and miscellaneous supplies, and Ace Hardware provided the paint.

Sheldon the Snail was the first mural created to help carry the message of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.



An article about Sheldon was published in the Anacortes American (AA).



Follow the Trail of Shelldon the Snail : REFUSE, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

*Shelldon the Snail is protecting our Salish Sea
From daily plastics becoming marine debris.
Shelldon says we can work together
By cleaning up beach trash, regardless the weather.
Our plastic footprint can be reduced
By eliminating plastics that are only once-use.
Shelldon loves his Salish Sea
And working together is the only way to be.*

The second mural was a butterfly that the Girl Scout troop #42328 helped young students create for display at Island View Elementary School. In addition, the Girl Scout troop presented the message about the harm caused by plastics accumulating in the marine environment.

A team of volunteers, including MRC members, helped lead students of Island View Elementary in Anacortes through a week-long celebration of Earth Day during the week of April 16-20. Students attached plastic caps to a 16' x 4' mural prepared in the theme of "The Lorax".



The Lorax Plastic Cap Mural
Earth Day Celebration April 2012
Island View Elementary
Anacortes, WA



Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better, it's not! -- Dr. Seuss, from the book The Lorax

Wrapping the theme of the mural into the story of The Lorax was the "icing on the cake". The Lorax, a classic Dr. Seuss book teaches us to protect mother earth, and was recently released as a major motion film. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not" -- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax. In addition to the connection to Earth Day, Dr. Seuss is the theme used in the annual campaign for the program "Read Across America," that encourages students to Read-Read-Read. Students at Island View just recently concluded the reading campaign event in early April. Included in this overall project has been a student contest to win Lorax movie tickets or the Dr. Seuss book, The Lorax. Students picked up trash and completed a survey as their entry into the weekly drawing.



**WIN 2 Movie Tickets to *The Lorax*
or the Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*.**



**With an adult, clean up trash in your community for 15-minutes.
Safety first! Wear gloves and sturdy shoes. Do not pick up anything sharp.
Select areas safe from cars, like parks and beaches.**

**Complete the ticket and return to your teacher to be entered into the weekly drawing
leading up to the Plastic Cap Mural Build Week: Apr 16 – Apr 20.**

I, _____, cleaned up trash in my community for 15 minutes.

The most common trash item I found was _____.

Teacher/Rm # _____ Parent Signature _____

So much was learned along this journey including different ways we can reduce our use of plastics such as: using wax paper instead of plastic baggies, re-usable water bottles and re-usable grocery bags, choosing packaging with less plastic, refusing plastic cups and straws, re-using materials for art project supplies, and conducting frequent community trash clean-ups. These are just a few examples. There are also many other fun, unique and engaging ways to improve 3R habits!

A special thank you goes to those that were so pivotal in ensuring the mural and educational materials were prepped and ready to go for our build week volunteers and students:

- Chris Wood - cap collection, cleaning, sorting, design advisor, painting, lead project coordinator
- Laurel Harrison - topic education leader and seed for our team inspiration & energy, mentor
- Adam Lorio - environmental Education Coordinator, Samish Indian Nation
- Callie Martin - Skagit County recycling education specialist, cap collection, project coordinator
- John Spurling - plywood preparation, design advisor, drill volunteer
- Paula Molitor - PTA supporter, volunteer coordinator
- Heidi Parker - classroom scheduling
- Janice Veal - artistic guidance with girls of Troop 42328
- Michelle Stritzlein. Ohio artist, <http://www.artgrange.com/michellebottlecapart.html> who inspired the use of plastic caps as mural media.
- Girl Scout Troop 42328 (Abby Lindberg, Alyssa Mielke, Andrea Spurling, Claire Severin, Elizabeth Braatz, Ellie Harrison, Emily Mielke, Giulia Wood, Katie Dyer, Meleah Fine) and parents - two murals built in Jan/Feb to inspire The Lorax project, cap collection, cleaning, sorting, mural design, mural animal templates
- Ms. Wedul, Susie Harvey and the 2nd grade classrooms - for their dedication and "caring a whole awful lot" to start meal-time recycling last year
- Brian Hanrahan, IVE Principal - for his approval and commitment to carry out the project at IVE

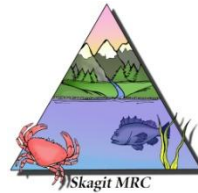
And thank you to our many additional volunteers who took time away from work and personal schedules to be a part of build week:

- Debbie Amos
- Elizabeth Bender
- Patricia Bickley
- Kevin Bright (*)
- Maria Burnett
- Barbara Dretske
- Sonny Jordan
- Treva King
- Valerie Kinzey
- Kari Odden (*)
- Jeff Wood
- Janna Young

(*) Skagit Marine Resource Committee members

Thank you to our sponsors and those contributing donations:

- Skagit Marine Resource Committee (\$500)
- Frontier Industries (plywood and other supplies)
- ACE Hardware (paint)
- Read Me A Story (books)
- Watermark Bookstore (books)
- Anacortes Community (cap collection centers at Safeway, Senior Center and Island View Elementary)



THE LORAX PROJECT

Island View Elementary
April 16 – April 20
In Celebration of Earth Day 2012!

SCRIPT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Draft 4-14-12



Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to
get better. It's not.

Dr. Seuss, from the book *The Lorax*

OVERVIEW

- 45 minutes
- Escort - 3 minutes (arrive at classroom 5 minutes prior to listed arrival time)
- Opening – 5 minutes
- Education Station – 15 minutes
- Mural Station -15 minutes
- Closing – 5 minutes – escorts gets next class
- Teacher escorts their own students back to classroom!

VOLUNTEERS

Have all volunteers sign in, which includes a statement of understanding of the safety rules.

SET-UP

Opening /Closing Area

Place blue painter tape of 3 rows to indicate where students should sit (facing the stage) for the opening and closing.

The Lorax book and pledge card packets (divided into classroom packets). Request teachers to have students complete the pledge cards at their classrooms and return the pledge cards back to the mural build team.

Educational Stations

Place blue painter tape in a horseshoe design in the opposite end from the stage for the educational station (to accommodate about 14 students). Set up a table with the display items.

Display Items:

- Trash bird
- Entangled turtle
- Large ACE red trash can (of trash)
- Plastic Ocean (book)
- Picture of Captain Charles Moore holding the plastic soup
- Plastic grocery bag
- pudding box and pre-packaged pudding
- water bottle/disposable bottle
- re-usable grocery bag/plastic bag
- plastic baggie / re-usable container
- kool-aide packet/Capri-suns
- Plastic gloves
- Cow bell or other loud noise maker
- 7 ACE Buckets (for team trash clean up)

Mural Station

- Set up cap design in advanced behind the closing theater doors. (complete)
- Slide one panel away from the others - to be the panel that is being worked on for the day. Have plenty of screws and have the power pack and drills nearby. Ensure plenty of space from the stage edge to avoid someone accidentally falling off.
- Have the safety sign nearby – and band aids readily available.
- Make any fine-tune adjustments to the cap design. (reference attached comments).
- Post mural pictures as a “go-by”.

OPENING (Coordinator)

Hello my name is <your name> and welcome to Plastic Cap Mural Build Week – in the theme of ***The Lorax*** and in Celebration of ***Earth Day*** which is officially April 22nd! This project is sponsored by Girl Scout Troop #42328, as inspired by Ms. Wedul's 2nd grade classes who have been the leaders for getting meal-time recycling started in your school.

During your 45-minutes here with our volunteers today you will be divided into two groups, rotating between two stations.

One of those stations is the **Mural Station** – where you will use a hand drill to drill 3 plastic caps per student to the mural. Our volunteers, <introduce volunteers> will be assisting you today.

The other station is the **Educational Station** - where you will learn about how to reduce the amount of plastic trash you and your family produce each day – and how to protect our marine environment from the harm this trash can cause if it gets into our oceans. Our volunteers, <introduce volunteers> will be leading this activity today.

Are any of you wondering why the theater looks so trashy? The trash has been placed here on purpose for an activity that you will be doing during your time here today. The activity will be linked to the famous quote from ***The Lorax***,

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

You will have a chance to improve our theater community by participating in an IVE Theater trash clean-up– to demonstrate how much you **care!**

At the end, we will bring you all together to hear about everything you learned today – and how you can make a pledge to protect our Mother Earth – and more specifically our marine environment. You will complete your pledge cards back at your classrooms – and your teachers will return the pledge cards <show pledge card> so that you can be entered into a drawing for another chance to win the book, ***The Lorax***. <hold up the books>

<Divide into two groups – coordinator efficiently dictates which students go to the educational station – and then invite the rest to the stage for the mural>

LORAX MURAL STATION

Girl Scout Troop 42328 has designed this Lorax Mural for you to “cap” and enjoy for years to come. It comes with a message:

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

We need to review a few safety requirements before we get started.

1. All hair and loose clothing must be tucked in. We have hair pull-backs if you need one.
2. Never put your fingers by the drill tip. You must keep your hands on the handle of the drill. Our adult volunteers will be in charge of holding the caps (if needed) as you drill. No one wants to have their finger nipped by the drill tip.
3. Do not pull on the drill trigger until you have the tip/screw on the cap ready to drill – and your adult volunteer has said it's OK.
4. Each of you will be able to drill three (3) caps onto the mural. I will demonstrate by drilling the first cap. Watch carefully.
5. Be ready to go when it is your turn.

<It will be best to have two volunteers running each drill to ensure appropriate time for all students to drill caps. You will need to move quickly and efficiently - do not tolerate delays. Emphasize the importance of being ready-to-go if you are standing in line waiting. >

<As you are drilling, interact with the students by asking the following questions – and explaining what the mural symbolizes.>

<A poster will be on display that includes this information for students to read or ad-hoc volunteers to read to the students.>

- Do any of you know the name of the birds? **Swomee-Swans**
- Do any of you know the name of fish? **Humming Fish**
- Do any of you know the name of the bears? **Brown Barb-a-loots**
- Do any of you know the name of the trees? **Truffula trees**
- How many truffula trees are there? **10**
- Can you find the truffula fruits?
- And what is the name of the main character? **The Lorax**
- Who does he speak for? **The Trees**

The Community and all of you as students of Island View have been collecting plastic caps in preparation for this mural. The plastic caps represent the idea that beautiful art can be created by items that are considered trash. But this particular plastic trash is also harmful to our marine life if we allow it to get to our oceans. (1st group - You will learn more about this in your next station) (2nd group – did any of you learn about the type of harm that can be caused to our marine environment?)

The mural will be permanently mounted in the hall leading to your cafeteria. It represents (or is a symbol) to remind all of us that recycling is a good thing to do to reduce trash. **Reduce, Re-use, Recycle** are the 3R's that we should try to include in our daily habits.

EDUCATIONAL STATION

Girl Scouts Troop 42328 has designed this station to help spread the word

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not. – Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax*

The Community and all of you as students of Island View have been collecting plastic caps in preparation to build the mural. The mural represents how important it is to ***Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle.***

Caps are being **re-used** to make an artistic mural. And all of you are **recycling** each day at lunch time.

But the plastic caps represent something more – trash like plastic caps, straws, grocery bags, fishing line, and rope harm marine mammals, fish and birds every day.

There is a place in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California called the **Great Pacific Garbage Patch**. It is a place where the currents of the oceans concentrate up our human-made trash. Plastics start to break down into smaller and smaller pieces until they become a “soup” of plastic, floating just below the surface of our ocean.

A man by the name of **Captain Charles Moore** first discovered this floating trash – and now has written a book to tell other people about what he discovered. <show a picture of Captain Charles Moore>

In the story/movie “The Lorax” – the little character – The Lorax, speaks for what? <pause for input> He speaks for the “**trees**”.

In a similar way, Captain Charles Moor speaks for the “marine environment”. He is telling people across the nation how important it is to keep trash out of our oceans – and to clean up the mess we have created.

Do you think plastic is unhealthy for our marine life? <pause>

You are right – it is not healthy. It's not healthy for any one – it's not healthy for you to eat plastic – or your cat – or your dog – or marine birds.

Plastic trash bags can look like jelly fish to animals that like to eat jellyfish.

<demonstrate with a bag>

Is that potentially harmful? <pause>

Yes this is harmful.

Plastic caps , straws and bottles look like food to some marine birds.

<demonstrate plastic trash bird>

Is that potentially harmful? <pause>

Plastic rope and fishing line can cut animals and entangle them. <demonstrate entangled turtle>

Is that harmful?

What can you do to help reduce the risk of harm to our marine life?

One way we all can help is to reduce our use of plastic grocery bags by remembering to take re-usable bags to the grocery store. <show a re-usable bag>

You can help your parents remember.

Another way is to find creative ways to reduce your use of plastics. One thing that Girl Scout Troop 42328 does to reduce plastic is to make pudding from a box, instead of buying pudding pre-made. <show pudding box and pre-packaged pudding>

Do you have some ideas? What are they? <ask for hands – have only two students share>

<Suggest these additional ideas>

How about Re-usable water bottles instead of once-use disposable bottles?

<demonstrate>

- Re-usable grocery bags instead of plastic bags <demonstrate>
- Re-usable containers (instead of plastic bags) <demonstrate>
- Make kool-aid from a packet (instead of using Capri-Sun packets) <demonstrate>

Another way to help our marine life is to frequently clean up trash in our neighborhoods and along our beaches.

With a show of hands, are there any of you who cleaned up trash to enter the contest to win movie tickets or the book, ***The Lorax***? Were any of you the winners? <If so, say, “**Awesome**”>

Well each of you will have one more chance to enter our contest to win a Lorax book. We have an activity set-up where you will pick up trash in your theater community – working as teams. This trash is “clean” so we will not actually use plastic gloves (to avoid waste). But when you are picking up real trash, please wear gloves like this <demonstrate>. And now when you pick up trash, you can think about how the animals will not ingest (eat) the plastic or get entangled in it.

Please pair up – and pick up as much trash as you can until you hear the <cow bell or other attention getting noise maker>.

Bring your trash to the red can – and let's all dump it in the can! Wow look at how much of a difference you made in just a few minutes of collecting trash.

It's time now to rotate to <“ Mural Station” (1st round) / “Closing” (2nd round)>

CLOSING (Coordinator)

Did you have fun today? <allow for group response>

It's amazing how much trash can be picked up in such a small amount of time. Great job! You can clean up trash in your community quickly too – by taking a bag and a glove with you on walks or visits to the park.

Did everyone get a chance to drill caps onto the mural? <allow for group response>

How many truffle trees did you find? <allow for group response – everyone yell out the answer – 10 truffle trees>

By placing your hand up <demonstrate by placing your hand up too> , can someone share with us one example of a plastic item that can be harmful to marine animals? <allow 2 students to share>

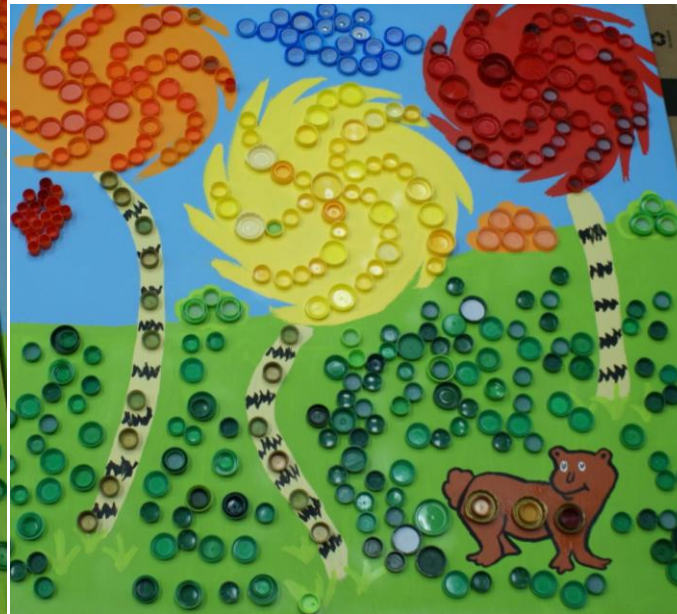
By placing your hand up, can someone share one example of what we can do to make a difference -- to help the animals and the marine environment? <allow 2 students to share>

Back in your classrooms, you will have the time to complete a pledge card and hand it in to your teacher to be entered into a drawing for another chance to win a copy of the book, The Lorax. <hold-up the book and a pledge card>

Thank you for your participation – it was a joy having you all come here today to help build the mural and learn about how to protect Mother Earth as a way to celebrate Earth Day! There are so many people to thank, including Girl Scout Troop 42328, Skagit Marine Resource Committee, Frontier Industries, ACE Hardware, Read Me A Story, Watermark Bookstore – and our many volunteers. Let's give ourselves and those that supported us a big round of applause. <pause for applause>

Thank you again – and now your teacher will now take you all back to your classrooms to complete your pledge cards.

Thank you!



**UNLESS
someone like you
cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is going
to get better.
It's not.
-- *The Lorax***

[illegible]



Plastic Cap Drilling

Safety Rules for Students



1. Pull back hair. Hair pull backs are available.
2. Tuck in loose clothing (example: hoodie cords)
3. Wear safety glasses while operating the drill.
4. Do not put your fingers near the drill tip. Keep your hands on the drill.
5. Push down hard while drilling to get the screw to take hold. An adult might help you by placing their hand on top of yours for extra pressure.
6. Do not pull the drill trigger until the adult volunteer says “OK”.
7. Be aware of the edge of the stage. We do not want you falling off.



**Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not.**

Dr. Seuss, from the book *The Lorax*



**Keep Trash From
Entering Our
Marine Environment!**



Truffula Forest Environment



Do any of you know the name of the birds?



Do any of you know the name of fish?



Do any of you know the name of the bears?



How many truffula trees are there?

Can you find truffula fruits?



What is the name of the main character? Who does he speak for?



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

The Community and all of you as students of Island View Elementary have been collecting plastic caps in preparation for this mural. The plastic caps represent the idea that beautiful art can be created by items that are considered trash. But this particular plastic trash is also harmful to our marine life if we allow it to get to our oceans. You will or have already learned about this at the Educational Station.

The Lorax Mural will be permanently mounted in the hall leading to your cafeteria. It represents (or is a symbol) to remind all of us that recycling is a good thing to do to reduce trash. **Reduce, Re-use, Recycle** are the 3R's that we should try to include in our daily habits.



**Captain Charles Moore, author of *Plastic Ocean*
speaks for our Oceans!**

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters.

Skagit Marine Resource Committee

Frontier Industries

ACE Hardware

Read Me A Story

Watermark Bookstore

Girl Scout Troop #42328

Ms. Wedul and the 2nd grade classes

Susie Harvey

Many community volunteers

Michelle Stitzlein (Ohio artist)

<http://www.artgrange.com/michelleworkshop.html>





**WIN 2 Movie Tickets to *The Lorax*
or the Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*.**



**With an adult, clean up trash in your community for 15-minutes.
Safety first! Wear gloves and sturdy shoes. Do not pick up anything sharp.
Select areas safe from cars, like parks and beaches.**

**Complete the ticket and return to your teacher to be entered into the weekly drawing
leading up to the Plastic Cap Mural Build Week: Apr 16 – Apr 20.**

I, _____, cleaned up trash in my community for 15 minutes.
Name

The most common trash item I found was _____.

Teacher/Rm # _____ Parent Signature _____



**WIN 2 Movie Tickets to *The Lorax*
or the Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*.**



**With an adult, clean up trash in your community for 15-minutes.
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I, _____, cleaned up trash in my community for 15 minutes.
Name

The most common trash item I found was _____.

Teacher/Rm # _____ Parent Signature _____



SUBMITTED

Girl Scout Troop 42328 received the Silver Award for their recycled plastic cap mural project, *The Lorax*, on display at Island View Elementary School. They are Abby Lindberg, left, Elizabeth Braatz, Claire Severin, Giulia Wood, Andrea Spurling, Emily Mielke, Katie Dyer, Ellie Harrison and Alyssa Mielke. Not pictured is Meleah Fine.

Students create art from discarded plastic

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

Island View Elementary School students worked recently to create a piece of art from discarded plastic caps and lids in the theme of the popular Dr. Seuss book "*The Lorax*" as part of a week-long Earth Day celebration.

A team of volunteers led the students as each one used hand drills to attach plastic caps to a 16-foot-by-4-foot mural.

"The mural brings many themes to the school — it commemorates the school's commitment to meal-time recycling, a reminder on how plastics like caps, bags

and straws can harm the marine environment, how we all can make a difference by applying the 3 Rs, reduce, reuse, recycle, to our daily lives, and conducting frequent community trash clean-ups," said troop leader Rebecca Spurling, who helped coordinate the project.

Wrapping the theme of the mural into the story of "*The Lorax*" is the icing on the cake, Spurling said. The classic book teaches people to protect Mother Earth.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not," the book says. Girl Scout Troop 42328 started the plastic cap col-

lection campaign in January, building "Sheldon the Snail," the first mural that carried the message of reduce, reuse, recycle. A second butterfly mural was created at the Girl Scouts' World Thinking Day when the girls taught others about the harm caused by plastics accumulating in the marine environment.

The troop started Island View's own plastic cap collection campaign and designed the *Lorax* mural for the students to attach caps during the week leading up to Earth Day on Sunday, April 22.

As part of the project, a weekly drawing for "*The Lorax*" movie tickets encouraged students to pick up trash and complete a survey. In addition to the connection to Earth Day, Dr. Seuss is the theme used in the annual campaign for the Read Across America program that encourages students to read, Spurling said. Students at Island View just recently concluded the reading campaign in early April.

The plastic cap project was funded by a grant from the Skagit Marine Resource Committee along with donations from Frontier Industries, Ace Hardware, Read Me A Story, Watermark Book Co. and others from the community.

The Lorax Plastic Cap Mural

*Earth Day Celebration April 2012
Island View Elementary
Anacortes, WA*



Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not!

- Dr. Seuss, from the book The Lorax



Find love among the stacks (and give some back) at sweet library fundraiser

A10



ACT draws back the 'Iron Curtain' in musical

Arts & Entertainment A9

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

Anacortes American

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JACOB BUCKENMEYER

Questions for CAPT. PATRICK BOYLE

Lifeboat training expert

When the Costa Concordia cruise ship hit rocks near an island off the coast of Italy earlier this month, news of the tragedy reverberated through the maritime community around the world — and here in Anacortes. The Anacortes American asked Capt. Patrick Boyle, director of training and certification at Anacortes-based Q3 Marine Training Solutions, about the deadly wreck.

Q3 Marine Training Solutions provides lifeboat and rescue boat training for mariners and ship crews. Boyle is intimately familiar with the design and proper deployment and recovery of a variety of lifeboats, and he has a long history of making sure others are knowledgeable when they need to be.

Boyle has nearly 30 years of experience as an operator, port captain and safety instructor for commercial and passenger ship companies.

Q Does it surprise you that a cruise ship on a seemingly routine trip through familiar waters could run aground?

How is it that a cruise ship less than six years old, equipped with modern navigation and safety equipment, and on a clear night in calm weather, could run aground? Only the bridge team on watch at the time of the grounding knows the answer to this question, but it is surprising, in fact it is shocking.

Q As you read the accounts of the tragedy, what stands out to you about how the evacuation unfolded?

The advent of cell phones, portable video recorders and cameras add an interesting dimension to accounting for how this disaster unfolded. The images taken by passengers during this tragedy graphically illustrate the apparent chaos the travelers and crew endured in their

efforts to abandon the sinking ship.

However, one thing is certain; the lifeboats did not launch themselves. Quite the contrary, only persons trained and experienced in the launching of a lifeboat could have managed the task of boarding the passengers, swinging out, lowering, disengaging of the release gear and then getting the passengers to shore.

Was it a calm and relaxing procedure? Perhaps not, but did the crew manage to get thousands of passengers off the ship and safely to shore? Yes they did.

Q Many passengers complained the crew didn't give them good directions on how to evacuate, and once the emergency became clear, delayed lowering the lifeboats. In general, is safety training for the cruise ship crews what it needs to be?

Lifeboat coxswains on any ship are trained, and

Please see **Boyle**, page A8

Port to install activity floats

Proponents say new event space will bring more boating groups

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

After years of discussions about installing a party barge at the Cap Sante Boat Haven, the Port of Anacortes commission said yes to activity floats as a way to encourage more use of its marina.

The two activity floats will each be 20.5 feet by 50 feet and made of concrete monolithic float modules. They will be able to be placed separately in slips or side by side to create a larger gathering area.

"The floats can be moored at either E dock south or D dock north depending on the plan of use," John Hachey, port facilities and operations

director, told the port commission on Thursday before it approved the project. "We can move these around at our convenience depending on the projected use of the facility."

Total cost of the project is \$178,530 and will be funded as a change order to the E and F dock replacement project currently going on at the marina. The dock project has approximately \$225,000 left over in its construction allowance budget.

"We were able to get some very good bids," Hachey said. "The project's gone a lot smoother than we anticipated and so there was a fair amount of money in the contingencies we haven't used."

"This particular convention float,

activity float — it is not a party barge — allows people to congregate and allows them on a dock," said John Ripley, owner of BananaBelt Boats of Anacortes. "It's like having a lecture hall without a podium."

Ripley said the activity floats will encourage clubs to have their boat rendezvous in Anacortes rather than places like Roche Harbor, which has an activity float.

"They don't come here," Ripley said. "One of the problems Anacortes is saddled with is it's the place to leave to go to the San Juans. We are not the destination area. That is incorrect."

Please see **Floats**, page A5

FIBER ART

Weaver's into rugs in a big way

BY JACOB BUCKENMEYER
American staff writer

"Do you need a rug? Or a house?" asks Dolly Hein with a laugh. Hein is the owner and weaver at Fidalgo Island Fiber Art. Her sister, Candy Cooper, owns and runs Allied Realtors property management from the front desk in Hein's studio.

Hein has been weaving large custom-made rugs on Commercial Avenue for a year and a half. Her loom can produce rugs as wide as 10 feet and as long as she wants them. Hein knows of only one other loom this size in Western Washington.

These are not the 1/8-inch thick, loose-woven, \$40 rugs you can find at Target or K-mart. It takes Hein at least a full work week to create one rug. The finished product is almost an inch thick, soft but solid. The rugs are really functional pieces of art.

A small loom can make custom rugs for a bathroom or kitchen, but larger rooms need larger rugs. Hein moved to Anacortes three years ago and saw a niche to be filled.

"People don't realize it, but every room needs texture," she said. "Without it, something's just missing. It completes the room."

The weaver

Hein came from California, where she worked in real estate. In Anacortes she had trouble finding custom rugs big enough for her own home. She found them in Bellingham and signed on for an apprenticeship to learn from the weaver there. She learned on a large loom, and now she finds she doesn't want to work with smaller ones.



JACOB BUCKENMEYER

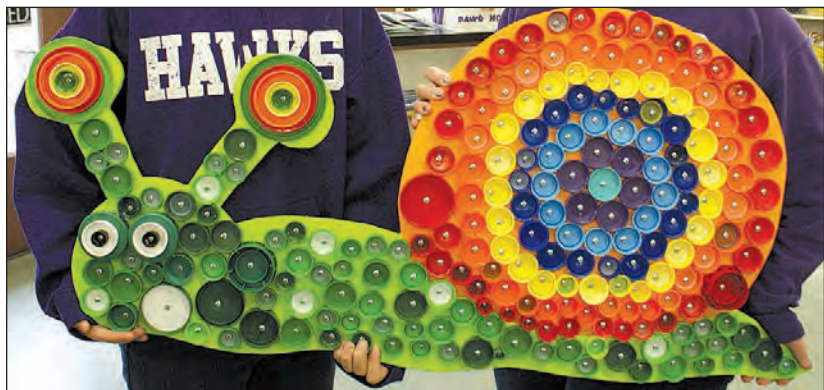
Dolly Hein has been weaving large rugs in her studio on Commercial Avenue since 2010. She displays her work on the walls of the studio and also designs custom work to fit her clients' living space.

"It just held no interest for me," she said. "I want something I can really beat the wool with."

Hein said the artistic side of weaving is just as important as the craftsmanship. She travels to Los

Angeles to handpick fabrics and see what catches her eye. She buys in bulk and gets her wool straight from the mill.

Please see **Weaver**, page A8



REBECCA SPURLING

Anacortes Girl Scout Troop 42328's first art project made from reused bottle caps, 'Follow the Trail of Sheldon the Snail — Reduce, Re-use, Recycle,' is on display at Island View Elementary School. Members are Andrea Spurling, Claire Severin, Abby Lindberg, Alyssa Mielke, Elizabeth Braatz, Ellie Harrison, Emily Mielke, Giulia Wood, Katie Dyer and Meleah Fine.

Girl Scouts recycle caps to keep plastics out of marine environment

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

Sheldon the Snail was destined for the bottom of a trash pile or even worse, floating in the ocean where he could harm marine creatures and maybe even end up on the beaches of Hawaii.

Instead, Sheldon is on display at Island View Elementary, where he can teach students and adults alike that used plastic caps and lids don't have to

end up in the environment.

The clever snail is the first mural created by members of Anacortes Girl Scout Troop 42328 through a project they hope will earn them a Girl Scout Silver Award for improving their community. Members are Andrea Spurling, Claire Severin, Abby Lindberg, Alyssa Mielke, Elizabeth Braatz, Ellie Harrison, Emily Mielke, Giulia Wood, Katie Dyer and Meleah Fine.

The mural's full title is "Fol-

low the Trail of Sheldon the Snail — Reduce, Re-use, Recycle." It was made from plastic caps and lids.

"Things people would have thrown in the trash have been used to make something beau-

Please see **Caps** page A6



Obituaries

Ora A. Vernon



Ora A. Vernon passed away on January 21, 2012 after a long infirmity. She is survived by her husband of 70 years; two daughters, Nancy and Gail; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Daughter Helaine preceded her in death in 2011.

Ora had a full and adventurous life. She was born in Los Angeles and lived in the area, attended school and worked there until her marriage to Elwin in 1941.

For the next 28 years Ora was an "Army wife" and except during WWII and Korea when Elwin was serving in the war zone, traveled the world moving from assignment to assignment. Everywhere Ora went, she made a loving home to provide a stable, familiar base for the family in whatever state or country they were transferred to. She was an excellent hostess, a wonderful cook and great teacher of homemaking skills for her daughters.

Ora's family wishes to thank the staff at San Juan Rehab and Care Center for their skill, attentive care and the love which they showed her over the past 3 years. We also wish to thank Dr. Karen Bolton for her ongoing medical exper-

tise and kindness as well as her compassion. A memorial service for Ora is pending.

Betty Eileen Johnson

Feb. 5, 1942 ~ Jan. 17, 2012



Betty E. Johnson passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 due to complications related to unexpected heart failure. She went to meet the Lord, surrounded by family, friends, and the caring doctors and staff at Island Hospital.

Betty was born in Sunburst, Montana, on February 5, 1942, to Lester and Dorothy Aschim. In 1958, she moved with her family to Anacortes, where she graduated in the Class of 1960. That same year she married her loving husband of over fifty years, Noel Johnson.

Noel and Betty resided together on the shores of Lake Erie, where they raised two children. Betty was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and volunteer. She served as a volunteer at Island Hospital for fifteen years and was a caring Camp Fire and Cub Scout leader.

Betty is preceded in death by her father, Lester

Aschim; mother, Dorothy Aschim; and sister, Sylvia Aschim.

She is survived by her husband Noel Johnson of Anacortes; daughter and son-in-law, Darla and Scott Martin of Stuttgart, Germany; son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Valerie Johnson of Bainbridge Island, WA; granddaughters, Lara McCallum of Los Angeles, CA, Chiara and Fiona Johnson of Bainbridge Island; and, her sisters, Donna Fugle of Cutbank, MT and Karen Glassman of Sedro-Woolley, WA and their families. In addition, Betty leaves behind a large extended family and circle of friends.

Special thanks is extended to the numerous family and friends who comforted Betty and her family over the past several days, as well as the superb doctors, nurses, and staff at Island Hospital.

Family and friends were invited to attend a celebration of Betty's life at the Anacortes Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., with a reception following.

Memorial contributions in Betty's name may be made to the Island Hospital Auxiliary, C/O Island Hospital Foundation, 1211 24th Street, Anacortes, WA 98221.

Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Inc., Anacortes, WA and the San Juan Islands.

To share memories of Betty, please sign the online guest register at www.evanschapel.com.

Caps

Continued from page A1

tiful and creative," Scout Ellie said.

Shelldon is just the beginning.

The girls plan to create a permanent mural at Island View Elementary to commemorate the school's commitment to its meal-time recycling program.

That program was initiated in fall 2010 by second-grade teacher Kim Wedul who invited the Girl Scout troop to help with the startup.

The Island View mural will be made from caps and lids collected by the Scouts and students at the school.

It will be built during the week leading up to Earth Day on Sunday, April 22.

The troop's commitment to marine quality is not new. In 2009, the girls earned a Girl Scout Bronze Award for their efforts to label storm drains, clean up beaches, test water quality and learn about the harm caused by plastics in the environment.

They presented their findings to the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee, which committed \$500 to their current project.

The girls also used money earned from Girl Scout cookie sales to take a "Plastics in the Marine Environment" class at the Port Townsend Marine Center last April.

The girls started the cap project in November, collecting everything from

Drop-off sites

- Senior Activity Center, 1701 22nd St.
- Safeway, 911 11th St.

Items accepted are water and beverage bottle caps, and lids from food containers, laundry detergent, shampoo bottles, deodorant and 5-gallon containers of construction materials. Leftover paint is also needed.

For pickup, contact Chris Wood at (360) 873-8787 or woodc@umich.edu.

Volunteers interested in helping with the project can contact Rebecca Spurling at (360) 333-4261 or raspurling@comcast.net.

tered item after cigarette butts, according to Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii.

The troop's project touches on educational themes, including the benefits plastics provide society, the harm they can cause to the marine environment and what people can do to make a difference through efforts to reduce, re-use and recycle, Spurling said.

The art portion of the project was inspired by Ohio artist Michelle Stitzlein, who creates plastic cap murals. Spurling bought one of Stitzlein's art books and showed it to the girls, who loved it and instantly said that was what they had to do.

The girls designed the Shelldon mural together and used hand drills to screw the plastic caps to plywood.

"It's a cute way to recycle," said Spurling's daughter and troop member Andrea, who said she liked designing Shelldon's eyes.

The piece was included in last weekend's recycled art show at the Skagit Eagle Festival in Concrete.

The caps and lids were donated by the Anacortes community and additional materials were provided by Frontier Industries and Ace Hardware. Girl Scout troop dad John Spurling helped cut out the plywood in preparation for the capping.

On Feb. 4, the troop will help younger Scouts create their own murals during a Girl Scout World Thinking Day Fair, which will have a focus on environmental issues facing various countries.

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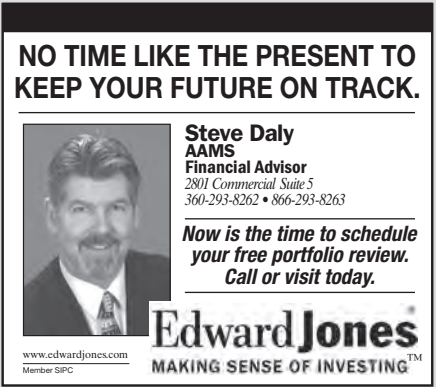
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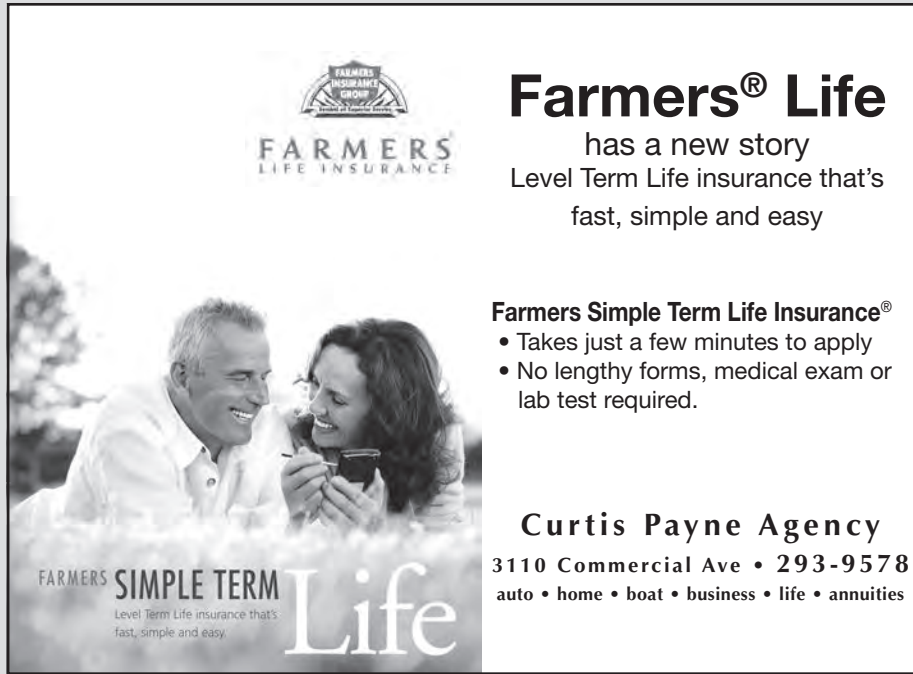
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Plastic Cap Mural Budget

rev. 4-16-12

Grant Amount	500	
Expenses		
Home Depot - drill	121.71	
Home Depot -drill	72.86	
Bayshore - office supplies	13.18	
Fantastic Drywall Tools and Supplies - screws	87.68	
ACE - trash can	19.47	
Misc	74.64	
Refund Received	389.54	
Amount Remaining	110.46	
Other anticipated expenses		
Paint and supplies, urethane	110.46	
Other misc expenses		
Donated Items		
Plywood (Frontier Industries)	\$60	
Paint and painting supplies (Frontier)	\$70	
Paint and painting supplies (parents)	\$40	
Donated paint (ACE)	\$40	
Volunteer Hours		
Preparing cap collection campaign and collection boxes	3 hours	
Public relations management	5 hours	Anacortes American; Girl Scouts; etc.
Washing and sorting caps	40 hours	Girl scouts and parents
Designing and capping the snail (1st mural)	26 hours	Adults and Troop 42328 (girls designed the cap design and drilled them on)
Designing and capping the butterfly (2nd mural)	30 hours	Adults and Girl Scout Service Unit 144 at World Thinking Day Event
Preparing and executing educational element to Girl Scout Service Unit 144	140 hours	10 girls + 4 parents; 10 hours;
Attending seminar on Plastics in Marine Env (free)	3 hours	1 adults attended a talk by Captain Charles Moore
Designing "The Lorax" mural for Island View Elementary	12 hours	Girl scouts (4 girls + 2 leaders for 2 hours - completely girl designed)
Drawing The Lorax animals to scale	10 hours	Girl scouts (2 girls + 2 leaders for 2 hours, plus an additional 2 hours by 1 girl)
Painting The Lorax design onto the plywood	30 hours	Girl scout parents
Planning meetings	14 hours	Project team mtgs (3); PTA mtgs (2); IVE staff mtgs (2)
Student community trash pick up contest	3 hours	Preparing fliers and managing contest (see attachment)
Classroom build-week scheduling/volunteer solicitations	10 hours	IVE staff preparing the classroom time slot schedule; project coordinator soliciting volunteers
Build-week volunteers	150 hours	5 volunteers; 6 hours/day; 5 days (Apr 16-20); this does not include teachers and scouts
Educational material preparation	10 hours	See packet
Total	486 hours	