

Motorsport park plans improvements

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

In the 1950s and '60s, a generation of racing enthusiasts found a sort of home in Shelton.

From California to British Columbia, racers and spectators flocked to the race tracks at Sanderson Field to participate in and watch some of the biggest races in the Pacific Northwest.

The Shelton Race Circuit featured big names such as Pete Lovely, Ray Riordan and Jerry Grant drag racing, midget car racing and sports car racing, sometimes all in the same day, on tracks that wouldn't pass safety inspections today.

"By today's safety standards, having a safe track with a snow fence and hay bales separating the racers from the spectators would not work," said Fred Wright, owner of Ridge Motorsports Park in Shelton. "Yet, no driver, member of a pit crew or spectator was ever hurt."

The 1958 Seafair Trophy Race drew more than 20,000 people to Shelton in the golden age of motorsport racing. However, by 1968 races had all but petered out, thanks to a shift in the industry toward races near Seattle, Wright said.

Now, the Ridge Motor-



PHOTO BY ARLA SHEPHARD

Frank Wright, owner of Ridge Motorsports in Shelton, explains Shelton's history of racing that dates to the late 1950s. Ridge Motorsports Park plans to improve facilities this year, including adding a go-cart track.

sports owner wants to bring some of that glory back to Shelton.

After two years in operation, Ridge Motorsports Park plans to reinvest in its facilities, with plans to build a premier racetrack experience in Shelton.

"Contrary to popular belief, racing is not a business that makes a lot of money," Wright shared with members of the North Mason Chamber of Commerce in February. "It's a huge liability. It's a business of passion. It's a business of joy. It's a business of sharing."

This year, the motorsports park plans to bring in electricity, water and a septic

system to its facilities, including bathrooms with showers for its customers.

"We've operated with limited facilities," Wright said. "This is really the first year the project has been able to reinvest in itself. Each year from now new things will happen."

The park also plans to eliminate Scotch broom, plant more native plants and open up spectator areas at the facility to give it more of a park-like feel.

The facility also plans to build a year-round mini-ridge racetrack for go-carts that is scheduled to open this summer, Wright added.

"Whether you ride a motorcycle, ride a car, race a motorcycle, race a car or race a go-cart, this is the favorite race track in the Northwest," he said. "We think it's an opportunity to build a motorsports industry in Shelton. We're excited about what it means for the community."

Ridge Motorsports Park is located at 1060 West Eels Hill Road in Shelton.

For more information, call 427-7223 or visit www.ridgemotorsportspark.com or www.facebook.com/ridgemotorsportspark.

Faith in Action hosts annual St. Pat's fundraiser

Come join the fun and enjoy great food, spirited music and unique auction items at Faith in Action's annual St. Pat's fundraiser.

The event takes place at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 14, at the Victor Improvement Club at 51 E. Victor in Belfair.

Celebrate your inner leprechaun while enjoying a slowly simmered corned beef and cabbage dinner. Enjoy the upbeat music of the Bremerton Ukelele society while bidding on a unique variety of silent and live auction items.

The Muze Restaurant will be providing a variety of libations for your enjoyment as you share in fun and fellowship with your neighbors.

The auction items include a \$1,000 landscaping package provided by Lindsyz's Landscaping, a laser signed Richard Sherman mini-football donated by the Seattle Seahawks, four Mariners tickets, a \$3,000 professional photo shoot by Stan Young photography, a handcrafted bird feeder given by Nancy Foster, and much more.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at Faith in Action Thrift Store, the Faith in Action office, or at the door. For more information, call 275-0535.

All profits from the event

will go towards building the HUB Center for Seniors in Belfair, due to open in fall 2015.

Rotating Gallery announces call for artists

Professional or amateur artists working in two- and three-dimensional media are invited to apply for gallery exhibitions at the Shelton Civic Center Rotating Art Gallery.

The gallery, sponsored by the Shelton Arts Commission, is very visible to the general public and all visitors that enter the Civic Center on a daily basis.

Professional or ama-

teur artists living Washington state who work in two- or three-dimensional media are eligible to apply. All two-dimensional work must be mounted or framed and ready to hang. Three-dimensional work must meet size specifications.

All work must be original and created solely by the artist.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 20. Exhibits are scheduled for a 12-week period starting April 6.

For an application or additional information, contact Mark Ziegler, Shelton Parks and Recreation at 432-5194 or mziegler@ci.shelton.wa.us.

Mason General cancer support group meets monthly

SHELTON — Harmony Hill Retreat Center and Mason General Hospital & Family of Clinics want all cancer patients to know they don't have to go it alone.

A cancer diagnosis is a life-changing event, and having a support group to help you understand and cope emotionally makes all the difference in the world. This monthly support group invites anyone who has been affected by a cancer diagnosis, including caregivers.

The March support group meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m., Monday, March 30, in Mason General Hospital's Pershing Room, through the hospital's main (south) entrance.

More information on the cancer support group is available by calling MGH&FC's Patient Navigator Karry Trout at 432-7706.

The support group meets on the third Monday of each month, except for the upcoming March and February sessions, which have been rescheduled to the last Monday of those months.

All meetings are from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Pershing Room and will be facilitated by Ronnie Hacken, a cancer retreat facilitator at Harmony Hill.

Love and Logic parenting class returns to Pioneer

SHELTON — A six-session parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute will run from March 9 to April 20, skipping April 6, at Pioneer School District.

Parents will learn to avoid unwinnable power struggles and arguments, stay calm when their kids do incredibly upsetting things, set enforceable limits, avoid enabling and begin empowering, help their kids learn from mistakes rather than repeating them, and raise kids who are family members rather than dictators.

This parenting program is designed to give practical skills that can be used immediately.

Classes run from 3-5 p.m. at Pioneer Intermediate School. The course is free. Call Cindy Hoover at 427-2737 with questions.

Faith Directory

Episcopal
St. David's Episcopal Church
 324 W. Cedar St., Shelton
 Sunday Worship 7:30am & 10:30am
 Sunday Bible Study 9:15am
 (360) 426-8472 • www.sdown.org

Presbyterian
Shelton Presbyterian Church
 Pastor Jeff Bursch & Marcus Clifton
 1430 Shelton Spring Road, Shelton
 Worship Service 10am
 Kids' Class 10am, Adult Class 9am
 (360) 432-8696 • www.sheltonpres.org

To Advertise in the Mason County Life Faith Directory contact:
 Mandi Teasley | 360.792.3339 | mandi.teasley@kitsapsun.com
 Deadline: By the 18th each month