

Seahawks take second in discus, pole vault at state meet

Sports & Recreation A9

It's the end of the world!
AHS student-written play 'Apocalypse Later' opens Thursday

Arts & Entertainment A10

Summer Artwalk includes artist demos

Arts & Entertainment A10



WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

Anacortes American



\$1.00

We speak Fidalgo every Wednesday morning!

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First load of sulfur shipped from Pier 2

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

The first shipment of sulfur prills by Chemtrade Logistics went through the Port of Anacortes' marine terminal during the long Memorial Day weekend.

Nine new trucks operated by LTI Inc. making multiple trips from Chemtrade's facility near the intersection of Highway 20 and Farm to Market Road took the prills to Pier 2. The prills dropped from the bottom of the truck into a covered conveyor system that transferred them to the

waiting Super Challenge.

The bulk carrier was expected to take on a partial load of about 4,000 metric tons of sulfur here, about 140 truckloads, and then go on to Vancouver, B.C., for more prills before heading overseas.

The public was invited to view the loading operation on Monday.

Chemtrade, which bought Marsulex last year, turns liquid sulfur, a byproduct of the oil refining process, into sulfur prills for shipment overseas for use in fertilizer. It has commitments with five refiner-

ies to process their sulfur and a marine terminal use agreement with the port.

On May 2, the company received approval on a permit revision from the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

The change allows the company to ship prilled sulfur containing no more than 200 parts per million by weight of hydrogen sulfide. The original criteria was 55 parts per million.

Since the date of the original permit, issued Sept. 28 last year, Northwest

See *Sulfur*, page A12



JACK DARTON

A LTI Inc. truck dumps one of about 140 loads of sulfur prills that came through the Port of Anacortes' marine terminal over the holiday weekend. The prills dropped from the bottom of the truck into a covered conveyor system that transferred them to a waiting bulk carrier. The Super Challenge took on a partial load here and then went to Vancouver, B.C., for more prills before it will head overseas.

WATCHING OUT FOR PORPOISES

Sue Ann Gifford trains a new group of volunteers who will spend two hours at a time at Washington Park overlooking Burrows Pass watching for harbor porpoises in a study by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute.



JOAN PRINGLE

Burrows Pass study aims to help species in decline

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

Traffic through Burrows Pass is getting extra attention these days with a study of how many commuters make the waterway on the east side of Fidalgo Island part of their journey.

Only it's not boaters that are the subject — it's Pacific harbor porpoises.

The number of the sea creatures, once abundant in the Puget Sound during the 1950s, had decreased drastically by the early 1990s.

In fact, research scientist Aileen Jeffries has a news article from 1992 reporting the harbor porpoise was "gone from the Sound."

"So the population really did crash," said Jeffries who works with the Pacific Biodiversity Institute, a nonprofit using the best available science to enhance natural resource planning and management decisions.

Little is known about harbor porpoises, and what information there is Jeffries clarifies with "We think" and "We're pretty sure."

Jeffries, who has a background in physics, is leading a project to study harbor porpoises using passive acoustic monitors and land-

based observations to create a baseline of information on the species. Those studies are being done here on Fidalgo Island.

"This is sort of a stronghold for the porpoise all over this area," Jeffries said. "We're here because they're here."

Harbor porpoises regularly appear in Burrows Pass and were present every day during Jeffries' study from September to October 2011.

The study continues today with the help of volunteers who spend two hours at a time on a bluff in Washington Park recording what they see.

In the meantime, a passive, high frequency, acoustic monitor called a C-POD is underwater near the east entrance of the pass to record sounds from harbor porpoises.

The harbor porpoise is a global species

Please see *Porpoise*, page A6

Jump right into Waterfront Festival

BY JACOB BUCKENMEYER
American staff writer

All things water-related will converge on Cap Sante Boat Haven this weekend for the Anacortes Waterfront Festival.

Live entertainment on the main stage Saturday and Sunday provides the soundtrack to a host of activities, from boat building and racing to an all-day bicycle ride around Fidalgo Island.

Even if you don't plan on diving head first into the fun, you can at least paddle over and get your feet wet.

See a model boat show, hunt for used treasures at the marine swap meet, take a walking tour of the waterfront, or catch a free boat ride with Anacortes Yacht Club or the Samish Indian Nation. And vendors will have food for sale if you work up a hunger.

Join in the fun and watch the Quick and Dirty Boat Building competition, parade and race on Saturday, or stop by Sunday morning for the inaugural Milk Carton Derby, with teams of youths floating their homemade boats constructed with 50 or more 1/2-gallon milk cartons.

The entries will be judged based on creativity, originality and speed in a demonstration along the waterfront just after noon on Sunday.

A group of teens at the Anacortes Boys & Girls Club will be trying its hand at the contest.

Please see *Festival*, page A11

Members of the Center for Happiness hit the intersection of Commercial Avenue and 12th Street to spread a little of what they know best during the late afternoon Wednesday, May 23.



JOAN PRINGLE

C'mon Anacortes, put on a happy face

BY JOAN PRINGLE
American staff writer

Motorists were treated to a little bit of happiness at the corner of 12th Street and Commercial Avenue on Wednesday, May 23.

Anacortes Center for Happiness members wore yellow shirts and held signs with positive messages — "You Are Loved," "You ARE a Good Parent!" and "Trust Yourself."

The point? "To spread a little happiness," said Kari Bishay who held a sign

that read "Yes and YAY!" "To give people something to smile about."

Participants were inspired by an online photo of a similar event and decided to do their own "Happiness Sprinkling event," said Laura Lavigne.

They chose to hold the event at 12th and Commercial, an intersection often used for contentious protests, "to heal the corner," Lavigne said.

The happiness was spread from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. after the group had gathered at Causland

Memorial Park to pick out a sign that spoke to them. All were printed and donated by Chris Terrell at How It Works.

The Center for Happiness, 619 Commercial Ave., has dancing and art classes, events, programs and more. Visit anacortescenterforhappiness.org.

