

CASCADE Observations

By PEGGY DILLS KELTER



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

Peggy Dills Kelter prepares materials for completion of her last year as a teacher at Mid Valley.

Love, punctuated

May 29, and the handcrafted love notes from second graders keep coming — their teacher has informed them that today is my birthday, and that I will be retiring from teaching in the coming year. If I felt uncomfortable about turning 59 when I awoke this morning, their lovely cards have temporarily banished those feelings.

Little do they know that their cards are demonstrating “hyperbole,” which my dictionary defines as “an exaggeration or extravagant statement.” Magali’s note to me is in Spanish. She writes, “Tu eres la mejor artista del mundo.” Translated it means, “You are the best artist in the world.” Nora says, “You are the best art teacher ever! I will miss you over the summer because you are the best teacher ever!” Who can feel depressed with fans such as these?

Cooper writes, “You are a grate artist.” His sentiment is less hyperbolic than those of the girls, but Cooper is reminding me that homonyms and homophones are one of the reasons English is so hard to learn for my ELLs (English Language Learners). Take the word grate as an example. Uttered orally, grate could refer to the action of shredding cheese, a metal plate that covers a hole (a whole one?) in the street, or an adjective describing someone who does something well, as in “you are a great artist.” One is a verb, one is a noun, and the last is an adjective.

The second graders’ charming cards, filled with errors of convention, make my birthday “The best day ever!!!!” I send them back (an action of return or part of the human anatomy?) a class card to let them know (no?) how grateful (egad!) I am for (four?) their (there, they’re?) lovely gifts.

Lately, I’ve been noticing how often we use abbreviations — on road signs, when texting, or at the grocery store: 4 instead of “for,” as in “Johnson 4 Mayor,” “Cntr lane closed” instead of “center” and the one that always confused me in elementary school, “C’mon.” Until I was 9 or 10 I always read “C’mon” as “See moan” and wondered why so many authors used this undecipherable term in the novels I adored. The day I realized it was short for “Come on” was truly a day of revelation.

Although I am a native English speaker, I was tripped up by “C’mon” until someone read it correctly to me out loud. When instructing native English speakers, we teachers often ask them if something “sounds right.” Instinctively they know to say “The big brown dog” instead of “The dog big brown.” But English Language Learners can’t rely on their instincts to say or write something correctly in English. In fact, the rules of Spanish would instruct them to add adjectives after the noun, and not before. So we all muddle through the messy but fascinating process of learning a second language.

I consider myself a “grammar geek.” In middle school I loved diagramming sentences. In college I worked as an editor and proofreader for my school’s publications office. I’m a member of the “Apostrophe Patrol,” one of the many in search of apostrophes being used poorly. That said, I still make lots of errors with English conventions. My friend Mimi is my go-to grammar guru — she even has the word “Grammarians” printed on her business card. I call her when I have questions about correct English usage. She is remarkably knowledgeable, especially since she is not a native English speaker; her first language is German.

My friend Kim is a fellow “grammar geek.” We find learning about the rules of language to be entertaining. Several years ago, we had a revelatory moment when we learned that there are rules in English about adjective placements. The order of adjectives should be as follows:

- Quantity or number
- Quality or opinion
- Size
- Age
- Shape
- Color
- Proper adjective (often nationality, other place of origin, or material)
- Purpose or qualifier

For example, we wouldn’t say, “Oregon slimy five brown long slugs crawled through the soil wet.” Rather, the correct order of adjectives is, “Five slimy long brown Oregon slugs crawled through the soil wet.” Where others play golf or watch wrestling for entertainment, Kim and I search for grammar fun facts.

Kim is just one of the people I will miss when I hand in my keys to Mid Valley Elementary School next week. For 13 years I’ve had the pleasure of working with a group of brilliant, creative, hard-working educators. Together, we’ve experienced the untimely deaths of many of our loved ones, celebrated the arrival of new babies, weathered the ever-changing worlds of educational policies and procedures, rescued abused students, and always found some time to laugh.

There are seven of us retiring this year from MVE. Those that will remain are an astonishingly talented bunch. Last week they threw us a party that celebrated the importance of laughing together. Members of the school’s staff wrote witty, delightful songs perfectly created for each of us retirees. A full chorus of fellow teachers sang them, complete with a ukulele band and actresses pantomiming the lyrics. Thank you, Mid Valley, for a wonderful party, and for your support, guidance and humor these last 13 years. I will miss you, my grate friends. You are the best in the universe!

Treichels celebrate 60 years



Submitted photos

LaVern and Ozzie Treichel

Ozzie and LaVern Treichel of Parkdale celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 19.

The two were married June 19, 1955 in Nicollet, Minn., moving to Parkdale in 1969. Ozzie worked as a self-employed farmer, logger, builder, and baler; LaVern, as a hospital nurse. The couple has three children, Connie, Craig and Chris, and 10 grandchildren, including 16-year-old triplet granddaughters.



Photo by Barb Young

HONORING DAVID DUNCOMBE

Pastor Kelly Ryan, left, and moderator Pam Tindall welcome guests to the David Duncombe Library at Bethel United Church of Christ in White Salmon. The library houses Duncombe’s collection of books and his life time archives, including his journals, papers, correspondence, and news articles documenting his extensive social activism. Rev. Duncombe, a chaplain and long-time social activist, was jailed several times and conducted more than one hunger strike. He died at age 82 in 2011. A work desk with materials for writing legislators continues his legacy of political activism. The library was designed by Katey Price and built by Ben Seagraves, and is open to the public. David’s children, Betsy, Steven and Jane Duncombe, were in attendance.

Hood River student wins Holocaust Center contest

“How can lessons of the Holocaust inspire you to make the world a better place?”

This is the question posed to hundreds of students in the Pacific Northwest for the Holocaust Center for Humanity’s 2015 Writing, Art, and Film Contest.

Haley Hughes of Hood River Middle School won Honorable Mention in Art (7th-8th) for her piece entitled “Support.” The following is an excerpt from her

Artist Statement:

“I will never harm anyone because they are different, or because they are disabled. I will only help them and bring their spirits up.”

Over 700 students in grades 5 through 12, from more than 60 schools throughout the Northwest, answered in the form of poetry, fiction, painting, sculpture, drawing, and film. On June 7, the Center honored the winners at an awards ceremony.

For over 25 years, the

Holocaust Center for Humanity (formerly the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center) has been teaching tolerance through lessons of Holocaust and providing educational resources to teachers and community groups throughout the region. The Center offers teacher trainings, a Speakers Bureau of local Holocaust survivors, “travelling trunks,” and the Writing, Art, and Film Contest.

The contest gives stu-

dents the opportunity to engage with the lessons of the Holocaust, while empowering them to explore themes of tolerance, bigotry, and compassion in their daily lives. Director of Education Ilana Cone Kennedy said, “The contest is a great way for students to connect the lessons of the Holocaust to their own lives. Through their writing and creativity, they find that their actions, even small ones, make a difference. Their work inspires all of us.”

Here’s what you need to know for July 4 in HR

The Hood River Lions are working with other community groups for another great Independence Day salute to our country. Set for Saturday, July 4, the day opens with the 40th annual Kollas-Cranmer Run/Walk from Odell to Jackson Park in Hood River.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. at Mid-Valley Elementary School. Walkers start at 8 a.m. and runner begin their contest at 9 a.m.; www.4thofjulyrun.com.

The parade, with the theme of “Beautiful Bounty,” will start at 10 a.m. with the line

up on Eliot Drive beginning at 8:30 a.m. To speed up the registration, forms and instructions can be obtained by linking to “gorgelions.org.”

The parade fee is \$10 and there will be monetary prizes for the best entries.

The grand marshals will be the people associated with Fish Food Bank which opened its new facility last month. The theme is “Beautiful Bounty,” describing the wonderful area of the Hood River Valley and Columbia River Gorge and the assistance that is given to our neighbors by the

Fish Food Bank. Attendees are asked to bring a can of fruit or soup to Jackson Park that will be given to the FISH Food Bank.

For safety to children and adults along with keeping the parade route litter free, the Hood River Lions ask that no candy be passed out or thrown from the entries. The Hood River Rotary Club and Heights Ice Cream are again teaming up to offer ice cream at a discounted price in Jackson Park for the children after the parade.

Onlookers will be treated to about 50 local entries but also a Portland band called “The Beat Goes On” with its musicians and baton twirlers. They will also perform in Jackson Park for 40 minutes starting at noon with the raising of the

American Flag.

At 11 a.m. the Hood River Fire Dept. will begin serving its annual BBQ lunch. Around 1 p.m. we will be entertained by the Willy & Nelson band. Also in the park will be ice cream, two bounce houses, face painting and some games for the children.

The patriotic celebration ends with a grand fireworks display over the Columbia River starting at 10 p.m. thanks to the Hood River Eye-opener Lions Club.

Donations for the fireworks program are needed and can be mailed to Eyeopener Lions, 1767 12th Street #136, Hood River, OR 97031.

GRADS

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students with college and career opportunities through the Aspire program, and for chaperoning numerous events in the past including school dances.

The evening was a musical one, with original songs by HRVHS students, including “Blast Off” as well as “Eagle Nation” by graduating senior Owen Kozec, which pumped up the audience before “Pomp and Circumstance” kicked in.

Another highlight of the musical selection was a new school alma mater performed by the Chamber Singers. The piece was written and conducted by HRVHS music director Mark Steighner, who is retiring from his role after 36 years.

The recession song chosen by the students was “See

you Again” by hip-hop artist Wiz Khalifa. As the students filed out to massive applause, Khalifa’s words blasted from the loudspeakers, “We’ve come a long way from where we began. Oh I’ll tell you all about it when I see you again.”



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Recycle Tips

CARDBOARD

- Recycle at curbside, rural depots or transfer stations.
- Businesses that generate a lot should ask garbage company about a cardboard dumpster.
- Flattened, in pieces between 1 foot to 3 feet any direction.
- Do not include pieces smaller than 1’x1’ (can’t be sorted out)
- Do not include wax corrugated cardboard (like fruit boxes)

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