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Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsview • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Concrete will pursue building a smaller fire hall with grant and state funds. *Page 4.*

Doug Vose statue installation planned
A plan is in the works to commemorate Concrete High School graduate Douglas W. Vose III with a lifesize bronze statue installed on the school's campus in July. *Page 7.*

Powder Puff Pinewood Derby in Clear Lake
The 2013 Girl Scouts Service Unit 140 Powder Puff Pinewood Derby drew a crowd to the Clear Lake Elementary School gym Jan. 26. *Page 14.*

Hamilton elects new mayor
Hamilton Town Council voted unanimously Jan. 8 to name former councilmember Joan Cromley as its new mayor. *Page 22.*

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Valentine whispers to our sweeties. *Page 23.*

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An unexpected death stirs community members to remembrance. *Page 26.*

"Career criminal" jailed
Theft spree ended Dec. 26. *Page 31.*

MILE-HIGH LOVE

When faced with the specter of breast cancer, some people react with tears or anger or determination. Sahara Suval is going to climb a mountain.

Earlier this year, Suval's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer—a bitter irony, given that her mother is a doctor. But statistics are nonselective: Regardless of family history, one in eight U.S. women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point during

See **Baker,** p. 27

Diablo resident Sahara Suval plans to climb Mount Baker in July to help raise funds for breast cancer research and treatment. Suval's mother recently was diagnosed with breast cancer.

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Newhalem

Baker, cont. from p. 1

her life.

Suval's response is fitting, even poetic. The 23-year-old grew up with the rugged terrain of western Washington in her backyard, and shares a love of the outdoors with her mother. "My mom has always taken me hiking. I grew up loving the mountains because of my mom. What better way to honor her than to climb a mountain for her?" said Suval.

Her trek will be guided by professionals, but Suval isn't exactly an amateur. She's currently living in Diablo and teaching at North Cascades Institute as a graduate student in residency there. She taught the NCI Mountain School last fall and will do it again this spring. This summer she'll lead outdoor youth on a backcountry expedition. When her work there is over, she'll pocket her Masters of Education in Environmental Education, plus a certificate in nonprofit leadership and administration.

But July 25–27 will find her on the slopes of Mt. Baker. She'll join a group of roughly a dozen climbers, make base camp around 7,500 feet, train and acclimate her body for two days, then summit the 10,781-foot mountain on July 27. Seattle-based Alpine Ascents International will train and guide the group.

The climb is under the auspices of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, which is treating Suval's mother. The 15-year-old event, dubbed Climb to Fight Breast Cancer, has raised more than $6.6 million to support breast cancer research. Participants choose a peak, then raise between $3,000 and $12,000 for the cancer research center, depending on the mountain. Climbers have scaled mountains all over the world, including Mt. Elbrus in Russia (18,510 feet), Killimanjaro in Africa (19,340 feet), and Denali in Alaska (20,320). At 10,781 feet, Suval's choice of Mt. Baker is more realistic—and close to home.

Suval needs to raise $3,000 by June 1 to participate in the July climb. At press time, she had pulled in $1,655. Looking ahead, she sounds a little nervous about the endeavor, but brave. "I have not done anything like this before. This is my first technical summit. I've done some scrambling and hiking, but this will be my first summit with ice axe, crampons, rope, that kind of thing," she said.

"My mother taught us that some of life's greatest rewards come with dedication, sweat, and determination. To help me face this battle, I am inspired by the millions of women who have survived breast cancer and keep fighting, and the millions more whose memories we continue to fight for."

Suval's fundraising deadline is June 1.

—J. K. M.

DONATE
to the climb

To make a donation in support of Sahara Suval's climb, go to: http://getinvolved.fhcrc.org/site/TR/Climb/FredHutchinsonCancerResearchCenter?px=1406112&pg=personal&fr_id=1260

Donations also may be made by check payable to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Write "Sahara Suval" in the memo line.

Mail check to:
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Climb to Fight Breast Cancer, J5-200
1100 Fairview Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109