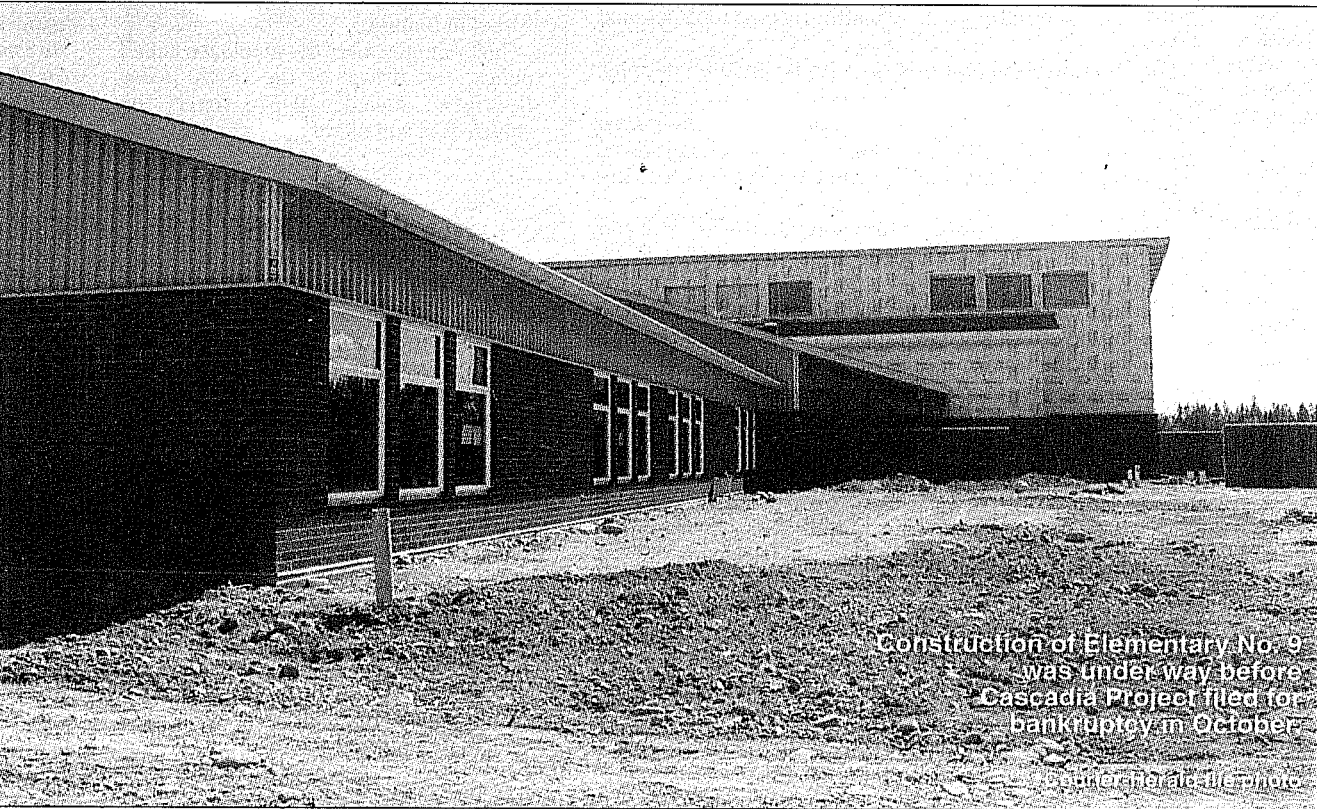


# TOP 10 STORIES OF 2009



Construction of Elementary No. 9 was under way before Cascadia Project filed for bankruptcy in October.

## TOP STORY: Cascadia bankruptcy

BY DANNIE OLIVEAUX AND CHAZ HOLMES  
*The Courier-Herald*

In the last year of the first decade of the 21st Century, there was plenty happening in the Bonney Lake and Sumner area – from January's flooding to December's development agreement for the Washington State University Demonstration Forest.

The current recession remains a major contributor not just to national news, but also on the local level.

Here are The Courier-Herald's Top 10 stories for 2009.

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### Cascadia files for bankruptcy

Cascadia Project LLC, developers of what would have been the largest planned development in Pierce County, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Oct. 15.

Cascadia filed the initial documents to prevent HomeStreet Bank from selling off the majority of the site at auction Oct. 16.

The bankruptcy could directly affect the city of Bonney Lake. Cascadia owes the city \$200,000 and had agreed to pay \$750,000 more, for the purpose of mitigating the expense of traffic-related construction along state Route 410.

Traffic projects include traffic lights outside schools and on the Sumner-Buckley Highway. Some of these are already under way.

With the current Chapter 11 protection, Cascadia reorganizes its company under supervision by the courts and interested creditors will vote on a plan for the company to pay off its debts, giving it a chance to emerge and reassume business as usual.

The development, as planned, would have nearly 6,500 homes, 26 acres of commercial space, a hotel, three golf courses and even schools.

Patrick Kuo, president and CEO of Cascadia Development Corp. bought the land from the Weyerhaeuser Co. in 1991 and broke ground in 2005. Kuo estimated that the first residents and businesses would arrive in 2007.

Court documents said state police found more than 100 video tapes and DVDs showing Gilbert sexually abusing and torturing at least 20 boys at his Lake Tapps home. They also seized CDs, floppy disks, ropes, paddles, sex toys, blindfolds, computers, firearms and other evidence.

Gilbert is a licensed commercial transport pilot and co-owned an aviation company called Lake Tapps Flyer.

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### Church expansion

For most of 2009, Sumner City Council members debated whether they would allow Calvary Community Church to expand.

The church requested a permit to build a two-story sanctuary, increase the number of parking spaces and make improvements to utilities. Later phases of the project entailed further growth, including the addition of an education center and expansion of the administrative office.

At the initial public hearing in February the hearing examiner granted a conditional use permit and height exception.

Next, citizens had the opportunity to file appeals.

The first public appeal hearing was June 15 and City Hall was filled to capacity as residents spoke against the expansion of the church.

Only people whose appeals were accepted by the city could speak at the hearing and no new information was presented.

Council members were given the task of determining whether the hearing examiner's decision was erroneous, meaning a mistake was clearly made.

The council did not make a decision immediately following the first appeal hearing.

This would be one of many such continuances of the proceedings throughout several months.

On Dec. 21, the council made a decision to approve Phase 1 of the project.

1/16/09

WSN Forest development