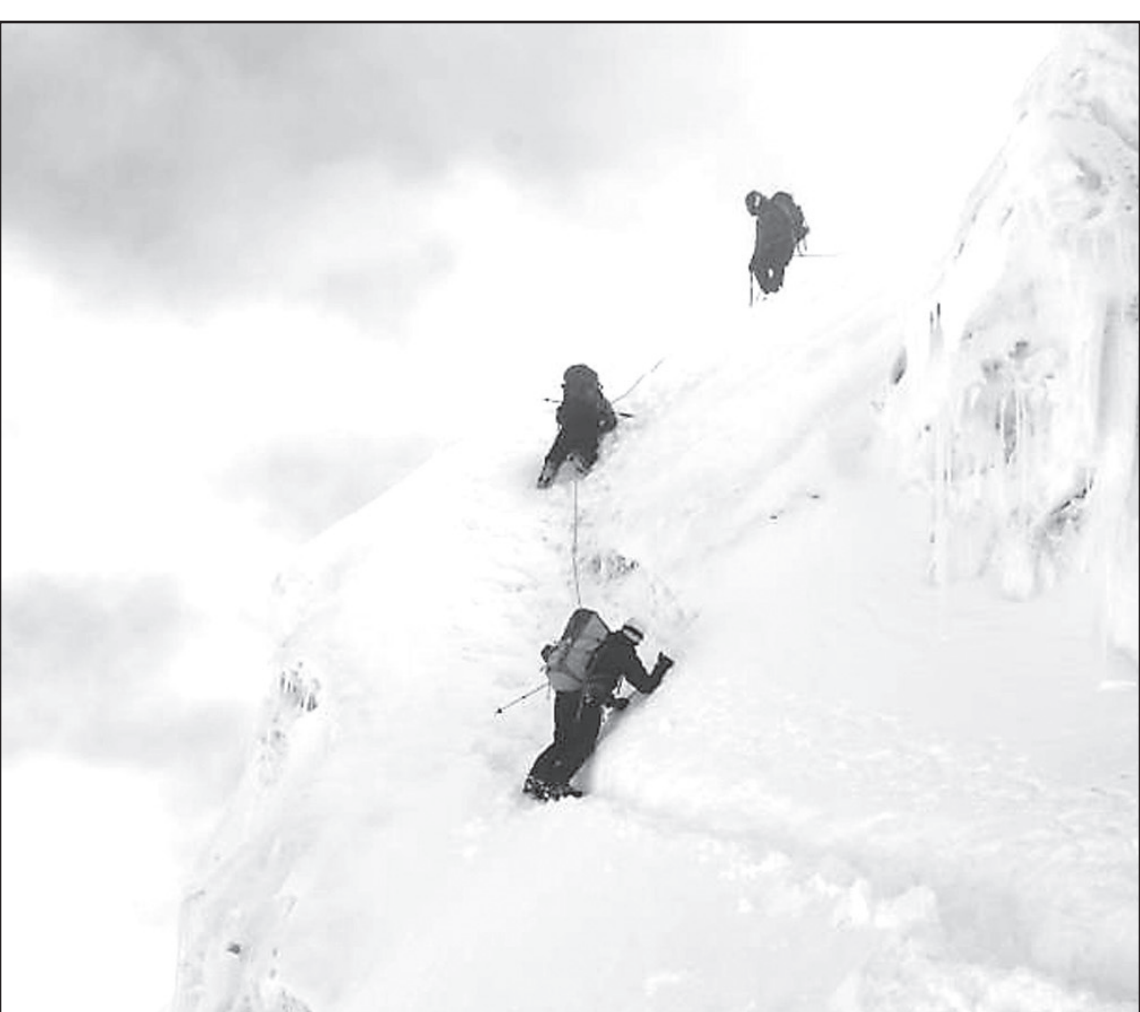




# PTA Fun Night



**LOOKING FOR THE STARS** — Above: Terry Miller sets up his telescope in front of the school for people to look at during PTA fun night. Left: Making rockets at the craft table were Dawson Rose, Jace Landers and Becca Landers.  
Herald staff photos by Tim Burr



Bill Hill (top) encourages his son, Scott (middle) and son-in-law, Michael (bottom) as they make their way up a steep ridge on Ecuador's Cotopaxi.

## Trio climbs Cotopaxi mountain

On Dec. 16, Bill Hill, Scott Hill and Michael Froelich reached the 19,347-foot summit of Ecuador's second highest mountain, Cotopaxi.

Bill Hill is the husband of Susan (Sherlock) Hill and the son-in-law of the late Fred Sherlock and Ruth Alice Sherlock. Scott is Bill and Susan's son, and Michael Froelich is their son-in-law. All three men live with their families in Northern Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C.

The trio flew to Quito, Ecuador on Dec. 10 where they connected with six other climbers and their guides. The group spent several days climbing smaller mountains in the area to acclimate before attempting Cotopaxi. This process of climbing up and coming back down helped increase oxygen levels in the blood so the climbers could handle the thin air of Cotopaxi and avoid mountain sickness on their summit attempt.

Just before midnight on Dec 15, the group of nine climbers and three guides left the Cotopaxi base camp dressed in their warmest layers, with crampons on their climbing boots and ice axes in hand. They headed for Cotopaxi's summit with only head lamps and the moon lighting their way. This final approach took over seven hours, but the entire group made it safely to the top.

In 2006, Bill, Scott and Michael climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in eastern Africa. Since then they have summated Mount Rainer near Seattle and climbed many of the 14,000-foot peaks in the Colorado Rockies. Right now they say they'll take a little time off before planning their next climbing adventure.

## Crop program deadline Mar. 15

The deadline for the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency to accept applications under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is March 15 for coverage for 2011 coarse grains such as feed.

Crops eligible for the program benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Included as eligible crops are forage crops for livestock such as cane, feed, silage, sudan, millet and peas (mechanically harvested or grazed).

Producers who may wish to participate in the program must visit their local Farm Service office to complete an application for coverage and pay the service fee by March 15. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county with an \$1,875 maximum fee for multi-county producers.

"Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance coverage has become very important with the addition of the supplemental revenue (SURE) program," said Dennis Mote, acting director. "A producer must have all non-grazing crops of economic significance covered by insurance in order to be eligible for the supplemental revenue program, which is one of the new disaster programs. We would hate to see someone with a loss ineligible for the supplemental program because they didn't pay for noninsured crop disaster or crop insurance coverage."

After the crop has been harvested, it is important to turn in your production, much like you do with regular crop insurance. This helps to prove your yield and could increase benefits in the future. In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a notice of loss must be filed with the local Farm Service office within 15 calendar days after the disaster, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Producers are responsible for providing accurate and complete loss and production information. This includes timely certifying the unit's planted acreage and production with Farm Service office. In general, acreage reporting deadlines are June 1 for small grain crops, and the earlier of Aug. 1 or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing for all other crops.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50-percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

Contact the Farm Service office at 332-2183 before March 15 for more information.

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*thought to ponder..... If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?*

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