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50¢



Internet tax missing the mark

City takes a hit in its sales tax collection

By Jim Feehan

A new law that tries to cash in on Internet sales has not yielded the tax revenue propo-

nents boasted a year ago. Moreover, some City Council members said sales tax money is going to Renton, because the city does not have a unique ZIP code.

The state Department of Revenue said that many national retailers were only using the five-digit ZIP code and that Newcastle is compromised by not having its own ZIP code, City Manager John Starbard said.

The law, called the streamlined sales tax, shifts sales tax receipts from the place an item was bought to the city where it was delivered. The city's two ZIP codes — 98059 and 98056 — are Renton ZIP codes and city officials said they believe their sales tax revenue is going to Renton.

"Maybe we should start a demonstration outside Renton

See **TAX**, Page 6



By Greg Farrar

It will soon be fun to stay at the YMCA

When the new Coal Creek YMCA opens in Newcastle this fall, it'll need about 100 employees. Positions include member service representatives, fitness instructors, personal trainers and lifeguards. Job listings will be posted in late May or June. Learn more at www.seattleyymca.org. See a computer animation of the Newcastle facility at www.youtube.com. Type Coal Creek YMCA in the search field.

Pam Teal to fill vacant Renton School Board position

Renton Parent Teacher Association Council President Pam Teal was appointed by the Renton School Board Jan. 28 to fill the vacancy left by Marcie Maxwell.



Teal

Teal will fill the remaining year left on Maxwell's four-year term. She will have to run for election in November.

Teal was among three candidates who interviewed Jan. 20 with the board. The other two finalists were: Kirby Bowser, controller and chief financial officer for Junior Achievement of Washington, and James Grossnickle, a research scientist at the University of Washington.

Maxwell, a real estate agent, resigned from the board after she won election to the state Legislature in November.

Teal represents the school board's 5th District, which includes Newcastle, Newport Hills and north Renton.

Call her at 235-6288 or e-mail her at pam@teals.org.

Father, son attend historic Obama inauguration

By Jim Feehan

Making a campaign contribution to Obama's campaign: \$25. Attending a 2007 Seattle fundraising reception for Obama: \$500.

Spending father-son time at Obama's inauguration: priceless.

Last month, Rob Sargent, of Newcastle, and his son, Kyle, a Maywood Middle School student, made a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., to capture a glimpse of history in the making as they attended Barack Obama's swearing-in as the 44th presi-

dent of the United States.

"It was frenetic, surreal and an emotional time for some people in the audience," Rob said. "People were crying during the swearing-in ceremony. It was also a festive event, almost a rock concertlike crowd."

The two almost missed the event. Rob and Kyle stayed up until 3:30 a.m. the day of the inauguration, talking politics with friends at their hotel. A 5 a.m. wake up call came too soon for the two and they nodded off



**Rob Sargent's
view of
President
Barack Obama's
inauguration.**
Sargent and his
son, Kyle, were
standing on the
east side of the
Capitol Building
during the
event.

By Rob Sargent

See **INAUGURATION**, Page 2

Regency rolls out the welcome mat

By Jim Feehan

Newcastle may not have a hotel yet, but it has something similar to a lodge for the about two dozen seniors who live there.

Regency Newcastle, a 99-unit assisted living facility for seniors, opened in September at the northeast corner of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast and Newcastle Golf Club Road. The facility offers private studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments with amenities, including a dining room, pool, hairdresser, licensed massage therapist, exercise room and a van providing transportation.

"Many of the people who move here become fast friends," said Larry Kerson, marketing director.

The lobby includes comfortable leather chairs and sofas, a grand piano, a two-sided fireplace and a café offering coffee and pastries. In the early morning hours, residents can look out their window and see deer.

The facility is at 20 percent occupancy and employs 14. As more residents' move in, Kerson said he expects to employ 30 to 40 workers, including caregivers, maintenance and kitchen staff members, and fitness instructors.

Helping people make the transition from owning their own home to moving to an assisted living facility is both rewarding and a bit of a challenge, Kerson said.

"Many people come into this with their own fears and misconceptions," he said. "Once they realize they don't give up their independence, and they begin to socialize with other residents, they're won over."

Assisted living facilities should not be confused with nursing homes or skilled nursing

If you go

Valentine's Day Bash

- 2-4 p.m. Feb. 14
- 7454 Newcastle Golf Club Road
- 453-1508

The event, which includes dessert tastings and music from the '40s, '50s and '60s is open to the public.

ing facilities. Nursing homes are generally for residents requiring constant nursing care and having significant deficiencies with activities of daily living. Residents include the elderly and adults 18 and older with physical or psychological disabilities.

Residents at assisted living facilities have their own apartments and share a communal dining room, pool and exercise room.

All Regency apartments include two meals plus continental breakfast; all utilities except telephone; weekly housekeeping; an emergency call system; and 24-hour security and staffing. Studio apartments range from \$2,195 - \$2,495 monthly, one-bedroom apartments from \$2,795 - \$3,295 and two-bedroom apartments from \$3,845 - \$4,950.

Darrel and Carrie Goodnight were the first tenants to move into the facility the week after Labor Day. The couple, from Mesa, Ariz., lived briefly at an assisted living facility in Bellevue before opting for the Regency.

"There's so many things to do here," Carrie Goodnight said. "I really like the swimming pool."

Darrel Goodnight said the food is great and the staff is

"Many people come into this with their own fears and misconceptions. Once they realize they don't give up their independence, and they begin to socialize with other residents, they're won over."

— **Larry Kerson**
Regency Newcastle
marketing director

accommodating.

"We have a very good chef, who takes into account certain dietary restrictions," he said.

Kerson said staff members are flexible to meet residents' needs. An Asian couple moved in and the chef was preparing sushi, egg rolls and teriyaki, he said.

Regency Pacific Inc., based in Issaquah, owns Regency Newcastle. Regency Pacific owns about 50 retirement facilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Hawaii. The company owns The Marymoor and Peters Creek Retirement Community in Redmond, and Vineyard Park in Bothell.

Regency Newcastle is sponsoring a charitable organization providing volunteer opportunities for those who would like to share their skills and interests with local seniors, Kerson said.

Those activities could include leading an exercise class, playing a musical instrument or sharing a hobby.

In addition to sponsoring senior activities, the organization helps seniors living in the area who have no family, Kerson said.

"We really want to provide a



By Debora Spencer Photography

Rob Sargent, of Newcastle, with then-Sen. Barack Obama at a June 1, 2007, fundraising reception at the Seattle Westin Hotel.

Inauguration

From Page 1

after the alarm.

About two hours later, Kyle woke and saw it was 7:15 a.m.

"Hey, aren't we supposed to be leaving by now?" Kyle asked his father.

They quickly dressed, skipped breakfast and made the two-mile hike down Massachusetts Avenue to find their ticketed area on the east side of the Capitol Building across the street from the Supreme Court. (The swearing-in ceremony was on the west side of the Capitol Building, overlooking the National Mall). They viewed the event on one of the many large-screen televisions in the area.

"I am deeply proud of my country right now," Rob said. "Not because we elected an African-American president, but because we chose the candidate best suited for the job of uniting our country, moving it in a positive direction and rehabilitating our standing among nations."

Before the swearing-in cere-

mony, former elected officials were introduced to the audience. Bill Clinton and Al Gore drew loud cheers from the audience, while George Bush and Dick Cheney elicited jeers and a chorus of boos. Some audience members began singing, "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Them Goodbye" after Bush and Cheney were introduced, Rob said.

"I was disappointed by that," he said of mocking the previous administration.

Kyle, 13, and Rob, 48, an owner of a printing company with operations in Seattle and Redmond, were part of about 2 million people who crowded the National Mall on Inauguration Day.

By comparison, about 400,000 people attended George W. Bush's inauguration in 2005. Lyndon B. Johnson's inauguration drew the previous record of 1.2 million people in 1965.

In addition to working on campaigns for Obama, Gov. Chris Gregoire and 8th District Congressional candidate Darcy Burner, Rob hosts an informal progressive social group, Drinking Liberally, that meets monthly at a restaurant in Newport Hills to discuss politics. He is also an elected precinct committee officer in the 41st Legislative District and an area coordinator in Newcastle.

Obama has sparked an unprecedented spirit of civic engagement with his inspiring speeches and call to service, Rob said.

"A lot of people got involved with the Obama campaign that hadn't previously participated, and I think that led to his winning both the primary and the general election," he said.

As an assignment for school, Kyle compiled a diary of his trip to D.C. Witnessing the inauguration of the first black president will be a lifelong, cherished memory for Kyle, Rob said.

"It may not have much significance now, but I think it will have much significance for him later in life," he said. "I'm very proud of my country, my president and my son."

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New chamber of commerce leader discusses his plans

By Jim Feehan

Nick Sooy (pronounced soy) was named chairman of the chamber in November. For the past four years, he has served on the board of directors. Last year, he was treasurer.



Sooy

Sooy, 34, was born and raised in Seattle. He graduated from Kennedy High School in Burien, and Central Washington University with a degree in business administration. Sooy has lived in Newcastle since 2001 with his wife Trina and their two children, Kayla, 2, and Trevor, 1. He works as an insurance agent for Farmers Insurance Agency. Prior to that, Sooy worked in the hotel industry for eight years. He enjoys golf, music, exercise and following local sports teams.

Newcastle News caught up with Sooy and asked what he has in store.

What's your goal for 2009?

My main goal is to continue to raise the interest level. Our membership is upwards of 75 members, about 70 more than five years ago. I think providing opportunities for members to promote their businesses will be an important way to go about this, especially in this slow economy.

Having more dynamic, well-known speakers at our monthly luncheons is something I would like to explore. This way we can create more awareness for the chamber. If a local resident or business owner can come to one of our lunch meetings and meet someone they may not have access to on an everyday basis.

Explain what the chairman's duties and responsibilities are compared with the chamber president's roles?

With recent growth, there's a need to implement the chairman position, so more responsibilities can be delegated. The president used to be the face of the chamber, run the board and lunch meetings. This responsibility will now fall to the chairman. The

president's responsibilities will be some paperwork, updating our membership roster and coordinating attendance of speakers.

Anything different chamber members should expect?

I have great respect for past presidents Lisa Jensen, Nancy Carlstrom, John Jensen and Linda Stemler, as well as Jim Price and Giles Velte, who kept the chamber afloat many years back. I want to continue to build on their efforts, but at the same time, with my little spin. I would like it to be more transparent.

Members should be more aware of who is on the board, roles they fill and especially how the Newcastle chamber is different than other chambers. Members should see the chamber as a way to assist in promoting their business more.

Why should I join the chamber?

Because it is a minimal investment of time and resources. Membership is \$30 for individuals and \$50 for a business. You'll get to know residents who truly care about the community and local business owners. Many city councilors attend our meetings, so it's a great way to get to know them and communicate what's important to you.

What do you enjoy most about living in Newcastle?

I feel it is a safe place to raise a family. I love the size of it. Big enough in that many amenities are near and at the same time, small enough where you get to know many of the citizens.

Newcastle Elementary School teacher amazed by support after house fire

By Jim Feehan

Jessica and Paul Smith have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from neighbors, co-workers and people in the community following a Dec. 21 fire that destroyed their Issaquah home.

"Quite simply, it's overwhelming. It's a good overwhelming," said Jessica Smith, a part-time third-grade teacher at Newcastle Elementary School. "We feel so blessed by what everyone has done for us."

Neighborhood children donated \$700 that they raised shoveling snow. Friends, neighbors and total strangers have donated items, including cash, gift cards, clothing, running shoes, blankets, bedding, toiletries and luggage. The items fill the basement of Jessica's parents' home in Bellevue, where the couple and their 1-year-old son Grayson have stayed since the blaze.

Grayson will be outfitted in clothing for the next two years and he has more toys than before the fire, his mother said. The Smiths have also received several baby items. Jessica Smith is five months pregnant. Christy Otley, Newcastle Elementary principal, said school staff members have collected money and presented Jessica with a gift certificate.

"We have a pretty amazing community of colleagues that work together at Newcastle, and we take care of one another just as a family would," she said.



Contributed

Jessica and Paul Smith take an inventory of the items donated to them after a fire destroyed their South Cove house in December, as their 1-year-old son Grayson looks on.

How to help

Go to any Bank of America and directly deposit funds into the "Paul and Jessica Rebuild Account." The Newcastle branch is at 6950 Coal Creek Parkway S.E. Call 206-585-6844.

The fire remains under investigation. Officials said they were 90 percent certain the blaze began in the kitchen, but how it started is uncertain, Paul Smith said.

The Smiths were at a relative's house having dinner at the time of the fire. Shortly after 4 p.m., Steve Sanelli, a neighbor, spotted smoke coming from the back of the house.

The blaze caused about \$600,000 in damage, according to Gerry Kenny, a fire investiga-

tor for the King County Sheriff's Office. Sanelli and his family, as well as neighbors Matt and Cindy Wimmer, organized a relief effort for the Smiths.

The fire came two days prior to the Smith's three-year anniversary of owning the house, Jessica Smith said. The couple plans to return and rent a house in the neighborhood.

"We just love the neighborhood and we realize even more so now that we want to raise our children here to see them graduate," she said.

Paul Smith, a general contractor, said the fire has taught the family the importance of community.

"I'm so humbled and grateful," he said. "This whole experience has been overwhelming, amazing, and the sheer volume of generosity has floored me."

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Editorial

Our 2009 goals for Newcastle

The year 2008 had a few accomplishments, based on the list of goals we published last year.

The city hired a parks manager, kept a watchful eye on cost overruns with the Coal Creek Parkway project and made great strides in emergency preparedness.

But there is much left undone, and some of the goals are repeated on this year's list.

Skateboard park: Skateboarders should have a safe place to skate, but Newcastle has a long list of recreation needs for larger segments of the population. After spending \$35,000 for a consultant to study the feasibility and potential location of a skateboard park, the issue was left unresolved. Take the vote to shelve it and revisit the issue in four years.

Coal Creek Parkway: Continue to seek funding from county, state and federal partners for the city's largest capital project. Kudos to construction crews and manager who have kept the project on time and under budget.

Sports park: Seek grants from King County and other agencies for the proposed sports park on Southeast 95th Way.

Leadership: Newcastle has room for more good leaders. The city is always looking to fill openings on its parks and planning commissions. Our wish is for many new faces to volunteer their skills.

High schools: Complete expansion plans for Hazen and Liberty high schools.

School funding: Keep the community's collective voice loud and strong in support of full state funding for education. Cuts at the state level are likely to leave Renton and Issaquah district officials scrambling for funds or laying off teachers. Voters will need to be more vocal than ever about the need to adjust levy lids, so our districts are not disadvantaged when it comes to school funding.

Shop Newcastle: As the economy weakens, it's more important than ever to put your money where your house is. Support your local merchants.

Community pride: Find new ways to highlight the best of Newcastle, everything from its history to its treasures. Design and build a welcoming monument on the south end of town to compliment the one on the city's northern entrance.

Poll question

How would you rate the service you receive from Waste Management?

- A. Superb
- B. Above average
- C. Average
- D. Poor

Go to www.newcastle-news.com to vote.

Letters to the editor

City government should be more accountable to public

I applaud City Council members Steve Buri, Lisa Jensen and Carol Simpson for voting against Newcastle's 2009 budget: It includes projects we cannot afford, and neglects basic infrastructure. Given the likelihood of continued falling income for the city, our government should listen to the public in setting priorities and avoiding new taxes.

But city government is broken. Some issues don't get the public discussion they deserve; some are decided by public process, but the results are ignored.

For example: Our council voted unanimously to build the Hazelwood Trail in 2005, timed to connect the new Hazelwood Elementary School to parks and neighborhoods. In 2004-2005, the council voted unanimously for a park sign standard, after a lengthy public process culminating in a public open house and recommendation from the Parks Commission. The council allocated funds for the trail, and for park signs, but neither project was done.

For some council members, this is accepted procedure. The city manager is free to choose which projects are done, to spend more or less than the amount allocated, and even to launch projects without council approval. He may consult with individual council members, but this is out of public view, with no public record: It violates the spirit if not the letter of the open meetings law.

Given Newcastle's extremely difficult financial situation, the council should adopt policies that

ensure accountability and public oversight. Council approval should be required before the city manager negotiates any contract exceeding a certain amount (\$25,000 has been used in other cities). Projects should be tracked, and the council notified of schedule or budget changes. A year-end status report should be issued. Million-dollar projects should require a public vote.

Two projects in particular should require public hearings and a vote: a new City Hall, and citywide branding: redoing Newcastle signs (street, park, trail) in chartreuse. Both are luxuries we can't afford, especially in a recession, with still-unresolved parkway debt. Before spending more money on these projects, the council should insist on cost estimates, public discussion and evidence of broad public support.

Garry Kampen
Newcastle

Kudos to The Golf Club for hosting candidate forum

I knew it would be a great event the moment I walked into the room. As the Newcastle chamber chairman, the details are important to me and this setting was perfect.

On Jan. 17, the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce and Municipal League co-sponsored the King County Elections Director Candidate Forum held at The Golf Club at Newcastle. The setting could not have been more perfect. A table for the six candidates to share with a beautiful sunrise as the backdrop, lecterns for our moderators, water and coffee stations and a generous

See **LETTERS**, Page 5

Talk of the Town

With Barack Obama sworn in as the 44th president of the U.S., Newcastle News asked Newcastle Elementary School first-graders two questions. What do presidents do? Why do we need one?



Myka Carr

To protect our country.



Jonathan Nhlm

He protects our people.



Amella Hel

He takes care of our country.



Spencer Ewart

Make the world a better place.



Mike Hatfield

To keep people respectful.



Carter Dunn

To help our country be cleaner.



Drew Blik

To lower taxes and make America a better place.

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Local students named to UW dean's list

The following local students were recently named to the dean's list for fall 2008 at the University of Washington:

Alexandra Bucci, Sarah Hill, Minh Hoang, Marius Ion, Kenneth Ishikawa, Monica Ledford, Sarah Leischow, Jessica Li, Bryant Nguyen, Karina Ray, Jonathan Sim, Teodora Stoica, Sam Trautman, Jason Truong, Nafees Uddin, Sukhneet Virk, Solomon Waldbaum and Shirley Zhang.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have completed at least 12 graded credits and have a 3.5 grade point average.

Local students named to EWU dean's list

The following local students were recently named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 quarter at Eastern Washington University:

□ Hazen High School: Tiffany Debus, Krystina Fisher, Sheshana Mahmood, Casey Martin, Cara Miyashiro, Paula Strom and Kelsey Usher.

□ Liberty High School: Lydia Anderson, Olin Anderson, Elaine Aragones, Andrea Collins and Chandra Logan.

Local students named to CWU honor roll

Richard Epperly and Sara Simmons were recently named to the honor roll list at Central Washington University for fall quarter 2008.

Students who earn a 3.5 or better grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, while carrying at least 12 graded credit hours of study, are eligible for the honor roll.

Local student returns from study abroad

Nelson Lind, of Issaquah, a junior at St. Olaf College, recently completed a semester of study abroad.

Lind studied in Great Britain while participating in the London School of Economics program.

Lind, the son of Rebecca Lind, a Liberty High School graduate, is majoring in economics at St. Olaf, 40 miles south of the Twin Cities, Minn.

Letters

From Page 4

muffin spread were all complimentary. Are you kidding me?

It indeed was all complimentary and for that I am grateful. What would have cost several hundred dollars, The Golf Club generously provided. Thank you to David Hein, Nancy Carlstrom and the great staff. If not for all of you we would not have been able to present such a great service to the 50 people in attendance.

Nick Sooy
Newcastle

Communications director, year-end mailings questioned

Sometimes, it takes me a while to connect the dots. Several months ago, the city hired a communications director at \$70,000 a year plus benefits. Why did we need that in a community as small as

Newcastle? Oh well, his new-castle411 Web blog is a pleasant diversion.

Then, the city came up short about \$800,000 in revenue, so some citizens suggested maybe we could struggle along without a municipal mouthpiece. Couldn't his salary be better spent fixing the streets or putting in sidewalks? No. At the Town Hall meeting at Newcastle Elementary School, Mayor Ben Varon stoutly declared the position of communications director "is not going away!" Why such passion for a nonessential employee? Oh well, his honor often takes a dictatorial tone in meetings.

Next, the city found a way to economize by minimizing the City Beat feature in Newcastle News and changing from color to black and white. Tough luck for the publisher but, oh well, we do have to prioritize in lean times.

But wait — if we're trying to save a buck, what's this in my mailbox? It's the 2008 Year End Report. Here's a six-page puff piece with color pictures and rah-rah recaps of old news. We

got through 14 fat years without this. Why now?

I wondered if the real purpose for the mailing was the full-page message from and handsome photo of the mayor. Was this the opening salvo of a re-election campaign? The "informational" mailing to constituents is a traditional way incumbents use government funds and staff to publicize themselves. Though not as blatant as Reagan Dunn's recent mailing, this slick piece looked more like self-promotion than civic duty.

But my real "a-ha" moment came when I found, buried in a middle paragraph of the mayor's letter, that our taxes are going up. Newcastle's current revenues won't support extravagances like redoing our logo and signage, building a new City Hall or hiring a communications director. Only the need for a professional to sell the idea of raising taxes during a recession could justify that last expense. Are you sold yet? I'm not.

Sue Beverly
Newcastle

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Costume designer is one-woman show for 'Figaro'

By Jeff Richards

Sometimes people have to push themselves to the breaking point so the show may go on.

That's what happened to Newcastle resident Nancy Horner when she served as the principal costume designer and a chorus singer for Lyric Opera Northwest's performance of "Le Nozze di Figaro" ("The Marriage of Figaro") Jan. 15-17.

"It was a very, very busy couple of weeks," she said. "It was rewarding to support a program where mainly young singers are involved trying to build their career."

"Le Nozze di Figaro" is a comic opera composed in 1786 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It details a love quadrangle in which Figaro and his love Suzanna must fend off the amorous pursuits of their aristocratic employers in order to follow through on their marriage plans.

The Lyric Opera is a small operation and does not have the resources of Seattle Opera.

"The fact that the production happened at all was a minor miracle," said Noel Koran, director of "Le Nozze di Figaro" and the University of Washington's



Nancy Horner

director of opera.

He said the opera thrived through the contributions of local opera and play organizations.

"It was the old united we stand, divided we fall," he said.

Though Horner ordinarily shops for costume material at thrift and second-hand stores, for this opera she relied on borrowing costumes, since the money wasn't there to buy anything.

"She pulled the costumes together single-handedly, and

that's a major chore," Koran said. "She was costume designer, stitcher, draper. Those are normally each handled by a separate person."

This was the second Lyric Opera production she designed costumes for after "Hansel and Gretel" in 2008.

In addition to her usual role as costume designer, Horner also sang in the chorus, which gave her a chance to share the stage with China's world-renowned countertenor Ma Xiao, who made his North American debut at the performance.

A countertenor is a man who can sing through the range of a mezzo-soprano, a range typically left to women.

Horner has studied voice for four years and said she enjoyed the opportunity to perform in front of the curtain.

"Being able to express yourself in music is good for the soul," she said.

Up next for Horner is the production of "Willy Wonka" for Village Theatre in Everett. She'll also be designing costumes for the yearly play put on at Hazelwood Elementary School.

While she got her college degree in accounting, Horner said she doesn't make much money off of her costume design company, The Scarlet Curtain.

"It's a labor of love," she said. "I don't do it for money."

Tax

From Page 1

City Hall and demand our money," City Councilman Steve Buri said partly in jest.

"There are some legitimate concerns raised by this issue," he added. "We need to educate retailers on how to allocate the sales tax revenue and why it's important to them and why it should matter to them."

Buri said he hopes the Legislature addresses the issue of streamlined sales tax collection and dispersal during the current session.

Some smaller communities that share a ZIP code with Seattle also may be losing similar tax revenue, said City Councilwoman Jean Garber.

"Maybe there is some utility in getting together with these cities," she said.

The state joined a nationwide push to have Internet and catalog companies collect sales taxes when they sell to out-of-state customers.

Passage of the streamlined sales tax measure was expected to bring \$280,000 a year to Newcastle in new sales tax collected by the state. That figure was ratcheted back to \$150,000 to \$170,000, Starbard said.

"Our first check from the state was \$2,000," he said. That was for the period of July 1 to Sept. 30.

Gov. Chris Gregoire signed the legislation into law in 2007 with collections to begin the following year. Gregoire requested the measure saying it "levels the playing field between in-state and out-of-state retailers."

"We need to educate retailers on how to allocate the sales tax revenue and why it's important to them and why it should matter to them."

— Steve Buri
City Councilman

Proponents said the measure would streamline those definitions and allow so-called "brick-and-mortar" businesses to better compete with Internet and catalog suppliers, many of which do not collect sales tax.

According to the state Department of Revenue, more than 1,000 companies that sell products in multiple states have voluntarily agreed to begin collecting and distributing sales tax to any state that passes legislation to become a member of the Streamlined Sales Tax Project.

The project was started in 2000 by national tax and government associations, including the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association.

A 1992 U.S. Supreme Court ruling prohibits states from forcing a business to collect their sales taxes unless the company has a physical presence in the affected state. The court noted the dizzying array of tax jurisdictions and widely varying definitions of taxable goods, such as fast food versus groceries.

The state revenue department predicted that by joining the program, Washington would initially see an additional \$35 million to \$40 million in sales tax from out-of-state companies that sell products to Washington residents.



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Newcastle Daze

Newcastle Wanderings

"I recently learned that in an average lifetime a person walks about 65,000 miles. That's two and half times around the world. I wonder where your steps will take you. I wonder how you'll use the rest of the miles you're given." Fred Rogers, 1928-2003

I start each morning with a word of the day sent to me courtesy of Dictionary.com. Today, I proudly carry on with my day with the knowledge that yegg/yeg/noun is a burglar who robs safes: a safecracker. 1903, underworld slang of unknown origin, possibly the name of an American burglar and safecracker. I'm smarter with my first cup of coffee.

The next e-mail I pull up is the daily Official SAT question of

the day sent from www.collegeboard.com. This is a great site for college-bound students or anyone looking for a challenge. I answer the question of the day and find out whether I'm SAT savvy (because I sure wasn't in high school). Sometimes, I skip the math ones.

I might log on to MapMyWalk.com, which offers a way to plot daily walks. Track distance, elevations and calories burned on your personal routes. Once you enter the starting point, take your mouse and start clicking on the map following your route. You can go all over Newcastle!

If you're not in the mood for big hills, plot a different route. The route information box will automatically update the total distance of your route as you go. You can save your route if you think you'll use it again. You can keep it private, or make it public. The handy thing about the site is that others make their routes public and if you enter an area you want to walk, those routes will show up for you.

If you're out and about and see something you feel the need

to document (license plate from a hit and run, etc.), you can use My Mobile Witness, a new cell phone service that turns your phone into a security device. You take a picture or write a text message and send it to your personal account, where it is stored in the My Mobile Witness digital vault. Here's where it gets cool. Your photo or information is time-stamped and stored where only law enforcement officials who have a subpoena can access the information when the information might be relevant to a case. Go to www.mymobilewitness.com.

Another site I visit frequently is my only social network on the Internet, www.librarything.com. Through recommendations on Library Thing, I bought and read Beverly Cleary's memoirs, "A Girl from Yamhill" and "My Own Two Feet." I now understand how Cleary went from childhood to the stage where she was ready to start writing about Henry and Ribsy (and talk about mom issues). Mrs. Cleary wrote more than 30 books for children. Some of her best-known characters are Henry

Huggins, Ribsy, Beezus and Ramona Quimby. Speaking of neighborhood walks, go to www.beverlycleary.com to visit an interactive neighborhood map of Klickitat Street and beyond. Happy memories.

I would be missing a great neighborhood if I didn't mention Fred Roger's own. The books "Mister Rogers Talks With Parents" and "Dear Mr. Rogers, Does It Ever Rain in Your Neighborhood? Letters to Mr. Rogers" are two of my favorites.

"If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person." - Fred Rogers.

His books helped me a great deal when I was going through the end of my first marriage. I believe the books are greatly responsible for the fact that we can now all hang out together with dignity and respect. Thanks, Mr. Rogers.

Happy travels. I wonder how you'll use the rest of the miles you're given.

Waste, recycling survey out in early February

After receiving several complaints in the past few months about Waste Management, the city is mailing a survey to residents to evaluate whether its services need to be updated.

The city is legally bound to contract with Waste Management for the next seven years, but city officials are looking into revising the existing relationship with Waste Management, said Doug Alder, city spokesman.

"What we're trying to find out is what people would like to see — whether they'd like to see their waste and recycle bundled or how frequently they'd like to see their trash picked up," he said. "This basically starts the clock to see what improvements can be made to waste and recycling service in the city."

Missed pickup dates and poor customer service on the phone have been among complaints by residents, he said.

The survey includes seven questions and should be mailed out in the first few weeks of February.

Hazelwood scholarships

The Hazelwood PTSA will award two \$1,000 scholarships

to two Hazelwood Elementary School alumni who graduate from high school this spring. Application forms are avail-

able in the career and counseling centers at Hazen, Lindbergh, Renton, Eastside Catholic and Newport high schools, and also

at the office at Hazelwood Elementary. Applications must be postmarked by March 18. Call 687-8932.

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Minutes from Lake Boren Park

Business Notebook

February 6, 2009

Prepared by Newcastle News advertising dept.

Personal trainers can help you reach personal goals

Have you been thinking about joining a gym, but can't bare the thought of putting yourself on a treadmill side-by-side a confirmed power lifter?

Or maybe you are ready to make a



Brian Wehner, owner of Fitness Together.

commitment to looking and feeling better but don't really know how to get started.

A personal trainer in a fully-equipped private training suite may be just what you need! No crowded gyms, no waiting for equipment, no distractions.

At Fitness Together you will have an appointment with "your" personal trainer, ready to work with you after testing and assessing your current situation.

Individualized instruction will help you meet your goals of weight loss, weight management, body fat reduction, muscle tone, increased flexibility, cardiovascular health or an increase in muscle mass.

When you work with a personal trainer, you can expect accelerated results. Your trainer knows what will work best for you, while emphasizing proper technique to reduce injury. Having your trainer along side you is a lot more fun, too!

"Everything in life is better, sharper, richer, creamier and more completely enjoyable when you look and feel fantastic," says Brian Wehner, owner of Fitness Together in Newcastle. "I like to say that I specialize in icing cakes, helping successful people get maximum enjoyment from their life."

Wehner is not just the owner of Fitness Together, he is one of the five personal trainers on the staff. Brian became a fitness leader after his military service ended in 1998, and has now been a trainer for seven years.

"I have always had a passion for helping others reach their fitness goals," said Brian. In his spare time, Brian is writing a book on training. He also enjoys softball and is a white water river guide.

Meet the other certified personal trainers:

- **Rachel Tanev** has enjoyed assorted sports her whole life. She likes to run, read, cook, and spend time with friends. She plans to earn a degree in exercise science.
- **Kelly Turner** is also a health and fitness writer and blogger for assorted Web sites. She also likes to bake and spend time with her friends.
- **Josh Lyon** hails from Kansas and earned his B.A. in kinesiology in 2004. "I enjoy working with individuals to get them the personalized attention they need."

Fitness Together is located at 1717 NE 44th St., Newcastle. For more information, go to www.ftnewcastle.com.

The Wine Shoppe at Hawks Landing offers tastings, events, Wine Club

The Wine Shoppe at Hawks Landing opened in November, the second Wine Shoppe owned by wine entrepreneur, Tracie Hogan.

The Wine Shoppe is the place for all your wine needs. It offers a great selection of wines at great prices -- from everyday wines at under \$10 to high-end, hard-to-find wines not seen at chain stores.

Tracie and her staff are happy to select the right wine for you. If you need a special wine for a food pairing, wines for an event, or just an everyday wine to drink on a

wineries, varietals, or countries are featured. There are also special winemaker tastings featured at

These tastings are a and educational. The Wine Shoppe also offers wine education courses each quarter, as well as special winemaker dinners at local restaurants.

The Wine Shoppe is also available for private events -- from birthday parties to book clubs to charity events. The Wine Shoppe is able to accommodate your group

needs. Additionally, if you need wine for large corporate events or parties, The Wine Shoppe is ready and able to supply all your wine needs at a reasonable cost.

The Wine Shoppe also offers a monthly wine club with limited-edition wines produced by very prestigious wineries around the world.

Club members have a choice of two reds or one red/one white

with various price ranges available. Wines are hand-selected monthly by the staff based on individual preferences.

For personalized service in a relaxed atmosphere, visit The Wine Shoppe at Hawks Landing. It is located at 1785 NE 44th Street, Suite 105, Renton, WA 98056 (off Exit 7, next to Starbucks). Hours are Tuesday-Wednesday 11-6, Thursday - Friday 11-7, and Saturday 11-5.



Owner Tracie Hogan pours wine for Newcastle residents at The Wine Shoppe at Hawk's Landing during a Saturday Tasting.

weeknight, they can find the perfect wine for you.

The Wine Shoppe is a neighborhood wine store meant to be a fun place where you can taste and enjoy learning about wine.

Free wine tastings are held at The Wine Shoppe at Hawks Landing every Thursday from 5-7 p.m. and every Saturday from 2-5 p.m. These wine tastings are a great opportunity to taste a variety of wines from all around the world. Each week, different

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- Feb 14th - Port Tasting with Sweet Decadence
- Feb 19th - Lange Twins - California
- Feb 21st - Winemaker Tasting *Barrage Cellars*
- Feb 26th - Winemaker Tasting *Edmonds Winery*
- Feb 28th - Winemaker Tasting *Cedergreen Cellars*

Wine Tastings are 5-7 every Thursday and 2-5 every Saturday

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CITY BEAT

THANKS TO OUR STORM RESPONSE PARTNER



The snow events we lived through in December and January gave each of us many challenges, but one of the greater rewards was to strengthen the City's excellent storm response partnership with the Coal Creek Utility District. The City's Maintenance Manager, Brian Smith, coordinated the plowing and de-icing by our

own 4-man crew and the work done by CCUD. Through its contract with the City, CCUD provided 2 additional trucks and staff to operate them. The staff from both agencies worked in teams for 12 hour shifts for about 2 straight weeks including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The City thanks CCUD for all its work and looks forward to continuing our excellent working relationship.

NEW POLICE OFFICER

There's a new member of the Newcastle Police Department. Melissa Deer has worked nine years on patrol in King County, as well as a year in the Sheriff's Office burglary and larceny detective unit. Please welcome her to our community.



Call for Event Sponsors and Vendors

In today's economy, every marketing dollar matters. Online or print, you won't find a more engaging marketing channel than this. Event sponsorship provides direct exposure to thousands of people –and can give you a competitive edge!

Our community events gain increased attendance and visibility every year. As families spend their money and time much closer to home in 2009, there's never been a better time to become a part of Newcastle's identity.

- 22,000+ cars drive under the main street banner every day
- 4,000+ visitors read the Special Events webpage each month
- 2,000+ people at the Fourth of July celebration (a BRAND NEW two-year old event)

Concerts, fireworks and family activities are powerful ways to promote your message to a target audience. Benefits include:

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- Email newsletter
- And much more! We will customize any package to fit your needs.

Set yourself apart from the competition. Email our Special Events Producer at julesm@ci.newcastle.wa.us today!

newcastle411.com : ON TOP OF THE STORMS

The City's blog continues to be the place to turn for daily news and events in Newcastle. During the height of the December snow storms, newcastle411.com received almost 4000 hits over a 10 day period as residents logged on for real-time information about road conditions and plowing efforts. newcastle411.com features news out of City Hall and from around town, police reports, community events, and news submitted by your neighbors. Check out the blog today.

NEW TIMELINE FOR LIBRARY

There's a new project timeline for Newcastle's new library. At a City Council meeting in early January, a representative from the real estate development company Lorig Associates was on hand to officially announce Lorig's signed agreement with the King County Library System. Lorig is developing the mixed-use project on Newcastle Way that will include the library and apartments. The new date for groundbreaking is October of this year. They expect to be finished 16 months later, opening in February of 2011.



MORE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT TALK

Just a few days after finalizing that deal with the King County Library System, Lorig officially approached the City about partnering on another mixed-use project that could include a new City Hall. Lorig recently secured control of the current Rainier Moving/Mayflower site on 132nd Place SE. The idea would be to demolish the warehouse and create a development that might also include a United States Postal Service retail branch. Unlike a stand-alone City Hall, this kind of development could also generate revenue for the City since the developer is also looking into the possibility of multi-family housing, an adult education space, a business incubator space, and structured parking. This is all very preliminary and there is no commitment. The City Council plans to take a closer look at this invitation for partnership very soon.



COAL CREEK PARKWAY UPDATE

Here's another sign of just how quickly work is coming along on the Coal Creek Parkway expansion project. The construction crew has been busy over the past few weeks pouring the barrier wall on the west side of the road. It will run all the way from SE 84th Way down to SE 91st Street. It will be stained to look similar to the large wall on the east side of the road. The construction manager for Newcastle's portion of the expansion project says Renton is expected to wrap up their end at roughly the same time as Newcastle. He expects the completion date to be somewhere around mid-July.



TRANSIT CENTER CLOSE TO BREAKING GROUND



The City is close to advertising bids for the new Transit Center at the intersection of Newcastle Way and Coal Creek Parkway. Once the contract is awarded, construction could begin in April. While the finished product will greatly improve the area for both commuters and pedestrians, construction will cause traffic delays and disruptions. The City is working on plans to keep drivers informed throughout the project, as well as providing detours to businesses such as Newcastle Fruit & Produce, Acorn Cabinetry, Precision Autocraft, Newport Manufacturing, the Animal Hospital, and City Hall.

CITY HALL CALENDAR • UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Feb 3: City Council Meeting:
6pm Study Session, 8pm Regular Meeting

Feb 5: Joint Meeting of City Council,
Parks Commission & Planning Commission, 6pm

Feb 11: Parks Commission, 6pm

Feb 16: City Hall Closed,
Presidents' Day Holiday

Feb 17: City Council Meeting, 7pm

Feb 18: Planning Commission, 7pm

February 2009

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Note: To ensure you have the most current, up-to-date information visit the **Calendar of Events** on the City's webpage: www.ci.newcastle.wa.us.

For questions, comments or additional information on any of the above articles contact City Hall or visit our website.

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Former Seattle Storm player Sheryl Swoopes discusses the importance of diet and exercise to prevent childhood obesity during a Jan. 16 assembly at Hazen High School.

By Jim Feehan

Swooping in with an anti-obesity message

Former Seattle Storm encourages students to exercise more, eat right

By Jim Feehan

Students need to fight the temptation of grabbing a quick bite at fast-food restaurants and exercise more to stem the growing epidemic of childhood obesity, Sheryl Swoopes told a Jan. 16 Hazen High School assembly.

During the former Seattle Storm player's 45-minute presentation in the school's gym, Swoopes urged students to watch what they eat and to take 10 to 20 minutes out of their day to exercise.

"It could be as simple as chasing your girlfriend around the house, or chasing your boyfriend around the house," said Swoopes, who turns 38 next month. "Dancing is also a great form of exercise."

Swoopes is part of a WNBA program that encourages students to stay physically fit and eat healthy. She said the number of overweight and obese children is alarming.

Childhood obesity has been on the rise for more than two decades. Information from two recent National Health Examination Surveys of 8,165

children ages 2-19, found about 16 percent of children and teenagers were obese, defined as having a body mass index of above the 95th percentile on U.S. growth charts.

For example, a 10-year-old girl who is 4-foot-7 would be considered obese if her weight reached 100 pounds. By comparison, about 5 percent of children and teenagers in the U.S. were obese in the 1960s and 1970s.

The number of obese children has almost tripled during one generation. In 1980, 6.5 percent of children ages 6-11 were obese. By 1994, the number climbed to 11.3 percent. By 2002, the number jumped to 16.3 percent. Today, it's about 17 percent, according to surveys compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Doctors say overweight and obese U.S. schoolchildren represent an entire generation that will be saddled with weight-related health problems as its ages.

Type II diabetes typically was diagnosed in adulthood, with an unhealthy lifestyle a huge contributing factor. Unfortunately, increased obesity is leading to a rise in cases of Type II diabetes in children and teens, Swoopes said.

"This is a type of diabetes that previously was not found among youth," she

See **SWOOPES**, Page 11

Student projects shine light on art

By Jeff Richards

For perhaps the first time in their young lives, the fifth-graders of Newcastle Elementary School became artists, and on Jan. 8 they put their work on display in the school's commons for classmates and parents.

Their work was part of a schoolwide fifth-grade project, which entailed picking an artist, and then making a poster detailing the artist's career. Finally, they had to create their own reproduction of one of the artist's works.

Some kept it local while others chose to study some of the most famous artists. Tom Faulkner, 10, chose Leonardo da Vinci for his project.

"I wanted to learn more about him than the others because he lived so long ago,

and I wondered what life was like for painters back then," he said.

This was the second year Newcastle had the fair. The idea came from fifth-grade teacher Deanna Buder, who oversaw a similar program for five years at Sunny Hills Elementary School.

"It gives them an in-depth knowledge on a particular artist," she said. "They can pick artists who inspire them and grab them."

For his reproduction, Faulkner chose "The Mona Lisa," first tracing and then going by eye to copy the famous painting. He used colored pencils but said he found the colors difficult to reproduce due to the lack of brightness in them.

"I liked his shading and texture, but I didn't like how he uses so many dull colors,"

Faulkner said. "It took a long time to do, but it was really rewarding in the end."

Sam Harrington, 10, chose to go the route of using actual paint for his reproduction of "The Cat in the Hat." Using spray paint, he spent four hours capturing the image of Theodore S. Geisel's/Dr. Seuss' exuberant black-and-white cat with a splattering of green paint as the background.

Harrington said he received a lot of positive feedback at the fair from parents and classmates, who told him it looked just like the real thing.

"I thought it would be fun to do something everyone would know," he said.

Still, Harrington said people had all sorts of questions about the author of children's books, including his inspirations and work habits, all of which Harrington could answer.

One of the few 3-D sculptures at the art fair, which included work by 74 students, came from 10-year-old Jack Ryan. He chose local glass blower Dale Chihuly, whose hand-blown glass flowers he'd seen hanging from the ceiling in the lobby of the Bellagio



Contributed

Tyler Haselman (right) stands by his Picasso project. Classmate Tom Faulkner recreated 'The Mona Lisa.'

Hotel in Las Vegas.

While he didn't actually create a glass sculpture, Ryan used the craft product Shrinky Dinks, which he baked, shaped and then colored. The result was a vase of flowers that had the appearance of glass.

The other grades got involved as well. Students from other

classes went to the fair and were tasked with interviewing one of the fifth-grade presenters, asking them questions about their project.

The fair itself was a five- to six-week culmination of work for the students and a rewarding experience, Buder said.

"The kids love it," she said.

Rotary clubs honor top students

The Renton and Issaquah Rotary clubs recently honored the following pupils as their students of the month.

Evan Tomchick, a senior at Hazen High School, was selected as January Youth of the Month.

Tomchick holds a 3.6 grade point average and has been a member of Earthcore, Thinkers Club, Diversity Club and lettered in cross-country and swim and dive. He is a member of Hazen Drama and is ASB historian. He received the student of the month award in French. He volunteers with Bridging the Past and Future and Rebuilding Together.

He plans to attend a four-year college, pursue a career in writing and to travel.

Scott Horne, a senior at Liberty High School, was recognized in art.

The son of Thomas and Lisa Horne and Valori Dauma, Scott has twice been a student of the month.

His favorite subjects are biology,

math, writing, art and psychology. He likes playing guitar; singing; writing songs, poems and short stories; taking photos; and drawing. Outside school, he is active in Boy Scouts.

After graduation, Horne plans to earn a degree in bioengineering to pursue a career as a pediatric cardiologist, or be involved in research and development for regeneration of human organs.

Blake Johnston, a senior at Liberty High School, earned recognition for foreign language.

The son of Millicent Johnston has three times been student of the month.

His top subjects are physics, engineering and Spanish. On top of being a National Merit Scholar, Johnston has spoken before the American Association of Physics Teachers (Washington) and was also involved in the Washington Large Area Time Coincidence Array, a project to investigate the highest energy cosmic rays, with the participation of middle and high school students and teachers throughout the Seattle area.

Johnston plans to attend a four-year university and pursue a doctorate degree for a career in environmental engineering.



Swoopes

From Page 10

said.

Swoopes said many teens don't give enough consideration to eating healthy, but instead succumb to quick and easy fast food.

As a youngster growing up in Texas, Swoopes said she ate at fast-food restaurants, too. She began playing basketball at age 7 and exercised vigorously, she said.

In college, she led Texas Tech to the NCAA title before embarking on a professional career. She was the first player to be signed in the Women's National Basketball Association when it was formed in 1996. She has won three Olympic gold medals and is a three-time WNBA MVP. She's frequently referred to as the "female Michael Jordan."

Swoopes is the first women's basketball player to have a Nike shoe named after her — the "Air Swoopes." On March 3, 2008, Swoopes signed with the Seattle Storm; she was released from the team Jan. 31.

Darralita Taylor, a senior at Hazen and member of the girl's varsity basketball team, said Swoopes' message resonated with her.

"We have to realize eating right and exercise is important for our health," Taylor said.

Rotary Club honors McKnight Middle School teacher Erin Hall

Erin Hall, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at McKnight Middle School, was honored by the Rotary Club of Renton as one of its teachers of the month for December.

As part of the recognition, she received \$200 for classroom supplies or instructional materials.

"I was surprised to receive the award, but honored," she said.

Hall has been teaching social



Hall

studies at McKnight for seven years. Teaching at the middle school level is rewarding and the students are curious about the world around them, she said.

"I enjoy seeing students make real-world connections and understand current events," she said.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science/social studies from Western Washington University and a master's degree in literacy curriculum and instruction from Lesley University.

Hall said she plans to use the \$200 to expand her classroom library of young adult literature for students to check out.

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Events

The Chamber of Commerce hosts a lunch meeting from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Feb. 11 at Tapatio Mexican Grill, 6920 Coal Creek Parkway S.E. The featured speakers are Sandra Wixon, owner of Sweet Decadence, and Larry Kerson, marketing manager at Regency Newcastle. Cost is \$20. RSVP by calling 206-719-8122.

Newcastle Trails will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at Fire Station No. 9, 12412 S.E. 69th Way.

Robin Ryan, the Newcastle author of "60 Seconds and You're Hired!" will discuss hiring strategies, interview techniques, pitfalls to avoid and the formula for successful salary negotiations in a free seminar from 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave. N.E.

Youth

Registration ends Feb. 15 for the Newcastle Baseball Club League, a youth baseball and softball organization for youths ages 5-14 in Newcastle, Newport Hills, Somerset and the Renton Highlands. The program includes T-ball (ages 5-6), Pinto (ages 7-8), Mustang (ages 9-10), Bronco (ages 11-12) and Pony (ages 13-14) teams. Register at <https://nbcl.d4sportsreg.com>.

The following events take place at the Lake Heights Family YMCA, 12635 S.E. 56th St. Call 644-8417.

□ Kids Gym, session 4, for ages 3-5, is from 11:15 - noon Mondays and from 4:15-5 p.m.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Contributed

Grady and Heidi Auvil, of Newcastle, and their children Brooke and Spencer at last year's pancake breakfast.

Pancakes, gift baskets at Hazelwood

The Hazelwood Elementary School PTSA presents its annual Pancake Breakfast and Basket Bonanza fundraiser from 8-11 a.m. Feb. 7 at the school's commons.

Sausage, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange juice and all-you-can-eat pancakes will be offered. Admission is \$4 for adults and teens, and \$3.50 for children ages 2 to 12. Children under 2 receive a complimentary pancake and drink.

A silent auction of gift baskets will take place during breakfast. Each classroom provided a theme for a basket. Some of the basket themes this year are gardening, baking, cooking, chocolates, coffee, candles, and scents and spa, organizer Holly Baker said.

The school is at 6928 116th Ave. S.E. Call 204-4550.

Wednesdays. The class is from Feb. 23 to April 1. Cost is \$30 with current membership. Call 644-8417 or go to vhinds@seattleymca.org.

□ T-ball baseball registration is under way for ages 3-6. Games are from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays from April 25 through June 13. Cost is \$45 with current membership.

Clubs

The Society of Artists for

Newcastle, an art organization, is seeking new members. Call 271-5822.

MOMS Club of Renton meets for play dates at parks and other locations. New activities are planned daily. This nonprofit, nonreligious organization provides daytime support for moms and their families. Call 260-3079.

Bridge players are wanted, evening or daytime. Games take place at various homes in the Hazelwood area. Call 255-

February 2009						
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0895.

Newcastle Rotary Club meets at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays

March 2009						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

at The Golf Club at Newcastle, 15550 Six Penny Lane. Call 206-947-5741.

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Newcastle Historical Society meets at 4 p.m. the first Thursday at City Hall, 13020 S.E. 72nd Place. Call 226-4238.

An international dinner, sponsored by Bahá'í Faith of Newcastle, is at 6:30 p.m. the third Friday. Call 430-8047.

Drinking Liberally, an informal progressive social group that discusses politics, meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Mustard Seed Grill and Pub, 5608 119th Ave. S.E. Go to www.drinkingliberally.org.

Eastside Mothers & More, a social network for mothers, meets from 7-9 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the North Room at East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 S.E. 32nd St., Bellevue (not church affiliated). Go to www.eastside-mothersandmore.org.

Seniors

Lake Heights YMCA Older Active Adult Program meets from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the YMCA, 12635 S.E. 56th St. in Newport Hills. Activities include community service projects, crafts, pinochle games and field trips. Bridge groups play from 9 a.m. - noon and noon - 3 p.m. Wednesdays. Sack lunches are for \$3. Reserve one in person early that day. Call 644-8417.

Library events

The following events take place at the Newport Way Library, 14250 S.E. Newport Way, Bellevue, unless otherwise noted. Call 747-2390 or go to www.kcls.org.

□ **Writing Before You Write** — Liz Gallagher, author of the teen book "The Opposite of Invisible," will help young writers with the process of creating characters at 5 p.m. Feb. 10.

□ **Authoring Memory** — Poet and blogger Kate Lebo leads a workshop at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 17 for young writers, using free-writing and editing exercises.

□ **The Newport Way Book Group** meets at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 to discuss "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson.

Health

Angel Care Breast Cancer Foundation-trained survivors offer free emotional support to the newly diagnosed, enhancing emotional recovery while going through treatments. Go to www.angelcarefoundation.org.

Volunteers

Eastside Bluebills, a Boeing retiree volunteer organization that provides opportunities to help others in need and assist


charitable and nonprofit organizations, meets from 10 a.m. - noon the third Wednesday at the Bellevue Regional Library. Call 235-3847.

King County Library System's Words on Wheels program needs volunteers to select and deliver library materials to homebound patrons. Training is provided. A one-year commitment is required. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have their own trans-

portation and be able to pass a Washington State Patrol background check. Call 369-3235.

Places to go

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, on Lakemont Boulevard Southeast, is a 3,000-acre park with more than 30 miles of trails and the site of the 1880s coalmines. Go to www.metrokc.gov/parks.



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By Greg Farrar

Airashay Rogers, Hazen freshman, puts up two of her team-high and game-high-tying 16 points despite the double-teaming defense of Liberty's Danni Sjolander (45) and Breanne Faehrich in the second quarter. Liberty won, 65-38.

Shared hoop dreams

Hazen, Liberty squads among league leaders

By Jim Feehan

Both the Hazen and Liberty high schools' girls basketball teams remain among leaders in their respective leagues heading into February.

Hazen (8-4 in Seamount League play and 10-5 overall) is battling Mount Rainier (9-2, 11-3) for second place in the league. Kennedy, ranked No. 1 in the state among 3A schools, leads the Seamount (12-0, 16-0) going into the last week of the regular season.

Liberty, Mercer Island and Bellevue have each been atop the KingCo 3A league at some point during the season. The Patriots (6-2-, 10-3) are one game behind Mercer Island (5-1, 10-4) heading into February.

Three days into the year, the Highlanders and Patriots played a non-conference game at Hazen.

Katie Growden scored 11 or her team-high 16 points in the third quarter to lead Liberty to a 65-38 victory.

Following that game, Hazen won seven of its next eight games. The only loss came against Kennedy, 66-26, on Jan. 16.

Freshman guard Airashay Rogers is among the leading scorers among high school players in Western Washington and leads the Highlanders in scoring, averaging 19.2 points a game.

Senior forwards Darralita Taylor (9.2 points per game) and Gina Kirklin (7.9 points per game) are second and third on the team in scoring, respectively.

Meanwhile, Liberty (7-3, 14-3) opened



By Greg Farrar

Brittany Philip, Hazen senior guard, takes a shot during the second quarter of the Highlanders' Jan. 3 game against Liberty.

the season winning 10 of its first 11 games, losing to Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) High School. The victories propelled the Patriots to the Associated Press' Top 10 list, only to have Liberty lose to Juanita at home and at Mercer Island in mid-January.

Liberty defeated Bellevue, 46-43, Jan. 28 to sweep the Wolverines this season.

Senior forward Corrina Van Hurston

See **HOOPS**, Page 16

Newcastle player among bright, young pitchers for Mariners in '09

By Jim Feehan

When players report to spring training later this month, which one of the top Seattle Mariners' pitching prospects hails from Newcastle?

Stumped?

Ryan Rowland-Smith was Seattle's most effective starter in the second half of the 2008 season, finishing with a 3.39 ERA and a 4-3 record from his 11 starts.

Rowland-Smith, originally from Newcastle, Australia, is the first player with a hyphenated last name ever to appear in a Major League game. The 26-year-old had an auspicious debut. The left-hander made his major league debut for the Mariners on June 22, 2007, against the Cincinnati Reds at Safeco Field. He struck out the first batter he faced, Ken Griffey Jr., and pitched one and one-third scoreless innings.

And although he isn't from this Newcastle, Rowland-Smith is no stranger to the city nestled between Renton and Bellevue. His girlfriend's sister lives in Factoria and Rowland-Smith has been to

The Golf Club at Newcastle for a fundraising benefit for cystic fibrosis.

"I had never been to Bellevue until two years ago, when I met my girlfriend," he said. "I was driving up the 405 freeway, because I was staying down in Tacoma, and I saw a sign saying Newcastle, and I just had to call my mum to tell her there's a suburb here called Newcastle."

Following the conclusion of the 2008 season, Rowland-Smith appeared at a fundraising event at a Tukwila bowling alley for Seattle Seahawks' Marcus Trufant and signed autographs at DJ's Sportcards about a mile south of Newcastle in the Renton Highlands.

"I just like him as a pitcher and his glasses are cool, too," said Naomi Jensen, 10, a Cougar Ridge Elementary School student, who got Rowland-Smith's autograph and posed for a photo with the pitcher.

"I'm such a huge fan of his," said Cheryl Ann Jensen, Naomi's mother.



By Jim Feehan

Cheryl Ann Jensen takes a photo of her daughter, Naomi Jensen, 10, a student at Cougar Ridge Elementary School, during an autograph signing with Ryan Rowland-Smith at DJ's Sportcards in Renton.

See **MARINER**, Page 16

Give cross-country skiing a try on Newcastle's trails

By Peggy Price

My husband Jim and I went cross-country skiing in Newcastle a couple of times during the last snowy period.

From our home in the Windtree neighborhood, we took the May Creek Trail and the Waterline Trail to Lake Boren Park, and then took the West CrossTown Trail just past the cemetery. At that point, we saw a quartet of teenaged boys sharing two snowboards. That's a use of Newcastle's trails I hadn't contemplated.

It was really nice to see so many folks out enjoying the fresh, crisp air and unusual snowfall. As we headed home, we greeted a friend who was skiing to the store to get groceries.

On Christmas morning, Jim and I took four Christmas cards to friends in Newcastle by cross-country skiing an approximately three-mile, round-trip route. Part of the route was east across the Newcastle Creek drainage to the Horse Trail, (following other cross-country ski tracks), then north to the West CrossTown Trail where it enters the School Woods — our name for the wooded buffer between Hazelwood and Olympus, owned by the Renton School District.

We have friends in both of those communities, so we skied east to the short cross-trail that connects them and took time out for visiting. We returned home via the Waterline and May Creek trails. Only a couple of short stretches induced us to take off our skis to negotiate a

particularly steep section.

What a blessing it is to be able to take trails through peaceful woods away from snow-plowed roads and skidding cars.

The May Creek and Waterline trails are especially good for cross-country skiing. Broad and flat, woods fringe them and meadows open to pleasant winter views. The May Creek Trail traverses May Creek Park on the route of the historic Seattle and Walla Walla Railway. It runs from Windtree east to the Waterline Trail, which follows a gated utility road north past Lake Boren Park to the old Newcastle Cemetery and the West CrossTown Trail.

The Newcastle Trails Web site — www.newcastletrails.org — includes a trail map and trail guide that describe all of the trails mentioned above.

Newcastle Trails is a group of volunteers from Newcastle and beyond that builds and maintains local trails, and works to preserve trail corridors from development. In 2008, the group completed the Terrace Trail, which connects the Highlands of Newcastle with the terrace and Cougar Mountain

Park. And it worked with the city and the Trust for Public Lands to obtain a grant for the May Creek Park Entrance Parcel. The city has just completed the purchase, putting all of May Creek Trail in public hands at last.

On the other hand, the School Woods — and part of the West CrossTown Trail — is at risk. The school district may sell it for development when the economic situation improves.

We hope you'll enjoy Newcastle's trail system, winter and summer. And, if you want to help preserve our trails and open spaces, consider joining Newcastle Trails and/or the Newcastle Open Space Project at <http://newcastleopenspace.blogspot.com/>. Both are citizen groups; neither has dues, but both depend on volunteers.

Newcastle Trails will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at Fire Station No. 9, 12412 S.E. 69th Way, and everyone is welcome.

Peggy Price is the secretary/treasurer of Newcastle Trails and a member of the city's Parks Commission. Reach her at info@newcastletrails.org.

Oprah, Letterman tickets among auction items

The Newcastle Elementary PTSA is hosting its third biannual auction at 5:30 p.m. March 13 at the Westin Bellevue, 601 Bellevue Way N.E. Tickets are \$75.

The evening will include silent and live auctions, and a dessert dash. The goal is \$100,000 for the PTSA to sup-

plement programs offered at Newcastle Elementary School.

Featured items include gift certificates to restaurants, a four-day cruise in the Caribbean or Mexico, a travel package to Chicago with four tickets to see Oprah Winfrey's television show, and a travel package to New York with two tickets to see David Letterman's television show.

Go to www.newcastleptsa.org.

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Jacked-up

A 1995 red Honda Civic sitting on top of a jack was damaged between noon and 9 p.m. Jan. 6 in the 6800 block of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast. A tire rim and a tire were stolen from the vehicle. Three other rims had the lug nuts removed. The driver's side door was damaged when the car fell from the jack and the jack scratched the paint. The estimated loss is \$325.

Burglary

Unknown suspects entered a home in the 750 block of 122nd Place Southeast and stole a combination safe, two U.S. passports, stock certificates, assorted necklaces, bracelets, earrings, an Xbox 360 console and its controller. The suspects kicked in the rear garage door to gain

entry to the home, damaging the door and its frame. The estimated loss was not listed.

Aggravated assault

A 16-year-old student of Renton Academy, 7100 116th Ave. S.E., was arrested for assaulting two faculty members at 8:45 a.m. Jan. 8. The student was asked to calm down in class by his teacher after using foul language. He proceeded to attack the teacher by throwing cereal and milk at her and spraying orange juice in her eyes. The teacher ran to the hallway for help, at which point the student started vandalizing the classroom. He threw fruit on the walls and poured hand sanitizer over books and computer equipment. When another employee tried to take the hand sanitizer, the student splashed the liquid

in her eyes. That employee was taken to a hospital.

Attempted auto theft

A man living in the 950 block of 150th Place Southeast discovered someone had tried to steal his car between 6 p.m. Jan. 6 and 2 p.m. Jan. 8. The plastic ignition guide had been torn away and an object was lodged in the key slot. His portable CD player had been left on the floor and his checkbook left on the lawn. The estimated loss was not listed.

Vehicle break-ins

Several vehicles at a construction site in the 8900 block of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast were opened and rummaged through before 5:45 a.m. Jan. 10. Nothing appeared to be damaged or taken.

A tan 2004 Cadillac Escalade was broken into between midnight and 3:30 a.m. Jan. 13 in the 7600 block of 11th Court Southeast. The rear passenger window was broken out, and Sean John cologne and various vehicle keys were stolen. The estimated loss is \$568.

The rear passenger window of a silver 2003 Volkswagen Jetta was broken between 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 and 10:30 a.m. Jan. 23 in the 6800 block of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast. A handful of change, 250 CDs in a case, a black leather jacket and a Magellan GPS system were stolen. The estimated loss is \$1,320.

Between 2 and 11 a.m. Jan. 23, the driver's side window of a 1998 Honda CRV was broken in the 6800 block of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast. The vehicle's Panasonic CD stereo and climate control element were stolen and

the dashboard was damaged. The estimated loss is \$200.

Vandalism

A sliding glass door to a home in the 6800 block of Lake Washington Boulevard Southeast was broken with a baseball-sized rock between 6:30 and 6:52 p.m. Jan. 26. Nothing was taken. The estimated loss is \$1,000.

Hoops

From Page 14

hit four clutch free throws in the closing minute to win the game. Van Hurston (13.1 points per game) leads a well-balanced attack that includes senior guard Growden (11.3 points per game), sophomore forward Danni Sjolander (9.3 points per game) and junior guard Breanne Faehnrich (8.7 points per game). On Jan. 30, Liberty crushed winless Sammamish at home 73-17.

"I think in stretches we look pretty good," Liberty coach Randy Leifer said. "We're still not able to put 32 minutes together. I think if we can do that we'll be happy."

Mariner

From Page 14

"He's a great addition to the Mariners' pitching staff."

Baseball is not as popular as cricket, rugby and surfing in Australia. Rowland-Smith saw a U.S. baseball game on late night TV in Australia and he was hooked. He also studied videotapes of the 1993 World Series and was impressed by the play of John Olerud, who he would later meet in spring training.

"I thought the game was fascinating," he said. "My dad was upset I didn't take up rugby."

When he was a child, Rowland-Smith was teased about being "too soft" for playing baseball. But at 6-foot-3 and 240 pounds now, no one is teasing him about being soft.

Rowland-Smith most credits his mother, Julie White, for helping him reach the majors. When he had a chance to play baseball at the New South Wales State Institute of Sport, his mother made the four-hour, round-trip drive to Sydney three times a week. She also drove her son to tournaments all over Australia to increase his exposure.

"I think Mum loved that I was doing something different," he said. "My mum played a huge role in my being here."

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Beautiful Burnstead newer home. 4 bdms, den, bonus & 3 car garage. Quiet, totally private lane. Great room w/kitchen, S/S appls, center island w/gas cooktop, cabinets galore, eating nook & spacious family room. Inviting formal DR w/ wainscoting & crown molding. Huge bdms. Guest suite w/private bath. Fully fncd bkyrd.



Privacy in Parterra \$300,000

Enjoy the private setting from this open & bright 2B/2B ground level unit overlooking Lake Boren. Charming kitchen w/pantry & new SS appliance. Spacious master w/walk-in closet, 5 pc. bath & soaking tub. Private carpeted deck. Beautiful grounds, secured entry, tandem parking space in underground gated garage Convenient to shopping, restaurants, parks and elemen. school. Community w/secured entry, spa, bbq area, plygrnd, dog prk, fitness & more!



Stonegate Showcase \$695,000

Enjoy this beautiful 5 bedroom 2.75 bath Chaffey resale situated in a cul-de-sac on over a third acre in sought after Stonegate. Vaulted ceilings, art niches with designer colors throughout. Large 5th bedroom upstairs could be used as bonus room. Kitchen has granite counters and huge walk-in pantry with additional storage area. A fully fenced parklike backyard awaits as you step outside. Entertainment sized patio with hoop and fountain.



Great Value in Olympus \$525,000

Wonderful opportunity to own this beautifully updated home in sought after Olympus. Hardwood floors are throughout the first level of this daylight rambler. Easy living on one level with the master bedroom on the main floor. Enjoy the territorial views off the back deck. Call for appointment to view this home.

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