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to the class  
of 2009**  
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# Newcastle NEWS



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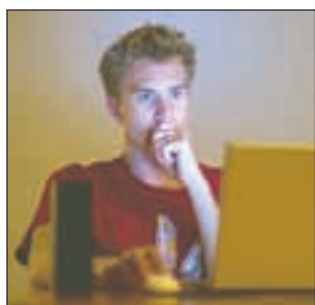
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newcas@isspress.com  
392-6434, ext. 239

50¢



By Greg Farrar

The completed May Creek Bridge, seen here from below, features a design topped with several arches reminiscent of the original May Creek Railroad trestle.

## City celebrates completion of parkway expansion project



By Greg Farrar

The May Creek Bridge, open to traffic May 26, features wider sidewalks.

*"I feel great pride in the completion of Coal Creek Parkway improvements. It shows that with a commitment on the part of the council and staff, Newcastle's limited resources can be leveraged to achieve a monumental outcome."*

— Jean Garber  
City Councilwoman

By Jim Feehan and David Hayes

The completion of Coal Creek Parkway this month marks a three-phase, eight-year journey. The city's largest Public Works project relieves the bottleneck through Newcastle along the regional thoroughfare that con-

nects Renton and Bellevue by widening Coal Creek Parkway from two lanes to four lanes from Newcastle Way to the Southeast 95th Way.

Later this month, various local, state and federal officials will return to Coal Creek Parkway to commemorate the completion of the project. The ceremony is scheduled for 1:30

p.m. July 16.

"I feel great pride in the completion of Coal Creek Parkway improvements," said City Councilwoman Jean Garber, who was at the initial ribbon cutting ceremony six years ago. "It shows that with a commitment on the part of the

See **PARKWAY**, Page 2

## Residents go to the streets for National Night Out

Area residents will take to the streets Aug. 4 to meet with neighbors and police during the annual National Night Out Against Crime.

Neighbors will gather for potlucks and other social events. Organizers said they hope the event will foster greater cooperation in reporting suspicious activity in Newcastle neighborhoods.

City Communications Manager Doug Alder said relationships between residents provided a solid foundation for National Night Out.

"Newcastle's neighborhoods are already very tight-knit, and we believe this event will help bring neighbors even closer," Alder wrote in an e-mail. "It also sends a strong message that crime won't be tolerated in our city."

Neighborhood organizers said the annual event would provide a good opportunity for residents to get to know one another over

See **NIGHT OUT**, Page 6

## Skateboard park open house meeting is July 14

The city is hosting an open house regarding the proposed temporary skate park at Renton Academy from 6-7:30 p.m. July 14 at Renton Academy, 7100 116th Way S.E.

This is an informational meeting to go over proposed equipment, layout and to talk with nearby residents and skateboard enthusiasts.

Call 649-4444, ext. 106, for more information.





By Greg Farrar

Workers rush to put the finishing touches on the center median along Coal Creek Parkway near May Creek Bridge.

## Parkway

From Page 1

council and staff, Newcastle's limited resources can be leveraged to achieve a monumental outcome.

"I hope residents who walk, bike, or drive this scenic roadway share the pride I feel. To me, the red bridge is a symbol of what we can accomplish when we all work together."

### First plans face hurdles

City officials wanted to widen the parkway since Newcastle incorporated in 1994. The first step 10 years ago was approving a six-year Transportation Improvement Plan that included the following estimates:

□ **Phase one** — \$11.8 million for widening, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, signals, lighting, median and transit facilities, from Southeast 84th Place to Southeast 72nd Place.

□ **Phase two** — \$19.4 million for similar projects from Southeast 95th Street to Southeast 84th Place.

Construction was slated to start in summer 2000, with phase one completed in 2003.

The first hurdle to the project came in 2000, when 11 homeowners refused to sell their properties along the western edge of the parkway project. They claimed the city's representative either didn't negotiate in good faith or underbid what their properties were actually worth. After 10 other homeowners agreed to sell, the City Council voted Feb. 15, 2000, to condemn the 11 properties of hold-out homeowners.

The project hit its second hurdle when city officials decided to delay the start until spring 2001 after experiencing issues with permits, property acquisitions and funding.

City officials negotiated with the property owners, needing a court order to acquire the final property. That cleared the way

for bids to go out, and city officials approved a \$5.767 million contract to Marshbank Construction, of Lake Stevens. Groundbreaking was finally kicked off March 16, 2002.

The first phase of the project widened the parkway from two lanes to four between Newcastle Way to the entrance of the Olympus neighborhood and Lake Boren Park at Southeast 84th Street. Improvements included a median, left turn lanes, additional traffic signals, bicycle lanes and sidewalks.

### Funding becomes an issue

As city officials searched for additional sources of funding to meet growing costs for phases two and three, the City Council considered dropping the later phases if that search was not successful. Another \$1 million injection from the county transportation budget kept plans for phase two alive.

Cost overruns, including the need to blast apart a rockslide, drove the cost of phase one up to \$14.4 million.

Each member of the City Council, as well as several Planning Commission members and city staff were on hand to celebrate the opening of the first phase of the project during a November 2003 ribbon cutting ceremony. Following speeches from city and county representatives, a group of council members and children paraded up Coal Creek Parkway for a few blocks in vintage cars. Phase one opened to traffic Nov. 8, 2003.

Two years later, the city received an \$11.3 million grant from the state Transportation Improvement Board for the completion of phases two and three.

Transportation projects in the state move forward with the help of competitive state grants awarded by the board, which was created by the Legislature to foster state investments in local projects.

Engineering for phases two and three were about 60 percent complete when the grant was

## COAL CREEK PARKWAY TIMELINE

□ **August 1999** City Council approves city's changes to its six-year Transportation Improvement Plan, estimating \$11.8 million funding will be needed for phase one and \$19.4 million for phase two of the Coal Creek Parkway project.

□ **Feb. 15, 2000** City condemns 11 properties of owners who have not yet agreed to sell their land to make way for the parkway project.

□ **July 5, 2000** City pushes back the start of project to spring 2001 after problems with permits, property acquisition and funding.

□ **November 2000** The King County Council agrees to chip in \$1 million for funding of phase one of the project.

□ **July 2001** Two families settle condemnation disputes with the city, leaving seven families holding and contesting offered settlements to acquire their land.

□ **August 2001** State and local funding of \$17.3 million for the first two phases of the project is assured.

□ **September 2001** One outstanding property acquisition, out of 23, remains unsettled.

□ **Oct. 12, 2001** A court order sides with the city on the final property, allowing access to the property for the project.

□ **Dec. 20, 2001** Bids are opened for phase one (Newcastle Way to Southeast 84th Way).

□ **Jan. 8, 2002** Contract awarded to Marshbank Construction.

□ **March 16, 2002** Groundbreaking is done for phase one.

□ **September 2002** City officials say \$3.2 million of funding from outside sources is needed to complete the three phases of the project.

□ **October 2002** Funding costs climb to \$4 million; City Council considers dropping phases one and two if additional funding isn't found.

announced. Up to that point, the board had invested \$25 million in five earlier stages of Coal Creek Parkway, stretching from Interstate 405 in Bellevue, through Newcastle and south to state Route 900 in the Renton Highlands.

In February 2006, design elements for the final two phases of the parkway were unanimously approved by the City Council. They included plans for sidewalks, realigning Southeast 89th Place with Coal Creek Parkway and the design for the May Creek Bridge, with sidewalks on both sides and a center meridian. The design called for the bridge to be topped with several arches reminiscent of the original May Creek Railroad trestle in contemporary form. The trusses that run the length of the bridge are painted brick red.

### 'Bold action paid off'

Stevan Gorcester, the execu-



File

Former Mayor John Dulcich (center), with other officials, city staff and families, cuts the ribbon celebrating the completion of Phase 1 in 2003.

□ **April 2003** City council approves \$1.8 million design contract to engineering firm CH2M Hill for second and third phases.

□ **Sept. 18, 2003** Coal Creek Parkway reopens to traffic as phase one nears completion.

□ **October 2003** City begins acquiring property for phase two.

□ **Nov. 8, 2003** Ribbon cutting for phase one is held.

□ **July 2004** State and local engineers review the city's phase two plans, known as value engineering, providing several recommendations that could save \$3.7 million in costs.

□ **October 2004** While the administration and City Council wrangle over mitigation costs for phase one, the second and third phases are delayed in design.

□ **June 20, 2005** City Council hears proposals from designer CH2M Hill two ways to cut between \$500,000 - \$700,000 from parkway costs, still at least \$20 million short of the \$27 million to \$33 million estimated total cost for phases one and two.

□ **Oct. 18, 2005** The City Council approves a plan that could place the city \$4.5 million in debt to secure a \$12 million transportation grant.

□ **Nov. 18, 2005** City receives \$12.35 million in grants — \$11.3 million from the Transportation Improvement Board and \$1.5 million from the county.

□ **Jan. 17, 2006** City Council approves seven design elements for phases two and three.

□ **February 2006** The design is at 60 percent completion for phases two and three.

□ **March 2006** The state approves \$4.7 million funding for phases two and three.

□ **April 2007** The project is \$6.2 million over budget, at \$38.2 million, up from an original \$32 million estimate.

□ **May 2007** The city adds \$1 million from reserve funds to defray project costs.

□ **July 24, 2007** A \$12.9 million phase three contract is awarded to CA Carey (Southeast 91st Street to Southeast 95th Way/bridge).

□ **Aug. 14, 2007** A \$15.9 million phase two contract is awarded to Marshbank Construction (Southeast 84th Way to Southeast 91st).

□ **Oct. 11, 2007** Groundbreaking is held for phases two and three.

□ **July 30, 2008** Demolition begins on old May Creek Bridge.

□ **April 27, 2009** The state awards \$3 million in final funding for phases two and three.

□ **July 16, 2009** Ribbon cutting is held for phases two and three.

tive director of the state Transportation Improvement Board, applauded the city's efforts to secure funding for the parkway and tackling such a large Public Works project.

"I am thrilled to see the successful completion of this project," Gorcester said. "The city took on a big project and they assumed some risk. Sometimes, you have to take bold action and that bold action paid off."

Coal Creek Parkway is a major arterial paralleling Interstate 405 and will grow more important in the coming months as the state undertakes a major upgrade to I-405, he said.

Construction of the final mile of the Coal Creek Parkway project began in September 2007, widening the parkway from Southeast 84th Street to Southeast 95th Way and replacing the narrow two-lane May Creek Bridge, which was built in 1951. The parkway remained

open during the past 22 months as crews demolished the old bridge, widened the roadway, added bike lanes and sidewalks and built a retaining wall north of the Highlands entrance to the intersection of Southeast 89th Place.

The project came in under budget and on time. In the waning hours of this year's session, the Legislature came through with \$3 million for the project.

Maiya Andrews, the city's Public Works director, said the city is thankful for its funding partners and the trust they placed in Newcastle spending their money wisely.

The parkway improvements will help commuters who opt to bypass I-405, but it also offers amenities to pedestrians and bicyclists, Andrews said.

"This is something we can look back at and be proud of," she said.



## ZIP code survey shows delivery, tax problems

By Jim Feehan

A recent survey conducted by the city reveals residents overwhelmingly want a unique ZIP code and say it would better establish the city's identity.

About 400 people participated in the survey last month. Ninety-eight percent of the respondents answered yes when asked if they support the city's efforts to acquire its own ZIP code; 95 percent said it would better establish the city's identity.

Since the city incorporated in 1994, the U.S. Postal Service has twice denied it its own ZIP code. Newcastle has two ZIP codes that are assigned to Renton — 98056 and 98059.

"This is a more thorough and detailed presentation we will be presenting to the Postal Service," said City Manager John Starbard. "This is not about vanity. This is complicating people's lives."

The survey also asked residents to list problems associated with shared ZIP codes. Fifty-two percent of the respondents said they had delayed or misdelivered packages.

"This should be important to the post office, because they're

always concerned about the accurate and speedy delivery of mail," said Doug Alder, city spokesman. "When more than half of the people in the survey had package and letter delivery problems, that says a lot."

About 50 percent of respondents said they had difficulty with taxi or airport services; 29 percent discovered they were paying Renton utility tax; 91 percent said that when doing business by phone, merchants said they lived in Renton; and 45 percent said they need to change their home shopping or home delivery routine.

City officials say some computers don't recognize Newcastle addresses and that the city is losing sales tax revenue to Renton. When out-of-town or out-of-state deliveries are shipped to Newcastle, many companies use only the five-digit ZIP codes to forward sales tax dollars instead of using the complete street address.

Newcastle will present its case for a unique ZIP code to the Seattle office later this month, Alder said. If the Seattle office rejects the request, the city can appeal to the federal level.

"Hopefully, we'll get it this time," he said.

## Issaquah School District gets recognition from state audit

By Chantelle Lusebrink

For the seventh year in a row, Issaquah School District officials received recognition from the Washington State Auditor's Office for completely adhering to state and federal regulations.

"I think the audit came out well," said Jacob Kuper, chief executive of finance and operations for the district. "Anytime we have a clean audit with no findings, it is good news for the district and the taxpayers as well."

District officials received state auditor's office officials' findings in May. The audit looked at financial accountings from Sept. 1, 2007, to Aug. 31, 2008.

The audits are a routine inspection conducted by the state auditor's office every year for every public entity.

"Anytime an outside party holds us to a standard, federal, state and local standards, it is a good thing," Kuper said. "It helps ensure the property systems are in place for compliance."

The audits measure general accountability and look at the district's protection and safeguarding of public resources. It included cash receipting and revenues, payroll expenditures and assessment of fines and damages. It also looked at expenditures and protection of assets, like laptops and classroom materials.

The accountability audit also

looked into compliance with state and local regulations, such as conflict of interest laws, the Open Public Meetings Act, competitive bidding compliance, contracts, student enrollment and transportation reporting.

If there are findings by officials with the auditor's office, district officials correct them, Kuper said.

The last time district officials received any correction from the auditor's office was in a management letter in 2006 for the 2006-07 school year.

That letter asked them to alter their reporting of certain district transportation routes. Those problems were corrected while auditors were still in the building.

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## Editorial

# Completed parkway is source of pride

Riddle: When is a bridge and a road more than just a bridge and a road?

Answer: When the bridge and road is a piece of art, a source of community pride, a grand entrance to a small city — when it is part of the Coal Creek Parkway in Newcastle.

The parkway has been a source of grumbling for years. There was the \$40 million cost, the extravagance to make it a showpiece and, of course, the traffic slow downs during construction. But baby, take a look at it now!

The cost to the city was less than expected with the late arrival of a \$3 million grant, thanks to careful city oversight and financial support from other government funds and grants. The construction is over and traffic will move through the corridor without the diversion of traffic cones, flaggers and equipment.

And it is beautiful. The brick-red arches and railings of the bridge over May Creek, the careful attention to the design of the retaining walls, the wide sidewalks from city center to Lake Boren, and the graceful landscaping are already being talked about — with pride by Newcastle residents and with awe by visitors passing through.

But the Coal Creek Parkway is something more. It is a vision of what the city can become. The parkway has set a design standard that leaves us eager to see more. Architects who are designing Newcastle's future commercial and residential core need only look to the parkway for inspiration and an understanding of what the new Newcastle can and should be.

The city staff, City Council members and planning commissioners should take a bow. Amid controversy during the project, they held tight to a vision they shared — and do share. The conversations to get us to this point have not always been amiable, but they have all been passionate about Newcastle and its future.

Hats off to the contractors and their crews who brought the project in under budget, to the citizens and drivers who put up with construction for seven long years, to the King County Council and 41st District state legislators who helped secure funding.

## Letters to the editor

### Congratulations, city staff, on parkway completion

While it is customary for newspapers to have opinionated editorial pages, we in Newcastle are provided with the biased viewpoint of Jim Feehan in most articles, as well. The most recent example is the "controversy" (stirred up by the Talk of the Town feature in Newcastle News) over the city spending \$5,000 to celebrate the successful completion of the \$42 million Coal Creek Parkway project.

City staff, in objective fact, has done an outstanding job in securing funding from county, state and federal sources and in managing the project in an on-time and under-budget manner.

As a career human resources leader, I understand the need to celebrate successes in life, including at the workplace, as a way of lifting morale. When employees have their efforts and successes recognized, they feel more committed to their employer and their jobs, while organizations experience increased employee engagement and lower turnover. I will also add that \$5,000 represents .012 percent (that's roughly 1/8,000) of the \$42 million project's total costs.

If Newcastle News is unwilling to congratulate our outstanding city staff for a job well done, I will happily say thank you to all involved in the Coal Creek Parkway project for an outstanding job.

Andrew Shelton  
Newcastle

### Parkway party should be on weekend

At first, I thought \$5,000 is a small amount to spend to celebrate the end of such a substantial road project that has been a stressor to all the city's residents.

Then, I reread the article and went to put the date in my calendar and was dumbfounded. This party is on Thursday, July 16, at 1:30 p.m. This is the only city-sponsored summer event that I have seen scheduled in the middle of a weekday.

Typically, such events are in the evening or on the weekend. This date and time is causing me to wonder if it is a "company picnic" in disguise. How many people are going to be able to attend a weekday afternoon event, besides the construction workers on the project and the city representatives?

In fact, in the article, "\$5,000 approved for Coal Creek Parkway party" (June 5 Newcastle News), all of the praise is for the city staff and state Department of Transportation's hard work on this project.

I am a stay-at-home mom residing in this city and I cannot attend. If this were truly for the residents, I believe, it would be on a Saturday.

In this economic climate, many local companies are canceling their company picnics and a city picnic would be a taxpayer-provided relief and alternative. If it is indeed a company picnic, then it should be cancelled. Since it is on a Thursday, I doubt that it is truly intended for the city's residents, also known as those paying for the party.

Crystal Amend  
Newcastle

## Talk of the Town

### Now that construction is complete on Coal Creek Parkway, what do you think of the project?



**Desarae Rosario, Renton Highlands**  
"I'm very excited, actually, and I can't wait to use it, to walk with my children."



**Judy Schwarz, Newcastle**  
"It's going to be absolutely lovely once it's done. It's been very extreme getting down to the Renton area and then coming back. I'm glad they did it. I'll be very glad when it's done."

**Stephanie Tuschhoff, Newport Hills**

"It seems like it was a good project. It seems like it'll be helpful and free up traffic and have a better traffic flow. It looks good to me!"

**Jason Matz, Newcastle**

"Good. I just question the extra expense for the ornamental iron-work. I think that money could've been spent better. I heard it was \$150,000. In this economy, money doesn't grow on trees."



**Audrie Starys, Newport Woods**  
"It'll be a great thing for the city. I'm really looking forward to the sidewalks. I have a small child, so it's going to be

great to be able to take him on walks and use the sidewalks a little more."



**Brian LeTourneau, Newcastle**  
"I think it was worth the money, worth the effort, worth the time. It's going to be a nice new way to get down

Coal Creek Parkway. A lot less congestion. It opens up a lot more free time for people now."



**Judson Virden, Newport Hills**  
"It's going to be good, because of the amount of traffic. It was needed, so it's going to be great when it's all done."

Everybody's going to be happy."

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## Party 'horrendous waste of taxpayer monies'

I have spoken to no one in the past few weeks that agrees with spending taxpayer dollars for a celebration of the parkway opening.

This is a major recession and a horrendous waste of taxpayer monies. I have neighbors who have lost their jobs that live in this city. Let's not waste theirs and everyone else's tax dollars for a celebration of the parkway.

I can see an announcement and comments at Lake Boren Park on band or movie night. Let's save our tax dollars if we can!

Let's stop this city spending now.

Mike Connell  
Newcastle

## Parkway party expenditure questioned

I could not believe what I read in the last Newcastle News. I don't see how any of you can even think of a party without tremendous guilt.

The money you will be using is from our taxes, which are too high anyway. You are always complaining that there isn't enough money for this or that, and yet you seem to have \$5,000 to throw away. If you have that much extra money, how about returning it to we who live in Newcastle?

I agree with a couple of people whose photo was in the paper and saying with the econ-

omy the way it is to donate the money to a food bank in the honor of the freeway or to charities. To me, with so many hurting right now, and there are those in Newcastle, I'm sure throwing away \$5,000 is not a wise decision.

There may be a lot of rich folks who live here, but we are not among them and neither are my neighbors. We've been here for more than 40 years and are now retired, and we are not happy about being always told we have to pay more money to you for something.

As far as this "405 of Coal Creek" goes, I am not celebrating. I can't use this road in the early morning hours going north or in the early evening hours going south, because the traffic is bumper to bumper for miles and miles. And these people don't even live in Newcastle or pay taxes here. Yet, I'm the taxpayer and can't even use the road.

Why don't you people figure out ways to get businesses in here so we can really be a city someone wants to shop in. How about a Walmart? That would bring in a lot of tax revenue.

Also, how about more police grabbing speeders on this new freeway? I go the speed limit and the other cars go past me like I'm standing still. You could probably take in a lot of revenue just from speeders, if you police the area more often.

Carrol R. Merrell  
Newcastle

## Fewer bookings at county jail pushes extension of jail contracts to Newcastle and other cities

By Jim Feehan

King County is extending its deadline for taking misdemeanor inmates from Newcastle and 35 other cities in the Seattle area beyond a previously imposed cutoff of Dec. 31, 2012.

Sentencing alternatives other than jail and a 25-percent drop in bookings by Seattle police, its biggest users of jail space at the downtown jail and its Regional Justice Center in Kent, led county officials to extend the deadline.

"This drop in jail use gives us an opportunity to take a more collaborative and regional approach in examining options for future jail space needs," Interim King County Executive Kurt Triplett said in a news release. "Jails are very expensive and it is important that we make the most cost-effective decision for the region."

Misdemeanor inmates typically serve sentences of a year or less, for such crimes as shoplifting and drunken driving. The county's two jails will continue lodging felony inmates.

City and county officials have been in negotiations since August 2008 about a possible extension of the 2012 deadline, said Newcastle Mayor Ben Varon, a member of the Jail Oversight Assembly, made up of

elected officials from each of the contract cities collaborating on jail issues.

The decision will give Newcastle and other cities more time to craft a long-term solution, he said.

All cities in the county, with the exception of Enumclaw, Kent and Milton, contract with King County for jail space. The contract cities have formed two groups, one looking to construct a jail in the south part of the county and the other looking at a Seattle or north county location for a jail. Each facility would need approximately 640 inmate beds.

"There's not a lot of inmate

demand from Newcastle," Varon said. "Of the two groups we sit right in the middle between the group looking to build a jail in the south part of the county and the other looking to build north. I'm not sure where we sit in the equation."

King County has combined space for 3,039 inmates at its jails in downtown Seattle and in Kent.

But Kathy Van Olst, King County's director of adult and juvenile detention, said that while the jail will have capacity in the next few years, the county should be careful not to get caught short in the future.

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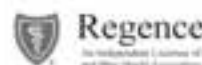
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# Three candidates vie for council seat 5

By Jim Feehan

The city's election lineup is set and includes a primary election next month for one City Council position.

In addition, after announcing his intent to run for council, veteran sportscaster Tony Ventrella decided not to file for office.

Three people — Larry Betsch, Karin Blakley and Rich Crispo — will run in the Aug. 8 primary for position 5 on the council. The top two candidates advance to the Nov. 3 general election.

## Larry Betsch

Larry Betsch retired after a career with the Boeing Co. and IBM, where he worked in a diverse number of management disciplines, including financial control, proposal development and project management. Betsch is a member of the Newcastle Planning Commission, a mentor in the Renton schools at Highlands Elementary School, and a member of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce.

He lives with his wife and son in the China Creek neighborhood, where he enjoys hiking, biking and golf opportunities in the community.

"The people who lead us in the future will make crucial decisions, which will impact us all," Betsch said. "I believe good government should listen and respond to the needs of our families, neighborhoods, and our current and future business partners, with effective communication and strong leadership."

"This will ensure the foundation this city was built on will remain vital and strong," he said. "We need to work together to improve our neighborhoods by communicating with our residents and dealing with their issues."

## Karin Blakley

Karin Blakley is a district manager for the Bellevue office of Waddell & Reed, an investment management and financial planning company.

Prior to that, Blakley worked in advertising, sales and management positions. In 1999, she ran for City Council and lost to incumbent Pam Lee by 57 votes.

Blakley said her experience and

background could help the city in addressing its budget woes.

"Our key revenue sources are down significantly," she said. "This situation creates a sizable hole in our current budget, which means thoughtful analysis and cost trimming needs to occur. For 25 years, I've dealt with the budgets and revenue challenges of various organizations and businesses. This is a skill set that will be useful in working through the situation we presently face."

Blakley said she would start a "Buy Newcastle" initiative to support businesses and encourage residents to buy local. Obtaining a unique ZIP code for Newcastle will also be a focus to ensure that sales tax revenues are properly calculated, she said.

## Rich Crispo

Rich Crispo spent 35 years working in the aerospace industry with four different companies. He retired from the Boeing Co. in 2006 after 28 years as chief information officer for its largest single contract, future combat systems for the Army. He was responsible for a \$100 million annual budget.

Crispo said he decided to run mainly because he disagrees with decisions made by the council majority of Ben Varon, Dan Hubbell, Sonny Putter and Jean Garber.

"On significant issues, the council is split 4-3 in favor of an expanded, dense downtown," he said. "There would be five-story, multiuse buildings lining our one intersection. There is little, or no, attention to our bedroom

## Voting requirements

- You must be registered to vote at least 30 days in advance of an election. If you are registering to vote by mail, your application must be postmarked by the 30-day cutoff or it will not become effective until after the election.
- If you miss the 30-day deadline and are not currently registered in the state, you must register in person at the King County Elections Office no later than 15 days before the election.
- Go to [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections) for more information.
- Register online 24 hours at <https://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/secure/pages/Onlinevoterregistration.aspx>.

Source: King County Elections Office

characteristics — open space, trails or services that treat everyday needs — that make Newcastle a great place to live."

He said the environment at council meetings is hostile to interested residents and somewhat abusive to councilors in the minority.

"Let's change the city vision to one that resembles why we choose to live here, and help create an environment that will entice more residents to become involved," he said.

Hubbell, current position 5 councilman and deputy mayor, isn't running again. He was elected to the council in 2005, defeating Steve Buri.

"After eight years of service, it's time for me to move on," Hubbell said of his four years on the council and four prior years on the city's Planning Commission.

All of the city's council seats are at-large positions, meaning none of the people on the council represent a specific neighborhood.

# Night out

From Page 1

hamburgers and hot dogs.

"This is an opportunity to get-together with your neighbors," said Scott Eklund, of the Hazelwood Community Association. "Knowing your neighbors can be a real asset in crime prevention."

The Hazelwood Community Association will hold its National Night Out event at Donegal Park, 7319 125th Ave. S.E. Neighbors are encouraged to bring their own food, but a grill will be provided for the event, he said.

"So, bring your hot dogs and burgers and get to know your neighbors," he said.

Police Chief Melinda Irvine said National Night Out is "great because neighbors get to know their neighbors."

Irvine said residents who know their neighbors are more likely to check up on one another and call police if they notice suspicious police or vehicles in their neighborhood.

The police chief said her officers plan to drive through Newcastle neighborhoods and talk with National Night Out participants.

The event is held the first Tuesday of each August. The event started in 1984 and has grown to involve more than 34 million people from 10,000 communities, according to the

## Hold your own party

Go to [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org), or call city Communications Manager Doug Alder at 649-4444, ext. 106, or e-mail him at [douga@ci.newcastle.wa.us](mailto:douga@ci.newcastle.wa.us).

National Association of Town Watch, a nonprofit based in Wynnwood, Pa.

The Reserve neighborhood will also host a block party on National Night Out, beginning at 7 p.m. at the end of the 150th Place Southeast cul-de-sac.

The event is a good example of strengthening communities, said Julie Varon, who is organizing the event in the Reserve.

"With our busy lives, we're lucky if we get to know our neighbors," she said. "The idea is that we need to watch out for one another and getting to know one another is a good first step."

Alder said city officials are not trying to coordinate individual parties, but they do want to get more neighborhoods interested and get police to every party that is held.

"Newcastle police went to a couple that were held last year and talked to residents about any concerns they have, crime in the neighborhood and what they can do about it," he said. "Officers will be available this year to go around to each party and do the same thing."



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# Issaquah's math curriculum adoption is put on hold

By Chantelle Lusebrink

After community concern and lack of clarity at the state level, Issaquah School District Superintendent Steve Rasmussen told school board members June 24 that he had decided to delay the district's high school math adoption for one year.

"The teachers on the adoption committee have done thorough, exceptional work and we don't want to lose that. But it is prudent to wait for the dust to settle," he said.

Teachers will continue to use the current math program, College Prep Mathematics, when students come back to class in the fall, said Patrick Murphy, executive director of secondary education.

"Come fall 2009, school will happen. Our expectations have not gone down and our community's expectations have not gone down," said Ron Thiele, associate superintendent. "We will be ready."

District officials entered into the curriculum adoption process for high school math earlier this year because College Prep had been used since 2002. District curriculum adoptions happen roughly every seven years. In addition, new state high school math standards adopted in 2008 warranted the adoption since College Prep Math wouldn't

align with them.

The district's Math Adoption Committee — a group consisting of math teachers and curriculum specialists — began meeting in January and February to review several curricula. Those meetings eventually led to a unanimous recommendation to adopt Discovering Mathematics, by Key Curriculum Press, in early May.

During that process, state education organizations, like the State Board of Education, several universities and colleges, as well as the state Superintendent of Public Instruction's Office, also began researching several possible math programs to align with new standards, and came up with different recommendations.

The state superintendent's office research led to the recommendation of Holt Mathematics. It is the first time that the state superintendent's office has only recommended one curriculum instead of several to choose from. It is not mandated that districts use the state recommended curriculum; districts are able to choose what works best for their student population, a May 4 memo from the state superintendent's office said.

The conflicting information, reports and curricula recommendations sent alarms through

parents, many of whom said they weren't made aware the district was planning to adopt a new high school math curriculum.

Questions surfaced as to the district's process; whether committee members solicited community feedback about math; conflicting information from educational organizations; and about how math is taught in general throughout the district.

"I want to make clear, at least for me, it was not about the curriculum. I think the teachers, they did a great job and it probably is the right curriculum," said Kelly Munn, a parent and education advocate. "The issue here is, are we headed in the right direction?"

"Patrick (Murphy) has said we have goals outside of good WASL scores and state standards," she added. "I'd like to know what they are and where we stand."

"We need to make sure we look holistically at math in this district, not just at the high school, but the elementary, middle school and high school levels," said Anne Moore, another parent and education advocate.

Board members had the opportunity to ask some of the same questions during a work-study session June 10. They

asked teachers and district officials whether a new curriculum adoption would be the right decision.

They also asked why they had chosen Discovering Mathematics over other curricula. In response, the teachers said the lessons, class investigations and materials will make for a more equitable math experience for students across the district, with less variance from class to class. However, teachers did say that when it came down to it, you could have almost any textbook in the classroom, but good quality teachers are what make the difference in how or what students learn.

To help settle issues regarding the state's curriculum choice, district officials had tried to organize a meeting where state officials with varying opinions would come support their work. State officials declined that request, Murphy said.

"The actions by state over the last few months, rather than

being helpful, have actually caused a lot of consternation, and in some instances, have kind of paralyzed districts in their ability to select math materials and their ability to move forward at this point," he said.

Between now and the beginning of the school year, teachers and district officials will begin looking at ways to help support teachers and students meet state standards with the current curriculum. That will include professional development this summer for high school math teachers, implementing new Internet tools for students and finding new ways to connect with students who are struggling, Thiele said.

After school starts, district officials will begin gathering community and student input and feedback, and teachers will meet again this winter to look at the Discovering Mathematics recommendation and possibly other alternatives.

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# Newcastle's Mark Greene running for King County Council

By Jim Feehan

Mark Greene, a Newcastle resident who ran for Washington Secretary of State last year and City Council two years ago, is running for King County Council position No. 9.

Incumbent Reagan Dunn is seeking a second term. Beverly Harison Tonda, a financial-services trainer from Maple Valley is also challenging Dunn.

Greene, 55, received 21,195 votes (2 percent) in his bid for Washington Secretary of State.

Greene received 80 votes (6 percent) in the August 2007 primary election for the Position 4 race against incumbent Sonny Putter and another challenger, Russ Segner.

The primary is Aug. 18. The top two vote-getters move on to the Nov. 3 general election.

"I am running in order to



Greene

bring forth ideas on how to improve county government for common citizens, such as making sure that an emergency preparation plan for natural or health crises are mailed out to county residents every two years," Greene said.

Greene has run for a variety of political offices. In 2004, he ran in the Republican primary in Washington's 9th Congressional District. The district encompasses a long, somewhat narrow area in Western Washington, largely following Interstate 5 from Olympia in the south to Burien in the north. In 2006, Greene ran in the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate.

He said he plans to run for U.S. Senate in 2010. He is chairman of the Party of Commons, established in 2006.

"A bold and dynamic new national party has taken hold," reads its Web site, which spells out a platform of "economically progressive, culturally traditional, noninterventionist" planks. Among them is protectionism and mandatory labeling of genetically modified food.

Speaking during the public

comment period at a May 2008 City Council meeting, Greene asked the council to impeach President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for warrantless wiretapping of American citizens and bringing the U.S.

into an undeclared war under false premises. He also urged the council to look into mandating surcharges for using plastic bags.

In addition, he asked the council to consider passing a resolution asking the Secretary of

State to convene an international nuclear arms disarmament convention in accordance with Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Greene has lived in Newcastle for three years.

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# Former NFL star stresses the need to mentor youth

*Mack Strong tells Chamber of Commerce about his foundation, TeamWorks Academy*

By Jim Feehan

One positive, healthy influence in a child's life can do wonders. For former Seattle Seahawk Mack Strong, of Newcastle, that came from his high school football coach.

During his freshman year, Strong told his coach he didn't like getting hit on the football field and that he was going to try out for the basketball team.

The coach took him aside and asked Strong if he wanted to attend college and not pay for it.

"Stick with football," the coach said. "Mack, I've seen you play basketball."

Strong stuck with football. He went on to become the second leading rusher in Georgia high school history (second only to Herschel Walker, who won the Heisman Trophy and later played in the NFL). Originally signed as an undrafted free agent out of the University of Georgia, Strong played his entire 15-year career with the Seahawks. Strong was selected to the Pro Bowl twice in his career, in 2005 and 2006.

During a speech before the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce on June 10, he stressed the importance of mentoring youngsters.

"My high school coach was arguably the most important person in my life growing up," he said.

Two years ago, Strong announced his intention to retire due to a neck injury.

"It was really a no-brainer, my decision to retire," he said

after suffering a herniated disc and having his spine fused. "I then had to start living a real life instead of living a make-believe life as a pro athlete."

Since retiring from football, he's gone into broadcasting with Fox Sports Northwest and radio station KJR. He also founded TeamWorks Academy with his wife, Zoe, which mentors and tutors American Indians on the Tulalip and Muckleshoot reservations.

The couple is also active with Childhaven. In April, the Strongs received the Mark Matthews Service to Children Award at Childhaven's centennial celebration. The award is presented in honor of the Rev. Mark Matthews, who founded the Seattle Day Nursery in 1909. The name was changed to Childhaven in 1985.



Former Seattle Seahawk Mack Strong, of Newcastle, discusses the importance of mentoring youngsters with City Councilwoman Lisa Jensen.

The Strongs also participated in last fall's Tackle Child Abuse, a fundraising event involving the Seahawks and benefiting Childhaven.

Strong said he always appreciated the mentors in his life. He

encourages children to work hard, invest in relationships and never give up.

As an undrafted free agent in 1993, Strong said he learned a great deal from veteran teammates.

"I appreciated having someone taking me under their wings," he said. "When I played football, I played to win. Every kid can be a winner if he works hard, invests in friends and never gives up."

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# Homeowners slammed by 16 percent drop in property values

By J.B. Wogan and Warren Kagarise

King County appraisers combed Newcastle neighborhoods earlier this year, checking up on improvements to houses and real estate transactions to determine home values.

Homeowners in Newcastle and throughout King County saw their homes increase in value over the years — but the trend halted this summer, and homeowners are grappling with properties that have dipped in value.

Countywide, properties have dropped in value by about 16 percent. Blame the dive on a cooling real estate market.

County appraisers conduct a physical inspection of a designated area once every six years. Newcastle was up for inspection this year.

Debra Prins specializes in residential property appraisals for the King County Department of Assessments.

Prins said this year's assessments were more accurate to the housing market of today, in part

## On the Web

□ Learn more about property taxes online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/PropertyTax.aspx>.

□ Learn more about the Department of Assessments at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor.aspx>.

because the assessor's office changed the way it calculates home values. In addition to its typical statistical analysis and limited physical inspections, the assessor's office dropped property values down another 15 percent from its January 2009 value, she said.

"We wanted to make certain that we were taking in consideration all vagaries of this market," she said. "We believe there were things our (past) evaluation models did not take into consid-

eration."

The assessments were more than a half-year behind in reflecting the dramatic slowdown in home sales or the dropping in prices, Prins explained.

Interim King County Assessor Rich Medved said the average sales price of a home in the county had dropped from a high of \$710,000 to \$615,000.

Medved said his office began sending out assessments June 11. The assessments released this summer would affect property taxes for 2010, although the relationship between assessments and property taxes is different in Washington than in most other states, he said.

"Most states in the United States are what we call rate-based systems," he said.

In rate-based systems, there is a direct correlation between the value of a home and how much a taxing district, like a city, will charge in property taxes.

But Washington has a budget-based system, Medved said. King County has 160 taxing dis-

*"It's still very possible that you could see an increase in your tax bill next year. Voters have the right to impose additional taxes on themselves."*

— **Rich Medved**  
Interim King County Assessor

tricts, including cities, school boards, the Port of Seattle and King County, and those taxing districts determine how much they will require through taxes. In other words, the taxing district set how much money it would need and then the tax rate is adjusted to collect that amount.

The property assessments affect property taxes in the context of relative worth; if someone's property value drops more than their neighbor's, then they could see a drop in property taxes. If a taxing district opted to collect a smaller annual amount, that, too, would lessen

someone's property taxes. The reverse is true, too, according to Medved.

"It's still very possible that you could see an increase in your tax bill next year," he said, adding that taxes are directly impacted by voter-approved tax increases. "Voters have the right to impose additional taxes on themselves."

Medved said people should know that they have 60 days to file an appeal if they believe an assessment isn't accurate.

King County Councilwoman Kathy Lambert said she's worried about how people might interpret the news that their property values are down. She said she has heard from residents who think lower property values will mean lower property taxes.

"I'm very, very nervous. When I try to explain how property taxes work, people get very upset," she said. "A lot of people don't understand that when they vote for a levy of any sort, that is above what the county does."

## James Wigfall joins library board

Jim Wigfall, of Newcastle, is the newest member of the King County Library System Board of Trustees.

Wigfall is vice president of Supplier Management for The Boeing Co. He has a degree in mathematics and computer science from The Citadel and served as a captain in the Army Signal Corps. He also obtained his master's in business administration from the University of



Wigfall

Wigfall also is involved in Boeing's Global Leadership Program and is executive representative for the National

Tennessee, specializing in aerospace.

He is on the board of directors for the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Special Olympics of Washington.

Society of Black Engineers. He recently served on the board of the King County Library System Foundation.

## Street Fair set for each Saturday through Sept. 5

Sweet Decadence and Newcastle Dentistry are sponsoring a street fair in the parking lot of the Newcastle Professional Center, 12835 Newcastle Way.

The street fair will take place from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday through Sept. 5.

About a dozen vendors have

signed up to participate, said Sandra Wixon, owner of Sweet Decadence.

Organizers are looking for new vendors and local entertain-

ers, she said.

They held their first street fair the weekend of June 20. The project is a work in progress, Wixon said.

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# Issaquah school levies to go before voters

By Chantelle Lusebrink

Issaquah School Board members unanimously approved presenting three school funding levies to voters in February 2010.

The Issaquah School District's proposed package would supplement its strapped budget with more than \$212 million by 2014 if voters approve it. It is a slightly amended package from the one presented to school board members May 13.

The three levies are a Maintenance and Operations Levy, a Transportation Levy and a Capital (technology and critical repairs) Levy.

For taxpayers, the total estimated tax for all levies during each year would be:

- \$3.88 per assessed \$1,000 in 2011
- \$3.88 per assessed \$1,000 in 2012
- \$3.51 per assessed \$1,000 in 2013
- \$3.51 per assessed \$1,000 in 2014

Under the proposal, there would not be a tax increase nor would the district exceed the tax rate promised by district officials in 2006, which was \$3.97 per \$1,000 of assessed property, said Jake Kuper, chief of finance and operations for the district.

The Maintenance and Operations Levy covers the state's shortfall for special education, teacher salaries, highly capable learners, English language learners, Advanced Placement and honors courses, and extracurricular activities. On average, the levy would bring in \$41.5 million annually.

The Transportation Levy allows district officials to purchase new buses. The one-year 2011 levy will tax each household 7 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property. It will provide the district \$1.7 million between 2011 and 2014 to purchase 41 buses.

The Capital Levy enables district officials to make critical repairs on buildings and purchase new computers and software for buildings. The critical repairs piece would give the district \$5.6 million over four years. The technology piece was reduced from collecting about \$34.8 million to collecting about

\$32.9 million over four years.

District officials met with board members between the May and June meetings to make reductions in the technology piece of the Capital Levy. The savings is about \$1.9 million to tax payers.

The biggest impact to that levy was the elimination of full wireless connections at all elementary school buildings.

Wireless connections are being built into the new elementary school on the plateau as part of its construction costs. However, other schools will only

have wireless installed in core areas of the buildings, like the library, office and multipurpose rooms, so community meetings could more easily take place.

There is additional money in the levy, however, to invest in mobile wireless carts, which can roll into specific classrooms for special events.

Full wireless installation will occur at the middle and high schools, since there is ongoing demonstrated need for wireless in every classroom and common room, administrative officials said.

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# Business Notebook

July 3, 2009

Prepared by Newcastle News advertising dept.

## Rick & Ray have a carpet cleaning story you won't want to miss!

What can be cutting edge about carpet cleaning, you ask? Pull up a seat, 'cause it's story time.

First, a little background. Advanced Floor Care (AFC) is owned and operated by Ray Nagel and Rick Norheim, Eastside residents for more than 30 years. While Rick has been in the carpet cleaning business for more than 10 years, Ray has been working with local retailers handling all aspects of real estate, including store maintenance.

Six months ago Rick and Ray joined forces and formed AFC. Since then, business has flourished. Ray credits unsurpassed customer service, attention to detail and cutting-edge technology for the successful launch of AFC.

### Here's where the story gets interesting.

For over 100 years, hot water extraction (sometimes called steam cleaning) has been

the dominant method of cleaning in the U.S. This method uses a truck/van mounted engine that heats water, injects it into the carpet and then extracts the water and chemicals. The engines are loud, the hoses are cumbersome, and a whole lot of water is used.

The other methods of carpet cleaning use a dry foam or chemical that is worked into the carpet where the various compounds bind to the dirt particles and then it is vacuumed up.

**Move to the edge of your seat,** Ray says, 'cause here comes the good stuff.

AFC uses a machine that was designed and engineered in Germany and currently is manufactured in Austria. Legend has it that a group of engineers got together to brainstorm a better method of cleaning carpet. The three big problems to overcome were the hoses, loud noise, and excessive water. The end result was a machine that solved all the problems of conventional methods.

The machine AFC uses has two counter-rotating brushes that agitate while clean water and dirty water wells work together to extract all dirt in the carpet while a secret blue drum captures all the dirt. The machine is more quiet than a vacuum and there are no hoses. This method uses about 90% less water and chemicals than conventional methods making it a very GREEN process for cleaning.

The AFC machine conforms to the highest

Rick Norheim, left, and Ray Nagel, owners of Advanced Floor Care.



standards in the fields of design, quality and safety demanded by the environmental organizations of Austria, Germany, Sweden, England, Finland, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, the EC, etc. Major manufacturers in the USA now recommend this method of carpet care.

### But wait, there's more to this story!

The AFC machine also gets rid of dust mites in your carpet — those tiny bugs that live in your home. They measure about 1/110th of an inch in length, which is smaller than a period at the end of this sentence. Dust mites feed off of pet and human dander (dead skin cells in the air and on surfaces in the home), and their waste is a major cause of allergies and asthma. Symptoms of dust mites are sneezing, runny nose, nasal congestion and itchy nose.

If you have asthma, dust mites can cause you to wheeze more and need more asthma

*"The guys at Advanced Floor Care are restoring carpets in our apartments that normally we would have had to replace. They are saving us tons of money! Their excellent customer service and quick turn around time means we are able to offer our tenants better service. We love Advanced Floor Care!"*

*Patti Kartic - Echo Ridge Apartments*

*"AFC cleaned my entire house for \$189, the carpet looked great and was dry in three short hours. I have told all of my friends about AFC and they have earned my business forever. I can afford to clean carpets every six months now!"*

*Customer Lina Lambro*

medicine. So cutting down on dust mites is an important step if you or someone in your family has allergies or asthma. Your carpet is a perfect environment for dust mites to thrive. But regular carpet cleaning with AFC's technology can control the presence of dust mites.



Dust Mites are removed by the AFC machine.

## Advanced Floor Care CARPET CLEANING



**WOW!**

**ANY House  
ANY Size  
ALL Rooms  
ALL Carpet  
\$239.<sup>00</sup>**

**90%  
LESS  
water**



**Go GREEN!**

**Dry in only  
3 hours!**

**100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!**

**No Strings! No Small Print!**



**Locally owned! We are Eager to EARN your business!**

Our state of the art German engineered machines are super efficient and super quiet, we out perform traditional methods. Our machines agitate and extract (the secret blue drum) all in a self-contained unit meaning **NO HOSES!**

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**WOW!**

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ANY Size  
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**90%  
LESS  
chemicals**



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**CENTER ISSAQUAH**

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[www.overlakehospital.org/Issaquah](http://www.overlakehospital.org/Issaquah)





# Newcastle Snooze? Do you have a better name?

By Pat Detmer

Allow me to reintroduce myself. My name is Pat Detmer, and I've lived in Newcastle for almost 20 years. In fact, I lived in Newcastle before it was Newcastle, when it was unincorporated King County with a Renton address that many online catalogs continue to use due to ZIP code issues, but that's another essay entirely.

My husband and I (hereafter known as "The Sainted One") have a home in the Olympus



Detmer

neighborhood. I've written for newspapers and magazines for years, and I've previously appeared in Newcastle News. In those essays, I declared my candidacy for City Council on the Thursday Night Chicken on Every Grill platform, and I suggested that we take up our garden tools, march down the hill and grab ourselves some Lake Washington waterfront. I still think that's a good idea, but I'm not sure that the rules of Manifest Destiny will apply.

To catch you up to the present, here are some things that I've learned since I last appeared here:

□ In order to win a seat on the Newcastle City Council, you need to do more than simply state your candidacy in Newcastle News.

□ You can actually clear deep snow from a driveway with nothing more than a plastic dustpan. But it might be a good idea to get an OK from your family doctor first. And you'll need to buy a new dustpan afterward.

□ You can grow tomatoes in a yard where that magical and necessary six hours of sun only occurs directly in front of your garage doors.

You'll note that this column name is yet to be determined. I'll be happy to take your votes. Some possibilities:

Newcastle Snooze — A nice play on Newcastle News and, let's face it, no matter how attractive and smart we think we are, we're still just living in a sleepy little bedroom community.

Laughing All The Way — The name of the column I had in a Whidbey Island paper for six years, the name of the book of those columns, and the name of my staff blog on [www.boomergirl.com](http://www.boomergirl.com). Given that I have the memory cells of a Mayfly, it certainly would be easier for me to remember it.

I Love Tapatio — I don't know. Too commercial?

Life on the Hill — Let's face it. If you live in Newcastle, you likely live on some kind of hill.

Life on the Hills — See above. Hills more accurate than Hill.

The View from the Speed Bump — I've previously noted that we seem to have more than our fair share of those.

The DeLeo Wail — Those of you interested in local topography might appreciate that one, since it plays on DeLeo Wall up above the China Creek neighborhood. Although it would work soooo much better if my name was DeLeo and not Detmer...

Newcastle Nut Brown Ale — It is an actual product. I am described as a nut. I am dark brown. I like beer.

Newcastle 411 — Hmm. I have a funny feeling it's already taken.

Reach Pat Detmer, who is seriously considering the purchase of a real snow shovel, at [patdetmer@aol.com](mailto:patdetmer@aol.com). Read her blog at [www.boomergirl.com](http://www.boomergirl.com). Her Web site is [www.patdetmer.com](http://www.patdetmer.com).

## Damerick Tullis graduates from Air Force basic training

Air Force Airman Damerick W. Tullis has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Tullis completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the community college of the Air Force.

Tullis is the son of Daymon Tullis, of Renton, and Michele Morrow, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Hazelwood Elementary PTSA honored for 100 percent participation

Hazelwood Elementary School was recently recognized as having 100 percent membership in its PTSA. Only 23 schools in the state were recognized as having 100 percent membership.

Last month, the Hazelwood Elementary PTSA awarded the Washington State PTA Golden Acorn, Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Advocate Awards.

Winners include: Christi LeBar, Golden Acorn; Diane Funai, Outstanding Educator; and Jane Keskimaki, Outstanding Advocate.

Recipients of each award received a pin and a certificate at the Volunteer Tea June 4 and a contribution was made to the state PTA Financial Grant Program in the name of the recipient.

## Patriot Players win award for lobby display

The Liberty High School Patriot Players won in the outstanding lobby display category for its production of "Kiss Me Quick Before the Lava Reaches the Village" during the 5th Avenue Musical Theatre Awards.

The awards, a high school version of the Tony Awards, showcase drama students for their exceptional musical theater productions during the 2008-09 school year.

The production was nominated in four other categories: outstanding orchestra, outstanding choreography, outstanding performance by a chorus, and outstanding hair and make-up design.

The awards were held June 8 at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.

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## Custodian donates her hair to Locks of Love

Hazen High School custodian Christi Lind (right) recently showed her support of Hazen teacher Kerri Dowd's battle with cancer by donating a chance to clip off her shoulder-length hair as part of a fundraiser and cancer awareness event at the school.

Lind put her hair in several ponytails to allow as many grade levels as possible to win a chance at lopping off her hair. School administrators matched all donations, and that, along



Contributed

with Renton School Board President Al Talley's contribution, raised more than \$2,500 to support cancer research and screening.

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Newcastle Dentistry

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## Local students graduate

□ Marlo Brown, a 2002 graduate of Liberty High School, graduated May 20 from Columbia University with a master's degree in architecture.

□ Hilary Tanneberg graduated from Central Washington University June 13, with a Bachelor of Science in accounting. Tanneberg, a 2004 graduate of Liberty High School, was also on the Lady Wildcats basketball team for four years.

## Student makes dean's list

□ Jessica Stix, of Newcastle, a 2006 Liberty High School graduate, made the dean's list for the Marshall School of Business at University of Southern California for the fall and spring semesters.

She is majoring in business with a minor in cinema/television. The dean's list requires a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

## Area WWU students graduate, honored

□ Noelle Veintimilla and Cody Brabant, both of Newcastle, graduated in winter quarter from Western Washington University.

□ Alexandra Stuj made the honor roll for the winter quarter at WWU.

□ College of Business and Economics Outstanding Graduate Malori McKenzie earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration with a concentration in management.

McKenzie graduated magna cum laude and was chosen as the outstanding student leader of the year for the management program. A graduate of Kentridge High School, McKenzie is the daughter of Ken McKenzie, of Newcastle, and Jody McKenzie, of Renton.

## Area students graduate from the UW

The following students from Newcastle graduated last month from the University of Washington:

Avneet Atwal, Joanna Bebawi, Christopher Castle, Stephanie Chan, Sterling Dao, Jeremy Donato, Elizabeth Forman, Ashley Harrison, Sarah Hill, Bryce Hockett, Stephanie Martin, Natalie McNabb, Adilutchmj Naidoo, Bryant Nguyen, Andrew Pham, Dennison Schreffler, Jonathan Sim, Matthew Strutynski, Yvonne Tyler, Hoodean Vafaei, Sukhneet Virk, Mark Watson, Scott Winslow and Shirley Zhang

## Obituary

### Van Amburgh-Whitney

Mary Patricia Van Amburgh-Whitney, of Newcastle, a sparkling light who shared herself with the world and touched others with her courage, faith, compassion and thirst for new experiences, died June 15, 2009, of Parkinson's disease. She was 69.

A memorial Mass was celebrated June 26 at St Madeline Sophie Church, Bellevue.

Pat will be remembered for her unique ability to help others see the best in themselves and inspire with her selfless nature.

Pat empowered others to accept that they, like her, were unique, important and

valued members of God's family.

Pat was a modern woman — adventurous, independent, open minded and embracing of change. She was known for her bold and dynamic style, showing the world that preternaturally white hair could be oh so chic. She also had an unrivaled sense of humor, even being able to find the lighter side of her illness.

For the past 30 years, Pat shared her journey with her husband Bob Whitney, whom she married in 1979.

They celebrated a life filled with spontaneity, laughter, and travel and enjoyment of family, friends and other cultures.

She was born Feb. 7, 1940, in Colfax, Wash. Pat graduated from Seattle's Bishop Blanchet High School and Seattle University.

Pat then entered religious life, joining the Maryknoll community. After six years of teaching high school in the Philippines and 16 years as a nun, Pat left the order to

begin the next chapter of her life.

She worked at two large medical centers in Chicago, initiating programs for patient advocacy before moving back to Seattle in 1978 to start a similar program at Providence Hospital.

Eleven years later, Pat moved on to graduate school to earn a master's degree in psychology and certification for school counseling. She worked in the Kent School District for five years, until her illness forced her to retire.

Pat's mother Marigold Van Amburgh preceded her in death.

Pat is survived by her husband Bob, father John Van Amburgh, sisters Sue Blake and Judy Van Amburgh, uncle the Rev. Vincent Cuniff, a niece and three nephews.

Remembrances can be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, 135 Parkinson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10305 or Maryknoll Sisters, P.O. Box 311, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311.



Van-Amburgh-Whitney



# CITY BEAT

## COAL CREEK PARKWAY RIBBON CUTTING

All Newcastle residents are invited to celebrate the opening of the Coal Creek Parkway



expansion project by attending a special ribbon cutting ceremony. The event takes place Thursday, July 16 at 1:30pm on the new May Creek Bridge. A marker dedicating the project to the citizens of Newcastle will be placed on the new bridge.

## ZIP CODE SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to the hundreds of residents who took the zip code survey as Newcastle petitions the United States Postal Service for its own unique zip code. 98% of respondents support the City's bid. 52% say they've experienced delayed or misdelivered packages or mail, something the USPS is most concerned about.

## TRANSIT CENTER UPDATE

Phases 1 and 2 of the Transit Center project are now underway at the intersection of Coal Creek Parkway and Newcastle Way. Expect delays from 7am to 3:30pm on weekdays. Instant traffic alerts and new maps showing the different phases of construction can be found on [newcastle411.com](http://newcastle411.com) and [newcastletransitcenter.com](http://newcastletransitcenter.com).



## CITY HALL CALENDAR UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesdays, July 8 – Aug 12: Concerts in the Park, 6:30pm, Lake Boren Park

July 3: City Hall closed, Independence Day observance

July 4: Valley Medical Center's 4th at the Lake Fireworks

July 7: City Council Meeting, 6pm Study Session, 8pm Regular Meeting

July 8: Parks Commission Meeting, 6pm

July 16: Coal Creek Parkway Ribbon Cutting, 1:30pm, May Creek Bridge

July 16: Planning Commission Meeting, 7pm

July 21: City Council Meeting, 7pm

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](http://www.ci.newcastle.wa.us).

### July 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

For daily updated news, police reports and community events  
log on to the City blog: [newcastle411.com](http://newcastle411.com)

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## Worship Directory

### Bahá'í Faith

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**Saturday Morning Service 10:30AM**

Bible Study: Saturday 9:00 AM

Hylan Slobodkin, Messianic Rabbi

### Community

## Newport Hills Community Church

5833 - 119th Ave. SE, Bellevue

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10:00 am Sunday School for all ages

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# Locals walk to help find cure for cancer

By Jim Feehan

Stephanie Nelson doesn't know of anyone's life that has not been touched by cancer. The owner of the Newcastle Curves store lost her sister Laura Bradley to cancer four years ago.

About 1,500 people, including Nelson, raised more than \$250,000 at the second annual Seattle Brain Cancer Walk May 30 at Mercer Island High School. The event had three times as many participants as the previous year and raised twice as much money, according to organizers.

Some who walked have brain cancer themselves; others walked beside loved ones. And still others walked for the memory of loved ones lost.

The money raised benefits the Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle.

"I want to do anything I can to bring awareness to brain cancer and raise money for this cause," Nelson said.

For the second year, Nelson spearheaded the Brain Reign Team that included Curves employees and customers. The team was Nelson, Toni Trulson, Edna Hawk, Virginia Jepsen, Pat Marshall, Cheryl Payton Rose, Harriet Houghton and her three grandchildren, Jessie, McKenzsie and Tanner Houghton.

Jessie lost her father, Keith Houghton, a few years ago at age 39. He had battled brain cancer for five years.

"Though he may have lost his battle against this disease, we continue to fight the war," she said. "He once said that life was not a sprint, but a marathon. There are times



Contributed

Jessie Houghton and her dog, Bob Dylan, participate in the Brain Cancer Walk on May 30 for Curves of Newcastle. Houghton's father, Keith, died of cancer at age 39.

*"Though he may have lost his battle against this disease, we continue to fight the war."*

— Jessie Houghton  
Seattle Brain Cancer walker

when it seems like you'll never reach the finish line, and there are times when

you're certain it's just around the corner."

The event was dedicated to providing hope and creating community for the 1,500 patients in the Pacific Northwest diagnosed with brain cancer.

With most patients given a survival rate of one year to two years, the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk is an important tribute to the fight for time, hope and new treatment

options, Nelson said.

Last year, 22,000 people in the U.S. were diagnosed with brain cancer. The Food and Drug Administration has approved only two treatments for brain cancer in the past 25 years.

Nelson's team raised about \$500.

"All of the money raised stays here, benefiting the good work they're doing at Swedish," she said.

## Local student named state scholar for 2009

Blake Johnston, a Liberty High School graduate of the class of 2009, was selected as a Washington Scholar for 2009.

The award is the highest honor the state bestows to graduating high school seniors each year and is part of the National Merit Scholarship program.

Johnston was awarded the scholarship during a luncheon with Gov. Chris Gregoire on Washington Scholar Day on May 20 in Olympia at the Capitol Building.

Johnston has maintained a 4.0 grade point average during his entire education in Issaquah. He will attend the University of Washington this fall and plans to study environmental engineering.

## Liberty graduate receives firefighter's scholarship

Andrew Pittman, of Liberty High School, was a recipient of the Eastside Professional Firefighter's Scholarship.

The scholarship was created in 1999 and is funded by the Professional Firefighter's Union, International Association of Firefighters Local 2878.

The purpose of the scholarship is to reward students who have demonstrated true passion and desire to make a positive difference in their community by giving their time.

## Hazen math teacher wins UW award

Hazen High School mathematics teacher Paul Muckerheide has been named a 2009 Inspirational Teacher by members of the



Muckerheide

University of Washington Computer Science and Engineering Department.

The award recognizes the tremendous efforts of educators to help prepare students for success in college and in their future careers.

Former Hazen student Nancy Do nominated Muckerheide for the award because of his approach to making students responsible for their own learning, and his ability to make statistics interesting and math enjoyable.

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# Liberty High School grad gets into USC film school

By Jim Feehan

Maybe it's in the genes.

Alex Bell, 18, of Newcastle, a 2009 Liberty High School graduate, is one of only 20 incoming freshmen accepted into the film school at the University of Southern California.

About 1,200 high school students applied to study at the same school that produced George Lucas, Steven Spielberg and Gene Fowler Jr.

Though not as well known as Lucas and Spielberg, Fowler Jr. was a prolific editor and director of film and television. His efforts won him a Golden Globe, four Emmys and an Oscar. He studied film editing at 20th Century Fox as a student at USC.

He was a prominent film editor whose work included "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." He also directed "I Was a Teenage Werewolf," as well as numerous television programs, such as the CBS series "Rawhide" and "The Waltons." Later in life, he was asked to teach film editing at USC in

the 1980s.

Fowler Jr., who passed away in 1998 at age 80, was Bell's great grandfather. Other relatives of Bell's worked as animators with Walt Disney on the original "Snow White," "Cinderella" and "Fantasia."

Bell turned down a full scholarship to attend Seattle Pacific University, a \$29,000 scholarship to attend the Chapman University School of Film and Television in Southern California and four other universities to attend USC.

"I chose USC because of the great opportunity it affords to its film students," he said. "It has the reputation as being the best in the nation. Once you graduate, the contacts that you have through the Trojan family are greater than any other school in the nation."

Two weeks ago, Bell toured the USC campus and its School of Cinematic Arts. Hall walls are filled with autographed movie posters of famous graduates. Every year since 1973, at least one alumnus of the film

school has been nominated for an Academy Award, totaling 256 nominations and 78 wins. The top-17 grossing films of all time have had a USC film graduate in a key creative position.

"For me, I'm looking forward to being part of this great film community," Bell said.

Bell is the second Liberty student in the past three years accepted into the USC film school. Former Patriot Steve White is entering his senior year at the USC film school.

He caught the filmmaking bug the summer before going into sixth grade at Maywood Middle School.

"I got a hold of a video camera with some friends and thought it would be fun to stay up all night shooting and editing a film," Bell said. "We were so excited, we had to shoot a sequel the next day. It was then that I realized that film was a great way to tell stories."

At Liberty, Bell produced a 15-minute video of highlights of



Contributed

Alex Bell, a Liberty High School graduate, works on a home movie project from his laptop, a skill that helped get him accepted to the University of Southern California film school.

Patriots sports teams. He also shot a video for the school administration, titled, "A Day in the Life of Liberty."

"I've always loved movies," he said. "It takes you to another place, another time and I really want to be involved in the process."

This year, Bell created a "Day in the Life of Liberty" as part of a Web cam project Liberty students started with a school in Mumbai, India, said Principal Mike Deletis. Each school agreed to create a DVD about their students and school, and then

share it with the other school.

"Alex has a unique and creative mind," Deletis said.

Dana Greenberg, dean of students at Liberty, said Bell's easygoing demeanor, intelligence, athleticism and can-do attitude will suit him well at USC.

"I couldn't think of a better candidate for the USC film school," Greenberg said. "Alex has the video skills, the perseverance and drive to take advantage of all the opportunities that will be afforded him at the film school."

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Slapping high-five to a classmate, a graduate returns to his seat after receiving his diploma.



Nate Williams removes his graduation cap to reveal painted stripes on his hair.

# Congratulations,

ShoWare Event Center June 12, 2009

Photos by Greg Farrar



Katie Brandt (left) and Matilda Burr wave at family members and friends in the audience at the ShoWare Event Center after receiving their diplomas.



Darralita Taylor flashes a 'V' for victory to her family as she leaves the podium after receiving her diploma.



Above, Olivia Schach (right) gives a hug of congratulations to friend and fellow Hazen graduate Dan Lucier Jr. after commencement. Below, Megan Yuasa, who earned a 4.0 grade point average, adjusts her cap after an Oliver M. Hazen medal was placed around her neck.



At left, Brett Crueger, social studies teacher, times the entrance of graduating Hazen seniors during the processional march.



Above left, Brittany Philio, Hazen senior class president, welcomes classmates, parents and friends to the school's 40th commencement ceremony. At right, Mason Catt, senior speaker, in a speech titled 'The Promise,' reminds students of that day in kindergarten when they all realized, 'Hey, that's the letter A' in the alphabet.

### Community BBQ 11:00A-3:00P

July 15 - Lk Sam. St Pk\*  
July 16 - Lk Boren Pk\*  
July 17 - Newcastle Beach  
July 18 - Lakemont Pk

**FREE...**

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## Newcastle Street Fair

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# class of 2009

*Safeco Field June 9, 2009*

*Photos by Adam Eschbach*



Krystle Carlson, with diploma in hand, steps down from the stage.



Above, exhilarated, excited and pumped describe some emotions Liberty High School seniors were feeling. Below, Cory Volk plays the keyboard to the song 'Still Fighting On,' by Ben Folds.



Zachary Ishimitsu raises his arms in excitement as he receives his diploma.



Scott Canaga kisses his girlfriend Amanda Moody before the graduation ceremony.



Liberty High School senior Donald Chromy gives hugs to family outside Safeco Field after graduation.



Christine Carlson sports a different kind of shades with Daniel Wekell hovering behind.



Above, senior officer speakers share the stage, bringing humor and seriousness with speeches directed toward the Liberty class of 2009. Below, John Kirksey pumps his fist from the sea of caps and gowns.



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Events

**A Newcastle Trails board** meeting will be held from 7-9 p.m. July 6 in the private dining room at Regency Newcastle, 7454 Newcastle Golf Club Road. Go to [www.newcastletrails.org](http://www.newcastletrails.org).

**Drinking Liberally**, featuring guest speaker State Sen. Fred Jarrett, is at 7 p.m. July 6 at the meeting of an informal progressive social group that discusses politics the first Monday of the month at the Mustard Seed Grill and Pub, 5608 119th Ave. S.E. Go to [www.drinkingliberally.org](http://www.drinkingliberally.org).

**The Newcastle Weed Warriors** will be removing tansy from the Highlands Trail at Southeast 91st Street from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. p.m. July 7. Go to [newcastleweedwarriors.org](http://newcastleweedwarriors.org).

**The Chamber of Commerce hosts a lunch meeting** from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., July 8 at Tapatio Mexican Grill, 6920 Coal Creek Parkway S.E. King County Councilman Reagan Dunn is the featured speaker. Cost is \$20. RSVP by calling 206-719-8122.

**National Night Out**, hosted by the Hazelwood Community Association, is from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at Donegal Park, 7319 125th Ave. S.E. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own food and beverages. A barbecue will be available to grill food.

**The Reserve at Newcastle hosts a block party on National Night Out** beginning at 7 p.m. Aug. 4 at the end of the 150th Place Southeast cul-de-sac.

Youth

The following events take

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



By Benjamin Drummond

The Senate, a Seattle rock band, will perform July 22 at Lake Boren Park.

Concerts in the Park series kicks off July 8

The six-week, free Concerts in the Park series at Lake Boren Park begins July 8 with Seattle rock band HiWatt.

The Tacoma based Cody Rentas Band, which performs July 15, is led by a 16-year-old electric guitar prodigy.

The Senate, which opened for the rock band Everclear in 2007 and placed first at Washington State University's Battle of the Bands competition in 2007, performs July 22.

Concerts in the Park favorite Timeless Soul returns with Motown favorites July 29.

Kirkland classic rockers Black Velvet 4 performs Aug. 5.

The concert series concludes Aug. 12 with Idol Eyez, a Seattle band that plays cover versions of pop, rock and disco hits from the past 40 years.

Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

place at the Lake Heights Family YMCA, 12635 S.E. 56th St. Call 644-8417 or go to [www.lakeheightsymca.org](http://www.lakeheightsymca.org).

□ Basketball clinic registration is under way for children ages 6-12 and youths ages 13-17. The clinic includes four sessions from Aug. 2 to Nov. 22. Cost is \$90 with current membership for 6- to 12-year-olds, and \$110 for ages 13-17.

□ Kids Gym, an interactive class for ages 3-5, offers a variety of group games, including an obstacle course and tumbling

exercises. Courses are from 11:15 a.m. – noon Mondays and from 4:15-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Cost is \$30 with current membership.

□ Registration is now open for all summer programs, including day camp, specialty programs, Explorers and sports camps.

Clubs

**The Society of Artists for Newcastle**, an art organization, is seeking new members. Call 271-5822.

July		2009	
		1	2
5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29

August		2009	
			1
2	3	4	5
9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26

**MOMS Club of Renton** meets for play dates at parks and other locations. New activities

are planned daily. This nonprof-

See **CALENDAR**, Page 21

Bring in the Summer!

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NEW! SUMMER NIGHTS  
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Moonlight Movies are now at The Golf Club at Newcastle!

Beginning this July, The Golf Club at Newcastle will host moonlight movies on the 18th hole of Coal Creek. Bring the entire family and enjoy movies on the big screen with the Pacific Northwest nightscape as your backdrop.

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## Calendar

From Page 20

it, 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 255-0895.

**Newcastle Rotary Club** meets at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays at The Golf Club at Newcastle, 15550 Six Penny Lane. Call 206-947-5741 or go to [www.newcastle Rotary.us](http://www.newcastle Rotary.us).

**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 Bahai Faith of Newcastle, is at 6:30 p.m. the third Friday. Call 430-8047.

**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).

**Hill'n Dale Garden Club**, meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month September through June at the Newport Way Library, 14250 S.E. Newport Way. Call 255-9705

### 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 from noon - 3 p.m. Wednesdays. Sack lunches are available for \$3. Reserve one in person early that day. Call 644-8417.

### Library events

**The following events** are at the Newport Way Library, 14250 S.E. Newport Way, Bellevue, unless otherwise noted:

□ Newport Way Book Group will present the movie based on the book "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini, at 6:30 p.m. July 20.

□ Create your own bookish beast. Learn to draw and paint monsters from books and myths, for ages 8 and older, at 1 p.m., July 25. Registration is required by July 11.

□ Los Nietos del Son presents Latin American stories, music, history, shadow puppets and costumes at 7 p.m. July 29.

### 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](http://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, have their own transportation 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](http://www.metrokc.gov/parks).

### City honored for budget presentation

The city's Finance Department has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

The city met nationally recognized guidelines for its 2009 budget.

The guidelines are designed to assess how well the city budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

This is the first time the city received the recognition. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

### City hosts July 4th fireworks celebration

The city of Newcastle welcomes Valley Medical Center as grand presenter for its Fourth of July celebration.

Independence Day festivities kick off at 6 p.m. at Lake Boren Park with family activities and food from Big O's barbecue. From 8-10 p.m., the band AstroCats will perform

on the main stage, followed by a spectacular 20-minute fireworks display. The show is set to a score crafted by David Harris, of HTS Audio, which can be heard throughout the park.

The event is free to the public and a shuttle service from Newcastle Elementary School, 8400 136th Ave. S.E., will be available.

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**Sarah Lowes (No. 8)**, of Newcastle, a water polo player for Castaway Polo Athletic team, in action during the state championship match against Mercer Island High School.

## Liberty athletes lead Castaway Polo team to girls state title

Two Newcastle athletes were members of the Castaway Polo Athletic team that won the state water polo title last month with a 10-7 win against Mercer Island High School.

Mackenzie Maynes and Sarah Lowes both scored goals and had assists in the May 15 championship match against Mercer Island.

Castaway Polo Athletic surged to an 8-2 lead before the half and held off a late surge by the Islanders to capture the title.

Maynes, a senior at Liberty High School, will attend Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on an athletic scholarship to play water polo. Lowes is a junior at Liberty.

The victory capped an undefeated season, which was remarkable considering the squad had only seven members.

Water polo is the oldest con-

tinuous Olympic team sport. The playing team consists of six field players and one goalkeeper. So, any injuries or illnesses would have forced a forfeit, because matches require seven players.

Castaway Polo Athletic trains at the Edgebrook Club, near Tyee Junior High School in Bellevue. The team is made up of players from high schools that do not have water polo. The squad has players from Liberty, Sammamish, Eastside Catholic and Holy Names high schools.

Maynes and Lowes were also members of Liberty's swim team last season.

The team is scheduled to participate in the U.S. Club Water Polo championships July 10-12 in Santa Barbara, Calif., and the water polo girls Junior Olympics July 30-Aug. 2 at San Jose, Calif.

## Racer nets \$250,000 for children's hospital at 24 Hours of Le Mans

By Jim Feehan

Don Kitch Jr., of Newcastle, has seen a lot in his 30 years of racing, including a dozen years competing at the 24 Hours of Daytona. But he's quick to point out that his racing at last month's 24 Hours of Le Mans is the pinnacle of his career.

"In racing, this was certainly my biggest challenge," he said. "The history of the race and the quality of the drivers you're sharing the asphalt with was unparalleled."

Kitch was joined by drivers Joe Foster, of Atlanta, and Patrick Dempsey, of TV's "Grey's Anatomy," as part of Team Seattle. The team raced a full day and night on an 8.5-mile course near Le Mans, France, June 13-14.

In the past 12 years, Team Seattle has raised more than \$3.2 million for the Infant Cardiac Care Unit at Seattle Children's Hospital. Team Seattle raised \$250,000 for Seattle's Children Hospital at Le Mans, Kitch said.

"That's a pretty good amount, given the worldwide economic downturn and we still have money pouring in," he said.

"We're thrilled by the efforts of Don and Team Seattle in France," said Aileen Kelly, executive director of Seattle Children's Hospital Guild Association. "They have given Children's Hospital increased exposure and they have shown the international racing community what can be done for charity."

To raise money, the team sold space on the team's Ferrari 430 GTs.

In April, Kitch, Dempsey and Foster were able to test their Ferrari on a small section of the course known as the Bugati Circuit.



Contributed

**Team Seattle members (from left) Joe Foster, Patrick Dempsey and Newcastle's Don Kitch Jr.** watch as another team's car goes through technical inspection leading up to last month's 24 Hours of Le Mans. The team raised \$250,000 for the Infant Cardiac Care Unit at Seattle's Children's Hospital.

Team Seattle finished ninth in the GT2 classification, and 30th overall after starting 54th in the field.

"The speeds are absolutely incredible," Kitch said. "You can have no one around you and all of the sudden, two cars are coming up behind you and they don't hesitate to overtake you."

Members of Team Seattle, their families and supporters lodged at two chateaus about 10 minutes from the course.

"To have my wife, Donna, and our 7-year-old daughter, Sienna, there meant the world to me," Kitch said. "Those are memories I will never forget."

Less than a month after completing the race, Kitch is looking to return to Le Mans in 2010.

Kitch was also effusive in praise of Dempsey's driving.

"He was brilliant," Kitch said. "In my 30 years of racing, I've run across a lot of celebrity race car drivers and he's right up there with Paul Newman and Steve McQueen."

"He doesn't come to the race and parade around in his driver's suit," he added. "He comes to compete, and he's totally committed to racing and he loves the charitable activity of Children's Hospital."

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## Andrey Levkiv wins state shot put title

The third time was the charm for senior thrower Andrey Levkiv, of Hazen High School. Levkiv won the 3A state title in the shot put with a distance of 59 feet, 1 1/2 inches. Teammate Courtney Sanders placed third in the shot put, at 54 feet, 3 1/2 inches.

Levkiv, who signed a national letter of intent to participate in track for the University of Idaho, placed second at the state meet last year as a junior and was third his sophomore year.

The Hazen boys track team placed eighth at the state track meet at Mount Tahoma High School in Tacoma with 27 points. Senior Jeff Hinkley placed second in the pole vault, with a height of 14 feet, 6 inches.

## Newcastle 5K run/walk registration under way

Registration is under way for a 5-kilometer run and walk through the streets of Newcastle Aug. 29. The event starts at 9 a.m.

The run will start and finish at Lake Boren Park. The route is a mix of wide trails and paved roads. More than half of the route includes May Creek and Lake Boren parks.

The cost is \$25 per person, or \$20 each for a team of four. Race day registration is \$30 per person, or \$25 each for a team of four.

The nonprofit Newcastle Running Club, in conjunction with the city, operates the event. Profits will be used to fund future Newcastle runs, as well as a donation to the Hazen High School cross country and track programs.

Register at [www.newcastle5k.com](http://www.newcastle5k.com).

## Hazen, Liberty baseball coaches, players honored

Hazen High School's Gary Jacobs earned Seamount coach of the year honors while Liberty High School's Steve Darnell was named coach of the year in the KingCo 3A/2A conference.

Liberty shortstop Eric Peterson was named player of the year in the KingCo 3A/2A conference.

Hazen second baseman John Wall was a first-team All-Seamount selection, while catcher Kyle Nation and third baseman Kevin Schwab earned second-team honors. Outfielder Anthony Pina and utility player Brenden Campbell made the honorable mention list.

Liberty pitcher John McLeod and second baseman Troy Colyer made first-team All KingCo. Third baseman Nick Hart and outfielder Troy Askins were named to the second team. Catcher Cameron Talley, outfielder Eric Etter and pitchers Keegan Bennett, Dan Eck and

Conner Sjolander made the honorable mention list.

## Patriots hire new boys basketball coach

Liberty High School has hired Jevon Green as its new head boys basketball coach. Green replaces Steve Billanko, who left Liberty to become head coach at Seattle's Bishop Blanchet High School.

Green has worked as varsity assistant coach at Lakes High School in Lakewood and junior varsity coach at Seattle's Cleveland High School.

He is a 1994 graduate of

Seattle's Nathan Hale. He led the team to the 3A state tournament that year, and set a tournament record by hitting nine 3-point field goals against O'Dea.

"Jevon's basketball experience and knowledge are extensive," Liberty athletic director Stark Porter said. "We're excited what he can do for our program."

## Patriots named to All-State prep baseball team

Liberty High School's Eric Peterson, a senior infielder, was selected as the 3A co-player of the year as named by the Washington State Baseball

Coaches Association.

He shared the honor with Eastside Catholic High School's Matt Boyd, a senior pitcher.

Peterson, who has a scholarship to the University of Washington, was the 3A/2A KingCo Conference player of the year. He led the Patriots to the league championship and a berth in the state playoffs. Peterson was also selected in the 28th round of Major League Baseball Draft last month.

Liberty's Troy Colyer, of Newcastle, a junior pitcher and infielder, was named to the second team.

## Seahawks fans can watch training camp this season

The Seahawks' training camp will be open to the public next month.

Fans interested in attending training camp practices at the team's new headquarters in Renton must register at the team's official Web site, [www.seahawks.com](http://www.seahawks.com), beginning July 16. The open practice sessions begin Aug. 3 and conclude Aug. 20.

The new headquarters along Lake Washington is located about a quarter-mile from the Newcastle city limits, off 44th Street.



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## Stolen license plate

The front license plate of a 2003 Dodge Stratus was stolen from the 11200 block of Southeast 74th Street between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 11. The estimated loss is \$25.

## Recovered license plates

Community work crew members with the King County Jail found two license plates while they participated in a litter cleanup at Southeast 73rd Street and 112th Avenue Southeast June 13. Newcastle police tracked the plates to two thefts in Renton.

## Extra charges

A woman in the 11900 block of Southeast 92nd Street found fraudulent charges made to her Chase Credit Card between April and May. She reported the charges to police June 13. The person who made the charges used credit card checks, which the woman said she believed had been taken from her mailbox. Three charges, totaling \$11,000, were made. Only one, in the amount of \$375, was cleared

by the bank. The woman has since closed her account.

## Assault

A 16-year-old male student at Renton Academy, 7100 116th Ave. S.E., was arrested for fourth-degree assault and vandalism at 1 p.m. June 15. The student became angry during a noon class when another person wasn't paying enough attention to him. When school officials tried to calm him down, he damaged a paper graduation banner, broke a glass jar, damaged a pencil sharpener, threw books off a bookshelf and broke a USB card and computer converter. He also pushed the school principal.

## Egg blast

Three cars were vandalized in the 8200 block of 154th Avenue Southeast. The owner of the cars said eggs had been thrown at them at 12:01 a.m. June 17. A 1989 BMW 325i, a 2002 Volvo S70 and a 2008 Scion XB were damaged. The man told police he believed a group of juvenile males may have thrown the eggs in retaliation for him stopping to speak to them about

their driving habits through the neighborhood earlier in the week. The estimated loss was not available.

## Illegal burning

A forklift operator at Mutual Materials, Coal Creek Parkway Southeast, reported he was making security rounds at about 8:10 p.m. June 19 when he found two small burn piles in the "grog" yard, where defective bricks are stored. The piles seemed to have had books in them that were still smoldering. The man told police that students, after school is through for the year, often use a trail from the golf course to enter the property, have fires and drink. No estimated losses were reported.

## Graffiti

The outside wall of the Newcastle QFC, 6940 Coal Creek Parkway, was spray-painted with the words "Cool," "BTH," "F—the Police" and "Boner" between 5 p.m. June 20 and noon June 22. The person who spray-painted the words is using similar tag words as another individual who was arrested in an earlier investi-

## Two neighborhoods targeted for weekend spree of car break-ins

In the early morning hours of June 27-28, a suspect entered the Dorchester and Pleasant Cove neighborhoods and stole several valuable items from vehicles.

The person rode into the neighborhoods on his or her bicycle and looked in several windows of vehicles, but only broke into some. The areas affected included Southeast 78th, 80th and 82nd streets, as well as 117th, 118th, 120th and 121st avenues southeast.

One resident's video system caught a prowler on tape and police are waiting for the security company to download the images.

The prowler entered the neighborhood in the early morning hours on a bicycle, looked through the windows of all of the vehicles, but only broke into some.

Police encourage residents to always remove valuables from their vehicle, including GPS units.

gation. Police are investigating whether the incidents are connected.

## No family jewels for you

Two male suspects dressed in hooded sweatshirts rode up on their BMX-looking bicycles to a window at Newcastle Jewelers, 6931 Coal Creek Parkway S.E., and threw a brick through it. When they went to take the

jewelry out of the case, they discovered the brick hadn't damaged the second windowpane and fled. The estimated loss is \$1,000.

## Smashing windows

When school officials arrived at Liberty High School, 16655 S.E. 136th St., at 6 a.m. June 22 they discovered five classroom windows had been smashed with a black pipe. Nothing inside the room had been disturbed. The estimated loss is \$1,000.

## City's blog site is honored

As part of its 2009 Municipal Excellence Awards, the Association of Washington Cities recently presented the city of Newcastle with its Community Service Award.

The award honors the addition of blogging updates, Newcastle 411, to the city's Web site.

## Julie & Ben Sell Newcastle!



### 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.



### Privacy in Parterra \$300,000

Enjoy the private setting from this open & bright 28/28 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!



### Walker's Run Opportunity \$138,000

This top floor 1 bedroom condo offers a beautiful territorial view. Valuted ceilings enhance the feel of the living area. You'll love the clubhouse and swimming pool. Centrally located in downtown Newcastle across the street from Lake Boren park.



### Luxury in the Reserve \$1,650,000

From the moment you walk in the door of this custom built home you'll know you're in for a treat. Large but homey, you'll love all the spaces including a master on the main, 3 additional beds/office/media/bonus room. Perfect combo of cul de sac, golf course and privacy.

## Concerts in the Park

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm



### 4th of July at Lake Boren Park

8pm - Astro Cats  
10 pm - Fireworks

July 8 - HiWatt

July 13 - Cody Rentas Band

July 22 - The Senate

July 29 - Timeless Soul

Aug 5 - Black Velvet 4

Aug 12 - Idol Eyes

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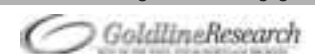
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