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Feds bust identity theft ring

*Ringleader used
Newcastle p.o.
box for fraud*

By Jim Feehan

A Renton man using a Newcastle address was the ringleader behind an identity theft ring that sold computers bought with credit cards stolen from gym locker rooms in Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Georgia, federal prosecu-

tors said in charging documents.

Gabriel Jang, 36, along with an associate, Billy Britt, 35, of Seattle, were charged last month in U.S. District Court on charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Wire fraud is punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Aggravated identity theft is punishable by a mandatory minimum two years in prison to run consecutive to the sentence imposed on any other conviction.

Investigators allege Jang took in more than \$3 million since 2001 by selling merchandise on

the Internet auction site eBay. Jang used an e-mail address registered to a business with a Newcastle post office box number to communicate with customers and co-conspirators, according to a 40-page federal complaint. Prosecutors said Jang had associates who would steal credit cards from gym locker rooms.

The suspects then altered the cards and made fake identification cards.

Many of the items were "high-end computers and cameras," including Apple laptops,

See **ID THEFT**, Page 2



By Jim Feehan

Tim Lincecum holds his San Francisco Giants baseball card at a recent autograph session at DJ's Sports cards shop in Renton.

Liberty grad Tim Lincecum wins Cy Young pitching award

By Jim Feehan

Tim Lincecum, a 2003 Liberty High School graduate, was named the National League Cy Young award winner Nov. 11.

In his first full major league season with the San Francisco Giants, Lincecum, 24, went 18-5 with an earned-run average of 2.62 and a major-league leading 265 strikeouts in 227 innings.

Lincecum handily won baseball's top pitching honor. Of the 32 ballots submitted by two writers in each league city, Lincecum received 23 first-place votes (for 137 points), seven seconds and one third. Arizona's Brandon Webb, the 2006 winner, finished second with four first-place votes (for 73 points), 15 seconds and eight thirds.

During a news conference at AT&T Park, Lincecum said he was surprised he won by such a large margin.

"I figured it would be a lot closer race than it was especially with the tough competition out there," he said. "I thought Webb, (Johan) Santana or perhaps C.C. (Sabathia) had it. My reaction was, 'Woohoo!'"

He thanked the Giants' owners, fans and the baseball beat

See **CY YOUNG**, Page 6

Christmas lights usher in the holidays as they illuminate the roofline and are reflected in the wet driveway Dec. 1 in front of the main clubhouse at The Golf Club at Newcastle.

By Greg Farrar



Council approves city budget

By Jim Feehan

The City Council has approved a \$38.4 million budget operating and capital for 2009. Proponents said the budget was fiscally prudent; opponents said the budget could have been trimmed more and the city should not have dipped into its reserve fund.

The Dec. 2 vote was 4-3. Mayor Ben Varon, Deputy Mayor Dan Hubbell, Sonny Putter and Jean Garber voted yes. Steve Buri, Lisa Jensen and Carol Simpson voted no.

A building department employee was laid off and an unfilled position for deputy city clerk will go unfilled.

On Nov. 25, the council approved cutting the city subsidy for community events in half, to \$30,000. It also approved combining two elections into one, saving \$12,000. When cities or other taxing districts hold an election, King County Elections charges them.

A downturn in development-related revenue resulted in a shortfall for the city.

Permits for new houses and

other land-use applications have declined, as well as sales-tax revenue from new-home construction and sales. The operating budget relies on development-related income, property tax and sales tax revenue.

The council also agreed to review salary and compensation in the first few months of 2009.

Putter said not everyone gets the budget they want.

"I can live with this budget," he said.

"We've reduced the budget by 10 to 11 percent. Try doing

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

Maxwell edges Litzow in 41st District House race

Jarrett wins Senate race

By Jim Feehan

The Obama tsunami swept over Newcastle, the eastern shores of Lake Washington and Mercer Island, as Democrats won election in both contested legislative races in the 41st District.

Democrat Fred Jarrett easily won the State Senate race against Republican Bob Baker. Jarrett, a four-term State House member and former Mercer Island city councilman, had about 59 percent of the vote.

"I'm astonished by the margin of victory," Jarrett said. "I'm gratified by the election results and I'm looking forward to representing the 41st District in the senate."

In one of the most closely observed House races in the state, Democrat Marcie Maxwell, a Realtor and Renton School Board member, won with about 51 percent of the vote over Republican Steve Litzow, a technology entrepreneur and a Mercer Island City Councilman. In the final tally, Maxwell won by 745 votes.

"I'm looking forward to going to Olympia and repre-

senting the residents of the 41st District," she said.

Litzow thanked his supporters and said he enjoyed running for the seat.

"I am looking forward to serving on the Mercer Island City Council and working with Fred, Marcie and Judy (Clibborn) on education and transportation issues," he said.

Through Oct. 28, Litzow raised \$273,000 to Marcie Maxwell's \$205,000. The two were vying for the House seat held by Jarrett, who opted to run for the Senate after incumbent Democrat Brian Weinstein announced earlier this year he would not seek re-election.

Clibborn, a Democrat from Mercer Island, was running unopposed in the district's other House race.

In a judicial race involving a Newcastle resident, Holly Hill defeated Julia Garratt, a Newcastle lawyer, in the King County Superior Court Position 22 race. Hill had about 53 percent of the vote.

The 41st District covers west Issaquah, Newcastle, Mercer Island, south Bellevue, the Renton Highlands and parts of unincorporated King County.

Final results of the Nov. 4 election

41st Legislative District Senate

☐ Fred Jarrett (D)
38,327 — 59.42 percent
☐ Bob Baker (R)
26,092 — 40.45 percent

Position 1

☐ Marcie Maxwell (D)
32,571 — 50.51 percent
☐ Steve Litzow (R)
31,823 — 49.35 percent

Position 2

☐ Judy Clibborn (D)
47,078 — 96.63 percent

King County Superior Court, Position 22

☐ Holly Hill
340,785 — 53.38 percent
☐ Julia Garratt
294,409 — 46.12 percent

Source: King County Elections Department

About 85 percent of the 86,171 registered voters in the district cast ballots in the election.

The Legislature convenes Jan. 12.

ID theft

From Page 1

that were sold for thousands of dollars — but just under retail prices — on eBay by Jang as "overstock."

Many of those items were posted for sale on eBay within days of the cards being stolen, detectives said.

Thousands of people who bought electronics from Jang's company, Nexus Systems Inc., have been notified that they will have to return their purchases.

In the meantime, a Best Buy store investigator had become suspicious of a rewards card and opened his own investigation. By watching eBay, he was able to track items purchased using the fraudulent rewards card to identical items being sold just days — and sometimes hours — later on eBay by a broker named "Nexusi," an identification registered to Jang, according to the charges.

A financial investigation showed that \$2 million from the sale of electronic goods had passed through a PayPal account used by Jang since 2004, and another \$1.3 million into a checking account traced to Jang.

A Seattle police detective, assigned to a U.S. Secret Service-led task force, was able to track the thieves and tie the credit-card thefts to the purchases through an e-mail address that was linked to a Best Buy Rewards card that had been used hundreds of times.

Rewards cards provide loyal customers with special deals and other incentives for buying at the store. Britt had drawn suspicion to his card because it had been used more than 125 times using 77 different credit cards for purchases of more than \$250,000, according to the charges.

The case opened in October 2007 when another Seattle detective, investigating a credit-card theft from a Seattle gym, contacted police after learning that the rewards card had been presented when the stolen cards were used at a Best Buy store.

The detective was able to find the person whose name it was registered in. That individual said he had never opened a Best Buy account, but that his credit cards had been stolen from a Bellevue gym several years earlier and used at Best Buy before he could cancel them, according to the complaint.

Police were able to track the e-mail address on that card to Britt, and began following him, the complaint said.

In January 2002, Jang was arrested in Colorado and found in possession of two Sears gift cards purchased in Colorado Springs using a stolen Visa credit card. On Feb. 24, 2003, Jang pleaded guilty to possession of stolen property in King County Superior Court. He was sentenced to 20 days community service and 12 months of probation.

Jang and Britt had a preliminary hearing scheduled for Dec. 4 in U.S. District Court.

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City prepares winter plan

By Jim Feehan

Preparing for winter in the Northwest is a crapshoot at best. Some years, the winters are mild and uneventful, while others (such as two years ago) include ferocious windstorms and snow.

As a result of the December 2006 windstorm, the city purchased a generator for City Hall. During a storm and subsequent power outage, the plan is to use City Hall as an emergency warming center.

New this year, city workers will apply a deicing compound on streets, said Doug Alder, city spokesman.

"The trick with the deicer is that it has to be applied before the roads are wet," he said. "So, we monitor the weather report and apply it before it gets wet. If it has already snowed, the deicing won't help."

The Public Works Department recently updated its snow and ice priority route map. Streets in Newcastle have been assigned numbers, from one to four. Because some weather events may prevent crews from keeping roads at the preferred level of service, in many cases crews will focus on main arterials and then turn their focus to the remaining priority routes. Once the priority routes are clear, side roads may then receive attention, Alder said.

"Our main focus is Coal Creek Parkway and Newcastle Way and we'll branch out from there," Alder said. "Certainly, the major roads will be cleared first. And if it's snowing heavily, crews may have to come back again."

Also new this year, the city

has a plow to place on its maintenance trucks. In the past, the city relied on utility crews from Coal Creek Utility District for snow removal, Alder said.

"We'll have crews working 'round the clock to clear the streets," he said.

For many Newcastle residents, the winter of 2006-07 will not be soon be forgotten. A one-two punch of heavy rains and gale force winds left thousands of Newcastle residents without power as trees toppled transmission lines during a record-setting storm Dec. 14-15. The city was plunged into darkness as bone-chilling temperatures followed the storm.

Fallen trees and downed power lines shut down roads, leading to circuitous detours and long delays. High winds toppled a large cottonwood, blocking Coal Creek Parkway, near the Newcastle-Renton border. Downed power lines in other parts of the city created hazards. Power was restored to most of Newcastle by Christmas Eve that year.

The following month, the city was hit with a crippling snowstorm that caused a slippery commute, snarling rush-hour traffic. Motorists sledged on streets transformed into ice rinks by snow. Dozens of abandoned vehicles littered Coal Creek Parkway and other streets.

Lessons learned from the storm helped city officials better prepare for winters to come, Alder said.

"This year, obviously with the generator, we have tons of food and supplies for the warming center," he said. "We're good on that end. We're totally prepared."

Men sentenced for running brothel in city

Two men have been sentenced in federal court for their roles in operating roving brothels in Newcastle, Renton and Bellevue.

Yin Hoo Yap, 34, of Malaysia, was sentenced to 27 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Yap's employee, Kou Chwung Liu, 53, of China, receive a one-year sentence and three years' supervised release.

Both pleaded guilty in July to conspiracy to transport individuals in furtherance of prostitution. Both men were in the U.S. illegally and will be deported after serving their sentences, prosecutors said. As part of a plea agreement, Yap forfeited more than \$50,000 and a 2004 Lexus sport utility vehicle.

Yap operated brothels in the Seattle area for the past three years. At any time, two or three Asian women worked at them. The women would travel from various cities across the U.S. to work at the brothels for 10 days, then move to brothels in other cities.

Yap employed Liu to live at the brothel, greet customers and transport the prostitutes. More than 100 prostitutes were employed at Yap's brothels.

"The defendants in this case not only exploited women for personal profit, they operated one of the brothels in a residential neighborhood within walking distance of an elementary school," said Leigh Winchell,

special agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations in Seattle.

One of the brothels was a few blocks away from Sierra Heights Elementary School, about a half-mile south of Newcastle in Renton.

On June 9, immigration agents and the Washington State Patrol raided a brothel in a rental house in the 9200 block of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast, at the entrance of the Highlands subdivision in Newcastle. The men also operated brothels at a Renton house on Northeast 27th Street and a house on 134th Avenue Northeast in Bellevue.

Budget

From Page 1

that in your personal budget," Hubbell said. "We're going to find ways to save money. We've done a tremendous job

at reeling it in from where we were six months ago."

Simpson said city officials could have found more efficiencies. She said dipping into the reserve fund is not prudent, given the downturn in the economy.

"We also need more accountability and transparency about how we're spending

money," she said.

Former City Councilman Gordon Bisset said he was disappointed. He agreed that dipping into the reserve fund during a recession was not a sound move.

"In these times, it's hard to believe you're having an 8 percent salary increase. This is just unbelievable," he said.

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Editorial

City communications are better than ever

Earlier this year, the Newcastle City Council took its show on the road to Hazelwood and Newcastle elementary schools. The council and city staff wanted to reach out to residents who might not attend a council session at City Hall.

The meetings were informative and helpful to demystifying the operations of city government. They included an informative demonstration regarding the effects of drinking and driving and an emergency preparedness discussion. City staff provided a slideshow about the city's budget woes at the Newcastle Elementary session.

The budget process was a painful one with revenue projections down in 2009, but the council held three public hearings to give citizens a chance to be heard on proposed cuts. From our observations, the citizens were heard and some budget adjustments made accordingly. That's the way good representative government should work.

The city also receives high marks for its municipal Web site and thorough information about government operations, illuminating just how tax dollars are spent. To the uninformed, the material fills in some information gaps.

On the city's Web site, www.ci.newcastle.wa.us, go to the city records button in the index bar for a treasure trove of data, including City Council agendas, annual budgets since incorporation and minutes from meetings, ordinances and resolutions.

The site also includes information about obtaining building permits, pet licenses and the city's famous trail system. Under the public safety category, the site has information about Blockwatch, vacant house checks by the police and material about co-existing with wildlife in Newcastle. The site also has maps and a calendar listing of meeting times for the City Council and the Parks and Planning commissions.

Public participation is not just publishing agendas, it's also about communicating with citizens at the two Town Hall meetings at the elementary schools or meeting with neighborhood homeowners associations.

Transparency is becoming a prominent issue lately with citizens demanding more information from city government. Kudos to city officials for using all available communication resources to make Newcastle one of the most inclusive cities around.

Poll question

What will you do to save energy this winter?

- A. Install a programmable thermostat.
 - B. Turn down the heat and put on a sweater.
 - C. Buy more energy-saving light bulbs.
 - D. The heck with saving money, I want to be warm.
- Go to www.newcastle-news.com to vote.

Letters to the editor

City should preserve trails system, buy more park land

By the time you read this, the Newcastle budget may be decided. But the issues remain, and 2009 is an election year for the City Council.

Continuing citizen involvement may help us avoid the worst of all worlds: increased taxes, cuts in basic services and permanent deficiencies in parks, trails and open space. So far, pressure from citizens has kept the lid on taxes; but there's a parkway debt hanging over us, and a wish list of big-ticket projects (like a new City Hall). On a per-capita basis, we trail far behind Bellevue and Renton in basic services, in park acreage and in trail mileage. And parks and trails are poorly distributed: Some neighborhoods are well-served; others have been left out.

Newcastle is still a green city, with trails and open spaces, and their benefits: healthy recreation, pedestrian connections, wildlife, higher home values and quicker sales. But your local trail or woods may be temporary, on private land awaiting the next wave of development. If you go to the Newcastle Trails Web site — www.newcastletrails.org — you'll see dotted lines on the trail map — existing trails on private land, or trails not yet built. On the Open Space Project Web site — newcastleopenspace.blogspot.com — you'll find a discussion about open space.

Priority is key. We can keep Newcastle green by lobbying (or changing) city government to make preservation of trails and open space (including potential park land) top priority. Since Newcastle

was founded, it's been the reverse. We've spent millions developing Lake Boren Park, perhaps \$41,000 on trail construction citywide, and close to nothing on saving trail corridors and open space. When Dan Wilson offered a free trail easement, the city waited more than six years to sign the agreement. Low priority.

Meanwhile, other trails closed and open space disappeared.

Now is a good time to acquire land: Prices are falling; grants are available. We can always build things. But losing essential open space means a permanent deficit in parks and trails. Visit the Web sites above, join (no dues) and help keep Newcastle green.

Garry Kampen
Newcastle

Citizens with radar detectors is a recipe for disaster

Regarding the news that the city is arming volunteer citizens with radar detectors: This policy is a bad idea for the city. Setting neighbor against neighbor to rat on traffic violators is a recipe for disaster.

I can think of several scenarios where these citizens would be put in harm's way. For example, if someone is leaving the scene of a crime, they will be speeding.

If these criminals see someone writing down their license plate number, it's not a far stretch to imagine that harm may come to one or both of the citizens tagging speeders.

Can our city afford a lawsuit over this program

See **LETTERS**, Page 5

Talk of the Town

What do you think of the proposal to implement a 4 percent utility tax on electricity, natural gas and phones in Newcastle?



Dianne Schildt,
Newcastle

"I'm opposed to it. I'm retired and I don't want it."



Roger Paperno,
Newcastle

"I'm not opposed to it. I'd like to know what we're getting for our money."



Ron Tschetter,
Newcastle

"I'm opposed to it. People are maxed out to the hilt. This is not the time to do this."



Ron Schnell,
Arlington

"If it goes back into improvements to the infrastructure of the city, it's worthwhile."



Gordon Bisset,
Newcastle

"A utility tax by the city would not be justified. The utility tax is regressive and not dollar capped."

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Letters

From Page 4

because our leaders did not consider the possibility of negative consequences?

This program will foster ill will among neighbors. It will not build a stronger sense of community.

It will simply add bricks to the walls of division separating neighbor from neighbor and expose our small city to an inevitable lawsuit.

Let's leave police work to the professionals. And that includes information gathering for speeding hotspots.

*Jeff Skocelas
Newcastle*

Kudos for Liberty's Jazz Alley performance

We were fortunate to be in the audience recently for a magical evening of jazz when Liberty's music teacher, Phil Donley, organized performances by Liberty High School students in collaboration with students of Issaquah and Skyline high schools Nov. 3 at Seattle's Jazz Alley.

The work that went into this behind the scenes was obvious and impressive; the performance went off without a hitch. It was the best kind of collaborative event with the three high schools' musicians wowing the audience the entire evening.

We were impressed with how good the students were, which also reflects on their teachers. From the first few phrases of Liberty's first piece, we could tell they had every right to be on a nightclub stage in Seattle. To hear such energy, talent and style after only a few short months of playing together was downright wonderful.

Each school had its own distinctive sound, accomplished musicians and appropriate performance demeanor for this venue. Both of the other school's jazz band teachers complimented Donley from the stage for his hard work and initiative in organizing this event. Congratulations are also in order for the music teachers of Issaquah (Patrick Holen) and Skyline (David Pitt) for their students' fine performances.

As parents, we schlepped our kids to practices early and often to help them be ready for this big night. It's a reflection of the stu-

dents' dedication to Donley that he is able to demand and get their time and attention. We are grateful for Donley's commitment to the music program at Liberty, and his skill to pull something like this together and make it happen.

The musicians' family and friends packed the house on a typically quiet night, so Jazz Alley was also a winner. It was a good opportunity for all of our high school students to participate in something shared rather than the more typical competition. We hope to enjoy more collaborative events like this.

As proud Liberty parents, we tip our hats to Donley. Special thanks to him for providing such a wonderful opportunity for all of us.

*Linda and Mark Bergam
Newcastle*

State auditor finds city in compliance with all regulations

A report from the state auditor's office indicates the city is in compliance with all state and federal regulations.

The state office conducted its annual audit between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2007.

The city has had no negative findings from an audit since 1999, said Mindy Chambers, communications director for the Auditor's Office.

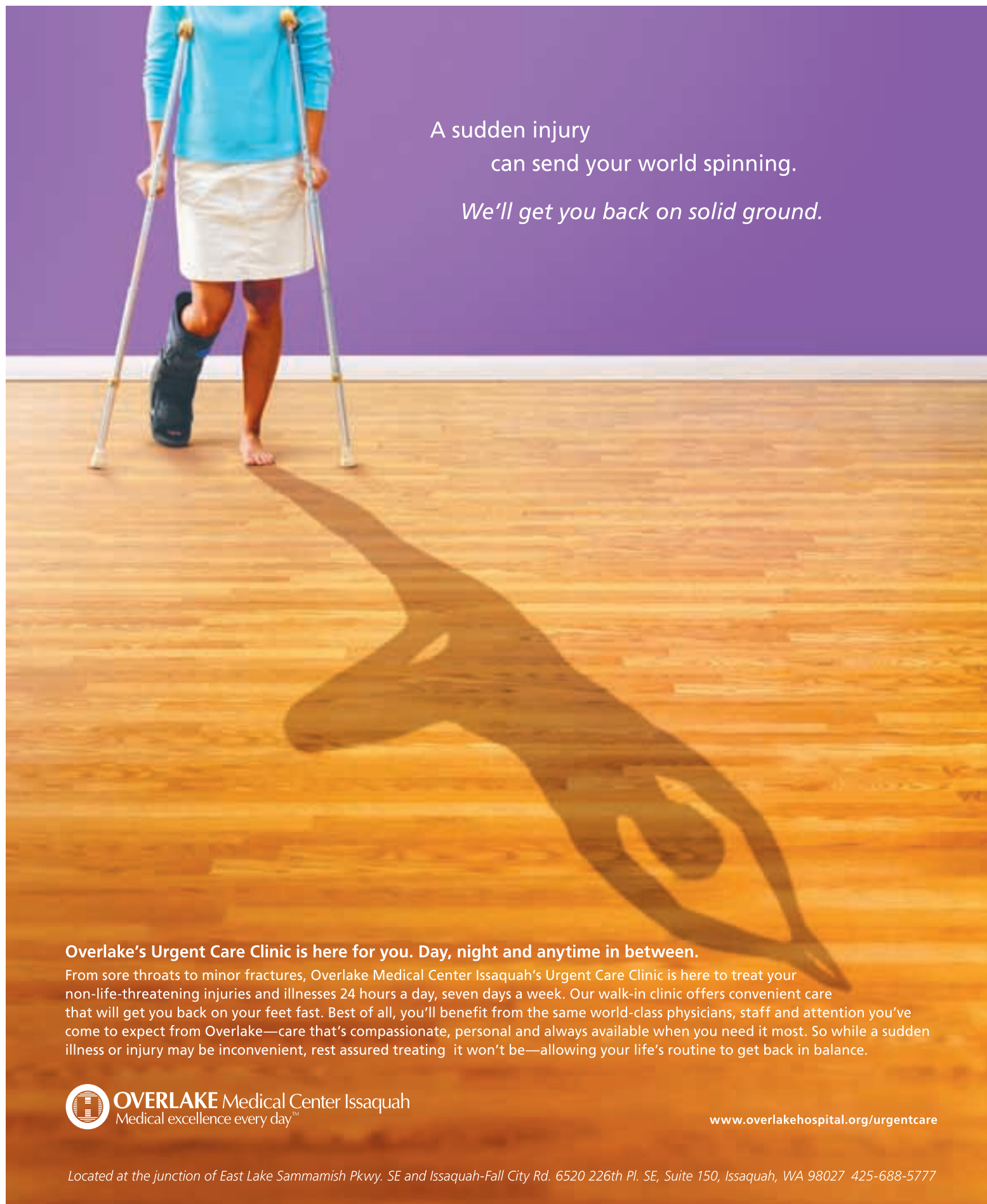
"That's a pretty good track record," she said.

The most recent audit reflects well on the city, City Manager John Starbard said.

"It speaks well of our staff and of our city," he said.

The audit measured general accountability and looked at the city's protection and safeguarding of public resources. Those included expenditures on cash receipting and revenues, payroll expenditures, and assessment of fines and damages. It also looked at the city's expenditures and protection of assets.

The 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, and budget compliance.




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Group advocates for more open spaces, park land

By Jim Feehan

A group dedicated to preserving open space, parks and trails in Newcastle said the city should purchase the School Woods property near Lake Boren Park.

Monica Erickson, of the Newcastle Open Space Project, said the city has the lowest parks acreage to resident ratio of any city in the area.

"We're well below the national average and the surrounding cities of Renton and Bellevue," she said, citing figures from the Trust for Public Lands.

The city has 4.7 acres of parks acreage per 1,000 residents, compared to Renton's 12.7 and Bellevue's 21.2.

"We need to obtain land somewhere and leave it as open space," she said.

A possible site could be the School Woods property, a 10-acre wooded tract near Lake Boren Park owned by the Renton School District, she said.

Last year, district officials said they would sell the property. But at a board meeting this summer, they said they would hold onto the property for a year or two, until the market improved. At that meeting, Renton School Board member David Merrill said Newcastle officials should buy the parcel for a park.

"I walk that area regularly," said Erickson, who lives in the Olympus neighborhood near School Woods. "Preserving open space for generations to come is my passion."



Contributed

Two bobcats play in the School Woods property near Lake Boren Park.

Bobcats, deer, coyotes, hawks, raccoons, squirrels and several species of birds have been spotted at School Woods, she said.

"The School Woods property is a vital connecting piece that serves as a corridor for animals traveling through the area," she said.

Troy Hopwood, also of the Newcastle Open Space Project, said he was surprised to find a lack of open space and park land in Newcastle.

"It's all privately owned and subject to the landowner's discretion," said Hopwood, a program manager at Microsoft.

As a young boy growing up in Bellevue's Somerset neighborhood, he enjoyed walking the trails through present-day Newcastle.

"If we lose these open spaces to developers, we'll never have them again," he said. "If you build houses, the houses are there forever. You never get the forest back."

Garry Kampen, president of Newcastle Trails, a nonprofit organization focused on preservation, expansion and maintenance of trails in the city, applauded the efforts of the Newcastle Open Space Project.

"Saving parks and trails is important to citizens of Newcastle," he said.

Erickson said the city is at a pivotal juncture in deciding its future.

"Would you rather have a city with more development and pavement? Or a city with sidewalks and trails?" she asked. "I'd rather be able to walk in the woods."

Cy Young

From Page 1

writers who voted him the Cy Young winner. He said he's still learning his craft. With an aw-shucks demeanor, he said he wants to keep his emotions in check and stay focused for the upcoming season.

"It's definitely an honor for me," Lincecum said of winning the coveted award for top pitcher in the National League.

He told reporters that winning the award was not a goal of his at the beginning of the season.

"That was the farthest thing from my mind," he said.

Lincecum is only the second athlete from the state to win either a Cy Young or league MVP honor. Hall of Fame Chicago Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg, from Spokane, won the National League MVP award in 1984.

Lincecum led the Patriots to the state baseball title his senior year before playing three seasons at the University of Washington, where he was an All-American in 2006. In three seasons with the Huskies, Lincecum set a Pac-10 record with 481 strikeouts. The Giants selected him with the 10th overall pick in the 2006 draft.

Last month, Lincecum won the Players Choice Award as the National League's outstanding pitcher, and was also named National League Pitcher of the Year by Sporting News.

Lincecum phoned his father Chris after he discovered he had won the Cy Young Award.

"At the time, I was in the world's largest building and the cell phone reception was not that great," said Chris Lincecum, who works as a parts expeditor at the Boeing plant in Everett.

"I'm happy for him," he said. "He worked hard and earned it."

Chris said he expected his son would win the Cy Young, but he was a little surprised that he won by such a large margin.

"Winning the Players Choice Award also meant a lot to Timmy, because it was voted on by his peers," he said.

Success hasn't spoiled the down-to-earth pitcher who is not that far removed from his roots. Last winter, he returned home to spend a few weeks visiting family and high school friends.

He also dropped by DJ's Sportcards to sign autographs. As a youngster at Apollo Elementary School, Lincecum said he couldn't wait for the final bell to ring so he could head over to the sports card shop to peruse the display cases and gaze at the posters of Ken Griffey Jr. and Barry Bonds.

"He's the local boy who made good," said Don Joss, owner of DJ's. "He's so young. I don't know how many more Cy Young Awards he's going to win."

Liberty High School teacher Brian Hartman was excited to hear the news.

"Tim worked really hard for this and the award is a reflection of the 20 years of hard work he and his father put in," said Hartman, an assistant coach for the Patriots' 2003 3A state championship team. "Tim overcame a lot of obstacles from people who said he wasn't big enough to make it as a baseball player."

Hartman said Lincecum was determined to succeed. On a bus ride back following a junior varsity game against Hazen High School, the players talked about what they were going to do for a living.

"I remember Tim saying, 'I'm going to pitch in the Major Leagues,'" Hartman recalled. "At the time, he was 14, weighed all of 105 pounds. I thought, at the time, he truly believed he could make it to the big leagues."

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Radar gun citizen patrol draws mixed reviews

By Jim Feehan

Cheryl Coupens found out firsthand the city does not have as many lead-footed motorists as she thought.

Last month, she participated in a demonstration of the city's Speed Watch program that trains residents to operate radar guns to detect speeding drivers in their neighborhood.

"I clocked two out of 30 cars exceeding the speed limit," said Coupens, who was monitoring traffic in the Highlands.

One of the most frequent requests to police and the city's Public Works Department is the need to address speeding along residential streets, said Newcastle Police Chief Melinda Irvine. Residents come to find that the culprits are usually their own neighbors, if they're speeding at all, Irvine said.

The initial training takes 15 minutes. Two people are needed

Radar rangers

To participate in the Speed Watch program, e-mail the Newcastle Police Department at police@ci.newcastle.wa.us or call 649-4444, ext. 120, to schedule a time to use a radar gun, which may be used for up to three days.

for a speed watch, one to clock speeds, read license plate numbers and describe vehicles, while the other person fills out forms.

Police locate the registered owner of the vehicle and send him or her a warning letter. Typically, letters are sent to those driving at least 5 miles per hour over the posted speed limit, Irvine said.

Coupens said she doesn't plan to participate in the program again anytime soon.

"In hindsight, I don't think

it's such a good idea," she said. "It's scary. It's pitting neighbor against neighbor."

The program has its critics. City Councilwoman Carol Simpson said the council did not vet the program.

"I felt it should have been a policy established by council before it was implemented," she said.

But Irvine said the Speed Watch program allows people in the community to partner with police on the speeding issue. The program makes drivers



Cheryl Coupens checks the speed of motorists in the Highlands neighborhood.

By KOMO-TV

aware of a neighborhood's concern about speeding.

"This gives us the opportunity to cover more area," she said.

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Newcastle Daze

Police need help catching drivers at more than just speeding

By Imelda Dulcich

While listening to the news one morning, I heard a couple of stations report that some of our fine Newcastle neighbors had volunteered to try out the Newcastle radar system* and had quite a few incidents of reported speeders. I don't think I am one of the 70 speeders spotted that weekend; I'm usually pretty good at keeping within the

speed limit (although I am guilty of speedy acceleration at lights).

Before I continue, it should be made clear that I am a big fan of police officers, and especially our Newcastle force. I wave to them as a sign of thanks whenever I see them. I do that with construction workers, too, although lately the workers on Coal Creek might think I'm stalking them as I go back and forth three or four times a day on that stretch of road.

I've been thinking about the new citizen volunteer radar program. Could we ask for a third volunteer to stand alongside of the other two? This is someone who could do another kind of monitoring of the driver, which might include incidental information: fashion police, for example. The report might read, "Warning: You were recently clocked at 10 miles over the speed limit, and it has to be said that your outfit on that day was really lame."

Or what about a report that

might include details such as "not only were you speeding, but we saw you and your sister bickering again." I'd appreciate one that would report that "Once again, your husband was driving too fast, and we thought you'd like to know that he was eating french fries as he drove home for dinner, over which you most likely slaved for hours."

I have limited involvement with police as far as traffic infractions. I received a ticket once, 25 years ago. I was on my way to work in my Volkswagen bug (so old that seatbelts had never been installed) and was hit by a truck. My head went through the window. As the police and firemen worked to load me into the ambulance, blood all over me, I was concerned what they might think of me.

"I want you to know I'm really an attractive girl." That impressed them all right. After following me to the hospital to give me a ticket for not yielding the right of way, my policeman

asked me out. I turned him down — the whole insult to injury thing.

My family has a little history, too. My sister Perpetua got stopped while driving from California to Oregon. The policeman looked at her license and asked her what color her eyes were. She batted her eyelashes and replied, "Oh, it really depends on what I am wearing." He gave her a ticket. My mother thinks it's really unfair when the policemen "hide" from her. For a little woman, she drives at a good clip. Both my brother Eamon (former police chief) and his wife (motorcycle police officer) have pulled her over.

I was pulled over once in Newcastle by our former police chief, Shawn Ledford, but that was more of a social visit. As I was talking to him, I noticed he had a big bruise on his face. He told me that he had been lifting weights and one dropped on his lip. I advised him to make up a story about how he got banged up, to save himself any further embarrassment.

Anywhoo, today I make a pledge that I will try my best to stay off the warning list from our Newcastle officers. I do want to respect them, as well as our neighbors, by not speeding or dressing badly — whichever offense comes first.

* Citizens can sign up to receive training for using a radar gun, and then work with another volunteer to keep track of speeders. They send the list to the police department, which will then send a warning letter to the owner of the car.

Keep the story going. Help us share the news about good people and good deeds in Newcastle. E-mail Newcastledaze@comcast.net.

City Councilwoman and chamber president named to board

City Councilwoman Carol Simpson and Linda Stemler, president of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, have been named to the Renton Technical College Foundation.

Simpson, a retired architect, was elected to the City Council in 2007. She has helped the YWCA with its annual benefit luncheons, and she volunteers at her church and for her local schools.

Stemler is the branch manager and assistant vice president for the Newcastle and Southcenter branches for HomeStreet Bank. She has worked at HomeStreet for four years. Prior to that, she managed bank or credit union branches for 18 years in Washington and Germany.

The Renton Technical College Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of professionals in the college service area. Members serve three-year terms.

Rainier Moving Systems receives honor

Rainier Moving Systems Inc., of Newcastle, an agent of the nationwide household goods carrier Mayflower Transit, was honored recently by the van line for exceptional professional performance.

The recognition was conferred during Mayflower's 2008 Convention, held in Palm Desert, Calif., with more than 400 Mayflower representatives in attendance. Rainier Moving received the Million Dollar Club Award, \$1 million level, recognizing the top Mayflower revenue producers in 2007.



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Top citizens honored at annual Diamond Awards

A pioneer, a tireless advocate for the Boy Scouts and a high school student who volunteers at a soup kitchen in Seattle were among the Diamond Award recipients announced Nov. 12.

Milt Swanson, born in Newcastle 90 years ago, retired from working in the coalmines in 1962. A founder of the Historical Society of Newcastle, the Newcastle resident has not missed an opportunity to educate city officials, citizens and school children about the coal mining days of the city. Swanson was bestowed the Senior Award.

He was honored for sharing his knowledge of Newcastle's history.

"Thank you, Mr. Swanson for keeping the vibrant history of our city alive," Nancy Carlstrom, past president of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, said.

Bill Burris, leader of the Newcastle Boy Scout troop, was bestowed the Mayor's Award.

"Bill gives of us time, not wanting the accolades that come with it," said Newcastle Mayor Ben Varon.

The Youth Award is presented to a Newcastle youth 18 or younger who demonstrates uncommon initiative and caring, setting an example for his peers.

Paul Williams, an 18-year-old student at Newport High School, received the Youth Award for volunteering at the soup kitchen at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Seattle. His aptitude for community service led him to volunteer to coach soccer at Newcastle Elementary School.

Two people were bestowed the Community Service Award — Peggy Price, who worked to

2008 Diamond Award nominees

Mayor's Award

Bill Burris

Business

Newcastle Fruit Stand

Youth

Paul Williams

Senior

Milt Swanson

Education

Michelle McKee

Suzi O'Brien

Kim Bales

Lynn Bissett

Jana Dalpez

Community Service

Darrell Van Amen

Suzi O'Byrne

Brent Wingerson

Tracy Haselman

Jules Maas

Peggy Price

John Jensen

complete the Terrace Trails for the Newcastle Trails Association, and John Jensen, who was instrumental in growing the chamber of commerce and for organizing candidate forums.

"Peggy has given over 800 hours to the Terrace Trail project, both in doing the work herself and in overseeing other trail volunteers," Stemler said. "Without her continued work — in rain, sun and everything in between — the Terrace Trail would not have been completed this year."

Jensen was lauded for his communication skills and for making certain all sides of an issue are represented at candidate forums.



By Jim Feehan

Diamond Award recipients are (back row, from left) Peggy Price, Jackie Maples, Damu Maples, Dave Franklin, Lynn Bissett; and (front row, from left) Paul Williams, John Jensen, Bill Burris, Jana Dalpez, Milt Swanson.

"This year, as in the one four years ago, he organized the candidate forum so that the residents could meet the political candidates and learn face-to-face what the issues were and where folks stood," Stemler said.

In his acceptance speech, Jensen thanked the original founders of the chamber.

"Jim Price, Giles Velte and

Brian Baird, they kept the chamber alive in the early years," Jensen said.

Lynn Bissett, a PTA member at Newcastle Elementary, and Jana Dalpez, an orchestra teacher at Maywood Middle School and Liberty High School, both won the Education Award.

Carlstrom presented the Senior and Education awards.

Bissett continues to be an inspiration to students, staff members and parents at the school, Carlstrom said.

"As a one-woman dynamo, Lynn is sure that everything that comes under her charge is pulled off without a hitch," she said. "Everyone at Newcastle Elementary feels very fortunate to have Lynn tirelessly donate her energy in support of all of their outstanding programs."

Dalpez was honored for her work at Maywood and Liberty.

"Jana Dalpez is the type of teacher that all parents want for their children," Carlstrom said. "As an instructor in orchestra, she has an unstoppable drive to improve the talents of her students."

The Business Award was bestowed to Dave Franklin, Jackie Maples and Damu Maples, the owners of Newcastle Fruit Stand.

"The fruit stand is such an asset to our community," Stemler said.

About 75 people attended the awards ceremony at the St. Andrews Ballroom of The Golf Club at Newcastle.

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Prince of the Patriots

Liberty High School juniors honor popular student at homecoming

By Jim Feehan

Kevin McCarthy is a prince of a young man.

In late October, his Liberty High School classmates elected him homecoming royalty for the junior class.

McCarthy, who lives in the China Creek neighborhood of Newcastle, outpolled two classmates to earn the title of homecoming prince. At Liberty, the senior class picks the homecoming king and queen among fellow seniors, while the junior class selects a prince and princess.

McCarthy was nominated a week earlier and he felt he had a good shot at wearing the crown. The 17-year-old special-needs student with Down syndrome captured the hearts of his fellow students with his positive attitude and unwavering kindness.

"When I was nominated, I just knew I was going to win," McCarthy said. "I was happy when my name was called."

Elated, he raised his arm in the air and gave a fist pump as the school assembly crowd roared in appreciation. Classmates gave him a send-off complete with all the pomp and circumstance fit for royalty,

right down to the red carpet.

A few weeks earlier, McCarthy asked Sarah Lowes, also of Newcastle, to the dance. Lowes, also a junior at Liberty, has been a friend of Kevin's since the two were second-graders at Apollo Elementary School.

"He's one of my best friends," Lowes said. "He makes me happy. Even when I'm upset, he puts a smile on my face."

Kevin's mother, Peggy McCarthy, said classmates have staunchly supported him.

"The school needs to be very proud," she said. "The acceptance and love these kids have for him, it's amazing."

Kevin's election as prince recognizes his many contributions to the high school, notably his endlessly cheery attitude and sociability.

"When classmates pass him in the hall, it's always, 'Hey Kevin, or hey, K-Dog,'" Peggy said.

A football coach his freshman year gave him the nickname "K-Dog" and it stuck.

For homecoming, Kevin and Sarah joined three other couples. A few hours before the dance began, they greeted Kevin with high-fives and gushed over his look: a black tuxedo, well-shined



By Greg Farrar

Kevin McCarthy (left), a Liberty High School football team manager, watches play from the sidelines for opportunities to provide players with water. Breanne Faehnrich and McCarthy (right), selected as homecoming royalty for the Liberty junior class, hit the dance floor.



By Mackenzie Maynes

shoes and hair combed neatly to the side. The girls teetered in heels, coiffed hair and sparkling dresses. Digital cameras emerged from the pockets and purses of proud parents eager to capture the moment.

In between dinner at BJ's restaurant in Tukwila and the dance, the couples decided to bowl a few games at Hillcrest Bowl in Renton.

"The people at the bowling alley kept looking at us," Kevin said. "It's hard to bowl in a tuxedo."

Later that night, Kevin busted a few moves on the dance floor, much to the delight of his classmates.

"The people cheered for me and I waved back at the audience," he said.

Denise Vogel, a special-education teacher at Liberty, credits Kevin's parents, Peggy and Steve, for their unwavering desire for Kevin to have a traditional high school experience.

"It all starts with the parents, encouraging Kevin, and expecting the best from him from day

one," Vogel said.

Classmates know Kevin as a genuine, nice, caring individual, she said.

"The kids all know him and appreciate him for who he is," Vogel said. "I've never seen anyone treat him like he's disabled."

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that causes delays in physical and intellectual development. The incidence of Down syndrome is estimated at 1 per 800 to 1,000 births, although

See **PRINCE**, Page 11

Hazen students learn valuable hands-on civics lessons

By Chris Nguyen

More than 140 Hazen High School students contributed to the democratic process while working at polling sites Election Day throughout Newcastle, Renton and south King County.

As part of the county's Youth with a Vision program, the students staffed nearly 50 polling stations. They had the opportunity to work in one of three key roles: greeters, provisional judges or AccuVote machine supervisors. Prior to the election, King County elections representatives traveled to Hazen to conduct a three-hour training session to prepare students for their duties.

Brett Crueger, social studies and theater arts teacher, spearheaded the group's participation. He said school administrators were very supportive of the project.



Contributed

Hazen High School seniors Carli Sowder (left) and Abbey Capistran assist a voter with a provisional ballot at Hazelwood Elementary School on Election Day.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the kids," he said. "They're going to remember how they contributed to the

election for the rest of their lives."

Kim Vu, of Newcastle, said it was inspiring to see a handful of

the students working at her polling location at Hazelwood Elementary School.

"It's always great to see young people taking an active leadership role in our community," she said. "We're definitely in good hands for the future."

While most poll workers in King County typically get paid about \$150 for working Election Day, the students' earnings went directly to Hazen's Associated Student Body general fund.

At the end of the day, the participants had raised more than \$21,000 to be used toward milestone activities, such as the Senior Ball.

"The initial motivation to participate may have been for the money," Crueger said. "But overall, they saw it as an opportunity to take part in something bigger than themselves."

Hazen had more than double the number of students than

any other high school in the county participate, said Randy Matheson, Renton School District spokesman.

Aside from the fundraising aspect of the program, participants were able to earn community service credits while soaking in the entire Election Day experience.

"Students really enjoyed seeing voters come together from different walks of life to participate in democracy," Crueger said. "They could sense by the number of voters at the polls that it was going to be a very historic election."

This election is the last time poll workers were used. King County plans to switch to all-mail voting by next spring.

Chris Nguyen is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.

Rotary clubs honor top students

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

Melissa Hughes, a senior at Hazen High School, was selected as October Youth of the Month by the Rotary Club of Renton.



Hughes

Hughes holds a 3.7 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society, the District Instructional Materials Committee and the National Achievers Society. She participates in drill and pom, track and field, the marching band and school council. She also volunteers with United Way and Maplewood Elementary School.

Hughes plans to attend a four-year university and study international business and marketing.

Amanda Lane, a senior at Hazen High School, was selected as November Youth of the Month by the Rotary Club of Renton.



Lane

Lane holds a 3.9 grade point average and is

a member of the Divina Voce, National Honor Society and is captain of the Drill and Pom Team. She's also a member of Link Crew, Earth Corps, the swim team and the concert band.

Lane volunteers at Seattle Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center and works part time at a tanning salon.

She plans to study nursing at the University of Washington.

Liberty High School senior Leah Bowen was honored for her contributions in science.

The daughter of James Bowen and Wenie Din is a member of the Honor Society and Junior State of America.

While maintaining a 3.97 grade point average, Bowen participated in the Educational

Program for Gifted Youth at Stanford University and was a commended student at the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

She plays the cello for the All State Orchestra, Seattle Youth Symphony — Youth Orchestra and participated in Chamber Music Madness.

In addition, Bowen holds a first-degree black belt in karate. She enjoys backpacking, mountaineering and biking.

She plans to attend a university, majoring in pre-med and earning a degree in biostatistics for a career in clinical trials. Meanwhile, she plans to continue her studies on the cello.

Liberty High School student Tyson Haselden was honored for his efforts in math.

The son of Christine and Kirk

Haselden has been student of the month several times at Liberty. In addition to excelling at math, in which he placed eighth in the Washington state math championship, Haselden enjoys reading, skiing/snow-

boarding and hiking.

Haselden is a lifelong Scout, currently working on attaining the Eagle rank.

He plans to attend a four-year college and someday pursue a career as a physicist.

Prince

From Page 10

these statistics are heavily influenced by the age of the mother.

Kevin hopes to eventually land an internship with either the Mariners or the Seahawks, whose headquarters is in nearby Renton. He already has experience, serving as a manager for the Liberty varsity football team.

He leads huddle breaks at practice, giving an occasional speech to the team, and takes water to the players during timeouts, said head football

coach Steve Valach.

"We always talk about focus, and one of Kevin's famous lines is, 'C'mon, guys, focus up,'" Valach said.

In the closing seconds of the Kennedy-Liberty playoff game, offensive tackle Troy Solly injured his ankle and was about to be carted off the field. Before heading to the hospital, he joined his teammates during a post-game meeting in the middle of Highline Stadium. When Kevin saw Solly, he gave him a big bear hug.

"Through Kevin, each of us, coaches and players, are reminded to enjoy life," Valach said. "Don't forget to let the little kid in you come out every now and again."

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Events

The Golf Club at Newcastle offers a Santa brunch from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dec. 7. Children will be invited to sit on Santa's lap, tell him their wishes and capture the moment with a photo. Cookie decorating in the restaurant and visits with a live reindeer on the grounds add to the fanfare. Cost is \$38.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children 4-12; children 3 and under are free.

The Chamber of Commerce hosts a lunch meeting from 11 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Dec. 10 at Tapatio Mexican Grill, 6920 Coal Creek Parkway S.E. Celebrate the season by sharing favorite stories about your holidays and participate in a giving tree from Vision House. The cost is \$20. RSVP at 206-888-6922 or info@newcastlecc.com.

Classes

The Rockin' Horse Dance Barn offers dance classes at 11820 150th Ave. S.E., Renton. Go to www.learn2dance4fun.com.

Walk for Life is a free, ongoing program to exercise safely and effectively. Meet friends, learn information and advice, and get monitoring from on-site expert staff members every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-9:30 a.m. at Bellevue Square Mall. Enter at Skybridge No. 4. Call 206-645-3673.

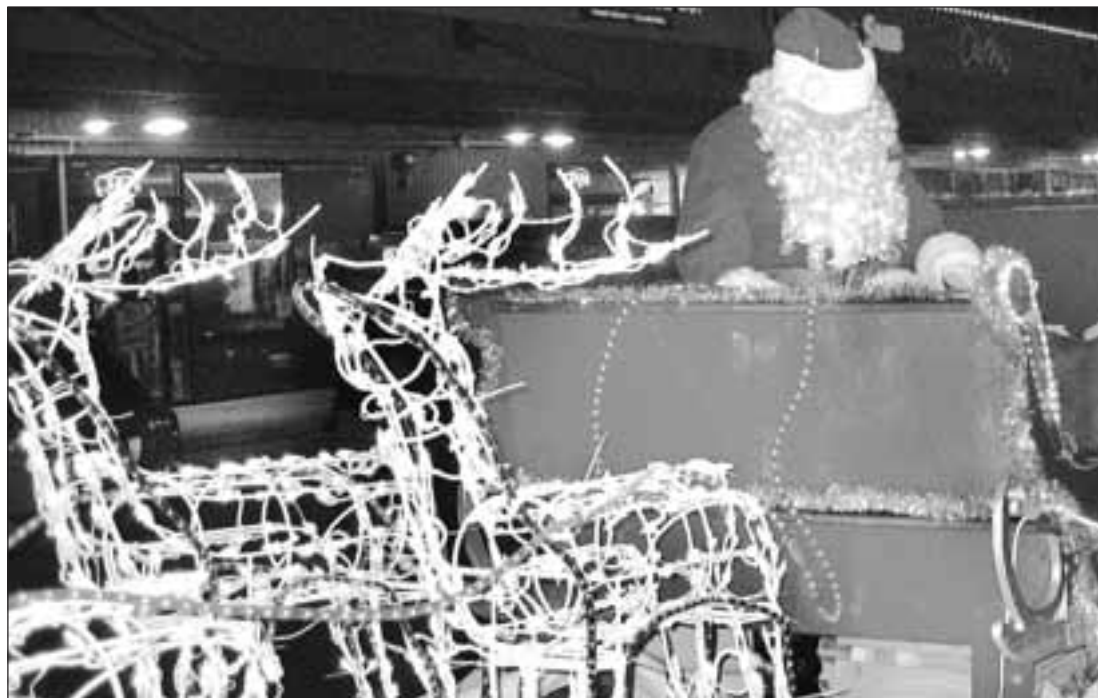
Youth

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

Mini-Leaguers Floor Hockey signups

The program is designed for 3- to 6-year-olds and meets once

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Contributed

Santa Claus prepares his sleigh for last year's annual Rotary Club Santa Parade.

Santa is coming to town

The Newcastle Rotary Club will hold its 12th annual Santa Parade Dec. 13. The festivities begin at noon Dec. 13 with Santa stopping in front of the Newcastle QFC, 6940 Coal Creek Parkway S.E.

Santa boards his custom-made sleigh and visits neighborhoods west of Coal Creek Parkway Southeast from 1:30-3:30 p.m. He'll stop for a photo opportunity at Lake Boren Park from 3:50-5 p.m. before visiting neighborhoods east of Coal Creek Parkway from 5-7 p.m.

Photos are free with Santa, so parents should bring their cameras and plan on taking advantage of the opportunity, said Peter Zevenbergen, Rotary president.

"This event is something that all citizens of Newcastle look forward to and identify with," Zevenbergen said.

"Santa has a very busy schedule and it is great that he has been able to continue to come and visit Newcastle over the years."

a week so players can learn skills, practice and play a game in a noncompetitive environment. Parents/adult chaperones must be in attendance while practice is in session, and are encouraged to participate alongside their child. Volunteer coaches are needed for each team. Practices and games will be held for one hour (30 minutes of practice and a 30-minute game) between 9 a.m. and noon Saturdays, Jan. 10 - Feb. 28, at the Lake Heights Family YMCA gymnasium, 12635 S.E. 56th St. Cost is \$45 with current membership. Call 644-8417 or go to vhinds@seattleyymca.org.

Youth Basketball

The league is designed for 7-

to 12-year-olds. Volunteer coaches are needed for each team. Practices are 45 minutes between 6 and 8 p.m. Seven to 9-year-olds practice Tuesdays and 10- to 12-year-olds practice Thursdays; games are played Saturdays. The league runs from Jan. 6 to March 7 at the Lake Heights Family YMCA Gymnasium, 12635 SE 56th St. Cost is \$55 with current membership. Call 644-8417 or go to vhinds@seattleyymca.org

Clubs

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

December 2008					
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12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
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30	31				

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

Bridge players are wanted, evening or daytime. Games take place at various homes in the

January 2009					
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27	28	29	30	31	

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.

Newcastle Historical

See **CALENDAR**, Page 20

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Nature photographer wins honors at state fair

By Jim Feehan

Sunrise and sunset are Douglas Dietiker's favorite times of day.

The Newcastle photographer usually has his camera ready to capture fascinating images while most people are either sleeping or eating dinner.

"Many people look to what man has created and see art and beauty," he said. "In my eyes, man can't even come close to creating the natural beauty that surrounds us."

"It certainly humbles me every time. I'm hoping to capture a moment that I can show to people who were not there."

This year, Dietiker entered four photographs in the state photography exhibition at the Puyallup Fair. Three of the four photos received recognition.

"I felt it wasn't too bad, considering I have only been taking pictures seriously for about two years," he said.

Prior to taking up photography professionally, Dietiker worked as a regional manager for T-Mobile. He retired from



Dietiker



By Douglas Dietiker

This photo by Newcastle's Douglas Dietiker, titled 'New Dawn,' won the Judge's Award at this year's state photography exhibition at the Puyallup Fair.

the corporate world two years ago and started taking photos for his walls at home.

"I have also seen many places I might never have traveled to if it weren't for my passion to find amazing shots," he said.

Dietiker's work has been featured in Outdoor Photographer magazine and a tourism Web site for Mount Rainier.

Raised in Western Washington, he graduated from Juanita High School in Kirkland and lived in several Eastside communities before settling on Newcastle four years ago. His camera is a constant companion while he's hiking, camping and traveling throughout the Northwest.

"I have always had a hard

time describing the fantastic scenery in the Pacific Northwest," he said. "My words never seemed to capture what my eyes were seeing. Once I discovered photography, I found a way to put my thoughts into a medium that can fully interpret my vision without me stumbling all over myself trying to get the words out."

Renton superintendent named to NW board

Mary Alice Heuschel, Renton School District superintendent, has been named to the board of directors of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Ore.

Heuschel is one of 29 directors governing the private, nonprofit corporation that works to improve learning through applied research, development and technical assistance.

Entrants sought for regional spelling bee

Teachers have until Dec. 19 to register for the regional Spelling Bee for students in grades six through eight.

Schools hold classroom and schoolwide competitions with the winner advancing to the regional bee of pupils from King and Snohomish counties. School champions compete in the regional bee March 22 at Seattle's Town Hall.

The winner goes on to the national spelling bee May 26-27 in Washington, D.C. Register at www.spellingbee.com.

Earlier this year, Amy Tamura, a student at McKnight Middle School, finished second in the regional event.


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Chamber of Commerce

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Fighting the continuing battle for veterans

Soldier's mom becomes voice for wounded warriors

By Jim Feehan

Cynthia Lefever continues to make noise.

And she said she won't stop trying to get national officials to improve medical care for returning Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress.

She's intimately aware of the devastating effects of blast injuries. Her son, Rory Dunn, a 2000 graduate of Liberty High School, was nearly killed four years ago by a roadside bomb in Fallujah, Iraq. The bomb exploded above his Humvee, killing two of his friends. His forehead was crushed from ear to ear, leaving his brain exposed. Shrapnel destroyed his right eye and his hearing was severely damaged.

He was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Baghdad, where doctors worked to save him. Five days later, he was flown to a hospital at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where family had gone on "imminent death orders" to say their goodbyes.

"Doctors gave him a 2 percent chance of survival," Lefever said.

Despite the grim prognosis, Dunn did survive. One day after he arrived in Germany, he was transferred to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., still in a coma.

"When he arrived at Walter Reed, neurosurgeons said Rory's injuries were the worst they had ever seen," Lefever said.

The journey for mother and son the past four years has been a study of perseverance — Dunn defying the odds each step of his recovery and Lefever battling the Army to ensure he continued to receive critical care from Reed's top-notch surgeons. Almost six weeks later, Dunn emerged from his coma.

"Within days of coming out of a coma, Army leadership was at his bedside putting a pen in his hand to start the discharge process with the ultimate goal of getting Rory off the books," Lefever said.

"When we let these wounded warriors languish in bed and presume that all that can be done is to change their diaper and turn them regularly and get



By Greg Farrar

Cynthia Lefever talks about Operation Wounded Warrior, a project she started in the wake of fighting for her son Rory's rights as a wounded veteran of the Iraq War (foreground).

them out for fresh air, that's ridiculous. I just think it's immoral and unethical."

Honored for her work

Lefever sought the help of various organizations and agencies providing assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and their families. She also called Sen. Patty Murray's office. Murray, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has become a friend and ally. In 2005, Murray awarded Dunn his Purple Heart.

In May, Lefever was a recipient of Murray's Golden Tennis Shoe Award. It's an annual award given to extraordinary Washingtonians doing amazing work and advocacy on behalf of others, Murray said.

"We honor Cynthia — not just for leaving her own job and her own home to fight for her son — but because of what she has chosen to do above and beyond that," Murray said at the award ceremony at the Washington State Convention Center. "Cynthia's fight to disclose poor treatment — and the

paperwork battles she has faced — has allowed hundreds of other soldiers to receive better care."

Prior to her son's injury, Lefever worked in the state's community college system, working on programs for displaced homemakers, battered spouses and teens at risk.

Her work on behalf of returning war veterans is appreciated by her son.

"She's willing to go out of her way, without pay, and fight for veterans," Dunn said. "She's got the true American spirit."

In April, Lefever accepted a job as a case manager with the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, administered by the Army Human Resources Command.

It assists severely wounded soldiers and families from injury throughout recovery.

"For me, it was an opportunity to help the wounded warriors and their families and caregivers, and from the very onset, not get screwed," she said.

The job offered great pay, benefits and bonuses. The military faxed her a copy of the employment contract, which

"When we let these wounded warriors languish in bed and presume that all that can be done is to change their diaper and turn them regularly and get them out for fresh air, that's ridiculous. I just think it's immoral and unethical."

— Cynthia Lefever

Advocate for injured soldiers

included a clause that barred her from speaking to the media or working with Murray's office. So, Lefever turned down the job.

"I need to be able to speak out about what I see," Lefever said. "It's important that somebody makes noise."

In September alone, Lefever attended seven conferences across the country speaking out about traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress.

"I start every speech with, 'Hello. My name is Cynthia Lefever and my special talent is pestering and badgering,'" she said. "I will continue to pester and badger until I get an answer or see progress or change."

Traumatic brain injury continues to be undiagnosed and underreported by the military, and the Veteran's Administration refuses to partner with civilian organizations working with traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress patients, Lefever said.

"We're five years into the war and we continue to see catastrophic trauma injuries," she said. "Several soldiers are being redeployed who have multiple

blast injuries, and I think that the service members underreport, fearing they will lose their job and benefits. They are pressured to be silent by the military."

Emotional scars linger

Lefever said she was surprised when her son joined the Army about a year after graduating from Liberty, where he was a good student who played basketball and football.

Dunn volunteered to go to the Middle East, even though he was opposed to the invasion of Iraq, further solidified by the U.S. not finding any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, Lefever said.

President Bush is misguided in saying troops are supporting the war effort based on the number of soldiers redeploying, she said.

"Soldiers who want to go back are going back because of survivor guilt," she said.

As the physical scars fade, the emotional ones linger for Dunn.

"Rory is hypervigilant and alert," Lefever said of her son, who is now living on his own in Renton.

Neighbors and shopkeepers recognize him and know he's an Iraq war veteran. When he goes into Seattle, it's a different story, as those who don't know Dunn might be apprehensive around a young man with an eye patch over his right eye, Lefever said.

She's working to educate communities across the state about traumatic brain injury. She said she wants police, firefighters and emergency respon-

See **ADVOCATE**, Page 15



Contributed

Tigers tamed

The Tigers team and coaches AI and Becky Letterer celebrated their last game and biggest victory Nov. 15. The coaches have grown children, but have volunteered their time to SCORE for the past four years. Over half of the team from Newcastle has returned for three of those four years. The coaches taught the girls soccer skills, life skills and respect for the game.

Hazen grad completes Air Force basic training

Air Force Airman Anthony J. Nold has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, Nold studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military cus-

toms and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches; and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and spe-



Nold

cial training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

Nold is the son of Kurtis Nold, of Renton. He's a 2008 graduate of Hazen High School.

Advocate

From Page 14

ders to recognize the signs of traumatic brain injury, so they can respond appropriately in an emergency. She got the Veteran's Administration to provide medical alert tags for all severely wounded veterans, especially those with traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress.

Meanwhile, her son has regained his life, she said.

"He's walking, talking, hunting and fishing," she said. "In May, he jumped out of an airplane and he's preparing to go to college."

Healing comes slowly

Family members also suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Lefever said she has had nightmares of her 10-month ordeal at Walter Reed Medical Center.

"I'm at Walter Reed coming around a corner, coming face-to-face with a soldier who looks like he's a 14-year-old, beautiful, baby-faced and his arms and legs are gone. That image will haunt me until the day I die."

Post-stress trauma is a normal reaction to the abnormal circumstances of war. Soldiers are trained to be killing machines; they're supposed to be strong, but it comes with a cost, she said.

"When you have watched civilians being run over by a tank under orders, I don't see how anybody can be OK," Lefever said.

On another occasion, an Iraqi man who was helping the U.S. military was shot, his body blown into two pieces. Dunn and other soldiers were ordered

"Cynthia's fight to disclose poor treatment — and the paperwork battles she has faced — has allowed hundreds of other soldiers to receive better care."

— Sen. Patty Murray

to return the man's body to his family.

"Rory thinks about the wife and the children that were screaming and crying as he deposited the two halves to the family," Lefever said.

Families of wounded warriors and the community need to know that traumatic brain injury is a physical injury, not a mental disorder, she said.

Lefever fears history may soon repeat itself.

"Unless our society is educated and informed about traumatic brain injury, we're going to see our veterans again retreat into the mountains and hills, become homeless, fail at relationships, become unemployed and we'll have a repeat of what we saw when the soldiers returned from Vietnam," she said.

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Hazen swimmer makes her mark at state meet

By Jim Feehan

Lauren Kaufman wasn't fazed by the swimsuit worn by the Olympic games qualifier in the next lane. The sophomore swimmer at Hazen High School placed third in the 50-yard freestyle at the Class 3A state competition at the King County Aquatics Center last month. She also recorded a personal best time and broke the school record in the event.

Leona Jennings, a senior at Mount Rainier High School, won the event in a state-record time of 22.92. Lauren Poli, of Mercer Island High School, edged Kaufman by .03 of a second with a time of 24.29.

Jennings placed 12th in the 100-meter backstroke at the Olympic trials and decided to give prep swimming a try her senior year.

"She was wearing a \$500 swimsuit that a Speedo representative said has been scientifically proven to enhance performance," Hazen coach Diane Dobson said. "Lauren was more impressed with having her best time in the event than finishing

third. She swam her heart out."

Kaufman's time was 24.32 in the finals. Last year, she was third at the state meet in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.53. Dobson said Kaufman shows great maturity for a sophomore and will only get better.

"I was extremely proud of her," Dobson said.

Kaufman also finished fifth in the 100-yard freestyle, improving on her ninth-place finish last year. She also helped Hazen place 10th in the 200-yard relay and ninth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Joining Kaufman on both relay teams was Kaysie Rozsonits, Kaitlin Nelson and Kaela Nurmi.

Rozsonits placed ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke and 10th in the 50-yard freestyle.

Liberty tied with Hanford High School for 11th in the team standings with 78 points.

"In my four years as swim coach at Hazen, we have consistently finished between seventh and 11th," Dobson said.

Liberty High School finished 14th overall in team standings

See **SWIMMERS**, Page 18



By Greg Farrar

Lauren Kaufman, a sophomore at Hazen High School, looks up for her time as she finishes third in the 50-yard freestyle and later fifth in the 100-yard freestyle event at the state 3A championship last month at the King County Aquatics Center in Federal Way.



By Greg Farrar

Richard Crespo (29), Liberty senior wide receiver, escapes Bellevue's Taylor Anderson as Jamal Atofau (2) pursues in the first quarter of their Nov. 21 3A state quarterfinal game.

Bellevue crushes Liberty 35-7

By Jim Feehan

Liberty High School's magic carpet ride season came to a halt Nov. 22 when the top-ranked Bellevue Wolverines downed the Patriots 35-7 in the Class 3A quarterfinals.

Bellevue running back Peter Nguyen rushed for 253 on 23 carries and scored the Wolverines' first three touchdowns.

For the first 23 minutes of the game, Liberty (9-3) played Bellevue close, with the Wolverines up by only a touchdown. But with 20 seconds remaining in the first half, Nguyen scored on a 32-yard run to put the Wolverines up 14-0 at halftime.

Bellevue scored on its next three possessions to put the Wolverines up 35-0. With 11 seconds remaining, Liberty sophomore quarterback Trey Wheeler connected with sophomore running back Chandler Jenkins on a 22-yard pass and run to avert the shutout.

"There's a reason they've won five state championships," Liberty coach Steve Valach said of the Wolverines state titles since 2001. "They're just so strong, so well-coached and their kids are so well-disciplined."

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 18



By Greg Farrar

Jake Bainton (10), Liberty sophomore wide receiver, gathers in an 8-yard pass completion as Bellevue senior defensive back Tommy Castle (8) moves in for a tackle.

Hazen golfer captures Seamount title, qualifies for state tournament

By Chris Nguyen

Just weeks before the start of his freshman year, Kekoa Mark surprised his family when he announced he would try out for the Hazen High School varsity golf team. He had never golfed, nor did he own any equipment.

With nothing to lose, and only one week of practice under his belt, Mark set out with his mother's golf clubs. He barely made the team that year — but he has been on it ever since.

Four years later, he's now the Seamount League golf champion. He was also named Seamount League golfer of the year.

Mark topped the field Oct. 16 at the Elk Run Golf Course in Maple Valley, which hosted this year's Seamount League Golf Tournament. He shot a 2-over-par 73 in the first round, and finished with a 79 for a grand total of 152.

"I was not surprised at all with Kekoa's finish," said Jeff Wood, Hazen golf coach. "He had a real solid season, and had been relatively consistent all year in his play."

Mark said he knew he had the skills to put him on top, and

believed that it was just a matter of keeping it all together while on the course.

"I tried to just focus on my own game and not worry about any of the other competitors," Mark said. "I wanted to stay strong mentally, and that's what I did."

By winning the league title, Mark automatically qualified for a spot at the 3A State Golf Championships. The 2009 contest is May 27-28 at the Meadow Springs Country Club in Richland.

"I've been told the wind is always blowing into your face at Meadow Springs during the spring season," he said. "I know that there's also a lot of water there."

Mark has yet to play the course, but said he plans to work in some practice rounds prior to state.

Wood, who was named Seamount League Coach of the Year, said "putting the ball on the right part of the green based on pin location" will be a huge factor for Mark's success on the Meadow Springs course.

While Mark looks ahead to improving on last season's dis-

appointing 58th place showing at state, one of his teammates must wait a few more months to see if he gets to go.

Tanner Bartlein, a sophomore, finished eight strokes behind Mark at the league tournament and wound up in a three-way tie for third place. He'll need to finish in the top five at a state qualifier event in May at the Eagles Pride Golf Course in Fort Lewis.

"Both of the players are just outstanding young men," Wood said.

Mark said he's exploring the possibility of golfing at the collegiate level, and has his sights set on eventually qualifying for the Nationwide or Nike tours.

But for now, his main focus is to place in the top 10 at state. It's an attainable goal, considering how much he has already accomplished in such a short amount of time.

"Golf is my true passion," he said. "I'm lucky I found it."

Chris Nguyen is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.

Patriots ousted from playoffs

By Jim Feehan

The third time was the charm for the Sammamish High School girls soccer team. The Totems defeated Liberty High School 2-0 in the first round of the KingCo 3A tournament Nov. 4.

In September, the two teams played to a 1-1 tie at Sammamish. The following month, Liberty shut out Sammamish at home, 3-0, behind two goals and an assist by senior forward Anna Skutley.

But Sammamish would not be denied, as the Totems scored two second-period goals to shut out Liberty in their third game.

"I thought we had more opportunities and we didn't capitalize on them. They had a few and they capitalized on them," said Liberty coach Darren Tremblay.

In the 50th minute, Dani Blanchard scored the first goal with an assist by Anna Geldenhuys. With seven minutes remaining in the match, Geldenhuys scored the Totems' second goal with an assist from Shannon Scott.

Each team had five shots on goal. In the 30th minute, Liberty's Cassidy Nangle had a shot on goal go over the crossbar. Nangle had another shot fly over the cross bar with about two minutes left before half time. In the closing minute of the match, Sammamish goalkeeper Kyra Lindstrom caught a direct shot on goal by Liberty's sophomore midfielder Sara DuVall.

Following the game, Tremblay told the players not

to dwell on the match and to consider the squad's achievements this season.

"Keep your heads up and be proud of what you've accomplished," he said.

Liberty won its final five matches in the regular season to finish second to Mount Si High School in the KingCo 3A league with a 7-3-2-conference record, 9-4-3 overall.

"Last year, we were 5-9-2," Tremblay said. "To finish 9-4-3 is a great turn around with a great group of kids. To have the season we had — I can't say enough about the girls."

Eleven Liberty players earned All-KingCo 3A League honors. Nangle and Anna Skutley were named first-team selections to the All KingCo 3A girls' soccer squad.

Nangle, a freshman, led the Patriots with eight goals this season, including all three goals in the 3-2 victory Oct. 16 against Mercer Island. Skutley, a senior, had seven goals for the Patriots.

Senior defender Krissa Gunderson, freshman midfielder Kimi Fry, sophomore midfielder Sara DuVall and senior midfielders Rayssa Lira and Nicole Newbury earned second-team All KingCo 3A honors. Freshman Shannon Daly, junior Chelsea Noonan and seniors, Monica Cramer and Anna Freeman made the honorable mention team.

Despite losing eight seniors from the team, the Patriots will see 10 players return from a C team that went 12-1 and a junior varsity squad that went 10-2-2.

"We got some players coming up," Tremblay said.

Local gymnasts fare well in Chocolate Classic

The Gymnastics East Level 6 girls competed Nov. 9 at the Chocolate Classic in Everett, hosted by Leading Edge Gymnastics.

Here are the results for the

Newcastle girls:

Ages 7-11:

Ciera Weber, first place.

Vault: 9.1, bars: 8.8, beam: 9.175, floor: 8.75, all around: 35.825.

Laura Suddock, fifth place.

Vault: 8.8, bars: 8.0, beam: 9.175, floor: 8.9, all around: 34.875.

Ages 13 and up:

Tia Riley, 6th place. Vault:

9.0, bars: 7.8, beam: 7.8, floor: 8.55, all around: 33.15.

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Swimmers

From Page 16

with 58 points. The Patriots were led by divers Katie Tsutakawa and Krista Lockhart, who finished seventh and eighth in the diving competition. Nicole Lecoq was ninth in the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley. Elise Tinseth finished tenth in the 200 individual medley.

Lecoq and Tinseth had personal records in those events at the King County Aquatics Center in Federal Way.

The Patriots' 400 free relay team of Tinseth, Nicole, Michela Lecoq and Mackenzie Maynes set a school record by



By Greg Farrar

Nicole Lecoq, Liberty sophomore, swims the backstroke leg of her 200-yard individual medley to win the consolation final in 2:15.23.

more than 3 seconds.

"I was extremely proud of how our kids did at the state meet," said Liberty coach Kris

Daughters. "They supported each other and concentrated on personal bests, and that's great."

Football

From Page 16

"I'm really proud of our team," he added. "We conducted ourselves with class. I thought we played hard. I think we gave it all we had. I just think Bellevue is better."

Two long throws by Wheeler to sophomore wide receiver Jake Bainton and senior wide receiver Richard Crespo put the Patriots on the Bellevue 17. The Wolverines defense held the Patriots on the next three plays, leading to a Liberty field goal attempt by senior kicker Keegan Bennett. Bellevue senior Jamal Atofau slipped between two Liberty players and blocked it.

Nguyen carried four times for 64 yards in Bellevue's opening drive. With fourth down and 2 from the Bellevue 38, the Wolverines elected to go for it and Nguyen ripped off 20 yards. With 6:19 remaining in the first quarter, Nguyen scored on a 3-

yard touchdown run to put Bellevue up 7-0.

On Liberty's next possession, the Patriots marched down the field. Wheeler ran for 11 yards on a quarterback keeper, and later connected with Jenkins on a 24-yard pass as the Patriots entered the red zone one more time. But Bellevue senior linebacker Eric Nelson intercepted a Wheeler pass with 3:23 remaining in the half. Wheeler completed 15 of 31 passes for 182 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions. Liberty's high octane rushing attack was held to 23 yards on 22 carries.

With a little over three minutes remaining in the third quarter, Liberty moved down the field to the Bellevue 2. A procedure penalty moved the ball to the 7. Bellevue senior defensive back Sean Connors intercepted a Wheeler pass in the end zone.

Bellevue's Atofau scored on a 10-yard run with 10:44 remaining and Bellevue junior Will Fields collected the Wolverines' final score with 7:27 remaining.

Bellevue (13-0) defeated Capital of Olympia 28-6 Dec. 1 at the Tacoma Dome and face Union in the state finals Dec. 6.

Despite Liberty's loss, Valach said he is looking forward to the 2009 season.

"We obviously have a good group of underclassmen, and the great thing is the seniors really modeled the leadership piece well," he said. "They made it less about me and more about team."

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Police discover 181 grams of marijuana in routine traffic stop

An 18-year-old Kirkland man and a 25-year-old homeless man were taken into custody after police discovered 181 grams of marijuana in the car they were sitting in at about 3:40 p.m. Nov. 22.

Police received a call from a woman who said there might have been a burglary at a home near the store, and she had watched the car pull into the Coal Creek Shopping Center parking lot in the 12800 block of Newcastle Way.

The woman told police she thought there were two men and a woman in the car. When police arrived, only the two men were at the car.

The officer asked the 18-year-old to get out of the car, and when he did, the officer found a 5-inch glass marijuana pipe that had blackened residue in it on the seat where he'd been sitting. Police also found about a one-inch ball of marijuana on the floor of the seat, and a grocery sack with six plastic bags of marijuana in them on the back floor of the car.

Police asked the men where the marijuana had come from; each man blamed the other and the girl who had retrieved it from the home of the 25-year-old man's father, who lives on the same block. Police were able to get in touch with the man, who told police there was not a burglary at his house that he wanted to report.

The Kirkland man was taken into custody after police discovered he had three warrants for his arrest. The 25-year-old homeless man was released. But police are now looking for him, as there is also a warrant out for his arrest. The Bellevue woman that the two men said they had been with wasn't located, although it was her mother's vehicle the men had been in.

Pipe theft

A man was seen taking scrap PVC piping from a construction site at Southeast 93rd Street and Coal Creek Parkway at 1:35 p.m. Nov. 9. No damages were reported.

Rotten eggs

□ The driver of a 1990 Nissan Pathfinder found himself with \$1,000 in damages from several people who threw eggs at his car from a white sport utility vehicle as he was driving through the intersection at Southeast 89th Place and 133rd Avenue Southeast at about 10:20 p.m. Nov. 8. The eggs dented the hood and back fender of the Pathfinder and chipped its paint.

□ While driving in tandem, a father and son, in two separate vehicles, found themselves the target of an egg firing squad at the intersection of Southeast May Valley Road and Coal Creek Parkway at about 11:33 p.m. Nov. 7. The eggs caused \$100 damage to the paint of a rear door on a Dodge Charger and \$100 damage in dents and scratches to a

Chevrolet Avalanche.

Auto theft

A black 2000 Acura Integra was stolen from the 7300 block of Coal Creek Parkway between 10 p.m. Nov. 3 and 2 p.m. Nov. 4. The owner of the vehicle said it was parked in the parking lot of his apartment building.

Minors in possession

A 17-year-old from Renton and a 19-year-old from Seattle were released into the custody of their families Nov. 19 after police discovered them passed out in a black Jeep Liberty with 15 empty bottles of Corona in and around it at Lake Boren Park, 13000 S.E.

84th St. A deputy was patrolling when he found the two teens at the park at 4:31 a.m., long after it had closed. The two teens said a woman had purchased the beer for them and another group of teens who had since left the park. Both teens were given tickets for being in possession of alcohol as minors.

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Calendar

From Page 12

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

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

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

Eastside Mothers & More, a social network for mothers, meets from 7-9 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the

North Room at East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 S.E. 32nd St., Bellevue (not church affiliated). Go to www.eastside-mothersandmore.org.

Hill 'N Dale Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday at the Newport Way Library 14250 S.E. Newport Way, Bellevue. Call 255-9705.

Seniors

Lake Heights YMCA Older Active Adult Program meets from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at the YMCA facility, 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. Wednesday. Sack lunches are available for \$3. Reserve one in person early that day. Call 644-8417.

Library events

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

Storyteller and musician Karen Haas performs at 7 p.m. Dec. 10.

Game On! Play Xbox 360, Wii, PS2 and Game Cube video games, 2:30 p.m., Dec. 10.

The Newport Way Book Group will discuss "The Senator's Wife," by Sue Miller, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15.

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.angelcare-foundation.org.

Volunteers

Eastside Bluebills, a Boeing retiree volunteer organization that provides opportunities to help others in need and assist charitable and nonprofit organizations, meets from 10 a.m. - noon the third Wednesday at the Bellevue Regional Library. Call 235-3847.

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

Julie & Ben Sell Newcastle!

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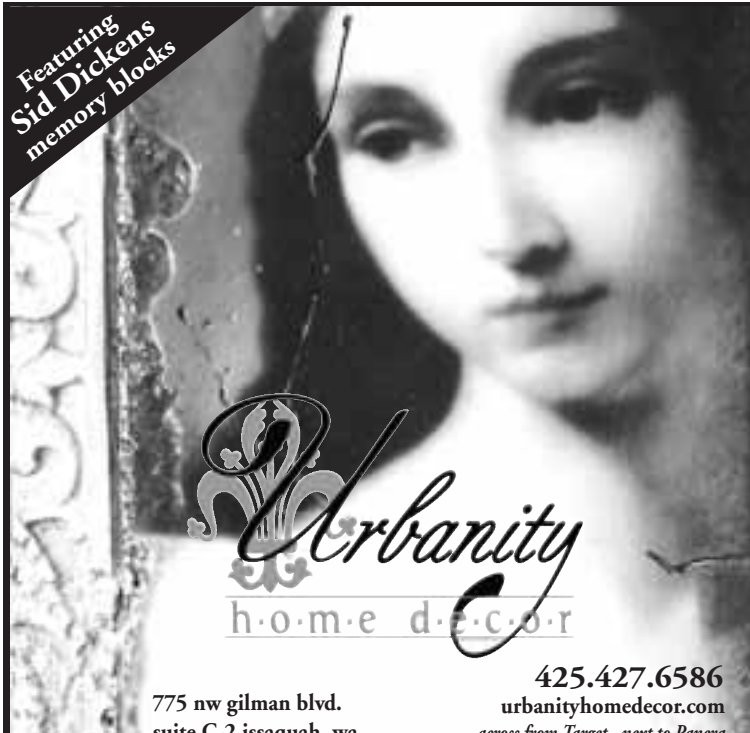
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