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IN THIS ISSUE

Board reorganization	3
Senior projects	6-7
Food service automation	9
Technology	9
Museum grant	11
Puyallup Giftmakers	12

CONNECTIONS

Volume 6:4

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January 2001

RHS senior gets taste of broadcasting career

Stephanie Rushton's dream of working for a major television or movie studio came true, at least for several days, over winter break.

The 18-year-old Rogers High senior spent much of her vacation learning about broadcasting as she job shadowed



Mimi Jung

KING 5 weekend anchor reporter Mimi Jung. Jung, who graduated from Rogers in 1993, agreed to be Rushton's mentor for the career project component of her senior project.

Rushton was scheduled to accompany Jung in the field on a story assignment, watch her do a newscast, observe how stories are gathered each day, and see how material is edited.

"I want to learn how it all works. There is so much that goes on that no one thinks about or sees," says Rushton.

The teen asked Jung to be her mentor after the anchor spoke in October to this year's graduating class of 700



Senior Stephanie Rushton works the video camera at Rogers High School.

Rogers High seniors. While admittedly nervous at first, Rushton approached Jung after the talk, asked her to be her mentor, received Jung's work phone number, then followed up a month later with a call to arrange the job shadowing.

While she is only required to spend 15 hours at the television station, Rushton says it would "be a waste to just spend the minimum when you have this awesome experience." Rushton is interested in majoring in broadcasting and minoring in theater in college.

In addition to her senior project experience, the teen also is furthering her career goals through classes she is taking at Rogers High. She is enrolled in video productions, where she learns about basic editing and directing, drama, including serving as drama club president, and is directing a one-act play, "The Red Carnation," during Drama Fest.

"The senior project is great because it's better than going out into the world and having no clue what you want to do," she says. "This gives you a chance to have some career experience."

NEWS SHORTS

Karshner Museum invites community to Family Day

"Oral History Month" is the theme of the February 3 Family Day at the Karshner Museum. On March 3, "Picture Writers" will be featured. At each event, families will enjoy listening to a story and doing a project. Hours are from 10 am to 2 pm and admission is \$1 per person or \$4 per family. Call 841-8748 for more information.



Schoolhouse tours set for schools, central kitchen, science center

The February 14 Schoolhouse Tour will feature a tour of Ferrucci Junior High and Pope Elementary. On March 14, the tour will visit newly remodeled Rogers High School, the district's Central Kitchen, and the Science Resource Center. Tours begin with a short program at 9:30 am at the district's Education Service Center, 302 Second Street SE in Puyallup. Following the program, buses depart for the tour and will return at 1:30 pm. Lunch is served; cost is \$3. For reservations or more information, call 841-8703.

Rogers rededication

Rogers High School will hold a rededication ceremony to celebrate the completion of their \$25 million dollar remodel project on Sunday, February 11, from 1-3 pm. The entire Puyallup community is invited. To commemorate this event, alumni and friends of Rogers High School are invited to contribute or loan RHS memorabilia for displays around the campus. Those wishing to loan items should bring them to the main office by February 1, 2001. For more information, contact Diane Scheidt at Rogers High School (841-8719).

**PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors**

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841-1080

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840-4438

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840-1185

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845-3760

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848-1116

Susan Gourley, Superintendent
841-8769

District Mission

In partnership with our families and community, we provide all students the best educational opportunities necessary to reach their full potential and become responsible, productive citizens of good character.

Connections Editorial Policy

Connections is published periodically by the Puyallup School District as part of a communications link between the district and the community. Its intent and purpose is to provide the Board and district staff a venue to inform community members about programs, goals, and activities of public education in the Puyallup School District. Please direct questions or comments to Karen Hansen, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, PO Box 370, Puyallup WA 98371 or telephone (253) 841-8703 or e-mail khansen@puyallup.k12.wa.us. Responses, as appropriate, will be provided directly to those who contact this office.

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Puyallup School District No. 3 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, marital status, age, national origin, religion or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the district's Title IX/RW 28A.640 Officer (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources) and Section 504 Coordinator (Director of Employee Relations) at 302 Second Street SE, Puyallup, WA 98372. Phone: 841-8764.

Superintendent's message

Working together in support of children

As a new year begins, I like to reflect on past accomplishments, both personal and professional, and think about the opportunities that lie ahead. As I reflect on our district's achievements, one notable achievement comes to mind.

In 1996, with broad-based participation from parents, business, community, students, staff, and board members, our district's strategic plan was created. This plan provides us the framework necessary in our quest for educational excellence for all of our students. Since the strategic plan's adoption, the focus has not wavered: "Ensuring that all students be provided the best educational opportunities necessary to reach their full potential and become responsible, productive citizens of good character."

During the six months I have served as superintendent, I am proud to say I've observed that we continue to be focused and "on track" in achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan. Our students are working hard and their test scores indicate they are achieving more. Our



Susan Gourley
Superintendent

staff is devoted to providing the best instructional program for each child and their classrooms reflect their dedication. Our parents and community members are committed to providing the encouragement needed for student success and their involvement in our schools and classrooms supports their beliefs.

Regardless of whether I am meeting with students, staff, parents, community leaders, or members of the faith community, I find that all of us are committed to the success of our children. Successful children are the success stories of caring

parents and communities who provide the essential building blocks needed for healthy development—academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

These building blocks—some call them developmental assets—are the attributes that all children need to grow up competent, caring, and healthy. They include such things as family support, caring neighborhoods, parental involvement—all have a powerful effect on the life of a child. When present, these assets protect young people from at-risk behaviors and, more importantly, promote positive behaviors. Simply put, the more assets a child has, the more likely he or she is to engage in positive behaviors.

As we work together, we are building these protective assets for our children—and this makes a tremendous difference in their success. Thank you for your ongoing support of our district and your commitment to our shared goals. On behalf of our students and staff, I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Students visit UW campus

Fifteen Rogers High School students recently attended a conference at the University of Washington. The event provided an opportunity for gifted African American students to meet student ambassadors, attend a college class, and learn about college admissions. Activities during the day focused on personal goal setting and a presentation from Kipchoge Kirkland who is doing research on the development of critical cultural consciousness through poetry. Students also enjoyed performances by the Unity Step Team and the National Society of Black Engineers Dance Team.



A message from the board

Funding plan responsive to community

About five years ago, your school board adopted a strategic plan designed to provide a road map for the education of Puyallup School District students. Scores of district citizens and staff collectively volunteered hundreds of hours in developing that plan. The result was a document that, since adoption, has guided board and staff decisions on curriculum, facilities, community involvement and virtually every other phase of providing educational opportunities for our students.

In addition to the instructional goals, the strategic plan calls for long-range planning in regards to facilities—specifically in the areas of new construction, replacement, modernization, and building maintenance. It calls for the integration of technology throughout all systems in the district—instructional as well as business, facilities, and others. Most importantly, the plan provides direction to “. . . engage and actively involve parents and community members . . .” Action was needed; action was taken!

Almost two years ago, your board authorized the formation of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC)—a committee involving approximately 36 community members. Their task was to develop a long-range plan for facilities needs as set forth in Goal 4 of our Strategic Plan. And what a great job they did!



Terry Asbjornsen
Puyallup School Board Member

The members of CFAC spent “tons” of hours studying and evaluating information about existing school buildings, athletic fields, and all other district facilities. They visited sites, studied enrollment trends, and evaluated staff recommendations. They listed all the existing needs and projected future facility requirements. To borrow a phrase, “No stone was left unturned.”

When the work of the CFAC was near complete and in compliance with our strategic plan, another citizens’ committee was formed. The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was charged with the responsibility to develop a plan to integrate instructional technology throughout our schools. They, too, spent “tons” of hours developing plans to ensure that technology is appropriately included within all areas of the district.

Two committees and scores of people!

Untold hours of volunteered work! The results—a definitive, carefully prioritized, 12-year plan for facility and technology needs in the Puyallup School District. And there is more.

For the first time in district history, your Board has approved a long-range funding plan that is designed to:

- keep tax rates level far into the future, and therefore
- make taxes predictable far into the future
- balance educational needs with community resources
- provide ongoing accountability to our community.

Further, as our constituents have requested, we have established a bond election timeline for this long-range plan with bond elections in 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013. No more “surprise” bond elections, and no more “peaks and valleys” in tax rates. The timeline was developed to ensure that, as each one of these elections approaches, previous bond debt from prior elections will be retired so the tax rate will remain constant.

This is an exciting time for the Puyallup School District. On behalf of all members of the board, I want to thank our community and staff members who have dedicated their time to the development of these thoughtful, responsible approaches to meeting the needs of our students.



Hunt students sponsor penny drive

Kendal Whidden, Bryce Anderson, Anthony Vazquez, and Nicholas Moser, fourth graders in Jaimee Reeves’ class at Hunt Elementary, recently conducted a school-wide penny drive to raise money for Puyallup Giftmakers. Hunt students raised more than \$310.

School Choice

Out of district students who wish to attend a Puyallup School District school for the 2001/2002 school year need to submit a release from their resident district to Tony Apostle, Director of Administrative Services, by March 1, 2001. This is an annual process that must be completed whether you are already attending a Puyallup School District school or not. For more information, call (253) 840-8811.

In-district students who wish to choose to a school other than their attendance area school for the 2001/2001 school year need to submit their Intra-District Transfer Application by March 1, 2001. High school students submit their application to Carolyn Stella, Executive Director for Secondary Education, and junior high students to their resident school principal. This is an annual process that must be completed whether you are already on a waiver or not. For more information, call (253) 841-8771.

Upcoming board meetings:

February 12, 4:30 pm
Rogers High School

February 26, 7 pm
Puyallup High School

March 12, 4:30 pm
Rogers High School

Lent takes the helm

Gary Lent presides over his first meeting after assuming his new role as president of the district’s Board of Directors. Lent, who has been a member of the board since 1997, was elected president on December 11 during the annual board reorganizational meeting held at district offices. He follows Karen Pickett who moves to the role of vice president. Kathy Afflerbaugh is the legislative representative.



Edgemont student attends conference

Jolynn Rawson and 19 peers from junior and senior high schools statewide met with ten international students from the University of Washington recently to discuss worldwide issues and gain a better understanding of their different cultures.



Jolynn Rawson

Rawson and fellow Edgemont Junior High student Casey Johnson spent two Saturdays at the university in October as part of the "Global Perspectives" program. Global Perspectives brings students face-to-face with people who, through their various cultural backgrounds, have different perspectives on issues ranging from the role of family to the relationship between citizens and their government.

International students participating from the university represented countries including India, Norway, South Africa, Japan, Venezuela, Chili, Kenya, and the Netherlands. American students paired with international students to hold a mock United Nations meeting and discuss impressions of this country. Issues discussed included peacekeeping efforts, divorce, health care, war, education, poverty, and efforts to save the rainforest.

In addition to being selected to attend Global Perspectives, Rawson is secretary of the school band council and plays flute in concert band. She also is a member of the poster spirit committee, played soccer and track last year, and recently organized a neighborhood clean up with five of her friends. An active reader and snowboard enthusiast, the 14-year-old plans a career in medicine or social services.

Rogers senior aspires to serve the nation

She has acted in and directed school drama productions, served as an officer or member of numerous school clubs and organizations, helped with a variety of community service organizations, attended local and nationwide leadership conferences, encouraged a respect for diversity in schools and the community, and is this year's African-American Heritage Princess.

Kelley Calvin's resume spans three pages, only that just begins to tap into the energy and aspirations of this 17-year-old Rogers High senior. Calvin already has her future mapped out, including plans to major in international business and minor in Japanese, get a master's degree in religious communications, then follow with a doctorate in theater and directing. She says she wants to start a Christian entertainment business in Japan and America and one day, "truthfully," be president of the United States.

For now, Calvin is busy this month directing a one-act play, "The People in the Glass Paperweight," in the school's drama department. The 17-year-old has been active in drama productions the past five years, including roles in Oklahoma, South Pacific, and Toys in the Attic. She is president this year and was instrumental in organizing the International Thespian Society. The club is made up of nearly 25 Rogers students who meet before or after school to learn more about acting and other aspects of drama, as well as to plan performances for the school and community.

In February, Calvin will represent Rogers High at the African-American Heritage pageant, where she will vie for queen along with other seniors from high schools in Puget Sound. The pageant will include a talent competition, a question-and-answer session, and a review of how each contestant completed 30 hours of community service.

Calvin also has been active in teaching others to respect diversity, first at Ferrucci Junior High as a member of Students and Teachers Against Negative Discrimination, then in high school as a member of Students



Kelley Calvin and Katie Wilson study the script for a recent drama production at Rogers High School.

and Teachers Advocating Respect. This past summer she was one of 50 students selected nationwide to attend the 2000 Black Issues Forum at Colorado State University. She says the four-day conference focused on discussion of issues facing African Americans in this country. She also attended a one day Young, Gifted, and Black conference in November at the University of Washington, and was chosen as one of this district's student representatives to be interviewed about diversity.



Kelley Calvin

The teen also is in her second year as a member of the French Club, has been in Honor Society the past five years, and has competed on the varsity track team the past three years. She served this fall as chair of the Homecoming Committee in charge of halftime entertainment.

In past years she has: danced on the

Rogers dance team; participated in concert choir, swing choir, concert chorus, and Choralliers; been selected by her peers the past two years as a "Natural Helper" trained to help counsel fellow teens in working out their problems; been a member the past two years of Superfriends, a club that promotes making students happy through cards or other tokens of friendship; been selected as one of Rogers High representatives in last spring's school district Celebration of Success program; served on the selection committee for this district's new superintendent, and attended Girls State 2000, where she and other juniors from throughout the country met last spring to learn about politics and government.

Her community involvement includes helping with United Way, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She also is active in her church youth group, enjoys reading Shakespeare and watching old movies and musicals, and likes to go inner-tubing, running, and shopping.

—contributed by Susan Gifford



Walker students surpass goals

Pictured above students Lehman Baker (left) and Joshua Whitney pack items for distribution. Walker High School students far exceeded a goal in their recent food drive. The students, who had hoped to collect 3,500 items of food, gathered more than 4,270 items and \$137 in cash. Coordinator Kenneth Clack said, "We are all very pleased with the efforts of our students ... from a student body of approximately 250 students, this is outstanding!"

Local students earn numerous awards

Puyallup High School seniors **Josh Folk** and **Gina Hodgkiss** were recently selected as local honorees for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. They were selected based on their initiative, effort, impact and personal growth through service to their community. Each will receive a certificate of achievement and advance to the state level where a top high school volunteer will be selected.

Allison Ampe, Puyallup High School, and **Fred Eastman**, Rogers High School, have been selected to be the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership representative for 2001. The students were selected based on their leadership ability, personal incentive, sensitivity to others, and a desire to communicate with their peers. They will represent their respective schools at the HOBY Leadership Seminar in May 2001.

Ryan Funk was named the Rogers High School Toyota Community Scholar. He was

selected based on his commitment to academic excellence and a willingness to contribute to the betterment of his school and community. Only one nominee is accepted from each school.

Kyle Evans, Rogers High School, is the nominee for the Principal's Leadership Award. One senior per school may be nominated. Criteria for the award includes leadership skill, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience, and academic record. He will receive a certificate and the opportunity to compete for one of 150 national scholarships with \$1,000 each.

Kelley Calvin has been recognized for scoring in the top five percent of more than 110,000 Black Americans based on her 1999 PSAT/NMSQT scores. She is a 2001 National Achievement Scholarship Program participant.

PHS student newspaper earns national award

The Viking Vanguard, Puyallup High School's student newspaper, has been named a 1999-2000 national Newspaper Pacemaker for excellence in scholarship journalism.

"All the late nights and hard work proved worth the effort," PHS senior and current editor-in-chief Kyle Arnold said.

The newspaper received the prestigious award in November at the National Scholastic Press Association's (NSPA) national high school journalism convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference was attended by approximately 200 schools and 4,300 students.

The Vanguard was one of three Washington student publications recognized as a "Pacemaker." This award is "equivalent to a high school Pulitzer Prize," according to NSPA officials.

Puyallup High School students **Kevin Kaukl**, **Michael Poffenberger**, **Jacob Waltier**, and **Benjamin Zeiger**, and Rogers High School students **Bruce Dibello**, **Scott Phillips**, **Abe Vanelswyk**, and **Crystal Root**, have been selected as National Merit commended students. They are recognized for their exceptional academic promise, scoring in the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2001 Merit Program by taking the 1999 PSAT/NMSQT.

Kevin Cogger, Puyallup High School, and **Ben Jarvis**, Rogers High School, have been selected as National Merit semifinalists based on their 1999 PSAT/NMSQT scores. Fewer than one percent of the nation's high school seniors are named semifinalists. Semifinalists have the opportunity to advance to finalist standing, based on their outstanding high school academic record, SAT scores, and recommendations from their school.



PHS student creates winning poster

Each year the Washington Association of Foreign Language Teachers (WAFLT) sponsors a poster contest to promote the study of World Languages. Last March, students at Puyallup High School worked in their world language classes to create posters advertising the celebration of April's World Language Week.

Puyallup High School student Keegan Moon was one of the three students chosen to represent PHS at the state contest. Keegan's poster speaks to the theme "2000: A Language Odyssey."

Governor honors PHS Concert Choir

On December 6, the Puyallup High School Concert Choir was honored in Olympia as Governor Gary Locke proclaimed it to be "Puyallup High School Concert Choir Day." The choir has been selected to represent the state of Washington in Washington DC at the National Festival of States which will be held in April. The choir is directed by Peggy Burrough.

Senior projects help students prepare for the future

Each year at this time, seniors across the district are busy lining up community



Carolyn Stella

service hours, job shadowing people in careers of interest, preparing extensive research papers, and organizing portfolios with resumes, cover letters, and examples of their best work from high school.

This year-long effort, which seeks to build a bridge for students between educational skills and their relevancy in the real world, is referred to simply as the "senior project" and is required for every

senior to graduate.

"The senior project prepares students for the next steps in college, the workplace, or home," says Carolyn Rose Stella, EdD, executive director of secondary education. Stella adds the project gives students confidence to talk in front of people other than their peers, complete papers that meet recognized research standards, and explore the future with community based projects in businesses, government offices, and non-profit or service organizations.

One of the most exciting aspects of the project is doing the community service, says Alison Stephan, senior boards administrator and an English teacher at Puyallup High. "Community experience

gives them an opportunity to think of other people besides the school and themselves and how to make the world a better place."

Depending on the high school, students either tie their eight to ten page research papers directly to their volunteer experiences or they research other topics of interest. In English classes, students are taught how to research a topic and record their findings. This instructional process includes pre-writing, gathering evidence, writing, revising, editing, and formatting skills that are key to any research paper.

Student portfolios usually consist of a three-ring binder containing examples of student writing, photographs, or

other work seniors are proud of, as well as resumes, cover letters, letters of recommendation, evaluation forms, and their research papers.

These portfolios are often displayed for the community, staff, and students to view in spring.

The final phase of the senior project is a 10-minute presentation each spring before a panel of staff and/or community members. Students speak about their projects, using visual supports, then respond to questions from the panel. "This is like an exit interview, says Stephan. "It's a chance for students to think about all the knowledge they have gathered and talk about how they will use it in their lives."

Walker student plans to job shadow nurse practitioner

Nikki James is certain she wants to be involved in the medical field, so for her senior project the Walker High senior has arranged to job shadow two nurse practitioners at a cardiac study center in Tacoma.

James, who moved here last year from Arkansas, was raised among a family of doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators, so it only comes natural, she says, that she wants to pursue that career. While the job shadowing is a first step and a requirement to fulfill her senior project, she also has researched what she needs to do to enroll next September in the licensed practical nurse program at Bates Technical College. After she receives her LPN license, she plans to continue four to six additional years of schooling to become a nurse practitioner.

"I enjoy helping people, and in some cases may be able to save their lives," says James. "I'm not sure exactly what kind of nurse practitioner I want to be, but this experience in Tacoma should help me get a perspective on the field." While she is only required to spend 15 hours volunteering in the community or job shadowing, she says she wants to stay at the cardiac center as many hours as possible to learn the most she can from the experience.

The 18-year-old says she is determined to do well with her schooling and career because she wants her 2-year-



Nikki James completes an activity in preparation for her senior project.

old son, Jozef, to grow up living a comfortable, happy life. Her dedication and attitude is reflected in her grades, she says, adding last quarter she earned straight A's for the first time since first grade.

In addition to her job shadow experience, James will

soon begin writing her research paper. She plans to focus on nurse practitioners, drawing from her experience in Tacoma.

Since school started, she and other seniors have received instruction in an Occupational Planning and Training class on how to write resumes and cover letters, as well as how to fill out job applications.

James also has taken steps to begin organizing her portfolio. On a recent afternoon she shared several pieces of writing and her resume, which she has tucked neatly in a folder. "I feel good knowing I am doing so much so early. This way I can feel comfortable and not leave everything to the last minute."

In addition to medicine, James is interested in computers and design. She has taken several classes in this field, including keyboarding, desktop applications, web page design, and computer presentations.

The senior is also interested in photography and scrapbooking and is making a memory book about her and her son's life. She also enjoys volunteering in the community, and often helps at her son's daycare/preschool. Last month she sang in the Living Nativity Choir at Victorian Country Christmas.

PHS senior plants new growth at Mt. Rainier

Miriam Weinrich spent three full days this past summer digging holes in cold, hard dirt and filling them with more than a thousand native plants in an area formerly used as a campground on Mt. Rainier.

This was an opportunity, she says, to do her small part to help reforest an area



Miriam Weinrich

trodden and, in some places completely barren, from campers who pitched tents and destroyed natural vegetation with foot and vehicle traffic.

“It was a good feeling to see the barren areas first, then see the plants and fresh things growing and know they would be there for a long time and restore the area to what it used to be like,” she says.

This 17-year-old’s concern for the environment is the focus of her senior project this year at Puyallup High. Weinrich and two other seniors, Elizabeth Temus and Kristin Hansen, hiked nearly two miles every morning to the planting



Elizabeth Temus (left), Miriam Weinrich (center), and Kristin Hansen work on a reforestation project on Mt. Rainier.

area near Sunrise. They were joined by several other unpaid volunteers and supervised by a park ranger, who taught the students about different fauna and described his career both at Mt. Rainier and at other national parks.

Toting her journal in her backpack, Weinrich recorded plant names and her impressions of her community experi-

ence each of the three days. She and her two friends worked from 9 am to 4 pm before returning to nearby White River Campground, where they tent camped for two nights.

The girls roasted hot dogs and marshmallows and hiked along the ridge at sunset after a long day’s work. “In some areas the ground was really

hard, and it was pretty cold in the morning,” she says. “We had to sit on the ground and used shovels and hoes to loosen the dirt and dig the holes a half inch deeper than the dirt level of the plants so they would survive the winter freeze. I think this was a good opportunity to understand the meaning of service and how you can learn from and benefit from others.”

For her senior project research paper, Weinrich related the topic of her summer experience by writing about global warming and the need for individuals and nations to do their part to protect the environment. In one section of her paper she writes, “Humans are destroying their home, the earth, under the misconception that somehow it will repair itself. They now face a problem that will not go away: the greenhouse effect must be faced if humanity is to continue its temporal existence on the earth. Environmental issues need to be the main goal of international and domestic policies.”

Weinrich’s career goals include studying abroad, with a focus in international relations and the Foreign Service. She also would like to work for the United Nations by helping in a refugee camp. “I like serving people, and I want to become more culturally aware.”



TV anchor Mimi Jung talks with students at Rogers High School.

TV anchor tells students to enjoy senior projects

It’s been seven years since KING 5 anchor reporter Mimi Jung walked the halls at Rogers High School, admittedly procrastinating about working on her senior project.

After all, she was in the first graduating class required to complete the assignment, and she is quick to remember she waited until the last minute to complete the work.

Her project focused on broadcast journalism, and she still recalls the B grade she earned for her efforts. Since that assignment, Jung went on to intern

at several radio and television stations around the state before ultimately returning nine months ago to KING 5 in Seattle.

She told students how she job shadowed two radio stations during her senior project, one working with a disc jockey and the other observing the news.

Her words of wisdom for this year’s senior class? “Don’t procrastinate,” she said with a grin to 700 seniors packed on gym risers during a school assembly in October to launch the start

of their yearlong senior projects. She also encouraged them to “have fun” with the project and explore whatever it is that sparks their interest.

“The senior project really did make a difference, and if I can motivate just one of you or all of you here today, then it’s worth it,” said Jung.

After her talk, Jung agreed to mentor senior Stephanie Rushton, who is interested in a career in broadcasting. Rushton was scheduled to watch the weekend anchor reporter at work over winter break.

PHS Culinary Arts student wins contest

Karri Selby, a student in the PHS Culinary Arts program, won an essay contest sponsored by *The Seattle Times*, The Bon Marche, and King 5. Selby won a \$1,000 US Savings Bond and a chance to job shadow one of Seattle's top chefs.

Selby will job shadow a chef from the restaurants Axis and Ponti. Shannon Steedman, the course instructor, Karri's mother, and Karri were treated to dinner by the restaurant's owner.

Following My Leader

Cooking is my passion, the kitchen my arena, and I would love to spend a day with Chef Alvin Binuya.

My name is Karri Selby, a Culinary Arts student at Puyallup High School. Since age 11, I have dreamt of becoming a chef. Some girls grew up with dolls or ponies; I grew up helping mom and dad in the kitchen. Where some teenagers watch Beverly Hills 90210, I tune in to Martha and Emeril.

I love the way chefs create an expression of themselves- even if it's not their recipe. While many people believe cooking is easy, I know it's really an art. Like a great sculptor chisels and molds, a great chef uses his or her tools to whip or fold the ingredients with unique styles.

A junior, I have one year until graduation, when I will begin chasing my dream of attending the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in California and someday owning a restaurant. Already, I've worked through an internship and participated in cooking demonstrations at the Puyallup Fair. Following my leader, Mr. Binuya, would be an awesome experience, and would help me fulfill my dream of becoming a chef.

Puyallup and Rogers students travel to Germany

Nine students from Rogers and Puyallup traveled to Germany this summer with "Frau" Becky Hagerman, German teacher at PHS. They are participating in GAPP or German American Partnership Program, an exchange program that gives American and German students an opportunity to learn about each other's culture. The Puyallup School District has had an exchange with Langenhagen Gymnasium near Hanover for more than 25 years.

The Puyallup students stayed with German students and their families. They attended Langenhagen Gymnasium and learned about the German school system. In April these students will host their German partners, who will travel to Puyallup with their instructor, "Herr" Peter Perrey, to attend school and learn about American culture.

While in Germany, the group visited Expo 2000 in Hanover, Hamburg, the Rhine region, Lake Constance, Munich and Berlin.



Participating in the German exchange program are (top row, left to right) Dustin Lawrence, Ben Erickson, Bill Beck, Tiffany Odell, Alexandra Edwards, (bottom row, left to right) Kim Kelley, Khristian Kuhnke, Alicia Wright and Alicia Olson. Teacher "Frau" Becky Hagerman stands to the right of the students.

Students vote for president in mock elections



Students at several elementary schools in the district learned about the election process through school-wide presidential elections on November 6. **Left:** Pope Elementary second graders

(left to right) Kaitlyn Hopkins, Kenny Bayer, and Tyler Poston show their wait in line to vote. **Above:** Meeker Elementary students Haley Olson (left) and Zach Bosen organize the check-in table.

Food Services department automates system

The district's Food Service department is working on the implementation of the Schoolhouse Software "point of sale" system. In December, the department "went live" at Puyallup High School with its first multi-lane system. According to Food Service Director Judy Jackson, "It was a relatively smooth start up. The customers got through the service lines fairly quickly for the first day, and they seemed excited to use the new system."

The district's food service staff members are learning to operate the new system rapidly and like using the system. The software trainer commented that she had not had an installation go so smoothly nor had the accounting variances come out so close on a first day installation before. Systems are now "live" at all secondary school locations.

Hunt students study Vietnamese culture

Students in Jeanie Schneider's third-grade classroom were treated to a visit by two Vietnamese employees of Intel Corporation, Thuy Duong and Trang Vu during September.

As children prepared to read "Angel Child, Dragon Child" from the district's new "Open Court" reading adoption, Schneider invited the women to visit her classroom.

They shared Vietnamese pictures, books, and cultural objects with the excited third graders. Next, they reviewed Vietnamese vocabulary in the story, and helped the children pronounce the words correctly. They then read the story aloud to Schneider's class. Having a better understanding of the culture helped the story become more meaningful to the students.

—contributed by Anne Hoban

Specialists keep equipment working

When first graders sit down with headphones to listen to stories on cassette, or a high school history class turns out the lights to watch a video, there is nothing more frustrating to students and teachers alike than having equipment malfunction.

Whether it's repairing an electrical cord or replacing a hard drive, the district has three technical repair specialists trained to detect trouble spots quickly and restore equipment to working order.



Art Gullede

The Technical Services Department, managed by Art Gullede, has witnessed a surge of activity this fall with the opening of Emerald Ridge High. The increased volume of computers and audio-visual equipment, combined with aging machinery districtwide with difficult-to-find parts, has resulted in a 30 percent jump this fall in the number of repair requests, he says.

While school districts similar in size often have maintenance contracts or

leases with repair companies, Puyallup repairs all of its inventory in-house, which provides quicker response time and saves money, says Gullede. The district also sends its technicians to certification training so they can do warranty work and be reimbursed for repairs to certain brands of computer equipment.

In addition to computers and related



Top Left: Technical repair specialist David Hecker works on audio-visual and computer equipment. **Top Right:** Daniel Gay repairs computer equipment.



equipment, technicians work on a vast array of audio-visual items, including televisions, videocassette recorders, overhead projectors and screens, compact disc players, stereo component systems, and even a few record players.

The fix-it crew includes technical repair specialists David Hecker and Daniel Gay, and Computer Technology Coordinator Gene Seibold.

If it costs more than 60 percent of the replacement value to fix a piece of equipment, including parts and labor, the district does not repair the item.

Often schools will give the broken machinery to the technical support center to be used for salvage parts. "We're always looking for that one

piece," says Gullede, adding the department searches for hard-to-find parts in trade magazines, on the Internet, and through collectors. When a piece of equipment malfunctions, the teacher or on-site technical specialist at each school is encouraged to call the Technology Support Center Help Desk at 841-8600. From there, "trouble tickets" are entered into the computer, and each job is given a priority for response time. Any malfunction that results in an educational or a work stoppage gets top priority.

To help prevent problems before they occur, technicians travel among the schools each summer to clean videocassette recorders, check bulbs in overhead projectors, and perform other routine preventative maintenance.

When not working on repairs, technicians are often busy setting up and controlling sound or audio for school functions, such as district school board meetings, open houses, or special presentations. "If they need help with the sound, we provide it," says Gullede.

Did you Know?

The School District has:
4,500 computers (3,000 Macintosh and 1,500 PCs)
900 overhead projectors
829 televisions
676 videocassette recorders
514 cassette recorders
78 camcorders
50 digital cameras
39 laser disc players

Military linguists visit Rogers

On November 15, the advanced French, German, Japanese, and Spanish students at Rogers High School learned about putting their language studies to use in real life from two military linguists who were guest speakers. Staff Sergeant Kevin Streeter, the U.S. Army Recruiter who works in Puyallup Schools, invited Sergeants Michael Eppers and Charles Fielden to tell the Rogers students about their language studies and international experiences while serving in the military.

Sergeants Eppers and Fielden had to be screened for top security clearance, having selected interpreting as their specialty. In addition, they were chosen to be in the Special Forces at Fort Lewis. Both sergeants trained at the well known military language institute in Monterey, California. Courses there consist of total immersion in the language, including seven and a half hours of instruction per day, while staying in the language outside of class.

The duration of the course depends on the difficulty of the language being studied, with those languages similar to English taking 23 weeks, and the Asian languages taking up to 60 weeks.

Opportunities for adventures abound for these linguists who often travel monthly to the countries where their language is spoken, sometimes behind enemy lines. They meet many interesting people for whom they translate while they enjoy seeing the world. Sergeants Eppers and Fielden described the opportunities that open up for them as global citizens because they are fluent in another language, whether they continue with a military career or pursue international opportunities after they leave the service.

—contributed by *Bev Winder*,
Rogers High School teacher and
district world languages coordinator

Skaters compete in championships

When 14-year-old Elizabeth Mulvey takes to the ice, her love for acting and dance combine to produce winning programs that have earned her a display case full of medals and trophies.

Most recently, Mulvey competed in the 2001 United States Junior National Championship in Colorado. The ninth grader and her partner, Chris Mims, a sophomore at Emerald Ridge High, were scheduled to ice dance last month to Love Potion No. 9.

The Stahl Junior High student, who aspires to one day coach young skaters and possibly be a computer programmer as well, skates an average of 25 hours each week. She leaves school daily for Sprinker Recreational Center ice arena in Spanaway, where she trains with up to five different coaches in jumps, choreography, and dance. Off the ice, she trains at the gym with weights and cardiovascular activities to build endurance and strength. In the five years since she has been skating,



Mulvey says she has perfected all single and double jumps and is working now on mastering the triple toe loop and triple salchow (both involve taking off and landing on certain edges of the blades and completing specific revolutions in the air). Her success didn't come without lots of practice and numerous falls, she says, adding she still falls and occasionally crashes into the sideboards. "It's not easy rotating three times in the air and landing on one foot on one edge perfectly."

Mulvey's awards are displayed in a glass-enclosed case in her bedroom, where two shelves are filled with 14 trophies and more than 40 medals. One of her favorite recognitions, she says, was the "Good Sport" award she won at a competition.

Elizabeth Mulvey displays a trophy won in a recent ice skating festival.

Cross Country teams finish successful seasons

This year, coaches from Puyallup and Rogers high schools fielded cross country teams and were pleased with their teams' level of success during the season.

At Puyallup High School, the boys team, under the leadership of Coach Michele Mathay and Assistant Coach Mark Olafson, continued a phenomenal streak of highly successful seasons, having lost only seven times in the last 11 seasons. This year, the boys grabbed the championship of the South Puget Sound League South Division and finished third in the district meet and eighth at the state level. Individually, Joe Morgan and Ben Zeiger were recognized as First Team All SPSL. Named to the Second Team All SPSL were Brian Madsen and Will Morgan. Meanwhile, the girls team placed fourth in the South Sound Division. Katie Gallagher made First Team All SPSL and qualified for the district championships.

"Academically, both teams were outstanding," Mathay said. "Forty-four of the 72 student athletes involved maintain over a 3.5 GPA, and 12 of the athletes are 4.0 GPA students."

At Rogers High School, coaches Steve Lynch and Kebra Thompson addressed the positive aspects of their recent season. "This year our athletes showed positive attitudes and growth in . . . maturity and character. Cross Country is a great sport . . . where all levels of athletes can compete."



The Puyallup Boys Cross Country team (left to right), Erik Hansen, Joe Morgan, Drew Konzelman, Will Morgan, Brian Madsen, David Flores, and Ben Zeiger, finished eighth at the State meet in Spokane

Despite working with roughly 50 percent of their usual numbers (due to the opening of Emerald Ridge High School), the Rams still sent two participants to state competition. The brother-sister act of Angela and Derek Taylor performed admirably there; and while Derek graduates, Angela plans to compete next fall.

—contributed by *Chris Stewart*

Museum wins grant

The Karshner Museum and the Friends of the Museum were recently awarded a grant to explore the possibility of a pilot program with Chief Leschi secondary students. The students will select Native artifacts from the collection and research them for cultural and community significance.

According to Museum Director Steve Crowell (who co-authored the grant with district Construction Supervisor Dave Johnson), "This will be a great opportunity to form a partnership between Chief Leschi and the Museum."

Students find gifts in museum

Kim Vesey's second-grade class at Stewart Elementary enjoys borrowing artifacts from the Karshner Museum which is located next door to the school. "Every year when we read 'The Three Little Pigs,' I borrow the museum's butterchurn to show my students what the pigs rolled down the hill in," says Vesey.

The students also got to get "up close and personal" with some South American bugs that they couldn't believe were real as they explored a unit on insects. And when they studied dehydration and the process that a grape goes through to become a raisin, they borrowed the dried human brain from the museum's storage room.

"It's creepy, but cool," said the students. Vesey says that having the museum next door is a real gift to her students. She plans to take many more opportunities to borrow artifacts to help enhance her students' studies.



Conrad Hartnell (left) and Kelsey Morton examine the human brain.

PHS guest teacher enjoys teaching

Puyallup High School's guest teacher from Shanghai Girls' School No. 3 Yunling Hu is visiting Puyallup as a goodwill ambassador and teacher. At Puyallup High School, she explains Chinese language, culture and history in her classroom in the library.

Each of the high school's guest teachers has been a master teacher in his or her own right. In China, she is responsible for two classes of 16-year-old girls, each class numbering 45. In the fashion of Chinese schools, teachers move from room to room and the students remain in their class for most of their subjects. Students are responsible for the cleanliness and attractiveness of their classroom. Yunling is the advisor for one of those two classes. She assigns one 400-500 word composition to all of her students per week.

The silver lining of this cloud is the font of wisdom, friendliness and exuberance at the high school every year with the arrival of the new teacher. Each teacher adds new materials to the previous years' accumulations—which is a good thing because the program is largely un-funded—the Chinese government pays for transportation, and occasional curricular and supply needs are funded as they come up by the building, or by those friends at school or at home who pitch in. The teacher's salary is a \$400 per month with most needs provided by host families. This year, Gloria and Bob Banken are hosting Yunling.



The most difficult aspect of living in America, she says, is that it is difficult to "get" a joke and to know whether someone is serious or teasing. It's hard to join in real conversation because our normal rate of speech is too quick for comprehension. "I am treated so well here," said Yunling. "Whenever I have a question, people go out of their way to help me. Everyone is very kind."

—contributed by Margaret Wuersten

District staff receive awards

Eric Wuersten, Science Curriculum Specialist, has received the honor to participate with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in the development of the new Science WASL. He will be part of a team of educators from Washington State writing assessment items, performance tasks, as well as scoring rules that match our Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and the item and test specifications. Our district is truly fortunate to have someone of Eric's caliber serving in the leadership role. Both teachers and students in the Puyallup School District will benefit from Eric's assessment expertise gained from this experience.

Idona Kellogg, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Edgemont Junior High School, was honored at the State Fall Regional Meeting for her outstanding service to the State Family and Consumer Sciences organization. Idona was responsible for the development and annual publication of a state directory of Family and Consumer Sciences teachers.

Russ Picha, Aylen Junior High science and leadership teacher and basketball coach, was named one of three "Unsung Heroes" by *The Puyallup Herald* newspaper. Picha has been actively involved in the lives of his students since he began his teaching career more than 15 years ago. Earlier in the fall, the newspaper had asked readers to name people they felt deserved community recognition.

Picha was nominated by the ASB officers at Aylen as they listed 23 reasons why he is their unsung hero. One of the comments written by the students sums up the group's feelings about their Unsung Hero, "He is just the most amazing teacher and friend!"

Aylen students make cradles



Students create crafts for Puyallup Giftmakers

Above: Edgemont ninth grader Sara Farrish displays samples of the stockings she created for Puyallup Giftmakers. Farrish and her classmates in the Life Issues, Culinary Arts, and Family and Consumer Sciences classes contributed 143 holiday stockings and 101 snowmen "stuffers." At Maplewood Elementary School, fifth graders, under the direction of teachers Ann Valentine and Kim Hines, dipped more than 300 spoons into flavored chocolate for stirring coffee, created more than 150 candy cane felt mice, and made 200 cinnamon ornaments for their "Giving Tree" program, and earned \$340 dollars to be used to buy gifts for underprivileged children.

Right: Students Dominic Duncan, Elliot Forslund, and Meisha Kester (left to right) help prepare chocolate spoons.



Students in three different subjects at Aylen Junior High combined efforts and newly learned skills to produce hand-painted wooden doll cradles and accompanying mattresses for Puyallup Giftmakers, the district's program that helps hundreds of needy families each December.

In technology class, students simulated a manufacturing process as they built nearly 60 wood cradles, learning skills such as sanding, drilling, and sawing using equipment including band, table, and chop saws.

"There was lots of teamwork as some students were in charge of quality control, others were in charge of sanding and drilling, and others were responsible for inventory," says technology education teacher DeWayne Crust. Students traced templates for the rockers and sides onto wood, then sawed, drilled, assembled, and sanded the pieces. All parts had to pass through students assigned to quality control, then to Crust for final approval.

Once complete, the cradles moved to the art department, where students in Cathy Piotrowski's and Marie Lynn's drawing and design classes painted base colors and added uplifting designs such as rainbows, butterflies, rosebuds, cats, whales, clouds, and happy faces. Students learned how to use acrylic paint, how to blend colors and use complimentary colors, how to paint basic designs, and how to touch up their work.

"When I was a little girl I used to love playing with dolls," says 13-year-old Megan Knottingham, who painted a lavender base with a white dove on one side, and two puffy clouds on the other. The eighth-grader says she learned that it takes "lots of white paint," six coats to be exact, to cover a purple base, but said the extra effort was worth making a child happy.

Piotrowski says she purposely let her



Aylen students (left to right) Ashley Fent, Megan Knottingham, and Robert Swigart display the cradles they made for Puyallup Giftmakers.

students have freedom in choosing and painting their designs, because "it's fun for them to create and not have boundaries." The only requirement was to paint images appropriate for young children.

Down the hall in Family and Consumer Science class, students busily sewed mattress pads the past few months to decorate the inside of the cradles.

Students, many of whom had never used a sewing machine before, learned how to sew seams, backstitch, press seams, stuff with batting, and slipstitch a seam closed, says teacher Deena Crust. Some students, like 13-year-old Allison Bain, took the project a step further and embroidered designs such as hearts or flowers on the stuffed mattresses.

This is the ninth year that DeWayne Crust has had technology students

make wooden items for Giftmakers, but the first year that multiple disciplines worked together. Students throughout the district help stock the Giftmakers store each year through various efforts such as penny, toy, clothing, and book drives. They also make toys in several junior high and high school classes.

There were even some surprises this year, Crust said, like learning that some students participated in more than one phase of the project. Robert Swigart built a cradle last spring as an eighth grader, painted it this fall in art class, then helped hand out the handiwork to needy families last month as a volunteer at Giftmakers.

"The legacy of Aylen is its giving to the community," says Principal Michael Prato. "A school priority is how can we blend the school and community together, and this is an example of staff combining efforts, students working together, and parents and the community benefiting from their efforts."

—contributed by Susan Gifford



DeWayne Crust