I am very proud of the young people making a difference here in Port Orchard. They are living up to these words written by Don Schlitz and Thom Schuyler: “There is a point where you cannot walk away, when you have to stand up straight and tall and mean the words you say. There is a point you must decide, just do it because it’s right. That’s when you become a point of light.” I thank them for taking time to teach the children by example that there is nothing they can’t do.

Tim Matthes, Mayor
City of Port Orchard
Mayor’s Report
December 2013, Quarter 4

Celebrating our youth who are making a difference!

Fathoms O’ Fun Festival Royalty
One might ask, what is Fathoms O’ Fun? Growing up in Port Orchard in the 70’s, Fathoms O’ Fun was a household name. To be part of Fathoms meant you were someone special! Businesses would line up for the opportunity to be a sponsor, as well as girls for the opportunity to run for and maybe make it to the Fathoms O’ Fun Court. Times have changed, but what Fathoms represents has not. Fathoms O’ Fun, for those who do not know, is a community organization run completely by volunteers. Our volunteers work tirelessly providing you with rich and inviting events within the South Kitsap community.

One of the many aspects of Fathoms is a scholarship program for our youth. For the past 45 years, we have been enriching our youth by helping their college dreams come true. Our program provides much more than just monies for college, we also provide them in-
Fathoms O’ Fun Royalty - Continued

valuable connections to local community businesses, as well as the ability to expand their communication skills to help them acquire future jobs, and gain confidence in who they are and who they can grow into as an individual.

Being a Royal Member with Fathoms gives you the opportunity to meet life-long friends, travel to parades riding on our award-winning float from city to city representing our town, Port Orchard, and it further helps them develop the confidence to network among dignitaries. But, being on the Royal Court is so much more than that! Our Royalty reaches out to local businesses and auxiliary groups to assist them in various community events happening in the surrounding area. This year alone, our Royal Court has put in over 1,000 cumulative hours. So as you can see, being part of Fathoms is a huge commitment. Efforts like this help our youth feel comfortable with their community while bringing awareness to the events around them, perfects their public speaking, teaches them to network amongst our community, and most of all, being a part of Fathoms helps them gain connections for life!

Yes, the hours are demanding and sometimes very tiring, but the great things in life never come easy. In fact, the most treasured assets are the ones we work the hardest to obtain. They are always told, these little twists and turns that life makes and the humps we have to climb, helps make the journey that much sweeter when it is achieved. Without these obstacles, we would take it all for granted.

Today’s youth are smart, quick to learn and very techno savvy! It’s important we take a moment and step back to see what they have to offer by helping them gain the tools they need to make our future a bigger and brighter place to live and work. We can walk away each day knowing that our community has made a difference in a child’s future!

To get involved as a Fathoms volunteer or sponsor, or to give us great new ideas, visit our web site: www.fathomsofun.org

-Photos by Merlyn Lemkuhl
South Kitsap Students Give Back

Over the past month, all South Kitsap schools have been hosting various events and food drives to benefit local families in need. Here are a few examples:

- John Sedgwick Junior High hosted a “Turkey Trot” and food drive to benefit Helpline.
- The 2013 Giving Campaign at Marcus Whitman Junior High is collecting toys, clothing, and food. 1558 items have been collected so far. MWJH Honor Society also collected food for South Kitsap Helpline at Albertsons.
- Cedar Heights Junior High collected 1123 boxes of Jell-O to fill holiday baskets for families in need.
- Orchard Heights Elementary recently held a sock drive to benefit Bremerton Rescue Mission. 342 pairs of socks, 22 sets of gloves, and 5 hats were donated.
- The NJROTC students performed at the Washington Veteran’s Home in honor of Veteran’s Day.

SKHS Student Spotlight

Sergio Lomeli-Flores is an outstanding young man at South Kitsap High School! Throughout his career, he has held leadership positions in Debate and Spanish Club and has volunteered as a National Honor Society Tutor in Spanish, his first language.

Now in his senior year, he carries a heavy class load with AP Government, Calculus, and Honors British Literature. In all his classes, Sergio is an active leader and strives to assist other students. His cumulative GPA is 3.6 and he still manages to work three days a week at El Sombrero.

But Sergio’s real passion, and the direction he hopes to follow in the future, is in the area of Video Production and Journalism. All of fall, Sergio led a crew of SK students in producing “live” coverage of SKHS football, shown on SKTV and streamed over the internet. In addition, Sergio is the Senior Producer of WTV, the daily SKHS News and Information program. His skills have already earned honors, winning a Regional Student Emmy last spring. All of this work is preparing Sergio to move on to Washington State University in the fall to pursue a career in the News Media.

Kaylee Walter, a South Kitsap High School senior, has volunteered for SK Special Olympics for more than four years. She has also been an active participant on a statewide youth activation committee for Special Olympics. Last week, Kaylee was invited to travel with Beth Wojick, the CEO of Special Olympics Washington, to a “Project UNIFY” meeting at ESPN’s headquarters in Connecticut. While there, Kaylee met Tim Shriver, Chairman & CEO of Special Olympics. ESPN, Disney Company, and Special Olympics announced a new global initiative to promote unified teams made up of individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. She was also able to play soccer for an exhibition game with a local unified team.
One of the missions of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Program is "Helping today's youth meet life's challenges."

More specifically, the mission is to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. No doubt, these fine young men and women are meeting that mission.

The South Kitsap High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program is involved with helping the community. In fact, one of the goals that the cadets/students established for this school year was to increase their involvement in the community.

Several projects are on the horizon to include a community service project in which cadets intend to beautify a City of Port Orchard community park. It is their goal to give back to the community by helping to provide a safe and fun environment for not only kids to enjoy, but the families as well. A cadet noted, "Volunteering for community service projects provides two things. One, it allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place, and two, the unselfishness feeling of helping others is so rewarding."

Recently, over thirty cadets volunteered to assist residents of the Washington Veterans Home on Veterans Day. They not only helped the residents in attending the day’s ceremony, but took part in the Veterans Day program as well. This is a small example of what students in the program provide. Cadets have also been involved with many other Port Orchard service organizations.

Several Girl Scout troops from South Kitsap took to the streets to show their support for Veteran’s on Veteran’s Day.

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Total: 368 4386
Average per boy: 11.92