

Our website: www.friendsofrainier.org Write us at: for@seanet.com

**Our next membership meeting will be: Sunday, November 20th, 2011 at Rainier School
in the Bill Leonard Room at 11:30 am.**

Supt. Crowley will participate and bring us up to date what's happening at Rainier School.

Hot on the agenda: Governor Gregoire listed the Closure of Rainier School as an item to consider during the special Legislative Session starting on November 28. During this special session the Legislature is required to balance in the State Budget that is now short 2 billion \$\$\$. Speaker of the House Frank Chopp toured the Rainier School campus November 8th. He noted that many of the legislators who support closure of the RHCs have never visited one of the RHC sites. This tour was arranged by Representative Chris Hurst and well reported in the Enumclaw Courier Herald by Kevin Hanson, the Editor. Read the copy on the next page.

The DD Service System Task Force: This study group established by the Legislature also needs to be discussed. We need members to attend the upcoming meetings, as they are scheduled, and give input that is appropriate. A report is to be developed by this group that could impact the status of the RHCs and Rainier School.

The Pat/E FANN Club will meet in the Home Ec Room as usual, following the FOR meeting, to plan the annual Christmas party that will be held on *December 18th in the Canteen stating at 12:30pm*

Passings in the Rainier School Community since we last met

**Barbara Condon of Devenish House passed away on September 21st ,
and a memorial service was held on October 20th ,
in the All Faiths Chapel with a reception
following in the Pat A Dining Room**

**A Celebration of Life was held for Roger Hefner of 2010B House
in the Pat A Dining room On October 12, 2011**

**Roberta Crapson of Omak House passed away October 24th
and a Memorial Service was held on November 9th
in the All Faiths Chapel with a reception
following in the PAT E Home Ec Room**

Their lives were blessed by living in the Rainier School community

The Halloween Party on campus for the residents held on Halloween was reported to be a great success, and enjoyed by all who attended. The residents costumes from the costume store in Oakley House were a big hit.

Speaker of the House takes Rainier School tour

By [KEVIN HANSON](#)

Enumclaw Courier Herald Editor

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One of Washington's most-powerful politicians toured the Rainier School grounds Friday, getting a first-hand look at the Buckley facility that has long served citizens with special needs.

Speaker of the House Frank Chopp had been invited by fellow Democrat Christopher Hurst. Both serve in the House and Hurst represents the 31st Legislative District, which includes Buckley and the surrounding Plateau.

The special tour was called as the state faces yet another huge budget shortfall. The facility, home to more than 350 clients, has been identified for possible closure in Gov. Chris Gregoire's 2012 budget.

The effort to save Rainier has always been a bipartisan one and Friday was no different. Joining the tour and lending their support were Sen. Pam Roach and Rep. Cathy Dahlquist, the remaining two-thirds of the 31st District legislative contingent.

Also attending was Buckley Mayor Pat Johnson, whose community would face financial hardship if Rainier School was phased out of the picture by the state. More than 850 people work at the facility and many reside in the immediate area.

Roach, in particular, went on the offensive Friday, praising Rainier School while blasting the Department of Social and Health Services, the state agency responsible for the remaining facilities for those with developmental disabilities. She alleged many in leadership position are biased when it comes to centers like Rainier School, instead favoring smaller, community-based care facilities.

Roach has favored expanding the offerings in Buckley, opening the facility for greater uses.

Chopp and his group walked the Rainier School grounds, chatting with employees, meeting clients and visiting some of the facilities. He stopped short of offering a whole-hearted endorsement, but supported the concept of doing more with the on-site facilities.

He said many in the legislature who support closure of Rainier School and similar facilities have never visited one of the sites. On a personal note, Chopp shared that one of his uncles had resided at both Rainier School and a similar facility in Shorecrest.

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