

RENTON *Magazine*

Volume 2 / No 7 July 2007

Revo 225's
Fourth of July
at Coulon Park
page 6

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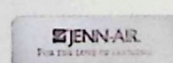
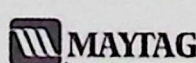
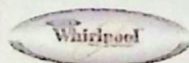
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July is a fun month for families living in the Puget Sound region, with spectacular fireworks displays, festivals and tons of Seafair activities taking place in nearly every community. And it's a month where we normally get to enjoy some wonderful weather!

There are lots of activities taking place in our city during July. The most popular is Renton River Days.

Founded 22 years ago, to consolidate several separate summer events, Renton River Days is the biggest family event of the year. The festival replaced Western Days, which featured a parade, sidewalk sale and street dance.

Thousands of local residents of all ages look forward to the four-day event, to experience several days of festivities including Kids Day, senior breakfast, downtown parade, arts and craft booths, food booths and a weekend of live

music in Liberty Park. We have more information on page 4, and you can find a full schedule of events at www.rentonriverdays.org.

* * *

Do you remember that last time you enjoyed a nine-course dinner paired with fine wines? Dr. Don Bressler, president of Renton Technical College, and his wife, Susan, invited my wife and I to the annual graduation dinner last month at the college, put on by the culinary arts students. What a memorable event!

The lunchroom was converted into a fine dining room complete with white linens, soft lighting and background music provided by Joe



Denis Law
PUBLISHER

Reidi.

Under the direction of instructors John Fisher and Mimi Reed, the students prepared a spectacular feast that started with an Avocado Glace, Green Papaya and Tomato Coulis. Some of the courses included seared eastern scallop, artistically plated with Sorrel walnut pesto and orange preserves; poached red snapper and lobster on a bed of asparagus risotto cake, smoked quail with Serrano ham and veal medallions served on a walnut and raisin salad with warm feta cheese and spinach. And to top off the meal, guests were served lemon tart, apricot sorbet and peach crisp.

This special event not only showcases the talent of the culinary arts students, but was an opportunity to raise some funds for the college foundation, which provides valuable scholarships each year. Put it on your calendar for next June. This is a real treat!

RENTON Magazine

VOL. 2 | ISSUE 7

425.271.9300

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Renton Magazine is mailed each month to homes in Renton, East Plateau and Fairwood. Total circulation is 18,000. Publisher retains the right to reject any advertising. Copyright 2007 Puget Sound Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Use or reproduction, in part or full, without written permission is prohibited. Back issues and single copies are \$3.00. Subscriptions are available for \$20 per year.

Puget Sound Publishing Co.
15 South Grady Way, Suite 514
Renton, WA 98057

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cover: A full day of activities are planned at Gene Coulton Park on July 4, culminating with a big fireworks display. See page 6. Photo by Denis Law / Cover design by Kerri Ladines.

important phone #'s

City Hall
425.430.6400

Chamber of Commerce
425.226.4560

Community Center
425.430.6700

Fire Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7000

Library (Main)
425.430.6610

Library (Highlands)
425.430.6790

Maplewood Golf Course
425.430.6800

Police Dept
(non emergency)
425.430.7500

Renton Community Foundation
425.264.0516

Renton Magazine
425.271.9300

Renton Museum
425.255.2330

Senior Activity Center
425.430.6633

Valley Medical Center
425.228.3450



RENTON river days

a community family festival

How can you not get involved?

BY ANDREW FICKES

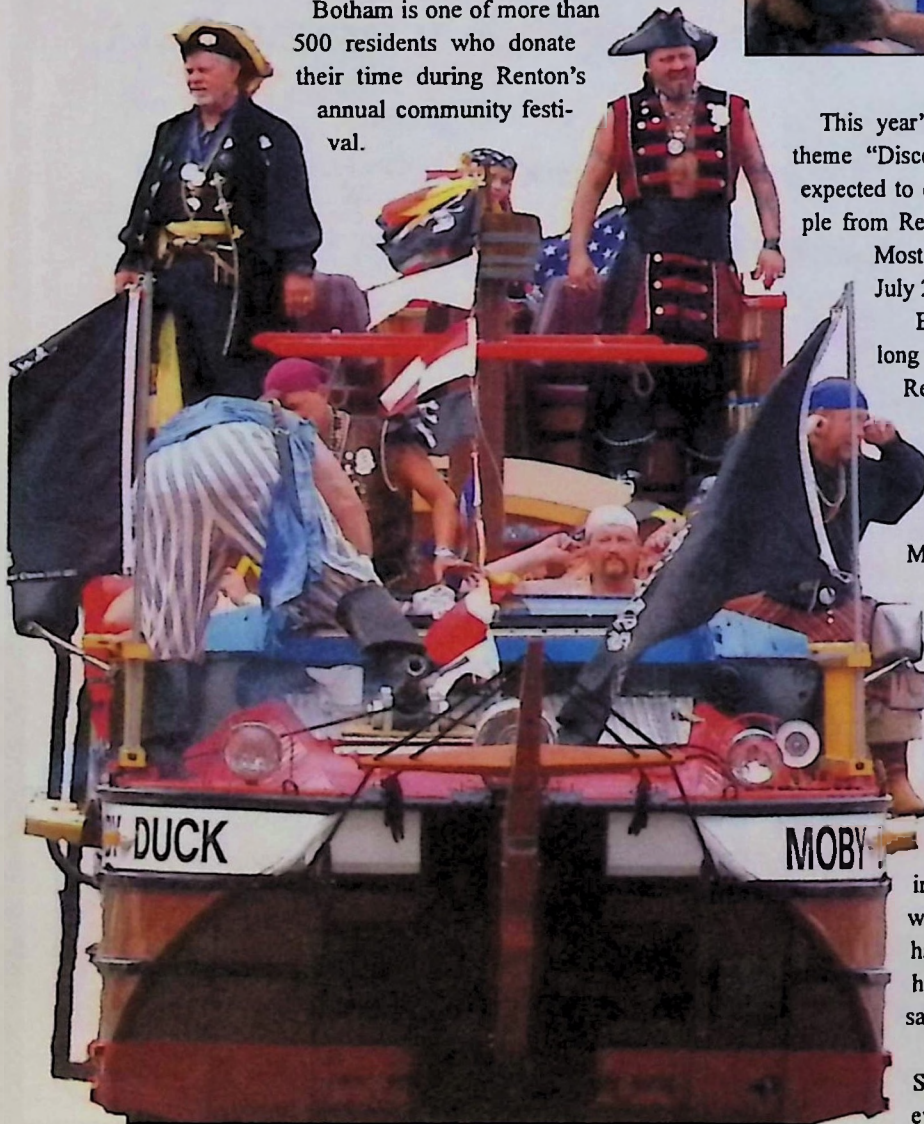
*A*elenanne Botham, an 81-year-old retiree, has strong motivation for volunteering at Renton River Days each year.

"It's just fun," she says. "You see a lot of people there. It's so well organized, and people that I work with there are so nice. I don't see how I could not volunteer."

Botham is one of more than 500 residents who donate their time during Renton's annual community festival.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law



This year's 22nd annual event, with the theme "Discover the Heart of Renton," is expected to draw approximately 50,000 people from Renton and the surrounding areas.

Most events will run from Wednesday, July 25 through Sunday, July 29.

Event highlights during the week-long festival include the Nibble of Renton, River Days Parade, Kid's Day, the Cascade Canoe and Kayak Regatta, a senior day picnic, the Sam Chastain Memorial Golf Tournament at Maplewood Golf Course, and more.

"It truly has become a local event, as well as regional," says Toni Nelson, City Council member who, along with City Council member Don Persson, helped to found Renton River Days. "We are very fortunate to have new sponsors that come in each year and be a part of it, whereas a lot of festivals have a hard time financially. Our festival has always proven to be what it says it is—a family festival."

In 1985, then-Mayor Barbara Shinpoch proposed that all the events held during the summer be

united into one, community-wide festival.

Kid's Day on Wednesday, July 25, sponsored by the Wizards of the Coast, features free activity booths, inflatables, face-painting, stage entertainment, and two performances by the Wenatchee Youth Circus.

Nibble of Renton will feature 10 food vendors on the eastside of Liberty Park. Food will include Thai, Indian tacos, chili dogs, teriyaki, hamburgers, barbecue ribs, fish and chips, elephant ears, dessert crepes, roasted corn, grilled salmon, and espresso. Food is under \$5.

The River Days Parade, which starts on Saturday, July 28, at 10 a.m. on South 3rd St., will have approximately 125 entries, including music, dancers, marching bands, local businesses, police and fire department, and possibly The Blue Thunder drum line from the Seattle Seahawks.

"The festival is one way for the people of Renton to find out about the community in which they live," says Sonja Mejlaender, community relations and events coordinator for the City of Renton. Noting the word "discover" in this year's theme, she added, "They can discover and then get involved."

Renton River Days is sponsored by approximately 75 businesses, including IKEA, the title sponsor.

More information and event listings are on the Internet at www.rentonriverdays.org.

upcoming july events



Return to Renton Cruise-In

Cruise back in time and check out classic cars at the 17th annual Return to Renton Cruise-In Car Show. The show begins at 10 a.m. and awards are presented at 3 p.m. The day includes afternoon entertainment, vehicle displays, food, and raffle.

july 7

Return to Renton Cruise-In

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

206-772-1016

Renton Memorial Stadium
405 Logan Ave. N.

Admission: Free for spectators



Summer Splash-tacular

July 14

This statewide event emphasizes aquatic safety with an array of water games, contests, safety presentations, and life-guard demonstrations. All ages are welcome, but water games and contests will be most appropriate for families with children 7 to 12. Participants are encouraged to "bring a swimsuit and a smile!"

Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

425-430-6780

Henry Moses Aquatic Center
1719 Maple Valley Hwy

Admission: Free



Coulon Family Concert Series

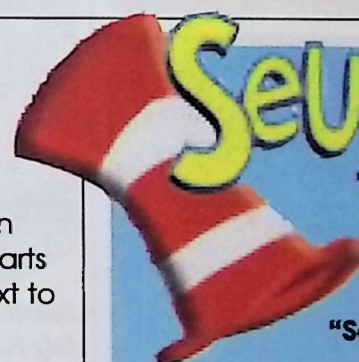
July 11 - August 15

Free entertainment for everyone on Wednesday evenings. The music starts at 7 p.m. in Coulon Beach Park next to Kidd Valley Restaurant.

www.rentonwa.gov / 425-430-6700

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park
1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N.

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. / Admission: Free



Seussical

july 27~ august 12

**22nd annual summer teen musical:
"Seussical"**

Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

425-430-6751

Carco Theatre

1717 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: \$12 for adults;

\$10 for students and seniors

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calendar of events

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Revo 225's Fabulous Fourth of July and Fireworks Event

Wednesday, July 4 from noon to 11 p.m.

"Revo 225" is the 2007 title sponsor for Renton's celebration of Independence Day. The event will include free children's activities and face painting from noon to 8 p.m., stage entertainment from 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., free shuttle service from 9 a.m. to midnight. A professional fireworks display from a barge in Lake Washington will start at 10 p.m.

Gene Coulon Beach Park
1201 Lake Washington Blvd. N.

425-430-6600

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=5920



Fourth of July Fireworks Paddle

Wednesday, July 4 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Get the best seat in the house and enjoy a pleasant evening paddle as well! View the magnificent Renton fireworks display and avoid parking congestion and traffic. Meet at 7 p.m. and paddle to Gene Coulon Beach Park to watch the fireworks, then return at 11 p.m. No experience necessary. Guides will provide basic instruction and lead the two-mile round trip. Bring your own canoe or kayak for free or paddle in a Cascade boat for \$29 plus tax. Ages 8 and older.

Cedar River Boathouse
1060 Nishiwaki Lane

425-430-0111

Admission: Free with personal water vessel

www.canoe-kayak.com

Renton Farmers Market

Tuesdays, June 5 - Sept. 18 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Downtown Renton comes alive with the tastes of summer at the Renton Farmers Market. The market welcomes more than 50 vendors and farmers selling locally grown farm products, including organic fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods, herbs and more! Live entertainment and chef demonstrations are featured each week.

Piazza Park
South 3rd Street (downtown Renton)

425-679-1502

Admission: Free

www.rentonfarmersmarket.com

IKEA Renton River Days

July 25, 27-29

"Discover the Heart of Renton" is the theme for this year's week-long festival. Sponsors are IKEA, First Savings Bank, McLendon Hardware, Rotary Club of Renton, and Waste Management. Check out the Renton River Days website for event information.

Most events located at Liberty Park

425-430-6528

Admission: Free unless otherwise posted

www.rentonriverdays.org

ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS

Picnic Pizzazz...A Kids' Entertainment Series

July 12-Castro the Magician

July 19-Cap'n Arr's Pirate Party Program for Kids!

Bring your picnic lunch to enjoy with free, fun-filled entertainment at Kiwanis Park on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. Sponsored by Renton Kiwanis Clubs.

Kiwanis Park
815 Union Ave. SE

425-430-6600

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov

Play Day in the Park

July 11-Kiwanis Park

July 18-Phillip Arnold Park

Aug. 1-Teasdale Park

Co-sponsored by the City of Renton Police Department. Games, crafts and "incredible inflatables" for ages 6 to 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

425-430-6700

www.rentonwa.gov



Kid's Day at IKEA Renton River Days

Wednesday, July 25, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sponsored by Wizards of the Coast. Starting at 11 a.m., there will be free hands-on activities, exhibits, games, strolling entertainers, and stage performances. Wenatchee Youth Circus tickets are \$1 per person and available at the festival information booth on July 25 in Liberty Park. Check www.rentonriverdays.org for event listings and times.

425-430-6600 / www.rentonriverdays.org

Liberty Park
1101 Bronson Way N

Admission: Free except for Wenatchee Youth Circus (\$1)

Renton Cinema at Liberty Park

July 7-Grease

July 14-Happy Feet

July 21-Goonies

The best in movies on Saturday nights. Seating opens at 7 p.m. Only low-back chairs and blankets allowed in the front viewing section.

425-430-6600

Liberty Park
1101 Bronson Way N

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov

SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Day BBQ Picnic

Thursday, July 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the law offices of Dan Kellogg. As part of IKEA Renton River Days, this is a special day for senior citizens at the Renton Community Center. Enjoy BBQ hamburgers and strawberry shortcake while listening and dancing to the music of Harley Brumbaugh. Advance tickets are

required and available beginning July 1 at the Renton Senior Activity Center.

425-430-6633

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Hwy

Admission: \$1

www.rentonriverdays.org

WINE & BEER TASTING

Wine Tasting at the Met Coffee and Wine Bar

July 12-Merry Cellars

Join The Met Coffee and Wine Bar in July for a variable selection of wines from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Met Coffee and Wine Bar
232-C Burnett Ave. S.

425-687-7989

Admission: \$5

www.themetwinebar.com

Cedar River Wine Fest

Saturday, July 28 from 1 to 7 p.m.; Sunday, July 29 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Cedar River Wine Fest is a two-day event presented by The Met Coffee and Wine Bar and CJ Brennans. The festival will showcase some of Washington's best wineries along with local restaurants food booths, live music, and a pig roast. Admission includes a souvenir tasting glass and wine tasting tickets.

CJ Brennans
201 Williams Ave. S.

425-687-7989

Admission: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door

www.themetwinebar.com

Beer and Wine Tasting at the Red House

July 11-Eisenhower Vineyards

July 18-Ell River Brewery

July 25-A Taste of New Zealand

Join us every Wednesday of the year from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for wine tastings from different wineries and regions all over the world. Twenty dollars buys you more than a full flight of wine as well as all the food for which the Red House is known.

The Red House Beer and Wine Shoppe Tapas Bar
410 Burnett Ave. S.

425-226-2666

Admission: \$20

www.redhousebeerandwine.com

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I miss the lonesome call of the night freight train

I grew up in North Renton, just a block from the railroad tracks that used to run north and south alongside Burnett Avenue. The tracks and the trains are long gone, but I miss them.

As a child, I'd lie in bed at night and listen for the 9 p.m. freight train to come by, blowing a deep, mournful warning whistle to any automobiles that might be crossing the tracks ahead.

There was something haunting about that ghostly night sound, an exotic whoo, whoo-who whoo that seemed like the lonesome call of a long-lost friend announcing his return from far-off places unknown.

During the day, it was a different sound. We kids used to walk over to the tracks and listen to the steely clackety-clack, clackety-clack as the

freight cars rolled through town.

Occasionally, as the trains slowed through downtown Renton, hobos would jump out of the freight cars, looking furtively this way and that for railroad men whose job it was to keep the hobos out of the cars.

Sometimes, the hobos would wander over into our North Renton neighborhood, looking for a handout or offering to do some odd jobs in exchange for a for meal or small change before they caught another train out of town to wherever they were headed.

In an age before electronic games, computers, cell phones, or even television, we got our kicks by putting pennies on the tracks and seeing if the train would flatten them.

As we got older, we got bolder, and dumber. Sometimes we'd listen for an approaching train and then run

out to the middle of the railroad bridge that used to span Cedar River. We'd stand there and see who would be the bravest and stay the longest before running off the bridge. It's a wonder we all survived.

We also used railroad tracks as an easy path to places. In the summer, we'd walk the tracks out to Kenndale Beach to swim, and in the winter to fish for trout off the dock.

Trains have been part of Renton's history almost since its beginning, and they still are. The Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad was built in the



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

1870s to link Renton's coal mines to a shipping terminal in Seattle. Boeing has used the rails for years to bring airliner bodies up from Wichita for final assembly in Renton.

It's too bad that the popular Spirit of Washington dinner train won't be running from Renton to Woodinville anymore. On the other hand, King County is negotiating to acquire that rail right-of-way and wants to build a recreational trail from Renton to Woodinville. Which would make it a heck of a lot easier to get to Kenndale beach if I were still a kid.

According to the county, it is open to the idea of also using the right-of-way for mass transit from Renton up the Eastside.

In the meantime, I still miss that lonesome sound of the passing freight train at night.



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THREE
RENTON
LOCATIONS

Renton Shopping Center
431-B Rainier Ave. S.
425.228.6180

North Benson Center
10707 SE Carr Rd.
425.227.9104

Renton Highlands
3901 NE 4th St.
425.271.5400

A hole in the water



KIRBY UNTI

People sure know how to kill a guy's enthusiasm. Kim and I are proud new owners of a miniature Ranger Tug R-25 Boat. It is classified as a pocket trawler. We fell in love with it at the Seattle Boat Show and took delivery in June. We plan to spend many hours on it now and in retirement, taking in the beauty of the Northwest cruising waters with hopes of some day making the journey up the inside passage to Alaska.

What tilted our decision was that the boat is big enough to accommodate the entire family on board for an outing. The real selling point for the five women is that it has a private head on board. I might add, the most expensive head we will ever purchase.

We are very excited about having taken the plunge, but the consistent response of friends has been quite dreary. "You did what?" "You bought a boat?" "Don't you know that a boat is nothing more than a hole in the water in which to pour money?" or "The two happiest days in a boater's life are the day he buys the boat and the day he sells it."

They go on to explain how Seattle is the boating capital of the world and how many boats never leave their slips. Now don't get me wrong. I know that behind this cynical veneer there lie some real truths. It doesn't take a math wizard to

figure out that a boat is NOT a good investment. They typically depreciate rapidly. They are expensive to maintain. When you add the word marine to their parts the prices go up significantly. Marine fuel will gouge you.

One of our daughters even came up with the suggestion that we ought to name the boat "The Loan Ranger" because the truth is, the bank owns more of the boat than we do. Fortunately, it isn't the first boat we have owned. We are not totally naïve to the harsh realities of ownership.

The truth is, owning a boat takes a special kind of fool. You have to love the dream of having the boat as much as you do the reality. You have to be excited about looking through boating magazines at all the boat jewelry that you hope one day to add.

You have to get a rush at just going to the marina and petting your boat. You have to like walking the docks and talking to other boat owners who share in your foolishness. You have to be into story telling with an art for inflating how treacherous the waters were the last time you crossed the mighty straits.

You have to love the serenity of being on the hook, with the sun setting, the eagles flying overhead and the steaks sizzling on the grill. You have to love the early morning dew, the smell of salt water and the chirping of the sea gulls after a night in which you were rocked to sleep by the sound of the water lapping against the hull.

It ain't for everybody. One of the great lessons I have learned in life is that when life comes to an end, what matters most is not how successful your investments were or how large your savings account or how much money you wasted. What matters most is the time spent with family and friends and the memories foolish choices can lead to.

I know it will be said: He loved God. He loved his family. And he loved his boat.

Renton Magazine columnist Kirby Unti is pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in the Renton Highlands.

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pet care



Pet safety: Secure your dog while driving

BY CHARLIE POWELL

Don't put your pet at risk, train with a crate

Dogs fall from pickup trucks often. The resulting injuries are usually fatal, or at least severe and expensive. Veterinary practices statewide see far too many of these totally preventable cases.

Dogs should never be placed uncontained or unrestrained in the open back of a pickup. There may be no other choice for transporting a pet in some cases, but there are better ways to do it than letting it run free in the bed of a truck.

Ideally, if a dog must ride in the back they should be crate-trained and the crate should be secured in the back of the truck. This includes dogs in campers or truck caps. Crate training is sadly misunderstood by many. Some believe it is cruel to contain a dog in a crate. Actually, it is one of the few places a pooch feels most secure and relaxed. Domestic dogs are descendents of wild canines and retain their strong denning behavior. In the wild, a den, like a crate, provides security and some climate control.

There is a wealth of information available about how to easily crate-train your dog in a short period of time. Here's an

added bonus; crate training helps dogs become house-trained faster because they naturally do not want to soil where they sleep. A couple of good websites for crate training instructions are: <http://www.inch.com/~dogs/cratetraining.html> and http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/our_pets_for_life_program/dog_behavior_tip_sheets/crate_training.html.

Some pet owners still may have to secure their animal in the back of a pickup without a crate. Without a secured crate, tethering is the only other alternative. Tethering can be done but it takes a lot of serious thought and planning. Tethers must be strong, durable, and provide limited motion, usually by cross-tethering. If a dog loses its footing or tries to jump from the vehicle with a tether that is too long, it can hang itself or be dragged.

Check local laws too. Laws on tethering animals in any situation are changing in many jurisdictions because tethering often can be inhumane if not planned and done properly. Some jurisdictions prohibit dogs in the back of pickups entirely.

Finally, even if a dog is crated or properly tethered, they need to be protected from other cargo. Swerving or firm braking can cause cargo to slide around injuring your animal or pushing them out onto the roadway.

Charlie Powell is public information director for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

healthy advice

by dr. bob thompson

Bicycle safety

Basic safety tips for parents
Get into the helmet habit
Always stop at stop signs
Practice what you teach

While few of us will ever get our photograph in the Renton Magazine for saving a child's life, we all have the opportunity and responsibility to take life-saving measures for the safety of our own children.

Simple measures like developing an emergency plan with your children in the event of a fire in your home are so essential but often overlooked in our busy lives. What greater investment can we make for our children's future than to provide them with a properly fitted life jacket, car seat or bicycle helmet?

At this time of year many of us head to the garage to uncover and dust off our child's bicycle for a new season of outdoor fun. Here are a few things to consider before turning them loose on two wheels.

First, make sure their bike is in good repair. Test the brakes, check the tire pressure, tighten the seat and handle bars, and oil the chain. Make sure the bike and helmet are the proper size. He/she should be able to straddle the bike with both feet on the ground and one to three inches to spare. A bike that is too big or too small is a safety hazard.

Last year's helmet may now be too small. Level the helmet over your child's forehead and adjust the chin strap to fit



Dr. Bob Thompson

snugly and comfortably. It should protect the forehead without slipping forward or backward.

Always ride with your children the first few times each year to model safety and review the key "rules of the road." Start with driveway safety and have them practice entering your street. They should stop at all stop signs regardless of what is happening. Teach your children to walk their bikes across busy streets, at least until they have some advanced training and are old enough to understand traffic.

For residential street riding, you can teach them to always scan and signal before turning left. Here's a good exercise: Go to a playground to practice riding along a straight paint line while scanning behind. Stand alongside and hold up two fingers on your hand after the child rides by. Call their name. After 10 or 15 minutes of practice a 10-year-old should be able to look behind and identify how many fingers your holding up, all without swerving.

Rule out night riding for your youngster. Make your child understand that if he or she gets caught on a bike after dark, the only thing to do is to call you for a ride home.

Each year more than 500,000 people in the US are treated in emergency departments for bicycle related injuries. Over half of these injuries are children under 15 years old. Please take the time to protect and save the lives of our most valuable resource, our children.

Never forget that example is the best teacher.

For more information and help with proper bike helmet fitting, you can call Valley Medical Center's Children's Therapy Center on their Bike Helmet Line, 425.228.3440, ext 5577.

Dr. Bob Thompson is a family practice physician with 25 years of experience in Renton, and is Valley Medical Center's Director of Recruitment and New Program Development.



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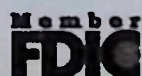
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Get a clue at the library

BY BETTE ANDERSON

What's free, fun and available to every child from infant through high school? It's the summer reading program at the downtown and Highlands branches of the Renton Public Library. Mysteries await you, and the rules are simple: Drop

by the library any time to pick up a free summer reading booklet, and check out some books to read or audio books to hear. Keep track of how much time you spend reading or listening to books.

For each picture book you read or someone reads to you, the library will give you a free sticker to put in your booklet. For chapter books, you will get a sticker for each 15 minutes you spend reading or listening. When your booklet is filled with stickers, you will get to choose a free paperback book to keep, and your name will be displayed at the library on a magnifying glass, detective badge, hat, or key.

The program runs through September. As a special kick-off for summer reading, library story times the second week of July will feature the "Get a Clue" mystery theme. To signal the end of summer, the library

will have two special visitors at story time on Aug. 27: an officer from the King County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit and his dog-partner.

Make summer reading a family affair by reading together. Parents can read to children, brothers and sisters can read to each other, or everyone in the family can take turns. Reading during the summer helps children remember the skills they learned during the school year, so schedule at least 15 minutes of reading each day among all the other fun things the family has planned.

Unlock the mystery, follow the clues, read for fun in the Renton Library's summer reading program.

Bette Anderson is the Renton Public Library director, phone (425) 430-6610.

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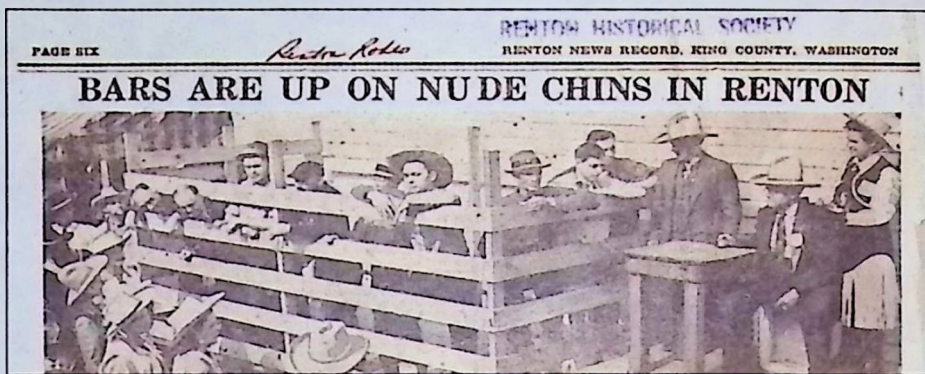


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RENTON NEWS RECORD, COLLECTION OF THE RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
Beardless violators locked up by "Sheriff" "Oats" Cochran and Renton Rodeo Queen Billie Jean Hardie, 1939.

Before River Days...

BY ELIZABETH STEWART

Before Renton's July festival became River Days, there was Frontier Days. In July 1939 Renton boosters organized the first Renton Rodeo and Frontier Days, promoting the city by taking advantage of people's fascination with the Old West. The Renton Commercial Club had seen how successful rodeos were in drumming up business in other western cities. Still trying to recover from the Depression, local businesses needed all the help they could get. The Commercial Club decided to enlist the Lions Club and other local organizations to bring in Miss Rose Wall, owner of a ranch in Ellensburg, to organize "the first rodeo of this size to be staffed under artificial lighting west of the Rocky mountains" in Renton's baseball park. An expert trick rider, Miss Wall trained horses for rodeos in the Pacific Northwest and Canada on her 2500-acre ranch. Miss Wall recruited over 60 cowboys from across the West to demonstrate their skills roping, riding, and "rasslin" steer for three days in Renton.

The entire city was whipped up into a Western frenzy during the event. Miss Billie Jean Hardie was selected as Queen of the Renton Rodeo from among thirteen other local beauties with riding skills. Businesses were encouraged to have their employees don western wear and throw sawdust on their floors (particularly the taverns). But the high point of the Frontier Days was undoubtedly the beard-growing contest. By order of Mayor George Beanblossom every male over 21 was

required to stop shaving until the rodeo arrived. Prizes were offered for the reddest beard, the blackest beard, the thickest beard, most unusually designed beard, even the scrawniest beard—twelve categories in all. Participants paraded their "Van Dykes, mustaches, sideburns, mut-ton chops, and other forms of whiskery adornments" through town on the eve of the rodeo; those who insisted on shaving were "locked up" until they paid a fine to the fund for next year's rodeo. Ed Hougardy beat out about 300 other "beard raisers" for the title of "Whisker Champ," while Elmer Pistoresi, the runner-up, "lost first place by a hair." After the judging, twelve barber chairs were set up on the street, twelve wives wrangled their hairy husbands into the chairs, and removed their facial hair while Fox and Paramount newsreel cameras recorded the spectacle.

Renton residents agreed that the 1939 Frontier Days celebration was so much fun that they continued the tradition into the 1970s when it was called "Western Days." In 1985, however, the Downtown Merchants' Association had the idea to celebrate Renton's Jet City future with a July Air Faire, and the tradition was broken. In 1986 the July city festival became the celebration we know and love, Renton River Days, a time to celebrate Renton's parks and trails clustered around the Cedar River.

For more information, see Tom Monahan's article in the March 2005 Renton Historical Society newsletter. Elizabeth P. Stewart is the Director of the Renton History Museum. info@rentonhistory.org, 425.255.2330.



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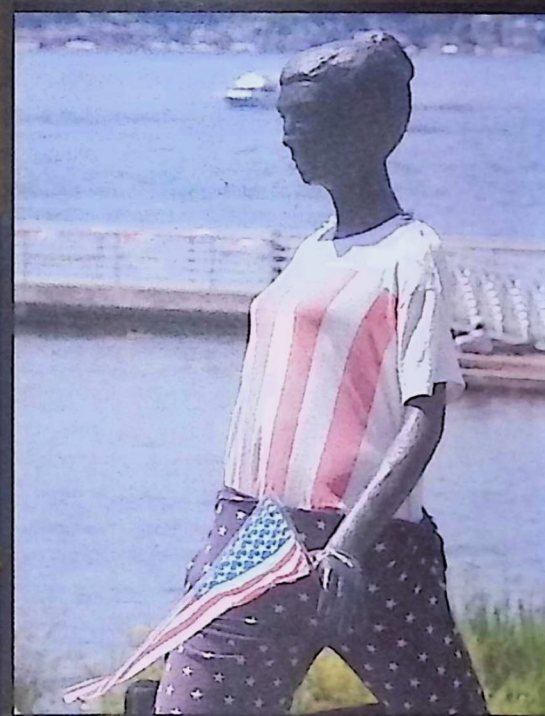
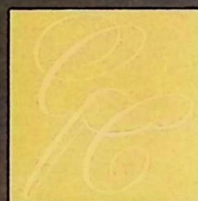
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Gene Coulon Park: A haven for water enthusiasts

By Andrew Fickes / Photos by Denis Law

*I*n the early 1950s, the southeastern corner of Lake Washington in Renton was swampland. Today, it's the 57-acre Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Like the man who envisioned it more than 40 years ago, the park is a treasure and asset to Renton.

Gene Coulon was city parks director for 30 years—the longest term for a parks director in Renton's history.

"Gene Coulon was one of the greatest people I ever knew—a real asset to Renton," says veteran park board member Ron Regis. "He was always ahead of the game. He had an

idea of attaining more parks for Renton. He could envision that park when it was just a swamp-land."

Originally named Lake Washington Park, development began in 1968 with 23 acres. Between 1969 and 1973, an additional 34 acres was acquired. Following Coulon's death in 1977 the park was named after him, and development was completed in 1982. Ivar's and Kidd Valley opened at the park in the summer of 1983, making it the only park in King County with restaurants.

The public showed its support in 1982.

"Tax payers supported the project by passing a bond issue to help with the completion of the second phase of the park," says Leslie Betlach, city parks director. "Even U.S. Senator Henry 'Scoop' Jackson came to support the completion of the

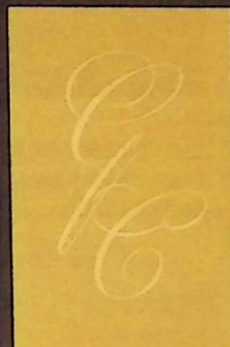
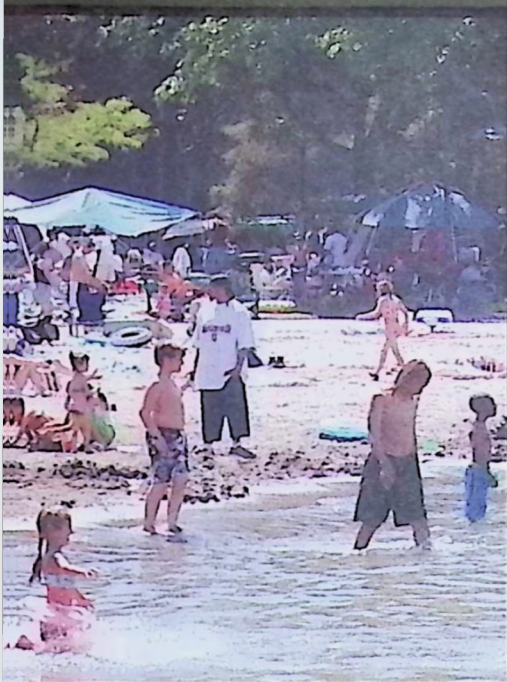
park in 1982."

Coulon Park is home to the largest boat launching facility on Lake Washington—equipped with eight boating lanes.

It's a place where family traditions are made. Ten thousand or more people attend Fourth of July festivities, and in December, the Clam Lights Festival attracts upwards of 15,000 people from Renton and surrounding areas.

Other major events include limited hydroplane races in the spring, Cascade Canoe and Regatta and Boatstock during

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Diasts and family traditions

River Days, and fishing tourna-
with C.A.S.T. For Kids.

park is home to many kinds of
and water fowl, including turtles,
fish, salmon, wild rabbits, ducks,
eagles, and blue heron.

boasts "extraordinary" playground
ent, notes Betlach. On the water-
between Ivar's and the north picnic
play areas cater to two age
—2-to-5 year olds and 5-to-12 year

erpretive signage lets people know
many different plant species that fill

the park. There are 15,00 trees, including
giant sequoia, bald cypress, larch, and live
oak. Other vegetation includes 76,000
shrubs, 16,000 water plants and five acres
of grass sod.

Visitors can enjoy a breathtaking view
of Lake Washington and the
Bellevue/Mercer Island skyline.

Alf Van Hoose, a computer contractor
living in the Renton Highlands, is a fre-
quent visitor. He considers the park a nice
oasis from the busy city and says that it
offers one of the more scenic views
among parks in the county.

"I'm glad the city has taken the time
to take care of the park the way they do,"
he says.

Regular park hours are 7 a.m. to 9
p.m., Monday through Sunday. From June
16 through Labor Day the swimming
beach is open from noon until 8 p.m. No
bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, or
dogs are allowed on the premises.

Betlach says development at the park
has not ended. She says the city hopes to
one day have a connection from the park
to the boathouse at the mouth of the Cedar
River Trail.

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park in numbers

Approximately 10,000 people
attend Fourth of July festivities.



Upwards of 15,000 people attend
Clam Lights in December.



City projects to earn \$94,000 in
boat launch revenue for 2007.



309 scheduled picnics at Gene
Coulon for summer 2007.

RHS Alumni choir concert boosts school's performing arts

*T*he first-ever Renton High School Alumni A Cappella Choir Concert, held at the IKEA Performing Arts Center May 20, brought together 75 alumni spanning the graduating classes of 1952-1984. The event raised more than \$5,200 to benefit the Renton High School Excellence in Education Foundation.

Through the foundation, all proceeds from the concert will support the performing arts department at Renton high during the 2007-2008 school year. A short presentation will be made to the Renton School District Board at their meeting Aug. 22.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN CATES

The 75-member Alumni A Cappella Choir joined the 44 member Student A Cappella Choir to close the evening benefit concert with the Renton High School alma mater song. The event raised more than \$5,200.

More than 500 tickets were sold for the event, which for many alumni was the first time they'd seen their peers in more than 30 years. Director was Richard Houser, now retired, who taught at RHS from 1963-1986.

Also on the program was the current student A Cappella Choir, with 44 members, under the direction of

Lizabeth Diaz, chair of the school's Performing Arts Department.

As a performance finale, both choirs took to the stage and sang the Renton High School alma mater. Alumni choir coordinator was 1975 graduate, Cheryl Geffre Carlson.

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What are teachers up to this summer?

Hazen High School French teacher JoAnne Peterson will travel to Brittany, France, for a class reunion with students and professors from her junior year of study abroad in 1977. She has kept in touch with many of her classmates through 30 years of letters and visits. Peterson said she expects a fun week full of French language and culture to share with her students in the fall.

Sandi Hachtel, an elementary bilingual ESL teacher at Highlands and Sierra Heights elementary schools will spend four days volunteering on a Pioneer TREK, helping lead more than 160 teenagers understand the ways of the pioneers. The group will travel 20 to 30 miles on foot, pushing handcars and cooking over campfires with Dutch ovens. Participants will dress in period clothing: girls in long dresses, pantaloons and bonnets and boys in cotton pants – not Levis; they weren't invented yet. The purpose of the camp is to help students understand challenges faced by pioneers.

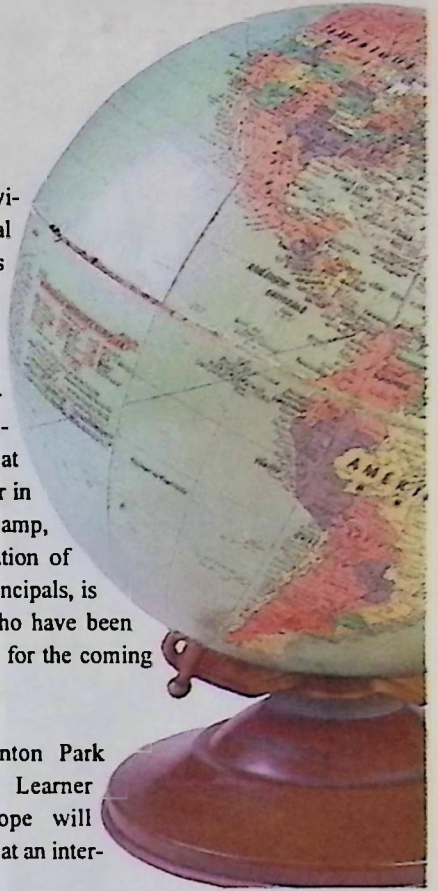
Hazen High School Spanish teacher Mandy Fullerton will spend four weeks in Puebla, Mexico, working in a program with the Oregon International Council, taking intensive language classes with an emphasis on improving teaching and bringing better communications back to her classroom.

Harvey Sadis, second grade teacher at Cascade Elementary School, will go to China for three weeks with 18 teachers from six western states. The tour is arranged through the National Consortium for the Teaching of Asia (NCTA) and the East Asia Resource Center of the Henry Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Harvey will visit historical sites, schools, and local industry in Beijing, Xian, Lhasa (Tibet), Chengdu, and Shanghai. He also will go to Los Angeles to attend a one-week seminar on Korean history and culture. He's the first Seattle area fellowship winner.

Kerri Dowd, Hazen High School's family and

consumer sciences advisor will attend a national conference in Las Vegas on "relational Aggression" and other forms of bullying. She will also serve as a senior counselor at a summer leadership camp at Cispus Learning Center in Randall, Wash. The camp, hosted by the Association of Washington School Principals, is mainly for students who have been elected to ASB offices for the coming school year.

Cascade and Renton Park English Language Learner teacher Rachelle Cope will teach English in Spain at an international school.



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renton school district

Three Kennydale teachers to visit Amman, Jordan

BY ANDREW FICKES

Three Kennydale Elementary School teachers have been selected to fly to Amman, Jordan, this summer as part of a teacher exchange program.

Kennydale teachers Michelle Luders (third grade), Marvice Thornton (fifth grade-Discover), and Vivek Srivastava (first grade), are part of a pilot program called the Jordan Teacher Exchange Partnership, a collaboration between the University of Washington and the Jordanian Education Trust.

The three will join Seattle School District teachers Kevin Gallagher from Bryant Elementary and Tina Anima from McLure Middle School. They'll all fly out on July 28 and stay for three weeks in Amman. For the Kennydale teachers, who all started at the school in 2000, it was a whirlwind process getting into the program. It was decided within a matter of days that they would be going to Jordan, and they welcome the opportunity to learn about that country's culture and teaching methods.

"I'm very much interested in the culture," said Srivastava. "I see sharing education as a way to open doors for understanding."

"I have a passion for learning other cultures. I like the idea of bringing two worlds together," said Thornton.

"I like the idea of experiencing another cul-



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Kennydale Elementary teachers Michelle Luders, Marvice Thornton, and Vivek Srivastava will spend 3 weeks in Amman, Jordan to participate in a pilot teacher partnership program with the University of Washington and the Jordanian Education Trust.

ture," said Luders. "It's just amazing that we're actually going."

"The group of teachers that we have selected are exceptional teachers. They have excellent ideas on how visiting Jordan will enrich them as people and as teachers," said Mimi Heggelund, Ph.D., UW program coordinator. "One of the major goals for this program is to develop a better understanding of global citizenship between teachers from Jordan and the U.S., and for these teachers to bring back information and share it locally, at the classroom level, school level, and the district level."

From July 2 through July 20, five teachers from Jordan, recipients of the Queen Rania Teacher of Excellence Award for distinguished teachers, will visit Seattle. They will stay on the UW campus and work alongside Kennydale and Seattle public school teachers.

"We developed a program that will encourage teachers from both countries to better understand educational systems through dialogue and discussions of the forces and forms that shape an educational system in different environments," said Heggelund. "We want them to dig

deeper in the issues and go beyond the superficial."

Some of the topics include the role of teacher as facilitator, engaging students in their own learning, technology, and the gender, religious, family value, and social-political economic forces that impact education.

Thornton said they'll be sharing with Jordanian teachers the "inquiry learning" method, which involves teachers asking students broad-based questions that have multiple answers. This allows students more freedom to express themselves.

Thornton, Luders, and Srivastava noted the curriculum in Amman will be different from the United States.

Jordan, a country of six million people, is the most westernized country in the Middle East. Governed by a constitutional monarchy and bordering Iraq, the country is home to a large number of Iraqi refugees. King Abdullah II and Queen Rania are generally viewed as progressive leaders and strong supporters of women's issues and education.

The visiting teachers' activities are being planned by the Jordanian Ministry of Education and Queen Rania's office.

Renton School District good news announcements

Students help food bank

Renton High School students Idill Moallin, Jessica Rodriguez, and Duong Vu, recently responded to a call from the Renton Food Bank for a new bench for customers who are waiting for help or transportation. The current bench was in poor condition and too low, especially for the food bank's many elderly clients. Teacher Bob Wilson helped lead the project, and the students delivered the bench last week.

A night with the stars

Hazen High School freshmen recently attended a nighttime science class, spreading out on the school's football field to learn about galaxies, star clusters, planets, and nebulae. The ninth graders, led by Hazen science teacher Todd Pollard, joined with astronomers from the Boeing Astronomy Club, Eastside Astronomical Society and Squak Mountain Astronomers to earn science credits.

Creative students compete nationally

Two students in the district are state winners of the PTSA Reflections contest and will compete at the national level. Jamie Sanidad, Kennydale Elementary School, won in the intermediate literature category with her story, "My Imagination is My Favorite Place." Marissa Kranz, McKnight Middle School, won in the middle/junior choreography/dance category with her presentation, "Dance No Matter What." The PTA Reflections Program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition.

Masons honor math teacher

Lindbergh High School math teacher Katelyn Hubert has been named Washington's Outstanding

Educator of the Year by St. Anthony's Masonic Lodge. Hubert was selected for her dedication to students and her passion for learning and teaching. Additionally, the local Masons organization named two outstanding juniors from each of Renton's comprehensive high schools.

Arizona honors Hazen alumna

Molly O'Brien, a 2003 graduate of Hazen High School, graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University. She also received the Mauer Award, which is the university's oldest continuing honor. The award is presented annually by the Arizona State Alumni Association to individuals who have attained the highest academic standing in any four-year curriculum during their undergraduate work. O'Brien is currently working as a broadcaster with the Arizona Diamondbacks professional baseball team.

Students boost downtown revitalization

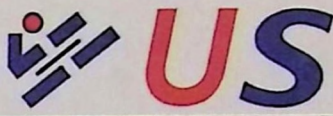
Renton High students in Jeff Dowd's marketing class are helping the City of Renton with its Downtown Renton Revitalization efforts. The students wrote and conducted a short survey on what makes Renton a great place to live, learn, work and play. The survey was conducted at the Farmer's Market at the Piazza. Students will administer a similar survey at the Landing when it opens in November. Advanced students in the class are also preparing a proposal to create visual merchandising in the form of window designs for downtown businesses.

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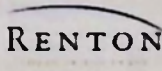
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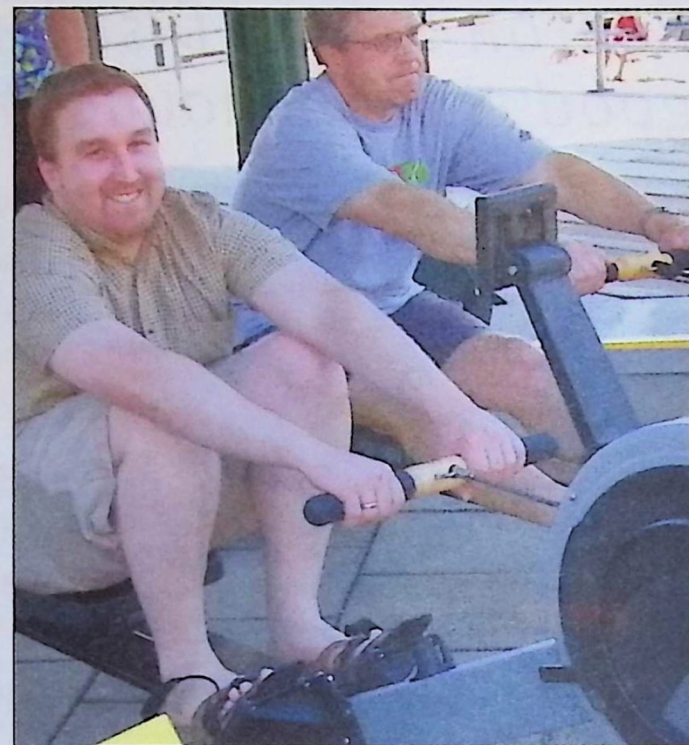
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RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Renton Magazine reporter Andrew Fickes heads out on a 15-minute rowing instruction on Lake Washington led by the Pocock Rowing Center and Renton Rowing Club. More than a dozen people took part in Renton Rowing's all-day event, part of the club's commitment to relaunch its presence in the Renton community.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Andrew Fickes warms up on the rowing machine and practices his technique. Renton Rowing is looking to implement the rowing machines into the lifetime sport curriculum at Renton high schools and middle schools.

Club puts new life back into rowing

BY ANDREW FICKES

*A*s a young adolescent, competitive sports were not my strong suit. Coordination wasn't a strength of mine either. Which is why any sport involving a ball was out of the question.

Despite my reservations, though, I went into playing baseball with the best intentions (mostly to please my father). It wasn't until eighth grade, when I played in the city junior league, that I caught my first pop fly in right field. I was so shocked at catching the ball that I didn't throw it to second base until it was too late.

It was then I knew my competitive sport days were over. I pursued artistic expression in high school jazz choir and an original classic rock group.

So, now at age 27, when I thought my sports days were over, I have found something altogether different but fun, challenging, and rewarding.

I recently tried out recreational rowing on the shores of Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park on Lake Washington. Renton Rowing, in partnership with the Pocock Rowing Center in Seattle, offered instruction as part of its rebuilding program. I was one of a few dozen people who showed up on an unusually hot day.

Temperatures were peaking 80 degrees that day in late May. Speedboats dotted placid Lake Washington. The car lots were full. Activity was at an all time high on the beach. I and seven other people of varying ages hopped into the racing shell. Each person had one oar.

Before setting out, our instructor taught us the proper techniques. Racing shells have sliding seats to allow rowers to move their legs up and down and move the oar through the water. As we left the dock, I realized how important coordination was in this sport and how important it was to work as a team.

"In the NBA, one guy can carry the team but in rowing you need all eight rowers involved and the coxswain," said Kent McCleary, president of Renton Rowing and an ESL instructor at Lindbergh High School.

Our goal is to broaden the diversity of rowing. We want to extend the opportunity to everybody. ~Kent McCleary

While my peers in the racing shell seemed to be faring well, I was falling behind. I felt like I was holding my team back. But soon enough I caught on and I could feel an excited grin sneak up on my face. I was happy.

Before I knew it, all eight of us were in sync. We were soon far out in the water. I felt like an Olympic athlete, just not as skilled or coordinated.

In total our trip out and back was probably no more than 15 minutes. And those minutes flew.

McCleary and former Renton Rowing president Al Mackenzie have resurrected the club, which was formed in the mid-1980s and went dormant in the early '90s. They're looking for a new home for a rowing center to store the club's equipment and racing shells.

"Potential sites could be Renton Airport, the Cedar River, or the Southeast

corner of Lake Washington between Coulon and Boeing," said Mackenzie. "It would be nice to attract a core group of 50 to 75 people to the club, focused on the Renton community."

Mackenzie said interest is there and so the center just needs to be built.

The club wants to draw from the high school population in Renton. To make that happen, the club is coordinating with the Renton School District to introduce rowing/boating into the lifetime sport curriculum at all the high schools and middle schools.

"Our goal is to broaden the diversity of rowing," said McCleary. "We want to extend the opportunity to everybody."

Information about joining Renton Rowing is available from Kent McCleary, president, 425-204-3158, or e-mail kent.mccleary@renton.wednet.edu.

recipe of the month



CHEF JOHN FISHER

John Fisher, award-winning chef and instructor in the Culinary Arts Department of Renton Technical College, has an interesting dish to serve that will warm these Northwest days. This is a favorite of Chef Fishers and one he used in an American Culinary Federation Competition.

Butter Lettuce & Golden Beet Salad with Lemon Herb Vinaigrette

<u>Dressing: you will need</u>		2 tbsp	Garlic minced
1 tsp	Dijon Mustard	2 tbsp	Parsley chopped
1/2 cup	Meyer Lemon Juice	4 tbsp	Honey
1/2 cup	Champagne Vinegar		Fresh ground black pepper
2 cups	Walnut oil		Fresh chopped tarragon
3 tbsp	Shallots minced		Salt to taste

Yield: 3 1/4 cups for approximately 30 - 36 Salads

Salad & Garnish: you will need

Butter Lettuce, cleaned, washed, dried	2 heads
French green beans, cleaned, blanched, cut on the bias	12 per salad
Tomato Petals, blanch and peel tomato, cut into 6 wedges and scoop out seeds and shape into petals with a pairing knife	3 petals pe salad
Cook golden beets in acidified water and a touch of sugar (1 quart water, 1 cup vinegar, and 1/2 cup sugar). Peel and cool beets than cut into any desired shape	1 pound
Crispy fry the spring onions	3 bunches
Kasseri cheese	1 tbsp per salad

Yield: Salads recipe for six salads with extra dressing

directions for assembly:

- Dress the tomato petals and lay out on a plate.
- Toss the lettuce with the beets and green beans, plate next to the tomato petals.
- Garnish with the crispy fry spring onions.
- Grate the Kasseri cheese and sprinkle over the salad.



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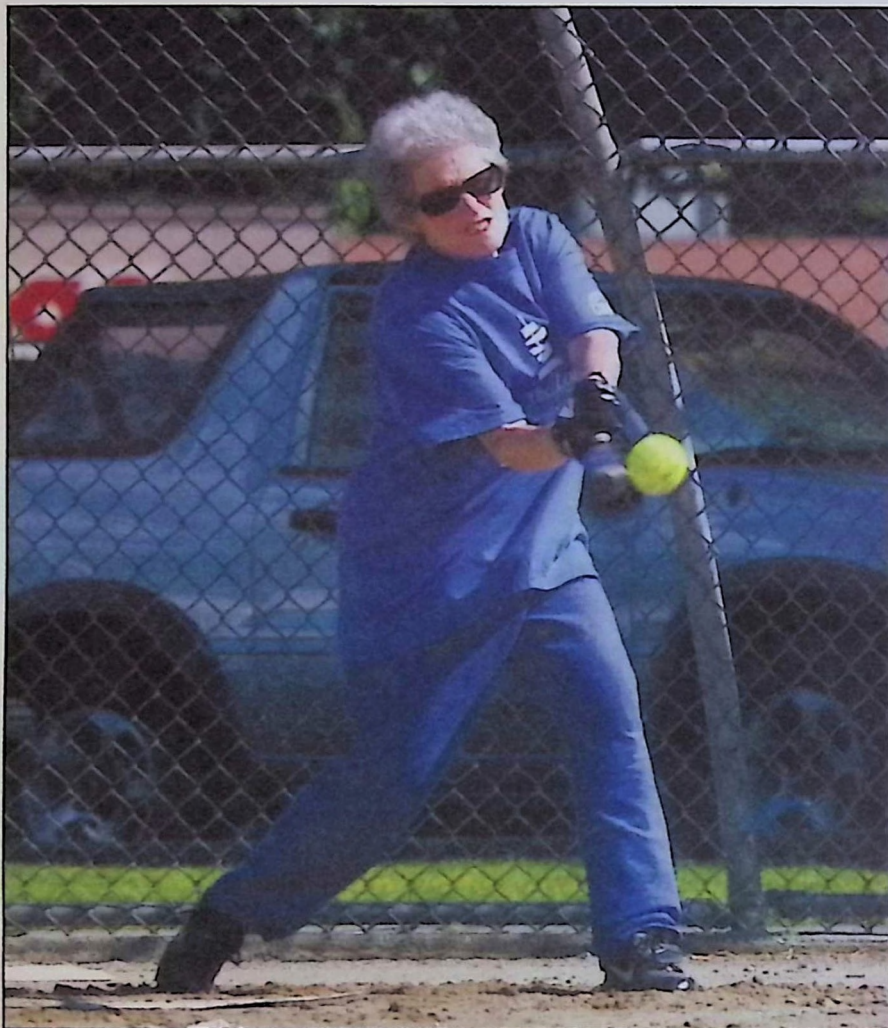
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Senior co-ed softball is a hit for Renton team



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

Pat Flattum hits a pop fly to center field during the June 12 game against Auburn. Flattum participates on the team between her day and evening shift as a King County Metro bus driver.

BY ANDREW FICKES

*S*ure it's fun. But members of the Renton Senior Activity Center's senior co-ed softball team may be looking for something more.

"They're out to compete, not just to have fun," says Debbie Little, team general manager and recreational specialist at the Renton Senior Activity Center.

Part of the competitive division in the Greater Seattle Co-ed Senior Softball League, Renton opened its 27th season May 1, retaining all 19 members from last season. Last year, the team took fifth place in the league and second place in the season-ending tournament.

"We spent the entire month of April every Tuesday and Thursday practicing for the season," says head coach Ron Gautreau. "We get a lot of exercise and have a lot of fun."

On the first Tuesday of June the team went up against Des Moines. Renton fought hard but lost, 16-4. Still, one month into the season Renton was 6-4 in the



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Nelson

Jim Stogsdill hits a double to right field during a home game against Auburn. The Renton Senior Center Co-ed softball team retained all 19 of its members from last year after receiving second place in the season-ending tournament.

league.

"Keeping a positive attitude is the secret to winning," says outfielder Marge Reep, a 62-year-old retired Renton city employee.

"The teams that have the best defense do well in this league," says Gautreau. "Softball is a hitter's game."

Gautreau has played on the team for six years, three of which he's coached. He says skill levels vary, though some of the members have played all their lives.

Everyone's chance of getting on base and hitting is assured, he says. A softball home plate is 21 inches wide, versus the standard baseball home plate of 17 inches.

"The difference cuts down on the number of walks," he says.

Co-ed teams are required to have three women on the field at all times. Five players are in the outfield, rather than the typical four in softball. You're out if you slide into base, and over-running is allowed at every base.

The youngest member of this year's team is 50. The oldest, Tom Blandi, 77, started on the team at age 57. He said he's not as sprightly and limber as he was 20 years ago, but he enjoys the game just as much.

"It's not so much the competition that excites me, but it's getting out and seeing all the people you know," he says. "The fellowship is important. After a while we will play every team probably three times. We'll get to know them pretty well."

The league has seven other teams: Des Moines, Mercer Island, Kirkland, Auburn, Seattle, Maple Valley, and Tukwila. The team plays a minimum of 24 games in the regular season from May 1 through early August and a minimum of three games in the league tournament, this year Aug. 6-9 at Game Farm Park in Auburn.

The Lodge at Eagle Ridge in Renton is the sponsor again this year, providing \$2,000 to cover league fees, hats, shirts and umpire fees.



around the garden



Dandelion is a dandy plant

Dear common flower, that
grow'st beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road
with harmless gold...

~James Russell Lowell

BY ELAINE ANDERSON

Approximately 30 million years ago, the dandelion originated in Asia and – long before we humans made an appearance – spread throughout the world. Our relationship with *Taraxacum officinale* began at least 1,000 years ago, and it was a far cry from the adversarial relationship we now share.

Throughout recorded history, the dandelion has been held in the highest esteem for its medicinal, nutritional, and commercial value. The ancient Egyptians used the plant, and descriptions of it appeared 300 years before the time of Christ. In the Middle Ages, Arabian physicians recognized its medicinal properties and gave it the name *Taraxacum*, from the Greek words for “disorder” and “remedy.”

The dandelion has been called a “blessed medicine.” It has even been given credit for having magical powers, among them the ability to ward off witches. Among its medicinal uses are as a tonic and digestive aid, a treatment for eye and skin ailments, to help cure liver disease, dissolve kidney stones, lower cholesterol and high blood pressure. In China, dande-

lion is one of the most widely used medicinal herbs.

When it comes to nutritional value, *Taraxacum officinale* is no slouch either. The plant is rich in vitamins C, A and D, in iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium. And, it gets good marks as a source of fiber and vegetable protein.

Why have we come to look upon the dandelion with a jaundiced eye? (Which we wouldn't have if we used it medicinally.) Quite likely, it was the idea of a perfect lawn that prompted us to take up arms against this esteemed plant. Now, the dandelion's commercial value stems mostly from the arsenal of weapons we purchase to use against it.

Slowly, however, the dandelion is reclaiming the respect it deserves. Here in the United States we import over 100,000 pounds of dandelion roots annually for use in patent medicines. The plant is grown domestically for sale at produce stands, not only in farmers markets, but in supermarkets as well. We may never come to welcome dandelion's cheery golden flower in our lawns and flowerbeds. But, if we must continue to look upon it as a weed, let us at least recognize it for the marvelous weed it is.

Elaine Anderson is the Washington State University Extension coordinator for the King County Master Gardener Program. The program, funded by King County and WSU, provides free, environmentally friendly gardening advice to home gardeners. For answers to your questions about weed control and other gardening topics, call the Master Gardener Phone Clinic at 206-296-3440.

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Jack's recalls Renton's athletic glories

And brings back historic fish and chips

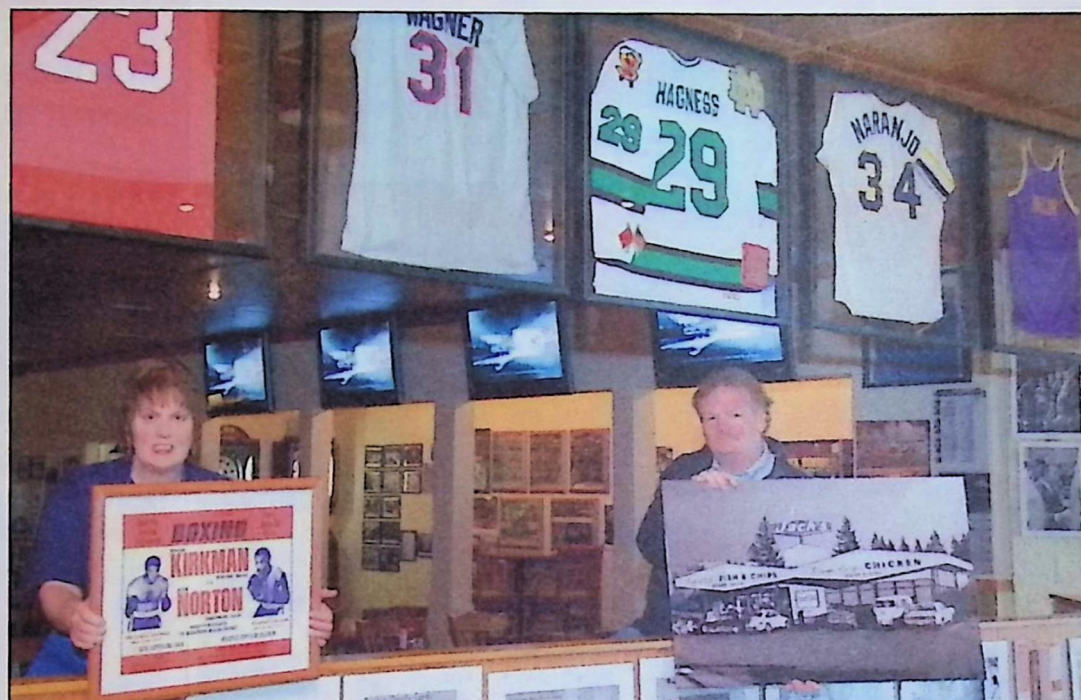
BY DAVID SUFFIA

Renton has produced a lot of fine athletes over the years. There have been pro football players like George Strugar, Clancy Williams, George Reed, Frank Reed and Steve McDaniels. Tony Wroten went on to play with Joe Montana on Notre Dame's 1977 national championship team.

Jerry Belur was a star in track and field. Verne Thompson was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks pro basketball team. Dan Naranjo was a college all-American baseball player. The 1982 Renton High School girls' volleyball team went 29-1 and won the state championship. Boone Kirkman was a top-ranked heavyweight boxer. Mark Prothero was a world-class swimmer.

You can view memorabilia from all of those athletes, and many more, at Jack's Pub & Grill, a new restaurant in the Renton Highlands. In fact, Jack's probably has the largest collection of local sports memorabilia anywhere, including jerseys, photos, awards, news clippings, autographed balls, etc.

The walls of Jack's at 3901 N.E. 4th St. are jammed with hun-



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Jack's Pub and Grill specializes in Renton athletic nostalgia, not to mention great fish and chips and hearty hamburgers. Pictured is Joanne Gregory, kitchen manager, and Doug Morrison, restaurant manager, holding a black and white photo of the old Jack's Drive-In built in 1958. The restaurant today is home to the largest assortment of local memorabilia.

dreds of pieces of sports history. Jerseys hang everywhere from the ceiling. There's even an old football signed by members of the Renton High School 1947 state football champion team, including Carlo Suffia, my older brother.

What makes it all the more fascinating is that Jack's, which opened May 14, is itself a reincarnation of a piece of Renton history.

"My dad built the first Jack's in 1958, named for himself," recalls Charlie Stewart, one of the owners of the new Jack's. "It was just a small walkup restaurant

in the Highlands. He moved it to a bigger building across the street four years later, and I bought it from him in 1969."

Back in the '60s and '70s Jack's was renowned locally for its big burgers, English-style fish and chips, and enormous breakfasts. Kids from McKnight Junior High School walked over to Jack's, and high school kids and adults drove in from all over the area.

"We've brought back the fish and chips recipe from the original Jack's and we sold 260 orders the

JACK'S PUB & GRILL - next page



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JACK'S BAR & GRILL

from page 24

first two weeks we were open. We've seen a lot of people come in from the local neighborhood. I see people I knew as kids coming in with their own kids, old fogies like me with grown children," says Stewart, who graduated from Renton High School in 1960.

Stewart has become somewhat of a legend in the local restaurant business over the years. He has owned a string of eateries, including at one time the restaurant at Maplewood Golf Course.

"I still own Dino's in Kenndale and the Sports Page in Auburn. I learned this business the hard way as a kid working for my dad, making French fries, salad dressing and tartar sauce from scratch.

"Running a restaurant is hard work. A lot of people open a place and think they can make it financially by hiring someone else to do the work. I've always done a lot of the work myself. That's how I've made it in this business."

Stewart has been active in local sports for years, sponsoring amateur baseball and basketball teams.

Stewart also raises Black Angus cattle, selling them to breeders who want to improve their herds.

"I keep 25 or 30 at my home in May Valley and a larger herd over in Ellensburg," he says.

Stewart's partner, and manager of the new Jack's, is Doug Morrison, a 1974 Renton High graduate and also a veteran of the restaurant business. He previously owned restaurants in Hawaii and locally in Redmond.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Jack's Pub and Grill is the spot for Renton grads to reminisce about Renton sports history.

"We've known each other for about 25 years," Morrison says, "and given each other advice and help. Charlie decided he needed some help starting this place and I needed something to do. We had mutual respect and it evolved into a tribute to the original Jack's and to Renton athletics.

"The fun part for me is that I frequented the original Jack's as a kid."

Jack's memorabilia collection includes sports from Renton, Hazen and Lindbergh High Schools in Renton, Issaquah's Liberty High School, local amateur teams, local horse racing and Maplewood Golf Course.

"On Friday nights, you can find 30 or 40 Renton grads in here reminiscing. Irv Leifer, who was a legendary basketball coach at Renton High, is 84 and comes by

about twice a week," according to Morrison, who was a good athlete himself, playing football, basketball and baseball in high school, and pitching in college.

Jack's is divided into two parts, a pub that is restricted to adults, and another area that is open to families and youngsters. There is a stage where local Renton musical groups will play on weekends.

And Jack's has started serving big breakfasts that helped make the original place so popular. To add to its history, the kitchen manager is Joanne Gregory, who began working at the original Jack's when she was 15 and has worked for Stewart for 28 years.

"Our goal is to make this a family place, like the original Jack's, and a gathering place for Renton grads," Morrison says.

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Fishing tourney was about catching the spirit



PHOTO COURTESY OF C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS FOUNDATION

Chris Spencer, a Seahawk center guard, gives a child a high-five at the first annual Seahawks Charity Bass Tournament held at Gene Coulon on Lake Washington.

BY ANDREW FICKES

*M*ore than 800 kids turned out for the C.A.S.T. For Kids 11th annual Kids Fishing Event in early June on the shores of Lake Washington at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park, each receiving their very own rod

and reel and a t-shirt.

Approximately 4,000 rainbow trout in deep fish nets along the bulkhead awaited to be hooked by an eager kid. For some kids, it was the first time they had caught a fish. Roughly 1,600 fish were caught.

"The excitement level from the kids is incredible," says Jim Owens, founder of C.A.S.T. For Kids Foundation. "You hear screams of joy all up and down the line."

And on the same day, everybody caught



PHOTO COURTESY OF C.A.S.T. FOR KIDS FOUNDATION

Clay Dyer (center), a C.A.S.T. For Kids spokesperson, strikes a pose with eight members of the Seattle Seahawks team.

something at the first annual Seahawks Charity Bass Tournament, because it was impossible not to catch the spirit behind the C.A.S.T. For Kids Foundation event.

With the help of a dozen Seattle Seahawks players and coaches, the Foundation raised \$40,000 to provide fishing experiences for disabled youngsters.

The June 1 barbecue and auction at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park drew 150 anglers, who bid for the opportunity to go fishing on Lake Washington the next morning with a Seahawk.

As if the outing weren't enough, there were trophies for the top three teams plus the biggest fish. After the weigh-in, conducted by the Sea Gals, first place went to Seahawk Niko Koutouvides and bidder Kristine Mason, who caught five fish with a combined weight of 13.16 pounds.

Second place winners, Coach Nolan Cromwell and bidder Brian Henderson, caught six fish for 11.96 pounds. Third place winners, Seahawk Brandon Green and bidder Darryl Darnell, caught five fish at 9.82 pounds.

C.A.S.T. ~ next page

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RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law

More than 800 kids of all ages cast their line in Lake Washington for the 11th annual Kids Fishing Event, catching approximately 1,600 rainbow trout.

C.A.S.T. from page 26

They also won the trophy for biggest fish, a 4.28-pound specimen.

Then the Seahawks, after fishing for their catch, were out on the water again, this time with disabled youth from the area. It was an experience the children won't soon forget.

"To do this event and to work with the

Seahawks is just fantastic," says Owens. "I just feel very lucky to work with a group like that. They allow us to get our message out much better than we do now."

In 1991, Owens combined his love for fishing and his love for kids to begin the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation. The Renton-based foundation has grown to organize approximately 50 fishing events annually for disabled youth in 23 states. Its eastern division office is in Dallas.

The \$40,000 raised at the Seahawks tournament will help pay for upcoming events in the Renton area and fund promotion of the foundation.

The foundation's next big event in Renton will be on Lake Washington Sept. 8. Some 75 youngsters and their parents are expected, along with about 100 volunteers. Children are referred to C.A.S.T. For Kids through Children's Therapy Center in Kent, Ronald McDonald House,

Children's Hospital, and Starlight-Starbright.

Marv Walker, a volunteer for the organization since its beginning, volunteers frequently for events in Renton and the Potholes near Warden, Wash.

"I take my boat out, the kids out, and a little bit of a tackle," he says. "I enjoy helping those kids that don't get to fish. When you see the smiles on their faces, it's more than worth it."

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