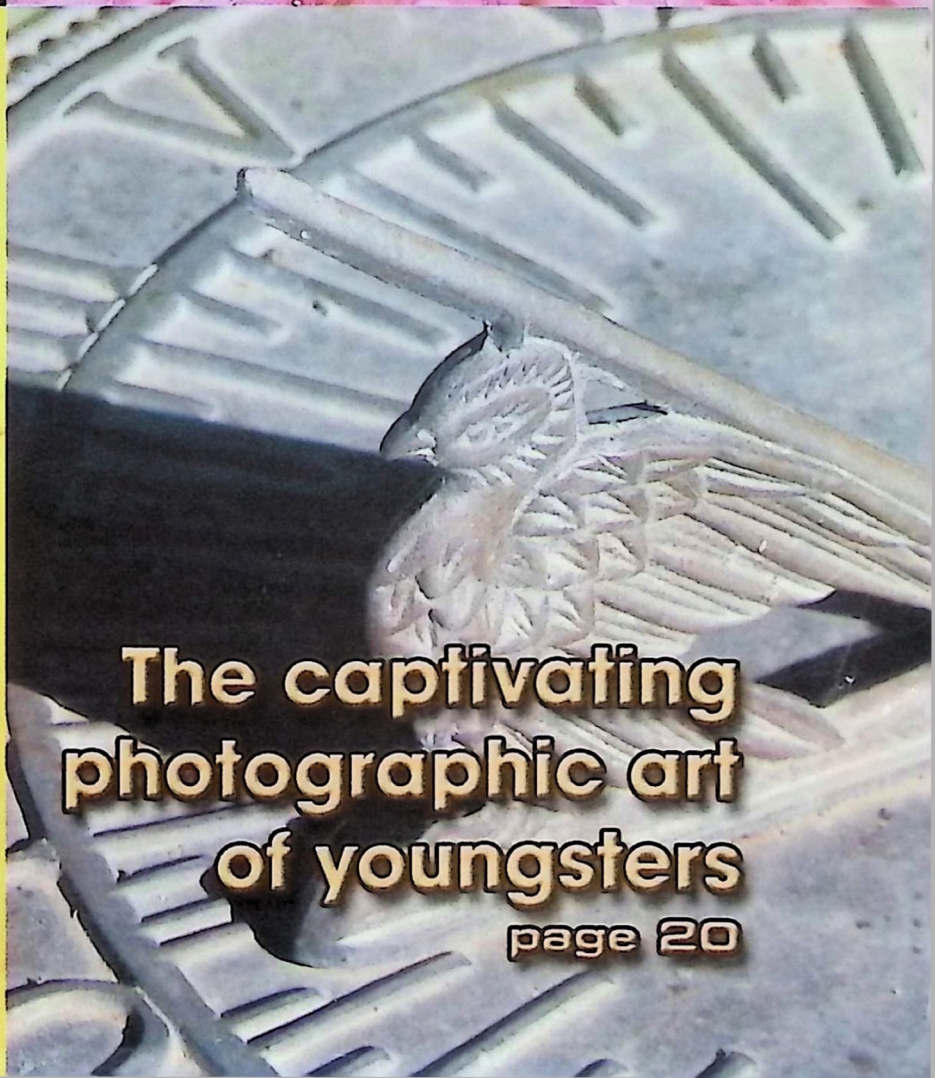
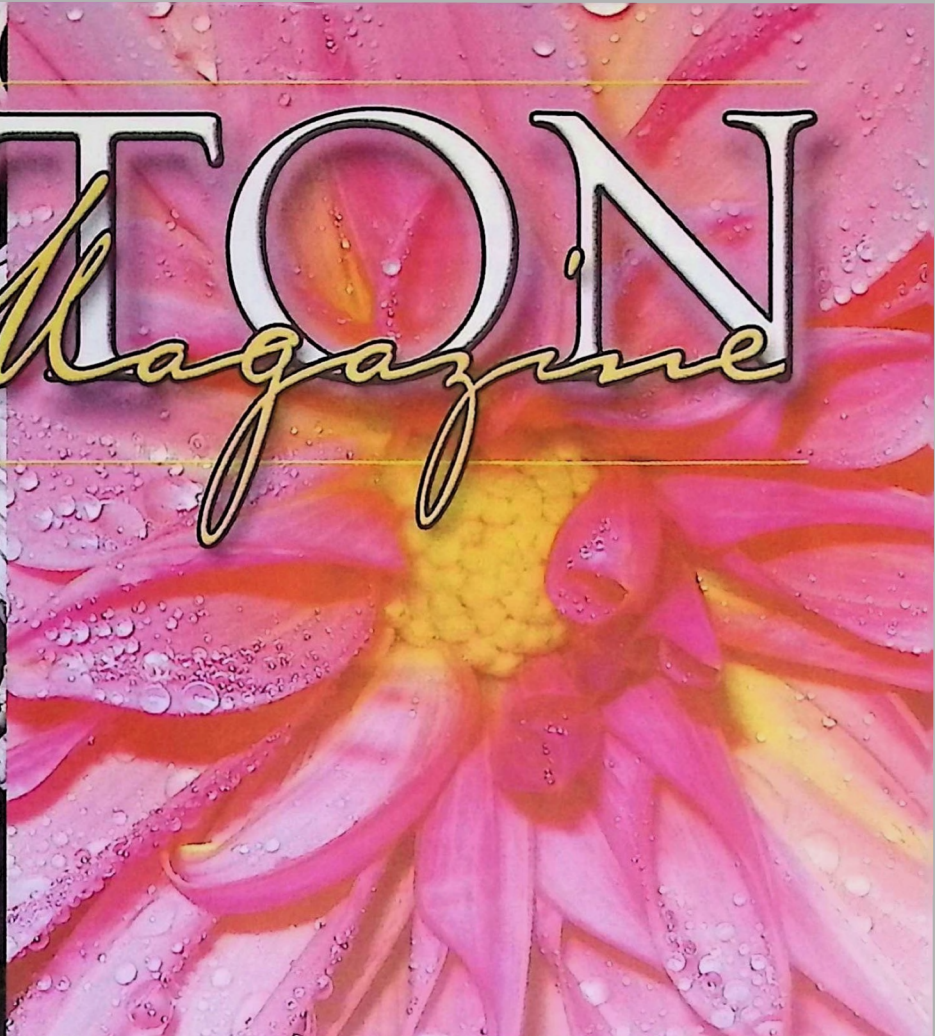
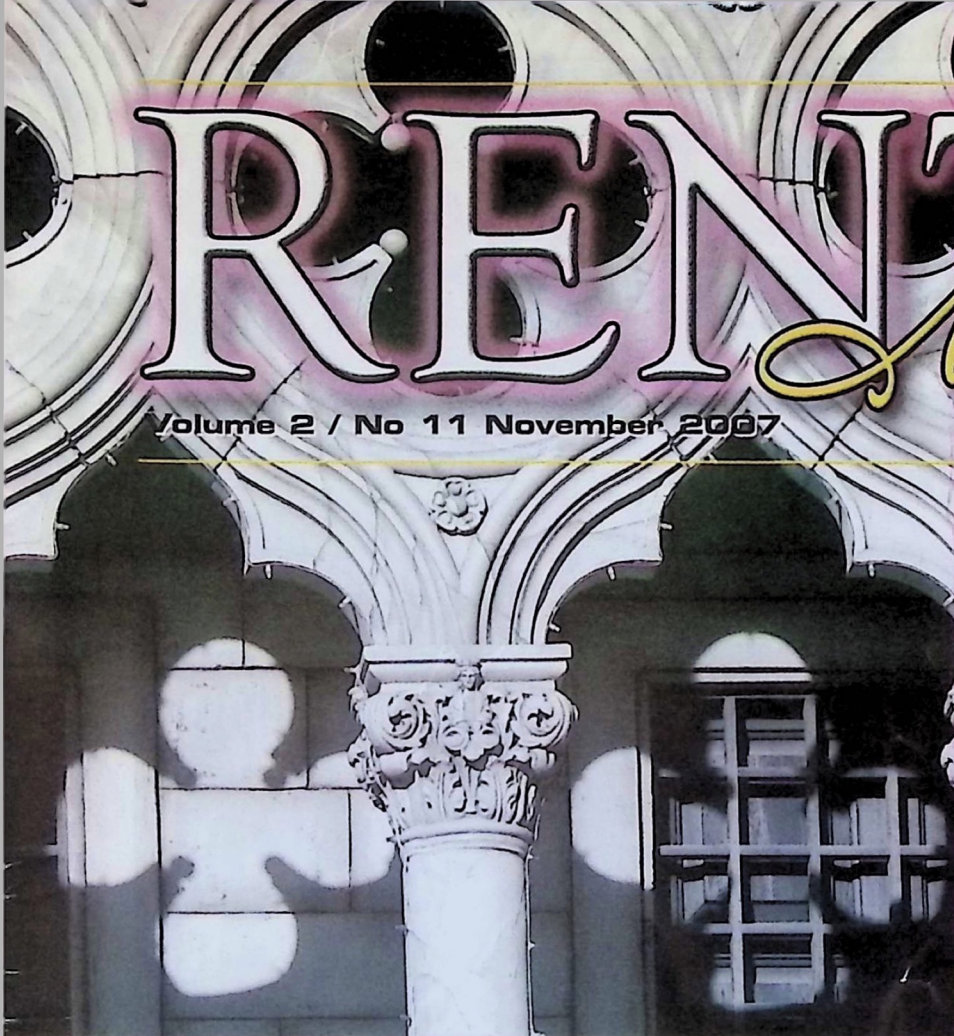


RENTON *Magazine*

Volume 2 / No 11 November 2007



The captivating
photographic art
of youngsters
page 20

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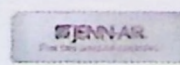
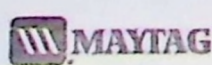
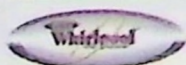
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publisher's note

*T*welve months ago, we introduced *Renton Magazine* to the community with a cover photo of Dr. Don Bressler, president of Renton Technical College, in a cap and gown with the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train looming in the background. The story was about Don's passion for model trains and the extensive collection that Don displays in his home. Few people were aware of this interesting side of our respected college president. This set the tone of what we hoped to achieve with the magazine.

Renton is blessed to have a wealth of people who have interesting stories to share. It's a town where people care about each other and get involved to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

We featured stories this past year on a number of volunteer organizations that routinely provide valuable services to our citizens, and we profiled a few of the many interesting characters who make Renton so special. Readers developed a relationship with our regular columnists who

cover topics from gardening and cooking to health care and local history.

Readers have been treated to feature stories on interesting residents. We enjoyed writing about 90 year-old Randy Rockhill, a former Renton High School band director and school administrator who is still very active in the community. And there was the story about Jim Church, a local young man who followed in his father's footsteps and is running a very successful auto dealership in town. And how about those "pool sharks" at the Renton Senior Center!

We featured some of the talented artists among us — Doug Kyes, Bruce Hudson, Richard Jahn and Ryan and Casey Pickney. Our coverage confirmed that the arts are alive and



Denis Law
PUBLISHER

well in Renton and continue to grow.

Success stories about local students have dominated many pages each month in addition to interesting stories on our active senior community. And each month we have worked hard to provide our readers with quality photography and design, all packaged by Kerri Ladines, our very talented graphic designer.

As we celebrate our first anniversary, I must say that I have never been associated with a publication that has been better received by the community.

We want to thank our loyal advertisers who keep us in business. We're very pleased that they find our magazine to be a very effective advertising medium due to our strong readership.

We are blessed to have very devoted readers. The greatest compliment we receive is from readers who proudly claim they have every edition we have produced.

Thank you for welcoming us into your home, and for making time for us each month.

RENTON *Magazine*

VOL. 2 | ISSUE 11

425.271.9300

Publisher | Denis W. Law
denislaw@rentonmagazine.com

Associate Publisher | Diana Kramer
dianakramer@rentonmagazine.com

Executive Editor | David Suffia
davidstiffia@rentonmagazine.com

Reporter | Andrew Fickes
news@rentonmagazine.com

Advertising | Marie Shaw
marie@rentonmagazine.com

Graphic Artist | Kerri Ladines

Photographer | Dena Rosko

Columnists | Kirby Unti
| Elaine Anderson
| Dr. Bob Thompson

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cover: Ian Mangum and Hannah Timmen are only 12 and 15 but they are already accomplished photographers. See page 20 for their story. Photos courtesy of Ian and Hannah.

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

upcoming november events



RENTON ROTARY

Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Thanks to the support of the Renton Rotary and the City of Renton employee volunteers, the Renton Senior Activity Center will hold its 13th annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. Tickets are required and will be available beginning Nov. 1. Meal reservations and transportation requests must be made by Nov. 19. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m.

November 22

Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

425-430-6633

Renton Senior Activity Center
211 Burnett Ave. N.

Admission: Free



Valley Community
Players presents:

The Second Time Around

November 16 - December 2

Senior citizens Samuel Jonas and Laura Curtis, a widower and a widow, strike up a love affair. When they announce plans to live together without marrying, their children hit the roof even though they were never close to their deceased parent and their own marriages leave a lot to be desired. Is love lovelier the second time around? A charming comedy!

Check www.valley-communityplayers.org for show times

425-226-5190

Carco Theatre
1717 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: \$15/adults,
\$14/seniors and students



november 8

Plaza Renton Dinner and Auction

Thursday, 6-9 p.m.

425-226-2565

Spirit of Washington Event Center
3rd and Burnett
(downtown Renton)

Admission: \$55 per person



november 13

Tales from the Times of Lewis and Clark

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

425-255-2330

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Avenue South

Admission: RHM members
admitted free



**november
16-17**

Hassle-Free Holiday Bazaar

Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

425-430-6700

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: Free

upcoming december events



Clam Lights & Holiday Tree Lighting

Renton's tradition of entertainment, holiday spirit, and stunning visual effects begins on Nov. 30 with the 14th annual Clam Lights event at Gene Coulon Beach Park at 7:15 p.m., followed by the Parade of Boats at 7:30 p.m. Then, brighten up your season with the Holiday Tree Lighting at the Piazza Dec. 1.

november 30

Clam Lights
425-430-6700
Coulon Park, 6:30 p.m.
Admission: Free

december 1

Piazza Holiday Tree Lighting
Piazza Park, 5-7 p.m.
Admission: Free



december 8

Breakfast with Santa

Children ages 2-12, along with parents and grandparents, are invited to a special Saturday "Breakfast with Santa." Enjoy breakfast, entertainment and a visit and photo with Santa Claus. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are required and will go on sale Nov. 1. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon

425-430-6633

Renton Senior Activity Center
211 Burnett Ave. N.

Admission: \$6

KABANA



Electric

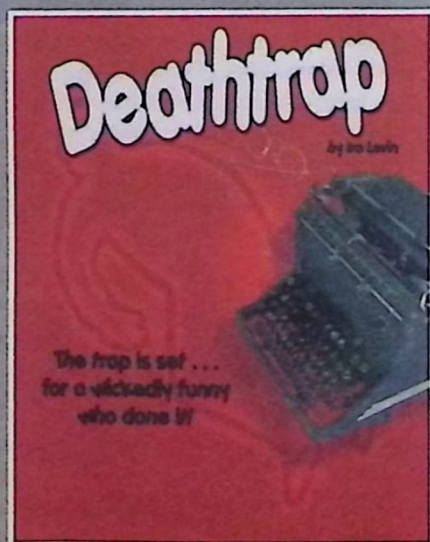
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Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

425-226-5529

Admission: \$20/adult;
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Renton Civic Theatre
507 S. Third St.

www.rentoncivictheatre.org

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calendar of events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Erwilian Live in Concert: A Christmas Celebration

Friday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome the holiday season early this year as Erwilian brings the music of Christmas to the Renton Civic Theatre for two very special nights. This is a concert event that will fill you with the Christmas spirit just in time for the holidays—a vibrant sound performed on an array of ancient and one-of-a-kind instruments. Tickets may be purchased at the RCT box office or at www.erwilian.com.

Renton Civic Theatre, 507 S. Third St.

RCT: 425-226-5529 / Band info: 206-304-2150

Admission: \$15/adult, \$10/students

www.erwilian.com

Evergreen Place's Holiday Craft Bazaar

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

Evergreen Place welcomes residents and the public to join them in its annual Holiday Craft Bazaar. Situated on three floors, this event will showcase craft items from 25 vendors. It will also act as a food drive for Evergreen Place's food bank. So bring can goods if you have them. Refreshments and door prizes will be included.

Evergreen Place, 1414 Monroe Ave. N.E.
(the Renton Highlands)

425-226-3312 / Admission: Free

My Life as a Greek Tragedy

November 9, 10, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m.

November 17 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"My Life as a Greek Tragedy," presented by Liberty High School's Patriot Players, is an entertaining and innovative exploration of the intersection between the lives and concerns of today's young people and the stories, characters, and themes of some of the world's oldest and most powerful myths.

Liberty High Auditorium, 16655 SE 136th St.

425-837-4800

Admission: \$7 adults/ \$5 seniors, children under 12, and Liberty students

www.liberty.issaquah.wednet.edu

THANKSGIVING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Anthony's

Thursday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. (tentative)

Newcomers, those who are lonely, and families with children are particularly welcome to enjoy a family-style meal in a friendly environment. Donations are accepted but not required. This event is sponsored by the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH).

St. Anthony's Parish, 501 S. 4th St.

425-228-1871 / Admission: Free

CLUB EVENTS

Rotary Club of Renton's 22nd annual "Crab Feed"

Friday, Nov. 30 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All-you-can-eat dinner includes crab, salads, bread, dessert, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Advance reservations are required. RSVP by Nov. 19.

Renton Senior Center, 211 Burnett Ave. N.

Admission: \$25 per person / 206-396-4809
(\$35 at the door if space available)

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Whale Tales: Human Interactions with Whales

Saturday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m.

Humans have expressed their fascination with whales throughout history, from Stone Age petroglyphs to present-day whale watching. Since 1994, naturalist Peter Fromm has been documenting human encounters with these amazing creatures. He shares these stories of human/whale interaction in a slide and video presentation, and asks the audience to relate their own experiences with whales.

Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S.

Admission: RHM members admitted free

www.rentonhistory.org / 425-255-2330

RENTON SCHOOLS

Hazen DECA's third annual Trade Show

Thursday, Nov. 15, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Happy Hour 4-6p.m.

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www.pickledonionpub.com

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and ppv

Open to the public, this event, co-sponsored by King and Bunnys Appliance, brings together local businesses and students interested in business. Each business booth is managed by a marketing student, which enables them to learn how to work with a business and acquire skills needed for competition. All the money raised from the booths goes towards state and national competitions. Last year, the DECA Trade Show attracted more than 40 businesses and more than 800 students, parents, and staff.

Hazen High School Commons, 1101 Hoquiam Ave. N.E.
425-204-4200 / Admission: Free
www.renton.wednet.edu/hazen/index.html

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Saturday Series: Hats Off to Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Listen to a story, create crafts and enjoy a snack with all the friends you have made in class. This program is for ages 3- to 5.

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

Admission: \$12 for residents, \$14 for non-residents, \$3 for supplies

www.rentonwa.gov / 425-430-6700

SENIOR EVENTS

RENTON SENIOR CENTER

211 Burnett Ave. N. / 425-430-6633

www.rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=40

Harvest Moon Dance

Friday, Nov. 16, 4-7 p.m.

Social fun on a cool autumn evening. After a hearty meal of biscuits and gravy, get up and dance or just sit back and enjoy the music of Joani Noel and duo. Supper will be served from 4- 5 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 14

Admission: \$6

Speaker: Medicare Part D-What should I do?

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 12:30 p.m.

Do I stay with my present plan or do I go with a different one? Get the latest information concerning Medicare part D. Dave Lilly, a volunteer from SHIBA, will be our presenter.

Admission: Free

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Monday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate the holiday a bit early with your friends at the annual Renton Senior Center Thanksgiving luncheon. The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are required.

Admission: \$3 (60 and up); \$5.75 (if under 60)

WINE AND BEER TASTING

Red House

Nov. 7-St. Laurent wines
Nov. 14-South African wines
Nov. 21-Wines for Thanksgiving
Nov. 28-L'Ecole Winery

Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Red House Beer and Wine Shoppe Tapas Bar
410 Burnett Ave. S. / 425-226-2666

Admission: \$20 (includes beverages and food)

www.redhousebeerandwine.com

All Things Wine

Nov. 3-Cedargreen Cellars
Nov. 10-Reininger/Helix Wines
Nov. 17-Fort Walla Walla
Nov. 24-Special holiday selections

Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

All Things Wine, 4605 NE 4th St., Ste 4

Admission: Free / 425-254-8400

The Met

Nov. 1-Five Star Cellars
Nov. 8-Canyon's Edge Winery
Nov. 15-Oregon Pinot Noirs
Nov. 29-Stephenson Cellars

Thursdays from 5-7 p.m.

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

Admission: \$5

www.themetwinebar.com / 425-687-7989

The Wine Alley

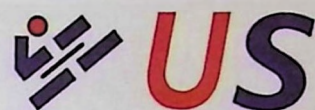
Nov. 1-Fidelitas
Nov. 8-Hinzerling Winery
Nov. 15-Five Star Cellars
Nov. 29-Chatter Creek

Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Wine Alley, 14276 SE 176th St.

Tasting fee: \$10, complimentary for wine club members

www.thewinealley.com / 425-271-4501



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NOVEMBER EVENTS

11/03 - Mark from Cedargreen Cellars
11/10 - Justin - Reininger/Helix Wines
11/17 - Kip from Fort Walla Walla
11/24 - Special Holiday Selections

4605 NE 4th St, Suite #4, Renton WA 98059 | 425.254.8400

There was life before television in early Renton

I was listening to Garrison Keillor the other day. The homespun author and radio personality was being interviewed on a local radio talk show.

The show's host was taken aback when Keillor confessed he doesn't watch television.

"I just don't have enough time to watch television," he said, adding there are just too many more important things in his life to allow time to "be a couch potato."

I doubt there are many people in America who don't watch television, but his comments got me reminiscing about a time before there was television, or cell phones, or electronic games, or computers.

How did we manage when there was no "American Idol," "All My Children," "Grey's Anatomy," "Monday Night Football," etc., to occupy us? What dull lives we must have led. What did we talk about during breaks at work or between classes at school? What kept us occupied while we ate dinner? I'm sure it's unimaginable for people who grew

up with TV as almost a member of the family.

As a kid, I didn't spend my days watching animated cartoons because there weren't any. Instead, I was outside with other kids, playing marbles or pushing little plastic figures around a dirt pile, imagining what it was like to be a soldier or an Indian or a pirate. Or, we'd spend hours on the swings and slides and merry-go-rounds at the park.

When we got older, we spent most of our time playing catch with a football or baseball, or walking to downtown Renton for the Saturday matinee at the old Rainier Theater. Even when my family did acquire a television set, I spent most of my summer



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

days walking to Liberty Park and playing tennis all day long.

If it was too hot for tennis, we'd walk out to Kenneydale Beach to swim. On the weekends, I mowed the neighbors' lawns to earn a few extra dollars. There weren't many yard maintenance people back then, just teenagers.

In the winter, there were sports to try out for. After Friday night football games at Renton Stadium, there were sock hops at the old Recreation Center, long gone to make way for Boeing and now The Landing.

We did a lot of walking and biking back then, which probably explains why there wasn't a hue and cry about the obesity of American children half a century ago. Most kids didn't own a car until after they got out of high school. We also did a lot more reading than people seem to do now.

By the way, if you don't know who Garrison Keillor is, you may be watching too much television.

It's almost that time...

As a way of giving back to those less fortunate in our community,

2007 marks the 38th year that we will host the annual "Mitten Tree".

These warm scarves and mittens are given as gifts to families at the Salvation Army Holiday Party each year.

Start knitting now, and bring your gifts to the Bank when they are ready. With your help, we will adorn our large tree in the lobby with hundreds of warm items.

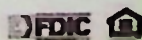
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Death can be a beautiful thing



KIRBY UNTI

This year the fall colors have been at their best. Fall came quickly on the heels of those 80-degree days. It came with brilliance, the reds on fire and the oranges crisp with multiple shades of yellow. The Northwest has put on a spectacular show of color, reminding us that the entrance into death can be a beautiful thing.

It is death that causes the leaves to turn and fall to the ground, rendering the branches cold and naked throughout the winter. So, I have taken my clue from nature to explore where else death brings beauty. I have discovered that there is beauty even when it comes to the death of those we love the most.

I recently lost a dear friend and a great member of our Renton Community, Gary Gimmestad. Gary developed a cancer that attacked his brain and bones and in short order took his life. Gary was one of the strongest, appropriately confident, kind, full-of-life people that I have had the privilege to journey with. It has made it very difficult for me to accept that at age 49 Gary is no longer living. I

look at his picture with a smile that takes over his face and I ask myself, how is it possible that he isn't going to walk through the door of my office the way he had so many times? How is it that he isn't going to answer his phone and listen to me rattle on about some topic in which I valued his wisdom?

There is no beauty in the loss. It just hurts.

The beauty of death comes from the way it draws us together in community and reminds us that life is a fragile gift to be enjoyed. We all live at such a fast pace that there is very little that causes us to stop and take notice of what really matters. Death still has the power to do this.

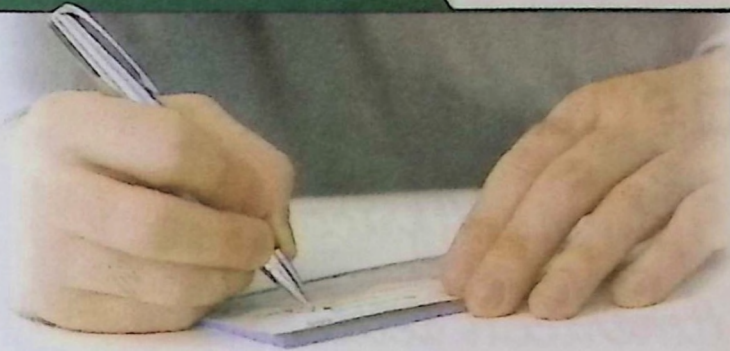
Thanks to the generosity of Gary's wife Darcy and his son Aaron, the house was packed with people those last few days that Gary lived. Friends from all aspects of Gary's world were dropping by to say goodbye and to let Gary know how much he was loved, respected and admired. Darcy and Aaron knew this is what Gary wanted. Gary did all of his life what death itself does. He brought people together. This is the beauty of death. It is the reason every time there is a funeral or memorial service I hear someone say, "Let's not wait until somebody dies to get together next time."

Death makes us vulnerable and gives us much greater access to one another. There is a wonderful level of intimacy that occurs when we hurt for and with one another. The hurt has a way of knocking down the walls that we build up.

It wasn't until a day or two before he died that I told Gary I loved him. Love is not a word that easily came from Gary lips either but he was not afraid to speak this word to me or others. In the end this is what death does for us. It reveals the deep love we hold for one another. Death is what makes the red leaves burn with fire and the orange leaves crisp with multiple shades of yellow. Death restores the great value of sharing life together. Death can be a beautiful thing.

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

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Heritage Park honors African- American settlers

BY ANDREW FICKES

*M*any of the families who first settled in the area known today as the Highlands were African-American, but you'd never know it reading the newspapers of the time.

Early African-American settlers in the late 1800s and into the early 1900s came to the area from the southern states to work in the Newcastle coal mines. Others in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s came looking for war work with Boeing and PACCAR.

"If you go back to the newspapers of that time, you'll find there's no documentation of black people living in the area," says Loretta Pagan, a Highlands



Photos courtesy of the Puget Sound Regional Branch, Washington State Archives, Bellevue Community College
Pictured left is the Barfield home, the future location of Heritage Park. Right is Emmett "Pop" Simms and his horse Sandy.

resident whose grandfather, Emmett "Pop" Simms, traveled to Renton on horseback from Texas in 1920.

"My memories of the Highlands is of a two-lane dirt road stretching from where Greenwood Cemetery is now out to Rainier," says Pagan.

Pagan's mother Peggy (Simms) Bostock was born in 1928 in the area. Bostock's father, Emmett Simms, and mother married in 1924 and settled on property on 132nd Avenue, a county road back then. That strip is present day Union Avenue.

In late June of this year, the City of Renton dedicat-

ed Heritage Park, at Union Ave. N.E. and Third Court N.E., in honor of the families who had lived in the Union Avenue area.

"Heritage Park showcases that there were a lot more families involved in the making of Renton than we realized, and they came from all walks of life," says Pagan.

Pagan's grandfather brought with him his special barbecue sauce recipe. He raised horses, pigs, geese and he had a barbecue pit business. People gathered around to

HERITAGE PARK ~ next page

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HERITAGE PARK

from page 10

taste his secret concoction. Pagan says she still has her grandfather's recipe.

Lavelle Swanigan's father, Nathaniel Weathers, settled on a five-acre lot in the early 1930s, coming from Kentucky. He worked in Seattle as a shoe dyer.

Swanigan attended first and second grade at Honey Dew Elementary, a two-room schoolhouse on the corner of Union and Sunset Highway.

Her father and mother raised rabbits, chickens, pigs, and had a garden. To the north of the Weathers family was "Pop" Simms and his barbecue pit. Swanigan remembers children weren't allowed there; it was an adult hangout.

"There were no sidewalks, all dirt roads, country roads, and we didn't lock doors," she says. "It was just a lot different back then."

Clyde Coleman Barfield built a home for his family in the early 1950s on a 4.5-acre lot in the center of what is now Heritage Park.

The family had come from the federal housing projects east of Union Avenue, where Renton Technical College is today. Barfield raised cows, chicken, pigs, and geese.

"My father had half-an-acre of nothing but veggies," says daughter Linda



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Sisters Beverly and Linda Barfield stand in front of their father's, Clyde Barfield's, memorial bench and the tree that was originally on his property and is now Heritage Park.

Barfield. "Where the park is now was like a wonderland. There was so much to do. I always said that the property was blessed by God, because we were never without something."

Clyde Barfield passed away in April of 2002 at the age of 101. Linda and her sister Beverly sold their father's land to the city in 2003, allowing the city to finish Heritage Park, which had been made a priority project in 1993.

Heritage Park information

Renton History Museum, in partnership with the City of Renton, is collecting information on families from the Heritage Park neighborhood. Photos and text are found at the park at the history kiosk. Families who would like to submit information and pictures for the kiosk may contact Renton History Museum Director Elizabeth Stewart at (425) 255-2330.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

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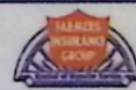
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Burnett Avenue. New Again.

Golden Care helps 'boomers' get ready for Medicare

BY ANDREW FICKES

An outreach program that Valley Medical Center initiated in 1986 for senior citizens is growing steadily with the aging baby boomer population.

Golden Care, VMC's largest outreach program, connects with some 18,700 members age 62 and older. The program began to help seniors decipher Medicare paperwork following hospital visits.

"We start our membership at age 62, so we can provide all this education on Medicare prior to their 65th birthday," said Grace Dalrymple, program manager. "Our two largest outreach programs are our flu-shot clinic in the fall and our senior health fair in the spring. We also have education forums regarding preventative healthcare and a quarterly newsletter.

"Healthcare is a very complicated and convoluted system and only becomes more so as the years go by," she said.

Last month Golden Care held its annual flu-shot clinic, which began in 1990. Upwards of 1,600 seniors attended to get prepared for the coming winter season.

Eva Ross, 86, of Kent, said Golden Care has provided an important service to her and her husband over the years.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Marie White, 84, receives a flu shot from Carrie Knight of Visiting Nurses. White has received flu shots from Valley's Goldencare Program since 1987, and says she has not had the flu since.

"My husband and I have gotten our flu shots since the program began and we haven't had the flu since," she said.

Chuck Bowman, 77, has been volunteering at the flu-shot clinic and for Golden Care for four years.

"For an elderly person, the update services on diabetes and blood pressure are great," he said. "It has helped tremendously with maintaining my diabetes."

Bowman also complimented Dalrymple's management.

"She runs it really well and understands elderly people," he said.

Dalrymple said membership is open to those ages 62 and older. There is a one-time fee of \$50, which is waived if you live within the hospital district. Members receive free reserved parking spaces, a discount to the VMC fitness center, and the quarterly newsletter.

"In any year we enroll from 3,000 to 5,000 people," Dalrymple said. "We're growing at a little bit faster clip because the baby boomer population is aging."

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around the garden



Do you know that November is one of the best months for gardening? A month in spring would seem to be the logical choice for this honor, but it's not. So, what does November have that April doesn't?

In February, do you long to see the first flowers of the year? Crocuses are often seen blooming in the snow, and cheerful daffodils follow soon after. They won't, though, if you don't plant their bulbs in November. (You can still plant bulbs in December, but why wait until the weather gets colder and

wetter?)

November is a fine month for garden maintenance. There's plenty to do to get the garden ready for winter. And, it's nice and cool, so you can just keep working all day. Cutting back herbaceous perennials that have turned mushy and black is a most satisfying activity. So is pruning dead wood from trees and shrubs. Once you've finished, the garden looks so much better! However, don't cut back ornamental grasses until early spring. They add interest and structure to your winter landscape. Some provide seeds for winter birds, too.

When it comes to lawns in November, what a treat – they are green! You don't need to water. You need to mow only on an as-needed

basis, and you won't be doing it under the hot sun of summer. You should fertilize, though, in mid-November.

I've been saving the best reason for the best-month-to-garden award for last. It's absolutely, hands down, no contest, the best time of the year to plant or transplant just about anything. In particular, trees and other woody landscape plants have a much better chance of leading long and happy lives if they are put into the ground in the fall.

During the fall and winter, plants don't need their energy to leaf and flower. They can use that energy to develop healthy, robust roots, and they'll be much better equipped to withstand the stress of our warm, dry summer. One exception to this is semi-

hardy plants. By definition, they are susceptible to harsh winter weather, so waiting until spring to plant them makes better sense.

Work in the garden this month, and postpone the gardening withdrawal blues until December. You'll be glad you did when you spot that first crocus bloom!

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 gardening all year long, call the Master Gardener Phone Clinic at 206-296-3440.



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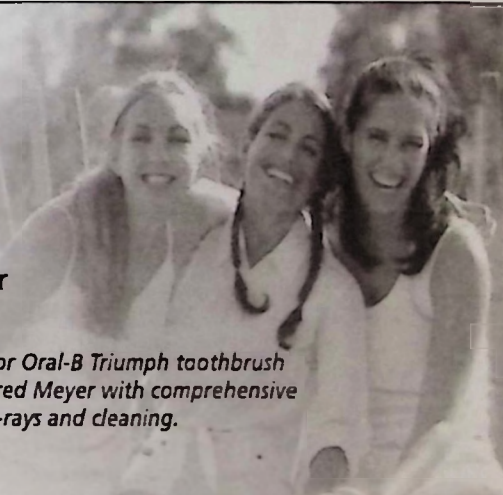
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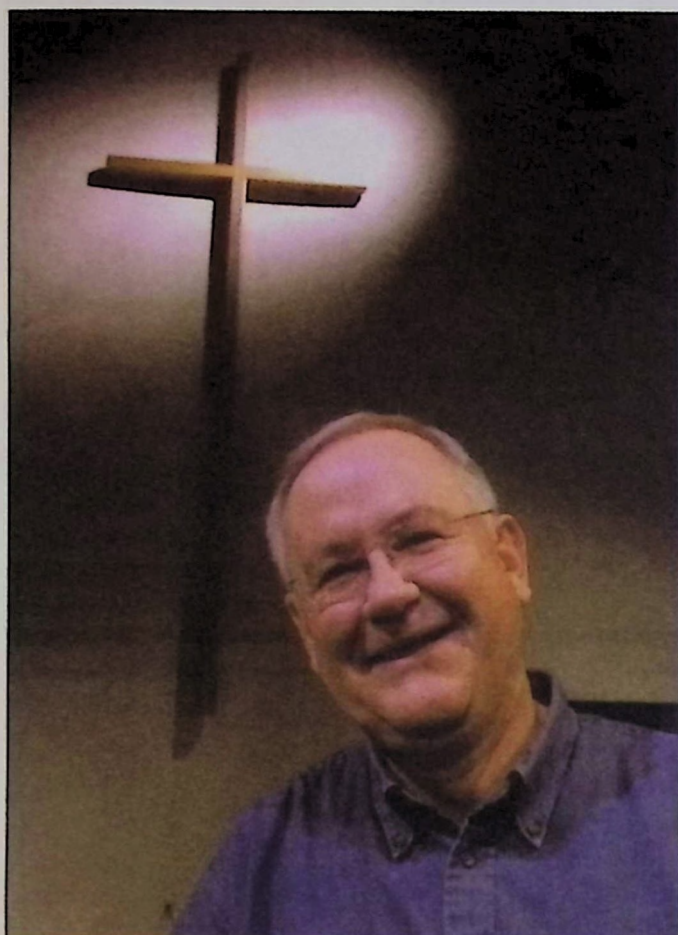


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RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law

Kirby Unti finds grace in the stories of the people he serves through his church and his many community efforts.

BY DAVID SUFFIA

Chatting with Kirby Unti, it's easy to forget he is a Lutheran minister. He is as much a common man of the community as he is a man of the cloth.

He'd rather be addressed as Kirby than "Reverend," and he's as well known around Renton for his charitable and community activities outside the church as he is for his ministry.

Which probably helps explain why he has been named Renton's 2007 Citizen of the Year by the City of Renton, Rotary Club of Renton, and the Renton Chamber of Commerce.

"I like to look for what's good in the community," he says. "The entire community is sacred to me. That's what I focus on, how we reclaim the sacredness of the whole community and all its members."

Unti became pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in the Renton Highlands on May 18, 1980, the day Mount St. Helens erupted.

"I've been waiting for a sign of equal magnitude to tell me it's time to leave," he says facetiously, his trademark huge smile creasing his face.

At 55, he presides over a congregation of about 1,500. Born in Spokane, he grew up in Kenmore and shares his life with his wife Kim and four daughters, three of them now in college.

Unti is a past president of Renton Rotary and is active in student exchange programs. He and his family have hosted students from other countries, including a Thai girl who subsequently returned to this country and now is studying architecture at University of Washington.

He's also active with the King County Sexual Assault

Kirby Unti

Renton's Citizen of the Year looks for the sacred in daily life

Resource Center, the Salvation Army, Communities in Schools, 40 Assets, and other community service programs. His congregation supports low-income families. Each Christmas they "adopt" 75 low-income families and provide them with clothing, toys for each child, and food.

"It's quite amazing how connected Kirby is to the community," says Denis Law, a long-time friend and Renton City Council member. "He's a master of ceremonies at many community events. Receiving this Citizen of the Year award is probably torture for Kirby because he's spent his life working in the background and honoring other people."

"The awkward part for me is that what I do in the community is what I get paid to do," Unti says. "The real citizens of the year are the thoughtful behind-the-scenes people who don't get honored."

Unti is also well known for his newspaper and magazine column, which he has written since 1996 and currently appears in *Renton Magazine*. The columns focus on what's good and positive in people's lives.

"I thought writing was not my thing, but I enjoy it and I enjoy the feedback I get from readers."

"I think the most important thing in life is about relationships. I've discovered that over and over meeting people. One of the great privileges I've had is that I've married and buried a lot of people and learned their life stories as a result."

"That's the magic for me, learning the value of people's life

stories. Even the most obnoxious people have become acceptable to me as a result," he says with another big smile.

Renton is important to Kirby Unti. He loves this place and he has continuing high hopes for its future.

"Renton has discovered what it is we need; to come together, to work and share together. We need to do more of it. Renton's heartbeat is that it's a place that knows a sense of community in the midst of an urban jungle."

Two other Renton residents, Joy Poff and Lee Wheeler, also

ground. My family was Presbyterian, but we were 'streakers.' We'd have streaks when we went to church and then when we didn't.

"Dad was a pretty rough character. He and my mother met at Whitworth University in Spokane. If we had a new minister stopping by our home, my mother would put out the Bible on the coffee table. My father would offer him a glass of scotch. That was Dad's litmus test of the fellow's character. I guess I have a little of that kind of rebel in me."

"I took an aptitude test in junior high school and it said I would excel as a farmer, clock maker or minister, and that's when the first seeds of my future were planted."

"By the time I reached high school I was gravitating toward the ministry. I liked the image of Jesus I had as a child. My wife Kim was a life-long Lutheran and that influenced my direction."

Unti confesses that purely theological discussion can be boring for him. He's more interested in people and their stories.

"When I see a beautiful fall day with the leaves turning color, it focuses me on creation. Part of death, like the leaves turning in fall, is beautiful. In death we become part of life," he says.

Then he turns and offers a parting comment into a bright sunny afternoon: "Life is good. Every day above ground is a good one."

In death,
we become
part of life.

~ Kirby Unti,
St. Matthews
Lutheran Church

were honored as Outstanding Citizens this year.

"Our community has a rich heritage of volunteerism," Marcie Maxwell, president of the Rotary Club, said of the three recipients. "The winners of this year's Citizen of the Year and Outstanding Citizen awards are the embodiment of the Renton spirit."

Unti's journey to his Lutheran ministry and to Renton began in a family that wasn't overly religious.

"For the most part I didn't have a strong church back-

renton library news

Find help with the holidays at your library

With the start of November, many people's thoughts turn to the upcoming holidays. Whether you are looking for new ways to celebrate or want to carry on existing traditions, the Renton Public Library can help. The library has a great selection of resources about all the various holiday traditions.

If you want to find a new recipe to try for Thanksgiving dinner, we have cookbooks specific to the holiday. If you want to share the old TV specials from your childhood with your children, we have them available in DVD or VHS format. Below is a small sample of the titles available to help you make this holiday season extra special, or call the Library's Information Desk (425-430-6610) and ask the librarians to help you find just what you need.

BOOKS

"The Thanksgiving Cookbook" by Holly Garrison – Whether you are looking for recipes for traditional favorite dishes, new alternative dishes, thawing and roasting time guides, or what to do with all those leftovers, this book covers aspects of the Thanksgiving meal.

"Holidays: Recipes, Gifts, and Decorations, Thanksgiving and Christmas" by Martha Stewart – The diva of domesticity provides recipes and instructions for a variety of holiday traditions, including Thanksgiving dinner, gift wrapping, wreaths and garlands, and more.

"African American Holiday Celebrations and Traditions" by Antoinette Broussard – A manual for celebrating the holidays African-American style, with recipes, decorations, and personal anecdotes by distinguished African-Americans.

"FamilyFun Homemade Holidays" edited by Deanna Cook – Over 150 festive crafts, recipes, gifts and parties designed to help your family celebrate the winter holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa together.

"The Hanukkah Book" by Mae Shafter Rockland – Beginning with the story behind Hanukkah, this title explores aspects of the Jewish holiday and offers recipes and ideas for how to celebrate it.

VIDEO

"Martha's Classic Thanksgiving" (DVD) – Martha Stewart demonstrates a variety of favorite Thanksgiving recipes, decorations, and crafts with her characteristic attention to detail.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" (DVD and VHS) – The Peanuts gang learns to see past the commercial hype to find the true meaning of Christmas.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (DVD and VHS) – Burl Ives narrates and sings the classic story of the misfit reindeer and his search to find his place in the world.

"Christmas Unwrapped: The History of Christmas" (DVD) – Journey back in time and witness the development of the Christmas holiday and its traditions.

In addition to the many resources the library has to help you celebrate the holidays, we also have our own annual tradition. Be sure to set aside the evening of Monday, Dec. 10, to help the library celebrate the "Season of Caring." That evening we will be featuring holiday themed stories and the singing of carols. So be sure to stop by the library and help us celebrate the season.

Aaron Oesting is assistant director of the Renton Public Library.

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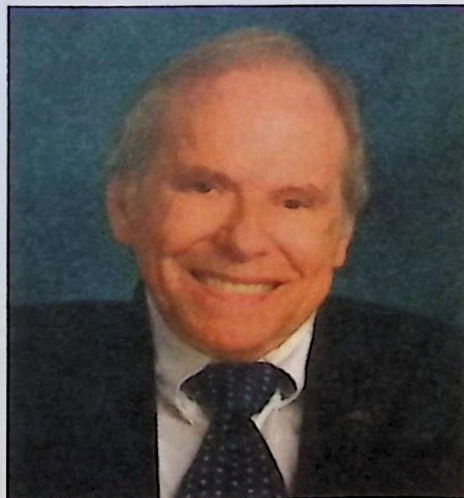
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pet care



Is pet health insurance worth it?

BY CHARLIE POWELL

Bailey was a perfectly healthy-looking 4-year-old Weimaraner when a routine blood test uncovered the beginnings of kidney failure. Ten days later, the dog was euthanized and his owner faced an \$11,000 bill for surgeries and intensive care. My brother was devastated but knew he had done all he could for Bailey.

If the expense noted above is sobering, it should be. Costs associated with companion animal ownership are rising, due in part to the public's demand for animal care equivalent to what they can get for themselves.

About 62 percent of American households own at

least one companion animal, and 81 percent of those think of their pets as family members. American pet owners pay about \$18 billion annually for veterinary care. This situation has some owners looking at pet health care insurance. Many of them wonder if the coverage is worth the cost. It depends.

Today, only 4 percent of U.S. pet owners purchase pet health care insurance policies of any kind. If one looks at only U.S. dog and cat owners, less than 2 percent have taken out pet health care insurance.

Dog owners average just under three veterinary visits each year. Cats average about two visits. The dog owners spend an average of \$261.30 per year on veterinary care and cat owners shell out \$156.90. For most people this is affordable either in cash or short-term credit.

Some insurance companies point out that routine expenses are not what insurance is necessarily designed for.

Instead, it is for unexpected major expenses, like Bailey's.

Writing in the Miami Herald, health and fitness reporter Howard Cohen explains that pet insurance generally can cost about \$2,000 to \$6,000 over the life of an animal, while the cost of a major ailment can run from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Every day, Washington State University's veterinary teaching hospital sees both walk-in and referral patients for some of the most advanced veterinary care available worldwide. Bills in Cohen's range are not uncommon.

For owners who will do anything for their pets, pet health insurance is a reasonable option to consider. On the other hand, if one will spend only to a certain limit and then resort to palliative care or euthanasia, it may not be.

I recently had a very high-ranking state politician tour WSU's hospital and he said matter-of-factly, "My family has a \$300 limit for care

expenses for our cat. Once we reach that limit, we get a different cat from the pound."

Like any consumer product, "buyer beware" is important when considering pet insurance.

Consider whether you want a discount plan that covers only major illnesses or comprehensive coverage that covers everything from routine visits to sicknesses. Will the policy allow you to keep seeing your current veterinarian? What limitations does the policy have? What treatments are covered or excluded? Does it cover medicine? Is there a deductible? Does the insurance company have a good record? The pet insurance industry is still small, so doing a good job of consumer research shouldn't take long.

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

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RENTON MAGAZINE / Andrew Fickes
Nellie Rutman, 88, was the inspiration for the Senior Center's annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Seniors guaranteed a hot meal at *Thanksgiving*

The Renton Rotary Thanksgiving Dinner Day Celebration will be served at the Renton Senior Center on Thursday, Nov. 22 at 11:45 a.m., with socializing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BY ANDREW FICKES

*T*hanksgiving dinner at the Renton Senior Center is a 13-year tradition that draws up to 250 seniors and some 60 Rotary and city volunteers.

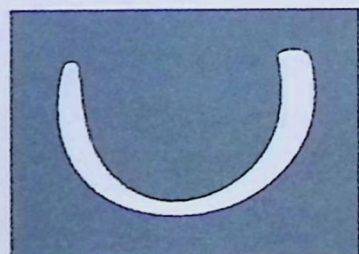
"It's just phenomenal how many people volunteer," says Don Persson, a Rotarian and chairman of the event. "Some that volunteer were in grade school when they began. Now they're in college."

Persson leads a five-person cooking crew that has been with him the whole time. Prior to dinner being served at 11:45 a.m., city employees set up the tables and run games for everyone beginning at 10 a.m. The event lasts until 2 p.m.

"At 11:45 a.m. we have 20 to 30 Rotarians and their families show up, and between all of them we serve everybody in about 15 minutes," he says.

Nellie Rutman, an 88-year-old senior who has come to the center for the past 29 years, helped inspire the event. She approached senior center director Shawn

SENIOR NEWS - next page



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RENTON MAGAZINE / Denis Law

Volunteers serve up a warm Thanksgiving meal to seniors at the Renton Senior Center.

SENIOR NEWS

from page 17

Daly, who passed the idea on to Persson, and he knew it would be no problem.

"I knew city employees would donate their time and Rotary would donate money for food," he says.

Food is supplied through the Renton-based Kenco Food Service. Last year, Rotary spent nearly \$1,700, which was raised from the organization's annual auction in March.

Ninety-six pounds of turkey breast and 93 pounds of ham were served along with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fruit cocktail, rolls, coffee, tea, and pumpkin cheesecake from Calico Cheesecake Company in Renton.

"We took this on because we think the world of Don Persson," says Russ Oberg,

team leader at Kenco Food Service. "It's also nice to know that we're providing seniors with at least one day of happiness and fellowship during the year."

After dinner is served, Persson and his crew begin dishing up the rest of the food in take-home containers. That way, every senior is guaranteed at least one more hot meal the following day.

Wendy Kirchner, recreation programmer for the center, says the dinner is a fun and festive occasion when everyone dresses nicely and socializes.

Rutman said she's thankful for the time, money, and hard work put forth by the city, the center, and Rotary. She also thanks all the volunteers who "always give their quality time to us every year."

"The food is always good and it can't be beat," she says. "It's a very happy place."

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Renton Clothes Bank in great need of children's clothing

After serving more than 800 people in the past two months, the Renton Clothes Bank is asking the public's help. It's in dire need of clean, wearable infant and children's clothing. Approximately 75 percent of its clientele are children.

The holiday season is typically a busy time for the

bank, 1025 South Third St. in the Renton Area Youth Services building. The bank has been serving Renton area families for 40 years.

Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

More information is available at www.rentonclothesbank.org.



RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM, #1969.002.0420

Capt. Robert Wilcox Brown and his family in 1858. Capt. Brown and wife Charlotte are seated at the far right.

BY ELIZABETH P. STEWART

In 1870, at an age when most men would be settling into their dotage, the 61-year-old Capt. Robert Wilcox Brown arrived in Renton. After a string of South Sea adventures and defeats at the hands of nature, Capt. Brown was starting over.

Robert Wilcox Brown went to sea on a whaling ship at the age of 19. The 1830s and 1840s were the

The unlucky sea captain who settled in Renton

heydays of whaling, with crews staying out for 18 months or more, collecting valuable whale oil for use in lamps and industry. Sailors became citizens of the world, often more at ease in distant lands than at home. In 1840, when Brown met his wife-to-be, Charlotte Heppingstone, he was third mate on the "Mentor" and she was companion to a female passenger on her way to Cape Horn. Robert and Charlotte fell in love on the return trip.

Charlotte came from seafaring people herself. Her father, Robert Heppingstone, had been a captain in the English Navy. After their marriage, she made the unusual decision to travel with her husband. Their 10 children were born around the world, some in Hawaii where Capt. Brown purchased land and built a family home in 1851. Hawaii became his base of operations, but it was not a lucky place for him.

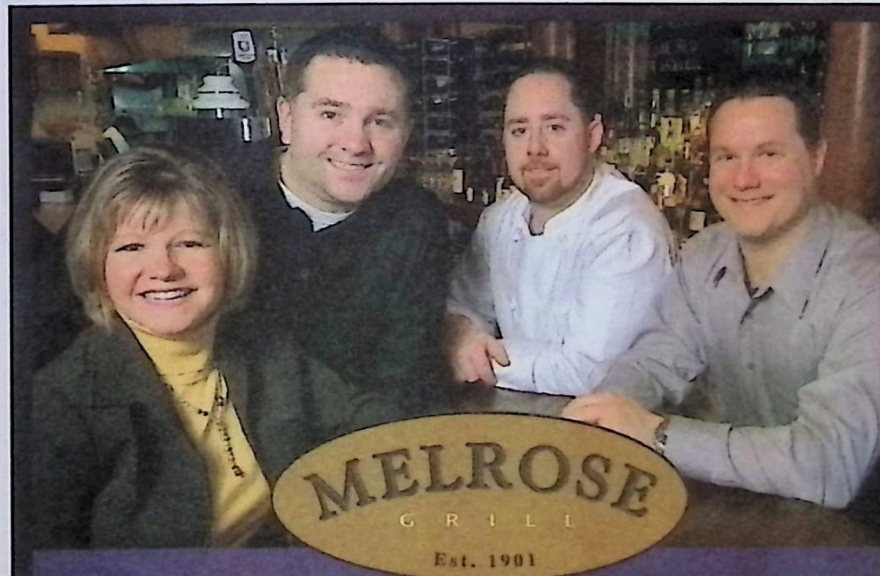
In 1859 he lost the "Black Warrior" in rough currents off the California coast. The ship was uninsured and fully loaded with whale oil, a devastating financial loss. By 1865 he'd recovered enough to purchase a cattle farm on the slopes of Mauna Loa, another decision undone by nature. In 1868 a nine-mile-long lava flow burst from the volcano. The

Browns escaped to a nearby hill, where they desperately watched everything they'd worked for engulfed.

Another sea captain remembered that after this Capt. Brown, "heaping maledictions upon the islands," decided to relocate. Having sailed into Puget Sound some years before, he chose the Cedar River precinct to start over yet again. In 1871 he gave up the sea and sent for his family to live on Brook Farm, the cattle farm he'd built on the site of present-day Liberty Park. He raised cattle, planted an orchard, and opened a shingle sawmill. For the third and final time, the unfortunate Brown was wiped out when a Cedar River flood destroyed his sawmill. The determined captain tried to recoup one last time on Whidbey Island with a 350-acre farm. But age caught up with him, and he died at his son Tom's home in Seattle in 1894, one day after his 85th birthday.

Capt. Brown's descendants have documented his colorful history; for more information, see their website, www.captainbrown.net.

Elizabeth P. Stewart is the director of the Renton History Museum. 425.255.2330. www.rentonhistory.org.



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Upper left photo by Dena Rosko, all others courtesy of Ian Mangum & Hannah Timmen / Story by Andrew Fickes

Student photographers burst onto the art scene

When 12-year-old Ian Mangum and 15-year-old Hannah Timmen decided to dabble in a basic photography class, they each discovered they had a passion for art with a camera.

The result was an exhibit last August through September at Carco Theatre, sponsored by the Renton Public Arts Commission. Just a year prior, the two friends enrolled in a basic photography class offered through Renton School District's H.O.M.E. Program and taught by internationally known photographer

Nancy Clendaniel.

"I always liked to do art, so I saw the photography class as something fun to try out," said Ian.

"I loved learning in the class about how to get different angles," said Hannah. "I also learned about the 'rule of threes' and how it makes the picture more appealing to the eye."

The students' exhibit, titled "12x15 How We See It," was a hit.

"They had a 50 percent sell out of their work and on opening day 106 people attended," said Ian's mother Liza,

who helps with Ian and Hannah's publicity.

Hannah describes her work as edgy and urban. She favors shooting in cemeteries, looking for avant-garde and European-like sculptures.

"I like to take pictures of different architecture, landscapes, and structures," she said. "If it's interesting I'll take a picture. I'm kind of random when I take pictures."

Hannah said she'd like a photography career, if it works out that way. She plans to attend college, with Columbia

University in New York at the top of her list.

Hannah also excels in music. Since age 11, she has played the bass guitar, electric and acoustic guitar, and mandolin.

"I like bass the most, because it builds the foundation," she says.

Ian said he works with his Olympus eight-mega pixel camera until he gets the perfect shot. He protests he's not an expert with all the intricacies of the camera, but his mother insists that what he produces is phenomenal for his age.



Their show was one of the best we've had at Carco Theatre. ~ Dawn Murin

"What's interesting about Ian and Hannah's work is that each of them can take a photo of the same object but get totally different perspectives," she says.

Ian is an avid reader and lover of amphibians, especially ones that change color, he says. He has four frogs—the fattest one is called Fat Louie.

"I'm really interested in pursuing marine biology and would like to incorporate photography in marine biology," he says.

Hannah's mom, Heather, and Liza, naturally proud of their kids, are advocates of making the arts readily available to

young students.

Dawn Murin, senior art director with Wizards of the Coast and a volunteer on the visual arts committee for the Renton Public Arts Commission, said Ian and Hannah's work is impressive for their age group.

"Their show was one of the best we've had at Carco Theatre," she says. "These kids are so lucky to have so much support from their parents. It speaks a lot of Heather and Liza for the support they give. Ian and Hannah both have a lot of potential. The older they get the better they'll become."

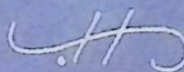
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RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko
Tracey Edou holds an elephant candle, her "favorite" artifact from Africa, from the Kingdom of Swaziland. At left, the class she taught in Africa.

LIVING IN AFRICA

Empowers Dimmitt Middle School teacher

BY ANDREW FICKES

Tracey Edou's journey toward teaching math at Dimmitt Middle School began 14 years ago, when she was assigned as a Peace Corps volunteer to a country she'd never heard of, to do a job that didn't interest her.

"When I returned to America, I brought back this feeling of how privileged I am and how our country really is the land of opportunity," she says. "I brought back a feeling for social justice. We should all be striving towards greatness for everybody in our country. And that's why I work at Dimmitt."

"Dimmitt has a lot of multicultural families and low-income families. For our country to be great, we need to work towards better education for all students."

Edou joined the Peace Corps in 1993 after receiving a bachelor's degree in math with a minor in chemistry and the equivalent to a minor in biology.

"After graduation, my intention was to become a scientist," she says. "When the Peace Corps said 'You're going to be a teacher.' I said, 'Oh, I could do that for a few years.'"

She was sent to Gabon, a country in central Africa, on the equator.

She trained in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. She was responsible for 60 students during her teacher training. Since Gabon is a French-speaking country, Edou was asked to learn French in three months—well enough to teach math. And when she first laid

eyes on the African children that summer, she said it clicked for her. She knew right then that she wanted to be a teacher.

Despite her desire to teach, there was a culture shock when she began teaching in the village of Mitzié, where she had four classes of 60 students each for a full year.

"It was incredible," she says. "I had only been teaching in French and speaking French for three months. There was no running water and sporadic electricity. I had no friends. It was very isolated."

And there was the challenge of living and teaching in a tropical rain forest. Edou said it would rain usually nine months out of the year, rain that poured hard enough to extinguish all sound. Teaching was impossible during a downpour. Edou taught for the Peace Corps for three years, then decided to stay on for a fourth year on her own,

Then she taught in Libreville—four years in African schools followed by two years in the International School.

During the summer months she traveled from Gabon to Johannesburg, South Africa, where she received her master's degree in

teaching through the College of New Jersey.

While living in Gabon, she had a daughter, Patricia, who now is turning 10 and attends Talbot Hill Elementary School in Renton. Edou kept Patricia's father's name, which is the name of a tropical bird in the Fang language of Gabon.

Today, Edou still speaks of her experiences in Africa to students and her peers. She said much of what she saw and experienced in Gabon made her heart bleed.

To maintain her connections with Gabon, she runs marathons to raise money for underprivileged people there. One woman she raises money for is a single mother afflicted with AIDS. The money helps put her children through school.

As a part-time math teacher and coach, Edou signed up last year to score the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) at her school in order to be more attuned to what her students are learning and are expected to know.

She doubts that she'll ever return to Gabon. "I really feel like I gave a lot there," she says. "I feel like I gave a limb."

McKnight school security officer receives state award

BY ANDREW FICKES

*J*ohn Prueitt, a security guard at McKnight Middle School since October of 2005, was recently recognized for his leadership at the school where approximately 1,100 students attend.

In August, Prueitt received the Washington State School Safety Security Officer of the Year Award. He was nominated by McKnight Middle School Principal Mary Merritt and the school's resource officer Corey Jacobs, an officer of the Renton Police Department.

"John makes my job extremely easy," Jacobs says. "He takes on school issues long before they get to me. Teachers and students respect him. He's very good at what he does and goes above and beyond."

Since October of 2005, Prueitt and Jacobs have co-instructed a young men's group at McKnight, open to all young men in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

Called "Powerful to Be Me," the pro-



RENTON MAGAZINE / Andrew Fickes
John Prueitt, left, and Corey Jacobs work together to keep McKnight Middle School safe.

gram teaches young men the virtues of leadership, pride, and respect.

"We average every week anywhere from 12 to 15 young men in the program," says Prueitt. "We practice public speaking and bring guest speakers in from the community."

"This program gives young men tools for success. Many of the young men we work with have no prior concept of these values," says Jacobs. "We try to expose these kids to things they may have never been exposed to."

Last year the program provided each student with a nice suit and tie.

"We took about 15 young men down to K and G Warehouse in Southcenter and spent about \$1,500 on outfits for them," says Prueitt. "We know that as middle school students, they're going to mess up. But we're trying to give them something that will stick with them."

This year's program will begin in November, meeting every Tuesday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Young mother groups continue to grow

If you're a young mother—married or single—Renton has an abundance of young mothers' clubs and organizations to support you.

MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of Renton says its membership has tripled over the past year. The organization, which supports stay-at-home mothers, attributes its boom to Renton's growing attractiveness to young families.

"New members are joining because Renton has been in the newspapers lately,"

says spokeswoman Jennifer Knickerbocker.

When MOMS Club of Renton started nine years ago it averaged around 24 members until this year, when membership ballooned to 90.

Membership is \$25 a year. The group does at least one service project a year. This school the club donated supplies to the Renton School District.

A similar group, Renton Moms' Group, has also grown over the past year. It started in 2006 with only a dozen members and today has grown to 199. The group provides on-line resources at moms.meetup.com.

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Artist Rendition provided by Valley Medical Center

Valley Medical Center's new emergency services tower and trauma center will be able to provide area-wide care in case of a major emergency.



VMC begins construction on ER tower and trauma center

BY ANDREW FICKES

Natural disasters, biological and pandemic outbreaks—these dire situations could occur in our near future, and Valley Medical Center is getting prepared.

A 2005 voter-approved levy in King County's Public Hospital District No. 1 has helped Valley Medical Center reach its goal of providing superior trauma services. In September, the hospital broke ground on its new \$110 million emergency services tower and Level III trauma center.

The 45,000-square foot emergency department, housed on the tower's third floor, will be the size of a football field. It will include 51 private exam rooms, more than any hospital in the Pacific Northwest. The fourth floor will have 30 beds in the intensive care unit, with additional beds on the upper three floors. Instead of serving 75,000 patients a year, VMC will be able to serve 100,000.

"These rooms are designed in such a way that when a patient is admitted to a critical care bed, that patient will most likely be able to stay in that bed and not have to

transfer rooms throughout their stay," said Rich Roodman, VMC chief executive officer.

"One of the great aspects of building this facility is the hospital's new ability to take care of a mass casualty disaster," he said. "We will be able to utilize the two floors of underground parking below the emergency department as a community disaster recovery facility."

On the roof of the seven-story tower will be a state-of-the-art helicopter pad.

"This would be like what most people visualize, say on 'Grey's Anatomy' or 'ER,'" Roodman said.

The tower and trauma center complete a \$200 million dollar capital master plan, which includes the \$25 million birth center, lobby area, and surgery center. The 200,000-square-foot emergency services tower will open in 2009. Now the hospital is in the planning stages for a \$13.5 million utility plant to power the extra square footage.

VMC's Emergency Services Tower at a glance

Price tag: \$110 million

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RENTON MAGAZINE / Dena Rosko

Paul Bolding gives William Pennington a hair cut. Pennington says he has come to Paul's Barber Shop for "several years."

Traditional barbershop offers haircuts and conversation

BY ANDREW FICKES

Since the early 1900s, barbering has been a mainstay business on Renton's South Third Street. One of the last remaining shops is still there, Paul's Barber Shop at 905 1/2 S. Third, with 73-year-old Paul Bolding presiding over his two-chair business.

As far as he knows, it's the last remaining shop in the area that still gives customers a neck shave and a hot washcloth scalp massage.

It's not uncommon for customers to be waiting at the doorstep when Paul arrives in the morning, and after 4 p.m., there's a rush of Boeing employees on their way home from work. The shop is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. And in traditional barbershop fashion, customers can always expect good conversation.

"Barbershops were more of a social space in the 1950s. It was a men and boys' place," says Bolding. "I try to carry on that tradition of socializing as much as I can."

Bolding decided to enter the barbering profession at age 20, after spending his late teens in the bakery business in Lubbock, Texas. In 1954, he went to barber school and took a six-month course in Amarillo, Texas, followed by a two-year apprenticeship working under a master barber. Afterwards, he took the state board's master exam.

Back then a haircut cost 75 cents, a shave 65 cents, and a shampoo 35 cents. With today's high-tech razors, most men now do their own shaving.

Bolding says not too many young people are getting into barbering, opting instead for salons. "There used to be 12 to 13 barber schools in Washington State," he says. "Now there's only one in Tacoma that I know of. The one here in Renton that was on Main Street closed several years ago."

But Bolding isn't worried that the proliferation of hair salons will put him out of business. He still has a loyal following and a good number of longtime customers.

One is 81-year-old Bob Viall, who's been coming to Paul's for 20 years.

"I'm satisfied, because I know it's always going to be done well. There's no surprises with Paul," says Viall.

Bolding has barbered in Renton since 1985. He started at Will's Barbershop on South Third Street, and later purchased Al's Barbershop three doors down. He's owned the shop for 12 years.

If there's one thing Bolding has learned about barbershop socializing, it's that you never talk politics—even when his customers included former Gov. Mike Lowry and Renton's former mayor, the late Earl Clymer.

"Over a period of time, Earl and I talked about a good many things," he says, but talking politics? "That'll get you out of business,"

Bolding plans to continue working as long as his good health remains.

"I love the trade," he says. "I like the people I work with of all ages and backgrounds. Everyone has a unique story to tell."

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“The Highlands community is a great place to raise families, and I think it deserves to be a priority. I really appreciate what Denis Law has done to listen to the people about the Highlands, and to try to make it a focus for police resources.

~ Ed James



“Denis has always focused on the health of the community as a whole and not just a few special interest groups. When he first came to Renton, he started a community newspaper that was for

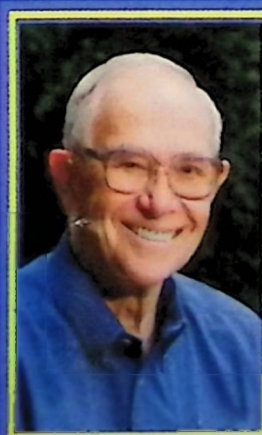
all the people and considered many points of view. As Mayor, he will continue to work to foster a healthy and diverse community.

~ Gene & Huong Sens, Renton
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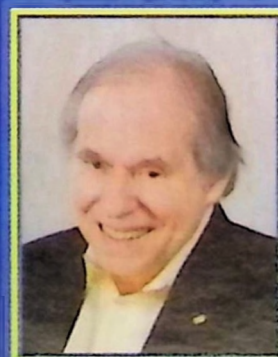
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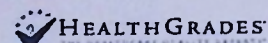
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