

RENTON Magazine

Volume 3 / No 2 February 2008



Remembering
Renton's Veterans

page 12

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- Culinary tool rack allows proper cleaning of extra-large culinary tools



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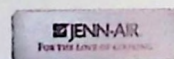
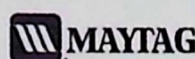
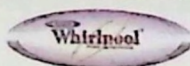
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Where we've been and where we want to go

Technology is wonderful but it's often no substitute for close human attention to a task. Two articles in last month's Renton magazine were partially garbled because of a computer glitch that we didn't catch before distribution. We apologize for the errors. We're re-running the articles this month because both of them involve worthy efforts, a student math tutoring program and a classroom food recycling project.

Now that it's the dead of winter, the holidays are past, and it's too cold for lots of outdoor activities, it's a good time to think about how you can volunteer to make Renton an even better place to live. There are lots of ways to give back to the community, as one of the

stories mentioned above illustrates.

Elsewhere in this issue are other stories about helping others, and how it sometimes takes very little to make a big difference. There's a story about how a trip to a video store turned into an international act of charitable compassion. There's also a story about Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Renton and how a few folks like Mick Zevart are making sure we don't forget those who gave their lives to keep this country free.

If you're at a loss to think how you might



David Suffia
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

volunteer and make a difference, there is no shortage of people and organizations who could use your talents or willingness to pitch in, even if it's only for an hour or two a week: local churches, food banks, civic organizations, your local schools, animal welfare groups, the Renton Senior Citizen Activity Center, or other senior groups, Renton Civic Theatre, groups that send letters to service men and women overseas, to name a few.

Good works are contagious, or as my mother used to say. "Doing good almost always come back to you, one way or another." She always helped others, and always had others to help her when she needed it.

So pick out an area of interest that means something special to you and go out and treat the world like you'd like it to treat you.

RENTON Magazine

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cover: Veteran's Memorial Park at 523 S. 3rd St. honors Renton's war heroes. See cover story, page 12. Photos by David Suffia. 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

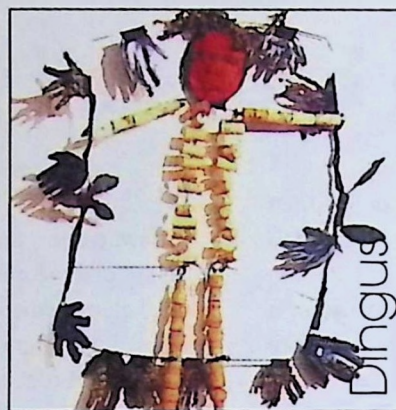
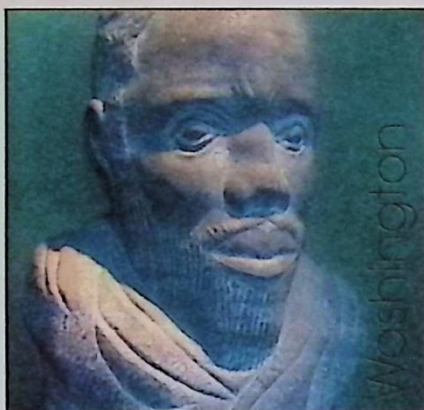
Renton Magazine
425.271.9300

Renton Museum
425.255.2330

Senior Activity Center
425.430.6633

Valley Medical Center
425.228.3450

upcoming events



FOUR AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS Working in Washington State since 1945

Susan Noyes Platt

"Four African American Artists Working in Washington State since 1945: James W. Washington, Jr., Jacob Lawrence, Barbara Thomas, Marita Dingus." Susan Noyes Platt explores these artists in their historical, social, and political context, including reference to the history of African Americans in Washington State.

February 12

Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

425-255-2330

**Renton History Museum
235 Mill Ave. S.**

**Admission: RHS members
admitted free**

now
playing



VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAYERS:

Spider's Web

Clarissa, the second wife of Henry Hailsham-Brown, is adept at spinning tales of adventure for their bored diplomatic circle. When a murder takes place in her drawing room she finds drama much harder to cope with, especially since she suspects someone she knows. Moreover, Henry is arriving with a VIP who might take a dim view of murder. The murderer is unmasked by the time Henry arrives and all is "normal" but with no refreshments for their guest. A classic Agatha Christie Whodunit!

February 1 through 17

Check Valley Community Players for show times

Carco Theatre

1717 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: \$15/adult; \$14/seniors and students

425-226-5190

www.valleycommunityplayers.org



february 15

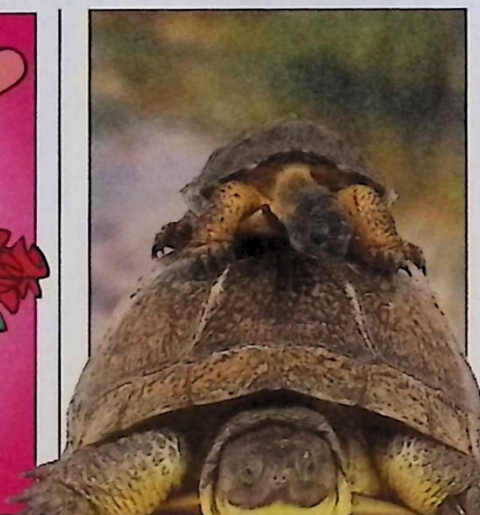
Valentine Dance

Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

425-430-6633

Renton Senior Activity Center
211 Burnett Ave. N.

Admission: \$6



february 21

Reptile Man

Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

425-430-6700

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: Free



march 1 & 2

Studio-East Storybook Theatre presents: The Three Pigs

Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Carco Theatre 1-877-827-1100
1717 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: \$8 for single tickets

upcoming events

MID-WINTER MADNESS



These trips to the slopes are for skiers and snow boarders, ages 11 to 17. Fee covers transportation and supervision. Participants will be responsible for lift tickets and lunch on their own. No instruction provided. Trips may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

February 19, 20 and 21

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

425-430-6700

Renton Community Center
1717 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: \$20 for residents; \$24 for non-residents

Renton Civic Theatre presents:

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

(Abridged)

This production embodies one of comedy's most essential impulses: the adolescent urge to take a baseball bat to the culturally revered. This mix of pratfalls, puns, willful misreading of names and dialogue, clunky female impersonations, and clean-cut ribaldry is impossible to resist. Come join us for this hilarious romp.

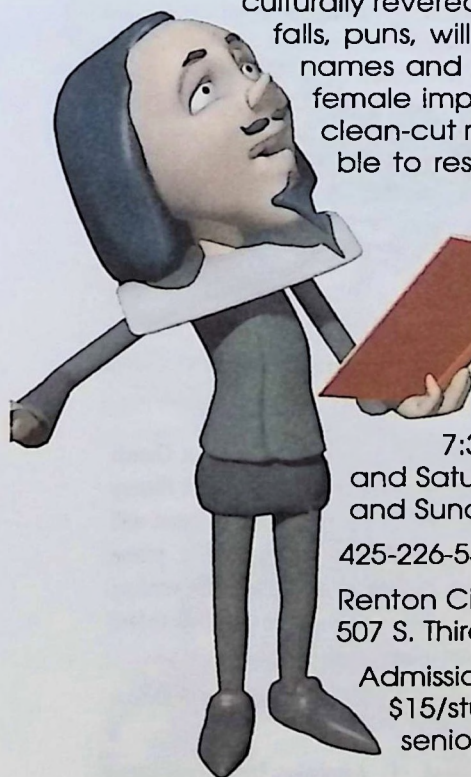
February 15 through March 2

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m.

425-226-5529

Renton Civic Theatre
507 S. Third St.

Admission: \$20/adults;
\$15/students and seniors



Choklate

february 23

When talented soul singer Choklate relocated to Seattle four years ago from southern California, she immediately became involved with the local hip-hop and R&B scene. Choklate's performance will include a full, live band plus a DJ who will perform throughout the set and during intermission.

Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

425-430-6751

Carco Theatre
1717 Maple Valley Hwy.

Admission: \$18 per ticket



Passion

Vibrant
Madagascar Ruby
set in yellow gold
with diamond
accent

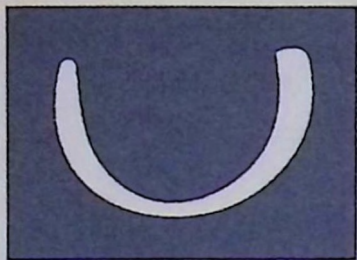
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Take Advantage of Higher IRA Contribution Limits

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to boost your retirement savings, you can count on some extra help from your Uncle Sam. That's because you'll be able to contribute more to your IRA in 2008. This is a great opportunity for you - so you'll want to make the most of it.

Here are the details: The contribution limit for both Traditional and Roth IRAs will increase from \$4,000 per year in 2007 to \$5,000 per year in 2008. And if you're 50 or over, the annual limit will rise from \$5,000 to \$6,000. (Keep in mind, though, that your ability to contribute to a Roth IRA may be limited by your income; see your tax advisor for more details.)

• Of course, if you weren't putting in the maximum amount to your IRA in 2007, you might think there's even less of a chance that you'll fully fund your IRA in 2008. And it's certainly true that \$5,000 or \$6,000 is a considerable sum - especially if you try to pay it all at once. But you don't have to do that. While it might be to your advantage to fully fund your IRA early every year - you'd be giving your money more time to potentially grow - you can make smaller contributions throughout the year. In fact, you've actually got until the tax filing deadline of each year to fund your IRA for that year. So, if you chose, you could spread your 2008 IRA payments over 15 months - 12 months in 2008, and the first three months of 2009. That means you could put in \$333.33 per month, if you're under 50, or \$400 per month, if you're 50 or older.

• Even those amounts might pose a challenge to your cash flow, but you need to consider just how important it is to save for retirement. Many financial experts say that you will need between 80 percent and 100 percent of your pre-

retirement income just to maintain your lifestyle - and if you plan on traveling extensively, purchasing a vacation home or incurring other significant expenses during your retirement years, you may need even more money. That means you'll have to rely on all your available resources - your Social Security, your 401(k) or pension and your other savings and investments, of which an IRA can be a significant part.

• And an IRA is one of the best retirement savings vehicles around. A traditional IRA has the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis, which means your earnings can potentially grow faster than they would on an investment on which you paid taxes every year. And a Roth IRA's earnings have the potential to grow totally tax-free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you reach age 59-1/2 and you've had your account for at least five years. Furthermore, you can fund either type of IRA with virtually any security you choose - stocks, bonds, Certificates of Deposit (CD), Treasury bills, etc. Depending on your income level, you might even be able to deduct some, or all, of your Traditional IRA contributions from your taxes. (Roth IRA contributions are never tax deductible.)

As you can see, you'll be helping yourself greatly if you contribute the maximum amount to your IRA in 2008 - and all the years beyond.



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

calendar of events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Tales of Folks and Folktales

Saturday, Feb. 9 at 11 a.m.

Eva Abram takes us back to the time of the Underground Railroad, the route used by escaping slaves to make their way to freedom. She shares the importance of preserving family stories and folk tales, and passing them on to new generations. These stories demonstrate that bodies may be enslaved but minds cannot.

Renton History Museum
235 Mill Ave. S.

425-255-2330

Admission: RHS members are admitted free

www.rentonhistory.org



Black History Month at Renton Public Library

Throughout the month of February

Read and explore Black History Month with the Renton Public Library. Learn about African-American history and the men and women who helped shape it. Check the library website to dis-

cover featured writers, or pick up a 2008 Renton Black History Month bookmark at either branch.

Renton Public Library
100 Mill Ave. S.
425-430-6610

Highlands Library
2902 N.E. 12th St.
425-430-6790

Admission: Free | www.rentonwa.gov



Follow The Light's Annual Black History Program

Friday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.

Come join us for a fabulous event! Experience our grandparents' and parents' legacy. The featured keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Charles Mitchell of Seattle Central Community College. Guest speaker will be Superintendent Wilford Allison from Holiness Chapel COGIC. Special music guests are Sisk and Company and the Koinonia Church Men's Choir and Praise Team.

Follow The Light Koinonia Church
1063 Hoquiam Ave. N.E.

425-430-8858 | Admission: Free



Black History Month Festival

Saturday, Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church welcomes the public to its annual Black History Month Festival. Activities starting at noon will include African dancers and drummers, praise dancing, youth choirs, food, marketplace vendors and interactive workshops. Come learn how to find your African tribe.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church
4519 N.E. 10th St.

425-255-1446 | Admission: Free

DINNER BANQUETS

RTC Scholarship Dinner: Hawaiian Luau

Friday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Net proceeds from the Hawaiian Luau will benefit the Renton Technical College Foundation's culinary scholarships and endowment, and provide general scholarship dollars. Culinary students will prepare six dishes in the Hawaiian tradition and wines will be selected to complement the menu. A silent auction is also part of the festivities. Sponsored by IKEA of Renton, The Boeing Company, Kent Station, and King and Bunny's Discount TV and Appliance.

Renton Technical College
Roberts Campus Center Building
3000 N.E. 4th St.

425-235-2352 ext. 5728

Admission: \$50 per person | www.rtc.edu

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Preschool Information Night

Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Now is the time to explore preschool options for your child. The Renton Community Center will host an opportunity to meet representatives from a variety of preschools in our community. More than 15 local preschools set up booths and provide valuable information regarding their curriculum, hours, tuition, and registration for the 2008-2009 school year. Drop in for this informative evening.

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Hwy.

425-430-6700

Admission: Free

www.rentonwa.gov



Saturday Series: Valentine's Bash

Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

This program is for ages 3 to 5. Forget those Saturday morning cartoons and join us for some kid fun. Listen to a story, create wonderful crafts, and enjoy a snack with all the friends you have made in class. Supplies fee of \$3 paid to instructor.

Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Hwy.

425-430-6700

Admission: \$12 for residents; \$14 for non-residents

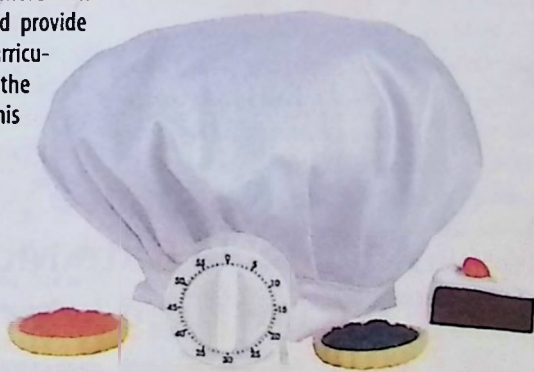
www.rentonwa.gov

TEEN PROGRAMS

Supreme Chefs

Monday, Feb. 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This program is for ages 11 to 17. If you like any of the cooking shows on TV, now is your chance to compete in a cooking challenge just like they do. You will be divided into teams, and then as a team you will select everything you need to cook a



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valentine's day is
thursday, february 14th

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No purchase necessary to enter or win.

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www.TouchdownSportsBar.com

calendar of events

CALENDAR from page 7

meal. The best part is, you will be judges. The winner will receive a gift certificate to Red Robin.

North Highlands Neighborhood Center
3000 N.E. 16th St.

425-430-6700

Admission: \$35 for residents; \$42 for non-residents

www.rentonwa.gov

SENIOR EVENTS

Renton Senior Activity Center
211 Burnett Ave. S.

425-430-6633

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

Tax Aide Program

Thursday, Feb. 7 through April 10

This program is sponsored by AARP and uses trained volunteers to assist with tax returns. Seniors are asked to bring in last year's tax return. All tax forms will be electronically filed (E-file). Call 425-430-6633 to make an appointment.

Admission: Free (by appointment)



50 Years and Counting

Thursday, Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Have you been married for 50 years or more? Sign up in the recreation office by Feb. 11 and you will be formally honored during the Valentine's Day Luncheon in the auditorium.

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



Speaker: Living Options and the Caregiver

Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Adapting our homes or relocating to assisted-living communities is often necessary to support continued independence and well-being. Marla Beck, owner and president of Angelcare/At Home Care, will discuss the options in senior living accommodations and the importance of finding and working with an appropriate caregiver — one who is matched with the person's specific needs and preferences.

Admission: Free

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Love is picking up your socks and putting down the toilet lid



KIRBY UNTI

February is the month for lovers. Valentine's Day ranks right up there at the top of the chart when it comes to greeting card purchases. Restaurant reservations are booked solid. Hotel suites are in hot demand. Flower shops work late hours. Jewelry store owners smile. Romance still has a place in this always shifting culture.

2008 is a big year for this lover! All I have to do is slip off my wedding ring and read the inscription that is stamped there, KU loves KU 9/9/1978.

Thirty years ago I stood at the altar with my bride and we said we were in it together through thick and thin. Thirty years later and were still standing after having added four kids to the mix. Would I do it again? You bet I would, because I was fortunate enough to marry the right person the first time.

Kim understands that the love that it takes to sustain a marriage is far more enduring than the romance that

draws a couple together. My favorite definition of love comes from an old English word, forbearance. It means to put up with. Love at its best is the ability to put up with the all of another person.

Believe me, Kim has had a lot to put up with over the past 30 years. I, despite all public appearances, am not an easy guy to live with. Knowing this truth only adds to my love and respect for her. The truth is, in marriage we all get discovered for who we really are, or as I often say in the wedding services I conduct, "We are all ugly in the morning."

Love that is based on forbearance carves out a place where forgiveness can be given a chance. Forgiveness is the most essential ingredient in love. Love grounded in forbearance enters the relationship expecting that there are going to be trying times.

Kim said it even better when asked how she has survived by responding, "I went into marriage with low expectations." And I have always said I have done my part to live up to those. I look at the role models in my life who have doubled the number of years that Kim and I have been married, and the wisdom they share is this: Don't go to bed angry. Learn to be wrong. Every day find something to be thankful for. Pick up your socks and keep the toilet lid down.

I have not been the perfect partner but marrying someone who knows that and still loves me has made for the perfect marriage. The Hebrew understanding of perfection is wholeness where all the broken pieces are held together well. Happy Valentines Day.

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

#1 In The Nation

Frontier Bank Is Privileged To Be Recognized as the #1 Bank in the Nation

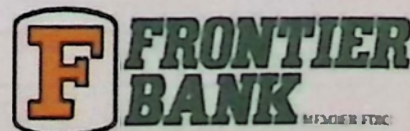
Frontier's honor was a scorecard rating by Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P., a New York investment bank specializing in bank stocks, and reported to *Bank Director Magazine*.

The purpose of the ranking was to identify banks that generate good profits without leveraging their balance sheets or taking excessive lending risks.

RANKED #1 Bank IN THE NATION

Bank Director Scorecard,
based on Profitability,
Capital Adequacy, and
Credit Quality

150 of the nation's largest banks were identified, including U.S. Bancorp, #14; Washington Federal, #22; Wells Fargo, #30; KeyCorp, #31; Bank of America Corp., #63; Banner Corp., #82.



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Up and at 'em! It's breakfast time

BY DAVID SUFFIA

Nutritionists say breakfast is the most important meal of the day. For lots of us it's the most fun and the tastiest.

Where can you find a good breakfast spot in Renton? Let's take a look. Plum Delicious in the Renton Highlands has been serving friendly breakfasts for years. It's one of those old-fashioned eateries that serve good food and although it's almost always busy, the service is almost always speedy.

Don't let the purple paint job on the outside put you off. The inside is comfortably familiar. Owners Gary and Anita Johnson decorate Plum Delicious lavishly for the various holidays.

If it matters to you, it's also a good place to rub elbows with some of the city's politicians, civic leaders and business leaders, who frequent the restaurant for informal breakfasts.

If you're a late riser or just like breakfast



RENTON MAGAZINE / David Suffia

Bill Rogers, with his 1931 De Vaux, outside the Mimosa. At right, Tommy's Cafe, another standby.

I've eaten here for years, along with a lot of other regulars. ~ Ed Ross

at odd hours, Plum Delicious serves it all day. They have the classics such as bacon and eggs with nice hash browns, omelets, French toast, waffles and pancakes. They also serve a breakfast burrito, biscuits and gravy, and a "Northwest Breakfast" that includes half a pound of salmon with eggs, hash browns and toast. The prices aren't bad either, mostly in the \$5 to \$10 range.

Thomas Fleetwood, the night manager, says the staff "bends over backwards to be friendly," and that's been true whenever I've been there. If you're a vegetarian or trying to eat healthy, the menu includes oatmeal and fresh fruit, but the emphasis is on hearty meat and eggs.

"It's real comfort food," says Bill Kenamer of Renton. "We always know what to expect."

"And we're here almost every Saturday," says his wife Naomi.

If you're in the Highlands and want a really big breakfast, Jack's Pub and Grill on Northeast 4th Street really piles it on, but only on the weekends. My sister-in-law favors

Jack's Mess, a concoction of eggs, peppers, onions, sausage and hash browns all scrambled together for \$7.25. You need a big appetite to polish off most of the dishes here, or be prepared to take home leftovers.

Jack's features a sirloin steak and three eggs combo with hash browns and toast. Or you can get Hawaiian style French toast that has Hawaiian sweet bread dipped in egg. There are omelets and classic plates, and most are around \$7 or \$8.

If you're looking for something a little more formal, the Yankee Grill and Roaster at the Holiday Inn next to I-405 is a good bet. Most hotel or motel dining spots are filled with guests staying overnight. The Yankee Grill draws diners from all around the area.

"Only 20 percent of our diners are from the hotel," says Roberta Flagler, the food and beverage manager. "Even though we change our menu from time to time, we make sure that old favorites are still available because we have so many return customers."

Besides the typical breakfast items, the Yankee Grill



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RENTON MAGAZINE / David Suffla

Plum Delicious serves breakfast all day, The Yankee Grill draws well beyond the Holiday Inn. Glen Cameron, left, and Howard Baldrige meet at Tommy's every day.

serves a Saturday and Sunday brunch with dishes ranging from about \$9 for corned beef hash and eggs to crab and shrimp Benedict for \$11.

During the week they serve the usual bacon and egg platters, but also serve cereals, oatmeal, fresh fruit, a low-carb omelet, huevos rancheros, and a Northwest omelet with salmon, cream cheese, chives and mushrooms.

Much less formal is Tommy's, a fixture on

Rainier Avenue near the Renton Municipal Airport. Tommy Tran opened it in 1991 after fleeing Vietnam when the Communists took over.

It's about as stop-along-the-highway as you can get. Most of the customers have been coming for years, many of them for the senior discount breakfasts.

"I've eaten here for years, along with a lot of other regulars," says Ed Ross, who comes over all

the time from Tukwila. "It's real comfortable and it has that old-time style. The waitresses know all their customers."

"This is the place, all right. I come in here every day," says Glen Cameron, a 77-year-old from the Renton Highlands.

"Me too," says his breakfast partner, Howard Baldrige, 85, who is downing sausage, eggs, hash browns, toast and peaches, the senior special for \$4.75.

Around the corner from Tommy's, across the street from the airport on Airport Way, is the Mimosa, probably the least imposing breakfast spot in town. It's favored by pilots who want a quick breakfast before literally taking off.

Bill Rogers, owner of a Rainier Beach construction company, says he comes in "about four times a week. The breakfast is always consistent." Rogers zips down Rainier Avenue in style, sometimes in one of his two vintage Mercedes, sometimes in his restored 1931 De Vaux, an automobile nameplate that went out of business in 1933.

Last, but not least, one of the more popular breakfast spots is the Apogee, in the Fairwood shopping center. Originally, the Apogee was a tavern but it became so well known for its food that six years ago a separate restaurant was added next door.

"We've been family-owned for 37 years," says Dick Illian, the current owner. "My dad was a milkman but he always wanted to own a tavern. He started the Apogee and I took over his milk route. Later I took over the Apogee."

"We're real family oriented. We have a menu for kids under 12 that ranges from \$2.99 for French toast to \$4.99 for a large waffle topped with strawberries and whipped cream."

The big folk's breakfast menu is extensive and runs from the usual to vegetarian omelets, Italian omelets and eggs or salmon Benedict. Is it good? Ask many of the people who work in the shopping center and eat at the Apogee. Yeah, it's good.

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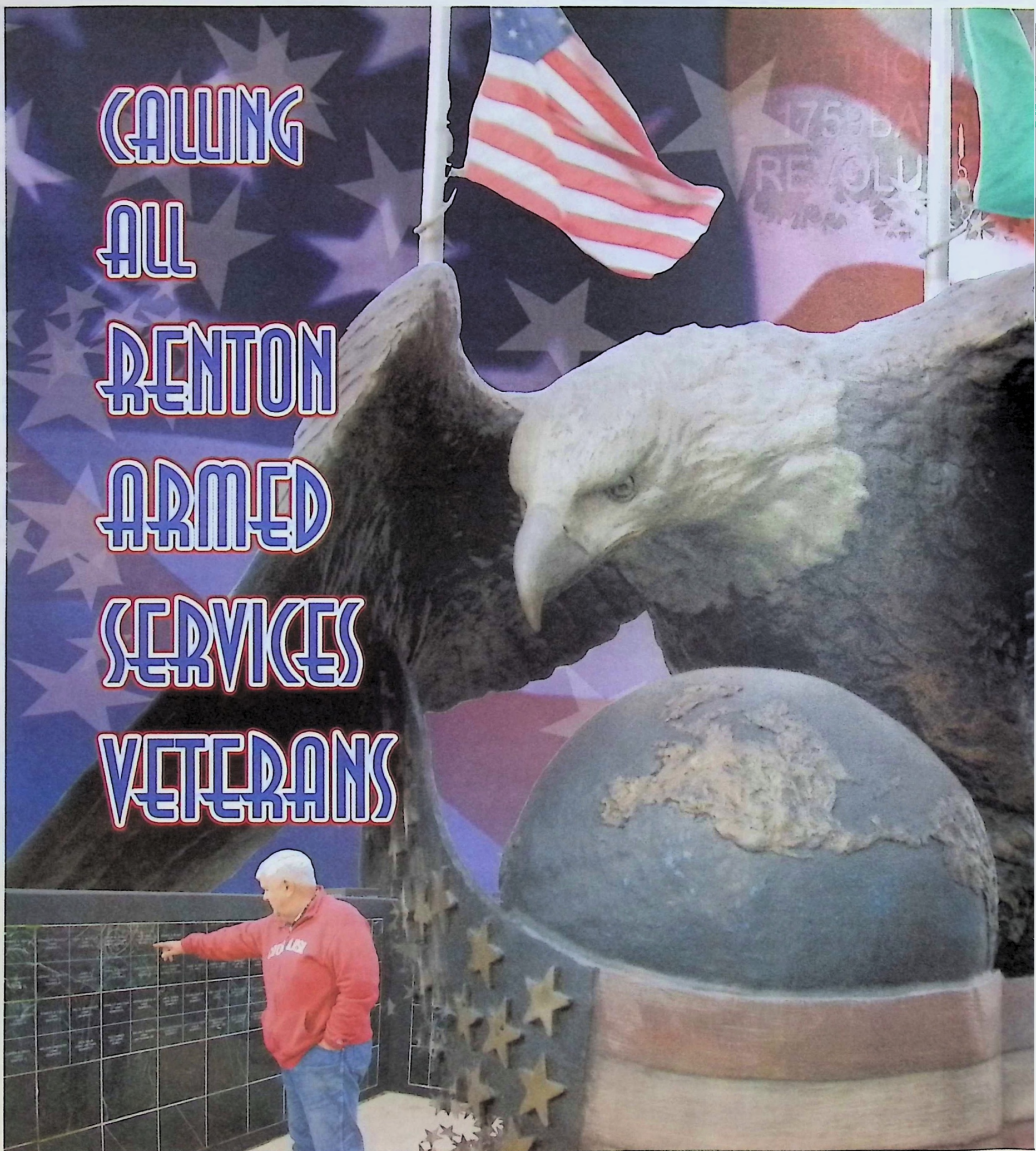
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I MISS YOU DAD

Story and Photos by David Suffia

ver the years Renton has sent its share of men and women off to serve in the armed forces, from France to Vietnam and Africa to Afghanistan. Mick Zevart wants to make sure every one of them is honored in the city's Veterans Memorial Park.

Zevart, who grew up in Renton and served in the U.S. Marines, heads a group named Semper Fi Renton.

"We'd like to see the names of all the Renton veterans from all the service branches, from all wars and generations on plaques in the park," Zevart said.

The park, located in downtown Renton at 523 S. 3rd St., is a small plaza with a series of dark green granite walls in the shape of a star. Six-by-six-inch granite plaques line the walls, each engraved with the name and service branch of a veteran.

It costs \$50, payable to the city, to have a plaque engraved and placed on the wall.

Although it's a Renton park, any U.S. veteran can be honored with a plaque. However, Zevart and his Semper Fi group are concerned that many Renton vets are not yet honored at the park.

"A lot of them are

long dead and their families may have moved away," he says, "or maybe they just don't know about the park. I just hate to see so many Renton-area vets missing.

"We've hunted through local cemeteries looking for military graves so we could identify veterans who should be honored in the park," says Zevart, a Renton High School graduate of 1954 and a Marine from 1954 to 1956. "We found a lot of names and we've tried to contact the families so they could order the plaques.

"In some cases where there was no one to pay for a plaque, we took money from our own funds to pay for it. We've had a dozen or so donations to help us.

"One thing we'd really like to see is the alumni associations of the local high schools get involved in helping track down veterans who aren't yet honored in the memorial and who should be," Zevart says. "We could really use their help."

Any veteran, living or dead, is eligible for inclusion in the memorial, but proof of honorable discharge is required, according to the city.

The park includes a bronze statue of an eagle and an American flag at its center. The statue was designed by local artist Sheri Nagy. The design of the park was donated by Calvin Jordan Associates, Inc., in association with David Clark Architects. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1263 helped coordinate the project. The park was dedicated in 2003.

The statue's pedestal bears the seals of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Flags of the service branches, and the state and United States, line the back of the park.

Applications for memorial plaques are available from the City of Renton's web site or may be picked up at Renton City Hall. You may also call the city at 425-430-6600 to request an application.

Zevart said he also welcomes calls from people wishing to request a plaque, help seek out veterans, or to donate money to the effort. He can be reached at 425-255-5690.

Commemorative plaques at Veterans Memorial Park include service men and women who served in the Gulf War, The Vietnam War, Korean War, World Wars I and II, the Civil War and even the Revolutionary War.

They include veterans who served in Iwo Jima, Italy, France, Germany, Korea, Vietnam, The Philippines, Japan, the South Pacific, New Guinea, Mexico, Africa, and other countries and continents. The men and women served in everything from submarines to the Seabees and airborne units. Some plaques list Purple Hearts, Medals of Honor and other citations.

Some names on the plaques repeat. There are two men named Flanary, one who fought for the Union Army and one for the Confederate Army in the Civil War. They are honored next to a Flanary who fought in the Revolutionary War, and another Flanary who fought in World War I in France.

Some of the plaques are touching, beyond just the mention of a name. One is dedicated "To Dad with love." Another says, "I miss you, Dad." Still another says simply, "My friend."

A new look for the Library's media collection



BY BETTE ANDERSON

One very popular library service is providing media in a variety of formats. Eventually, a new format may replace those that came before, but there is always an extended period of overlap when the library must collect in both formats. For example, movies on DVD are the "current" format, but many people still cling to their VCR players and rely on the library to provide tapes for viewing. Shelving for all the different types of media can be a real challenge for libraries with limited space.

At the downtown Renton Public Library, CDs, videos, DVDs, books on tape, etc., were all located in the front section of the library

and were shelved on a disparate collection of wooden shelves, wire racks, and re-configured browsing bins. As more formats were added, additional units were squeezed in to accommodate them, but the result was not pretty. Not only were the shelves crowded beyond capacity, but it was nearly impossible to find a specific item because we couldn't create any logical order. Something had to be done to reorganize all those units and add additional space for new materials.

As with any good remodel project, one thing leads to another. What started out as a simple plan to shift things around turned into a major overhaul. We quickly realized that the old mish-mash of shelving would never be adequate, and that we



Bette
Anderson
COLUMNIST

needed to acquire appropriate media shelving to house each format with room for expansion.

A space plan was developed that would not only accommodate all the necessary shelving but also allow us to add several comfortable chairs for readers. With great anticipation, library staff awaited the big day when the transformation would occur.

Of course, it took much longer than one day and a great deal more hard work than we expected, but the end result exceeds our expectations. Not only can you see what media the library has available, and find a specific title you want, but you can also sit in a comfy chair in an attractive space to read for awhile. And there is room for more new books, too.

So come in and check out our new look. And by the way, don't miss the fabulous new art bicycle rack beside the front door.

Bette Anderson is director of the Renton Public Library. 425.430.6610

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB PASTOROK
Mohammed Shaibu (pictured) and his Soyaya African Drummers and Dancers group will perform at MLK's Black History Month Festival.

BY ANDREW FICKES

*M*artin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church, one of Renton's largest and oldest Baptist congregations, plans to celebrate its second annual Black History Month Festival in great fashion.

The all-day festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 16 will include praise music and dance presented by the church youth; an African-American dance group; southern food; marketplace vendors featuring African and African-American artifacts; and educational workshops.

At the center of the festival's message will be the church youth.

"We want to convey this year the African-American tradition that recognizes it takes a village to raise a child," says festival coordinator Reverend Shirley Peoples-Harris. "We want to support our youth by letting them know that we are still that village of support. We want to honor them, lift them up, and support them in all aspects of their lives."

Peoples-Harris says the church youth program is very strong and is supported by the Awana Club, which trains youth to serve God and builds leadership.

The Black History Month Festival will be presented in the church sanctuary and fellowship hall at 4519 N.E. 10th St. in the Renton Highlands. The program will begin in the fellowship hall with music presented by the Agape Youth Choir

MLK, Jr. Memorial Baptist church celebrates Black History Month

(ages 8 and up) and the Little Spirits Ensemble (children ages 1 to 8 years). That will be followed by the Jusprayze Dancers and then the Dancin' Dsciples.

The festival will also include guest speakers throughout the day. Peoples-Harris said the highlight of the festival will be an interactive workshop on helping people to find their African heritage tribe.

"This workshop will support people in creating their genealogy and creating a genogram," says Peoples-Harris. "People attending the workshop will go forward afterward and interview family members and collect photos. It'll be something they work on for some time. And I hope the youth get involved. It's a very powerful experience, finding your African tribe."

Through stories passed on to her from her grandparents, Peoples-Harris discovered she is a descendant of the Zulu tribe. She says she's ready to take the next step. Her plan is to swab her mouth and send it to a lab. Through DNA, and for a modest fee, she says she'll be able to find out for sure if she's from the Zulu tribe.

"It's definitely worth the money," she says.

Renton resident Sister Margie Williams founded Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church in 1977. The church changed its name from Solid Rock Baptist Church to Martin Luther King in January of 1978 and was formally dedicated as an American Baptist Mission by the North Puget Sound Area American Baptist Churches of the Northwest in February of that same year.

The church has resided at Northeast 10th Street since September 1990, serving a congregation of more than 400 and led by Reverend Herbert J. Carey.

"I hope the youth will continue to know the truth of who they are and that they are children of God and come from a rich ancestry," says Peoples-Harris.



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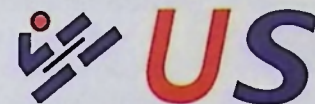


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Planning travel to Canada with pets?

I often get calls from travelers wanting to know the rules about taking their pets to Canada. All too often, they ask at the eleventh hour.

Here's the scoop, limited primarily to those going to and from Canada by car, not by air, and limited to dogs. The rules vary widely for other species. Also, these rules can change at any time based on a number of factors and can be very complex.

So, it's wise to start early, follow-up, and make sure your animal has the required vaccinations and paperwork

before you get to the border going either direction. Border officials have no tolerance for your lack of preparation. And if you need additional documentation from a near-the-border veterinarian who must drop everything to accommodate your lack of planning, it may be more costly.

In order to enter Canada or return to the U.S., a pet must have a current rabies vaccination certificate. This applies to all service dogs as well. On the U.S. side, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regulations require dogs be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry, except for puppies younger than three months and dogs originated or located for six months in areas considered to be free of rabies. The CDC's website for this information is: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>.

There is really only one way to assure that you and your pet will get over the border and back with the least amount of difficulty and

expense. For interstate and international travel a completed United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals (Form 7001) must be completed by an accredited veterinarian within 10 days of transport. Not all veterinarians are accredited to issue health certificates but most are.

These certificates are valid for 30 days. If your pet is transported again after the initial 30 days you will need to complete a new certificate. The European Union countries as well as many other countries now require that a veterinarian certificate issued in the U.S. have an official USDA Certification stamp. This certification is issued by the federal Area Veterinary Officer-In-Charge assigned to Washington State.

You can reach the local office at Area Veterinarian-in-Charge, 2604 12th Court SW, Suite B, Olympia, WA 98502-5715; Voice: (360) 753-9430; Fax: (360) 753-

9585. For detailed information from the USDA on traveling with pets see: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/public/fsheet_faq_notice/fs_awpettravel.html.

Border crossings are administered by multiple agencies from two sovereign nations. Those agencies can change the rules without notice. Any threat of bioterrorism, a disease outbreak, or myriad other things can trigger a tightening of the rules. This more stringent administration may stay in place an hour, a day, or a year depending on what triggered it. Bottom line? Get a health certificate.

A good source of information is your family veterinarian.

This article is taken from a larger, previously published article originally written by Dr. Sarah Hogan and edited by Charlie Powell. Powell is public information director for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

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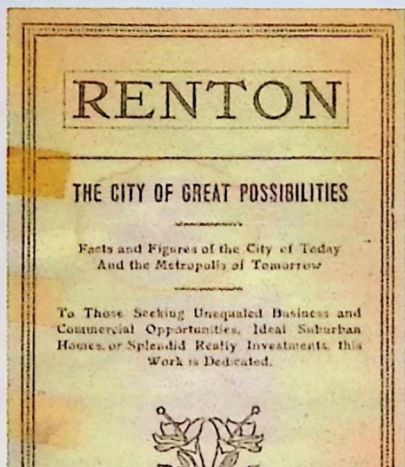
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COURTESY OF RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM
A 1910 Renton Chamber of Commerce publication.

BY ELIZABETH P. STEWART

From Renton's earliest days, city boosters came up with catchy taglines to attract new businesses and residents. Long before we were "Ahead of the Curve," the early Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce tried on one slogan after another—"The Town of Pay-Rolls," "The City of Great Possibilities," and "Watch Renton Thrive in '25"—to see what would work best. All these nicknames reflected pride in Renton's potential as a city where people want to live, work, play, and own businesses.

In the late 19th century, Renton joined the myriad of cities competing to become the "Pittsburgh of the West." Pittsburgh in the 1880s was the jumping-off point for Western pioneers, a cosmopolitan city with thriving iron and steel processing industries. Other cities that hoped to win the title included Terre Haute, Indiana; Llano, Texas; Eureka, Nevada; and Pueblo, Colorado. Kirkland was Renton's nearest competitor to become "Pittsburgh of the West,"

but the Panic of 1893 ruined Peter Kirk's plans before they got off the ground.

Renton quickly decided on its own, more distinctive image. In 1910 the Chamber dubbed Renton "The Town of Pay-Rolls." The Chamber chose a low-key approach to promotion, letting evidence of the city's advantages speak for itself.

"We make no statements of stupendous growth and development in the immediate future," their pamphlet explained. "Instead we say: 'Come to Renton, use your eyes, and draw your own conclusions.'" One thousand men collected \$60,000 in payroll every month, the brochure boasted. Renton's industrial potential has been important since its founding, and its obvious appeal attracted PACCAR, Boeing, and numerous other industries.

Others chose to point out Renton's natural beauty and outdoor features. The Renton Sportsmen's Association sought to convince sports fishermen that Renton is "Where the Fishing Begins."

"Come to Renton and fish any time of the year," their flyer read. "And if you leave home in a hurry and forget some of your equipment...Renton merchants can fill your wants, and will cheerfully give you any information as to the best fishing grounds."

By 1965 Boeing's productivity combined with the busy Renton Municipal Airport to suggest the nickname "The Jet Transport Capital of the World," usually shortened to "Jet City." After outlining Boeing's production of B-29s, 707s, and 737s, the Chamber informed prospective businesses that "more than 50% of the free world's jetliners have been constructed or are on order from Boeing's Renton plant." Boeing's success served as further proof of the city's hospitable climate for business and industry.

Whether "Hub City" or "City of Free Parking Lots," through history these slogans publicized Renton's best qualities while proclaiming citizens' confidence that their city has something to offer that no other city does.

Elizabeth P. Stewart, Director of the Renton History Museum, can be reached at 425-255-2330 or e-mail info@rentonhistory.org.

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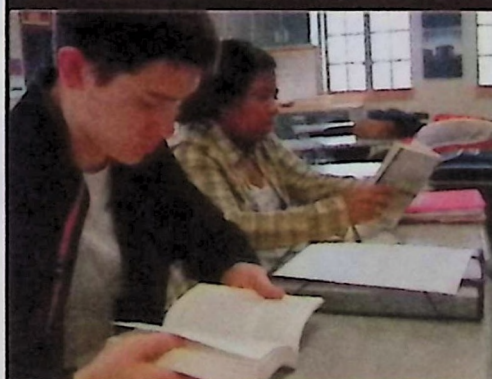


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Bob Bridge inspires Renton schools' math tutor program and invests in it



RENTON MAGAZINE / Andrew Fickes

Lindbergh sophomore Takia Gordon, left, receives math help from tutor Courtney Harris, a UW junior.

BY ANDREW FICKES

Renton businessman Bob Bridge is certain that his company's future is dependent on today's students, and he's determined to invest his money accord-

ingly.

The president and owner of Bob Bridge Toyota is giving cash gifts with no strings attached to each of Renton's schools, and he's funding a pilot program to tutor high school students in math.

"I see education as really a local responsibility," Bridge says. "We can't expect the government to do everything."

Bridge, 60, is investing almost \$25,000 in the Bob Bridge Math Initiative, a tutoring program that pays University of

Washington math and science majors to tutor 25 Lindbergh High School students.

If the program is a success, Bridge says the model could be duplicated at other schools and in other districts.

"We can go to other businesses in town and ask them to sponsor a tutor. Small businesses could sponsor five to ten tutors. Larger businesses could do 30 to 40."

Out of his own pocket, Bridge is paying each tutor \$30 an hour once a week for one-on-one tutoring. Sixty Lindbergh stu-



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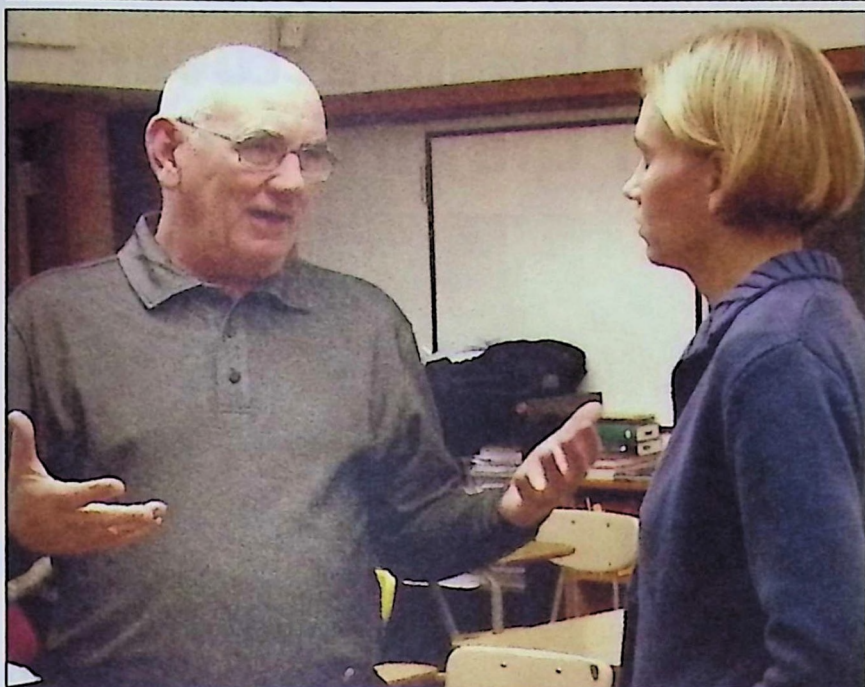
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RENTON MAGAZINE / Andres Fickes

Bob Bridge discusses the tutor program with Katelyn Hubert.

...the future success of my company depends on the people they're teaching right now.

~ Bob Bridge

dents applied to the program, but because of the program's narrow focus only 25 were selected. Some tutors are doubling up.

Katelyn Hubert, chairwoman of the Lindbergh mathematics department, says whittling down the 60 students to 25 wasn't easy.

"I focused on students who were committed to improving but were struggling at quizzes and tests," she says.

"I was just blown away," Hubert says of Bridge's generosity. "It's absolutely fabulous and I'm so grateful. I feel honored that Lindbergh was chosen."

Bridge remembers a time when math was a struggle for him.

"As I look back on my education, it was in ninth grade that we had to take Algebra 1 and I struggled," he says. "You had to get a C or better to go onto geometry and trigonometry the next year and I got a D."

"That meant I couldn't proceed," he says. "I had two choices, either finish out high school taking general math courses or repeat the class for a better grade. I was fortunate enough to repeat it and I got an A."

"I got As and B's all the way through college and graduate school, and I think that time in my life was a turning point," he says. "You can be very successful and

have never taken Algebra 1, but going down the stream in math opens up a whole group of jobs that otherwise might not be open."

Takia Gordon, a Lindbergh sophomore struggling to pass her geometry class, said she wanted a tutor because her mother can't remember geometry and she has no siblings to help her.

"My goal is to pass this class, so I don't have to take summer school, and also to pass the WASL test," she says.

Hubert said she will monitor the success of the program.

Meanwhile, Bridge said he would visit all 22 schools in the Renton School District and present a check to each school. Elementary schools will receive \$500 each; middle school and high school will each receive \$1,000.

"Many of my employees have been educated in the Renton School District," he says. "Many of their former teachers are still teaching in Renton schools and as I talk to some of these teachers, I say that in a very specific way the future success of my company depends on the people they're teaching right now."

Editor's Note: Do to a technical error in the January issue, parts of this article were garbled. We are reprinting it in its entirety and apologize for the inconvenience.

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Sierra Heights school lunch leftovers fed to the worms, for the environment

BY ANDREW FICKES

Sierra Heights Elementary School students are feeding their lunch leftovers to the worms, but it's not a commentary on the quality of the food. It's part of a pilot project aimed at reducing landfill waste and raising awareness of environmental issues.

The project is the brainchild of Brian Teppner, who teaches a fourth and fifth grade combination class at Sierra Heights. The idea is for the students to help their school reduce the amount of waste exported from the cafeteria to the landfill.

Teppner, a National Board Certified teacher, was once a professional landscaper and said the idea for the classroom project came to him when he first started teaching at Sierra Heights eight years ago.

"It's been something I've wanted to be involved in for some time, but just hadn't found time to do it," he says. "One of my daughters is in my class this year, though, so it just felt right to take it on. I wanted to be a role model as a dad and as a teacher."

To get the ball rolling, Teppner approached King County Solid Waste's Green Schools program last spring for assistance.

The Green Schools program, which started as a resource to schools in the greater Seattle area in 2004, helps schools with waste reduction and energy and water conservation.

"Our focus is on the reduction of biomass going into the landfill," says Teppner of his school's efforts.

To finance Sierra Heights' pilot program, Teppner qualified for an \$8,000 grant from the state Department of Ecology. He also received funding from the PTSA. The Green School's program will provide up to 80 percent of the recycling containers and also recycling labels informing students and staff what can and cannot be recycled.

In January, Sierra Heights installed a vermicomposter behind the staff parking lot. In the vermicomposter, worms will eat away the food waste and provide compost for the school's soil. The worm



RENTON MAGAZINE / Andres Fickes

Teacher Brian Teppner and students Jeremy Thiessen, left, and Derrick Demers sift through food items for the worms.

Our focus is on the reduction of biomass going into the landfill.

— Brian Teppner

supply will grow to as many as 50,000 worms. Teppner says it takes a pound of worms, which is 2,000 worms, to consume a half a pound of food.

"Food waste composes about 30 to 50 percent of the school's garbage at Sierra Heights," said Green School's director Dale Alekel. "Students will be diverting the food waste from the lunchroom garbage into the vermicomposter, reducing food waste. It's a wonderful educational tool."

At each of the five lunch periods, Teppner says, four students will guide their peers in a uniform process of emptying liquids, recycling, emptying appropriate food waste for the worms, and dumping the rest in the garbage. There will be a container for each. Students will measure what is collected.

"Students will slowly learn what is good to bring to lunch, based on what is recyclable or edible for the worms," Teppner says. "We'll learn which hot lunches incur a lot of waste and cut back on those. It will be totally student-run. That's important to me."

By spring of 2009, Teppner says his grant will expire and he'll report to the

Department of Ecology on what the school learned and if the program would be applicable for other schools.

"Part of the end product is educating others and replicating the process elsewhere," he says.

An ultimate goal for Teppner is to use the compost from the worms to fertilize a school garden where vegetables and herbs would be grown. He imagines a 10-foot by 15-foot garden to start.

"I'd like our students to grow crops and give to the local food bank," he says.

Nanci Davis, Sierra Heights' principal, is a great supporter of the program, believing wholeheartedly in the value to the students.

"We need to conserve and recycle and it's for the benefit of all, not just for our school," she says. "We just hope that children become aware and pass it on to their parents. And eventually we would like to see it done throughout the district."

Editor's Note: Do to a technical error in the January issue, parts of this article were garbled. We are reprinting it in its entirety and apologize for the inconvenience.

Renton School District good news announcements

Four teens save a life

Two Renton High School students, Robert and Rodney Willis, along with two other teenagers, James Dupless and Jalen Roy, were recently honored with the Junior Firefighter's Award from the Skyway Fire Station for coming to the aid of a neighbor at the Creston Point apartments. The teens noticed smoke coming from an apartment and acted quickly to help put out a fire that had started in an oven. The students even hung around to clean up the mess.

Dimmitt students excel

Nearly 65 Dimmitt Middle School students were recently honored for extraordinary improvements in academics, personal growth and behavior. The students were selected by their teachers and other staff for working hard and striving to always do the right thing. Dimmitt staff plans similar celebrations to recognize more students each quarter.

Families share a meal

Staff and students at Spring Glen Elementary recently held their annual Candlelight Luncheon where families in the Head Start program are invited to the school to share a meal. More than 110 parents and family members attended the event. Three- to 5-year-old students worked on their table manners in front of richly decorated tables and candlelight. The school has offered

the event for more than 10 years.

Bus driver recognized

Renton School District bus driver Steve Perkins was recently recognized by Renton High School students and staff for outstanding customer service when he drove band students to a Seattle restaurant to play as part of a community celebration. Steve maneuvered his school bus through the crowded streets of Pioneer Square just as a Seattle Seahawks football game was letting out. Steve said he knew a football game was scheduled, so he took time the week before the event to scout out an effective route to ensure he would get students to and from the event in a safe and timely manner.

HS students volunteer

Many Renton, Hazen and Lindbergh high school students volunteered during the holidays with the Salvation Army to prepare and distribute toys to children. Students were described as personable, cheerful, positive and excellent representatives of the district and their schools. Students, along with the district's Family Liaisons, accompanied families as they came to shop for toys, clothing and food.

These Good News Announcements are prepared by the Renton School District Community Relations department. Contributions may be offered by contacting Randy Matheson at 425-204-2345 or at randy.matheson@renton.wednet.edu.

Renton Community Foundation awards more than \$47,000

The Renton Community Foundation's "Circle of Giving" 2007 campaign has awarded more than \$41,000 in grants to Renton teachers, and local organizations and causes. In addition, the Maxwell Fund for Youth and Families, part of the Foundation, distributed another \$6,500 to the community.

Donations for Circle of Giving were solicited during October and November of last year and recipients were selected in December.

Of the \$41,000, \$10,000 went to the Renton School District. Other recipients included The HopeChest, Renton Clothes Bank, RTC Foundation, C.A.S.T. For Kids, Communities in Schools of Renton, and the Renton/Skyway Boys and Girls Club.

Marcie and Steve Maxwell founded the Maxwell Fund to enrich educational opportunities in Renton. This year's contributions from the fund went to: Hazen

High School's Stacking Team, Lake Heights YWCA in Newcastle, Lindbergh High PTSA, Renton High School PTSA, Lord of Life Preschool for literacy and books, Highlands Preschool for literacy and books, Sierra Heights Elementary, Kennedydale Elementary third grade reading program, and the Hazen High WASL power program.

A total of 37 individuals, organizations, and businesses gave \$1,000 or more to the charities, and recommend grant recipients.

"I'm truly amazed at the generosity of the folks who participate in our Circle of Giving event," says King Parker, chairman of the campaign. "Their generosity to our community is fantastic."

Parker said the campaign exceeded its goal, making it one of the best years the campaign has had since starting in 2000.

King County accepts Earth Hero nominations

The office of King County executive Ron Sims is seeking nominations for its 2008 Earth Heroes at Schools award.

This award honors teachers, students, staff, school volunteers, specific programs or entire schools that have contributed to both the protection of the local environment and the education of students on environmental issues.

Nominations are due Feb. 29 and

winners will be honored at King County's seventh-annual Earth Heroes at Schools event in April on a date to be announced later.

Earth heroes may be nominated by colleagues, classmates, or the general public and self-nominations are encouraged. Nomination forms can be accessed at www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/education/earth-heroes.asp, or by calling Donna Miscolta at 206-296-4477.

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Ghana athlete inspires Nelsen students

BY ANDREW FICKES

What began as a trip to the video store has turned into an effort by Nelsen Middle School students to send 550 wheelchairs to Ghana.

After school counselor Scott Jones watched a video called "Emmanuel's Gift," he decided Nelsen students could learn something valuable from Emmanuel, the subject of the 2005 documentary.

Emmanuel was born with a badly deformed right leg. His disability was not unusual in his native country: Some two million people — 10 percent of the population — are disabled in Ghana, where polio is rampant.

What was unusual was Emmanuel's response. Traditionally, Ghana's disabled were ostracized and became beggars to survive.

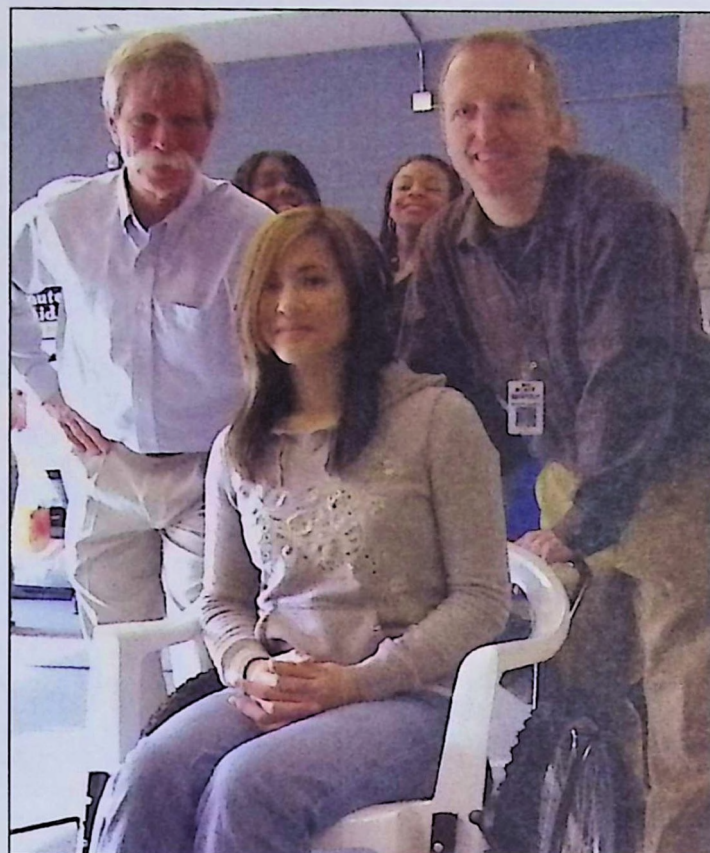
Emmanuel heard about the Challenged Athletes Foundation in California and wrote them a letter.

The foundation sent him a bicycle, which he rode one-legged across Ghana to demonstrate that the disabled should not have to resort to begging.

Emmanuel has since received a prosthetic leg, become a national celebrity and is working with a California-based non-profit, Free Wheelchair Mission, to send low-cost wheelchairs to Ghana. That's where the Nelsen students enter the picture.

"Being involved in a project like this gives students an opportunity to build a global awareness and to understand they live in a world bigger than themselves," says Jones.

The wheelchairs produced by Free Wheelchair Mission are crafted from sturdy lawn chairs mounted on mountain bike wheels with a simple frame. Since 1999, the nonprofit has delivered more than 250,000 wheelchairs to more than 65 countries.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Andrew Fickes'

Eight grader Brittany Insixiengmay helped Scott Jones (right) publicize the donation drive. Don Schroendorfer is pictured left.

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...a project like this gives students an opportunity ... to understand they live in a world bigger than themselves. ~ Scott Jones

The fund-raising project also ties in with Nelsen teacher Sarah Cockle, who is teaching this year in a rural area of the West African country.

"It seemed to be a perfect time to do a fundraiser, knowing that Sarah Cockle is teaching in Ghana," says Jones. "Our ESL students are writing to students in Ghana and our seventh grade students are writing personal biography cards and sending them to Sarah Cockle's students. Her students are doing the same."

Jones and the Nelsen students are seeking community-wide support to raise the \$26,000 that 550 wheelchairs will cost. In December they invited Free Wheelchair Mission head Don Schroendorfer to speak at an open house as a formal kick-off for the project. As of mid-January, the drive had raised \$15,000. Learning Emanuel's story has inspired Nelsen students as Jones had hoped.

"I've donated some money out of my pocket and my family is going to donate some money," says seventh grader Jake Regge.

Student athlete Elise Aylward said Emmanuel has inspired her to perform at her best, and students say they'd like to invite him to their school.

Jones says he'd like to reach the fund-raising goal by spring. "Much has come from kids and individuals," he says. "One individual wrote a check for \$1,000."

Information about donating is available at the school's website, www.renton.wednet.edu/nelsen/default.html.



RENTON MAGAZINE / Andrew Fickes

Nelsen Middle School students rallied around Free Wheelchair Mission founder Don Schroendorfer when he visited the school last December.

Renton Chamber accepting Ahead of the Class award nominations

The Renton Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations from the public for its eighth annual "Ahead of the Class" awards ceremony.

"Ahead of the Class" awards are designed to highlight teachers in the Renton School District who are at the heart of the school system and work to nurture and prepare children for a productive future.

Teachers selected will be awarded \$500 and be honored at a community ceremony and dessert reception at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6 at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center. Nominations are due on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Award winners will be announced March 28.

Nomination forms may be found at the district website, www.renton.wednet.edu, or at the Renton Chamber office on Rainier Avenue.

For more information, call the Renton School District at 425-204-2345 or the chamber at 425-226-4560.

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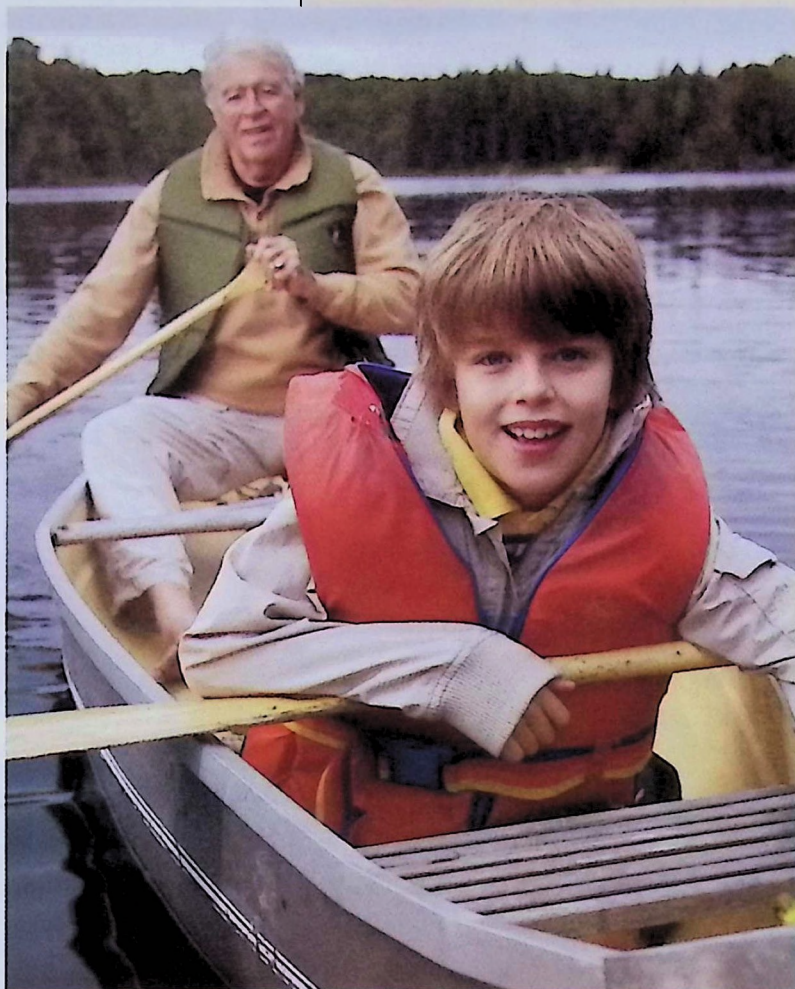
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