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Federal Way News

Vol. 37 No. 1

Federal Way,
Washington 98003

25 Cents

Sunday
January 1, 1989

Excellence
in Community
Journalism

TWIN LAKES

MARINE HILLS

REDONDO

MIDWAY

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WEST CAMPUS

Top 10 Pool approval leads 1988 list

One might think it a slow year for news in Federal Way when the top story for 1988 was the digging of a giant hole in the ground in West Campus.

Looks can be deceiving, though, as that hole in the ground eventually will give Federal Way a global reputation.

Who knows, by that time Federal Way may finally become a city.

In keeping with newspaper tradition, here are the top 10 stories of 1988 as selected by the Federal Way News, with special emphasis on events of widespread and lasting significance to the community.

1 Goodwill Games Pool — Right now it is nothing more than a hole in the ground near Panther Lake, but when it is finished, the new 50-meter indoor pool under construction along Southwest Campus Drive will attract athletes from around the world for the 1990 Goodwill Games. The pool originally was to be built in Tacoma, but when funding failed to materialize in time, the Pacific Northwest Aquatics Foundation convinced King County to contribute \$8.8 million toward building the pool in Federal Way. The Quadrant Corp. donated the site, worth \$2 million, and the Seattle Organizing Committee for the Goodwill Games pledged \$5.8 million. Developer Dave Sabey is building the pool without profit and hopes another \$1.2 million in private donations can be raised to pay for increased seating. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in October. When the Goodwill Games are over, the pool will be turned over to King County.

2 Cityhood — In one form or another, this issue always seems to make Federal Way's top 10 list. The big news regarding cityhood in 1988 occurred when the King County Council set an election for March 14 of this year and decided the balloting will be conducted by mail. Undoubtedly one of the top 10 stories of 1989 will be the outcome of the March 14 election. Three previous cityhood bids failed, most recently in 1985.

3 Growth — Another perennial newsmaker in Federal Way. Last year we commented on the number of major shopping centers that either broke ground or announced plans to do so in 1987. In 1988 the most

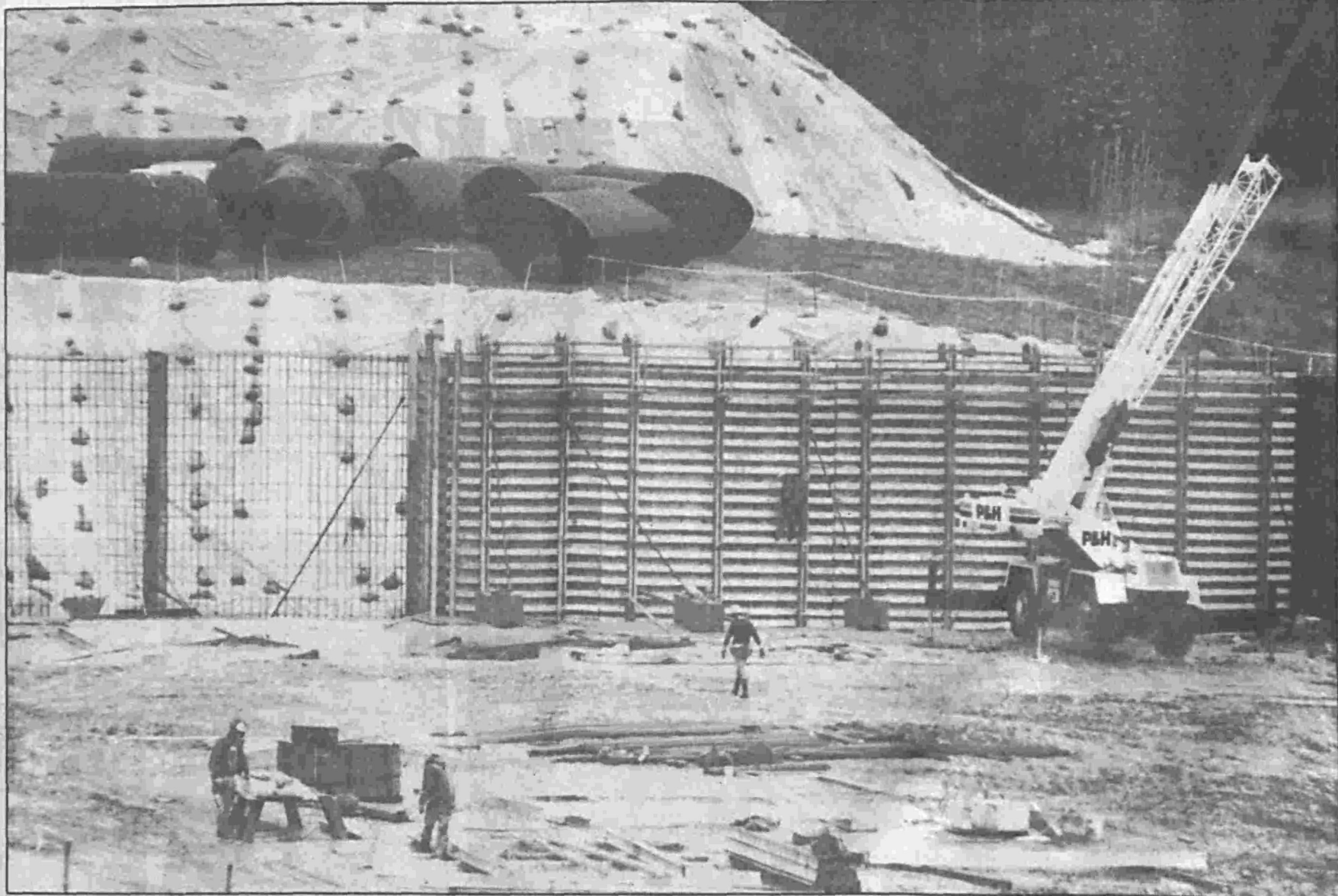


photo by Ralph Radford

WORKERS ARE busy turning a giant hole in the ground in West Campus into a world-class indoor swimming pool that will host the 1990 Goodwill Games and then be turned over to King County. The start of construction on the \$18.8 million facility was the top story in Federal Way in 1988.

notable aspect of growth here has been the construction of housing. Although figures covering only the first half of the year currently are available, the numbers show Federal Way leading unincorporated King County in the number of residential units approved for construction. Of the 1,004 units approved, 537 were multi-family dwellings. Federal Way's population is expected to grow to 117,000 by the year 2000 from its current level of about 85,000. All this growth led to numerous land-use disputes between residents, developers and the county in 1988. The biggest dispute, the proposed construction of a Fred Meyer store near Mirror Lake, will come to a head early this year when the county decides whether to grant building permits for the store.

4 Bond issues — Voters cast their ballots on three important bond issues in 1988. Two passed and one failed. In February local voters approved a \$14.7 million school bond that will build two new elementary schools and pay for remodeling at several existing schools. In September voters countywide went to the polls to vote on two bond issues of special interest to Federal Way. They approved a \$67 million library bond that, among other things, will build two new libraries in Federal Way. However, voters rejected an \$85.9 million open-space bond issue. The relatively small amount of bond money ticketed to buy land in Federal Way — \$846,000 — became a key issue during the election and may have helped defeat the bond.

5 Hospital contract — St. Francis Community Hospital began its second full year of operation with some good news. In July the hospital signed a contract with King County Medical allowing preferred provider subscribers to receive full coverage for outpatient services at the hospital. The contract means St. Francis can serve the 600,000 members of King County Medical, including Boeing workers and their families. The hospital is continuing to seek a contract with King County Medical for inpatient services as well. Another important milestone occurred in September when St. Francis recorded

Continued on A-3

City critic straddles the fence

By KURT HERZOG

Ray Tomlinson says he is a man who people know will listen to both sides of an issue — even incorporation.

Tomlinson is probably the most visible cityhood skeptic during this fourth Federal Way incorporation attempt, which will be voted on March 14.

However, despite being regarded by most cityhood supporters as anti-cityhood, Tomlinson says he is not against incorporation — yet.

"It's not that I'm anti-cityhood," said Tomlinson. "It's the press that's saying

A foe in '85, Tomlinson says study will decide '89 stance

that. We're just looking for answers."

Perhaps it's the name of the group Tomlinson headed up during the 1985 incorporation campaign that's to blame for his anti-cityhood reputation: Citizens Against Incorporation.

"I can see how people would get that idea," Tomlinson said.

Undaunted, Tomlinson said he hasn't made up his mind

about incorporation this time. Instead, he's waiting to see the incorporation study that's due out the second week in January.

"It's not a question of incorporation," he said. "It's a question of when we can afford it."

Tomlinson said the best time to incorporate probably would have been 18 years ago when he first moved here. Tomlinson, 43, lives in the

Lakota area. He is originally from Tennessee and still talks with a noticeable southern accent. He came to the area when he was stationed at Fort Lewis with the Army. Before that, he spent a year in Vietnam as a supply clerk.

Now, he works as a licensed financial planner and spends a great deal of time working out of his home and on the road traveling to meet with clients.

HE HAS bachelor's degrees

Continued on A-4

Two groups engage in parking lot brawl

King County police aren't sure if gangs were involved in a brawl Tuesday evening in the SeaTac Mall parking lot in which one man was slightly injured.

The verdict is still out on just what happened, with each group claiming the other started the fight, and no participants willing to cooperate with police, said Lt. Donna Nolan of the Federal Way substation.

Mall security broke up the fight in which one group of young Asian males, armed with a baseball bat, tire iron and martial arts sword, was fighting

with a group of young, unarmed black males. When security officers arrived, everyone fled, some on foot and some in a car.

Security officers managed to chase down two young men, one from each group. A 22-year-old black male from Tacoma told police he was in a car with friends when a member of the other group hit the trunk of their car with something. When he got out to check the damage, he claimed he was confronted by the bat- and sword-wielding young men from the other car.

Continued on A-3

School planning starts final round

By MELODIE STEIGER

When Richard Harris first applied for the job of superintendent of the Federal Way School District, he touted a program of long-range planning for schools and district administration. Within his first month as school boss here, a committee of teachers, administrators and community members met to set the course for long-range planning.

Now, a year and three months later, the first round of planning is complete. Harris says the second round, including specific goals for each district school, will be done by summer.

By then, he says, some 3,500 school staff and community members will have been involved in the process. Untold on-duty and off-duty hours will have been tallied by school



Richard Harris

employees, not to mention community volunteers.

Harris says it will be worth the effort. He has said for more than

a year that long-range planning is the key to district direction and progress, that plans and goals give schools a target to shoot for.

FORMAL PLANNING also keeps district employees hopping.

"When the school board approves goals, they hold me accountable for them. And I in turn hold my staff accountable for them," said Harris. "That does cause things to happen."

Harris' long-range planning model, created largely by himself, was one of his strongest selling points when he was hired here. School board member Gail Pierson said then that her approval of Harris was based on his long-range outlook.

She says now she still sees optimism by staff and faculty that planning will put the district

behind "the same team of horses."

"Right now, I'm just anxious to see it all pulled together, to see how it works," she said.

LONG-RANGE planning is not the stuff of banner headlines. It doesn't cry for national attention or federal funds. In fact, says Harris, though the state now requires that teachers and administrators draw up annual goals for each public school in Washington, it provides no money to pay those employees for any extra time to do the work.

But long-range planning is a necessary detail that the Federal Way School District has taken to heart under Harris' guidance. Federal Way, says Harris, has taken long-range

Continued on A-3

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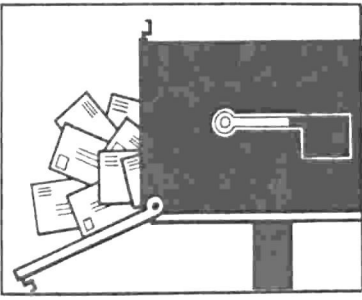
Comment

Forgiving debts could help kids

Editor:
Several months ago you wrote an editorial concerning substance abuse, stating that as a country we need a change of heart to combat alcohol and drug abuse, particularly in our children. I agree and send belated congratulations on your editorial.

UNICEF is releasing the State of the World's Children 1989 report today. Among other things this report reveals that children are threatened by increasing poverty in Third World nations. Congress authorized the president to forgive the debt in such developing countries.

This would help our children indirectly, as Third World nations would then be free to concentrate their resources on



Letters

economic development. I urge your readers to write President-elect Bush to ask him to forgive the debts of developing countries.

**Katherine Meier
Milton**

Lakota kids gave delightful concert

Editor:
School winter concerts. It has been years since our own children have been involved and we went at the invitation of a dear neighbor child who is a beginning band student at Lakota Junior High. It was wonderful.

How expertly blended were so many types of music. The concert band nearly brought the house down with "Sleigh Ride,"

expertly done, and the Jewish medley of four exquisite melodies was breathtaking. "Twelve Days After Christmas" added a hilarious touch.

Everything from marches to carols was included: a true winter smorgasboard of music. For a refresher course in youth and spirit, I advise us all to drop in on a school concert.

**Karen Wingard
Adelaide**

Family celebrates lost son's sacrifice

The kitchen calendar is marked the same way every year. Under Dec. 25 are the words, "Carl passed away."

"My brother was killed by a sniper on Christmas Day. There was supposed to be a ceasefire," says his younger brother, Jerry, from the Trenton, N.J. house where the boys grew up. Carl Robert Steffen was an 18-year-old Marine, dead in DaNang on Christmas 1965.

He didn't have to go to Vietnam. He was such an excellent drummer he was offered a slot in the Marine Corps Band. "But he thought that was too tame and volunteered for Vietnam," says Jerry, 38.

Jerry lives in the family home with his dad. They have a small artificial tree. Mrs. Steffen, now deceased, had always insisted on putting up the decorations. Though devastated by her son's death, she stressed that "life has to go on."

And today, once again, it will. Jerry Steffen enacts the same ritual every year. On Christmas morning, he heads for St. Mary's Cemetery "just after they open the gates, about 8 a.m." and lays a wreath for his big brother.

Fifty-four other men died in Vietnam on Christmas during the course of the war. Here are their names (and hometowns of record):

Johnny Sanders, Jackson, Miss. Paul Jandershovitz, Allentown, Pa. Leonidas Rasis, Westboro, Mass. Fernando Sed Jr., New York.

William S. Carson, Bridgeport, Conn. Giacomo Cintineo, Phoenix, Ariz. Carl Egolf, Westminster, Md. George Fragua, Jemez Pueblo, N.M. Marshall Horton, Long Beach, Calif. Robert Klevenowski, Cleveland. Earl Knutson Jr. Clinton, Wis. Raymond Metty, Buffalo, N.Y. Larry Reed, Hopkinsville, Ky. Herbert Surber, Floral City, Fla.

Matthew Aguiilaro, West Hempstead, N.Y. Richard Budka, Amsterdamm, N.Y. Frederick Burns, Merrick, N.Y. Thomas Grud, Park Ridge, Ill. Andrew Hudak, Warren, Ohio. Danny Jeter, Riverside, Calif. Bernard Johnson, Syracuse, N.Y. Terry Koonce, San Antonio, Texas. Billy Lankford, Dickson, Tenn. Delbert Lewis, Shelby, Ohio. John Morris, Waukesha, Wis. Charles McClurg, Bangor, Mich. Phillip Neff, Mill Hall,

Pa. Larry Hugh Ortel, Stratford, Wis.

Kenneth Olenzuk, Detroit, Mich. Hughie Oxendine, Lumberton, N.C. Donald Richard, Houston, Texas. Francis Sanders, Augusta, Mich. Peter Scott, Linden, N.J. Jerry Sellers, Altha, Fla. Joe Shumpert, West Columbia, S.C. Ronald Siengo, Cornwells Heights, Pa. Edgar Udell, Coos Bay, Ore. Harold Williams, Aberdeen, N.C.

Robert Amspacher, Norman, Okla. Paul Baker, Columbus, Ohio. Kenneth Bryant, Cold Spring, Ky. Sandy Lee Hooker, Chicago, Ill. Charles King, Muscatine, Iowa. Bobby Malichi, Bennettsville, S.C. Thomas O'Dea, Chicago, Ill. Jimmie Lee Robinson, Eastover, S.C. Russell Wells Jr., El Paso, Texas.

Wilbert Gillespie, Philadelphia, Pa. Harry Sine Jr., Rivesville, W. Va. Thomas Brubaker, Sutter, Calif. Donald Knebel, Jasper, Ind. Richard Knickerbocker, Youngstown, Ohio. James Watson, Minnville, Tenn. Dwight Rickman, Joplin, Mo.

In the end, 58,156 American men and women went to Vietnam and never came back. Their families, like the loved ones of these Christmas soldiers, know peace is something that should never be taken for granted.

Reminder to vets: In order to receive money from the settlement of the Agent Orange lawsuit, you must file a claim before January 1, 1989. Call 1-800-225-4712.

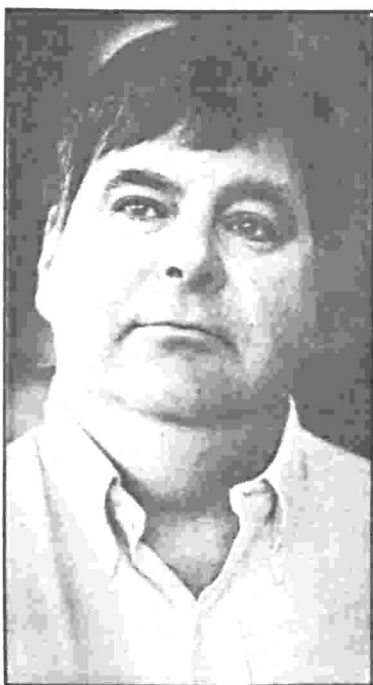
Laura Palmer wants your comments. Write to her in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 5606, Eugene, Ore. 97405.

Street Talk: Do you favor or oppose a state income tax here?



**Debbie Semer
(Student)**

"It sounds more complicated. It doesn't sound good. I can't even figure out all the deductions on my paycheck now."



**Fred Church
(Salesman)**

"I would be against an income tax. It's probably the fairest of the taxes. But without reducing the sales tax it's an unfair tax."



**Paul Testroet
(Unemployed)**

"I'm against it. With all the other revenues around the state...they don't need it. There are other ways to do it."



**Frank Rhynard
(Retired)**

"I'm for it if they would bring down the sales tax. They need to reduce it down to the point where it balances out. The income tax would be more fair, but I'm afraid they would bring back the sales tax later."



**Zena DeLorm
(Retired)**

"No. We have enough taxes. I'm retired and on a fixed income."



**Rudy Sprong
(Retired)**

"I like it. Everybody has to pay a little, not just the smokers. I think it's more fair."



**Marjorie Sprong
(Retired)**

"I think a state income tax is long overdue. It takes the pressure off lower-income people."



**Devin Phillips
(Pet Shop Worker)**

"I'm against any forced tax. It might soften the blow if they lowered the sales tax. Already one-quarter of your paycheck goes for taxes."

No soccer coaches at economic summit

From my lofty post here in the middle of Federal Way — actually a mildew-infested office on 312th, I am able to see all the way to next year.

That must be why I got an invitation to an "Economic Summit" for Federal Way, a forum sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and quarterbacked by Puget Power.

They probably want me to tell them what the local economy is going to do in 1989. They probably don't know that I get the bends when I balance my checkbook.

They probably think I've heard something from my contacts in the community. They probably don't know that most of my contacts are with three kids who think our greatest need is "more video stores."

They probably think I'm going to believe all my hopes, wishes, beliefs and expectations about this community's future. (Heh heh.)

I'm not about to do that. If I wanted everyone to know what I'm thinking, would I be in the newspaper game, where it is well-known that we hide our opinions behind "a mask of objective reporting?"

Why should I tell them my deepest thoughts? Why admit that I see a connection between teen pregnancy and uncontrolled growth? They'll just laugh. They'll think I mean kids are having sex in unfinished apartments or something.

That's not what I mean. I mean you can't grow the



Mike Robinson

economy like a hothouse flower. Put up a new apartment house and you affect the schools, the traffic, and the sales at Sears. Open a new convenience market on 320th and you alter the property values of the homes nearby.

I know bored kids are nothing new. I was a bored kid. I got over it. But put 50 bored kids into a parking lot and pretty soon, someone is going to get pregnant.

You see why I'm not about to share these thoughts with just anybody. Like your own thoughts, mine take some explaining. My neighbor, for instance, sees a connection between traffic jams and unemployment.

I didn't see it myself, so he explained it for me. Good managers move into a community from somewhere else. When they do, the first thing they notice is the traf-

fic. If the traffic was a nightmare in their old community, they think the new place is terrific.

But if the new place becomes a nightmare, these managers blame the community and pretty soon they're talking about quitting their jobs. This leaves the company in the hands of less competent managers who don't care where they live.

Gradually, this demoralizes the entire work force and we get bad products and high turnover and low morale and of course, unemployment.

These thoughts may be heard at most barber shops. I doubt if they'll be on the agenda at the "Economic Summit." At the summit, they will probably talk about how to attract new business and maybe they will dabble with parking problems and they might even mention how tough it is to find a place to dance if you are over 14.

But I'm afraid the summit will depend too much on the opinions of business leaders and officials, and won't consider the opinions of grocery checkers, hotel maids, Boeing mechanics and PTA mothers.

Maybe I'm silly, but I see a connection between fabric shops and drug abuse. I see a

connection between crowded classrooms and skateboards in the Payless lot.

I'm sure there is a link between household burglary and VCRs, though I haven't figured out what it is. And there may be some correlation between television evangelists and steroid use among athletes, but it's a mystery to me.

When I go to that summit (at the Executel on Jan. 18) my head will be full of private theories and when I leave, they will go with me. I may be sorry I kept them to myself, but I have no choice.

While others who attend will be free to blurt whatever they believe about the local economy and its troublesome (or glorious) future, I will have to behave myself and nod politely.

This is partly due to my professional obligations, but also because I will be a stand-in for all those who live and work here, but can't attend.

For the barmaids, and the soccer coaches and the custodians and the computer programmers and the investment analysts and the dental assistants, all of the little people with their own view on the fate of Federal Way, I'll be there, keeping mum and taking notes.

Letters welcome

The Federal Way News/Community News welcomes your letters. Send them to 1634 S. 312th St., Federal Way, WA, 98003.

Top 10

Sprinkler law stiffened after condo blaze

Continued from A-1

its first profitable month — only 17 months after opening.

6 County budget — Even as the new year arrives, the full effect of King County's 1989 budget on Federal Way-related issues remains murky. The budget has bounced back and forth like a political pingpong ball between King County Executive Tim Hill and the King County Council. Caught in the middle have been local issues such as full funding for the DARE drug-education program, creation of a full police precinct in Federal Way and purchase of the former Water District 56 watershed near Marine Hills. In the latest bounce of the ball, Hill signed the budget, but vetoed all park expenditures to provide more police funding. Whether that leads to full funding for DARE and creation of a precinct here still must be decided by King County Sheriff Jim Montgomery. Also, it remains to be seen if funds can be found for purchase of the watershed following Hill's park-expenditure veto.

7 Condo blaze: A July fire that caused \$750,000 in damages to a Federal Way condominium complex helped lead to passage of stricter county requirements for sprinkler systems. The Chelsea Court blaze, in which no one was killed, coupled with a fire two weeks earlier in the Highline area that killed five children prompted the King County Council to pass an ordinance requiring sprinklers in all new multi-family dwellings with five or more units. Neither the Chelsea

Court complex nor the Highline apartments had sprinklers.

8 Pedophile in pulpit — Parishioners at St. Theresa's Catholic Church were shocked when they learned in May that a priest with a sexual preference for children had been working in their church. The church's head pastor, the Rev. Joseph Kramis, had kept the longtime priest's background secret for a year until a Snohomish County woman revealed his history of child-sexual abuse on a television talk show. The revelation split the congregation between those who angrily sought the priest's dismissal and those who thought he should remain. The priest, the Rev. James McGreal, had been sent to St. Theresa's by the Archdiocese of Seattle on the condition that he not work with children and that he remain under close supervision. No incidents were reported during McGreal's stay at St. Theresa's. He was removed from the church after the story broke and has since retired.

9 Sewer plant — Construction began in March on what is probably the largest single public-works project ever undertaken in Federal Way — the Lakota secondary sewage-treatment plant. The \$34.1 million facility is being built on the site of the Federal Way Water and Sewer District's existing primary-treatment plant at 3045 Dash Point Road. District ratepayers will feel the effect of this federally mandated project for years to come in the form of rate increases needed to finance construction. When operations



photo by Paul T. Erickson

THE SIGHT OF construction workers atop buildings was a familiar one in Federal Way in 1988 as the community led unincorporated King County in the number of residential

units approved for construction during the first half of the year.

begin in January of 1990, the plant will double its treatment capacity to 10 million gallons a day. The waste it discharges into Puget Sound will be 10 times cleaner than the waste produced by the existing primary-treatment plant.

10 Bush Visit and Green River body — These two events touched the community in opposite ways, but each is deserving of mention among 1988 news events. George Bush was still seeking the Republican nomination for president when he visited the Weyerhaeuser Co. in May. He stayed only about an hour, during which time he planted a small Douglas fir tree. In June the headlines were not about a future president's visit here, but about the discovery of the remains of a local girl, Debra Lorraine Estes. After maintenance workers discovered her remains at the Fox Run Apartments in West Campus, authorities identified her as the 40th confirmed victim of the Green River Killer. The former Kilo Junior High School student was 15 years old when last seen alive in 1982 on the corner of Pacific Highway South and South 333rd Street.



file photo

A SPECTACULAR BLAZE at the Chelsea Court condominium complex did \$750,000 damage and left approximately 20 people homeless, but it also helped convince King County to adopt a tougher sprinkler ordinance.

Tuesday

COUNTY COUNCIL — The King County Council will hold a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 402 of the King County Courthouse, Third Avenue and James Street in downtown Seattle. For more information call 296-1000.

WATER/SEWER — The Federal Way Water and Sewer District Board of Commissioners will consider adopting the 1989 budget at a regular meeting at 6 p.m. in the conference room of the district's operations building, 31527 First Ave. S. For more information call 941-1516.

KENT — The Kent City Council will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 220 S. Fourth St. For more information call 859-3370.



Public Meetings

6903), Rep. Dick Schoon (941-0313) or Sen. Peter von Reichbauer (952-4336).

Thursday

TRANSPORTATION/LEGISLATIVE — The Federal Way Chamber of Commerce Transportation and Legislative committees will meet at 7:30 a.m. in Coco's Restaurant, 32605 Pacific Highway S. For more information call 838-2605 or 927-2556.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL — The Federal Way Community Council will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Sacajawea Junior High, 1101 S. Dash Point Road. The council will elect new officers. For more information call Debbie Ertel, 575-0144 (weekdays) or 839-4029 (nights and weekends).

Wednesday

CHAMBER — Cityhood will be discussed at the Federal Way Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at the Federal Way Executive, 31611 20th Ave. S. Networking begins at 11:15 a.m. and the program begins at 11:45 a.m. For information or to make luncheon reservations call 838-2605 or 927-2556.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM — The three 30th District Legislators are sponsoring a pre-session forum at 7 p.m. at the Federal Way Library, 848 S. 320th St. For more information call Rep. Jean Marie Brough (839-

Afternoon tea ushers in new senior center boss

All 1,600 members of the Federal Way Senior Center are invited to meet the new director of the center this Wednesday, Jan. 4, at an afternoon tea.

Yvonne Sullivan, until now director of a Spokane senior citizen center, will be on hand for tea and cake at 12:45 p.m. The party will be held at the senior center, 4016 S. 352nd. Sullivan will take over the reigns at the center this week, replacing Jean Young, who is retiring after five years as director.

Young began working at the center eight years ago as its pro-

gram coordinator, and moved to the director's chair in 1983. In those past five years, the senior center dropped its fundraising Bingo games, moved to its present Lakeland location and added several new services for the elderly, such as foot care.

Young says she will rest and write in her retirement.

For information about the tea, call the senior center at 838-3604.

Goals are next on schools' agenda

Continued from A-1

planning several steps further than the state requires.

Under self-study guidelines drawn up by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Federal Way schools are taking a much more detailed look at their students and services than the state requires. Local schools and school district

administrators also invite participation by employees of other school districts, parents and students, something not required by the state.

"Others do the job as well, but this district wanted more commitment to planning from the beginning," the superintendent said.

Al Younker, one of the community members involved in the initial planning stages, said that

after a slow start, the project crystallized a lot of good ideas for the future of local schools.

"I don't know how much the school board and administration will listen and use the information, but I think they will," Younker said.

SO FAR, DISTRICT employees and community members have drawn up a philosophy statement for the entire district, a more specific mission statement for the district and mission statements for nine departments of the district, ranging from junior highs to personnel service.

The district philosophy asserts that public education is essential to democracy, and that the district is committed to individual opportunity within democratic traditions.

The district mission statement is more particular, stating that Federal Way students need to become competent life-long learners. Parents and community members are partners in the education process, it says.

Department mission statements are just as broad. The statement for elementary schools, for instance, says the schools use the "latest advances in instructional theory and

technology" to make students capable of "accessing knowledge and applying it in a positive and responsible manner."

NOW COMES the hard part. Each school and district office must figure out what it needs and how long it will take to make those missions come true. Those goal statements must list both the strengths and weaknesses.

Some elementary schools and all junior high and high schools here have already finished goal statements as part of the process of accreditation, or approval, by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. The rest will finish by summer, according to Harris' schedule.

All offices, such as the communications office and security force, must complete their own goal statements by May. Those goals will be reviewed and revised every seven years.

The result is something of a checklist of district needs and desires, something Harris says provides incentive for progress.

"The secret is getting to the point of identifying what we want to do and how to achieve that," he said. "I know I operate better that way."

Clubs brandished in mall free-for-all

Continued from A-1

He said as he tried to get help from his friends, he was struck in the ribs by one of the weapons and he retaliated by knocking one of the Asians down.

A 17-year-old member of the mostly teen-ager Asian group told police the car filled with black males pulled up beside the car he was in and its occupants yelled racial slurs. He said they ignored the other car until one of its occupants got out and tried to pick a fight. He also said he and his friends used the weapons only to intimidate the others and that they did not hit anyone with them.

Another witness, however, told police she saw the two groups engaged in a fight and that she saw the black male police interviewed being struck by one of those weapons. The man had a large red welt on his side where he apparently was struck, police reports say.

Paramedics checked the par-

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Memory project needs subjects

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Washington is offering a free evaluation and referral service to healthy individuals over 50 who are experiencing significant memory problems and who qualify to participate in a research project.

If you know someone who is having memory problems and who would like to be a volunteer in the project, contact Dianne Williams at 543-3855.

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Police

Determined robber waits for his prey

An armed robber waited patiently for a shopkeeper to finish her grocery shopping and return to her own store before robbing her Christmas Eve morning.

The clerk at My Fashion store in Woodmont told King County police she closed up shop for a few minutes Saturday morning while she ran to the grocery store next door. A man was approaching the shop as she left and asked her if she was going to reopen. When she said she'd be back in a few minutes, he told her he'd wait.

When the clerk returned, the man followed her into the store and shopped for a few minutes before bringing some purchases to the cash register. As the clerk began writing the receipt, the man walked behind the counter and showed her a handgun in the waist of his pants.

The man ordered the clerk to open the cash register, then lie on the floor. He emptied the register, took some merchandise, and pulled the phone plug out of the wall before leaving.

The clerk watched him leave the parking lot in an older red American-made four-door sedan. The robber is described as a white male in his early 40s or late 50s, standing 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds. He has hazel eyes and a pale complexion. He wore jeans, a blue coat and a black stocking cap.

Owner catches, loses car prowler

A barefoot van owner corraled the prowler who had broken into his vehicle Christmas Eve, but let his captive get away when he stopped to put his shoes on.

The prowler was first seen in the van by a neighbor, who alerted its owner, who armed himself with an unloaded .22 caliber rifle and confronted the man.

When the van owner asked the intruder what he was doing in his van, the man said, "I've got two kids and I wanted some Christmas money."

The owner told the man to put his hands on his head, and marched him toward the stairs leading to his apartment. The owner had run out of his apartment without his shoes, and as he stooped to put them on, the prowler jumped at the opportunity to escape and ran away. The owner did not pursue the man.

The prowler told the van owner his name is Jason. He is described as a white male, 22-25 years old and standing 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds. He has blond hair and a fair complexion and was wearing light gray cowboy boots and a blue denim jacket.

Computer thieves cut out glass door

Burglars cut out a portion of the glass front door of a computer store Christmas Eve and made off with two computers.

King County police report that an officer on routine patrol noticed the broken front door of Computerland at Gateway Center at about 6:45 a.m. Saturday. Burglars used a glass cutter to remove the top section of the door and enter.

Once inside, the burglars were selective, going to the back of the store to steal two IBM computers, leaving several other models in the front of the store untouched.

Police lifted fingerprints from the scene and are investigating the burglary.

Shoplifter caught making drug mix

An Albertson's employee probably thought he was catching a typical shoplifter Wednesday evening when he followed a man who had taken a bottle of ammonia into the employee's bathroom.

When he opened the door, however, he found the man mixing a white powdery concoction in the cap of the ammonia bottle. As the employee opened the door, the shoplifter quickly flushed his mixture down the toilet.

Employees from the store on 14th Avenue South held the man for King County police, who arrested him for third-degree theft and on an outstanding second-degree theft warrant. As he was being booked into the King County Jail, a search of the shoplifter turned up a packet of suspected cocaine, police reports say.

Jury doesn't believe flashback caused killing

By VALERIE DROGUS

After nearly 14 hours of deliberation spread over three days, the jury looked tired and grim.

Corrections officers hovered near Thomas Baja, accused of killing his estranged wife Lorna and her boyfriend Brian Cole last July, as the jury foreman handed the judge a verdict.

GUILTY of aggravated murder on two counts, the court clerk read in a shaky voice. The only possible sentence for the state's most serious crime is life in

prison without parole.

Baja, 43, who was employed as an auto mechanic in Federal Way at the time of the crime, sat impassively while the verdict was read. But by the time guards had handcuffed him and led him into the hallway he appeared angry. He shouted rudely to waiting reporters.

Defense attorney Terry Mulligan stormed out after him with a terse, "No comment."

Baja had admitted killing Lorna, 31, and Cole, 33, but claimed he did so in a flashback to his

stint as a soldier during the Viet Nam war. Post-traumatic stress syndrome experienced by Viet Nam vets had rendered him temporarily insane, Mulligan argued.

A FEDERAL Way couple who had worked with Baja as part of their ministry with Viet Nam vets testified he arrived at their home shortly after the murders in a confused state, apparently believing he had just carried out a military assignment.

"Mission accomplished, sir," Baja said to Bob Sporleder, who

counseled with him for Point Man Ministries, when he opened the door.

But Senior Deputy Prosecutor Rebecca Roe said the jury had done the right thing in finding that Baja killed his wife and her boyfriend out of jealousy and anger rather than because his war experiences made him temporarily insane.

The state's witnesses testified Baja had talked about killing the pair for weeks before he did it and bought a gun only the day before the murder.

Jurors would not talk to reporters after the verdict. Judge Liem Tuai, who heard the case, speculated that could be because of anonymous death threats against jurors phoned into KOMO TV during the trial.

No sentencing date has been set.

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TJ buried by second-half Auburn rally



THOMAS JEFFERSON'S Jamie Sonnenfeld (11) works his way around Auburn's Ron Reese during Wednesday's Auburn Christmas Tournament opener. Sonnenfeld scored a game-high 16 points, but the Raiders still fell to the Trojans, 72-45.

photo by Ralph Radford

By TIM CLINTON

The Thomas Jefferson boys' basketball team let undefeated Auburn get away right before halftime Wednesday, and then went down to a 72-45 defeat.

Aaron Martin had just put the Raiders within five at 28-23 on a basket and free throw, when Eric Komsmo sank a three-pointer for the host Trojans with 1:25 to play in the first half.

TJ head coach Bruce Case then called for a stall to get the last shot, but Komsmo stole a pass around the perimeter as the Raiders looked for an open man and sped across the court for a basket with no time left on the clock.

That gave Auburn a 33-23 halftime lead, and the Trojans went on to dominate the second half on their way to winning the opener of their own Christmas tournament.

Auburn improved to 7-0 with the win, while TJ went on to play Bethel for third place in the tournament Thursday (see story).

"The first half I saw improvement, which was encouraging," said Case. "The first half we did what we wanted to do. But they are a really good team, and they wore us down at the end."

THE RAIDERS got a strong performance out of 5-3 point guard Jamie Sonnenfeld, who wished in a game-high 16 points, including two three-point shots.

Meanwhile, TJ's 6-8 big man, Steve Johnson, hit 11 points with a three-pointer of his own. Aaron Martin had seven, Terry Hornbuckle five, Daryn Ditmore four and Brad Kolbo two.

Lance Westendorf scored 13 points to lead the Trojans, as Komsmo hit 10 along with Eric Carnite. Auburn had 11 different scorers, and had 32-for-56 shooting from the field for 57 percent.

The Raiders shot 18-for-41 from the field for 44 percent, but made only four of 10 at the free throw line. The Trojans had just three chances at the charity stripe, making three.

Martin opened the scoring almost a minute and a half into the game on a strike from the left side, and Greg Haake got Auburn's first basket with 4:31 to play in the first quarter on a put-back.

The Trojans started to get on track after that, as Jeff Plaster scored after a quick steal and Westendorf buried an outside shot from the left.

Sonnenfeld answered with a score from underneath, but Plaster nailed a three-pointer and Auburn was off and running for a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

KONSMO opened the scoring in the second quarter for a 17-8 advantage, and then Sonnenfeld and Johnson took turns hitting three-pointers to cut it to 17-14 in

less than a minute.

A Johnson free throw after a score by Sonnenfeld put the Raiders within two at 21-19 with 4:00 to go in the second quarter, and then TJ received an opportunity to tie it.

Auburn's Rick Stafford missed a three-point try at the other end, and the Raiders' Hornbuckle drew a foul while shooting. He missed both tries, though, and the Trojans got the next word in on a three-pointer by Komsmo.

Westendorf followed with a pair of free throws and Carnite struck from the field for a 28-19 lead, ahead of another Raider rally.

Hornbuckle sank one of two at the line and Martin was fouled on the way to the hoop, making the free throw to cut it to 28-23.

But Komsmo came through with his three-pointer and steal before the end of the half and Auburn was on its way.

THOMAS JEFFERSON (45)
Sonnenfeld 7 0-1 16, Ditmore 2 0-0 4, Martin 3 1-1 7, Johnson 4 2-4 11, Hornbuckle 2 1-4 5, Hennings 0 0-0 0, Kolbo 1 0-0 2, Radford 0 0-0 0. Totals: 18 4-10 45.

AUBURN (72)
Butorac 1 0-0 2, Haake 3 0-0 7, Plaster 3 0-0 7, Westendorf 5 2-2 13, Carnite 5 0-0 10, Komsmo 5 0-0 10, Delaughder 1 1-2 3, Reese 3 0-0 6, Scarlett 3 0-0 6, Stafford 2 0-0 4, Stabile 1 0-0 2, Peterson 1 0-0 2. Totals: 32 3-4 72.

Jefferson 8 15 9 13-45
Auburn 15 18 20 19-72
Fouled out—none. FG—TJ 18-41 (44 percent), Auburn 32-56 (57 percent). Three-point field goals—TJ, Sonnenfeld 2, Johnson 1; Auburn, Komsmo 2, Haake, Plaster and Westendorf 1.

Jefferson comes close to Braves in battle for third

By TIM CLINTON

Thomas Jefferson's boys' basketball team finished fourth out of four teams at the Auburn Christmas Tournament — but not without a fight.

The Raiders were in Thursday's battle with Bethel for third place right until the end, before settling for a 53-48 loss.

"We're getting better, and playing better defense," said TJ head coach Bruce Case. "We did the right things at the end, but they hit their foul shots real well."

The Raiders were only down, 49-46, with 36 seconds left to play in the game, when the Braves' Rich Wells went to the line and missed the front end of a one-and-one.

Brad Kolbo snatched the rebound for TJ, and the Raiders worked the ball to Steve Johnson in the left corner. He took a try at a three-point shot to tie it, but it went off the rim to Bethel.

Wells was fouled again with 19

seconds to go, but this time he iced two shots for a 51-46 cushion.

Johnson struck for two points from the left side at 10 seconds to cut it to 51-48, and Wells was fouled again six seconds later. He was successful on both ends of a one-and-one once again to bring the score to its final margin.

"**WE HAVEN'T** really been in that position before," said Case of the close finish. "We just have to keep it going. We should have gained confidence from this tournament. We played two good teams (Auburn and Bethel)."

Jefferson fell to 1-7 overall with the loss, and remains at 0-3 in South Puget Sound League play even though the loss was to a league team.

The Raiders return to SPSL play Tuesday, hosting Sumner at 7:30 p.m. The Spartans are 1-2 in SPSL action and tied with Federal Way and Decatur for

third place in the league's North Division.

As for Thursday's game, Johnson had a big outing with a game-high 21 points, sinking an impressive 11 of 12 shots at the free throw line.

Jamie Sonnenfeld was next with eight and Daryn Ditmore had seven, with Aaron Martin and Kolbo scoring four each. Daryll Hennings had three on a three-point shot, and Terry Hornbuckle one.

Bethel was led by the 10 points of Longo Taylor. Rod Huddleston had eight and Jeff Perkins and Cory Lee seven apiece.

WHILE THE varsity team was coming in fourth at Auburn, the Raiders' junior varsity took a tournament at Bethel against the same schools.

TJ opened with a 54-44 win over Auburn Wednesday, and then edged Bethel for the championship Thursday, 51-48.

TJ girls raid Indians in two overtimes, 49-48

The Thomas Jefferson girls' basketball team posted a 49-48 victory at Renton Thursday in double overtime to bring its season record to 3-4.

Jefferson already had played one game this season that went into double overtime, as the Raiders lost a 54-52 heart-breaker to league foe Puyallup on Dec. 15. The Vikings won that game just before the buzzer on a breakaway bucket.

This time, it was Jefferson's turn to win it at the buzzer, as 5-9 sophomore Barb Beesley hit a driving layin before the horn sounded to give the Raiders the non-league win. Beesley led the Raiders in scoring with 17 points, as she made six field goals and was 5-for-6 at the free throw line.

Renton forward Susan Claire had a big night for the Indians with 27 points. Claire made 12 field goals, including a three-

Girls' Basketball

pointer at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime, and also was 2 of 5 at the charity stripe to lead all scorers.

The game went back and forth most of the night with neither team building up more than a five-point lead. Renton was on top after the first period, 8-4, but Jefferson closed the deficit to 16-13 at halftime.

Both teams scored 14 points in the third quarter, as Renton held a 30-27 advantage entering the fourth period. But the Raiders outscored the Indians, 15-12, in the final quarter before Renton tied it up just before the end of regulation.

NEITHER SQUAD scored any points in the first overtime session, but in the second extra period of play Renton was ahead

by three points with 1:14 left before the Raiders rallied to win it in the closing seconds.

Sophomore guard Julie Kikuchi also reached double figures scoring for Jefferson with 10 points, Karen Mingus added eight, Darcy Neil finished with seven, Shannon Skorupa tossed in four and Jolene Hering added three.

The Raiders took on Kentwood Friday night (after press time) and will return to South Puget Sound League play Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at Sumner.

JEFFERSON (49)
Skorupa 2 0-0 4, J. Hering 0 3-4 3, Beesley 6 5-6 17, Neil 3 1-4 7, Kikuchi 4 2-3 10, Mingus 4 0-1 8, Anderson 0 0-0 0, McDermott 0 0-0 0. Totals: 19 11-16 49.
RENTON (48)
Crawford 0 0-0 0, Fagan 3 1-2 7, B. Larson 2 2-2 6, Gage 0 1-5 1, Claire 12 2-5 27, Bascomb 2 1-5 8, R. Larson 1 0-0 2. Totals: 20 7-15 48.
Jefferson 49 14 15 0 7-49
Renton 48 14 12 0 8-48

Ferguson back in winner's circle with Buffalo

By CHUCK MINGORI

It's been a long time between titles.

Bob Ferguson had not been with a championship squad since his senior year at Federal Way High School until this year's Buffalo Bills football team won the AFC Eastern Division title.

Ferguson, a 1969 Federal Way grad, was a standout performer for the Eagle football and basketball teams before playing football at the University of Washington under former coach Jim Owens.

He is now assistant director of football operations and director of pro personnel with the Bills, who open their playoffs today at home in Rich Stadium against the Houston Oilers.

At Federal Way, Ferguson was co-captain of both the football and basketball teams. The 1968 Federal Way football team captured the South Puget Sound

League title before losing to North Puget champion Renton in the championship of the old Puget Sound League. In basketball, the Eagles finished third in their region with a 17-3 record.

Ferguson's climb through the

finish his degree in communications, Ferguson began working with the Seattle Seahawks in 1975, before the expansion team had even hired a head coach.

Ferguson ran errands and performed odd jobs in the early

the San Francisco, Dallas, Seattle and Buffalo teams.

Ferguson moved to Boulder, Colo., and began traveling the countryside 10 months out of the year giving performance tests to college seniors to see if they could play professional football.

The combine broke up in 1983 and Ferguson then landed a scouting job in Dallas, where he worked for 1½ years. He became assistant director of player personnel with Buffalo in 1985.

FERGUSON HAS SINCE moved up to the position of director of pro personnel replacing Bill Polian, who is now the Bills' general manager. The two had worked together before as scouts. Last spring, Ferguson had the title of assistant director of football operations added to his name.

He keeps an eye on the movement of players within the league and also works with the

Bills on player contracts.

"If there is a trade (in the league) and I don't know about it, my job is on the line," he said, explaining that he remains in close contact with other teams by telephone.

'There's very little you can't say about Bob Ferguson... Whatever he's achieved, it certainly doesn't surprise me one bit,' said Bud Hatley.

HE ALSO STILL does some advance scouting work for the Bills, as he did earlier this year when he came to Seattle to watch the Seahawks play prior to the Buffalo-Seattle game.

Ferguson's parents moved from Federal Way to Renton three years ago, but his brother, Paul, still lives in Northeast Tacoma. Both his father, Spike, and brother are dentists in Auburn.

The Ferguson family moved to the Federal Way area in 1954. Bob grew up attending Mirror Lake Elementary School, Lakota Junior High, where he was student body president, and then Federal Way.

In football, the Eagles were the class of the SPSL Ferguson's senior year.

"It was a pretty talented group," said Ferguson, who played for former coach Bud Hatley. "We had played together since seventh grade most of us. By the time we were seniors we had all played together six or seven years."

Continued on A-9

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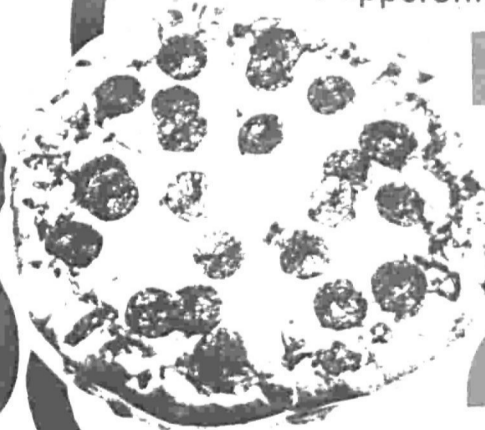
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