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Excellence
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25 Cents

TWIN LAKES

MARINE HILLS

REDONDO

MIDWAY

KENT WEST HILL

WOODMONT

NORTH LAKE

WEST CAMPUS

Rebellion brews in Northeast Tacoma

Joining Federal Way may be option

By ANN SEIDNER

Three big problems have been deposited recently on the collective doorstep of Northeast Tacoma, and residents there are trying to decide how to best manage the burdens.

Representatives of neighborhood groups from that area met last Monday night to discuss details of a survey they plan to send to the community, asking how to reckon with the party that left the burdens — Tacoma.

The survey will ask residents if they would favor a plan to unite the unincorporated areas of Dash Point and Browns Point with the rest of Northeast Tacoma, which is currently within Tacoma City limits, to form a new town. Petitioning to be annexed into Federal Way, should Federal Way become a city, is another option the survey

presents.

Or, the survey asks, would residents in unincorporated Browns Point and Dash Point prefer being annexed into Tacoma to benefit from city services?

Although answers already differ, the survey has grown out of a common discontent with Tacoma from residents on the bluff above the city.

Leaders of these communities say residents have been left holding the weight of three problems caused by Tacoma — a garbage incinerator being built on the tideflats, a proposal to remove the Blair Bridge and construct a road around the tideflats, and the perceived threat of claims to land titles in the area, resulting from the city's land settlement with the Puyallup Indian Tribe.

"I THINK people felt that a

large number of things are coming down on them," said Jim Davidson, president of the Norpoint Boosters.

"These are big issues that will be with us for years to come," he said.

Finding a solution to the problem that is agreeable to a majority of community members also is going to be an issue for years to come, if the opinions of community leaders is any indication.

Davidson personally believes that the best option is to form an independent city out of Northeast Tacoma and the two points. But others disagree or are undecided.

"AS FAR as having our own town, that's ridiculous," said Jim Zuluaga, president of the Dash Point Social and Improve-

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Council to vote on parks purchase

By KURT HERZOG

The on-again, off-again sale of a Marine Hills park site to King County may still be possible.

The county is trying to buy the 19.2 acres from the Federal Way Water and Sewer District to turn into a park. Although the money previously earmarked to buy the property was taken out of the county budget last month, King County Councilman Paul Barden said Wednesday he has enough votes on the council to get \$400,000 put back into the budget.

"That \$400,000 is \$50,000 more than the appraised price," Barden said. "That's a fair price."

The former Water District 56 watershed became the property of the Federal Way district after the two districts merged last year.

The Federal Way district is committed to getting as much money as it can for the land, according to district officials, because of the merger agreement with District 56. The sale of the watershed property will help pay for \$1.8 million in improvements to the former District 56 water system.

Local developer Andy Cratsenberg has said he would beat any county offer and is willing to pay at least \$450,000 for the land.

Cratsenberg said he wants to build homes on the watershed and on parcels of land he already owns to the north and south of the watershed.

This Tuesday, the Federal Way district board of commissioners is expected to decide

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photo by Paul T. Erickson

Well, nobody's perfekt

LIFE'S LITTLE IMPERFECTIONS don't faze this bicyclist, who pedals past an erroneous street sign on State Route 509 (16th Avenue South), just south of South 272nd Street. "Sometimes these things happen," said Ralph Cornish of the state Department of Transportation. "We certainly can go and check that one out."

'Drug-den' tenants are evicted

The doors to a Riverton apartment unit King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng called a "drug den" should be shut and sealed by now.

Judge J. Kathleen Learned found Unit 3 at 13601 42nd Ave. S. a public nuisance and ordered tenants evicted within 48 hours of a hearing Tuesday. But she set a second hearing date in two weeks to decide if the unit should remain closed or if landlord Kenneth R. Ball can resume renting it.

"Ball has done no wrong, and he has taken steps to

cooperate with police," Learned said.

A new state law that makes landlords responsible for ousting tenants who are known drug dealers allows prosecutors to shut the unit for a year, find the landlord up to \$10,000 and impose a 1-year jail term. The law has been used to shut down crack houses in Seattle, but this is its first test in King County.

Deputy Prosecutor John W. Cobb said it's an effective law that the county intends to use aggressively from now on.

BUT BALL said coming

arter him isn't going to solve the drug problem created by his tenants.

A better law would allow landlords to evict tenants quickly themselves in such situations, he added. He told the court earlier he had already notified tenants they would be evicted before he got the abatement notice from the county, but that the process takes several weeks.

He would have preferred to catch the drug dealers rather than push them out where they could begin dealing somewhere else, Ball said.

Cyclists, equestrians will advise county on needs

By VALERIE DROGUS

When Pat Malone got a bicycle for Christmas in 1972, she didn't waste any time.

One of the first things she did was jump on and take a 200-mile, 2-day ride from the Boeing Space Center south, past Olympia.

"I just about died," Malone, 56, recalls.

Since then, her interest in using county and state roads to cycle has grown with a vengeance. She's also become a citizen advocate for the sport.

Malone, along with Dale Roper and Joyce Humphrey, also of Federal Way, was appointed recently to the newly-formed 13-member non-motorized vehicle advisory com-

mittee by the King County Council.

All three boast transportation credentials. Roper, a landscape architect, is a member of the Valley Area Transportation Alliance and the Federal Way Chamber of Commerce transportation committee. Humphrey avidly rides horses.

The citizen panel will advise

the county on improving road and trail conditions for travellers on foot, bicycles and horses, but the major part of its work will concern bicycles.

MALONE SAID she welcomes the chance to work for safer bicycling in Federal Way, such as the bike lanes that now exist on South 312th Street.

In communities developing as

fast as those in South King County, it's essential to lobby for bike lanes right now, she said.

"Once those roads are put in we're not going to have another chance for a long time," Malone said.

There's an active bicycling community in Federal Way, Malone said. The Rainier Roadriders meet once a month

and boast a membership of about 50 families.

HORSES PROBABLY won't ever share the road with vehicles in Federal Way, but equestrian Humphrey said she'd like the committee to work on trails through parkland, too.

In rural parts of the county,

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Tacoma will get burner complaint

By VALERIE DROGUS

King County Councilmember Paul Barden said he'll visit the Tacoma City Council himself to deliver a request for a study of the health and environmental risks from a proposed garbage incinerator on Tacoma's tideflats.

The county council passed a motion Tuesday to ask Tacoma for a study of the \$43 million project, which will generate steam by burning processed garbage pellets, wood and coal.

The project, begun in 1985 and nearly three-quarters complete, managed to bypass an environmental study that would have allowed public comment. Tacoma Public Utilities Engineer Pat McCarty said last week that Tacoma has rigorously followed procedure in obtaining permits to build the plant, however.

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photo by Paul T. Erickson

FOR BOB DAVIS, the opening of the Phases Teen Center is a dream come true. The main purpose of the center is to assist teens recovering from drug and alcohol abuse.

Teen center to make debut soon

By BRAD BROBERG

Anyone who thought Bob Davis' plan to establish a teen center in Federal Way was just a pipe dream should think again.

The pipe dream has come true. Phases Teen Center will open the last week of January in the old trading post building at 30682 Military Road S. To celebrate, Phases is sponsoring a dance tonight in the St. Vincent Parish Hall and an open house Sunday, Jan. 29, at the center.

"It doesn't seem like a dream anymore," said Davis, a senior at Decatur High School. "It's becoming real little by little."

Although creating the center was Bob's idea, he has received quite a bit of help along the way, especially from his mother.

Louise Davis, an accountant, bought the trading post building last year for her business, D & D accounting, and is donating space there for Phases.

"I don't need all the space right now and I wanted to see this get going, so we thought at least for a year we'd start small and see where it went," she said.

SMALL is right.

Phases will operate out of an 18-by-20-foot room. Still, that's 360 square feet more than Federal Way has ever had for a teen center, even though the need for one has long been discussed.

"As long as I've been here people have been talking about it," said John Metcalf, a retired teacher and member of the Phases board of directors. "This is the first attempt that I can recall that is coming to fruition."

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