



Centralia Pool to Be Filled In

Citing Nuisance Liability Concerns, City Manager Decides to Fill Pearl Street Pool With Dirt / Main 4



2023 All-Area Softball Team

Adna's Karlee VonMoos Caps Stellar Career With a State Title, Headlines All-Area Squad / Sports 1

\$2.00

Weekend Edition
Saturday,
June 10, 2023

The Chronicle

Division of CT Publishing

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Animal Shelter to
Hold Discount
Adoption Event
Main 2

No Legal Wrongdoing by Port Commission Member Peter Lahmann Found After Investigation

INQUIRY: Firm Suggests Port Update Its Ethics Code in Final Report

By Owen Sexton

owen@chronline.com

After launching an external investigation into a possible conflict of interest violation by Port of Centralia Commissioner Peter Lahmann, third-party attorneys looking into the matter found no legal wrongdoing.

Haggard & Ganson LLP, the third-party law firm out of Bothell that handled the investigation, issued an 11-page report, noting while it found no legal wrongdoing, it recommended the port amend its ethics code.

The investigation began after Port of Centralia Auditor Amy Graber raised concerns in a memo mainly about Lahmann's requests to utilize apprenticeship programs in port construction projects, which were made in four different port meetings going back to February 2021. Lahmann currently serves as the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) apprenticeship program specialist.

"There is insufficient evidence that Commissioner Lahmann violated the port ethics

please see **PORT**, page Main 8



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'Treacherous' Landscape of 'Killer' Trees Complicates Iron Creek Fire



Isabel Vander Stoep / Isabel@chronline.com

A hose runs along trails around the perimeter of the fire at the Iron Creek Campground on Thursday as Public Information Officer Mike McMillan looks up into the scorched trees.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Department of Natural Resources Field Operations Chief Pete Suver looks on at charred old growth trees after flames rolled through the Iron Creek Campground in Randle on Thursday, June 8.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Charred trees are seen scattered around the Iron Creek Campground in Randle as smoke and flames continue to scorch brush and campsites in the area.

HUMAN-CAUSED: Crews Will Work for 100% Containment of Blaze That Started in Campsite and Was at 17 Acres as of Friday

By Isabel Vander Stoep

isabel@chronline.com

Sandwiched between red and white Forest Service trucks, reporters with The Chronicle were escorted through the Iron Creek Campground off Forest Service Road 25 in Randle on Thursday.

On Saturday, June 3, a human-caused fire forced swift evacuations. As of Friday morning, the fire had impacted 17 acres of the campground, which has 98 sites split into various rings.

Field Operations Chief Pete Suver said on the first day he arrived, crews heard trees falling several times an hour. It's going to be a long time before the campground opens.

The official word is "closed for the foreseeable future," but canceling reservations for the summer of 2023 may be a safe bet.

It's among the Gifford Pinchot National Forest's most popular stays; comparable in popularity and size to Packwood's La Wis Wis, which is also closed for upgrades this summer.

Few pieces of infrastructure have been affected by the fire at Iron Creek, but the burn path is riddled with hazard trees, some

please see **FIRE**, page Main 8

Graduation Walk



Centralia Class of 2023 Strolls Halls One Last Time / B7

Tenino Pump Tracks



Tenino City Park Additions Already Attracting Area Youths / Main 3

Deaths

Krotzer, Roger Dean, 64, Yelm
Miller, Daniel J., 62, Centralia
McMillin, Douglas Harry, 81, Cinebar
Haselwood, Cheryl Erma, 74, Centralia

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8 0 4 8 7 9 1 2 5 2 7 5

Lewis County Animal Shelter to Hold Emergency Dog Adoption Event

By The Chronicle staff

In an effort to help more dogs find their forever homes, the Lewis County Animal Shelter is holding a special dog adoption event — with extended hours and reduced adoption fees — the week of June 10.

The shelter’s hours for Saturday, June 10, and Tuesday through Saturday June 13-17 will be 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the fees for adopting adult dogs those days will be \$100, a 50% reduction from the usual fee. The shelter will be closed Sunday, June 11 and Monday, June 12.

The goal of this one-time, emergency, reduced-fee adoption event is to encourage the public to adopt dogs that have been living at the shelter for an extended period of time, Lewis County stated in a news release.

As of Thursday, adoptable dogs included a husky named Ana, a mastiff mix named Ace, a Beauceron mix named Stitch and several others.

A majority of the dogs in the shelter range in age from 3 to 5 years old.

“It is well known that from Memorial Day to the end of June is the busiest time of year for people to move, as schools are getting out for summer break,” Lewis County Animal Shelter Manager Joseph Henderson stated. “We are receiving calls daily from Lewis County residents who are moving and cannot take their dogs with them.”

The animal shelter is operating at or near capacity and would like to open up space for people who need to surrender their dogs, Lewis County stated in a news release.

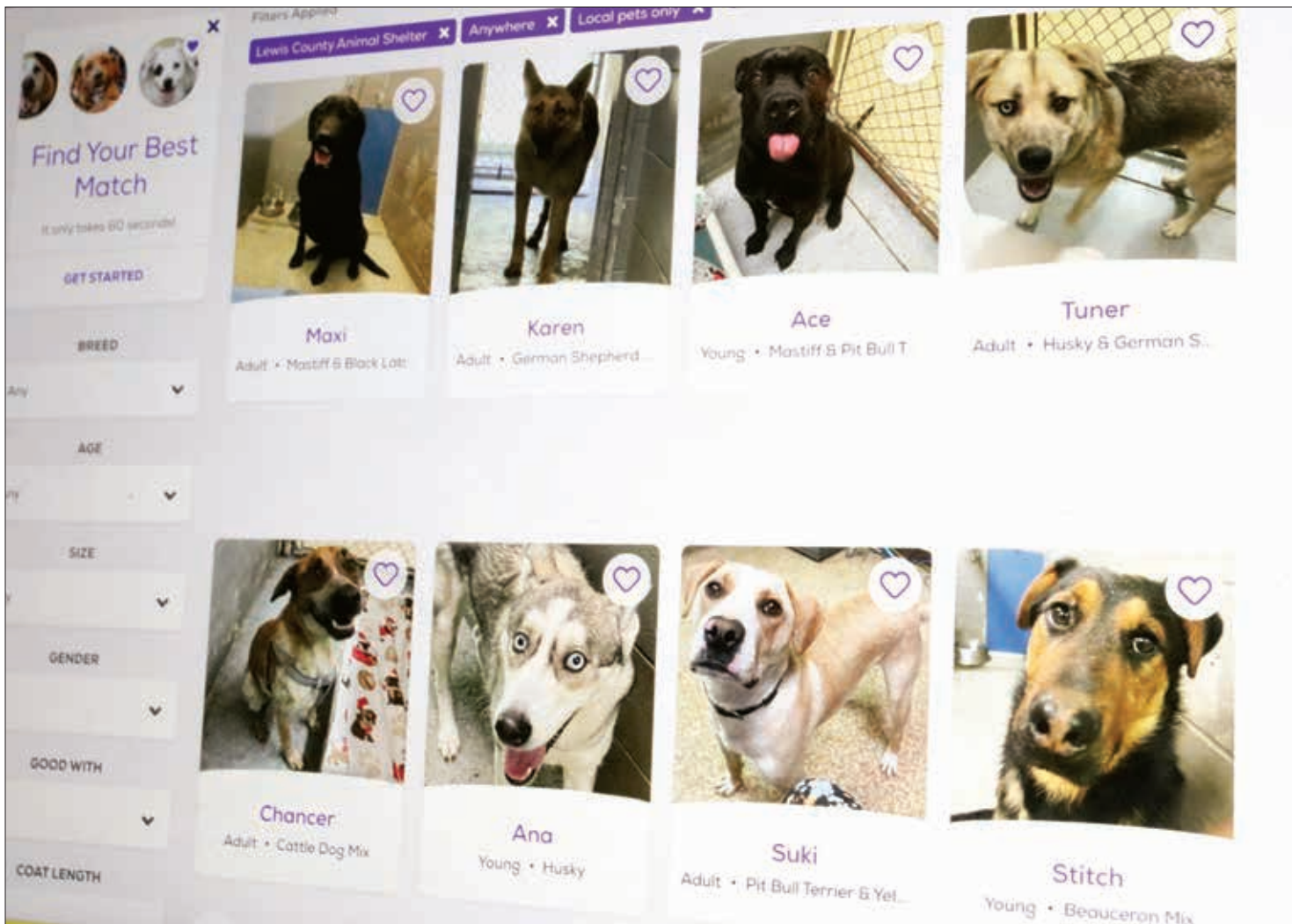
“For us to be able to take in dogs, we need to adopt dogs,” Henderson told a Chronicle reporter on Thursday. “For me, it’s about trying to get these dogs into really good homes.”

To see the dogs available for adoption, visit <https://tinyurl.com/57t9p9br>.

Cat adoptions are not eligible for reduced adoption fees during the event, but cats and kittens will be available for adoption throughout the event.

To contact the Lewis County Animal Shelter, email animal.shelter@lewiscountywa.gov or call 360-740-1290.

The shelter is located at 560 Centralia Alpha Road in Chehalis.



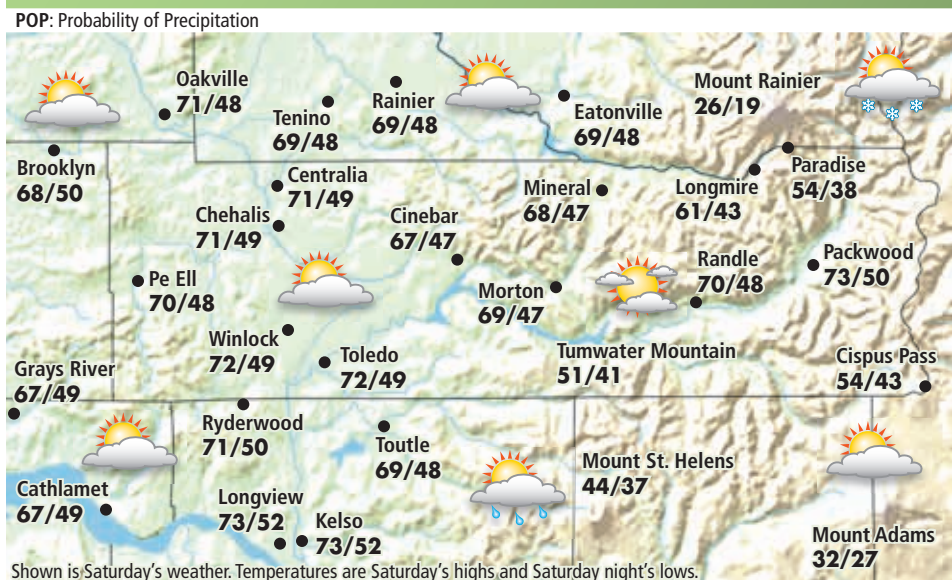
Dogs available for adoption from the Lewis County Animal Shelter as listed on PetFinder on Thursday, June 8.



Ana, left, and Stitch are two of the dogs that will be available for adoption at an upcoming emergency event at the Lewis County Animal Shelter.

TWIN CITIES WEATHER

SATURDAY	SAT. NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HIGH: 71 POP: 25%	LOW: 49 POP: 5%	80 52 POP: 5%	85 53 POP: 0%	70 47 POP: 5%	69 47 POP: 0%	72 49 POP: 0%	67 45 POP: 25%



ALMANAC

Centralia statistics through Thursday

TEMPERATURES	PRECIPITATION (inches)
High/low: 73/52	Thursday: 0.00
Normal high: 71	Record for date: 0.05 in 1981
Normal low: 50	Month to date: 0.00
Last year high: 72	Normal month to date: 0.61
Last year low: 55	Year to date: 7.18
Record high: 94 in 1948	Normal year to date: 23.25
Record low: 37 in 2007	Last year to date: 10.34

7-DAY TEMPERATURE TREND

Daily range — Normal high — Normal low

73 73 72 75 82 84 73

41 43 41 43 45 50 52

6/2 6/3 6/4 6/5 6/6 6/7 6/8

7-DAY PRECIPITATION TREND

Daily amount (in inches) — Normal amount

0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

6/2 6/3 6/4 6/5 6/6 6/7 6/8

DAILY CONDITIONS

Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
6	9	9	4

AccuWeather.com UV Index™

Hiking Index

8 9 9 9

Boating Index

8 9 9 9

The higher the AccuWeather UV Index number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very high, 11+: Extreme.

Hiking and Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; 3-4: Fair; 5-6: Good; 7-8: Very Good; 9-10: Excellent.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

REGIONAL CITIES

City	AccuWeather		
	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Aberdeen	67/49/pc	73/51/pc	74/55/pc
Bellingham	63/53/pc	71/56/s	77/58/s
Bremerton	66/48/pc	76/54/s	84/52/s
Cle Elum	70/46/sh	82/47/s	85/55/s
Coulee City	75/58/pc	84/64/pc	90/63/s
Eatonville	69/48/pc	77/55/s	84/52/s
Ellensburg	73/50/pc	83/56/s	88/59/s
Elmer City	78/57/pc	87/60/pc	90/65/pc
Enumclaw	69/49/sh	76/56/s	83/56/s
Everett	65/53/pc	73/57/s	77/55/s
Forks	66/48/pc	78/51/pc	78/50/pc
Kelso	73/52/pc	81/55/s	83/56/s
Kennewick	85/57/pc	91/69/pc	97/69/pc
Long Beach	61/52/pc	65/52/pc	69/53/pc
Longview	73/52/pc	80/54/s	83/54/s
Moses Lake	78/55/pc	85/63/pc	92/65/s

RIVER STAGES

In feet as of 7 a.m. Thursday

River/Location	Flood Stage	Stage	24-hr. Chg.
Skookumchuck River			
near Bucoda	211.5	203.85	-0.02
at Centralia	189.0	177.50	-0.01
Chehalis River			
near Doty	318.0	306.43	-0.02
at Centralia	168.5	152.31	-0.02
near Grand Mound	141.0	129.81	-0.02
at Porter	48.0	31.43	-0.09
Newaukum River			
near Chehalis	202.5	192.97	-0.03
Cowlitz River			
at Packwood	10.5	2.09	+0.15
at Randle	18.0	6.67	+0.18

SOLUNAR TABLE

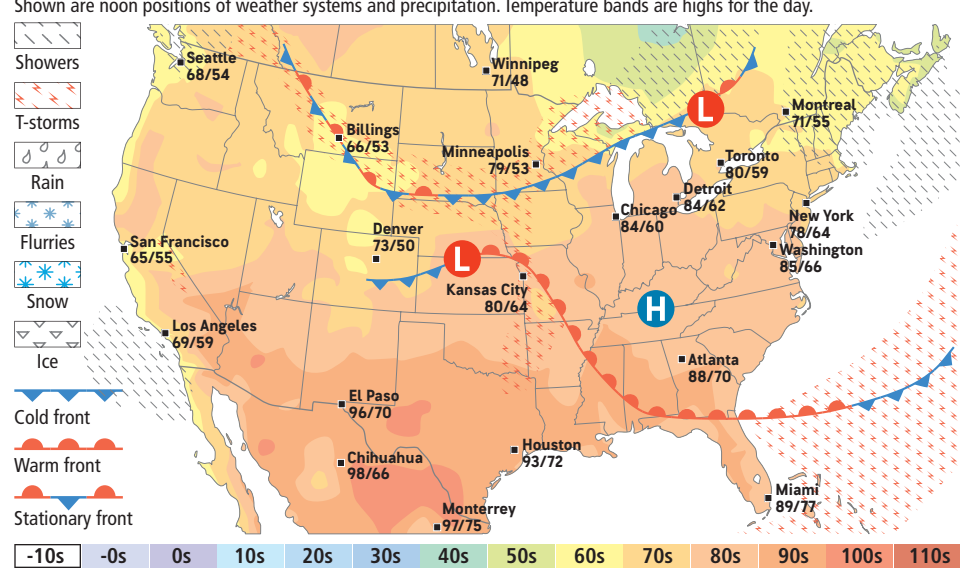
Four-day forecast indicates peak feeding times for fish and game.

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
Major	6:06 a.m.	6:54 a.m.	7:37 a.m.	8:18 a.m.
Minor	12:18 p.m.	12:43 a.m.	1:26 a.m.	2:07 a.m.
Major	6:31 p.m.	7:17 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:42 p.m.
Minor	---	1:06 p.m.	1:49 p.m.	2:30 p.m.

SUN AND MOON

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.
Sunrise	5:18 a.m.	5:18 a.m.	5:18 a.m.	5:18 a.m.
Sunset	9:05 p.m.	9:05 p.m.	9:06 p.m.	9:06 p.m.
Moonrise	1:48 a.m.	2:07 a.m.	2:24 a.m.	2:42 a.m.
Moonset	12:53 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	4:40 p.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST SATURDAY



NATIONAL CITIES

City	Sat.			Sun.			Mon.		
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	87/60/pc	86/58/pc	86/56/pc	Houston	93/72/pc	95/76/pc	97/77/pc		
Anchorage	59/45/c	61/45/r	56/47/sh	Las Vegas	94/71/pc	84/67/pc	84/68/pc		
Atlanta	88/70/s	80/68/t	80/63/t	Los Angeles	69/59/pc	66/59/sh	70/57/c		
Billings	66/53/t	72/53/t	76/56/pc	Miami	89/77/t	89/77/pc	90/77/t		
Boise	79/55/pc	84/55/t	84/60/t	Minneapolis	79/53/t	71/54/pc	81/62/c		
Boston	65/57/pc	73/60/pc	76/62/c	New York City	78/64/pc	82/66/pc	76/64/c		
Cheyenne	69/49/c	61/51/t	63/47/t	Omaha	81/61/t	74/53/pc	79/56/s		
Chicago	84/60/s	63/50/r	70/58/pc	Phoenix	100/73/s	95/70/pc	92/72/s		
Cleveland	81/62/pc	78/59/t	68/53/r	Rapid City	67/51/t	71/50/pc	74/50/s		
Dallas	92/72/t	100/72/pc	85/71/t	St. Louis	90/67/s	73/59/r	78/60/s		
Denver	73/50/t	67/51/t	70/50/t	Salt Lake City	81/60/pc	81/60/t	77/60/t		
Detroit	84/62/pc	70/56/t	71/54/sh	San Francisco	65/55/pc	69/57/pc	72/58/pc		
Honolulu	87/75/sh	87/76/pc	86/75/sh	Washington, DC	85/66/pc	92/71/pc	77/64/t		

City of Tenino Installs Pump Tracks at City Park

By Emily Fitzgerald

emily@chronline.com

Combine a skatepark with a BMX bike track and you get the pump track: a series of bumps, dips and curves a variety of wheeled devices — including bikes, skateboards, scooters and wheelchairs — can ride through.

The concept has proven popular within the Tenino community, as the City of Tenino's first pump track, a beginner course designed for all ages and abilities, has seen almost constant use since the city finished installing it at Tenino City Park on Monday, according to Mayor Wayne Fournier.

"The thing has been used non-stop since we put that straight track in," Fournier said.

Workers had just two panels left to install on a second, intermediate pump track at Tenino City Park as of Thursday. Once that is fully installed, the city will turn its attention toward installing a third, advanced pump track at the park ahead of a scheduled Saturday, June 17, grand opening ceremony for all three tracks.

The idea of building pump tracks in Tenino began four years ago when Fournier and his then-7-year-old daughter were visiting a park in Olympia that featured a portable pump track.

"She was able to ride on it with her little Razor scooter, and there it just seemed like a really nice crowd of families that it was attracting," Fournier said of the Olympia pump track.

He and his daughter later found another pump track at a park in Leavenworth that had a different design than the one they visited in Olympia, he said, which prompted him to start researching the different types of pump tracks.

Then, about three years ago, a tree fell on the playground equipment at Tenino City Park.

"Instead of just repairing what we have, we used the opportunity ... to kind of leverage that loss into a request of the Legislature for enough money to just build it out," Fournier said.

The City of Tenino initially considered installing a pump track in a different part of town, but when the state Legislature allocated some funding for Tenino's playground, the city switched gears and incorporated the pump track build into the new playground design.

"We got a lot of support from Representative Peter Abbarno's office (and) we somehow pulled this major rebuild off," Fournier said.

The pump tracks themselves were a separate item in the city's budget, with some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds going into the purchase of the equipment from the Pacific Northwest-based company Highwire, which also sold Teni-



Chuck Devening rides a bike over the beginner pump track at Tenino City Park on Thursday, June 8.

Emily Fitzgerald / emily@chronline.com



The intermediate pump track at Tenino City Park was completed, minus the side panels, on Friday, June 9, in this photo submitted by Mayor Wayne Fournier.

no its new playground equipment.

"They're dream clients, really, because they're just so open and enthusiastic, but no nonsense too. I've never seen a more capable group," said Highwire owner Peter Tammetta of the City of Tenino.

The pump tracks themselves are a product of a Swedish brand, Parkitechts, which designed the

tracks to fit into an urban landscape.

"I would say Parkitechts, their design, is very much at the forefront of that movement to the roller sport world, so it's exciting. It's the first in the nation of its kind," Tammetta said.

Featuring a fiberglass surface and steel structure, "it's got better curves and it's kind of a better surface area than, say, a plastic

one ... and the ones that are built into the ground, they don't flow as well," Fournier said.

The June 17 grand opening ceremony for the pump tracks will run in conjunction with the Raise For Rowyn 5K, which begins at Tenino City Park at 10 a.m. For more information on the 5K, visit <https://www.raise4rowyn.org/run>.

The event will feature food

vendors at Tenino City Park and professional BMX riders are set to perform stunts on the new tracks.

For more information on Highwire and the Parkitechts pump tracks, visit <https://highwireus.com/parkitect-modular-pump-tracks/>.

Updates on the installation at Tenino City Park can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofTenino>.



SUMMER STEM CAMP

Aug 7-10 | 9 AM-3 PM

Open to incoming 9th through 12th grade for the 2023-24 school year.

The University of Washington is partnering with the Chehalis Foundation to provide a four-day summer camp focusing on engineering and medical science.

\$25/STUDENT

Register at StemChehalis.org



City of Centralia Fills in Pearl Street Pool to Avoid Liability

By Owen Sexton
owen@chronline.com

Following the Centralia City Council's decision in February to permanently close the Pearl Street Pool, city workers began filling it in with dirt to avoid "attractive nuisance liability," according to Centralia City Manager Rob Hill.

"A vacant pool is the definition of an attractive nuisance, which by law is not a good thing," Hill said. "So we absolutely cannot continue to have that liability sitting there just waiting for an incident to happen. I think we're very fortunate we didn't have one in the last 12 years."

While Washington state's premises liability laws say property owners are generally not liable if a person trespasses and is injured on the property, an exception is made for children under the attractive nuisance doctrine. This exception allows child trespassers or their parents and legal guardians to sue property owners for injuries caused by an unsafe object on the property as long as the object "attracted" the child onto the property.

Considering the added risk of drowning when the pool would fill up with rainwater on top of possible injuries sustained by someone falling in, Hill decided it was time to finally fill in the pool with dirt.

"I stood there a couple weeks ago on the edge of that pool and it was half full, and the only thing more dangerous than a full pool is a half full pool, that's the honest truth. If you fall in, you can't even grab anything to get out," Hill said.

Hill added he is still saddened by the pool's closure, especially with the efforts of the Save The Outdoor Pool (STOP) group, which has been leading efforts to reopen the pool ever since it was closed by the city in 2011 due to maintenance issues and budget constraints.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Workers begin to fill in the Pearl Street Pool in Centralia Wednesday afternoon after the Centralia City Council decided against putting a measure before voters to potentially pay for its repair or replacement in February.

STOP group members have repeatedly spoken out at Centralia City Council meetings asking the city to reopen the pool.

During its efforts, the STOP group raised more than \$100,000 and obtained approval for several grants. The group presented plans for pool restoration in the past, but their efforts weren't enough to match the ever-increasing cost required to either renovate the existing pool or completely build a new one. The grants were eventually lost as the City of Centralia could not produce the funds to match them in order to keep them.

Hill also said that during the pool they have discovered other issues, such as leaking return lines, which would have added to renovation costs.

"The poor thing, it was just

worn out and had timed out," Hill said of the pool.

As for what will replace the pool in the future, a variety of options are still being debated, including extending the splash pad to a playground, but nothing has been decided yet.

Originally built in the 1950s as a war memorial, the pool was owned and operated by the city until the early 1980s when it was first closed.

In 1984, it was reopened due to the efforts of Friends in Need, a local nonprofit that operated the pool until 2008 when the city resumed ownership until 2011, when it closed the pool again.

The Pearl Street Pool is located on the southwest corner of the intersection at West Hanson Street and North Pearl Street in downtown Centralia.



The Pearl Street Pool is pictured at about the time of its opening in this photo submitted by Dan Duffy for The Chronicle's Our Hometowns books.

LEWIS COUNTY SPRING HIRING EVENT

Connect With Local Employers Hiring Now!



Stop by June 13, 2023 from noon to 4 for an upcoming hiring event where you can connect with local employers and interview on the spot.

Bring your resume and explore exciting opportunities.

A list of some of the local businesses that will be there:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| American Behavioral Health Systems | DSHS BHA | Scot Industries, Inc. |
| Capstone Logistics | Lewis County Human Resources | Stillwater Colonial Residence |
| Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce | Lewis County Parks & Recreation | T-Mobile |
| Centralia Outlet Malls (up to six retail stores) | Merit Logistics | Pacific Mobile Structures, Inc |
| Department of Corrections | UNFI | Washington State Department Children, Youth & Family |

Location: Centralia Outlet Mall
2000 Haviland Street, Centralia

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.CHAMBERWAY.COM • 360-748-8885

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Sign R-101 to Protect Parents' Rights and Kids' Safety

This year, the Washington Legislature passed a controversial bill that will allow runaways to evade their parents and stay under state custody if the children are looking for abortions or sex change medical procedures.



By Brian Mittge

Until now, state law has required the state to notify parents within 72 hours when runaways showed up in shelters — ideally within 24 hours if possible. The only exception was if the child would face abuse or neglect if the parent were notified.

Senate Bill 5599 changes that. Now, the state has a "compelling reason" to hide the whereabouts of children from their parents if the minor is seeking or receiving reproductive health care services (including abortions) or "gender affirming treatment" — an

COMMENTARY: Hills and Valleys

Orwellian term that essentially means hormones or surgery to change their appearance to resemble the opposite sex. As per RCW 74.09.675, referenced in this year's bill, runaway minors must be hidden from their families if they want to undergo facial feminization surgeries, tracheal shaves, mastectomies, breast reductions, breast implants or any combination of so-called gender affirming procedures.

If a child runs away to get these medical treatments, the state will hide them under SB 5599.

"I keep trying to come up with a word to adequately describe how heinous this bill is," said Dawn Seaver, a parent in Vancouver who is part of a group leading a referendum to overturn SB 5599.

"Here you've got a gender confused kid who runs away from home and then undergoes these life-altering treatments

while being cared for by a stranger. Meanwhile, they're being deprived of their biggest advocates, the people who know and love them most, their parents."

The effort to overturn the bill is called Referendum 101.

They need to collect 200,000 signatures by July 15 to get the referendum on the ballot to give voters the chance to reject SB 5599.

Learn more, order petitions, donate or get information on signing events at www.reject5599.com.

Seaver has been active on these issues since 2015. At that time, she said she was "just a mom" who happened to read in the newspaper about a decision to allow men who identify as women into locker rooms and bathrooms for girls and women.

"My daughter was 14 and that didn't work for me," said Seaver, who went on to co-found Informed Parents of Washing-

ton and Washington Parents' Rights in Education.

She has since collected data on transgender issues that add nuance to a discussion that is usually seen as a simplistic "we must immediately affirm someone's stated gender identity and allow them to explore gender even at a young age."

What Seaver found is that the majority of trans kids will later identify with their biological sex if simply allowed to go through puberty. About 80% will desist from a transgender identity before adulthood.

"If you look at that one stat alone, why are we transitioning kids at all?" she said. "The majority of them will come out the other side. Some of them will be gay. If we let them start going through transition almost 100% of them go the whole way. Once they start down that path, they become lifelong medical patients who are sterile, who can't enjoy intimacy. I can't come up with the words to describe how awful it is."

Supporters of the affirma-

tion philosophy say that trans youth are at heightened risk of suicide.

But that tragic fact needs context, too. What Seaver found is that about 75% of children identifying as trans have one or more comorbidities like anxiety or depression — and that trans people have the same suicide rate as non-trans kids with those mental health issues.

And a long-term study in Sweden — a country with a long history of support and affirmation for trans identities — found that adults who had transitioned had a suicide rate 19 times the general population.

Trans issues are complex. The science is unsettled and the impacts are clearly significant. Whatever position one has, it's clear that allowing the state to hide children who are in the midst of gender confusion from their parents is wrong.

Signing R-101 and rejecting 5599 is the right response.

...

Brian Mittge can be reached at brianmittge@hotmail.com.

Lewis County Special Olympics Is a Cause Worth Supporting

Despite the lingering pain in my knees and back, plus the constant reminder from my son that he ran all 19 miles and "beat me," I have only great feelings and memories of this year's Lewis County Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the Lewis County Special Olympics and our amazing athletes.



By Peter Abbarno

"No pain, no gain" is what I tell myself before each Torch Run and Polar Plunge to benefit the pride of Lewis County and Washington state.

This year's Torch Run route started at the Napavine Police Department and weaved its way to cheering students at Napavine, Chehalis and Centralia schools. Almost every step was met with cheering community members, honking cars and laughter from the runners and supporters. It was another reminder that we

live in a very amazing community.

Although formally the Special Olympics was established in 1968, the real origins began more humbly and organic. The Special Olympics began as Camp Shriver. In 1960, Eunice Shriver, a parent from Bethesda, Maryland, was having trouble finding a summer camp for her child with intellectual disabilities. Mainstream camps were not accepting her child, public education was not equipped for children with special needs and summer-after-summer came and went without activities for her child and countless other children with disabilities.

That is when Eunice Shriver contacted other parents and schools with special-needs children and started Camp Shriver, with 34 children and 26 high school and college-aged counselors. They learned to swim, played baseball, shot baskets,

rode horses and had summer fun. The camp grew. Soon, the Special Olympics was born in 1968.

Today, the worldwide Special Olympics has six million athletes, one million coaches and volunteers and over 100,000 competitions every year. Thousands of those athletes, parents, coaches and supporters are right here in the state of Washington.

Sadly though, the story of Eunice Shriver continues in many families unable to find adequate programs or afford to provide the summer camp and Special Olympics experience for their child or family member. That is where our local Lewis County Special Olympics organization steps up to help.

Each year, I am proud to volunteer and work alongside some very amazing people to plan the Polar Plunge at Mayfield Lake in the winter and the Law Enforcement Torch Run in the summer.

COMMENTARY: Running for Good

The funds raised at these events and donations throughout the year help make the Special Olympics a reality for so many athletes and families. Uniforms, travel expenses and equipment all cost money, so any amount of assistance can help make an Olympic dream come true.

Every athlete deserves an opportunity to be successful and do what they love. Athletics and competition is healthy, therapeutic and social and promotes our communities in the best possible ways. I am honored to support the Special Olympics and proud of our athletes competing and Pacific Lutheran University June 9 through June 11.

Thank you in advance for your support, and thank you to Centralia Officer Ruben Ramirez, Branda Pagett, Sara Sons, the Centralia Police Department, the Chehalis Police Department, the Napavine Police Department, Chehalis Tribal Police, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and all those volunteering, organizing and support-

ing the 2023 Law Enforcement Torch Run.

A special congratulations goes to all the runners and the four brave runners that completed all 19 miles, including Antonio Abbarno, 10, Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope, Royal Sons and Centralia Police Sergeant Dave Clary.

To support our Lewis County Special Olympics Athletes, consider a contribution to the Centralia Police Officers Association, c/o Law Enforcement Torch Run, 118 W. Maple St., Centralia, Washington, 98531, or visit www.LewisCountyLETR.com. And, consider plunging with our Lewis County Icicle Brigade team this winter.

...

Rep. Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District in the Washington House of Representatives. Abbarno is a local attorney and business owner with the law firm Althausser Rayan Abbarno, LLP and participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Polar Plunge to support the Special Olympics.

Concern Over 'Hub City Loves' Banner

I wanted to express my concern over the message being sent with the "Hub City Loves" banner hanging over Pearl Street downtown. While I do agree that it is important for everyone to know that they are valued and loved, the message that is sent with the rainbow colors only communicates that those who agree with the LGBTQ+ lifestyle are valued.

The flag and what it represents absolutely does not include everyone, especially those who are morally opposed to the LGBTQ+ lifestyle. Would not a better message to send be, "Hub City Loves Everyone," with colors that are representative of Centralia and not just a particular sub-group of people?

As a Christian, I have strong moral objections to the lifestyle promoted by the LGBTQ+ agenda, and I definitely do not feel like the banner that is currently hanging up downtown communicates that Hub City appreciates me or those who share a similar view as me. But, while I definitely do not support that lifestyle, I believe those who sub-

scribe to it deserve to be shown the same respect and courtesy as any other person.

So, instead of just complaining about something and not providing a solution, I would propose that the same words can be used, but instead of the rainbow colors (again, only representative of a small sub-group of people) colors should be selected that represent Centralia (such as the school colors of Centralia High School). I believe that would be a better representation of what Centralia stands for — that the Hub City cares about everyone, not just a select few.

ANDREW FIX
Centralia

JAMES BUNDY
Centralia

Letters to the Editor

but I hope that they can live long together. There was a case in New England involving a pair of swans where some teen jerks broke into the enclosure in the town where the swans lived, murdered the male and stole all the signets. The female was absolutely inconsolable. I trust that our neighbors would never do that. Anyway, in this case the teens were found and the signets were retrieved but the parents were busy eating the male swan. Disgusting! Lucky they don't live in England where all the swans are owned by the King. There they'd be fined, imprisoned or both.

This levy, if passed, would have cost me around \$700 to \$800 in taxes a year. This is a lots of money to me, but maybe not to the superintendent. I am medically retired and a disabled veteran living on a fixed income. With the cost of inflation, it is a struggle to make ends meet. Property owners do not need another financial burden doing these hard times. We are not open bank accounts with unlimited funds. I was taught while growing up not to spend money that you don't have and live within your means.

The Centralia School District needs to grasp this concept to become good stewards with our hard-earned money. I have a child attending Centralia Middle School and I am not happy with what they are teaching our children. I feel that the children are not getting the education or the tools to make it in the real world. The voters really don't have a much say in which direction the school district is going or what is being taught to our kids. The only voice that the voters have sometimes is with their pocket books.

I would like to suggest that the superintendent find out what

the voters want and make the necessary changes. The school district might have a more favorable outcome in next election.

ANDREW BOEHM
Centralia

Divine Intervention and America's Founders

A recent letter suggested that Divine Intervention in earthly affairs was regarded by America's Founders as "nonsense." The writer is evidently unfamiliar with The British Enlightenment's divide between the school of thought populated by such as John Locke and the one led by such as Edmund Burke. The principle distinction between the two was the view by Burke that no social contract could long endure without the recognition of the role of "Divine Providence" in the fortunes of a given society of freemen. This belief would win the day and is the basis from which America's founders drew their inspiration.

THOMAS HIGDON
Clark County

Editorial Mission Statement

We will strive to be the voice of reason for the peaceful settlement of conflict and contention on key local issues. We will work to be fair at all times and to provide a balance of opinions. We will make our opinion pages available for public discussion of vital issues and events affecting the quality of life in Lewis County and adjoining regions. When necessary, we will be willing to take a tough, definitive stance on a controversial issue.

Letters Policy

Please type and email opinions, if possible, and limit letters to 500 words. Letters are typically printed in the order in which they are received. Contributors are limited to publication of one item every two weeks, with exceptions as warranted. Items submitted are subject to editing and will become the property of this newspaper. Poetry is not accepted.

To Send Your Letter

Address letters and commentaries to "Our Readers' Opinions." Please sign them and include your full address and daytime telephone number for verification and any questions. Send them to 321 N. Pearl, Centralia, WA 98531. E-mail letters can be sent to letters@chronline.com.

Questions

Editor-in-Chief Eric Schwartz can be reached by email at eschwartz@chronline.com.

Centralia Public Works Releases 2022 Water Quality Report

By The Chronicle staff

The City of Centralia Public Works Department released the city's 2022 water quality report in May.

Of the more than 100 contaminants the city tested for, the water did not exceed any state or federal contamination limits, according to the report.

Centralia's water is classified as groundwater, meaning it is sourced from drilled wells. Underground aquifers being tapped by the wells are susceptible to contamination from above-ground activities.

Lead, arsenic, copper, radium 228, nitrate, total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids were among the contaminants tested for.

There are both natural and human causes for many of these contaminants, including erosion of natural deposits into local aquifers, corrosion of plumbing systems, runoff from fertilizer

use or being byproducts of the drinking water chlorination process.

Other contaminants include microbial matter from broken sewer lines, leaking septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife as well as inorganic matter from industrial and domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming or stormwater runoff containing salts and metals.

The public works department uses three treatment methods for Centralia's water: air stripping, chlorination and fluoridation.

Air stripping involves large volumes of air being forced through the water to remove dissolved gas and volatile substances. It is also the main method used to reduce copper and lead levels in the water by increasing the water's pH level from 6.7 to 7.7, the report stated.

Despite these results, the report still shared this warning

from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning lead and copper contamination:

"Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor."

Chlorination is used to disinfect the water supply and sits at between 0.2 and 1.2 parts per

million (ppm) in samples tested, according to the report. The EPA established the maximum residual disinfectant level for chlorine in water at 4 ppm and the maximum residual disinfectant level goal at 4 ppm.

Fluorination is used to aid in tooth decay prevention. Fluoride levels are maintained at levels between 0.5 and 0.9 ppm, according to the report. The EPA established the maximum contaminant level goal for fluoride at 4 ppm.

Public Works personnel are also trying to help conserve water. They fixed a total of 109 leaks throughout both main and service lines in 2022.

To help prevent contamination, the report asked residents to properly dispose of used oil, gas, pesticides and other hazardous chemicals instead of dumping them on the ground or down sinks and toilets.

For more information on hazardous material disposal, call

the Lewis County Hazo Hut at 360-740-1221 or visit <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/solid-waste/hazo-hut/>.

For more information regarding the city's 2022 water quality report, call Centralia Public Works at 360-330-7516.

To view the 2022 water quality report and reports from previous years, visit <https://www.cityofcentralia.com/Archive.aspx?AMID=42>.

In Remembrance

MARGARET L. SCHWARZKOPF

1920 - 2023

Margaret L. McDonnell Schwarzkopf, formerly of Centralia and Chehalis, was born May 2, 1920, in Troy, Montana, and passed away in Spokane, Washington on June 3, 2023.

She is survived by Nancy Jarmin, Noni McNinch (Gary) and John Schwarzkopf (Joan Bell), as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Lyman K. Schwarzkopf and daughter Connie Nichols (John).

A memorial and celebration of Margaret's life will be held at a later date.

TO VIEW THE OBITUARY, PLEASE GO TO CHRONLINE.COM/OBITUARIES.

News in Brief

Chehalis Resident, 18, Airlifted to Harborview Medical Center After Being Struck by Semi on U.S. Highway 12 Early Thursday Morning

By The Chronicle staff

An 18-year-old Chehalis resident was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle early Thursday morning after being struck by a semi-truck on U.S. Highway 12 near Mary's Corner, according to a news release from the Washington State Patrol.

Latrell A. Hughes was standing in the roadway when he was struck by a 2022 Mack Anthem driven by Richard R. Smegelski, 66, of Tumwater, according to the state patrol.

The incident occurred just after midnight, according to the state patrol.

The state patrol has listed the cause of the crash as pedestrian in the roadway.

Girl, 10, Found After 24 Hours Lost in Kittitas County Wilderness

By The Seattle Times

After spending 24 hours missing in the Cle Elum River Valley, 10-year-old Shunghla Mashwani was reunited with her family on Monday. The night before, she slept between some trees in the dense wilderness after being separated from her family Sunday afternoon, according to the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office.

On Sunday, Shunghla and her extended family gathered at the Cathedral Pass Trailhead on Fish Lake Road and were playing in the woods near the Cle Elum River.

When the family crossed a footbridge over the Cle Elum River to break for lunch, they noticed Shunghla was missing.

Around 20 adults in the group immediately started searching for her. There was no cell signal in the valley. The group searched for nearly two hours before

someone on a utility terrain vehicle drove by and offered to use a satellite phone to call 911.

Shunghla's family reported her missing shortly before 2 p.m. The sheriff's office launched a search. At approximately 3 p.m. Monday, just over 24 hours after Shunghla's family reported her missing, two search and rescue volunteers found her alive with

only minor scrapes.

The Mashwani family — who came to the U.S. from Afghanistan two years ago — told searchers they like to spend time in the high backcountry because it reminds them of home.

The sheriff's office said Shunghla proved "an extraordinarily resourceful and resilient 10-year-old."



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JoAnn Lovgren

1931 ~ 2023

JoAnn (Dagny Marie) Gjøl/Jull, Grandorff, Witt, Lovgren, 91, passed away May 30, 2023, at Silver Acres Adult Family Home in Chehalis, Washington. She was born Oct. 23, 1931, in Montesano, Washington, to Kristian and Dagny (Hansen) Gjøl.

JoAnn attended school in Montesano, moved to Oakville after her junior year and graduated from Oakville High School in 1949. She met and married John W. Grandorff in April 1949 and they had six children. John passed away in October 1965 at the age of 35 after an illness. She married James D. Witt in March 1967 and they had a daughter together.

Jim passed away in December 1998 at age 64 after heart surgery. JoAnn married Richard W. Lovgren in 2004 and gained four stepchildren. Richard passed away at age 90 in July of 2016.

JoAnn was a homemaker but, in her 60s, worked at the Antique Mall in Centralia and loved fixing window displays. She loved to dance (especially the jitterbug), spent many



Saturdays at Swede Hall in Rochester and later started square dancing. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, and traveling, including a trip to Norway, where her parents were born.

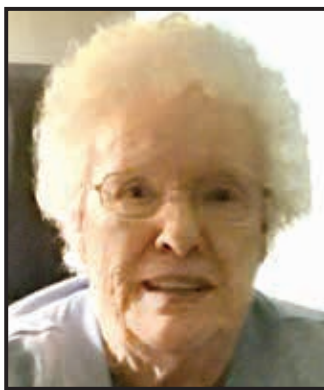
JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents; stepmother, Gunvor; brother, John Jull; sister, Margaret Marche; and her son, John W. Grandorff Jr.

She is survived by daughters, Susan (Larry) Haugh, Judi (Bill) Wamsley, Nancy (Erik) Hegg and Julie (Marc) Herr; sons, Bill (Gloria) Grandorff and Tom (Jody) Grandorff; 18 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

JoAnn spent her last years at Silver Acres, where she received excellent care, even when she was a little grumpy. Also, thank you to the Hospice individuals.

JoAnn requested — no, adamantly stated — she did not want a service of any kind, only graveside with immediate family.

Please share memories at www.FuneralAlternatives.org.



TO VIEW THE OBITUARY, PLEASE GO TO CHRONLINE.COM/OBITUARIES.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

DONALD HAYWARD

1926 ~ 2023

by hauling hay to Western Washington. While in Ellensburg, he found the love of his life, Barbara "Barb" J. Blue. They were married in Ephrata on June 2, 1947, and had three children. After a few months, Don and Barb moved to Western Washington where they lived, worked and raised their children in Tenino and Lacey during the years until their retirement. For almost 40 years, Don drove trucks of any kind with any kind of load (hay, logs, dynamite, gasoline or beer). The final 20 years of his career were spent working for Santry trucking, hauling Olympia beer. No other driver for the company could match Don's record of having over two million miles without a chargeable accident.

After retirement in 1983, Don and Barb sold their home in Lacey and took on a fun new chapter in their life. They moved into their RV full time and became RV wagon masters. Working for Tracks to Adventure and Points South, they led over 100 caravans on trips to places in Mexico, New Zealand and along the full length of the Oregon trail in addition to over 25 trips to Alaska. During the '80s and '90s, the citizens band radio (CB) was the most common form of communication among caravanners. Don and Barb's call sign was ROVER 99. In 1996, they bought a home in

Centralia, although for several years they continued to travel to Alaska in the summers and to Arizona in the winter.

In July 2019, after 72 years of marriage, Don was preceded in death by his wife, Barb. His death was also preceded by his daughter, Donna Jean; his granddaughter, Jennifer Lynne Grate; and step-grandchildren, Robert "Bobby" Lund and Mary Lund.

Don is survived by his daughter, Carol (Dave) Lund, of Centralia; son, Allen Hayward, of Tumwater; and his brother, John Perrie. He has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Don's family wants to express their thanks and appreciation for the care and compassion shown to our father by the staff of Providence SoundHomeCare and Hospice and to the helpful staff at Olympics West.

In lieu of flowers, if desired, memorials may be made to the Veterans Memorial Museum in Centralia where Don had a lifetime membership.

Don and Barb are now reunited in their travels for eternity as ROVER 99.

A private inurnment will be held at Mountain View Cemetery in Centralia.

Please share memories at www.FuneralAlternatives.org.

TO VIEW THE OBITUARY, PLEASE GO TO CHRONLINE.COM/OBITUARIES.



Photos courtesy of Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

In Focus: Ribbon-Cutting Event Held at Saddle Bum in Centralia

By The Chronicle staff

The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting event at downtown Centralia's newest business, Saddle Bum Western Store, on Wednesday.

The event came after the business held its soft opening on May 20. It's located at 328 N. Tower Ave. in the lobby of the old Wilson Hotel. To start, it

will be open from Wednesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jeannie Gluck, a Lewis County resident for most of her life, told The Chronicle last month she wanted a store that offers western-style clothing along with cowboy hat cleaning. After Rock-in R Hats in Centralia closed, she decided to open her own store.

Her goal is to create a family-

oriented store with a laid-back atmosphere.

"Your kids can play here and it will not be odd to see my grandson running amok because he'll be there every day," Jeannie Gluck said last month.

For more information, email shopsaddlebum@gmail.com. Follow the business on Facebook to stay up to date on products and events.

In Focus: Ducklings Venture Out in Napavine



Chronicle staffer Sarah Burdick captured these photos of ducklings leaving their nest in the Napavine area on Wednesday. To submit photos to The Chronicle for potential publication, send them to news@chronline.com. Be sure to include the name of the photographer, the location where the photo was captured and additional information.



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As Historic Smoke Blankets the East Coast, Northwest Leaders Hope Congress Will Wake Up to the Wildfire Threat

By Orion Donovan-Smith

The Spokesman-Review

WASHINGTON — The nation's capital woke up Thursday to the impact of catastrophic wildfires — perhaps in more ways than one — as smoke from nearly 10 million acres ablaze in Canada blanketed the East Coast.

The District of Columbia was under a "code purple" alert on the U.S. Air Quality Index — higher than code red, indicating it had "very unhealthy" air — when the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources convened a well-timed hearing Thursday morning on the federal response to wildfires. Senators on the panel from Washington and Idaho said they hoped the eye-stinging haze would spur Congress to act on proposals aimed at addressing a problem that has at times been treated as too parochial to be a federal priority.

"I think America is waking up, at least on the East Coast, to this problem," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. "We certainly have known all about it on the West Coast for some time now, and I think that it is a time and opportunity for us to really break down the barriers that are prohibiting us from having a faster response."

Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, echoed that sentiment, and called on his colleagues to pass several bills he has sponsored to accelerate prescribed burns and other forest management practices that have been shown to reduce the risk of extreme fires.

"For those of you who live on the East Coast, welcome to our air in the West," Risch said. "This is common. I don't remember a summer in Boise when we haven't had smoke."

The Washington Nationals



Isabel Vander Stoep / isabel@chronline.com

Smoke casts the sky in orange hues as the sun sets over Chehalis last month. The smoke was from fires burning in the Canadian wilderness to the north.

postponed their game Thursday, and the White House delayed a Pride Month celebration as smoke drifted across the Northeast. More than 100 million Americans were under Air Quality Index alerts, according to the White House, due to the smoke from one of Canada's worst wildfire seasons on record. More than 425 active wildfires had burned nearly 10 million acres in the United States' neighbor to the north, 17 times the country's average over the past two decades.

The National Interagency Fire Center was sending more than 600 federal and state wildland firefighters and support personnel to help control the fires in Canada, the White House said. With the U.S. fire season just beginning, Cantwell showed the committee the latest assessment from the Boise-

based agency, which projects that nearly all of Washington state will be facing "above normal" risk of wildfires by July.

While Democrats emphasized the role climate change plays in worsening fire seasons and Republicans stressed the need to ramp up timber projects and other forest management practices, the hearing highlighted areas of bipartisan agreement. One proposal with support from both parties in the House and Senate would expand the "Good Neighbor Authority" program that lets states, tribes and counties remove trees and other fuels from federal land with the federal government's approval.

As they questioned witnesses from the Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service, Democrats also called for Congress to fully fund President Joe Biden's budget request for those agen-

cies, which would give wildland firefighters a permanent pay hike and provide additional funding for their mental and physical health. It would also fund affordable housing for those workers and increase funding to the Forest Service and Interior Department.

Jeffrey Rupert, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Wildland Fire, told the senators hotter climates have dried out wood and other fuels, which his agency wants to remove more of through prescribed burns, timber harvesting and other methods.

"We go through these periods of extreme drought," Rupert said. "That absolutely is a huge part of driving these catastrophic mega-fires that we're experiencing."

Cantwell urged federal agencies to adopt communication

technologies that could help speed their response to wildfires. She also advocated more prescribed burns, noting that opposition to setting small, controlled fires to remove fuel can be counterproductive.

"People were like, 'Well, there will be some smoke,' " she said, describing opponents of the practice. "Well, because we're not doing prescribed burns, we're getting a whole lot of smoke, OK? So the point is, let's change our management system response so that we can reduce fire risk. This summer is telling us we need to do that now."

Risch, who earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Idaho, urged Congress to change regulations that environmentalists have used to slow or block timber projects and noted that wildfires are a natural part of the landscape of the West.

"For years, we have focused on putting out fires," he said. "And by being successful at it, we've caused the problem that we've got."

In the House, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane, released a statement Thursday calling for Congress to act.

"The wildfire smoke blanketing the East Coast of the United States is an unfortunate reminder of what we have dealt with in Eastern Washington — every single summer — for decades," she said. "With this issue getting more national attention, it is a call to work together on solutions like supporting proactive and collaborative forest management, which I've led on for years, to prevent catastrophic wildfires in the United States. Ensuring our forests are healthy is the key to keeping our communities safe and helping shield everyone from the harms of poor air quality."

JBLM Helicopters Shot at by Man Posing as 'Peace Officer,' Charges Say

By Peter Talbot

The News Tribune

A felon posing as a "peace officer" Wednesday evening at American Lake — complete with a badge, handcuffs and gun — fired gunshots at two military helicopters from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, according to charging documents.

No injuries or damage to the aircraft have been reported, JBLM spokesperson Gary Dangerfield told The News Tribune. Court records say Chinook helicopters carrying 31 service members were conducting training exercises.

Andre Wright Jr., 45, was charged Thursday in Pierce County Superior Court with first-degree assault, second-

degree unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm.

At arraignment Thursday afternoon, defense counsel requested that Wright undergo a competency evaluation. Commissioner Craig Adams ordered the defendant held without bail pending its completion.

Court records show Wright has prior convictions for felony criminal mischief with a deadly weapon, failure to register as a sex offender and forgery. Prosecutors wrote in charging papers that Wright had felony charges dismissed in 2016 and 2019 due to competency issues. In each case, he was reportedly referred to Western State Hospital for civil commitment and later released.

"He assured the officers that his 'personnel number' would be in the cockpit of the helicopters that were flying overhead."

prosecutors
charging documents

Lakewood Police Department officers responded just after 8 p.m. to a park on the lake's north shore, according to the declaration for determination of probable cause. Multiple callers had reported that a person shot

twice at military helicopters. One caller stayed on the line with dispatchers to update them on the shooter's location.

Arriving officers saw a bystander pointing to the suspect described in 911 calls and approached him. Records state he was on the phone and wearing a multicolored shirt and sunglasses. Officers detained the man, identified as Wright, and frisked him for weapons.

The man had a concealed Glock handgun on his hip, two metal "security" badges and handcuffs in a holster, according to the probable cause document. The gun, which was loaded with 14 rounds, was later confirmed stolen out of Tacoma. Police reported that by the way he had his gear on his belt, Wright appeared as if he was trying to portray himself as "some sort of official peace officer," records state.

Wright allegedly claimed to be a Lakewood police officer with its "special operations unit." Police reported he had a detailed story — he also claimed to be the "air commander" of a Pierce

County Sheriff's Department helicopter unit and a commander of an airborne military unit.

"He assured the officers that his 'personnel number' would be in the cockpit of the helicopters that were flying overhead," prosecutors wrote in charging papers. "The defendant then said that he worked for the 'Department of Defense and Offense' and was involved with the Marine Corps and said that American Lake was a 'recently purchased Marine Corps artillery range.'"

Video shot by a bystander showed at least five Lakewood police patrol cars responded to American Lake Park's public boat launch. The park appeared busy. The video also showed the two helicopters flying low over the water and then departing.

The criminal investigation is ongoing, and prosecutors wrote in charging documents that additional assault charges would be filed once the service members in the helicopters are identified. Dangerfield said JBLM's Criminal Investigation Division is working with Lakewood police.



SIERRA PACIFIC FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Sierra Pacific Foundation is awarding over \$521,000 in scholarships to 169 students as they attend colleges, universities, and trade schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

"It is both an honor and a privilege for our family to continue to offer this ongoing support for these students," said Carolyn Emmerson Dietz, Foundation President. "We remain committed to helping and to investing in tomorrow's leaders and in the generations to come."

The Sierra Pacific Foundation grants scholarships to qualified, dependent children of Sierra Pacific Industries' employees. Recipients are eligible for the scholarship for four years, with some granted a fifth year based on their school and finalizing their undergraduate degree or trade school program.

The Sierra Pacific Foundation is the philanthropic organization founded by the Emmerson family in 1979. Over those years, it has donated over \$9.3 million dollars in scholarships. In addition to scholarships, the Foundation contributes to youth activities and other organizations in the communities where Sierra Pacific Industries operates. In 2022, the Foundation contributed over \$5 million to organizations in our local communities.



Miranda Allen



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Experiences With Homelessness Shared as Friends Without Homes Hosts its Second 'Myths and Facts' Forum in Chehalis

By Owen Sexton
owen@chronline.com

With the nationwide homelessness crisis showing no signs of ending, Friends Without Homes certified peer specialist Lisa Striedinger organized and held the second in a series of forums addressing the "myths and facts on homelessness" last Tuesday at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library.

Friends Without Homes is a nonprofit organization focused on providing outreach and resources to those experiencing homelessness.

Around 20 people were in attendance, including Chehalis Mayor Tony Ketchum and Centralia City Council member Elizabeth Cameron. Cameron currently heads up Centralia's Homeless Task Force after former council member Leah Daarud, who proposed the task force's creation last November, resigned in April.

As for the current homelessness crisis, there are a litany of causes according to Striedinger, ranging from the lack of affordable housing to inadequate drug or medical rehabilitation services.

Having struggled with homelessness herself, Striedinger chose to study the issue and become a counselor to help others escape homelessness. In her opinion, one of the biggest causes of the increase in homelessness is the general apathy most people seem to have toward those experiencing it.

One of the biggest myths Striedinger sees is that many believe those who are homeless remain homeless simply because they don't want to get a job, when in reality, some can't.

"If you don't have the documentation when you're out on the street to get that identification, then you don't get identification, you don't get the job and you don't get housing," Striedinger said.

She added many on the streets are employed but don't make enough money to be able to afford housing that's currently available due to the affordable housing crisis, while simultaneously making too much money to qualify for housing assistance programs.

Kristina Sawyckj, a representative of King County's Health Care for the Homeless governance council, spoke and shared her own experience being homeless. Sawyckj was a U.S. Navy corpsman who was attached to a Marine Corps platoon and injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She suffered a spinal cord injury, which ended her military career.

"With my injuries, my brother took care of me and then he went to Afghanistan. Within two weeks of returning from Afghanistan, he committed suicide. I had been living with my brother with my seven children at the time," Sawyckj said.

She moved from Colorado Springs where her brother was



Owen Sexton / owen@chronline.com

Friends Without Homes certified peer specialist Lisa Striedinger talks to attendees of the "myths and facts on homelessness" forum on Tuesday at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library.

stationed at the U.S. Army garrison in Fort Carson to the northwest as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) told her the best spinal cord injury recovery program was in Seattle.

"We were here and within two weeks the VA closed that program in Seattle," Sawyckj said.

She had sold most of what she owned just to move from Colorado and was left living in her van with her family.

Living in a van was no easy challenge, especially while attempting to receive treatment for a spinal cord injury, she said. Her children were eventually taken away by Child Protective Services. Her marriage also ended.

Following those events, she fell back on alcoholism, but she met Striedinger and other friends who encouraged her to go back to school. Sawyckj obtained her nursing license and is now currently pursuing her master's degree in public health at the University of Washington.

"I became active in the community as a nurse, out on the street with people who are suffering, who are struggling with addiction, who are struggling with medical and mental health conditions," Sawyckj said.

Aside from substance abuse issues, many who Sawyckj works with who are homeless right now face severe physical and mental health issues, including diabetes, dementia, schizophrenia, kidney failure and several clients who are fighting end-stage cancer. Each person she comes across has a different story.

"The lady who I just love who

maybe has, I would say less than a month left, who refuses to go into housing because she has seven animals, cats and dogs, that she's in her camper with," Sawyckj said. "That's how she wants to die, with her loved ones, which are her pets. She had to give up her housing to pay for chemotherapy because she wasn't old enough to get Medicare."

She said the lack of affordable housing is the major issue fueling not only the homelessness crisis, but many mental health issues. While Sawyckj did suffer from PTSD stemming from her time in the service, she said she didn't face suicidal depression until her time living on the streets.

"It's always assumed that these individuals are struggling with severe addiction or severe mental health conditions. I always say, 'Well, whatever their severeness is, they need a place to live because they're not going to get better out on the street,'" Sawyckj said.

Even those coming out of recovery programs Sawyckj works with who are working full

time and going to school can't find housing. Housing for those with disabilities is even harder to come by.

Another homeless veteran Sawyckj works with is living with disabilities while having a felony on his record from 30 years ago for stealing a car. Despite serving his time and trying to work as a diesel mechanic and truck driver with a bad back, he's still living on the streets.

"Upstanding citizen, great Republican, awesome person, I love him to death. But I can't find housing for him," Sawyckj said.

The forum's final speaker was "Big" Steve Nelson, who after spending the majority of his life on the streets has now been housed for nearly a year. While he was homeless, Nelson helped build the Quixote Village in Olympia, a community of tiny homes.

He echoed many of Striedinger's comments on the general population's apathy toward those experiencing homelessness.

"I've spent almost my entire life in the homeless crap because

everybody turns their heads," Nelson said.

Suffering from addiction himself, the apathy didn't help as all he had to turn to then were his drug dealers. Despite people ignoring his plight, he refused to give up, a sentiment he says is shared by many still currently experiencing homelessness.

"Not all homeless people are bad. There are some that sit there and fight every single day. I fought every day and I'm an ex-drug addict and alcoholic," Nelson said.

With Striedinger's help, he was finally able to overcome his addictions and has now been living in an apartment complex in Olympia for almost a year.

Striedinger intends to hold more forums at other Timberland libraries in Lewis County, though the next one hasn't been scheduled yet.

For more information, call Friends Without Homes at 360-386-5915 or visit the nonprofit's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/worthsavin/>.



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Timberland Regional Library Staff Recommend Moving Amanda Park Library Branch to Randle

By Rolf Boone
The Olympian

The latest idea for a little-used branch in northwest Grays Harbor County is to move it to Lewis County.

That was the topic of discussion that kicked off this week's facilities committee meeting, which included Timberland Executive Director Cheryl Heywood recommending that the Amanda Park branch be moved to the town of Randle in Lewis County.

"Our recommendation is for you to consider moving that building," she said, adding that alternative library services would then be offered in the area.

Mobile library services are already planned for the area, or what Timberland calls its "anywhere library services," plus library patrons would be offered services by mail, said Deputy Director Kendra Jones during the Tuesday meeting.

Pacific County Trustee Toni Gwin asked a key question: What does it cost to move a building?

Operations Director Brenda Lane estimated that cost at between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

Surprisingly, Timberland is not a stranger to moving buildings. The Hoodspurt, Mason County, branch was created by using the old North Mason library in Belfair, which was then moved by barge to Hoodspurt in 1996, according to Timberland

information. Similar to Hoodspurt, the Amanda Park branch would be cut into pieces and then reassembled in Lewis County, Lane said.

"We may not get a whole lot of groundbreaking information."

Kendra Jones
library deputy director on value of potential in-person meeting

Another reason for moving the Amanda Park branch is that Timberland has plans to build a new, 2,800-square-foot branch in Randle at a cost of about \$1.8 million. But instead of building new, the branch could be relocated and expanded, she said. The cost of the move, the architects and the additional site work would cost about \$1.2 million, she said.

Randle is already home to a Timberland library branch, but it's in leased space, according to library information.

Trustee Gwin also inquired about community input as part of the relocation process. Heywood said Timberland has previously held zoom meetings with the community of Amanda

Park that were well attended.

"I think this needs to be in person," Gwin said.

Thurston County Trustee Mary Beth Harrington agreed.

"People need to feel like they are at least heard," she said.

Deputy Director Jones warned the trustees that an in-person meeting may be nothing more than hearing from those who don't want the branch to move.

"We may not get a whole lot of groundbreaking information," she said.

Still, both Gwin and Harrington said that meeting needs to happen.

As for when the branch might move is still to be determined, although Lane stressed the need for urgency, saying Timberland has to decide soon on whether to build in Lewis County or move the Amanda Park branch.

She said a decision may need to happen as early as July.

Neo-Nazi Flyers Appear in Grays Harbor County

By The Daily World

Many central Grays Harbor residents — including The Daily World — woke up Tuesday morning with something left on cars and lawns even less welcome than animal droppings — flyers from a white supremacist organization.

The police's response is simple: "Just throw it away," said Cmdr. Steve Timmons of the Aberdeen Police Department.

The flyers, distributed in sandwich bags of rice, possibly to keep them from blowing away, were seen in Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam, according to the police departments. The Aryan Freedom Network, a Texas-based neo-Nazi group, is identified on the flyers.

"I don't think this is anybody local, personally," said Chief Heath Layman of the Cosmopolis Police Department in an interview. "I think someone from out of town made a trip in and spread their hate."

Messages on the flyers varied, from anti-immigrant to anti-LGBTQ to anti-minority, all with a link to a misspelling-laden white supremacist website. Layman said that investigating the website did not turn up any obvious reason the flyers had appeared in Grays Harbor.

"We as an office looked and saw zero correlation to the Harbor," Layman said.

The phenomenon is a first, officers from all three departments agreed.

"This is new to us," said Lt. Brian Dayton of the Hoquiam Police Department in a phone interview. "I've been here 24 years on the first and this is the first time I've come across them."

The flyers appeared late Monday or early Tuesday, Timmons said, first spotted by officers coming on shift early Tuesday morning.

"Early morning, a couple patrol officers saw throughout the town, on sidewalks and porches, and they scooped 'em up," Timmons said. "They were proactive and threw them away."

Layman speculated that houses displaying decorations for Pride Month may have received extra attention from the nocturnal flyer-posters.

"We had one reported. I heard a rumor there was more," Layman said. "They know what steps to follow to not violate constitutional law and city ordinances."

While the flyer-posting this week is not illegal, no matter how loathsome the content of the flyers, police say they'd like a chat with those involved in littering their odious message about the area.

"We'd like to have some more information," Dayton said. "If it's someone local, we can have a conversation with them and see what their agenda is."

Anyone who might have camera footage that could identify those responsible for strewing the flyers about the region is asked to contact their local police departments.

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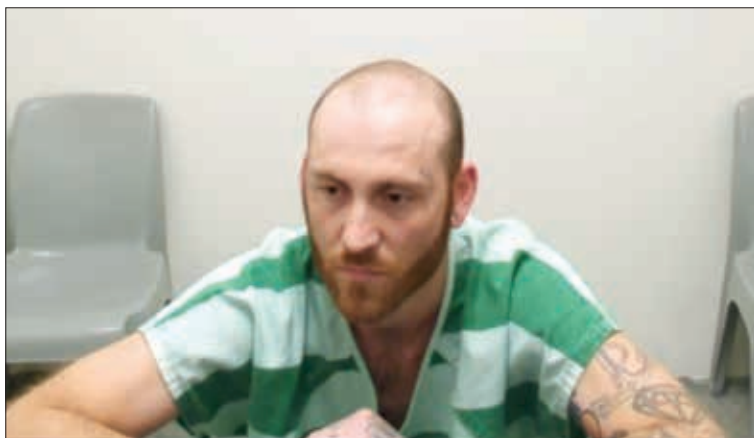
Centralia Man Charged for Alleged Sexual Assault of Girl

By Emily Fitzgerald
emily@chronline.com

Bail was set at \$50,000 on Thursday for a Centralia man accused of sexually assaulting a girl under the age of 15 repeatedly between August 2019 and August 2021.

The abuse was reported to the Lewis County Sheriff's Office in October 2022. The sheriff's office conducted an investigation and referred charges against the suspect, Robert Daniel Vaughan Jr., 32, to the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office.

When questioned, Vaughan allegedly admitted "some inappropriate things occurred between him and (the victim)" and "admitted there were videos and that their messages had gotten



Robert Daniel Vaughan Jr., 32, makes an appearance in Lewis County Superior Court on Thursday.

weird," but he denied sexually assaulting the victim, according to court documents.

He did allegedly admit to some of the sexually abusive ac-

tions described by the victim in her reports and he reportedly claimed the victim "tried" to give him oral sex," according to court documents.

Vaughan was arrested and booked into the Lewis County Jail on June 7 and prosecutors filed seven rape of a child and child molestation charges against Vaughan in Lewis County Superior Court on June 8.

"These are serious allegations," Deputy Prosecutor Scott Jackson said of Vaughan's case on Thursday.

Jackson asked Judge J. Andrew Toynbee to set Vaughan's bail at \$100,000 due to concerns for community safety risk and concerns about the allegation other minor children were present for the alleged abuse of the victim.

Defense attorney Rachael Tiller, however, asked Toynbee to set Vaughan's bail no higher than \$25,000 due to Vaughan's lack of

criminal history, his strong ties to the community, family support and his financial status.

Toynbee opted to set bail between the two requests, at \$50,000.

He additionally approved Jackson's requests for a no-contact order protecting the victim and conditions of release prohibiting Vaughan from having any contact with minors or going anywhere minors are known to congregate.

Toynbee did allow Vaughan to maintain contact with his own biological children if he is released, "but only under eyes-on supervision," he said, clarifying that another adult must be present at all times.

Arrestment is scheduled for Thursday, June 15.

Lewis County Enacts Burn Restrictions Amid Dry Spell, Fire Risk

By The Chronicle staff

The Lewis County fire marshal on Thursday announced restrictions on outdoor burning for unincorporated property. The new restrictions took effect Friday.

Lewis County is experiencing unseasonably dry conditions and an unusual amount of runaway burn piles, according to a news release from the county.

"After careful review of the current and extended weather forecast, the Lewis County commissioners, community development director and fire marshal have determined that current

"After careful review of the current and extended weather forecast ... (it was) determined that current weather conditions within Lewis County have created substantial fire danger."

Doyle Sanford
fire marshal

weather conditions within Lewis County have created substantial fire danger," Lewis County Fire Marshal Doyle Sanford stated in the release.

Recreational campfires in

designated campgrounds and on private lands are still allowed if:

- The campfire is no greater than 3 feet in diameter inside a ring constructed of metal, stone or brick 8 inches above the sur-

face.

- The campfire has an area at least 10 feet around it cleared of all flammable materials and at least 20 feet of clearance from overhead flammable materials or fuels.

- The campfire is attended at all times by a responsible person with the ability to extinguish the fire with a shovel and a 5-gallon bucket of water or garden hose.

If building a campfire, the fire marshal stated it's important to completely extinguish the fire by pouring water or moist soil in them and stirring with a shovel until all parts are cool to the

touch.

The burning restriction applies to applicants with a current open burning permits, which expired at midnight Friday.

The burn ban will be in place until the conditions improve. All land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning will be restricted until further notice.

For further information concerning outdoor burning and the restrictions, contact the Lewis County fire marshal at his office inside the Lewis County Public Services building at 2025 NE Kresky Ave. in Chehalis or by phone at 360-740-2696.

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News in Brief

Lewis County PUD Provides Wood Chips to Local Farm That Serves the Community

By The Chronicle staff

The Lewis County Public Utility District (PUD) recently teamed up with a Glenoma farm by recycling wood chips to help serve the community, according to a news release.

Mark and Noël Bates of Rainy Glen Farms and Bates Family Foods serve the entire east Lewis County area with farm fresh vegetables and wholesome, nutritious foods. They also give back to their community, according to the county. In 2022, the farm donated 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Randle Food Bank.

"The PUD serves the community through delivery of safe, reliable, at-cost electricity, which means a significant amount of work keeping the power lines free of vegetation growth and other environmental hazards," PUD stated in the release. "The PUD's tree trimming crew's work is never-ending, but one

crew, led by Kodie Baker, found an opportunity to add additional value to the community by providing the Bates with a half dozen wood chip drops derived from vegetation management work along the highway and other nearby roads."

Mark Bates thanked Lewis County PUD for its assistance.

"When we explained our needs to Kodie and his crew, bam, it happened. Chips appeared! This is a perfect example of an ideal customer-service based model of public and private partnership," Mark Bates said in the release.

The Bates family said they learned about the functionality of wood chips for water conservation and their ability to reduce noxious weeds as mulch on their farm fields and orchards at a small farm symposium last year run provided by a Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board expert.

According to the Bates, they can now grow more food because of the wood chips the PUD provided.

"It's stories like these that make me proud to be a commissioner for such a great organization that always embodies

being there for the community and being at your service," said PUD Commissioner and Board President Ed Rothlin. "This is just another example of how our crews' hard work benefits everyone they work with."

The Bates said they look forward to working even more closely with the PUD in the future.

Sierra Pacific Donates \$2,000 to Twin City Youth Football League

By The Chronicle staff

The Twin City Youth Football League on Thursday announced a donation received from the Sierra Pacific Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.

"With this donation Twin City Youth Football was able to purchase new equipment for use in the 2023 football season," League President Logan Ferrier stated in a news release. "Sierra Pacific Foundation has generously supported Twin City Youth Football for many years and is a great asset to our community."

Registration is now open for

the 2023 season for cheerleading, tackle football and flag football.

For more information, visit www.twincitiesyouthfootball.com

Twin City Youth Football is a nonprofit organization that has served the youth of Centralia, Chehalis and surrounding areas for over 50 years.

The league offers an opportunity for kids to learn and play the game of football, or participate in cheerleading, with a focus on skills building, safety and sportsmanship.

Elderly Man Saved by Boaters in Cowlitz River

By The Daily News

An older man was rescued by two strangers Wednesday morning after falling into the Cowlitz River while fishing near Lion's Pride Park.

Officers were dispatched around 10:30 a.m. to the 1300 block of Huntington Avenue South to learn a man had tumbled down the bank while fishing, according to the Castle Rock Police Facebook page.

Police say the man was par-

tially submerged and, due to pre-existing medical conditions and the terrain, was unable to climb out of the river.

Two men on a boat pulled the elderly man out of the water and onto their ship. After they reached the beach, the victim was met by first responders.

The man didn't suffer from any major injuries but did have a mild case of hypothermia. After being evaluated, he was released to his friend, police say.

Friends of the Winlock Timberland Library to Hold Book Sale

By The Chronicle staff

The Friends of the Winlock Timberland Library will hold a used book sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 16, at 300 NE First St. in Winlock.

All sales at the event, which is being held on the eve of the Egg Day festival, are by donation only.

The nonprofit cannot provide change at the event.

Proceeds support the programs and services of the Winlock Timberland Library.

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Christian Fellowship of Winlock
630 Cemetery Rd, Winlock (360)785-4280. Pastor Terry Sundberg. Sunday Worship & Children's Church at 10:30 a.m. Various Bible Studies throughout the week. AWANA Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (Oct-Apr). www.cfwinlock.org

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EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Central Bible Evangelical Free Church
2333 Sandra Ave
Centralia WA 98531

Pastor: Randy Sortino
Phone: 360-736-2061

Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:00am
Sunday Night Service: 6:00pm
Tuesday Night Venture Club: 5:00pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 6:00pm
Friday Night Biblical Foundations Class: 6:00pm
Saturday Men's Fellowship Breakfast: 7:00am

EPISCOPAL

St. Timothy Episcopal Church
"Walking in the Way of Love"
Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. on-site and by Zoom
(Contact us for Zoom information)
The Rev. Kay Flores
1826 S.W. Snively Avenue, Chehalis
360-748-8232
StTimothyChehalis@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/sttimothychehalis>

INDEPENDENT

Faith Temple Word of Life
519 W. Cherry In Centralia. If you need a miracle, come. Pastor Larry Radach, 748-7916. Sunday School 10:15 am, morning worship, 11:00 am, Sunday evening 6:00 pm. Wednesday Bible study 7:00 pm. Old-fashioned preaching & prayer for the sick. Everyone welcome. 330-2667 or 748-7916

Centralia Christian Church
Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
(9:00 am service has classes for Nursery-5th grade. 10:30 am service has Nursery only.)
Wednesday Evening Youth Group for Middle School & High School at 6:30 pm
Lead Pastor: Brad Brenner
1215 W Main St.
360-736-7655
centraliachristian.org

LUTHERAN

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA
1209 N. Scheuber Road, Centralia. Pastor, Peter Mohr, 360-736-9270, Sunday Worship 10am
Online services can be found at GodWithUs.Today. For more information: www.ilccentralia.org or email admin@ilccentralia.org

St. John's Lutheran Church-ELCA
2190 Jackson Highway, Chehalis. Worship Service is 9:30 am
Pastor Jim Odden.
Office hours Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 360-748-4741.
<https://www.stjohnschehalis.net/>
Also we have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschehalis>

St. Marks Lutheran Church-LCMC
10000 Hwy. 12 Rochester, WA
Pastor: Lauren Macan-Wightman
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
facebook.com/StMarksLutheranChurchRochesterWA/

MESSIANIC

Chesed v' Shalom Ministries
Meets Saturday mornings at Immanuel Lutheran 1209 N Scheuber in Centralia
Shabbat Service 11:00 am
Rabbi James Pace
Phone: 360-736-1601
www.cvsm.us

METHODIST

Centralia United Methodist Church
506 S. Washington. Pastor Vangie Rand
In-person worship 10:00 a.m.
Please wear a mask.
Online worship on our Facebook page
All are welcome. 360-736-7311.

Winlock United Methodist Church
107 SW Benton Ave., Winlock, WA. Pastor Tara Roberts. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Children Church is available during worship. Childcare available during the church service. Fellowship follows at 11 a.m. All are welcome. 360-785-4241

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Cornerstone Fellowship
Independent Fellowship of Believers
277 Brown Rd. East Chehalis, Pastor Jim Blankenship, 10:00 a.m. coffee and cookies fellowship, 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday/Wednesday evening service at 6:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

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"We are called by God to offer Hope and New Life through Jesus Christ and to serve our Community as a visible Expression of God's Love"

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM:
In-person and Facebook Live
Nursery and childcare available

Thursdays: Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM
Women's Bible Study 11:00 AM

Prayer Requests: TPCPray4Me@gmail.com
Tony Reynolds, Pastor
pastor_tpc@icloud.com
(360)864-2479

Westminster Presbyterian Church



Pastor Robin Crawford
349 North Market
Boulevard
Chehalis, WA 98532

Worship Sunday 10:00 am
In-person and live online

Mission Statement:
Loving and Serving God and All People
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Worship Listening enhancement,

After Worship Social Time,
Men's coffee and Bible Study
Wed. 7:30 - 9:00 am
Women's Bible Study - call for time and location.

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or call 360-748-0091
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Mon - Thurs 9 am to 3 pm

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Seventh Day Adventist, Chehalis
120 Chilvers Rd
(2 miles west on Hwy. 6 at Exit 77)
360-748-4330
Pastor - Matt Parra
Associate Pastor - Enrique Vado
Service on Saturdays, Sabbath School 9:30 am, Worship Service 11:00 am

UNITY

Center for Positive Living
A spiritual community open to seekers and believers on all paths to God.
Sunday Service 10:00 am
800 S. Pearl, Centralia.
360-330-5259. unityofcentralia.net.
Event space available.



Abandoned House and Outbuilding Destroyed in Wednesday Night Fire in Centralia

By Emily Fitzgerald
emily@chronline.com

An abandoned residence and an attached outbuilding in the 1200 block of Centralia Avenue were destroyed in a fire Wednesday evening.

The house was unoccupied at the time of the incident and no injuries were reported.

Crews with the Riverside Fire Authority, the Chehalis Fire Department, Lewis County Fire District 6 and the West Thurston Regional Fire Authority were

dispatched to the blaze at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7.

Firefighters remained at the scene fighting the flames until 10:55 p.m. that evening.

A commercial building south of the burning residence sustained some minor heat damage, according to Riverside Assistant Chief Kevin Anderson, but “the fire was prevented from extending into that building,” he said.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation as of Thursday morning.



Andrew Boggess / For The Chronicle

The Riverside Fire Authority and other surrounding fire districts respond to a house fire on the corner of Centralia Avenue and Grove Street in Centralia, Wednesday evening, June 7.



This photo comes courtesy of former Lewis County Sheriff's Office pilot Dave Neiser and pilot-in-training Riggs Westlund, who were flying over Chehalis this afternoon when they saw the smoke from the Kresky area. They flew closer and snapped this photo of the structure on fire.



Andrew Boggess / For The Chronicle

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Sports editor: Alec Dietz

Phone number: 807-8229

e-mail: alec@chronline.com

The Chronicle

2023 All-Area Softball Team



Jared Wenzelburger / jwenzelburger@chronline.com

From left to right, Rochester's Layna Demers, Rainier's Brooklynn Swenson, Tumwater's Ella Ferguson, PWV's Lauren Matlock, Centralia's Judy Vallejo, W.F. West's Avalon Myers, Adna's Ava Simms, W.F. West's Brielle Etter, Centralia's Makayla Chavez, PWV's Payton Peterson, Black Hills' Zoey Theophilus, Toledo's Quyn Norberg, and Onalaska's Lisa Liddell pose for a photo at Bob Peters Field in Centralia.

MVP: Adna's Karlee VonMoos Caps Stellar Career With State Title

By The Chronicle staff

Less than a week after getting shut out against an upstart Ocosta team in the 2B District 4 title game, and a year after falling in the 2B state title game in 2022, the Adna softball team got its redemption when it mattered most at the 2B state tournament in Yakima in 2023.

Led by All-Area MVP Karlee VonMoos, who was also an all-area selection in both soccer and basketball this season, and a Central 2B League MVP in each sport, the Pirates defeated Ocosta in the state semifinals — with VonMoos going 3 for 4 with a double and a triple — and then smacked Forks in the state title game to return to the 2B softball mountaintop.

Though VonMoos made state in each sport she played this school year, she hadn't ended a season on a win until softball, and helped Adna to its first softball state chip since 2019, when she was helping to run bases as an eighth-grader.

"It feels really good to say we did it," VonMoos said. "To actually get to do it and be a big part of it feels great. Emotions were running really high afterwards, it was just a great way to finish my senior year."

VonMoos guided the Pirates at the plate all year as its 3-hole hitter, finishing the season with a .630 batting average, a 1.859 OPS, 10 home runs, 46 RBIs, 49 runs scored, and 10 stolen bases.

In three games at state, VonMoos went 10 for 14 with three doubles, two triples, two home runs, nine runs scored, and nine RBIs.

"It took a lot of sacrificed weekends," VonMoos said. "Going to extra softball practices, tons of time in the batting cage and pitching, countless hours with my dad sitting on a bucket catching for me."

Brooklynn Loose, her teammate since kindergarten and Central 2B League co-MVP, has witnessed VonMoos' hard work since a young age. Both were on Adna's last state championship team as eighth-graders, and Loose has seen VonMoos grow as both a player and a leader on



Adna's Karlee VonMoos poses for a photo at Adna High School.

the diamond over the years.

"It's really special," Loose said of her friend. "We've been best friends since kindergarten, and growing up playing tee-ball, we were best friends throughout and hung out every single day. Karlee brought not just skills but a lot of leadership. She was the best leader on our team, she got everyone to do what they were supposed to and she just brought a lot."

VonMoos also operated as Adna's second pitcher, behind another All-Area selection in Ava Simms, pitching 45 innings with 70 strikeouts and batters hitting just .165 against her.

The Adna senior — finishing her career with a state chip and two state trophies this season after a sixth-place finish in hoops — was an three-time All-Area selection this season, and made five All-Area teams in her high school career.

To go along with that, VonMoos finished as the C2BL's back-to-back co-MVP in softball, and finished her career as one of

Adna's most decorated girls athletes in school history.

The senior will graduate and play next year at Lower Columbia Community College — along with teammate Brooklynn Loose — in both basketball and softball.

The Chronicle's All-Area Softball Team

Hailey Brooks, Mossyrock

Possibly the most feared hitter in all of 1B softball, Mossyrock's slugger — committed to play D-I ball at Cal State Bakersfield next spring — was walked in over third of her plate appearances. When she did get something to hit, she usually did, working up a .689 average with eight homers, nine triples, and seven doubles.

Makayla Chavez, Centralia

Centralia's junior at shortstop hit an even .400, with 10 doubles, 15 runs scored, and 21 RBIs, helping lead the Tigers back to the state tournament for the

first time since 2011 and earning first-team all-EvCo honors.

Layna Demers, Rochester

Rochester's sophomore in the circle turned in yet another solid season, striking out 99 batters in 99 ⅓ innings. At the plate, she had all four Warriors' home runs this season and drove 15 runs in.

Brielle Etter, W.F. West

Etter hit .418 this season with 21 RBIs and 32 runs scored, while also drawing a team-best 21 walks. Pairing up with Avalon in the middle of the W.F. West infield, she committed just seven errors at second base.

Ella Ferguson, Tumwater

Tumwater's sophomore ace got all but eight outs for the Thunderbirds this season, throwing 141 ⅓ innings and piling up 240 strikeouts. Opposing batters managed just a .184 batting average against her, and she

finished the season with a 1.83 ERA, earning 2A EvCo MVP honors for her efforts.

Lisa Liddell, Onalaska

The only Logger on the all-C2BL first team, Liddell announced herself as one of the best arms in the league as a sophomore, striking out 152 and only walking 30 batters in 14 games.

please see ALL-AREA, page B5



CHRONICLE_PHOTOS

Summer Baseball

I-5 Toyota Mountain Dew Drops Home Opener to Kelso Premier

By The Chronicle staff

Playing in its first game of the AA American Legion season at Ed Wheeler Field in Centralia, the I-5 Toyota Mountain

Dew baseball team lost its home opener to Kelso Premier Tuesday afternoon, 15-3.

I-5 was held to just two hits, with Cal Bullock knocking in

two runs on a single, and Ashton Demarest hitting a double that scored a run to round out a tough day at the plate earlier this week.

On the bump, Brady Sprague got the start and absorbed the loss, pitching 5 ½ innings with eight hits allowed, eight runs — with just four earned — with

two walks and four strikeouts.

I-5 took on Lower Columbia's AAA squad on Thursday at Story Field for its next contest.

Renegades Win 12U GSL Northwest Regional Championships



Courtesy Photo

The 12U Rochester Renegades won last weekend's 12U GSL Northwest Regional Championships in Chehalis. The Renegades allowed just seven runs in five games and are currently ranked No. 2 in the 12U GSL, which includes Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Pictured from left to right, in the top row: Coach Easley, Noah Tomaro, Marshall Turnquist, Peter Hayden (MVP), Brody Easley, Kaiser Tartios, Clayton Knutson, Coach Knutson, Kohlton Wayland, and Coach Driver. In the bottom row: Easton Miller, Owen Driver, Bentley Alfonso, Tyson Canales, and Darin Ware.

NFL

Seahawks Minicamp Ends With a Twist: Devon Witherspoon Moves to Inside Slot DB

By Gregg Bell

The News Tribune

It's the best thing an NFL team's coach or talent evaluator can say about a top rookie draft choice.

Especially the fifth pick of the entire draft.

"He's as advertised," Seahawks assistant general manager Nolan Teasley said Thursday.

He was talking about Devon Witherspoon.

This week, the first cornerback taken in last month's draft that everyone around the Seahawks has been talking about was even more than advertised.

The team on Thursday ended its three-day, mandatory minicamp and essentially the most extensive on-field work until training camp begins July 26. During the three practices, Witherspoon often was an inside, slot cornerback as coach Pete Carroll tried defensive combinations.

The standout for attacking passes in the air and tackling at the University of Illinois did so from outside cornerback. He had been Seattle's starting left cornerback from rookie minicamp through the whole-team organized team activities of May into June. The Seahawks made Witherspoon their highest-selected cornerback in a quarter century, since Shawn Springs went third overall to Seattle in 1997 — to start at left cornerback.

Outside, that is.

But Thursday you could almost hear Carroll, a former defensive back, salivating from the middle of the practice field at his idea: Witherspoon possibly playing along with 2022 Pro Bowl cornerback Tariq Woolen, last season's nickel defensive back Coby Bryant, plus 2022 starter Michael Jackson or promising 2021 draft pick Tre Brown in unique match-up alignments this Seahawks season.

Carroll went out of his way to declare Jackson the best Seahawks player of OTAs and minicamp this spring.

Woolen said after watching another practice Thursday he feels great following his ar-

throscopic knee surgery last month. He and Carroll said he's on track to be practicing at the start of training camp.

The 6-foot-1, 193-pound Bryant sprained his foot late last month. That kept him out of the last couple weeks of offseason training — and opened the door for Carroll and defensive backs coach Karl Scott to try Witherspoon at slot cornerback inside.

"He's capable of playing in there," Carroll said.

"I talked to him about it way back when, and he was all excited: 'I can learn it all. I can get it.' He was really positive about it, so when we gave him the chance he jumped right on it.

"He is a really good football player. He gets it, man. It makes sense to him, and he does things naturally very well. That expedites the process (of learning inside). So, we'll see. This will be a really good film today again to check him out.

"But we've seen him pretty much in charge of the position. So, we'll see how it goes."

Witherspoon's reaction to the experiment?

He'd walk across Lake Washington to Mercer Island if Carroll and the Seahawks asked him to.

"It's been very cool. It's an unreal feeling, just a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Witherspoon said of his first Seattle practices. "I just try to take it all in coming out here with the guys.

"I'm just coming in here to compete, represent the Seahawks, and just have that Seahawk on my helmet. There's a lot that plays into it. But it's a feeling that you can't describe."

Carroll, general manager John Schneider and Seahawks scouts including director of college scouting Aaron Highline saw Witherspoon play some slot defensive back for Illinois. But that was to get Witherspoon in match-ups against a top opposing receiver more than any Illinois defensive scheme of Witherspoon as a nickel back inside.

"He wasn't a nickel in their defense, but he wound up inside. We've seen him play on slots," Carroll said.

"It didn't matter where he was

playing. He covered everybody.

"He's a special cover guy. His quickness and his instincts...really lend him to he can be an effective player there (inside)."

Carroll said Bryant hasn't needed surgery for his ongoing foot issue.

"No," the coach said, "we haven't heard that yet."

Carroll said Bryant will take all of the seven weeks between now and the start of training camp July 26 to rest the foot in hopes of him being back on the field for the start of the pre-season.

Defensive Backs Galore

Witherspoon's experiment at inside, slot corner is proof Carroll believes he has many cornerbacks and safeties that can play effectively in his techniques, and in new schemes.

So many, Seattle's defense may often have only one linebacker, Bobby Wagner, on the field in games this season.

"This is as competitive as we've been (in the defensive secondary) in a long time," Carroll, the creator of Seattle's onefamed "Legion of Boom," said.

These spring OTAs and minicamps showed glimpses of what Carroll's overhaul of the defense may look like this fall.

Dre'Mont Jones, the team's uncharacteristically expensive free-agent signing at \$51 million from Denver, joined brought-back Jarran Reed and rookie nose tackle and Cameron Young as the three starting down linemen with hands on the ground in a three-point stance.

Those appear to be the run stoppers to begin the 2023 season — especially with Carroll saying Thursday nose tackle Bryan Mone is a long way back from his season-ending injury late last year.

That's one more true defensive linemen than the Seahawks often had on the field last year. That was with inside edge pass rushers Uchenna Nwosu and Bruce Irvin running straight upfield to quarterbacks. The result was the NFL's 30th-ranked rush defense in 2022.

Nwosu, entering the final

year of his contract after a 9 1/2-sack season, and 2022 second-round pick Boye Mafe were the starting outside linebackers rushing off edges in these off-season practices. Wagner and new arrival Devin Bush were the inside linebackers.

But when the Seahawks went to extra defensive backs in pass-defense drills, Wagner was at times the only linebacker dropping into coverage. Nwosu and Mafe rushed the passer.

Carroll said Wednesday the team's not ruling out safety Jamal Adams returning for the start of training camp. But that still seems unlikely. Adams is coming back from a tricky torn quadriceps tendon he got in last season's opener.

When and if Adams returns, Carroll's plan is to play Adams, Pro Bowl free safety Quandre Diggs and 2022 New York Giants captain Julian Love as a three-safety base defense. Adams is poised to be closer to the line of scrimmage to blitz quarterbacks and stop the run, as he did while getting 9 1/2 sacks for Seattle in 2020 to set an NFL record for defensive backs. Love, who has played all positions in the secondary in the NFL, and Diggs would stay back in pass coverage.

That's five defensive backs — with Witherspoon and Woolen the cornerbacks — plus five linemen/outside linebackers across the line of scrimmage. That would leave Wagner as the 11th defender, the lone linebacker inside.

Witherspoon's, Love's and Bryant's versatility give Carroll options of playing essentially a 5-1-5 within his 3-4 scheme. That is, if you count outside backers Nwosu and Mafe rushing the edges as fourth and fifth players along the line.

Such a unique scheme would give opposing offensive play callers — including creative run-pass maestro Kyle Shanahan of San Francisco, the team Seattle must conquer to win the NFC West — something new to think about for Seahawks games in 2023.

All this is whether or not Jordyn Brooks, the Seahawks' start-

ing inside linebacker last season when Wagner was away playing for the Rams, comes back anytime this season. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee in January. October would be on the early side of a typical return from an ACL surgery.

Zach Charbonnet Impresses

Pete Carroll on rookie running back Zach Charbonnet from UCLA, the Seahawks' second-round pick: "Zach does everything well...He's just a complete ball player."

Don't be surprised at the playing time and opportunities Charbonnet gets with returning 1,000-yard rusher Kenneth Walker in Seattle's backfield this season.

Undrafted rookies Sutherland, Bobo gain

Carroll said "two, three or four" undrafted rookies could be competing to play this season.

The first two he mentioned: safety Jonathan Sutherland from Penn State and wide receiver Jake Bobo from UCLA.

Sutherland was getting some reps with the starting defense as Seahawks coaches tried different combos.

Bobo's size at 6-4, 207 is intriguing. Coaches were on him a lot this spring, a sign they want him to develop. "BoBO!!!" calls from teammates were a daily staple of OTAs and minicamp practices.

Doug Baldwin, Graduation Speaker

Retired Seahawks Pro Bowl and Super Bowl-winning wide receiver Doug Baldwin will be Seattle University's undergraduate undergraduate commencement speaker. The graduation ceremony is Monday at Climate Pledge Arena.

A Stanford graduate with a bachelor's in science, technology and society, Baldwin will receive an honorary doctorate degree from Seattle University.

Baldwin was the commencement speaker at Bellevue College in 2021.

NBA

If Jokic and Murray Continue Like This, the Heat Are Cooked in NBA Finals

By Dave Hyde

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

MIAMI — Say what you will about the Heat's culture and the full roster's effort lacking in a Game 3 performance that had all the lackluster feel of a back-to-back game in January.

Out-rebounded. Out-hustled. Out-and-outdone by Denver.

Say what you will about all that — and Heat coach Erik Spoelstra will say a lot leading into Friday's Game 4 of the NBA Finals, just as a good coach should.

There's still a more troublesome truth right now for the Heat: Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray have been the two best players through the three games this series. It was no contest Wednesday in Game 3, when they became the second teammates to record triple-doubles in NBA Finals history.

If this narrative continues through Game 4, that's it for the Heat. They'll be down 3-1 in the series. They're not beating this team three straight, including two in Denver, no matter how good a story they are or how much they've overcome.

So, you can talk about hustle and rebounds and any other number you want — the 3-point shooting is a telltale statistic of mine — and you're just gumming up the central truth of this series.

If Jokic and Murray keep playing like this, the Heat are sunk. And let's be honest here: Jokic is a two-time league Most Valuable Player who was voted runner-up this season only because no one wanted to make him a three-time MVP when so few casual fans really see him.

So, Jokic is going to be the best player in this series unless some surprise is coming. He had 32 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists in Game 3. It was his record 10th triple-double of the playoffs. He may look like an oaf on first impression, the guy you'd never take first in a pick-



Kyle Terada/Pool / Getty Images

The Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic (15) grabs a rebound in the second half against the Miami Heat in Game 3 of the NBA Finals at Kaseya Center on June 7, 2023, in Miami.

up game, but he has a golden game that elevates him to an all-time great.

The question then, the one the Heat needs a good answer for, is if Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo can be the second- and third-best players out there. If, in short, they outplay Murray. Yes, both of them.

That's what is demanded. It's really simple to pick the best team in basketball. Tell me which team has two of the top three players. That's usually the winner.

It's great that Duncan Robinson had 10 points in the fourth

quarter of the Heat's Game 2 win, and Caleb Martin scored 26 in Game 7 against Boston. Winning teams have one or two of the cast members step forward in a nice way like that. Rookie Christian Braun had 15 points for Denver in Game 3. Nice, but not the reason they won.

Championship teams win with their best players playing their best. It's not hard to understand that. The Heat once had The Big Three. San Antonio had the Three Amigos. Golden State had The Splash Brothers. Great teams have that identity.

That's Jokic and Murray for

Denver. And it's Butler and Adebayo for the Heat. The Heat's duo were good again in the box score in Game 3. Butler had 28 points. Adebayo had 22 points and 17 rebounds. But these weren't game-changing numbers. They were just an accountant's record-keeping as Denver was never challenged in the second half.

The Heat, too, often need an add-on to win, and there wasn't one coming Wednesday. They shot a frigid 11 of 35 on 3-pointers. They can't win against this team doing that.

We're at that stage where

good sometimes isn't good enough. You have to be great, as Butler has been at times. He dominated the Milwaukee series. Remember his 56 points in Game 3 and 42 points in Game 4?

He hasn't been dominant since. It's like Playoff Jimmy is missing a gear. Something, it seems, is off. Maybe we'll find out at series' end.

Adebayo probably can't be asked to do much more than he is through three games. He's the prime pick-setter up top for an offense predicated on him doing that. He's being aggressive on offense in a manner he sometimes isn't. He's Mr. Versatile on defense. All good. Not great.

Butler smothered Murray on defense in Game 2. Denver coach Mike Malone figured how to get Murray loose with simple pick-and-hand-offs to him in Game 3. The result was Murray scored 34 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

There is another stat to Murray that Spoelstra will seize on leading into Game 4. He had seven turnovers. Maybe that's something to mine coming up. Maybe. Possibly.

Here's the larger picture: Jokic and Murray aren't Boston's Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. Tatum went a couple of games without taking a fourth-quarter shot and Brown couldn't carry his part of the deal. Boston sunk primarily because they sunk.

The Heat no doubt caused Tatum and Brown to look troubled at times. It's like they've given up trying to trouble Jokic and need a Plan B on Murray.

So much talk will be about the Heat playing harder and closer to their identity. That's needed. But don't overthink all this. Butler and Adebayo need to find another gear for the Heat to muster four wins. If Jokic and Murray remain the best two players, Game 4 will be the final home game of the Heat season.

College Basketball

New Washington State Post Isaac Jones Takes Long Road to Pac-12

By Colton Clark

The Spokesman-Review

PULLMAN — Four years ago, Isaac Jones thought his basketball career was over.

Now, he's in line for a starting role at Washington State.

The 6-foot-9 post from Spanaway, Washington, took a roundabout route to the high-major ranks.

"I had to work so hard to get here, and I have to keep proving myself," Jones said recently by phone.

After an underwhelming prep career, the Orting High grad stepped away from the sport and joined the workforce. Jones spent a year employed at Puget Sound Pipe & Supply.

"I didn't think I was going to play after high school," Jones said. "I liked basketball, but didn't love it, and I didn't have

the best high school career. After my senior year, I didn't have any offers. ... I started paying bills and helping my mom out."

But a fortuitous opportunity brought Jones back to the court in 2019 at Wenatchee Valley College.

Jones' friend — fellow Spanaway product Joseph Lowe — was searching for a playing offer at the junior-college level. Lowe got in contact with Wenatchee Valley coach Jeremy Harden.

"I got a cold call from another prospective student-athlete who wanted to be a part of our team," Harden said. "I told him, 'We're looking for some size, so if you know anyone who's 6-8 or bigger, then I could possibly have a spot for you.'"

"(Lowe) said, 'My best friend is 6-8.' He sent me some video, and it was Isaac. I ended up taking both players."

Harden was intrigued with Jones' potential — his size and 7-3 wingspan stood out — but knew it'd take some time to trim pounds and knock off the rust. Jones weighed about 280 pounds when he first arrived at Wenatchee Valley, and several elements of his game were "unstable," Harden said.

"But he hit the ground running and ended up figuring it out," Harden said. "He was in the gym for early mornings and late nights. He realized he had some potential and could do this. His work ethic was good. He had good length, big hands and long arms, and not many of those guys walk into the gym. When we started playing a little bit, he handled the ball pretty well."

It was a "leap of faith" for Jones, who had to get back in shape and rededicate himself to basketball.

"I wasn't very good when I got there," he said. "I was really overweight and I had never really lifted (weights) before. Then I started getting more athletic and explosive, and that changed

everything. Once I started developing a little bit, I was like, 'I think I have a shot.'"

Jones captured a starting job as a freshman in 2019-20 and put up averages of 10.6 points and 7.9 rebounds per game. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, Jones decided to stay in Wenatchee and focused on honing his skills.

"That was huge for him," Harden said. "He was able to be in the gym, getting a lot of shots up and getting a lot of conditioning. He made a big jump between his freshman and sophomore year. I knew (Jones had a future in basketball) when I saw his dedication."

Jones posted per-game averages of 18.9 points and 12.6 rebounds during the coronavirus-shortened 2020-21 season.

"I had some Division II interest, but I decided to come back and that's the year I blew up," Jones said.

In 2021-22, Jones became a Northwest Athletic Conference star. He claimed NWAC Player of the Year honors after averaging 25.3 points and 13.2 rebounds per game while shooting 69.6% from the field — all conference highs.

A few years prior, playing for a Division I program may have only been a dream for Jones. But D-I offers started pouring in after his productive third season.

His offer sheet included a few high-major programs — WSU, Iowa State and Oregon State among them — but Jones chose the University of Idaho.

His mentor, Harden, had taken a job as an assistant with the Vandals. And Jones' hometown friend, guard Divant'e Moffitt, was headed to Moscow.

"He saw it as an opportunity to play with his best friend and also to be able to play under myself again, and have some more development at a higher level," Harden said. "The stars aligned and we were fortunate to do it together."

Jones wound up on the All-Big Sky second team and earned the conference's newcomer of the year award.

Jones finished second in the Big Sky in scoring (19.4 ppg) and set a season high with 42 points. He placed fourth in the conference in rebounding (7.8 per game) and first in blocks (1.13 per game). Jones also led the conference and finished ninth nationally in field-goal percentage (62.9%).

"I wanted to make an immediate impact," Jones said. "I wasn't necessarily surprised by what I did, because I knew how hard I'd worked. I feel like I proved that I can compete at any level. It was a jump that I had to make, and I plan on doing it again, but even better."

The Vandals had parted ways with coach Zac Claus late in the season, and Jones opted to enter the transfer portal in late April with one season of eligibility remaining. He earned a four-star transfer grade and was the No. 9-ranked big man in the portal, according to 247Sports.com.

Jones signed with the Cougars in mid-May, choosing WSU over the likes of Villanova, Memphis, Arizona State and Clemson.

"I wanted to represent my home state for my last year," Jones said. "I love the coaches here. It was a perfect situation for me."

WSU coach Kyle Smith said last month that he expects Jones to adopt a starting role in the Cougars' frontcourt and offset the loss of All-Pac-12 center Mouhamed Gueye, who is hoping to hear his name called in the NBA draft later this month.

"I watched Mouhamed play last year and I was like, 'I can play like him,'" Jones said. "I took some stuff from his game. (WSU coaches) wanted me to replace his production and his minutes, and we're kind of similar in some areas."

Jones said he specializes in

"getting to the basket, getting downhill."

At 240 pounds, Jones said he "uses my long arms to get shots over people."

"I don't think there will be too much of an adjustment (to the power-conference level)," Harden said. "The biggest adjustment will be on the defensive side, but offensively, he can play against anyone from any conference. I think he's more than ready. He's a confident kid who has put in enough time and effort."

Smith sees Jones as a "great fit for the offensive scheme." Jones, like Gueye, can function as the centerpiece of the Cougars' offense and open doors for his teammates.

"I can draw double teams and make crosscourt passes," said Jones, who averaged 1.7 assists per game last season at Idaho. "I think my passing will stand out a little more this year, because we have dudes who can really shoot the ball."

Becoming a more productive shooter from midrange and 3-point distance is a priority for Jones, who shot 6 of 19 from beyond the arc last season.

"My jumper is getting better and better, and I think it's going to surprise a lot of people," he said. "(Smith) talked to me about how I'd develop here. Shooting was one of the aspects I needed and this is a great place for it."

Now living in Pullman with his fiancée, Jones is settling in with his new team. The Cougars conducted their first offseason practice earlier this week — and taking nothing for granted.

"I'm gonna give it all I've got," he said. "I want to come in and hit the ground running, get into the best shape of my life and keep polishing my game. I've always had to prove myself. I just have to keep the mindset that I haven't proven anything yet."

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Continued from page B1

Brooklyn Loose, Adna

The other C2BL Co-MVP finished her Adna career with a bang, going 4 for 5 with her 10th home run of the season in the 2B state title win over Forks. That put the cap on a senior season that saw Loose rack up a .592 batting average and a 1.795 OPS, smacking nine doubles, driving in 37 runs, and scoring 53 more..

Lauren Matlock, PWV

Pe Ell-Willapa Valley's lead-off hitter batted an even .500 with 12 doubles on the season, and ended her year with a bang, going 10 for 17 at the 2B state tournament with three of her four triples and two of her three home runs in four games.

Avalon Myers, W.F. West

W.F. West's sophomore shortstop got hot as the spring wore on, hitting five of her team-high eight home runs after May 1. She also led the Bearcats with 43 hits, 40 RBIs, and 40 runs scored, hitting .506 on the season.

Quyn Norberg, Toledo

Norberg led the Riverhawks with a .772 slugging percentage, smacking nine doubles, four triples, and a pair of home runs in a season where she hit .481. She also drove 27 runs in and swiped 10 bases.

Payton Peterson, PWV

One of two seniors on Pe Ell-Willapa Valley's roster, Peterson led the way from behind the dish with no errors, while also hitting .453 with six triples and 32 RBIs.

Ava Simms, Adna

Simms' 48 RBIs led the Pirates, and she hit .534 with six home runs. But the sophomore shined brightest in the circle, pitching Adna to a state crown with a 14-1 record in the circle, 157 strikeouts, and a 1.42 ERA.

Brooklynn Swenson, Rainier

Swenson hit .541 with team highs in hits (40), doubles (11), triples (seven), and RBIs (40). She also bombed three homers to finish the season with a 1.575 OPS, earning first-team all-C2BL honors.

Zoey Theophilus, Black Hills

One of two Black Hills players to make the all-EvCo first team, Theophilus struck out 131 batters in 110 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, while also hitting .500 with eight doubles, seven homers, and 33 RBIs in her senior season.

Judy Vallejo, Centralia

The senior all-EvCo first-teamer committed just one error all season managing the Tigers' pitching staff, while also driving in 16 runs at the plate and managing at least one hit in every game of the postseason.

Soccer Legend Lionel Messi Says He Intends to Play for Inter Miami

MIAMI (TNS) — Lionel Messi is coming to Inter Miami, rejecting a \$500 million deal from Saudi Arabia and a sentimental pull to return to FC Barcelona, where he spent the first 21 years of his career. His highly anticipated decision puts to rest an endless trail of rumors that circulated around the world for years and dominated soccer social media the past few weeks.

In an exclusive interview on the Mundo Deportivo website, a Barcelona sports outlet, Messi said he really wanted to go back to FC Barcelona. He was with Barcelona in 2021, but the team's financial issues forced a trade to Paris Saint-Germain. He didn't want to see his future up in the air.

"I have taken the decision today that I'm going to Miami," Messi said in the interview. "I still don't have it sealed 100%.



Adna's Karlee VonMoos, left, and Ava Simms pose for a photo at Adna High School.

Jared Wenzelburger / jwenzelburger@chronline.com



Alec Dietz / alec@chronline.com

Mossyrock shortstop Hailey Brooks gets ready before an pitch against Onalaska May 8.

Soccer

There are a few things that we are still working on. If it wasn't going to work out in Barcelona, I wanted to leave Europe, take the focus away from myself and focus more on my family."

Messi owns a vacation home in South Florida, visits frequently, and has said on several occasions that the idea of playing in the United States and experiencing the Miami lifestyle with his family appeal to him.

The 35-year-old Argentine superstar and reigning World Cup champion instantly be-

comes the highest paid and highest profile athlete not only in South Florida, but in the entire United States.

Messi ranks No. 2 on Forbes' Highest Paid Athletes list at \$130 million, just behind Cristiano Ronaldo. In 2023 he earned \$65 million in salary from Paris Saint Germain and an additional \$65 million in endorsements.

He has 468 million Instagram followers. NBA star LeBron James, by comparison, has 154 million, and Odell Beckham Jr. tops the NFL with 17 million.

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MLB

Mariners Extra: Five Lingerin' Questions as M's Approach Critical Stretch

By Adam Jude

The Seattle Times

After an off day Thursday, the Mariners close out this road trip with three games in Anaheim over the weekend, starting with a marquee matchup Friday night between the Mariners' Luis Castillo and the Angels' Shohei Ohtani.

This is must-see TV ... as long as you remember your Apple TV+ password. (Call it a QWERTY game.)

Ahead of this critical series, here are five questions facing the Mariners right now:

1. Can they flip the switch again?

At 30-31, the Mariners are already 10 games back of the first-place Rangers in the AL West. They were embarrassed in Texas to open this road trip last week, and they can't afford a similar showing this weekend against another divisional rival in Anaheim.

It was mid-June last year when the Mariners hit rock bottom, falling to 29-39 following a loss to the Angels in Seattle on June 19.

If you're inclined to have a glass-half-full outlook, well, the Mariners haven't dug themselves that big of a hole this season. There is still time for a turnaround, and there are still encouraging signs that this team is capable of that (you just have to squint sometimes).

From a pessimistic point of view, well, the Mariners haven't exactly played inspiring baseball over the past week. They played maybe their best all-around game of the season in a 4-1 victory at San Diego on Tuesday, only to get blasted 10-3 on Wednesday afternoon.

That 24-hour swing nicely encapsulated the up-and-down extremes of the past month.

The Mariners can't bank on another 14-game winning streak to save their season. That's not realistic. But their pitching is too good and their offense has too much potential for them to be this maddening and this inconsistent, and they need to have a sense of urgency to get things turned in the right direction soon ... or this season could get away from them quickly.

2. Will they ever get the strikeouts under control?

Mariners hitters rank third in MLB in strikeouts, with 592 entering Thursday, behind only the Twins (641) and Giants (612).

Team officials entered the season cautiously optimistic that this new "balanced" lineup would cut down on Seattle's strikeout rate of 22.8% from 2022. Instead, the strikeout rate has increased to 25.9%.

Four of Seattle's hitters rank among MLB's top 10 strikeout leaders: Teoscar Hernandez (first, with 83), Jarred Kelenic (fifth, 76), Eugenio Suarez (sixth, 75) and Julio Rodriguez (10th, 72).

You could live with some extra strikeouts if the payoff was some pop ... but the Mariners rank just 21st in MLB in home runs with 63 (only one more than the lowly A's).

So, yeah, it seems like a pretty obvious statement: The Mariners need to revive their offense, and the best way to do that is to put more balls in play.

3. Teo Time?

Julio is looking more like himself over the past two weeks.

Could Hernandez be the next Mariners bat to break out of his early-season slump?

The Mariners' prized offseason acquisition, Hernandez has

not lived up to the billing so far, and he's been dropped down to the bottom third of the lineup at times over the past couple weeks.

But he has shown some flashes of a potential breakthrough, hitting .389 with a 1.117 OPS in the first five games of this road trip, with three consecutive multi-hit games (and he's even drawn two walks this week).

Better yet for the Mariners, Hernandez has a strong track record in the second half of the season. Here are his career OPS numbers by month:

- March/April: .752
- May: .670
- June: .845
- July: .871
- August: .814
- September/October: .872

An encouraging sign of what's to come? If the M's are going to turn things around offensively, that's exactly what they need.

4. George Kirby needs to walk some dudes. (Uh, really?)

Yes, really.

It would be prudent for the Mariners' 25-year-old budding star to throw fewer strikes. That's a weird statement in a lot of ways — Kirby lives to throw strikes, and throwing strikes is a big part of the Mariners organizational pitching ethos.

Kirby, in fact, throws more strikes than anyone in MLB — exactly 50% of his pitches have been a strike this year — but that's not always a good thing. Hitters, at times, appear to be too comfortable in the batter's box against him, knowing there's a very good chance they'll get a pitch in the zone to swing at.

And, indeed, Kirby ranks No. 7 in MLB in opponents' swing rate, at 52.8%, according to FanGraphs.

That figure wouldn't be so troubling if Kirby induced more swings-and-misses. But he only ranks in the 14th percentile in whiff rate, per Baseball Savant.

Case in point: Facing the Padres' Gary Sanchez on Wednesday, Kirby got ahead in the count 0-1 on a slider, and then threw an elevated fastball that caught too much of the plate — Sanchez was ready for it and hit it out for a game-changing three-run homer.

It was the second time in three starts that Kirby has been lit up (sandwiched around a masterful performance against the Yankees last week).

You've no doubt heard the phrase "effectively wild" to describe some pitchers with erratic control. Well, Kirby is the exact opposite — at times, he's become ineffectively in command.

So, yes, one humble suggestion here is for him to stop being so predictably in the zone. Challenge right-handed hitters inside more regularly — in off the plate if necessary. Take advantage of your reputation as a consistent strike-thrower and see if you can get hitters to chase pitchers just out of the zone from time to time.

Kirby is a future ace, and you have to love his fearless approach. That's what makes him great. His next step: Don't be afraid to issue a walk every now and then.

5. Can the bullpen be even better going forward?

The Mariners bullpen was good without Andres Munoz over the past two months, ranking third in MLB in FanGraphs WAR (3.0). But it should be even that much better with Munoz back from a long stint on the injured list because of a strained shoulder muscle.

One of the best relievers in baseball in the second half of 2022, Munoz pitched a scoreless eighth inning on Tuesday. He struck out two of the three batters he faced, including Fernando Tatis Jr. on a 100-mph fastball.

Paul Sewald ranks among the most effective closers in baseball right now, and the surprising successes of Justin Topa, Gabe Speier, Tayler Saucedo and Trevor Gott (currently on IL) — to go along with Matt Brash's incredible strikeout rate — give Seattle a deep and dominant pen that should give the Mariners confidence they can rediscover the one-run magic that has been their calling card the past two seasons.

Stat of the Week

96: Shohei Ohtani's 96 strikeouts, in 71 innings, are the third-most in MLB this season (behind Kevin Gausman and Spencer Strider, with 113 each). Luis Castillo's 82 strikeouts for the Mariners rank 14th in baseball this season.

PROSPECT WATCH: Emerson Hancock pitched six scoreless innings for Double-A Arkansas on Tuesday, allowing just four hits and one walk with seven strikeouts. The Mariners' 2020 first-round pick has a 6-2 record with a 5.44 ERA in 11 starts this season and a 57-to-27 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 46 1/3 innings.

WHO'S HOT: Over his last three starts, Castillo has allowed only one run in 19 innings, with 24 strikeouts and five walks.

WHO'S NOT: Over his last two starts, Bryce Miller has allowed a combined 19 hits and 15 earned runs (over seven total innings) in back-to-back losses to the Yankees and Rangers. The rookie right-hander is scheduled to start Sunday in Anaheim.

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Photos by Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Centralia High School senior Michael Chapman smiles during a graduation walk at Centralia Middle School Friday morning. The Centralia Class of 2023 graduated during a ceremony on Friday night. See photos from the ceremony at chronline.com.

In Focus: A Final Trip as Seniors for Centralia High School Graduates



Centralia High School graduates pose for a photo while loading onto a bus to visit their elementary schools Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors and faculty visit Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors receive high-fives from teachers and coaches at Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors smile during a graduation procession at Centralia Middle School Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors smile as they walk through the rain to visit Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors smile and give thumbs-up at Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Centralia High School seniors from left, Taydom Baker, Sydney Darling, Haylee Hack and Hannah Labrum smile for a photo outside the Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Cary Erickson smiles and receives an embrace as Centralia High School seniors visit Centralia Middle School during a graduation walk Friday morning.



Centralia High School senior Volodymyr Boichuk smiles for a photo during a graduation procession at Centralia Middle School Friday morning.

GRADUATION COVERAGE ONLINE

The Chronicle will attempt to provide coverage for graduations in all of the 16 school districts in its coverage area. To see photos and videos from area ceremonies, visit www.chronline.com and follow The Chronicle on Facebook. Additionally, readers are welcome to submit their own photos for potential publication. To do so, send images and information to news@chronline.com. Please include the name of the photographer and subjects in addition to any other information that might be helpful to readers.

State Traffic Safety Commission Announces Motorcycle Safety Patrols During Spring Opener Near Randle June 23-25

By The Chronicle staff

In a continued effort to reduce fatal motorcycle crashes, increased safety patrols will be visible June 23-25 during the ABATE Spring Opener near Randle, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission announced Friday.

The patrols will focus on illegal driving behaviors by both motorcycle riders and other vehicle drivers, according to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

"Lewis County Sheriff's Office and the Washington State Patrol will be working overtime focused on drivers and riders who commit traffic safety violations," the commission stated in a news release.

More motorcycles travel on Washington's roads in the summer months than any other time of the year, and officials are concerned that fatal motorcycle crashes continue to increase in Washington, according to the news release.

"The increasing number of motorcycle rider deaths is very concerning and we know that we can all work to prevent these deaths," stated Shelly Baldwin, director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. "Drivers can watch out for motorcyclists. Riders can improve their skills through training. All of us can respect speed limits and ride and drive sober."

From 2018 through 2022, motorcycles made up just 3 percent of the registered vehicles on Washington's roads but accounted for 16 percent of all traffic



The Chronicle / File Photo

The driver and passenger of a westbound motorcycle had to be flown by separate helicopters to regional trauma hospitals after crashing into a van that was making an improper turn, according to the Washington State Patrol, which responded to this scene along U.S. Highway 12 in 2012.

fatalities (492 of 3,076), according to the news release. In 2022 alone, preliminary data shows 132 motorcycle rider fatalities in Washington, possibly the most in a single year in the state's history. This was a 43 percent increase over 2021, per the release.

While about two-thirds of fatal motorcycle crashes involved another vehicle, illegal and dangerous actions by the rider including speeding, losing control in corners and curves, improper passing, and riding under the

influence of alcohol and/or drugs were the main contributing factors cited in these crashes.

"Summer events can bring thousands of people together from across our state," Baldwin stated. "We want to ensure that everyone enjoys the weekend and arrives back home safely."

In June 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released a study supporting the effectiveness of law enforcement patrols in reducing unsafe driving be-

havior and crashes.

"The Washington Traffic Safety Commission and participating law enforcement agencies condemn profiling. Trained and commissioned law enforcement officers will be conducting these patrols enforcing traffic violations as defined by Washington State laws," the commission stated in a news release.

For training videos and other information on the "It's A Fine Line" motorcycle safety program in Washington, visit

<http://itsafineline.com/>.

These and all extra law enforcement patrols sponsored by Washington Traffic Safety Commission are part of Target Zero — striving to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on Washington's roadways, according to the news release.

For more information, visit www.targetzero.com.

Additional information on the Washington Traffic Safety Commission can be found on the website, www.wtsc.wa.gov.

Opioid Settlement Dollars: Lewis County OK's Up to \$55K for Narcan

By Isabel VanderStoep

isabel@chronline.com

In a Wednesday meeting this week, Lewis County commissioners approved up to \$55,000 to buy Narcan for first responders, jail staff and other county departments.

Thanks to the Washington Attorney General's Office settlements between companies the office previously said have "played key roles in fueling the opioid epidemic," Lewis County is set to receive \$2,317,136.16. The first payment of that came in on Dec. 1, 2022, and the commissioners asked their budget administrator to crunch the numbers on stocking county

departments, including fire districts, with Narcan.

For the Riverside Fire Authority, a joint service between Lewis County and City of Centralia fire districts, the funds from the settlement will be cut between the two local governments.

A name brand of the generic medicine naloxone, Narcan can be administered nasally to rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdose, often preventing death. With the county outpacing any previous year's drug-related death rates, according to the coroner, and with what many local law enforcement agencies have called an increased prevalence in the highly-potent opioid

fentanyl, the purchase could increase local officials' abilities to save lives.

In the Lewis County Jail, said Ross McDowell, deputy director of emergency management, demand for Narcan has spiked. Though it wasn't clear if he meant specifically in the county jail, McDowell said "the record right now is 12 (Narcan) doses on one person" in order to successfully reverse the overdose.

While the medicine is easily accessible over the counter, there are more charges for responding agencies to obtain it, he said.

"It is about quadruple, or four times over (the cost) if you're

going to buy it (as an individual)," McDowell said. "We are on what's called 'state bid.'"

When presented with the \$53,000 total, the commissioners balked, but did eventually vote unanimously to approve the expenditure.

"If I'm doing the math on that, Ross, it's almost \$24 per dose, is that right?" Commissioner Scott Brummer asked.

Commissioner Lindsey Pollock responded: "Highway robbery."

Commissioner Sean Swope said the "easy solution is to just go and take out the cartels. Five dollars a pill, \$24 to save a life."

Despite shortages in the nasal spray version of the medicine,

the county is hoping to secure that over the intravenous Narcan. Both doses are equally effective, McDowell said, and the nasal spray is much easier to administer, especially for non-law enforcement county employees who will soon have the medicine on-hand in their day-to-day jobs. Whether they choose to administer the medicine in the event of an overdose, Lewis County Public Health & Social Services Director Meja Handlen said, is up to them.

With the proper access and training, they get to make the decision.

McDowell now includes Narcan in his county employee first-aid training, he said.

News in Brief

and our volunteers, hate has no place here," she said.

Reached Tuesday, Fayed said he never intended to insult anyone but stands by his statements. He said he'd planned to resign beforehand because he didn't have time for his commissioner duties while running his businesses. He's the owner of Tanoor, a Lebanese restaurant with locations in Sammamish and Seattle.

"I resigned because I just didn't want to cause any additional issues, but at the end of the day, even in my business, I have people who have been working for me who are openly part of the LGBT community, so we don't discriminate," Fayed said. "I have never discriminated against anyone."

The city added a disclaimer to the planning commission video, putting in a bar across the screen that says Fayed's comments reflect his personal views and not those of city leadership.

"While we acknowledge the Commissioner's right to free speech, we were shocked to hear the comments made and we strongly condemn them," the city wrote in a statement. "These comments do not represent our city or community. The City of Sammamish is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where hate has no place."

Fayed said during the meeting that he was speaking from his perspective as a Muslim person and felt it was his duty "when I see certain things that are not appropriate and not

right, to at least speak about it." At the end of his comments, another commissioner thanked him for speaking and building on their diversity training. The seven-member commission then moved to the next agenda item.

Dozens of people attended and spoke at Tuesday's City Council meeting; Clark said she had never before seen that many attendees pack into the meeting room. Residents became emotional as they spoke against Fayed's comments.

"When he attacked the LGBTQ+ community, he attacked my family, my friends, my loved ones," resident Gestin Skaggs said.

Some praised city officials, though others were critical of the city and commissioners' immediate response.

Hayley Gudgin, the president of Plateaupians for Peace, was joined by more than a dozen other members of the organization as she spoke during the meeting. She said the city should have addressed the statements immediately and questioned why no one spoke up during the Thursday meeting.

"Silence condones these attitudes and causes untold damage to those targeted, and we cannot afford to stand by as our community members are attacked," she said.

Kerry Bosworth, a planning commissioner, said she was in shock and that while her thoughts were "running a mile a minute, my voice was not." She said she expressed her disap-

pointment after the meeting. Deputy Mayor Amy Lam said they've received apologies from commissioners.

Woman Accused of Torturing Four Children Charged With Nearly a Dozen Felonies

By The Bellingham Herald

The Blaine woman accused of torturing four children over several years has been officially charged with nearly a dozen felonies and could face life in prison if convicted.

Tana Perkins Reneau, 51, was formally charged Tuesday in Whatcom County Superior Court with four counts of second-degree child assault (domestic violence); three counts of first-degree incest (domestic violence); one count of first-degree child rape (domestic violence); one count of second-degree child rape (domestic violence); one count of third-degree child rape (domestic violence), and one count of second-degree assault (domestic violence), all related to the years-long physical and sexual abuse of four children, according to court records.

Each of the 11 felony charges includes at least three aggravating factors that would allow prosecutors to seek an exceptional prison sentence for Reneau above the standard range for her crimes.

For each of the felony charges

Reneau is facing, prosecutors allege that Reneau's conduct during the crimes manifested deliberate cruelty to the victims, that the crimes involved domestic violence and that the crimes were part of "an ongoing pattern of psychological, physical, or sexual abuse of a victim or multiple victims manifested by multiple incidents over a prolonged period of time," the court documents state.

Each of the assault charges state that Reneau intentionally assaulted the four children, which caused bodily harm greater than transient pain or minor temporary marks, to each of the children. The charges also include allegations that Reneau had previously engaged in a pattern or practice of either assaulting the children creating bodily harm greater than transient pain or agony "that is equivalent to that produced by torture," the documents state.

The abuse of the children is alleged to have occurred from January 2020 through May 2023, according to court records. Three of the four children are Black and Reneau, who is white, called them racial slurs, the court documents show.

Reneau has six children, four of whom are adopted.

Reneau, who is a former teacher and current candidate for the Blaine School Board, is currently incarcerated in the downtown Whatcom County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail, jail records show.

Washington State Planning Commissioner Resigns Over LGBTQ+ Comments

By Paige Cornwell

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — A Sammamish planning commissioner who said LGBTQ+ people are "poisoning our kids," among other statements, has resigned amid condemnation from the city and residents.

Wassim Fayed said in comments that drew fire after a Thursday meeting that LGBTQ+ people "spread diseases" and "are not a minority people who are disenfranchised." His roughly six-minute-long remarks, he said, were in response to diversity training the commission had received.

Fayed resigned Monday from his appointed position.

City officials and residents denounced the comments Tuesday at the City Council's regularly scheduled meeting, following the city's strong rebuke issued Monday as Fayed's remarks continued to circulate on social media.

Mayor Kali Clark, the city's first out LGBTQ+ council member and mayor, said she felt empowered by the solidarity and outpouring of support from the community.

"To our youth, hate has no place here. To all of our residents, our city staff, leadership

Trump Indicted on 37 Charges, Including Violations of Espionage Act, in Classified Documents Probe

By Tribune News Service

Former President Donald Trump was indicted on 37 charges, including 31 counts of violations of the Espionage Act, as part of special counsel Jack Smith's investigation into the mishandling of classified documents from the Trump White House.

The 49-page indictment, released Friday by the Department of Justice, details that Trump stored boxes containing classified documents in various locations at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida estate, including a ballroom, a bathroom and shower, his office, his bedroom and a storage room.

According to the indictment, among the classified and top secret records were details on foreign nations' nuclear capabilities, as well as information regarding defense and weapons capabilities of both U.S. and foreign countries, U.S. nuclear programs, potential vulnerabilities of U.S. and allies to military attack, and plans for possible retaliation in response to an attack.

Trump is charged with willful retention of national defense information; conspiracy to obstruct justice; withholding a document or record; corruptly concealing a document in a federal investigation; scheme to conceal; and false statements and representations.

In a brief televised statement, Smith urged the public to read the indictment and said he was aiming for a speedy trial.

"The men and women of the United States intelligence community and our armed forces dedicate their lives to protecting our nation and its people. Our laws that protect national defense information are critical to the safety and security of the United States and they must be enforced," Smith said.

The indictment details two 2022 instances in which Trump allegedly shared classified information with people without security clearances. The indictment also confirms a CNN report on the existence of a recording in which Trump indicates understanding that he cannot declassify records after leaving office and acknowledges he possesses a classified record.

The investigation began after the National Archives found classified records in a batch of documents Trump returned a year after leaving office. Justice Department officials sought a subpoena demanding that Trump return any other classified material in his possession.



Michael M. Santiago / Getty Images/TNS

Former President Donald Trump speaks during a press conference at the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster on July 7, 2021 in Bedminster, New Jersey.

The indictment cites notes from a May 23 conversation between Trump and his lawyer Evan Corcoran in which Trump questioned whether he had to fully comply with the subpoena, including making the statements, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes. I don't want you looking through my boxes," "Wouldn't it be better if we just told them we don't have anything here?" and, "Well look, isn't it better if there are no documents?"

Trump's legal team ultimately produced about three dozen additional documents and a letter stating that a diligent search had turned up nothing more. But the indictment details that Trump's lawyers didn't have access to all of the records for their search.

The indictment states that between May 23, 2022, and June 2, 2022 — during the window after the subpoena was issued but before Corcoran could review the documents — Trump's personal aide Walt Nauta, at Trump's direction, moved 64 boxes out of the Mar-a-Lago storage room to Trump's residence so the former president could personally go through the contents and that Nauta brought back only 30 boxes to the storage room. This was hidden from Corcoran, accord-

ing to the indictment.

The Justice Department learned of the move and possibility that classified documents remained at the estate and sought judicial approval of a search warrant. More than 100 documents with classified markings were found during an FBI search of Mar-a-Lago in August 2022.

Nauta was also indicted alongside Trump on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice, withholding a document or record, corruptly concealing a document in a federal investigation, scheming to conceal and making false statements and representations.

The former president defended Nauta, a Navy veteran who was frequently by Trump's side in the White House, in a Truth Social post before the indictment was made public.

"He has done a fantastic job! They are trying to destroy his life, like the lives of so many others, hoping that he will say bad things about 'Trump,'" the former president said of Nauta.

The special counsel's investigation has focused in part on Nauta, who is reportedly seen on surveillance video helping a maintenance worker move boxes from the storage room before the FBI executed a search warrant at

Mar-a-Lago.

According to the indictment, Nauta's false statements include that he was not aware of Trump's boxes being brought to the residence for review before 15 boxes were sent to the National Archives, he did not know how boxes taken to the National Archives truck got to the residence, and, when asked whether he knew where Trump's boxes had been stored before they were in his residence, Nauta falsely responded, "I wish I could tell you. I don't know. I don't — I honestly just don't know."

Trump announced in a social media post Thursday that he had been indicted in connection with his handling of the records and was ordered to appear in federal court in Miami on Tuesday afternoon. The indictment comes nearly a year after more than 100 documents with classified markings were found during the FBI's search of Mar-a-Lago in August 2022.

The case appears to have been initially directed toward U.S. District Court Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who handled his lawsuit last year over the FBI search.

Trump has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and claimed again late Thursday that he

was innocent. On Friday he announced that he is shaking up his legal team, replacing attorneys Jim Trusty and John Rowley with New York-based Todd Blanche and a firm to be named later. Blanche is assisting with Trump's other indictment on 34 felony charges related to an alleged hush-money payment made to porn actor Stormy Daniels in the final days of the 2016 campaign.

Trusty and Rowley said in a joint statement that they resigned, calling it "a logical moment" to leave because the case had moved to Miami.

Trump and his allies quickly framed the new indictment as an attempt to diminish a political opponent, with some such as Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., misrepresenting the legal process.

"If the people in power can jail their political opponents at will, we don't have a republic," Hawley, a lawyer and former state attorney general, tweeted.

Such claims disregard that it was a grand jury that recommended the charges based on evidence presented to it, and it will be a jury that decides Trump's guilt or innocence on the charges based on the evidence provided in court.

DeSantis Faces Balancing Act in Backing Trump, Experts Say

By Tribune News Service

Given the chance to pounce, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is instead backing his rival Donald Trump, accusing the U.S. Department of Justice of partisan bias in charging the former president.

For political analysts, DeSantis' unwillingness to attack Trump over his legal problems showcases the influence Trump retains with Republican voters, who are siding with him as he faces criminal charges in two different jurisdictions.

DeSantis must challenge Trump for the GOP presidential nomination but not in a way that will alienate Republicans who voted for him for president, said Gregory Koger, a political scientist at the University of Miami.

"From his point of view, it doesn't necessarily make sense to come out swinging at Trump but rather let the sheer fact of the news itself and the attacks of other candidates do the work he does not want to do," Koger said.

DeSantis joined other Republicans in criticizing the federal indictment over Trump's handling of classified records as a partisan witch hunt, rather than going after a candidate who now faces criminal charges in two jurisdictions and could be politically wounded in a general election.

"The weaponization of federal law enforcement represents a mortal threat to a free society,"

DeSantis tweeted just hours after news of the federal criminal charges broke Thursday night. "We have for years witnessed an uneven application of the law depending upon political affiliation. Why so zealous in pursuing Trump yet so passive about Hillary or Hunter? The DeSantis administration will bring accountability to the DOJ, excise political bias and end weaponization once and for all."

DeSantis, who is reportedly on a Texas fundraising trip, did not address in his tweet accusations from prosecutors that Trump hid sensitive documents and misled investigators.

The classified materials involved military secrets and issues of national security, such as a document detailing the nuclear capabilities of a foreign country, according to the indictment unsealed Friday.

The former president says he has done nothing wrong.

Koger expects Trump will see a short-term benefit from his latest legal troubles as supporters rally behind him and donations pour in.

But as time passes, Republican voters may start to question whether Trump can defeat President Joe Biden as a twice-indicted candidate, although a "sizable" base will stick with him no matter what happens, Koger said.

Privately, DeSantis told donors last month that he is the

"The weaponization of federal law enforcement represents a mortal threat to a free society."

Ron DeSantis
Florida governor

only candidate who can beat Biden, according to a report by The New York Times.

"They just want a vehicle they can get behind ... but ... there's just too many voters that don't view Trump as that vehicle," DeSantis said on a call that a Times reporter listened in on.

Defying conventional political thinking, getting indicted is actually helping Trump with Republican voters who see the charges as political and without merit, said Aubrey Jewett, a political scientist at the University of Central Florida.

"I think DeSantis is aware that is where the Republican base is. ... If he were to attack Trump over this, it would probably hurt him, not help him," Jewett said.

Trump widened his lead over DeSantis after he was charged in March in Manhattan with falsifying business records, he said. That case involves accusations that Trump paid \$130,000

in hush money to an adult film actress before the 2016 election.

DeSantis took a similar approach to those charges, attacking Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg. But DeSantis also said he couldn't speak to "paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some type of alleged affair," a comment perceived as a slight by some Trump supporters for which DeSantis took some heat.

Trump also is facing an investigation into potential election interference in Georgia.

Even if he is convicted, no legal obstacles would stop Trump from continuing his campaign, Jewett said.

"Theoretically, he could even be in jail and be elected president," Jewett said.

The socialist Eugene V. Debs received nearly 1 million votes for president while he was in prison in 1920 for urging people to resist the military draft.

The 14th Amendment does disqualify any person from serving as president who previously held public office, swore an oath to the U.S. Constitution and "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

That provision was applied in the aftermath of the Civil War to former Confederate officials and can be lifted by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress.

As a leading candidate facing

criminal charges, Trump is taking the country into "undiscovered territory," Koger said.

"Can you be president from a New York state jail? I'd like to think we'd never find out — that the Republican Party would not nominate someone in that situation," Koger said.

Other GOP contenders took a different approach than DeSantis. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson called on Trump to end his campaign, saying the ongoing criminal proceedings will be a "major distraction."

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Trump ally-turned-critic, said he would reserve judgment until more facts are revealed while adding "no one is above the law."

Other candidates, such as former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott, took a strategy similar to DeSantis.

Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence also had classified documents at their homes, but their representatives say the documents were promptly turned over to the authorities when they were discovered. The Justice Department informed Pence it won't charge Pence, while a special counsel is investigating Biden's handling of classified documents.

Pence, who is seeking the presidential nomination in 2024, said he didn't want to see his former boss charged over the records.

Puzzles

Find Answers to the Puzzles in the Next Edition

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Go, team!"
 - 4 Put in the cooler
 - 8 Clammy
 - 12 Dark brew
 - 13 Guy
 - 14 Length x width
 - 15 Peoria's st.
 - 16 Silliness
 - 18 Dryad
 - 20 Grass
 - 21 Filch
 - 23 Skippers' OKs
 - 26 Muslim mystic
 - 29 Parroted
 - 32 Heat meas.
 - 34 Wheels for baby
 - 35 Formal attire
 - 36 Subzero comment
 - 37 Geisha's tie
 - 38 Frequently
 - 39 Restaurant offering

- 40 Roofer's gunk
- 41 Stats
- 42 Appends
- 43 At close quarters
- 45 A great many
- 47 Ad — (wing it)
- 49 Gunslinger's command
- 53 Diner favorite (2 wds.)
- 58 Bikini top
- 59 Web habitue
- 60 Hopscotch, e.g.
- 61 — choy
- 62 Prosperous period
- 63 Fly upwards
- 64 Floor

DOWN

- 1 Drought ender
- 2 Friendly country
- 3 Place of control

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	E	L		S	H	H		S	T	O	W		
Y	A	P		P	O	E	T	T	A	R	O		
M	S	G		E	L	M	O	I	D	L	E		
S	E	A	L	E	D			A	L	L	A	Y	S
			Y	D	S			D	E	E			
D	A	I	R	Y		F	I	A	S	C	O		
R	U	D	E		R	U	E	D		L	O	P	
S	T	E		L	E	S		D	O	Z	E		
	O	A	T	E	R	S		E	A	G	E	R	
			H	O	E			I	N	N			
M	I	M	O	S	A		B	E	A	C	O	N	
A	N	O	N		D	O	E	R		O	R	E	
S	T	A	G		S	N	A	G		M	A	R	
S	O	N	S			A	M	Y		O	L	D	

- 4 Sun Valley site
- 5 Young wolf
- 6 MS readers
- 7 — ex machina
- 8 Papa
- 9 "Exodus" hero
- 10 Shook hands
- 11 Foot the bill
- 17 Turnpike
- 19 Strait-laced
- 22 Majorette's stick
- 24 Flowed back
- 25 Fine violin
- 26 Place
- 27 Citified
- 28 Laissez- —
- 30 Huff's partner
- 31 Laud
- 33 WWW addresses
- 39 Chess player's shout
- 41 Late spring flower
- 44 Warning
- 46 Buy by mail
- 48 Totes
- 50 "Fernando" band
- 51 Cornfield menace
- 52 Cod kin
- 53 Open container
- 54 Canteen initials
- 55 Recent (pref.)
- 56 Thai neighbor
- 57 Physicians' grp.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19			20					
			21		22			23		24	25	
26	27	28			29	30	31			32		33
34					35					36		
37					38					39		
40					41					42		
	43		44				45	46				
			47		48			49		50	51	52
53	54	55				56	57			58		
59					60					61		
62					63					64		

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the Red Cross.

LRFIEE

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Relief

Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

1				4	5			3
	8	5	1	3	6	9	2	7
	2				7			4
	6		7		1			8
				2				
2			9		4			1
	3		4					6
9	4	6	3	1	8	7	5	
7			5	6				9

12/20

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	4	9	7	2	8	1	5	3
5	8	1	3	6	9	4	7	2
3	7	2	5	1	4	6	8	9
1	9	8	6	7	5	2	3	4
2	6	5	8	4	3	7	9	1
4	3	7	2	9	1	8	6	5
7	5	3	1	8	2	9	4	6
9	2	6	4	5	7	3	1	8
8	1	4	9	3	6	5	2	7

HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Pedal Faster Word Search

O	O	A	T	C	S	S	Y	Y	M	W	C	N	T	E	B	W	G	M	P
E	S	A	H	C	E	I	D	G	B	S	P	S	O	P	M	H	V	C	M
Y	T	T	H	I	U	E	R	T	S	M	E	D	N	A	T	A	P	V	L
F	Y	L	T	Y	L	A	N	H	E	E	K	W	G	U	U	U	R	C	Y
W	U	O	O	C	C	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	F	M
I	O	N	Y	E	I	Y	V	V	M	Y	P	E	O	S	H	I	F	T	K
B	N	C	E	S	O	U	C	P	O	H	T	U	Y	R	H	C	H	N	S
G	I	S	M	N	P	P	C	K	B	A	Y	C	E	A	B	I	A	U	S
B	F	I	Y	B	M	F	I	H	R	O	G	O	T	N	Y	R	B	K	I
F	R	T	I	R	E	S	E	E	A	A	R	G	M	D	C	M	P	B	R
F	U	D	N	B	T	C	L	V	E	I	E	I	F	O	V	O	V	K	U
G	B	Y	S	S	N	E	T	C	I	W	N	S	E	N	A	U	M	T	E
Y	D	A	I	E	C	P	T	R	R	D	E	W	C	N	G	N	N	D	L
O	Y	W	D	C	P	N	S	L	E	V	E	R	N	E	Y	T	N	R	L
E	L	A	A	H	U	W	D	H	U	Y	A	N	G	U	I	A	S	O	I
Y	C	K	H	A	N	D	L	E	B	A	R	S	U	R	C	I	E	P	A
P	N	A	G	L	A	A	F	I	T	R	E	A	D	I	O	N	A	O	R
I	B	E	I	F	N	O	O	D	K	H	P	P	K	N	G	U	A	U	E
T	V	R	O	K	S	K	H	O	H	S	T	L	H	G	P	P	G	T	D
L	P	B	O	W	D	I	W	K	U	H	W	V	D	W	F	T	A	S	D

- ACCELERATE
- CADENCE
- DERAILLEUR
- HANDLEBARS
- RANDONNEURING
- TANDEM
- BICYCLE
- CHAIN
- DROPOUTS
- LEVER
- RECREATIONAL
- TEMPO
- BOOTIES
- CHASE
- ENERGY
- MOUNTAIN
- RIMS
- TIRES
- BREAKAWAY
- CRANK
- FRAME
- RACE
- SHIFT
- TREAD

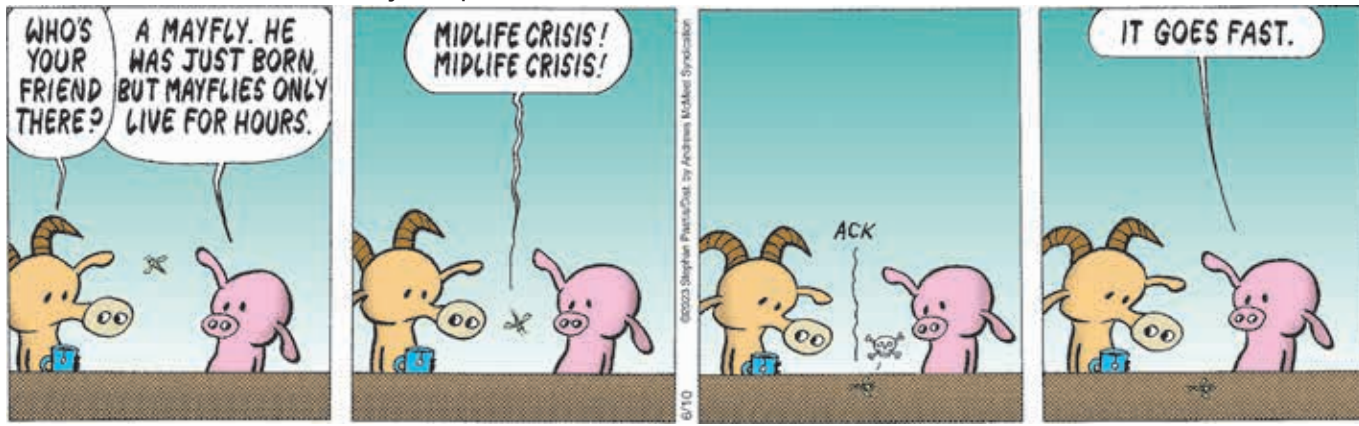
GET FUZZY by Darby Conley



NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



HERMAN by Jim Unger



RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary B. Price



"Your greenflies are all over my bushes again."

DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



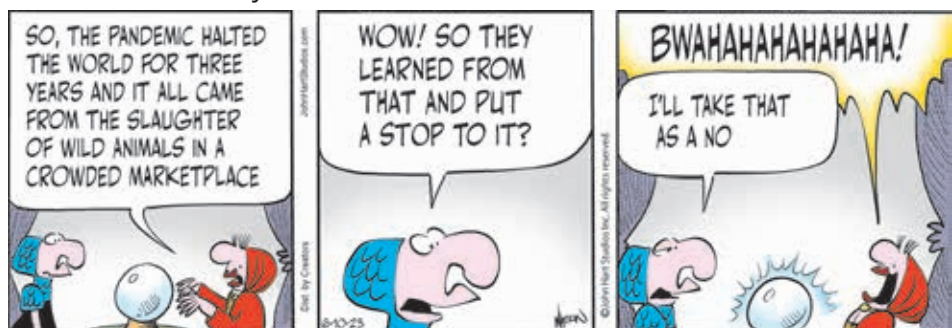
TAKE IT FROM THE TINKERSONS by Bill Bettwy



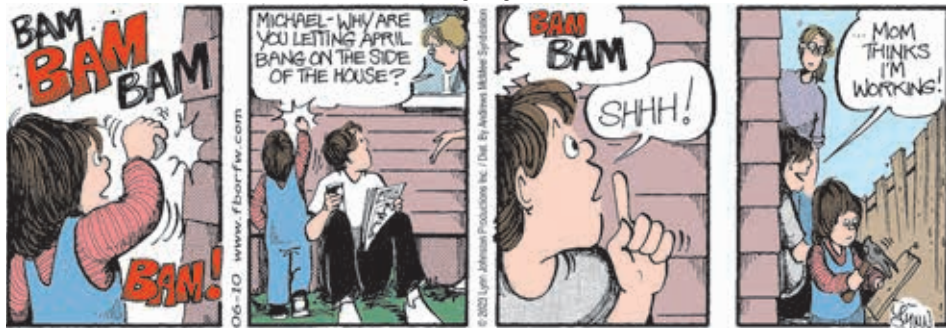
PICKLES by Brian Crane



WIZARD OF ID by Parker & Hart



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



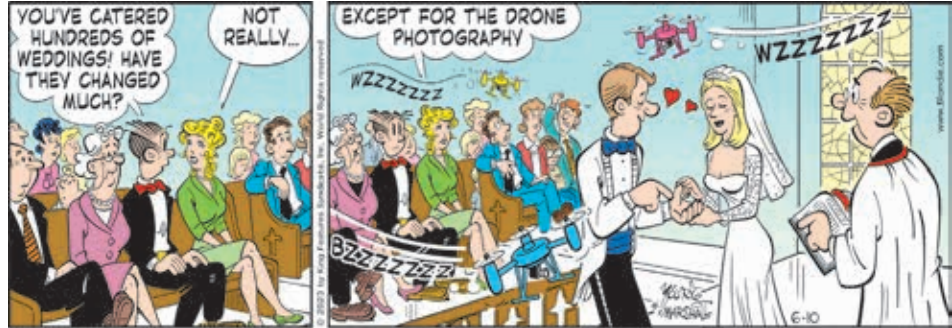
CLASSIC PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



HI & LOIS by Greg & Brian Walker



BLONDIE by Dean Young & John Marshall



SHOE by Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



FRANK & ERNEST by Bob Thaves



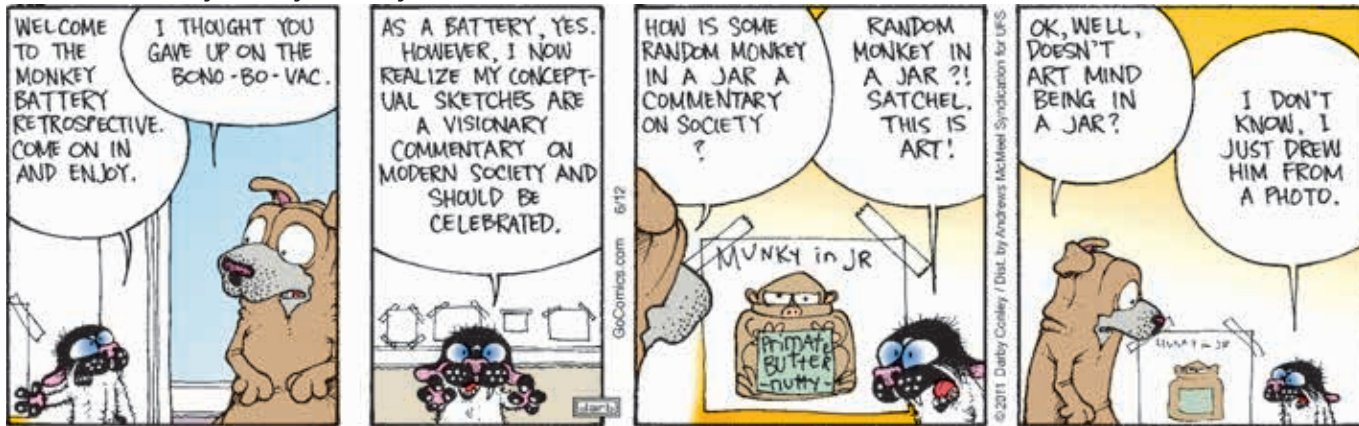
B.C. by Mastroianni & Hart



BEETLE BAILEY by Greg, Brian & Neal Walker



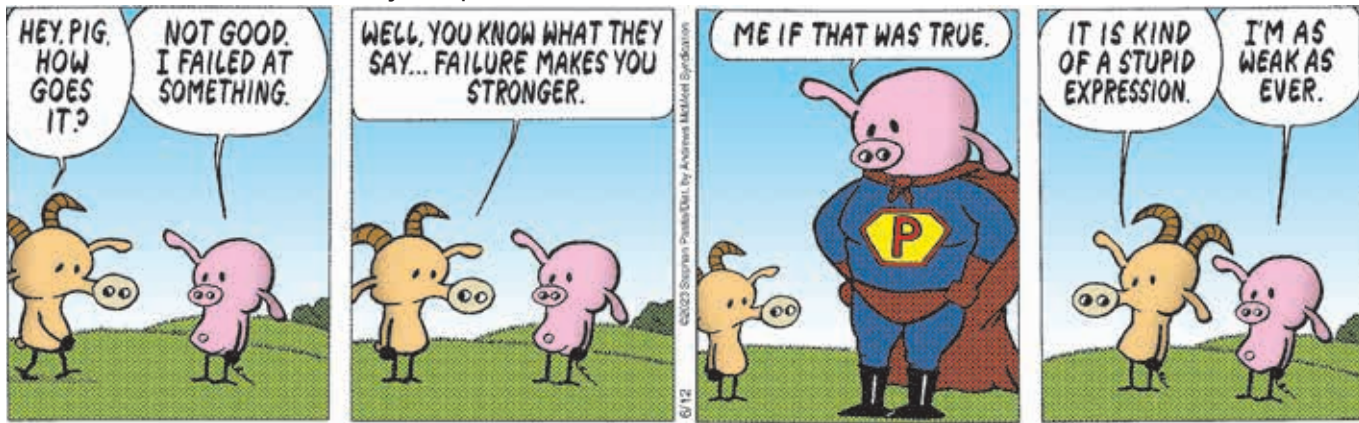
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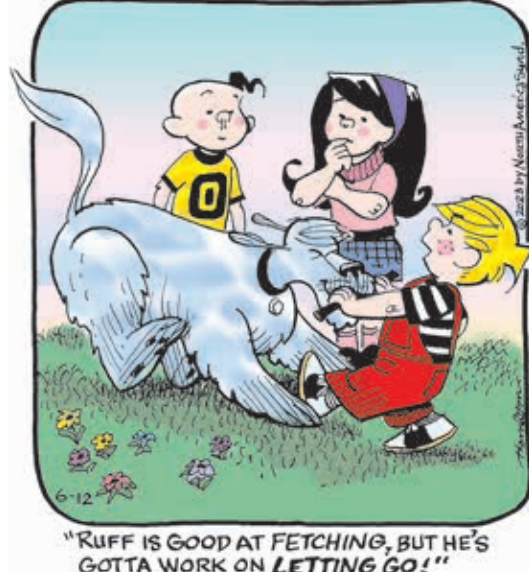


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RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary B. Price



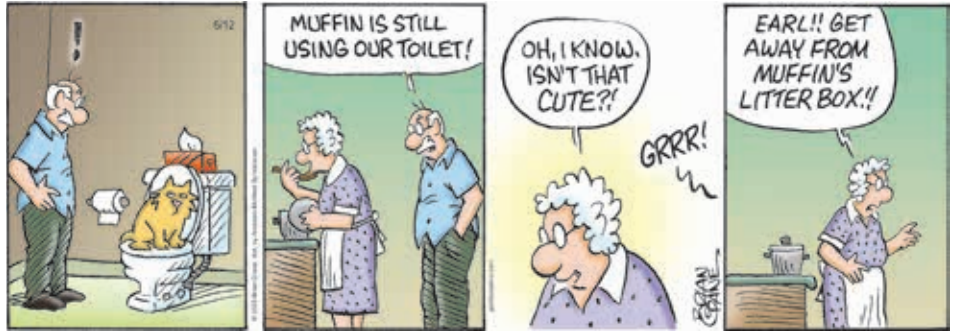
DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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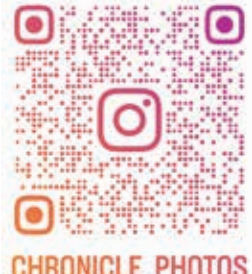
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VISIT VISITED

ROCHESTER COWGIRLS' YARD SALE!
Sat Only, June 10, 9-4. 12402 Hunter Rd SW, Rochester, WA 98579. Ladies Wester shirts, horse tack, ladies fashion clothing, various artist-signed hand-thrown pottery, elderly-assist items, craft supplies, housewares, books, rabbit cages & Rex rabbit. THIS IS THE GOOD STUFF!

GARAGE SALES CENTRALIA

NEW-TODAY!

VISIT VISITED YARD SALE!
Sat Only, June 10, 8-2. 1820 Westside Cr., Centralia, WA 98531. 3 generations combining household.

GARAGE SALES CHEHALIS

VISIT VISITED

BASEMENT SALE!
Sat Only, June 10, 10-4. First Christian Church, 111 NW Prindle St., Chehalis, WA 98532. Donated proceeds will benefit the SHOEBOX PROJECT.

Trying to sell your home? More information about the home will get you better results.

Ask Us About

Adding your ad in the Nisqually Valley News in Yelm, WA and The Reflector in Battle Ground, WA

Life



Timberland Regional Library's Anywhere Library van is pictured in this photo provided to The Chronicle.

Timberland Regional Library to Launch 'Anywhere Library' in Thurston County

By The Chronicle staff

Timberland Regional Library's mobile library service "Anywhere Library," which brings library materials and services directly to community sites, will launch in Thurston County on June 21.

Anywhere Library stops will be scheduled at regular dates and times each month and work just like libraries where patrons can request holds to be delivered to the scheduled stops, return materials, check out new items and utilize free Wi-Fi and printing services, Timberland stated in a news release.

The first Thurston County site will open to the public at the Senior Center of Rainier on June 21 from 12 to 1 p.m. with opening celebrations from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

To add upcoming events to the Community Calendar, email news@chronline.com

Tenino Farmers Market

June 10 in the 200 block of Sussex Avenue in Tenino; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tenino Farmers Market is open each Saturday through the end of September.

Keiper's Cards Trade Night

June 10 at Keiper's Cards, 320 N. Tower Ave., suite 104, Centralia; 4 p.m.

Collectors are invited to bring their prized baseball, basketball, football or any kind of collectible cards and sports memorabilia to trade with one another at the store. No store purchase necessary.

"Winter Gardening Without a Greenhouse" Master Gardeners Event

June 10 at the Salkum Demonstration Garden at the Salkum Timberland Library, 2480 U.S. Highway 12, Salkum; 10 a.m.

This event helps attendees plant and plant for a year-round vegetable garden that will produce through fall and spring. This workshop teaches attendees what to plant and how to rotate garden space without requiring a greenhouse. For more information, contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Gardeners at 360-740-1216 or Jason.Adams@lewiscountywa.gov.

Veterans Memorial Museum Benefit Motorcycle Ride

The kickoff will include a Thurston County Chamber ribbon cutting and speakers from Timberland Regional Library and the City of Rainier.

Other regular stops beginning this summer will include Rochester Organization of Families (ROOF) Community Services in Rochester on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. providing library access to the Rochester community, the families using ROOF services, and the Rochester Boys and Girls Club.

Anywhere Library will also be at the Rochester United Methodist Church on the fourth Friday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Anywhere Library provides services to patrons who may currently have barriers preventing them from visiting current library locations, such as living

in remote or rural locations, issues with mobility or limited access to transportation, Timberland stated.

Items in the Timberland Regional Library collection available to Anywhere Library patrons are: DVDs, a selection of popular nonfiction titles, large print books, and audiobooks on CD or Playaway. Children's resources include VOX picture books with audio, Launchpad themed tablets with educational games, math backpacks to support early learning in STEM, and free mobile memberships to the Hands-on Children's Museum.

A Full List of Anywhere Library Services Is Printed Below:

- Access to Timberland Regional Library collections

Community Calendar

a variety of music and will be family-friendly.

West Lewis County Tansy Disposal

June 16 at three times and locations

Six spots in Lewis County will open sequentially for the collection of the noxious weed tansy ragwort on the weekend of June 16 and 17. To encourage participation, raffle prizes will be available.

On June 16, disposal will be available from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Pe Ell School, 519 N. Second St. in Pe Ell; from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Toledo Ball Fields, 5545 Jackson Highway; and from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Centralia Christian School, 1315 S. Tower Ave., Centralia.

For more information, call 360-740-1218 or email weeds@lewiscountywa.gov.

Centralia Farmers Market

June 16 at the Pine Street Plaza; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Centralia Farmers Market is on Fridays.

East Lewis County Tansy Disposal

June 17 at three times and locations

Six spots in Lewis County will open sequentially for the collection of the noxious weed tansy ragwort on the weekend of June 16 and 17. To encourage participation, raffle prizes will be available.

On June 17, disposal will be free from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Ran-

- Library Card sign-up
- Wi-Fi access
- Assistance with library resources
- Requesting and receiving library holds
- Giveaways
- Take-n-make crafts
- Summer Library Program participation
- Story times at select locations

Community Locations For Anywhere Library Stops May Include:

- Residential facilities
- Schools
- Meal sites
- Community centers
- Cultural and other various gathering spaces

"By bringing the library to a

variety of community locations, the Anywhere Library staff hope to create partnerships with both the community host sites and the community members utilizing Anywhere Library services," Timberland stated in a news release. The Anywhere Library will serve Thurston County initially, with plans to expand to all five Timberland counties.

To view upcoming stops, learn more about Anywhere Library services and resources, or request a stop in your area, visit TRL.org/Anywhere.

All Timberland library programs are free and open to the public. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's programs may contact the library one week in advance.

For more information visit TRL.org.

dle at the Randle Fire Station, 9978 U.S. Highway 12; from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. at the Seasons Hotel in Morton at 200 Westlake Ave.; and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Onalaska at Lewis County Fire District 1 station at 1733 state Route 508. For more information, call 360-740-1218 or email weeds@lewiscountywa.gov.

Centralia Juneteenth Celebration

June 17 at George Washington Park, Centralia; 10 a.m. to noon

The event will feature local speakers and soul food. Attendees should bring their own lawn chairs. If it rains, the event will be held inside the library conference room.

Tenino Farmers Market

June 17 in the 200 block of Sussex Avenue in Tenino; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tenino Farmers Market is open each Saturday through the end of September.

T-9-0 Quarrymen Car Club Farmers Market Meet

June 17 at the Tenino Farmers Market in the 200 block of Sussex Ave. in downtown Tenino; 9 a.m. to noon

Join the T-9-0 Quarrymen Car Club for a meet at the Tenino Farmers Market to marvel at restored classic and customized cars.

Walmart Seattle Children's Hospital Benefit Car Show

June 17 at the Walmart Super Center parking lot, 1601 NW Louisiana Ave.,

Chehalis; registration at 8 a.m., show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gearheads are invited to participate or attend the 14th annual car show to raise money for the Seattle Children's Hospital. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and costs \$25, with the show beginning at 9 a.m.

Chehalis Farmers Market

June 20 at Boistfort Street in Chehalis; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Chehalis Farmers Market is on Tuesdays.

Tenino Farmers Market

June 24 in the 200 block of Sussex Avenue in Tenino; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tenino Farmers Market is open each Saturday through the end of September.

"Garden Tool Care and Maintenance" Master Gardeners Event

June 24 at Providence Place Demonstration Garden, 350 SE Washington Ave., Chehalis; 10 a.m.

Attendees can learn how to maintain their gardening tools from experts. For more information, contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Gardeners at 360-740-1216 or Jason.Adams@lewiscountywa.gov.

Chehalis Farmers Market

June 27 on Boistfort Street in downtown Chehalis; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Chehalis Farmers Market is on Tuesdays.