

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad

With Trains Halted Due to Insurance Issues and Track Damage, Escape Rooms Planned / Main 9



State Horse of the Year

Centralia Breeder's Thoroughbred Earns Top Honor After Earnings of More Than \$152,000 / Main 8

\$1.75

Early Week Edition
Tuesday,
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String of Cougar,
Bobcat Sightings in
Lewis County

Main 15

Trial Set in Lewis County Rape Case Involving Rapper 'Lil Mosey'

CHARGES: Judge Hears Pretrial Motions in Lewis County Superior Court on Friday

By Emily Fitzgerald
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Seattle rapper Lil Mosey, legally named Lathan Moses Echols, is scheduled to face trial alongside Joshua Darrow and Francisco Prater later this month for the alleged second-degree rape of a woman at a party in Randle in January 2020.

Echols, 20, and Prater, 19, are accused of having sex with a woman "while she was incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated," according to court documents. Darrow, 20, is accused of restraining the alleged victim during the incident.

The three codefendants were each charged with one count of second-degree rape in April 2021. All are out of custody on unsecured bail.

Echols appeared virtually in Lewis County Superior Court on Friday for hearings on three pretrial motions made by his attorney, Shane O'Rourke. The motions included a request to "sever" Echols' case from the other codefendants' cases, a request to exclude evidence related to an attempted shoplifting Echols was involved in and a request

please see **CASE**, page Main 10

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Lewis County Celebrates Fourth of July With Fireworks and More



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Jacob Pannell and Amy Bender record a fireworks display in Packwood as their bicycles are illuminated Saturday night.



Fireworks explode over onlookers outside the Packwood Community Hall on Saturday.

By Isabel Vander Stoep
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Celebrations were held for Independence Day across Lewis County and nearby areas over

the weekend, with each community adding its own flavor to the holiday with festivals, flea markets, fishing competitions, parades and more.

In the late morning on Sat-

urday, parades were held in Oakville and Mossyrock followed by a rodeo in Oakville and Mossyrock's annual Freedom Festival, which hosted vendors, a pie-eating contest,

wiener dog races and more.

The latter half of the Freedom Festival parade was composed mostly of political floats. The Mossyrock Area Action League, which plans the Blueberry Festival each year, created the Independence Day weekend festival in 2021.

Starting on Saturday evening from downtown Packwood, the annual fireworks show lasted over a half hour, dazzling the sky in the East Lewis County town for residents and tourists to enjoy freely.

The Packwood show first began many years ago as a family affair put on by Fire Chief Lonnie Goble, who also owns the Packwood Chevron. Eventually, the celebration expanded to include the entire town. It is now run by Goble's family across the street from the fire station through an all-volunteer, donated effort.

On Saturday evening, cars lined U.S. Highway 12 to watch the show as RVs and semi-

please see **FOURTH**, page Main 4

Mint City Coffee



Roasting Company Setting up Shop in Downtown Chehalis / Life 1

Headwaters to Harbor



Couple Returns Supplies After Finding Kayak / Main 7

Deaths

Hallam, Ruth E., 90, Kelso
Boyse, Marilyn J., 82, Orting
Jerrels, Mary A., 74
Mohrle, Alma A., 89, Onalaska



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Photos by Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Kids use poles to fish for rainbow trout in a tank from the Aberdeen Hatchery at the Lions Den Campground in Mineral on Saturday.

Mineral Lake Lions Den Holds ‘Freedom and Fishing’ Event

By Isabel VanderStoep

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After the Mineral Lake Lions Den Campground was given a major facelift by volunteers ahead of the fishing season’s opening day with the town’s annual fishing derby, members of the Mineral Lions Club were excited to begin hosting events for children of locals and campers alike.

On Saturday, the campground was host for an inaugural “Freedom and Fishing” event for families, which included fishing, games, live music by the lake and a front row seat to the

town’s annual fireworks show.

Beginning at 9 a.m., dozens of children flocked to the lawn at the campground for a fishing contest from a large tub filled with over 600 rainbow trout from an Aberdeen hatchery. Kids who caught a fish earned the prize of a fishing pole. Some fish were specially tagged and kids who reeled them in earned a tackle box to take home.

Over 75 fishing poles were given away before noon, yet kids were still fishing well into the afternoon. After a catch, volunteers were around to clean and

cook the fish.

“You hear the kids catch one and go, ‘I got it, I got one!’ That’s so cool to hear. And they’ve never fished before, some of them have never fished before and now get their own pole,” said camp manager Tina Moore.

Volunteers at the camp kept track of where everyone came from throughout the day and noted that one family was visiting all the way from Colorado. Many others came from Tacoma, Graham and other parts of Washington, and others still were from right there in Mineral.

Moore said the Lions Club members were excited to increase opportunities for safe and fun activities in town.

The same motivation came from a partnering club, the Mineral Community Club, which was holding a hot dog cookout and games for kids throughout the event. Led by new-in-town pastor Jeffery Robertson, the nonprofit has been helping out with community events the last two months, tagging along with the established clubs to get acclimated to the scene. Including a Saint Patrick’s Day event and

the fishing derby in April, this was the club’s third event.

“This has been a great event and especially since it’s bringing the community together, I mean it can’t go wrong, right?” Robertson said on Saturday.

In the evening, Shore Lane band performed next to the lake ahead of the fireworks show at dusk. The Lions Den Campground will continue hosting music throughout the summer. To keep up with events, follow @minerallakelionsden on Facebook. Reservations for campsites can be made at <https://minerallakelions.com/>.



Shane and Lauren Welter smile while playing cornhole at the Lions Den Campground before performing music together as “Shore Lane” Saturday in Mineral.



Boaters bask in the sun as visitors fish at Mineral Lake on Saturday



Lucy Whittall and Bennett Marcille smile after catching a rainbow Trout Saturday in Mineral.



A hook is removed from a rainbow trout at Mineral Lake on Saturday.



Malik Culver eats a hot dog during an event held Saturday at the Lions Den Campground in Mineral.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Kipton Weber, 8, smiles after wiping the pie and whipped cream from his face as he is declared the winner of Mossyrock Freedom Festival's pie eating contest for kids ages 9 and under.

Independence Celebrated at Mossyrock Freedom Festival



Attendees dressed in Revolutionary War garb unwrap candy during the Mossyrock Freedom Festival parade Saturday.



An emcee for the Mossyrock Freedom Festival smiles while sporting boots and a cowboy hat Saturday.



Vendors and visitors fill Klickitat Prairie Park for the Mossyrock Freedom Festival on Saturday.



Lewis County sheriff candidate Tracy Murphy smiles while walking in the Mossyrock Freedom Festival parade on Saturday.



A dog sports a bow and Wonder Woman costume during the Mossyrock Freedom Festival parade on Saturday.



Sheriff Rob Snaza receives a high five during the Mossyrock Freedom Festival Saturday afternoon.



Hay bales mark parking during the Mossyrock Freedom Festival parade Saturday morning.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Fireworks explode in a field across from the Packwood Community Hall Saturday evening.



Lonnie Goble, friends, family and volunteers pose for a photo outside the Packwood Fire Department before a fireworks show Saturday evening.



Fireworks explode over trees in Packwood Saturday night.



Visitors gather at dusk to watch a fireworks show put on by Lonnie Goble, the Packwood Fire Department and community donations.



An elk crosses U.S. Highway 12 in Packwood as visitors prepare to watch a fireworks display Saturday evening.

Fourth

Continued from the front page

trucks drove by with horns honking. Shortly before the show, a trumpet player stood in the field beside the fire station to play the Star-Spangled Banner.

Mineral Lake was also the backdrop for a Saturday night

show, which is put on from a barge on the lake each year, organized by community volunteers.

The Big Bottom Blast fireworks show in Randle came the following night and a flea market was held in Randle from Friday through Monday.

Sunday also brought the beginning of Centralia's Sum-

merfest, with events being held at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds throughout the day ahead of Monday's Fourth of July parade.

In Pe Ell, a parade on Monday ran through the town before a fireworks display was held at dusk. Check out Thursday's edition of The Chronicle for more on Sum



Wires connect fireworks to charges ready for a show Saturday evening in Packwood.



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Fireworks explode and illuminate the sky Saturday over Packwood.

Opinion

Columnists, Our Views,
Letters to the Editor

Chad Taylor, *Publisher*
Coralee Taylor, *CEO*

Eric Schwartz, *Editor-in-Chief*
Franklin Taylor, *Vice President*

COMMENTARY: *Highlighting Lewis County*

Interview Provides Glimpses of Early Salzer Valley

As the nation's bicentennial celebration approached in 1976, members of the Salzer Valley Homemakers decided to reopen the historic one-room school so local fourth graders could see how their counterparts learned at the turn of the century.

To that end, Carol (Matteneson) Ponder, at the time 32, interviewed one of the valley's old-timers, Ella Lammers Lewis. One side of a cassette records the voices of the interview; the other contains music. Ponder drew a sketch of the old school and she and Lewis put together a one-page history that they gave to students who visited on field trips.

They pulled out the wood and metal desks stored on a little stage behind a curtain so the students would have a place to sit. On their field trips, bus drivers stopped on the road and fourth graders from Washington, Edison and Oakview schools in Centralia crossed Salzer Creek on a new wooden bridge (dedicated in 1973) to reach the school. One member of the homemakers volunteered as the teacher, while two others walked from desk to desk with paper, an ink bottle and straight pins, letting students write their names as if they were using a quill and ink.

"We did it for three years," recalled Ponder, who celebrates her 89th birthday next week. "But we were so tired. We had those big gas and oil lanterns we had to hook high up in the ceiling."

Teachers brought students to the Salzer Valley school for field trips until 1996, when the Lewis County Retired Teachers Association finished its replica of a one-room school at Fort Borst Park.

The Salzer Valley Homemakers, who entered jams, jellies and baked goods every year in the Southwest Washington Fair, was known as the Salzer Valley Home Demonstration Club in November 1935, when Lewis co-hosted a potluck luncheon for the Hanaford Helping Hand Club.

For the bicentennial, Ponder drew pictures depicting local people and places — logging, farming, coal mining, the Fort Borst blockhouse, Salzer Valley schoolhouse, Salzer homestead, Borst home, Twin Cities trolley and Chehalis Indian basket weaving — that club members sewed into squares for the bicentennial quilt.

When she arrived for the interview with Lewis, Ponder said, the elderly woman's home was quite messy.

"She had to clear off a chair for me to sit," Ponder recalled, adding that she often quipped she took housekeeping lessons from Ella Lewis.

As she asked questions, Ponder said, her gaze drifted outside to a little white lamb sleeping just outside the door.

Ella Lammers was born in Nebraska in February 1897 and was only 4 when her family settled in Salzer Valley east of Centralia. Her parents, immigrants from Denmark, were John Christopher and Anna Mary (Sorenson) Lammers. The family rented the old Joseph and Anna Salzer homestead after



By Julie McDonald



Carol Ponder is pictured near the former one-room Salzer Valley schoolhouse.

Grandma Anna Salzer, a widow, moved in with her son, Jacob.

"Dad said that was the only place that had a place big enough to drive a team in and turn around," Lewis said during the 1976 interview. "We brought 12 head of cows and four horses, pigs and chickens, and adults, household goods."

Ella, who had an older sister, Etta, and a younger sister, Emma, attended the one-room Salzer Valley School, which was erected in 1894 across from the Salzer family homestead on land donated by brothers Gottlob and Dan Salzer. It had no electricity or running water but had a woodstove for heat and outhouses in the back behind a woodshed.

Her teacher was Mary Victorine "Rena" (Hickling) Coonness, the daughter-in-law of Centralia founder George Washington. In July 1890, she had married Stacy Coonness, the son of George's wife Mary Jane Washington and her first husband, Stacey Coonness, and six years later, she gave birth to a daughter, Audrey.

At the time, according to Ponder and Lewis, she was one of 17 Black teachers in the United States. The Coonnesses lived in a house at the corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue and later moved into a larger home on South Silver Street.

Every Monday, Stacy Coonness, who owned a wagon pulled by a team of draft horses, would drop off his wife at the Salzer Valley School on his way to haul coal from the mines on Proffitt Road. He took the coal to town and sold it.

"They generally made two trips a day," Lewis said. "But he would bring her early Monday morning and then he'd pick her up at four o'clock at night Friday night."

Coonness taught all eight grades at Salzer Valley School from 1902 to 1909. Lewis recalled the crowded conditions with as many as 60 students

"When I got ready to leave, I said, 'Boy, that little lamb has sure been sleeping a lot.' And she said, 'Oh, he's not sleeping. He's dead.'"

Carol Ponder
recalling interview with Ella

from grades one through eight packed into the building. Older students sat two to a metal seat, Lewis said, "and three of us little kids sat in those seats."

The school didn't have slates but rather blackboards — boards between three windows painted black with a little eraser holder at the bottom — where some students diagrammed sentences while others worked arithmetic problems and still others wrote at their desks or did recitations. Both sides of the door also were painted black.

While Coonness taught 60 Salzer Valley students in eight grades, Lewis said, "Now it's terrible if they (teachers) have 30 — and all in the same subject."

Those were not easy years, especially the last one.

In 1909, when Ella was 12, her baby sister died of an illness.

Emma Leona Lammers, born in 1899, died in 1909 at the age of 8 years, 8 months, and 14 days. On March 31, 1909, The Centralia News-Examiner published a tribute to the young girl who had moved to the Salzer Valley in 1904, describing her as "an affectionate and dutiful daughter, the pet and pride of the home." It described her as "studious and obedient at school, ranking high in her class," with a sweet, quiet and modest manner.

"Her last illness was the first severe illness she had ever known, and through all her suffering she was patient and docile, winning praises from her nurses and physicians for her brave spirit," the newspaper stated. "She has been frequently called 'the angel child' by those who realized how truly her angelic expression mirrored a pure, sweet and lovely soul."

Three years later, the Lammers buried their older daughter, Etta G. Lammers, at the age of 22. Their parents outlived two of their three girls by many years. Ella's father died in 1950 and her mother in 1955. They were buried in the Pioneer Cemetery near their daughters.

Perhaps it was her sister's illness that prompted Ella to train as a licensed practical nurse after graduating from Centralia High School in 1915. She worked at a nursing home and at Centralia General Hospital for eight years.

Because of crowded conditions at Salzer Valley, residents built a more modern school in 1910, although like its predecessor, it had no electricity and students still used outhouses. The original building served as a home for the teacher and her family.

Three years later, Salzer Valley joined with Bear Creek to form the Salzer Valley Consolidated District No. 213, but Centralia started folding smaller schools into a larger district in the 1930s and 1940s. By 1944, buses carried all Salzer Valley students to schools in town.

The Salzer Valley Community Club purchased the old school property and, in 1963, moved the old one-room school building closer to adjoin the newer building, where it served as a kitchen and meeting room. The now-dilapidated building was used for weddings, receptions, community meetings, homecoming picnics, Christmas gatherings and other events.

Unfortunately, Rena and Stacy Coonness suffered tragedy

in 1918 when their talented, musical daughter Audrey, a pianist at the Christian Church, fell ill with pneumonia and then tuberculosis and died May 18, 1918. She was only 21. Two years later, Rena Coonness died at the age of 48 after a long illness. Her husband, Stacy, lived until April 1944, when he died at 83. They are buried at Washington Lawn Cemetery.

Ella married Chressler Calvin "Chris" Lewis, who from 1913 until 1930 ran an auctioneering business with his father. He later quit to farm. They had one son, Archie C. Lewis, who moved to New York where he and his wife, Anne, had six children. One of them, Mrs. Patricia Lindeman, later lived in Centralia.

Ponder said her sister, Myrna, grew close to Ella and her husband, Chris, when she lived in their old home at the end of Reinke Road. She described Lewis as "quite the character" and noted that after her husband died in December 1961 at the age of 73, Ella traveled alone to Africa for a safari.

"We always served potluck, I remember, and she always brought some store-bought cookies," Ponder said.

Lewis raised beef cattle and belonged to the Salzer Valley Community Club, Oakview Grange, and Chehalis Women of the Moose. Her son, Archie, died in 1971 at the age of 47.

At the end of the interview, Ponder gazed again at the little white lamb.

"When I got ready to leave, I said, 'Boy, that little lamb has sure been sleeping a lot,'" Ponder recalled. "And she said, 'Oh, he's not sleeping. He's dead.'"

Eight years later, on Dec. 20, 1980, Ella died at the age of 83. She had six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She and Chris Lewis are buried at Mountain View Cemetery.

•••

Julie McDonald, a personal historian from Toledo, may be reached at chaptersoflife1999@gmail.com.

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.

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■ 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.

Paddlers Recover Kayak Lost During Headwaters to Harbor Series

By Isabel Vander Stoep

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Readers of The Chronicle may remember the front page story from May 24 titled “River Diary No. 1: Up a River With Only a Paddle,” which was part of the paper’s Headwaters to Harbor series, where journalists paddled the Chehalis River and published stories along the way.

In it, I detail the harrowing experience of tipping an overstuffed kayak before losing the vessel and all the gear inside to the swift river, leaving me stranded in the middle of rapids between Pe Ell and Rainbow Falls.

Including my pride, plenty was lost in that misadventure — my glasses, camera gear, clothes, sleeping bags, medicine and clothes. The same fate befell the kayak of Chronicle photographer Jared Wenzelburger.

The next morning, CT Publishing VP Franklin Taylor and Chronicle Editor-in-Chief Eric Schwartz walked along the Chehalis River searching for the boats, to no avail. The team resigned itself to the idea that all was lost and likely never to be found.

That’s until June 12, when I received a Facebook message from a woman named Heather MacForrest with a photo of my gear, soaked through with river water and the caption, “Did you want your stuff back?”

About a week later, Wenzelburger and I were sitting in the MacForrests’ home listening to the story of the missing kayak. Gryphon MacForrest, Heather’s husband, was the one who found the lost plastic boat while he and a friend paddled from above Rainbow Falls to near the South Fork Chehalis confluence with the main stem.

MacForrest has a backyard full of kayaks and canoes. He’s



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Chronicle reporter Isabel Vander Stoep speaks with Heather and Gryphon MacForrest after they returned the contents of a lost kayak. Some of the items recovered from the kayak on the Chehalis River are pictured on the table next to them.

been a paddler since childhood, learning the ins and outs of whitewater from a program. Some kids from that program, he said, ended up turning rafting into their careers. He’s traveled all over the United States to buy canoes made from a special lightweight plastic that is no longer manufactured. He even has one canoe made of kevlar.

Though he lives along the Black River in Rochester, MacForrest and a friend have familiarized themselves with the Chehalis as it suits the type of paddling they enjoy.

“We like the easy whitewater. We like it to move and we like it to bounce. But we don’t like to be so scared you can’t spit,” he said.

Comparing notes from our two journeys from Pe Ell to Rainbow Falls — on the Pe Ell River Run and again on May 21 — it was clear MacForrest knew the Upper Chehalis like the back of his hand. He has names for each of the rapids sections and islands he comes across, and aptly describes the basalt rock formations as “a bunch of Rubik’s cubes stuffed into a popcorn ball.”

One day, he and John came across a blue-green kayak. It had some holes, but was still partially afloat. Inside, there was a bag filled with water and presumably gear.

“We said, ‘OK, let’s take the bag and maybe there’s something in it. Maybe there’s some-

thing identifying, whatever we can contact. If not, then we got a good bag here. We don’t have a splash bag and so we could salvage the bag at least.’ So we dumped all the water out of the boat and sort of thought, ‘Well it’d be really cool to watch it go over Rainbow (Falls). Let’s do that,’” MacForrest said. “So, this is my way of apologizing for getting rid of your boat.”

As he and his paddling partner brought the kayak down the river, they found a group of kids playing around and ended up giving the kayak to them.

“They were having a fine adventurous day,” he said.

Besides the boat, all was returned to me, including my glasses, and even cash that I for-

got was in the bag.

But more valuable than the items, the MacForrests taught us more about paddling and the Chehalis River and showed us kindness. When we arrived to pick up the stuff, all my river-soaked clothing and even the sleeping bags had been laundered. In exchange, Wenzelburger made sure to give Gryphon that dry bag he was eyeing.

We hope to get back on the river with them sometime.

If anyone sees another kayak somewhere around Doty, email us at isabel@chronline.com and jared@chronline.com.

You can still read all our Headwater to Harbor coverage at www.chronline.com/Chehalis-River.

How to Stay Safe While Paddling the Chehalis River and Beyond

By Lee First

For The Chronicle

Luna Leopold, a leading U.S. geomorphologist and hydrologist, said this of rivers: “We must let the river teach us. Not just a few of us. Let the river teach all of us.”

Like many readers, I was impressed by The Chronicle’s recent series of articles about the Chehalis River. I hope the articles inspire basin residents to learn more about this special river.

In over 50 years of paddling kayaks and canoes on streams, rivers, bays and oceans, it is rivers I have learned most from. Rivers transport more than water. They move sediment, wood and more.

They constantly transform the landscape, sometimes to an almost unfathomable extent, and especially after floods. For this reason, safe paddling a small craft on rivers requires an awareness of the hazards and a willingness to learn about rivers and how to stay safe on river adventures.

Here are some descriptions of several stretches of the Chehalis River along with some safety tips to get you started.

Chehalis River Offers a Paddling Experience for Everyone

Some rivers are safe at most flows, and others are not. For example, the Chehalis. I’ve found that you want at least 700 cubic feet per second (CFS) on the section between Pe Ell and Rainbow Falls. If the flow is less, and you’re not paying serious attention, it’s easy to hit rocks and capsize.

Above Pe Ell, the Chehalis has sections of class three and four whitewater rapids. These should be navigated only by very skilled boaters. From Pe Ell to the South Fork confluence, there are some class two rapids. These usually have wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium-sized waves are easily avoided by trained paddlers. Swimmers are seldom injured and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed.



Jared Wenzelburger / jared@chronline.com

Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, paddles during a trip on the Black and Chehalis rivers with a pair of Chronicle journalists in May.

From Porter to Grays Harbor, the river is tidally influenced. On a day with a large tide difference, (up to a 14-inch difference), I’ve paddled upstream from Aberdeen to Elma on the incoming tide. That’s the fun part of paddling tidal rivers. On the other hand, if there’s a strong ebb tide, and a strong upstream wind (which is usually the case in the afternoon), the opposing forces of flow and wind can be treacherous.

A few words about season and temperature: I paddle all year. I love winter paddling. In winter, or in cold water or weather, dress for immersion. A waterproof breathable drysuit is the garment of choice for most paddling enthusiasts in the Pacific Northwest, where rivers run cold virtually all year. Neoprene works well as an insulator, even when wet, but most wetsuits don’t offer the same level of comfort or safety as a drysuit. You never know when you might need immersion clothing, so it’s an excellent idea to wear it from the start. If you get too warm, go for a swim.

A Word About Wood

Large wood, sometimes called “sweepers” or “strainers,” in rivers can be deadly. These are the large trees that have recently

fallen or been transported by high flows. Strong currents can take you directly into a sweeper, which can easily trap and drown a paddler.

Keep your eyes peeled for wood hazards if you are paddling after a flood, when trees can fall into the river and logjams can shift and move. If you’re about to enter a blind river curve, get out and scout it. Use that long rope to “line” your boat around the bend instead of heading into a blind curve.

If the river has recently flooded, try to get a wood report from someone who has already paddled after the flood. The more access and knowledge we have about the river, the more likely we will act to protect it. Be safe and have fun. Let the river teach you.

River Safety Tips

Make sure you have the right gear and know how to use it.

Be prepared for your boat to capsize or swamp (fill with water) by having the proper gear and knowing how to use it. To prevent losing a canoe or kayak, the craft should have flotation to displace water, which can be as simple as a large piece of securely lashed styrofoam.

It’s essential to have a life

jacket, a spare paddle, and if your boat is not self-bailing, a hand pump or something to bail water out after capsizing or swamping. A throw bag, or a strong rope at least 50-feet in length is the Swiss army knife of boating gear. You can use it to tie off your boat to shore, pull it to shore if it capsizes or help pull a person to shore in a rescue situation. If not using a throw bag, stow your rope in a stuff sack of some kind. Loose ropes can be entanglement hazards, wrapping around arms, legs, necks, etc.

Before setting out, check the flow using the system of USGS gauges, or other methods. Look for the NOAA forecast for the gauge nearest the stretch of river you want to run. The Chehalis has gauges at Pe Ell, Adna, Grand Mound and Porter, among other places. Pay attention to the trend. Use extra caution if the river is already high and/or rising. High flows mean fast current, fewer rest spots (eddies) and more likely you will confront wood in the river.

Practice and Be Prepared Before You Get Out on the Water

I’ve had my share of capsizing small craft by accident, and also on purpose. Capsize your boat in safe water, like a nice warm

lake, to practice rescue techniques. Consider taking a two-day “swiftwater” rescue course. Swiftwater training was developed for firefighters and other first responders, but anyone can take the course.

Always tell someone where you’re going and when you expect to be home. Measure the distance of the section you’re planning to paddle. Carry a map. Have a person on land that you can call if you get into trouble. Keep your phone or other signaling device in a high-quality waterproof bag. Always carry at least one extra set of clothing (wool is best), and extra food and water.

Always Wear Your Life Jacket and Know What’s Right Downstream

My friends all tease me because the first thing I do when I prepare to launch is tighten up my life vest. I learned the importance of that when I got thrown out of a kayak on a huge rapid in the Grand Canyon. My vest was loose. After being seriously tumbled by an enormous wave, the vest slipped up making it difficult to breathe. I usually leave my vest on all day, and don’t take it off until I’m about to get back into the car. Besides, vests are warm.

You should never be looking away very long from what is downstream. Obviously, that helps you stay on your line, but more importantly it will prevent you from getting surprised by an obstacle. Rocks of course pose obstacles, but wood, particularly downed trees and log jams, are the greatest hazards on a river.

...

Lee First is the Twin Harbors Waterkeeper. Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, is a leader in the effort to prevent pollution in the Chehalis River, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay watersheds. Its mission is to protect and improve water quality and marine and freshwater habitats. Twin Harbors Waterkeeper works to address environmental health disparities that are driven by historic and current pollution and systemic inequities that disadvantage communities of color and lower income populations in the Chehalis River, Grays Harbor Estuary and Willapa Bay Watersheds.

Centralia Breeder's Thoroughbred Earns 'Horse of the Year' Distinction

By Isabel Vander Stoep
isabel@chronline.com

Farm life is full of highs and lows: births, deaths, earnings, loss, fruits and labor.

Petra Lewin, of Centralia, has toiled away on her Prather Road farm since 1972.

Her biggest high to date came this last March, when a racehorse she bred, Blazingbellablu, was honored in Emerald Downs with the distinction of "Horse of the Year" by the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association for 2021.



Petra Lewin
owner of horse

"We're very proud of her. She won \$152,000-plus last year and was voted 3-year-old filly of the year and overall 3-year-old. ... The last time a 3-year-old filly won was in 2000," Lewin said. "And now our horse won; a 3-year-old filly won a championship. And she grew up here on Michigan Hill in Centralia, which is really the most odd thing."

For Lewin and Blazingbellablu's trainer, Charlie Essex, of Auburn, the title is no small feat.

Lewin has been breeding horses for decades and said the honor was the highlight of her career. Thoroughbred horse records are kept throughout the year, and Blazingbellablu's 2021 Horse of the Year title means she was the biggest earner in the state for race horses. Earnings from those wins are split between the trainer, breeder and jockey.

The horse will now advance to a national competition for the title. Lewin said she wouldn't win, but she's amazed they even got this far.

"It validates that hard work and persistence does pay off,



Blazingbellablu, seen here in a photograph provided by Petra Lewin, of Centralia, last March earned the honor of "Horse of the Year" by the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association for 2021.

getting her to where she is. She's a very sweet horse," Lewin said. "Hard work does pay off."

Lewin was raised in Salt Lake City and attended the University of Utah before winding up in Centralia on 20 acres with a run-down barn and house that she rebuilt for decades.

She credits her partner, Robert Brown, for being supportive

in all her efforts as a farmer and local realtor.

Another passion of Lewin's is three-day eventing with horses. Eventing is, as Lewin put it, like an Olympic triathlon for horses.

The first day, horses and riders perform dressage to display obedience. The second day, the horse's endurance is tested. The final day is a combination of

both elements.

Lewin said eventing was originally created to test whether a horse was ready for war. In the U.S. Eventing Association's area seven, encompassing Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Alaska, Lewin was once the three-day eventing champion.

"I'm a working person," Lewin said.



Blazingbellablu was honored in Emerald Downs with the distinction of "Horse of the Year" by the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association for 2021.

News in Brief

Thurston County Home Was for Sale, so Thief Pretended to Be a Real Estate Agent, Police Say

By The Olympian

A man thought to be in his 50s was arrested on suspicion of multiple crimes last month, including criminal impersonation, after he posed as a real estate agent to burglarize a Lacey home that was for sale, according to police.

About 3:45 p.m. on June 23, Lacey police were dispatched to an auto parts store after the victim reported that more than \$1,000 in equipment had been purchased with a stolen credit card.

Police later learned that the man in his 50s, plus an unidentified woman thought to be in her 60s, showed up at a Lacey home earlier in the day pretending to be real estate agents, Sgt. Shannon Barnes said.

The house, which is for sale, is in the area of Marvin Road Southeast and Pacific Avenue Southeast, she said.

The nanny answered the door and the man and woman explained they needed to measure the house. Multiple people had already looked at the house for sale, so she let them in, Barnes said. He then proceeded to steal things from the house and left.

The credit card was used again at a gas station on Martin Way, so police tracked the suspect there and were able to identify him based on a description.

He was initially detained at the gas station but then west-bound on Martin Way where he was eventually taken into custody by police, Barnes said.

In addition to criminal impersonation, the man was booked on suspicion of residential burglary, forgery, obstructing a law enforcement officer and an outstanding warrant, she said.

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PRICES EFFECTIVE July 6 - 12, 2022

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum Launches Stationary 'Escape Room Dinner Train' at the Depot

ADJUSTING: Railroad Hopes to Resume Passenger Operations as Early as October

By Emily Fitzgerald
emily@chronline.com

A scoundrel has taken the controls of Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum's 1920s dining car and, with no outside help on the way, it's up to the passengers to use their puzzle-solving skills to help stop the runaway train.

Sure, the train isn't moving. There's not really an unsavory figure running rampant in the engine car. But the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum (CCRM) is trusting passengers will use their imaginations to fully bring Shankz 3D Blacklight Miniature Golf owner Guy Steele's escape room concept to life.

"We hope our loyal passengers will find the fun in this event," said CCRM President Mary Kay Nelson.

They seem to like the idea, as CCRM has sold many tickets for its upcoming "Escape Room Dinner Train, On the Train — At the Depot" events within a few days of the announcement, Nelson said.

"I've got people inquiring about birthday parties and wanting to buy tickets for the Polar Express already, and I can't sell those tickets, obviously, yet. But people are inquiring so I'm glad to have something to offer them. This is a response to the folks to let them know that we're not going out of business," Nelson said.

CCRM shut down all revenue-generating passenger rail operations in early March after it lost its liability insurance coverage.

With a mile and a half of track still unusable due to flood damage sustained in January, CCRM is waiting until track repairs are complete to reapply for insurance that would allow it to resume revenue-generating passenger rail service, according to Nelson.

CCRM did obtain premises-liability insurance in early April, which allowed railroad workers to return to the site and allows CCRM to hold fundraising events at and around the depot, so long as the trains aren't moving.

"We started doing some brainstorming and at the same time they gave us permission to do that, we had been getting requests for especially the Murder Mystery Dinner Train, it was just so popular," Nelson said.

Due to COVID-19, CCRM has had difficulty finding actors who were willing to take part in the highly-interactive, close-quarters performance, Nelson said.

Someone soon had the idea to reach out to Guy Steele, who runs an escape room at his business, Shankz, inside Yard Birds in Chehalis.

"We approached him and said, 'Hey, would you be able to take your program off site?' And he goes, 'Well, that would be really unique, I'd love to do it. But we're gonna have to really create something new and different,'" Nelson recalled.

Passengers on the escape room trains will stay at their respective tables and solve puzzles there rather than moving around the car, Nelson said.

Tables of four passengers will each be given an assigned suitcase where they will find a key or clue to help get the engineer regain control of the train.

Dates for the escape room trains are July 16 and 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Oct. 8, with one 2 p.m. train and one 5 p.m. train each day. Seating is limited to 52 passengers on each train.

Tickets are \$40 each for the 2 p.m. slot, which doesn't include dinner, and \$65 for the 5 p.m. slot, which includes a three-course dinner. Passengers choose their entrée of Italian lasagna or chicken fettuccine alfredo when they reserve their seats online at steamtrainride.com.



The Chehalis-Centralia Railroad depot is pictured in this photograph provided by the organization.

events, CCRM is planning a Wizard Express for Oct. 1-2, and the Pumpkin Train for Oct. 15-16 and 22-23.

If the track repairs are completed and the insurance coverage issue is resolved by the holiday season, CCRM plans to offer the Polar Express as usual, Nelson said.

While the damage to the track is "quite phenomenal," Nelson said "it's not taking as long to do the repair work as it is to get funding from the federal government that we're relying on for the repair work."

CCRM has completed applications for state and federal funding for the track repairs and is just waiting to receive the funding, Nelson said.

"We aren't starting (repairs) till we know that we have money



Passengers are pictured inside a rail car in this photograph provided by the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum.

in hand to do it with, but all indications are that we'll have that within a month or so," she said.

CCRM's goal is to have every-

thing in place to resume passenger operations in October.

In the meantime, CCRM is taking advantage of the time off

"Nobody wants to see it go away. So you know, it's kind of up to us. No matter how long it takes. We're going to keep working at it."

Mary Kay Nelson
CCRM president

to renovate some of the coaches and provide some extra training for the crew.

"The property is getting kind of a makeover to make sure that all of our risks are reduced," Nelson said.

"We're taking advantage of the opportunity. It was kind of forced upon us, but we're responding in a way that I think makes perfect sense."

Regardless of how long it takes to get back to full operations, Nelson wants to assure the community that CCRM is here to stay.

"The community loves the train. The response has been terrific. Nobody wants to see it go away. So you know, it's kind of up to us. No matter how long it takes. We're going to keep working at it," she said.

CCRM is looking for volunteers and is accepting community donations to help with management costs. Visit <https://steamtrainride.com> for more information.

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| Coors or Coors Light Beer 30/12 oz 25⁹⁹ ea | Keystone Light Beer 15/12 oz 9⁹⁹ ea | White Claw, Truly, or San Juan Hard Seltzers 12/12 oz 18⁹⁹ ea | Black Box Wine 3 L 16⁹⁹ ea | Platinum 7x Vodka 750 ml 10⁸⁹ ea + taxes | Rich & Rare Whiskey 1.75 L 17⁹⁹ ea + taxes | | | | | | |

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New Christian Values-Based Early Learning Center to Open in Centralia This September

CHILD CARE: Pacific Northwest Learning Center Supported by \$900,000 State Commerce Grant

By Emily Fitzgerald
emily@chronline.com

The founders of the new Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center came together under less than ideal circumstances in September 2021, but with a dream to provide community-focused child care and a \$900,000 state Department of Commerce grant under their belt, they are on track to open their new child-care facility on Sept. 1, 2022.

“The Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center is a child care center that is based on Christian values, but we are community involved. And that’s our main focus, is our families and the community,” said Jessica King, a member of the board of directors for the Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center.

“And when we say the community, it engulfs educating staff and parents about children’s needs, and where they’re going with that, and then having the strong ties to work with other community resources like Headstart, ECAP (and) the Centralia School District on outreach and intertwining so that when our kids transition into those different stages of their development, that they are supported on both sides,” King said.

King strives to form the kind of close parent/educator relationships she formed with Early Learning Center Director Bailey Williams back when Williams was the parent and King was the director of Cooks Hill Community Child Care Center.

“When you’re in charge of caring for another one’s family, you build this bond of, ‘You’re entrusting me with your child.’ And we’re going to help that family in any way, shape or form. So even if that’s, you know, (be-



Jessica King, left, and Bailey Williams of the Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center are pictured in downtown Centralia.

ing) an emotional resource or being able to come in and talk about what’s going on with your child or your day to day basis, that was my job as a director,” said King, adding, “That’s kind of what we want with our parents is that we’re here for them. We’re just not there as a business, but we purposely care for their family.”

Williams approached King with the idea for the Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center after King was let go from her position at Cooks Hill in September 2021.

King’s forced departure caused some parents, including Williams, to pull their children from Cooks Hill and caused some staff to walk out in protest.

One of those staff members was now-former Cooks Hill as-

sistant director Jhalyn Molina, who ended up joining King and Williams in their venture to create the Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center.

“We then went on this venture of trying to find a building that would be able to sustain growth over a long term,” King said.

They set their sights on Dell’s Children Center, located at 1212 North Pearl St. in Centralia.

“That was the building that we were going toward because we already had a relationship with the owner and communicated with her,” King said.

They submitted an application for a Early Learning Facilities (ELF) Capital Facilities Competitive grant in November and were awarded \$900,000 in April.

King and Williams credit support from state Rep. Peter Abbarno, R-Centralia, on the Senate floor as one of the reasons why they were awarded the grant.

“He is a phone call away for us and has always been kind of a great cheerleader on our end,” King said.

The grant will cover the cost of purchasing Dell’s Children Center from its current owner, a deal that is scheduled to close on Aug. 31.

The Pacific Northwest Early Learning Center is scheduled to open for the 2022-2023 school year the next day, on Sept. 1.

“We’re going to be hitting the ground running,” Williams said.

Also opening Sept. 1 is the center’s nursery house, which will provide care for kids as

young as 6 months.

“Which is great because there’s not a whole lot of nursery care providers,” King said. “That’s a huge need that we know. And parents get really frustrated, not all on finding care, but quality care. And so that was that was our number one priority was getting that nursery back up and running.”

Most of the Early Learning Center’s spots have been filled, but the facility is accepting kids on a waiting list.

“We had great feedback and parents that are ready to have their kids start the center,” King said.

For more information or to place a child on the waiting list, visit <https://www.pnwearlylearningcenter.org/>.

Rochester Man Taken to Harborview After Crash That Closed U.S. 12 for Four Hours

By The Chronicle staff

A 60-year-old Rochester man was transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle Saturday after a crash on U.S. Highway 12 in Grand Mound that closed the roadway for four and a half hours, according to the Washington State Patrol.

Kenneth M. Pekola was traveling southbound on Pecan Street in a 2016 Chevrolet Corvette at about 3:15 p.m. when he entered U.S. Highway 12 and collided with 2006 Ford F-150 driven by Curtis E. Dahl, 46, of Vancouver. Debris from the collision struck a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta driven by Owen A. Stidham, 19, Rochester.

Pekola was taken to Harborview while the other two drivers were medically cleared at the scene or not injured.

The state patrol determined the cause of the crash to be failing to yield.

All drivers involved were wearing seat belts and drugs or alcohol were not factors in the

crash, according to the state patrol.

Republican State Senator Calls for Special Session to Suspend Sales Tax

By The Chronicle staff

In a statement released this week, state Sen. Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville, called on Gov. Jay Inslee to call a special session of the Legislature to pass a sales tax suspension.

“If Governor Inslee and Democratic leaders in Congress like Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer think a gas-tax holiday is a bad idea, let’s focus on suspending the state sales tax for Washingtonians,” Schoesler said. “It’s a fast and simple solution to help consumers in our state who are battling record inflation, and it would address what many people call a regressive tax. If the governor likes gas prices as high as they are, let’s offer tax relief in a different way. And let’s do it soon.”

According to Schoesler, who serves on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, a sales-tax suspension would be especial-

ly beneficial for places along Washington’s border with other states, including Spokane, Pullman and Vancouver, whose residents cross the border where they don’t have to pay sales tax.

Schoesler would like to see the sales tax reduced by one percentage point, preferably permanently, but at least until inflation declines.

He pointed to projections by the state’s Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, whose director, Dr. Steve Lerch, said inflation has driven increases in forecasted revenue.

“It’s wrong and immoral for the state to more or less make a profit off the backs of taxpayers due to record inflation. Our governor needs to realize this and finally support tax relief for Washingtonians instead of treating them like an ATM for his spending agenda,” Schoesler said.

Dinner and Auction to Raise Funds for Oakley Carlson’s Reward Fund

By The Chronicle staff

Missing Oakville girl Oakley Carlson’s foster parents and

the Light the Way Missing Persons Advocacy Project will host a dinner and auction event later this month to raise money for Oakley’s reward fund.

The event called, “Paint the Night Pink for Oakley,” will begin at 6 p.m. on July 16 in McCleary.

An auction featuring donations from all over the state, including Seattle Mariners tickets, zoo and aquarium tickets, a getaway for two at the Lucky Eagle Casino, a police

ridealong with the Elma Police Department and more will begin at 7 p.m.

All auction sales, the \$40 entrance fee — which includes dinner and two drink tickets — and sales from the Whiskey Wagon mobile bar on site will go toward the Justice for Oakley Carlson Reward Fund, which is a non-profit with 501c3 status. The fund passed \$20,000 last May.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-the-night-pink-for-oakley-tickets-346434203027>.

The reward is for credible in-

formation that leads to Oakley’s whereabouts or for information that leads to the arrest of anyone involved in her disappearance and expires Dec. 6, 2022.

Oakley was reported missing on Dec. 6, 2021, though the last credible sighting of the 5-year-old was 10 months earlier on Feb. 10.

Oakley’s biological parents, Jordan Bowers and Andrew Carlson, are suspects in her disappearance. Both were recently convicted in Grays Harbor County Superior Court on unrelated charges and are serving jail sentences.

If the reward is not claimed or extended, the reward funds will then be used at the discretion of Oakley’s foster parents, Erik and Jamie Jo Hiles. Examples include providing a service and headstone for Oakley if necessary, setting up a college fund or scholarship in Oakley’s name, or setting up a trust fund for Oakley’s siblings.

Those with information on the case are encouraged to call the Grays Harbor County Sheriff’s Office non-emergency line at 360-533-8765, Detective Sgt. Paul Logan at 360-964-1729 or CrimeStoppers at 800-222-8477.



Oakley Carlson missing

Case

Continued from the front page

to admit “prior and contemporaneous acts of the victim” into evidence.

Judge James Lawler denied O’Rourke’s motion to separate the three codefendants’ cases, meaning all three will have a joint trial as planned.

Lawler granted O’Rourke’s request to exclude the attempted shoplifting case, in which Echols and Prater allegedly tried to steal a pair of socks from White

Pass Lodge the day of the alleged rape in Randle, from evidence. Deputy Prosecutor Paul Masiello had argued the case was relevant, even though Echols and Prater were never charged for the theft, as it was a “dishonest act that affects (Echols’) credibility, but Lawler ruled that the incident wasn’t relevant to the case at hand.

Regarding O’Rourke’s request to admit “prior and contemporaneous acts of the victim,” specifically the victim’s behavior during the party where the alleged rape occurred, Lawler is-

sued a more nuanced decision.

The victim reportedly told police that she had gone to a party in Randle to see Echols on Jan. 6, 2020, and had consumed alcohol. Echols then reportedly got into a car with the victim and her friend, at which point the victim and Echols both agreed they had consensual sex, according to the defense and prosecuting attorneys. The victim stated she blacked out soon after and later awoke to Echols and Prater assaulting her inside the Randle residence.

Because the victim’s under-

wear has been entered into evidence, O’Rourke asked the court to allow him to use details related to the consensual sex that took place in the car as a defense for why analysis of the underwear revealed Echols’ DNA.

Lawler granted O’Rourke’s request to admit those specific details relating to the evidence on the underwear.

While O’Rourke mentioned admitting details on what he called the victim’s “flirtatious” behavior at the party and said he needed to “argue that she’s lying about the whole situation,”

Lawler ruled that details unrelated to the underwear would not be admissible.

“It’s appropriate to allow the defense to get into detail related to sexual intercourse in the vehicle ... but I don’t see that it needs to go beyond those kinds of details,” Lawler said.

Evidence related to the victim’s consumption of drugs or alcohol will be allowed as that is related to her ability to consent, Lawler said.

A trial confirmation hearing is scheduled for July 14 in preparation for a June 18 trial.

A Look Back in Time: Lost and Wounded Chehalis Boy Survives Journey Through Lewis County Woods

Compiled by Matthew Zylstra

matthew@chronline.com

A Chehalis boy survived over 24 hours in the “wilds of western Lewis County,” treating himself for a severed artery. Chehalis resident Dick Mitchell, 17, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Mitchell. He had been working with a crew to cut fire trails on Weyerhaeuser Company land when he became separated from the group. Mitchell had only a cross-cut saw and a first aid kit with him when he walked down the wrong trail, an error he didn't realize he had made until it was too late.

Mitchell had sought to protect the saw, but while wandering through the brush he cut his hand, severing an artery.

“Blood, he said, spurting nearly a foot from his hand, and he was nearly an hour and a half getting the bleeding stopped. Using a tourniquet, he finally halted it and dressed the wound from the first aid kit he was carrying,” The Chronicle reported.

While he worked to stop the bleeding, he could hear the rest of the crew calling for him. But due to adverse winds, they couldn't hear his responses. After he stopped the bleeding, Mitchell tried to figure out his location but it was already becoming dark and he went to sleep.

The next morning, he climbed a hill to view the surrounding area. While observing the landscape, Mitchell decided to look for a stream and follow it until he reached a community. He eventually found a stream that turned out to be the headwaters of the Chehalis River.

After reaching the stream, Mitchell was exhausted from his wandering, lack of food and loss of blood. He decided to push a log into the stream and ride it downstream.

As he floated downstream, Mitchell passed under a bridge where a man leaned over and asked him if he was going swimming.

“No, I'm going to Pe Ell,” Mitchell replied.

The man asked Mitchell if he was the missing boy.

“That must be me, because I've been lost,” Mitchell is reported to have replied.

The man, who was a part of a group of 30 who were searching for Mitchell, took him to a Weyerhaeuser camp. He was given food and returned home. The Chronicle did not say whether Mitchell had received medical attention, though it did report he had lost weight over the course of his journey.

July 5, 1932

• The Centralia City Commission opened bids during its July 5 meeting for 1,500 feet of 18-inch wood pipe for replacements in Centralia's gravity water system as well as 1,788 feet of 8-inch and 4,608 feet of 6-inch cast iron pipe for replacements in the city's distribution system. Bids were made by companies from Seattle, Tacoma and Portland.

• Russell Neuert, 25, was injured in an accident late on the night of July 4 when his car “left the highway at Grand Mound and overturned.” The Chronicle reported the Onalaska man had not yet regained consciousness and hospital staff had given him “an even chance of recovery.” A young woman had been in Neuert's car but was unharmed in the accident.

• Ray Conrad took office as president of the Centralia Rotary Club on July 5, succeeding Sidney Plummer. After Conrad took office, Ned Moran, a former Centralia Rotary Club president, presented Plummer with a past president's pin. Conrad's election to the Rotary Club presidency meant that members of the Conrad family were the heads of both of Centralia's service clubs, with Conrad's brother, Reid Conrad, having been installed as Kiwanis Club president on Jan. 1, 1932.

• A fire “of incendiary origin” caused damage to a house on South Tower Avenue on the morning of July 5. Damage to the house, owned by Carrie Smith,



Photo and story originally submitted by Zelma Keller, niece of Chance Damitz and daughter of Ernest Damitz, for Our Hometowns

After a Pe Ell Fourth of July parade (year not known), a woman identified as “Crazy Mary,” as she was remembered, and Anna Damitz sit on the porch while Clancy Damitz threatens to bury Troy Conn and another man who have passed out in the yard after festivities. The unknown man was one of two bachelors who shared a house in the area. The unknown man shown here later married and started a family; the other bachelor disappeared and was not heard from again. This photo was taken on Mauerman Road just outside Pe Ell. The Damitz family was one of the original founding families of Pe Ell, which was settled in 1855 by the Mauermans.

was estimated to be around \$300. A second fire, on a lot that is now part of the Centralia College Campus, was started on Walnut Street by what was believed to be a firecracker.

• Two Centralia natives drowned on Sunday, July 3, off the coast of Oregon. Frank, 29, and Hobert, 35, were among nine individuals who were aboard a fishing boat when it was “capsized by heavy seas off the Oregon coast,” The Chronicle reported. As of July 5, no bodies had been recovered.

• Early on July 4, Elmer Jones, of Portland, and William Williams, of Toledo, were arrested after attempting to break into a store on Chehalis Avenue. Police officer Joe Hatfield captured the pair who were then taken to the city jail. Jones and Williams were waiting to be transferred to county jail.

• A steer escaped from a rodeo in Tacoma on the night of July 4, injuring two women. “The steer ran amuck into the crowd, but its horns injured only Miss Lucille Vail and Miss Inez Stone,” The Chronicle reported. Ultimately a man got control of the steer. Vail and Stone were both reported as “recovering satisfactorily.”

July 4, 1942

• Centralia resident Glen Conrad, 24, died in a traffic accident on Thursday, July 2. Conrad was riding on a motorcycle when it collided with a car. The Chronicle reported he was expected to be buried in Centralia.

• Since the Pearl Harbor attack nearly seven months before, Centralia had raised \$355,158 in war bonds and savings stamps to support the war effort. The total was calculated based on sales of bonds and stamps at the Centralia post office, the National Bank of Commerce and the Centralia Federal Savings and Loan Association. January had set the record for most money raised with over \$66,000 raised by Centralians to support the war.

• Centralian James W. Logan, 32, was promoted from the rank of second lieutenant to the rank of major in just 18 months. Logan had been a reserve officer who was activated in early 1941. He was the son of Chehalis residents Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Logan. Logan's military branch was not specified.

• The Twin Cities had experienced three days of 100-degree heat by July 4 and it wasn't just the people who were affected. Sidewalks and streets became mis-shapen as the heat caused the concrete to expand. On Wednesday, July 1, the temperature reached 103 degrees, a record for the year. City Commissioner John Raught told The Chronicle some of the damage had already been repaired and the rest would be fixed soon.

• Centralia taxi driver John Holle, 34, was arrested on July 2 by state liquor board inspectors and Centralia police. The exact charges against Holle were not stated but were related to the sale and possession of alcohol. He posted his \$250 bail and was released.

• The body of Lewis County



Photo submitted by Gloria Patton for Our Hometowns

This Fourth of July parade took place in about 1911 in Pe Ell. The Allen children took first place with their float on that day. In the lead is Bob Allen, who is thought to be about 4 years old at the time. Behind him are his brothers John and Rex. All three boys are hitched to the wagon pulling Catherine (on the left) and an unknown neighbor child (on the right). The children's parents were Harvey and Mabel Allen of Pe Ell. Harvey was a barber and fiddle player and Bob was the father of this photo's contributor.

“recluse” Ralph Rockwell, “about 75,” was discovered on July 2 in a shack near Pe Ell. Rockwell's death “apparently occurred several months ago,” The Chronicle reported. Lewis County Coroner Dr. W.D. Turner determined Rockwell's death was due to natural causes. A funeral service was held at Greenwood Memorial Park on the morning of July 3.

• A six-room modern house in Chehalis was listed for \$1,800. Among the features listed was the house's location on a “paved street.”

July 5, 1952

• The Twin Cities and Lewis County experienced “one of the quietest Fourth of July years” in 1952, The Chronicle reported. The highlight of the July 4 celebration was the annual fireworks show at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds put on by the Chehalis and Centralia Active Clubs. Despite heavy traffic, law enforcement agencies reported not a single traffic accident had occurred in Lewis County, though one Centralia family was in a car accident outside the county. Almost 3,500 people viewed the Active Clubs' fireworks show from the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds grandstands, which “went off without a hitch” compared to the 1951 show that was apparently dampened by rain.

• Multiple large advertisements were placed by television salesmen inviting the public to come view the Republican National Convention on the TVs at their stores on July 7, 8, 9 and 10. “You will see a crystal clear, perfect reception picture,” one ad boasted. The ads emphasized the viewings would be free.

• In The Chronicle's “Lost and Found” section, an entry requesting a thief to “please return” a girl's bicycle was placed. “She is very unhappy, it was her birthday present in May,” The Chronicle's entry read.

• Elizabeth Johnson, 65, passed away on Thursday, July 3, in Elma. Johnson was reported as having been born in February 1887 in Lewis County. Funeral services were set for 1 p.m. on Monday, July 7, in Elma, with her burial to take place at the Grand

Mound Cemetery.

• Silver Creek resident Susie Baker, 93, passed away on Wednesday, July 2. Baker was born on Nov. 8, 1858. She was survived by two sons, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were to take place at Fissell Chapel in Chehalis.

• The July 5 weather forecast for the Twin Cities was a high of 75 degrees, surpassing Los Angeles' 68 and Portland's 73. No precipitation was projected for the Twin Cities that day.

• A Vacation Bible School was set to be held daily at the Chehalis First Baptist Church for two weeks starting Monday, July 7. The classes would be held from 9 a.m. to noon five days a week. The classes would be taught by two students from Linfield College. All interested children were urged to register. According to The Chronicle, the theme for that year's Vacation Bible School was “The Bible.”

• Florence D. Kennicott, of Chehalis, the incumbent Lewis County school superintendent, filed to run for re-election with the Lewis County Auditor's office. Kennicott was the 26th person to file for office, with Harry A. Siler, R-Randle, and Morrill F. Folsom, R-Centralia, both filing for re-election as state representatives.


• Former Lewis County Clerk Maurice C. MacDonald, 54, died on July 3 in a Seattle hospital after undergoing major surgery two weeks prior. MacDonald served as clerk from 1935 to 1942 before moving to Seattle during World War II. He had served several terms as chairman of the Lewis County Democratic Central Committee. MacDonald was born in Napavine, the child of “pioneer parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. MacDonald.” He is reported as having graduated from the then named Chehalis High School and Centralia College.

• A 3-month-old infant died of an apparent heart attack while camping near Packwood on July 4. The boy, Timothy Ritchie Waite, was the son of “Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Waite” of Tacoma. He was put to bed in the back seat of the family car while his parents and 3-year-old sister slept outside. The next morning the family discovered the child had passed away. Firemen attempted to save the infant at the Packwood Ranger Station, performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for “two to three hours.” The baby was then taken to Morton where a doctor said the boy had died of an apparent heart attack.

• “Mrs. Julian Boivet,” a 42-year resident of Centralia, died at the age of 85 on July 4. Boivet was born in Poland on Sept. 10, 1876. She was the mother of Eugenia Allan and foster mother of Izadore Czarnecki. She was survived by eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

July 5, 1962

• Seven minors were arrested on July 3 and 4 for illegal possession and consumption of alcohol. John R. Hatfield, 15, of Winlock, and John Buchholtz, 15, of Chehalis, were remanded to Napavine Justice Court for their trials. Hatfield and Buchholtz were arrested on July 4 at a dance hall west of Chehalis. Two Chehalis residents, Lonnie R. Elder, 18, and John L. Anderson, 18, were arrested at the same dance hall on July 3 for the same reasons. Both Elder and Anderson were still in county jail as of July



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After Mass Shootings, Lawmakers Weigh Body Armor Bans

By Tribune News Service

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Calls for new gun restrictions inevitably follow most American mass shootings, including the one that killed 10 people at a Buffalo supermarket six weeks ago. But in the wake of the Tops supermarket massacre, legislators here and in several other states also have turned their attention to a new target: civilian body armor.

Such equipment — including helmets, bulletproof vests and armor plates — is designed to protect soldiers and law enforcement officers in the line of duty. Until recently, however, no state but Connecticut had restricted how ordinary citizens buy and sell military-grade tactical gear. The armor has, critics say, empowered violent criminals — including mass shooters — to return fire at law enforcement and extend their rampages.

Over the past 20 years, sales of body armor — like sales of guns and ammunition — have grown steadily among the general population, said Aaron Westrick, a professor of criminal justice at Lake Superior State University who has worked extensively with body armor companies and law enforcement. That has complicated some procedures for police officers, who now must train to shoot around body armor, and alarmed some lawmakers and advocates, who question why so many Americans now own tactical gear intended for combat.

In Buffalo, a bulletproof vest allowed the accused 18-year-old gunman to continue his attack even after being shot by a store security guard, retired police officer Aaron Salter Jr. Salter was among those killed. According to the Violence Project, a nonpartisan research center, 21 mass shooters in the past 40 years have worn body armor.

“The shooter in Uvalde had it, in Buffalo, in Aurora, in Boulder, in Sutherland Springs,” New Jersey state Sen. Joseph Cryan, a Democrat and former county sheriff, said of the Tops shooting and other massacres in Texas and Colorado. Cryan’s proposed civilian body armor ban is in committee. “Why do we have to wait for another one?”

New York passed the nation’s first body armor ban June 6; it is a narrow prohibition on soft body vests that legislators have said they will soon expand. New York’s ban earned votes from both parties, though 46 of the 63 Republicans in the legislature opposed it. Pennsylvania Democrats also have promised to introduce body armor legislation this session. On June 16, three of New York’s U.S. rep-



Police on scene at a Tops Friendly Market on Saturday, May 14, 2022, in Buffalo, New York. Ten people were killed after a mass shooting at the store.

resentatives — two Democrats and a Republican — introduced a bill to nationally bar the sale of high-performance body armor to civilians.

Already, however, these measures have proved deeply controversial. At least one body armor manufacturer has promised to sue New York, arguing the state has no right to outlaw protective equipment.

Even among researchers who study gun violence, there’s some doubt that restrictions on body armor sales will make shootings less deadly or less frequent. Instead, Democratic lawmakers have sometimes described the bans as a kind of policy fallback: Given the deadlocked politics of gun control, they’ve said, regulating body armor is one rare area of possible bipartisan consensus.

“Mass shootings are horrific — don’t get me wrong — but they’re such an insignificant part of the violence we’re confronting,” said Warren Eller, a public policy professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “The probability of having an armed offender wearing a body vest get into a firefight with law enforcement is really remarkably insignificant.” Guns killed more than 45,000 Americans in 2021, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonpartisan data collection group. Only 705 of those deaths took place during mass shootings.

Few Existing Restrictions

Lawmakers have attempted to regulate body armor before, but without much success. In 2019, Democratic U.S. lawmakers in the House and Senate proposed two separate federal body armor bills that never made it to a vote. New York state also has repeatedly considered, but never adopted, a proposal to create a central registry of body armor sales and distributors.

This time, however, proponents have been bolstered by the

back-to-back tragedies in Buffalo and Uvalde, Texas, where both gunmen wore some type of tactical gear. In Buffalo, a set of law enforcement-grade hard armor plates saved the shooter from a bullet that police say might have ended his attack much earlier. In Uvalde, the gunman wore a plate carrier vest without its bulletproof inserts — a nonprotective get-up that some legislators have nonetheless said illustrates the threat of mass shooters and body armor.

In addition to Uvalde and Buffalo, shooters recently wore bulletproof vests during the 2015 attack on a county Christmas party in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people; the 2017 attack on the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, that killed 26; and the 2019 attack outside a Dayton, Ohio, bar that killed nine.

Some rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, also wore body armor, a fact reinforced by testimony in a House congressional hearing this week that recounted Secret Service concerns about then-President Donald Trump’s security at a rally that day.

“We shouldn’t be giving civilians equipment that makes them think they can get in a firefight and return fire,” said Adam Skaggs, the chief counsel and policy director at the Giffords Law Center, which advocates for gun safety legislation. “When you give people all this tactical gear made for offensive tactical assaults, it’s not a surprise when some percentage of people use it for the purpose it was designed for.”

Few laws restrict civilians’ rights to buy or own body armor. Federal law prohibits people with violent felony records from owning it, and in many states, people who wear body armor while committing certain crimes can receive longer prison terms or lose the opportunity for

parole. Connecticut also bans online body armor sales, requiring such transfers to happen in person.

In an online diary, the Buffalo gunman wrote that he bought his armor plates on a manufacturer’s website and his carrier vest on eBay.

In the absence of stricter regulations, body armor vendors and manufacturers have been left on their own to decide how to vet their customers, if they vet them at all. Some companies require that buyers provide a reference, a reason for purchasing tactical gear or a copy of their government-issued identification.

But it’s far more common for manufacturers who market to civilians to sell openly and to anyone, much like any other retailer, said Willie Portnoy, the vice president of sales and marketing at the body armor maker Buffalo Armory.

“All types of companies sell on the internet, or to anyone who has a credit card or cash in hand,” said Portnoy, whose company does not sell to civilians. “That is not something we’re comfortable with. ... We don’t want to run the risk of a bad actor using our product for ill intent.”

An Unlikely Deterrent

Body armor bans seek to minimize that risk by criminalizing the sale or possession of civilian body armor, with some narrow exceptions for people whose jobs require it. In both New York and New Jersey, it will fall to either the attorney general or the department of state to determine which occupations qualify.

But the legislation has drawn questions and criticisms — and not only from Second Amendment groups, who have argued that body armor restrictions impinge on Americans’ rights to protect themselves. Although New York Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul touted her state’s legislation as a response to the Buffalo shooting, the law omitted the type of body armor used by the gunman, an oversight that lawmakers have since said they will fix.

Several journalism organizations also have opposed the law because it may prevent reporters who cover protests, wars or other dangerous situations from obtaining protective equipment. During a June 2 debate in the New York Senate, Republican Sen. George Borrello questioned why bulletproof vests shouldn’t be available to taxi drivers or people working overnight shifts.

In an interview with Stateline, Borrello argued that the

measure would do little to prevent mass shootings or make them less fatal.

“This was a slapdash, last-minute bill they (wrote) because of the Buffalo shooter,” he said. “And the law they passed wouldn’t even address that.”

Experts agree that body armor bans are unlikely to deter mass shooters from using tactical equipment, or from reducing gun violence overall. Body armor is so widely available, and in such large quantities, that local bans will simply push buyers into neighboring states, Westrick said. Several manufacturers already have reported a jump in sales, and neither the New York nor New Jersey bills require current owners to surrender equipment, though the federal proposal would also outlaw body armor possession.

On top of that, only a tiny fraction of the more than 100,000 shootings that take place in the United States each year are committed by a perpetrator wearing body armor. There also is little evidence to suggest that people who are highly motivated to purchase tactical equipment will be dissuaded by the possibility of a misdemeanor, said Eller.

“These are meant to be deterrents, but they don’t work that way,” he said. “If you get a plate carrier and plates, that’s a couple hundred dollars. ... If somebody’s decided to do that, they’re probably not someone who’s worried about consequences.”

In the current political climate, however, some Democratic lawmakers see body armor bans as one of the few gun safety policies they can get passed. On the national level, some Republicans also have signaled they’re open to body armor legislation.

U.S. Rep. Tim Briggs, the Pennsylvania Democrat who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, is preparing to introduce a body armor bill that mimics New York’s. Briggs told Stateline that he began looking for more “creative ways” to address gun violence after the chamber’s Republican majority blocked universal background checks and other, more conventional legislative measures.

Briggs isn’t giving up on those policies, he said. But the attacks in Buffalo and Uvalde convinced him of the need for immediate action to prevent mass shooters from outgunning security personnel and law enforcement.

“We are at an inflection point,” he wrote in a memo seeking co-sponsors for the ban, “where we either become part of the solution or we have blood on our hands.”

Nation and World News in Brief

Senate Democrat Urges Biden to Repeal Tariffs to Fight Inflation

By Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — A Senate Democrat called on President Joe Biden to repeal tariffs put in place by the Trump administration, saying they haven’t significantly changed China’s trade practices and are contributing to high prices for Americans.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said Biden “can and must act now” and “pursue a broad range of solutions” to tackle U.S. inflation that’s running at a 40-year high. Biden said in June he was considering possible action on U.S. tariffs on China.

“The tariffs were neither well thought out nor well executed,” Kaine said in an op-ed in the Virginia-based Daily Press published online Saturday evening. “They didn’t significantly alter China’s unfair trade practices, and they are taking dollars out of Americans’ pockets.”

U.S. inflation is eroding worker pay, straining household budgets and depressing Biden’s approval ratings just months before the midterm elections. Prices have surged across the economy, including at the grocery store and the gasoline pump. The rapid price pressures have led to an aggressive pivot by the

Federal Reserve, but concern is mounting the central bank’s efforts to cool inflation could ultimately send the economy into recession.

Kaine called the tariffs “direct taxes on American families and importers” and said “undoing these tax hikes would reduce costs for consumers and allow manufacturers that rely on imported components to be more competitive in the global marketplace.”

In mid-June, Biden said he’d be talking to Chinese President Xi Jinping “soon” and was weighing possible action on the Trump-era tariffs. However, a few days later, Biden’s trade chief, Katherine Tai, said the tariffs on more than \$300 billion in annual US imports of Chinese products provide significant leverage and are useful from a negotiating standpoint.

Newsom Running a Reelection Ad — in Florida

By Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Gavin Newsom is launching his first television ad of the general election on Monday, but not in California. The ad will air thousands of miles away, in Florida, further fueling speculation that he wants to run for president —

or, at a minimum, to troll the state’s Republican leaders.

In the ad, Newsom contrasts the policies in California and Florida while images flash of former President Donald Trump and Gov. Ron DeSantis, potential 2024 presidential candidates.

“Freedom, it’s under attack in your state. Republican leaders, they’re banning books, making it harder to vote, restricting speech in classrooms, even criminalizing women and doctors,” Newsom says in the 30-second spot. “I urge all of you living in Florida to join the fight, or join us in California, where we still believe in freedom — freedom of speech, freedom to choose, freedom from hate and the freedom to love.”

Newsom’s gubernatorial campaign is spending about \$105,000 to air the ad on Fox News stations around the state, according to AdImpact, a firm that tracks political advertisements. The ad is running on Independence Day, when most voters are unlikely to be glued to their television sets. The move, which was rolled out on CNN on Sunday, appears designed to draw national media attention.

The size of the buy is a pitance for the governor, whose reelection campaign had more than \$23 million as of May 21, according to the latest filings with the secretary of state’s of-

fice. Newsom is heavily favored in the fall election over his conservative Republican challenger, state Sen. Brian Dahle, from Northern California.

Newsom, 54, has repeatedly denied that he wants to run for president, but many political experts are skeptical, particularly considering the speculation, warranted or not, about President Joe Biden’s plans to seek reelection.

During Trump’s presidency, Newsom served as a national foil, touting California policy on issues such as climate change. And in recent weeks, he has irked some of his fellow Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, by arguing that the party was being too passive on issues such as abortion. “Stop playing defense, Democrats,” he said in June.

Bezos Lashes Out at Biden Over Call for Lowering of Gas Prices

By Tribune News Service

Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos criticized a tweet from President Joe Biden calling for oil executives to reduce gasoline prices.

Bezos was responding to Biden’s criticism of companies running gas stations and setting prices for consumers. “This is

a time of war and global peril,” the president tweeted on Saturday. “Bring down the price you are charging at the pump to reflect the cost you’re paying for the product. And do it now.”

Bezos tweeted on Saturday night: “Ouch. Inflation is far too important a problem for the White House to keep making statements like this. It’s either straight ahead misdirection or a deep misunderstanding of basic market dynamics.”

The national average for gas was at \$4.812 on Sunday, according to AAA, near the record-high of \$5.016 set last month.

John Kirby, a senior National Security Council spokesman at the White House, hit back at Bezos’ statement. “We obviously take great exception at the idea that this is somehow misdirection,” Kirby said on “Fox News Sunday.”

He said Biden has proposed measures, including at the Group of Seven summit, that could lower U.S. gasoline prices and has freed oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. “If everybody cooperates on this we can bring the price down by at least about a dollar a gallon,” Kirby said.

Bezos has accused Biden of “misdirection” before. In May, the e-commerce executive hit back at a tweet from the president saying inflation could be tamed by making wealthy corporations “pay their fair share.”

String of Cougar, Bobcat Encounters Reported in Lewis County

By Sydney Brown
The Daily News

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) officials are investigating multiple unconfirmed cougar sightings reported in the last month by Southwest Washington residents.

Becky Elder, WDFW police communications specialist, said the recent sightings have not yet caused any public safety concerns and are not unusual for this time of year.

"Sometimes people state they saw a cougar, and sometimes it ends up that it was a tabby cat they saw," Elder said. "I've seen reports of a golden retriever being mistaken as a bobcat."

A citizen on June 11 reported seeing a cougar on the border of Lewis and Cowlitz counties near Vader, though the department has not confirmed this, according to WDFW's public incident report map. The map also shows on June 13 a confirmed cougar killed a Lewis County resident's goats off U.S. Highway 12 near Riffe Lake.

A string of animal sightings were reported between Toledo and Onalaska in June, with two reported incidents from the same day.



A young cougar is pictured in this photograph from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

One report included a citizen who on June 19 said they saw a cougar just outside of Onalaska that WDFW later confirmed was a bobcat.

Kalama resident Amber Johncox owns about 25 chickens at her home. In the last week,

she's noticed several of them have been killed.

Johncox said she will probably buy a game camera to set up around her coop and hopes to identify the animal killing the chickens.

Sportsman's Warehouse in

Kelso sells trail cameras priced from \$39.99 to \$149.99. Game cameras go for about \$100 in the online stores for Bass Pro Shops, Scheels and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Johncox plans to report her sighting to WDFW.

"There's something back there, I just cannot confirm if it's a cougar or a bobcat," Johncox said.

Once an incident is reported to WDFW, Elder said the response varies depending on location and the animal's behavior. If someone is out on a hike and sees a cougar passing by, Elder said WDFW will follow up via phone or email with the person and provide education resources.

If an animal escalates to digging through trash or — like in Johncox's case — killing livestock, the next step is for WDFW to set up game cameras and traps for the animal, Elder said. They also give tips to the owner on how to protect their animals in the meantime.

WDFW says "relatively few" people will ever see a cougar face-to-face. Since Washington state's first fatal cougar attack in 1924, 19 other cougar-human confrontations that caused injuries have been reported. The second, and most recent, fatal attack happened in 2018.

If one does encounter a cougar, WDFW advises not to run or look away from it, but face the animal, speak firmly and slowly back away.

News in Brief

Air Conditioning Units Stolen From Four Thurston County Businesses, Police Say

By The Olympian

Four Tumwater businesses have carried on without air conditioning after the units were stolen, according to police.

And these weren't window AC units typically found in residential homes, but entire commercial HVAC appliances that were stolen, Tumwater police spokeswoman Laura Wohl said this week.

All four were stolen in the past two weeks and one was damaged in the process of being taken, but ultimately was not removed, she said.

Two of those businesses were in the same area: Yamaguchi Family Dentistry was burglarized and so was Family Chiropractic.

Both are located off Capitol Boulevard and south of Trosper Road.

The thefts were confirmed by people who answered the phones at the businesses, although the business owners could not be

reached.

All four crimes likely occurred overnight because they were reported the following morning as people came to work, Wohl said.

Wohl said they're not sure what the thieves were after, although it might be related to the value of metal or wiring.

For the moment, the thefts appear to be unique to Tumwater.

Olympia police Lt. Paul Lower said he was not aware of a similar crime in the city. Lacey police Sgt. Shannon Barnes said there have been reports of copper wire being stolen from HVAC appliances at new construction sites, but not businesses.

Anyone with information about the AC thefts is asked to call Tumwater police at 360-754-4200.

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MLB

Ray and Rodriguez Spark Mariners' 2-1 Victory Over Oakland

By Scott Hanson
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Robbie Ray and Julio Rodriguez helped make sure the Mariners would head into the second half of their season on a roll.

Ray was dominant on the mound and Rodriguez provided the offense, propelling the Mariners to a 2-1 victory over Oakland on Sunday afternoon at T-Mobile Park.

Ray allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings while striking out 12, Rodriguez drove in runs with a home run and a double and the bullpen closed it out for Seattle.

The Mariners finished their first 81 games of the season with a record of 39-42, but they have won 10 of their past 13 games.

Ray continued a stretch of excellent starting pitching. In five starts since allowing four runs and 11 base runners against Houston in late May, Ray has allowed three runs in 33 2/3 innings.

It was during that rocky start against Houston — he allowed three homers in the first two innings — that Ray introduced a two-seam fastball after no using it for several years.

He finished that outing against Houston with three scoreless innings, and Ray, last year's AL Cy Young winner has been on the top of his games since.

Oakland starter Frankie Montas had a no-hitter for 7 1/3 innings against the Mariners on June 23. On Sunday, he allowed homer on his first pitch and was out of the game after an inning.

Rodriguez was all over a 92 mph sinker on the first pitch from Montas, lining it over the left-field fence and off the scoreboard to give the Mariners a quick 1-0 lead.

It was the Mariners' first leadoff homer of the season.

Montas, who the A's said left the game for a nontrade reason, was relieved by Austin Pruitt, who dominated the Mariners for four innings.

Pruitt retired the first 13 Seattle batters he faced — six on strikeouts — before Dylan Moore hit a bloop single to center field in the bottom of the sixth inning. Rodriguez followed with a double into the left-center field gap that brought home Moore with a big insurance run.

The extra run became bigger when Elvis Andrus hit a two-out homer off Ray, ending his night.

Ray received a standing ovation after and he earned it. He threw 107 pitches, allowing four hits, two walks and just the one run.



The Pac-12 Survival Guide

How to Handle the Changing Sports Landscape ... B3

Star Turn for M's Pitchers

Midway Through the Season, Seattle Staff is Something to Build On See B4

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Legion Baseball

I-5 Toyota Slips Past Gig Harbor 7-6

By The Chronicle staff

I-5 Toyota, Centralia's Double-A American Legion baseball squad, opened division play with a 7-6 win over Gig Harbor

on Wednesday.

"Our bats finally came alive tonight," I-5 Toyota coach Kyle Sprague said.

Brady Sprague went 3 for 4 with a pair of RBIs and got

the win on the mound. Carlos Vallejo went 2 for 4 and drove in a pair of runs while Riggs Westlund was 2 for 3.

I-5 Toyota piled up 11 hits in the win and blanked Gig Har-

bor over the final three innings. Austin Chapman hit an RBI double in the seventh inning to score the winning run.

I-5 Toyota plays in a GSL tournament starting Thursday.

Racing



Demolition Derby Highlights Summerfest



Photos by Jared Wenzelburger
/jared@chronline.com

Above: The HBR crew, and driver Brad Hunter, cheers with the crowd as their vehicle wins "prettiest car" during the Summerfest Demolition Derby at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Sunday in Chehalis.

Left: Third place winner "Wild Thing" crashes into the first place winner at the Centralia Summerfest Demolition Derby at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Sunday.

Check out a full story from Sunday's Summerfest Demolition Derby in Thursday's edition of The Chronicle.

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NFL

Watson Saga Nears End as NFL Weighs Penalty, but No One Wins Here

By Greg Cote

Miami Herald

MIAMI — Nobody wins when this is over. No ties. Everybody loses.

When the NFL finally resolves this miserable, embarrassing Deshaun Watson saga, there will be no satisfaction to be found, not anywhere. The mess will have ended, but not really.

Watson could be suspended indefinitely, for at least a full season, over accusations by 25 women of sexual improprieties during massage sessions. Or he might also be suspended for just several games, part of a season, in what would be outrageous leniency but lessen the chance of an appeal and this mess going on.

No matter what, nobody will win in this.

The women will lose.

His accusers who stepped forward — the only ones in this mess who deserve to win — might get some closure from his suspension but will have been denied seeing Watson criminally prosecuted. Instead they will have seen themselves called liars and gold diggers. Instead they will see Watson slither through this with his NFL future and \$230 million guaranteed contract protected and intact.

The NFL and football fans will lose.

If unsullied by this tawdry scandal, Watson would be one of the league's brightest young quarterbacks and biggest, most exciting stars embarking on a new chapter in his career. He would be the talk of football for the right reasons. The NFL would be enthused to have him high on its marquee. Instead he wears a permanent stain and is an image liability to the sport.

Houston will lose.

The Texans could boast one of the NFL's best quarterbacks for the next 10 years in Watson. Instead it all unraveled first by their own mismanagement that caused Watson to become estranged from the club and demand a trade. And then by Watson's own unseemly sexual deviance — at least if you believe the women. And now the Texans are implicated in enabling and abetting his serial creepiness in massage sessions.



Nick Cammett / Getty Images

Deshaun Watson (4) of the Cleveland Browns throws a pass during the Cleveland Browns' mandatory minicamp at CrossCountry Mortgage Campus on June 14 in Berea, Ohio.

Cleveland will lose.

The Browns could have a top-five QB for the foreseeable future to lead a resurgence. They still will, eventually. But now, instead, they will have that with embarrassing, permanent baggage that will make cheering for him a bit uneasy for plenty of fans. Cleveland will forever be the franchise that spent an obscene amount on a player accused of obscene misbehavior.

The Texas grand juries will lose.

Two grand juries could have given the accusers their day in court. Instead they took the word of one famous man over the consensus weight of more than two dozen accusers giving corroborating and oft-lurid details of what they say Watson did. (Perhaps disgraced Olympic gymnastics team Dr. Larry Nassar would still be a free man had the same disregard been

given his accusers).

Sue Lewis Robinson and Roger Goodell will lose

The punishment of Watson, when it finally is determined by Robinson, a retired federal judge and now the NFL's chief disciplinary officer, will not please everybody and could anger many. The NFL will be seen as having been either too lenient or too harsh by almost everybody.

Deshaun Watson will lose — him most of all.

It seems strange to say, because, even if the hammer comes down hard, a waiting \$230 million guaranteed contract is quite the solace.

But Watson will lose here. He already has lost seven figures paying hush money to the 20 women who agreed to settle their civil cases against him.

Now, he still faces going to trial, under oath, in the four lawsuits not settled (the 25th accuser dropped out before set-

ting or taking it to court). The player could lose those civil suits. The plaintiffs could be rewarded huge amounts of money, be declared courtroom winners and have that vindication.

But it would not undo any of what Watson has dragged them through.

And now, If the pending league punishment is an indefinite suspension of at least one season, the quarterback will have lost a chunk of his prime and serve his sentence in shame.

But even if the punishment is light, say, six or eight games, or even if the remote possibility of no punishment at all happens, he still will lose.

His reputation won't ever shake this; well, except to those who believe two dozen women all lied. Watson has lost his good name, and it is irretrievable.

He is sentenced to a career of boorish opposing fans shouting "What, no happy ending!?"

taunts as he leaves the field after losing.

His only hope of beginning to mend all of this is a combination of admission, truth and remorse. An apology to the two dozen women he has steadfastly accused of lying as he maintains his innocence against repeated and detailed accusations.

This is the week in America when the U.S. Supreme Court stripped the personal freedom from untold millions of Americans by telling them they no longer have control over their own bodies.

In microcosm, the female victims who came forward in this case numbered 25, a number 25 too many.

This sordid mess will be over soon, but not really. The damage is done. To the women, first. To a star quarterback's name. To a football league.

Nobody wins.

MLS

Memorable Day for Dylan Teves as Sounders Bounce Back with Win at Toronto FC

By Kate Shefte

The Seattle Times

Seattle Sounders FC's Dylan Teves knocked out a couple of firsts Saturday in Toronto.

Teves recorded his first MLS goal in his first MLS start after signing this offseason following a highly productive career at the University of Washington. That was all the team needed in a 2-0 decision at Toronto FC.

The Seattle lineup was missing several big names after the group dropped a midweek home match to CF Montreal. Stefan Cleveland, Jimmy Medranda, Danny Leyva, Dylan Teves and Leo Chu slotted in for Stefan Frei, Kelyn Rowe, Albert Rusnak, Cristian Roldan and

Jordan Morris. Frei, Morris, Roldan and Rusnak were given time off and did not travel with the team.

The replacements took full advantage. Chu advanced the ball and centered to Teves, who tapped it in during the 39th minute. Teves had to wait a few more awkward moments as the goal was reviewed.

"[Leo's] going to take a guy on every single time and beat them the majority of the time," Teves said. "I knew that as soon as he got around his player, he was going to send a cross in. Just the luck of him playing such good ball and me being in the right position.

"It's a great feeling, that's for sure."

Teves spent four years in the Sounders Academy before college. He became UW's all-time leader in postseason goals and points while leading the Huskies to the NCAA College Cup final for the first time in program history.

"Before the game, we were joking about Dylan just a little bit, how he's the only player, I think, in NCAA history to score back-to-back hat tricks in the NCAA tournament. So we know the kid has the goals in him," coach Brian Schmetzer said. "It was instinctual. He gets in front of the net and he puts it away."

After goalkeeper Cleveland located and grabbed a spinning shot from Toronto's Alejandro

Pozuelo, Fredy Montero made it 2-0. Seattle had the Toronto defense twisted and scrambling until Montero went in with Chu at his side.

"I'm so pleased that we're able to keep Fredy. He did so much for us in Champion's League," Schmetzer said.

"His game was very, very good, not just because of the goal, but all of the defensive work he did on Michael Bradley in the middle of midfield."

It was the teams' first meeting since the 2019 MLS Cup. Jonathan Osorio had one of Toronto's best looks but sent his chance sailing toward the crowd in the 36th minute.

Even with the personnel changes, Seattle was able to

shake off its first loss in more than a month.

"Tactics were spot-on," Schmetzer said.

"Having Fredy drop in, and having Leo and Teves be the two guys who are the prongs of our attack, showed up in that goal."

On July 9, Seattle returns to Lumen Field to face the Portland Timbers and unfurl a banner in celebration of becoming the first MLS club to win CONCACAF Champions League.

They head back with home-grown and grateful Teves, who hopes to contribute much more.

"Growing up through the academy, they've given me so much," the 22-year-old said. "I just want to pay it back to them."

WNBA

Breanna Stewart Makes 'Spicy' Trade for Sue Bird, Drafts Jewell Loyd in WNBA All-Star Selection Show

By Percy Allen

The Seattle Times

In her role as team captain/general manager, Breanna Stewart orchestrated a trade at the end of the WNBA All-Star selection show that corrected a mistake by the league and is sure to be popular among Storm fans.

After filling out their respective 11-player rosters for the July 10 All-Star Game, Stewart proposed swapping co-captains Sue Bird and Sylvia Fowles, who were originally chosen and assigned teams by the league last week.

Las Vegas forward A'ja Wilson agreed to the deal, which reunites Stewart with Bird and sent Fowles to Team Wilson.

"Spicy," Stewart said on the ESPN show, which was taped

Thursday and broadcast Saturday afternoon. "Mic drop."

Wilson added: "OK, we can do legend for legend. I'm good with that. ... We're back on track."

There were plenty of playful verbal jabs and good-natured trash talking between Stewart and Wilson as they put together their teams.

"The mindset is to win," said Wilson, who is making her fourth WNBA All-Star appearance and served as team captain in 2019 when her team won 129-126. "I have some, not some, probably the best players and at the end of the day we're going to get a dub.

"This isn't my first rodeo. I'm not new to this, I'm true to this. So Stewie, just be on the lookout. It's about to get real."

Stewart, who is also making her fourth WNBA All-Star appearance, countered: "This might be my first time as team captain, but I've been scouting. I'm ready. ... I'm ready to go."

In the first round, Wilson had the first pick by virtue of tallying the most All-Star votes, and the captains alternated picking the All-Star starters who were selected by the fans, media and players.

Wilson picked (in order) Candace Parker, Kelsey Plum and Nneka Ogumike while Stewart chose Jackie Young, Jonquel Jones and Sabrina Ionescu.

With a clipboard in hand, Stewart began the second round selecting Storm teammate Jewell Loyd before taking Kahleah Copper, Skylar Diggins-Smith,

Alyssa Thomas, Arike Ogunbowale and Emma Meesseman.

Wilson's second-round picks included: Rhyne Howard, Dearica Hamby, Courtney Vandersloot, Ariel Atkins, Brianna Jones and Natasha Howard.

The trading option is a new twist to the WNBA All-Star selection show, and the captains agreed to a deal that sent Ogumike to Team Stewart while Team Wilson added Ionescu.

Stewart's draft strategy was all about alliances. Her All-Star squad includes two Storm teammates, notably Bird, who recently announced her retirement at the end of the season and is making her record 13th and final All-Star appearance.

Stewart, who signed with Puma in 2021 and is expected to

debut her signature shoe Stewie 1 at the All-Star Game, also selected Puma endorsers Young and Diggins-Smith.

"What concerns me on A'ja's roster is, actually nothing," Stewart said smiling when asked about Team Wilson.

Chicago Sky coach James Wade will lead Team Stewart while Las Vegas' Becky Hammon will command Team Wilson.

Note

The Storm (13-7) begin a three-day road trip at noon PT Sunday against the Atlanta Dream (9-11). Loyd scored 26 points to lead Seattle to a 72-60 win in their first matchup on June 7 at Climate Pledge Arena.

College Sports

Pac-12 Survival Guide: Five Forces That Will Define the Path to Salvation, or Extinction

By Jon Wilner

Bay Area News Group

In coming days, weeks and months, the Pac-12 will plot a course to salvation ... or go the way of the dodo.

A range of outcomes exists following the loss of USC and UCLA to the Big Ten, from merging with a peer conference or expanding its ranks to sticking with 10 schools or vanishing from the landscape altogether.

In an upcoming Hotline series, we'll plunge into the specific scenarios.

This introductory installment examines five broad issues that will shape our discussions and the future of the conference.

1. Pac-12 Presidents: The Heat is On

Survival starts at the top, which should be cause for concern across the footprint.

The conference has been pushed to the brink because the presidents and chancellors didn't prioritize football, signed off on bad media strategies and waited too long to change commissioners.

Now, they must settle on an identity for the reconfigured conference and determine which universities clear the barrier for entry.

Will the membership standards in place for decades continue to exist with regard to academic reputation, political leanings and religious affiliation?

If so, the path forward narrows considerably.

Of all the presidents, we wonder most about Washington's Ana Mari Cauce, who took over as chair of the Pac-12 board on Friday.

If the Huskies eventually negotiate behind-the-scenes for invitations to the Big Ten or Big 12, that's a massive conflict of interest.



Jennifer Buchanan / The Seattle Times

The Washington Huskies line up against the Oregon Ducks Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, in Seattle.

2. Anxious Days, Worrisome Nights

The next two weeks are vital. "We need things to slow down," one Pac-12 source said, in order for a level of trust and sanity to return.

At the moment, conference and campus leaders gather on Zoom calls and wonder who's truly committed and whose face they might be seeing for the last time.

The Big Ten appears finished with expansion, for now, so our focus turns to the Big 12 and its level of aggression.

A year ago, the situation was reversed. Texas and Oklahoma had announced plans to move to the SEC, and the Big 12 was fighting for survival.

The Pac-12 declined to merge but, by not poaching the most desirable schools, allowed the Big 12 to survive.

Will the emboldened Big 12 turn around and attempt a kill

shot, or return the favor and stand down?

3. Media Partner Motivation

For 10 years, Fox and ESPN have been equal owners of the Pac-12's media rights.

That shared interest probably won't continue once the current contract expires in the spring of 2024.

Fox orchestrated what could be the knockout blow and the puppet-master behind the Big Ten's raid of the Los Angeles schools.

The move suggests it will have little interest in Pac-12 media rights in the next contract cycle. Most, if not all of its cash will be spent on the Big Ten and the expanded College Football Playoff.

Meanwhile, ESPN could play a key role in rescuing the Pac-12.

When the next contract cycle begins, ESPN will control all ACC and SEC football content

but perhaps very little — or none — of the Big Ten's inventory.

That's significant, because ESPN has more shelf space than Fox due to additional linear networks (ESPN2) and its commitment to a digital platform (ESPN+).

It needs viable college football in the Central, Mountain and Pacific time zones in order to fill all those broadcast windows.

Given the desperation level of the Pac-12 and Big 12, whose current media deal expires in 2025, their inventory will undoubtedly be available for whatever price ESPN is willing to pay.

ESPN can name the terms and, if desired, dictate which schools are in which league.

4. The Tent Pole Schools

Of the 80-something major college football programs not bound to the SEC, Big Ten or ACC — and are not Notre Dame — the Pac-12 owns the two most

valuable in the media marketplace: Washington and Oregon.

If we assume the door to the Big Ten is closed and the Huskies and Ducks are committed to the Pac-12, if only for lack of ideal options, they provide real leverage.

Leverage the conference can use with ESPN or other interested media companies.

Leverage the conference can use with schools in the Big 12 or Mountain West that might be expansion targets.

Leverage the conference can use with current Pac-12 schools pondering a jump to the Big 12.

With the Huskies and Ducks, there is a foundation to move forward.

The Pac-12 must make optimum use of its purple and green carrots.

5. State School Politics

UCLA's separation from Cal — the campuses share the same university system and board of regents — is one of our lingering curiosities from the L.A. departures.

And the future of the Pac-12 could hinge on the degree to which remaining state schools are bound to move in lockstep.

Could Arizona State bolt for the Big 12 and leave Arizona behind?

Could Washington head to the Big Ten (eventually) and kiss WSU goodbye?

Could Oregon do whatever Phil Knight wants without regard for Oregon State?

Political forces vary by the state, and we won't begin to guess how each situation could play out.

But it's a key piece to the Pac-12's future shape ... or disappearance.

How Much Money Waits for UCLA and USC in the Big Ten Conference?

By Thuc Nhi Nguyen

Los Angeles Times

It's about name, image and likeness, they said. It's about like-minded academic institutions. It's about growing opportunities to recruit.

The true reason behind UCLA and USC's drastic shift to the Big Ten Conference is much simpler than the language administrators use in long-winded statements.

It's money.

With the Pac-12's recent struggles and archaic TV deal, the conference's teams were simply getting left behind, and jumping ship to the Big Ten gives USC and UCLA their best financial lifeline to compete in a college sports scene that is blurring the lines between professional and amateur more each day.

The Big Ten's emergence as a financial titan began when the conference signed a six-year, \$2.65-billion TV deal that began in 2017. At the time, the Pac-12 was outpacing the Big Ten in revenue thanks to a landmark TV deal under former commissioner Larry Scott.

That 12-year, \$3-billion deal signed in 2011 tripled the conference's annual TV revenues and created the Pac-12 Networks. It was the richest media rights deal in college sports at the time.



Ethan Miller / Getty Images

Drew Peterson (13) of the USC Trojans shoots against Johnny Juzang (3) of the UCLA Bruins during the Pac-12 Conference basketball tournament semifinals at T-Mobile Arena on March 11 in Las Vegas.

But it didn't age well.

Hamstrung by the long-term deal and the failure of the Pac-12 Networks, the Pac-12 distributed only \$33.6 million to each of its member institutions in 2019-20.

The Big Ten offered, on average, \$49.2 million that year to its 14 members, with the 12 longest-tenured institutions receiving on average \$54.3 million. Maryland and Rutgers, which were not full

members at that time, took home \$27.6 million and \$11.4 million, respectively. The \$20-million difference between what USC and Ohio State continues into the following year.

The COVID-19 pandemic had major financial impacts on all athletic programs, but the Pac-12 especially suffered. The conference reported a 35.7% drop in revenue from the 2019-

20 fiscal year to 2020-21 and distributed just \$19.8 million to each school. The Big Ten fell by 11.6% but still distributed \$47.8 million for each school.

The Big Ten's 2017 media rights deal produced an average of \$441.7 million in TV revenue a year. That number could double in the conference's upcoming contract.

Initial reports indicate the

Washington State Athletics Bracing for Ripple Effect Caused by UCLA, USC Joining Big Ten

By Colton Clark

The Spokesman-Review

Beginning in 2024, Washington State's conference opponents won't include USC and UCLA. But that's the least of the Cougars' concerns regarding Thursday's stunning news.

In two years, the Trojans and Bruins will ditch the Pac-12 and join the Big Ten. The Los Angeles schools' decision triggered a ripple effect that will be felt across the college football landscape.

So, what does it mean for the future of the Pac-12 Conference and its remaining members, such as Washington State?

WSU quarterbacking great Ryan Leaf echoed the sentiment that many Cougar fans had ex-

pressed on Twitter throughout the day.

"It's not good for the (Pac-12) and certainly not good for Wazzu," Leaf said via text message.

Best-case scenario: The Pac-12 manages to survive despite losing its foothold in L.A., retains its existing members and adds a couple of new schools to the fold. The conference would presumably need to poach from the Mountain West or the Big 12 — which will send Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC in 2025. A Pac-12/Big 12 merger is another intriguing alternative that became a talking point among college football experts shortly after reports surfaced that UCLA and USC would be departing.

But without the two flagship L.A. schools and all the TV revenue they produce, the Pac-12 and its remaining institutions are sure to take a financial hit if the conference stays alive. That doesn't bode well for WSU, whose athletic department reported an operating deficit of over \$30 million in spring 2021.

Worst-case scenario: The long-lived Pac-12 dissolves and its member schools are forced to find new homes.

It wouldn't be so difficult for some of the league's more prominent universities, such as Oregon and Washington. Some national college football reporters have also suggested the Big 12 may pursue a few Pac-12 leftovers

from sizable markets.

That could leave the smaller-market teams — namely WSU and Oregon State — on the outside looking in.

"Essentially relegation," Leaf added.

There is a real possibility that both fall from power-conference status in 2024 and have no other options but to join the Mountain West Conference. Of course, the WSU faithful would prefer the Big 12 if the Pac-12 were to crumble.

"This won't be the last change we see. The big guys are getting bigger and the distance between the haves and have-nots will get farther apart," former Cougars football coach (1989-2002)

Mike Price said over text. "We are all Cougs and we are proud of our record in the Pac-12 and our football history. WSU will always be our team and we will support them and cheer for them no matter what league we will be in. I don't think the sky is falling, but just a change of weather."

The Pac-12 was "extremely surprised and disappointed by the news coming out of UCLA and USC," per a lengthy statement issued Thursday evening by the conference office, which affirmed that it is "confident (the Pac-12) will continue to thrive and grow into the future." A WSU spokesman referred to the Pac-12 release when asked for comment.

M's Starting Pitchers Proving to be Base to Build From

By Larry Stone

The Seattle Times

Earlier this past week, Mariners' manager Scott Servais was simultaneously marveling at his club's sustained run of outstanding starting pitching and fretting about the potential of squandering it.

"I'd hate to waste, or not take advantage, of the starting pitching we've had," he said. "I don't want to look up at the end of the year and say: 'Man, we let this one get away. We didn't take advantage of a group of five starters and a bullpen that really came together.'"

Anyone who has followed the Mariners this season knows where the fear is based. You can point to any number of frustrating losses in which the Mariners had a brilliant outing by a member of their rotation, only to have it go for naught. Maybe it was one of those games where Seattle's bats were asleep all day or night. Or maybe it was one of those equally frustrating games where the Mariners had constant traffic on the basepaths but were unable to bring the runs home. Their kingdom for a clutch hit (or a well-timed sac fly).

Fast-forward to Saturday, when the M's were in the process of producing another such maddening effort. Having lost Friday to the woeful A's, possessors of MLB's worst record, they could ill-afford another loss to Oakland as they try to claw their way back into the wild-card race. Especially when rookie George Kirby bounced back from his worst effort as a major-leaguer with a superior seven-inning start — just three hits and one run allowed, with a career-high-matching nine strikeouts.

Yet the Mariners trailed 1-0 after seven innings, having found new and diabolical ways to squander certain scoring chances. But when Adam Frazier's line drive was speared by A's first baseman Seth Brown and turned into an inning-ending double play with runners on the corners in the seventh, Servais saw it as a perversely positive sign.

"There's times you think, 'OK, it's not our day,' " he said. "After that happened, I said, 'We're winning this game.' It can only go so bad for so long. It's got to flip. And it did."

The Mariners pulled it out, 2-1, on a Justin Upton pinch-hit homer in the eighth, and a walk-off single by Abraham Toro in the ninth. It's the kind of game the Mariners have to win to have any hope of a relevant



Ken Lambert / The Seattle Times

After a game with 12 strikeouts Robbie Ray of the Mariners leaves the game in the seventh inning after giving up a homer to Oakland's Elvis Andrus on Sunday in Seattle.

second half. Especially while so many key hitters are either injured, suspended or struggling.

Their salvation — if a team that's still four games under .500 in July can use that term — has been a rotation that has yet to miss any starts due to injuries, one of just two teams with that distinction. They are also the only team in the majors with five different pitchers recording at least five quality starts (led by Marco Gonzales with 10). Their 2.97 ERA by starters since May 27 is second only to the mighty Yankees.

But that has been matched by an inconsistent offense missing Mitch Haniger, Kyle Lewis and Tom Murphy for most of the season. Now Ty France and Luis Torrens are on the disabled list. JP Crawford is serving out his suspension while Jesse Winker and possibly Julio Rodriguez (pending his appeal) are waiting their turns. Adam Frazier

has struggled much of the season, and Winker is only recently coming out of his slump.

The Seattle starters (and more recently, a resurgent bullpen) have saved the day. Until Kirby's clunker in his previous start (seven runs allowed in four innings), their starters had gone a club-record 24 consecutive games allowing three or fewer earned runs. Yet the Mariners' record in those games was just 13-11. Their final game of that streak was typical: Gonzales went six strong innings in Anaheim only to lose 2-1 on the night Seattle's lineup was decimated by ejections related to the second-inning brawl.

Of the 37 quality starts (defined as at least six inning pitched, three or fewer earned runs allowed) churned out by the Mariners rotation of Gonzales, Kirby, Logan Gilbert, Robbie Ray and Chris Flexen (plus Matt Brash briefly), they've lost 15 of them. They've scored two or

fewer runs in 14 of those games. The Mariners are 6-32 when they score less than four runs, 32-12 when they score four or more.

Four runs is seemingly not a high bar to achieve, yet it has proved to be elusive. Servais can see a road map to a brighter future once re-enforcements to the lineup arrive — provided the pitching doesn't have a regression. The Mariners have won nine of 12 games since the end of their disastrous recent home stand that threatened to bury them.

"Yeah, I mean, there's not a team in the league that's going to get very far or into the postseason without consistent starting pitching," he said. "You need to ride it, and we are riding it right now. We will get healthier, we will get guys off of suspensions, we will get to the point where we're looking up and down our lineup and it's going to be very deep. And everyone's going to

say, 'What was the issue all year long?' Well, we didn't have that lineup.

"So in the meantime, that's what teams do. They pull together. The strength of our club right now has been our starting pitching and our bullpen. Those guys have been awesome down there, too. We need to ride them. Right now, we've got to figure out a way to win these games 3 to 2, 2 to 1. They're hard. They're very hard. That's just where we're at, at this point in the season. It'll turn. We'll get healthier. And we'll get some guys with some more experience in that lineup to make it a little bit deeper. But that's where we're at right now. And those guys are stepping up. It's a credit to them."

In the Mariners' current predicament, every loss is painful — even more so when it squanders an elite pitching performance. They avoided such a fate Saturday — and need to continue to do so.

Commentary

Sideline Chatter: Watching Washington Play USC in the Rose Bowl Will Be Fun

By Dwight Perry

The Seattle Times

USC and UCLA? They went Piscataway — er, thataway, off for greener pasture\$ in the Big Ten.

And that's just a year after Texas and Oklahoma gutted the Big 12 with plans for a similar jump to the SEC.

"It's depressing, but that's the reality with college athletics right now," wrote Dan Wetzel of YahooSports.com. "If you aren't getting stronger, you are getting weaker. You either act or react."

As for what's left of the Pac-12, they just learned a whole new definition of "leveling the playing field."

Headlines

— At Fark.com: "Kevin Durant the player not happy with the team Kevin Durant the GM has created, demands to be traded to any team which was in the Finals in the last 3 years."

— At TheOnion.com: "Nation unable to enjoy baseball without dozens of pitchers hitting .124."

To the Penalty Box

Iowa State has suspended its men's hockey club the next academic year after an investigation found the club engaged alcohol

abuse and personal humiliation of rookie members.

In other words, 525,600 minutes for hazing.

Prepare for Takeoff

Don't know about football or basketball titles, but the Trojans and Bruins just clinched the perpetual Big Ten air-miles championship.

That is, until Hawaii joins the league.

He Blocks Everything

In recruiting news, massive 6-foot-9, 260-pound lineman Soane Faasolo has committed to Washington.

If he's looking for a nickname, "Eclipse" sounds fitting.

USC-UCLA (Cont'd)

"If you're wondering how we got here," tweeted freelance sports writer Dan Greenspan, "Big Ten Network is running live coverage of this news while Pac-12 Networks shows volleyball replays."

— Unnamed official at a Pac-12 school, to ESPN: "We just got Soonered and Horned."

— Comedy writer Paul Lander, via Twitter: "USC and UCLA's moving to the Big Ten, or, as it's also known, The ATM."

Veteran Player

The Phillies' Mark Appel made his MLB debut nine years after he was drafted No. 1, but he's got nothing on the Buffalo Bisons' Roy Kinyon.

The 100-year-old Kinyon finally made it to the Bisons on the Fourth of July — signing a one-day contract 80 years after the shortstop was invited to try out but chose the Navy and served in World War II instead.

Squeeze Play

Biologists wrestled and captured an 18-foot, 215-pound Burmese python in the Everglades.

"We've seen bigger snakes," muttered a Pac-12 fan.

USC-UCLA Leftovers

"I like Cal's chances of winning the remnants of the Pac-12," tweeted Tacoma Rainiers broadcaster Mike Curto. "Gonna kick the crap out of UC Riverside and Chico State!"

— Barrett Sallee of CBSsports.com: "Oregon has left the Pac-12 for the LIV Tour."

— Bob Molinaro in the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "What's next, Rutgers to the Pac-12?"

— Stanford Tree, via Twitter: "Screw it — Stanford to the Ivy League."

Time to celebrate

The Orioles posted a winning record in June, their first plus-.500 month in five years.

They didn't pop any Champagne corks, but they did go to Dairy Queen.

Talking the Talk

— DG, commenting to YahooSports.com, on robot ump: "Ladies and gentlemen, today's umpires will be R2D2 at first, C-3P0 at second, Optimus Prime at third and the Terminator behind the plate. The replay official will be Amazon Echo."

— Phil Mushnick of the New York Post, after a fan was robbed — twice — while leaving Yankee Stadium: "You mean he had money left?"

— TNT's Charles Barkley, after Phil Mickelson got \$200 million and Dustin Johnson \$150 million from the LIV Tour: "Hey, for \$150 million I'd kill a relative, even one I liked."

Ancient History

Jim Pappin, who scored Toronto's last Stanley Cup-clinching goal in 1967, has died at age 82.

Maple Leafs fans were shocked — to learn they'd actually won a Cup.

Quote Marks

— Mike Bianchi of the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, on the LIV kerfuffle: "Why do we expect American golfers to have more ethics and morals than American corporations, American sports leagues and the American government — all of which do business with nefarious nations?"

— David Whitley of the Gainesville (Fla.) Sun, on Ric Flair's upcoming rasslin' finale: "But they've yet to find an opponent for the 73-year-old Nature Boy. They've reportedly narrowed it down to Dick Van Dyke, Granny Clampett or Tom Brady."

— Jack Finarelli of SportsCurmudgeon.com, on reports the Raiders are facing a series of lawsuits alleging front-office harassment and retaliation: "After being grilled by a Congressional committee for more than two hours on the Washington situation, Roger Goodell needs this news like the Donner Party needed a master chef."

— Comedy writer Marc Ragovin, Peacock televising the Royals-Tigers game July 3 without announcers: "Now if they would only stream it without the players."

— Free-agent sportswriter Shane Lantz, via Twitter, on USC and UCLA's pending departures: "I started my life as a Pac-10 fan. Looks like I might be one again soon."

MLB

At Midpoint of Year, Mariners are Showing Their Season is Half-Full

By Matt Calkins

The Seattle Times

What were you thinking two Sundays ago, when the Mariners' playoffs chances were draped in an invisibility cloak?

Where was your head as a long-suffering fan when Seattle dropped four out of five to the Angels and fell 10 games below .500?

Did you turn president of baseball operations Jerry Dipoto's face into a dartboard? Were you wondering if Scott Servais had served his last game as the team's skipper?

Well, whatever it was navigating through your brainwaves, it has to have mutated just a bit since, no? At the mathematical halfway point of the season, the Mariners have resurrected an emotion that looked like it was on a one-way ferry ride out of town: hope.

Since that loss to the Angels a fortnight ago, the M's (39-42) have won 10 out of 13 games and all four of their series. They have ridden a rotation of starting pitchers that, on all but a couple of occasions during this stretch, has provided an opportunity for victory.

Yes, each of their three opponents during this run (the Angels, A's and Orioles) are at least seven games below .500 — with Oakland a whopping 29 games under that mark. But there has been just enough encouragement to make people think, "You know, this whole wild-card thing could still happen."

The Mariners' chief offseason acquisition — reigning American League Cy Young Award winner Robbie Ray — is on another Cy-worthy stretch. In Seattle's 2-1 win Sunday over Oakland, he allowed just one run in 6 2/3 innings, marking the fifth straight game he has gone at least six innings while giving up one run or fewer.

The Mariners' longtime



Ken Lambert / The Seattle Times

Mariners lead-off hitter Julio Rodriguez looks skyward after a solo homer in the first inning against Oakland, Sunday in Seattle.

prized prospect — center fielder Julio Rodriguez — is performing better than any other rookie in the game. The 21-year-old had a home run and an RBI double Sunday to boost his dinger total to 14 on the season and his OPS up to .820.

Servais praised the pair in his postgame news conference, saying that the Mariners are going to "keep riding the Robbie Ray train" and that Julio hits the ball harder than anyone in baseball. But 14 days before, the Mariners manager's tone was much less enthused.

After losing both games of a doubleheader to the Angels — where the offense was virtually nonexistent — he called a meeting with the position players before the final game of the series.

It was a chance for the every-day guys to express their opinions that, according to Servais, made them vulnerable and forced some to take some ownership of the situation.

Did the meeting pay immediate dividends? No. Seattle was shut out that Sunday. But Servais and others believe that get-together paved the way for the club's recent success.

"You hit those points in the season — and we've been there a couple times already — every team has those spots," Servais said. "And that's when you find out what kind of team you have."

OK, that was a classic example of a sports columnist romanticizing a clubhouse gathering. Wins, not words, are what is required for the Mariners to snap this 21-year

postseason drought. But producing those victories is going to be easier to come by if the starting pitching continues to flourish the way it has — and when key players return from injury.

Remember, the Mariners are still without former All-Star Mitch Haniger — probably their most consistent offensive force over the past few years when healthy — who they hope will return from a high-ankle sprain in the coming weeks. They are also without 2020 American League Rookie of the Year Kyle Lewis, who is set to begin a rehab stint in Tacoma after suffering a concussion. No, that duo isn't Ruth and Gehrig or Trout and Ohtani, but they are potential sparks for an offense that ranks 26th in MLB in runs.

Optimism, of course, must remain guarded here — and not just because the Mariners regularly hoodwink their fans into thinking that playoff drought is going to end. Even if the M's walked off the field Sunday five games out of the final wild-card spot, fangraphs.com still gives them a mere 13% chance of reaching the postseason in 2022.

Servais confessed before Sunday's game that the season has been disappointing thus far. There have been former All-Stars underperforming and more runners left on base than any other team in MLB.

But these past 13 games have not only benefited the Mariners, they might have saved their year. Halfway through the season, they still have half a chance.

M's Notes: Upton Delivers Game-Tying Homer, Julio is AL's Back-to-Back Rookie of the Month

By Tyler Wicke

The News Tribune

SEATTLE — Justin Upton couldn't simply "wait around" for a primo offering from Oakland reliever A.J. Puk in the eighth inning of Saturday's game at T-Mobile Park. Brought in as a pinch-hitter when the Mariners trailed, 1-0, Upton searched early for a fastball over the plate, assuming the first pitch of the at-bat would be the best.

Signed by Seattle in late May and called up last month, Upton, 34, tracked Puk's first pitch — a low-but-center-cut 97 mph heater — before turning and blasting his first career pinch-hit homer into Edgar's Cantina in left field. The shutout was no more, and Upton's blast equalized the score at one.

It wasn't a situation Upton was used to, given the everyday starting role he commanded for so many seasons dating back to his debut for Arizona in 2007. He adjusted his approach when asked to make his first plate appearance in the eighth inning, Upton told reporters on Saturday at T-Mobile Park.

"You have to be ready to hit," he added. "Sometimes, the best pitch you get is going to be the first one. So you've just got to be ready from pitch one."

It was dubbed by manager Scott Servais as the "biggest swing of the day," considering Puk's sizzling fastball and a bending slider Upton was fortunate enough to avoid. He had struggled, admittedly, up until Saturday's eighth-inning missile, then 5-for-33 (.152) in a Seattle uniform. Though it's not the first so-called slump in Upton's big league career, now spanning parts of 16 seasons.

"You just kind of grind through it," he said. "It's definitely nice to see a little success from the work I'm putting in."

Then tied at one, reliever Diego Castillo induced a critical double play to cap a scoreless top of the ninth, and Abraham Toro delivered a bases-loaded, nobody-out walk-off single in the bottom of the frame, scoring pinch runner Marcus Wilson to

win, 2-1.

"It's easy to (overthink) that," Toro said after the game. "And same thing with the shift," he added in reference to Oakland's five-man infield on the game's final play. "You're trying to hit where they're not... I was just trying to get a sacrifice fly up the middle."

Seattle moved to 38-42 and grabbed a crucial game in what felt like a must-win series against the Athletics, who have nestled themselves firmly in the division cellar. Toro's walk-off hit pushed the Mariners to 4-2 on the home stand, and Seattle won again Sunday, 2-1, behind southpaw Robbie Ray's 12 strikeouts and fifth straight quality start.

"You can't wait around," Servais said of Upton's homer. "If it looks like (on) the first pitch you can hammer it, you put it in play. You take a good swing at it, and he did. Good for him. Nice to see him get a big hit like that."

"If he doesn't get that hit, I don't know if we'd win the game."

Injuries to Taylor Trammell, Luis Torrens, and Ty France throughout last week further decimated the offense, resulting in inconsistent scoring and a frustrating lack of offense with runners in scoring position, Servais admitted. Shortstop J.P. Crawford completed his four-game suspension Sunday, though outfielders Jesse Winker (six games) and Julio Rodriguez (two games, pending an appeal) are slated to miss time in the coming weeks.

Along with the Upton addition, Seattle swung a trade to acquire 1B Carlos Santana from the Kansas City Royals to fill the absence of Ty France, who could return by next weekend.

"We have hung in there," Servais added Sunday morning. "Our pitching has carried us. I do think there's a lot more in there consistently for our offense to produce more runs. It just hasn't happened yet. We've seen it in glimpses."

Said Servais after Sunday's win: "Pitching and defense have been the name of the game."

Before Sunday's matinee and series finale with Oakland, Se-

attle's pitching ranked tenth in team earned run average over the last seven days (3.67), and sixth in team WHIP (1.13). Rookie starter George Kirby dominated Oakland on Saturday across seven innings of three-hit, one-run ball, and Seattle starters put together a 24-game stretch allowing three runs or less through last Monday, setting a franchise record.

The Mariners play six combined games with San Diego and Toronto next week before a seven-game road slate with the Washington Nationals and Texas Rangers. That takes Seattle, and the rest of the league, to the All-Star break on July 18.

Sunday's win cut Seattle's deficit in the AL wild card standings to five games.

"I know it's officially 81 games today," Servais said Sunday, "but for me, it's always been... where are you at (during) the break, and you regroup and go from there."

Julio Earns Consecutive Rookie of the Month Awards

Before MLB released its latest batch of monthly award winners, there was little doubt that Julio Rodriguez, May's American League Rookie of the Month, would take home the award again.

The 21-year-old phenom officially captured his second consecutive Rookie of the Month honor on Saturday afternoon, now amid a seven-game hitting streak. He became the first Mariner to win back-to-back Rookie of the Month awards since Ichiro Suzuki in 2001, and the first in baseball since Houston's Yordan Alvarez won consecutive awards in 2019. Both went on to win AL Rookie of the Year.

Rodriguez paced AL rookies in, essentially, every conceivable hitting category, including Fangraphs WAR (1.4), wRC+ (162), and hits (30). He mashed seven home runs in June — the last a line-drive missile to dead-center field at T-Mobile Park on June 30 — and drove in 16 RBI. He reached base 44 times and collected 58 total bases, both tops

among AL rookies.

"I'm just playing my game," Rodriguez said last week. "I feel like that's my biggest thing. At the beginning of the year, I was kind of all over the place, because I was new to the neighborhood. Getting my feet on my ground, settling in... that's been my biggest adjustment."

Rodriguez crushed homers in back-to-back games twice in June, first on June 24-25 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim and then at T-Mobile Park on June 29-30. Wednesday's two-run blast reached the left-field bleachers perched above Seattle's home bullpen and came in part of a six-run fourth frame for the Mariners in an eventual 9-3 win over Baltimore.

"I was just trying to find something out and over the plate, because everything was just coming in on me," Rodriguez said. "He left it middle-down, but I was able to catch it out front."

Batting leadoff Sunday, Rodriguez crushed a first-pitch homer that gave Seattle an immediate 1-0 lead in the first inning. He wound up driving in both runs in the 2-1 victory after doubling home Dylan Moore in the sixth.

Added manager Servais: "The adjustments he makes, the joy he continues to play with... I just hope that never leaves him. I said it the day we called him up, and I pray to God it stays with him for a long, long time."

Short Hops

- SS J.P. Crawford received a one-game reduction to an initial five-game suspension for his role in Seattle's benches-clearing brawl in the second inning of a game with the Angels in Anaheim on June 26. He began serving a four-game suspension Thursday, and can return for Seattle's two-game series in San Diego on Monday.

- OF Jesse Winker told Ryan Divish of the Seattle Times that his initial seven-game suspension was reduced to six games. MLB allowed the Mariners to stagger the suspensions of Winker (six games), Crawford (four),

and Rodriguez (two) to avoid the loss of three starters (and two outfielders) at once.

- C Tom Murphy underwent season-ending surgery Wednesday to repair his left shoulder after dislocating it on a play at the plate on May 6. Seattle was initially hopeful Murphy would return to the team on a road trip in late May before the 31-year-old catcher suffered a "setback" in the recovery process. Murphy had caught a bullpen session and took swings in the cage less than two weeks after the injury.

- There's an "outside chance" 1B Ty France could return to Seattle's lineup by next weekend for a four-game home series with Toronto, Servais said Sunday. France, an All-Star Ballot finalist, suffered a left elbow injury when reaching for a throw at first base from infielder Abraham Toro. Oakland's Sheldon Neuse crashed into France's arm, which bent backward.

- "He's getting close," Servais said. "We'll wait and see how things progress with him (Sunday and Monday)."

- OF Kyle Lewis (concussion) joined Triple-A Tacoma on Sunday for a rehab assignment after taking batting practice and working through baserunning drills at T-Mobile Park earlier this week. The 26-year-old 2020 AL Rookie of the Year was hit in the shoulder and head by a wayward Jose Urquidy curveball on May 28, and has yet to appear in game action since.

- "He's going to be there for a while," Servais said Sunday. "He needs to get out and play, make sure he feels good, get the timing with his swing, (and) get out in the outfield."

- OF Mitch Haniger (high-ankle sprain) remains on schedule to return around the All-Star break, and took part in running drills before Saturday's game at T-Mobile Park.

- Logan Gilbert's 220 strikeouts through 40 career games rank second in the franchise's history. Only Felix Hernandez, who whiffed 233 batters in his first 40 starts from 2005-06, ranks higher.

Soccer

Megan Rapinoe's Presidential Honor Highlights Role as Team Player

By Kevin Baxter

Los Angeles Times

Megan Rapinoe was having lunch with the rest of the women's national soccer team when her cellphone buzzed. It was the White House, the caller ID said.

Rapinoe chuckled at what she assumed was a prank before showing the phone to teammate Kelley O'Hara.

"You probably need to pick that up," O'Hara advised.

It might have been the most important assist of O'Hara's career because when Rapinoe answered after a couple of more rings, the voice at the other end asked her to "please hold for the president of the United States."

Rapinoe had been chosen to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, becoming the first soccer player and sixth female athlete to be a recipient. Although Rapinoe's accomplishments on the field have little to do with her receiving an award that recognizes "exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors."

There were other players in the cafeteria that day who have played more games and scored more goals. There are former teammates who have won more championships.

Yet none of those women can match Rapinoe's accomplishments off the field, where she knelt against racism and stood for LGBTQ rights. She has campaigned against gender discrimination and in favor of equal pay, using both the court of public opinion and the court of law.

She even joined her teammates in suing their boss, the U.S. Soccer Federation, a suit that led to a historic revenue-sharing agreement six weeks ago that will see the men's and women's national teams compensated equally.

Standing up and speaking



Steph Chambers / Getty Images

Megan Rapinoe (15) of OL Reign looks on against the Washington Spirit during the second half at Lumen Field on May 22 in Seattle.

out has never been a problem for Rapinoe. Soccer is what she does, but it isn't who she is.

"It's literally the point of life to be able to walk in your truth and be who you are," she said. "I just see this [award] as a validation of all the things that I've stood for, not a validation of me."

"My playing career has given me the opportunity to talk about all of these things that really, truly do matter. It's about validating this push for equality and rights and freedoms for everyone."

An Olympic gold medalist and two-time World Cup champion, Rapinoe will be focusing on her sport Monday when the U.S. begins play in the CONCA-

CAF W Championship in Monterrey, Mexico, against Haiti. She will miss her team's second game with Jamaica to travel to the White House for Thursday's medal of freedom ceremony before returning for the group-play finale next week with Mexico.

The eight-team competition will determine the region's qualifiers for both the 2023 World Cup and 2024 Paris Olympics. For Rapinoe, who turns 37 on Tuesday, the tournament will likely mark the beginning of the end of her international career. A surprise inclusion on this summer's roster, she has said she'd like to play in one more World Cup but has said little about her plans beyond that.

Being in the right place at the right time, however, has been a hallmark of her 16-year career.

Once a traditional midfielder, Rapinoe became a winger following the retirement of Abby Wambach in 2015 and flourished, setting career highs for goals twice in the last four years, capturing the Golden Boot and Golden Ball trophies at the last World Cup and winning both the FIFA World Player of the Year trophy and the Ballon d'Or in 2019.

Timing has also played big part in Rapinoe's activism since her emergence as one of the best players on one of the most dominant teams in global sports has taken place as the nation

she represents struggles with societal issues such as gay rights, racism, gender equality, white supremacy and abortion.

Many of those causes needed an outspoken champion, and Rapinoe filled that void.

"I knew that it was sort of my calling or my path," she said. "I was exactly where I was supposed to be. Whenever you walk in your truth like that, whenever you show up for the right things, I think good things happen."

"Because I'm an athlete and because I play on the U.S. women's national team," she added, "I've been able to reach a different swath of people than I would without the U.S. women's national team."

Using that platform to rally support for social justice has been a tradition with the national team dating to its origins with Mia Hamm and Julie Foudy. When Rapinoe got her call from the president, she was quick to credit the team for the honor, a nod that brought captain Becky Sauerbrunn to tears Sunday.

"It's pretty on par with Pinoe to get one of the most amazing awards ever and then immediately say it's a team award," Sauerbrunn said as she used the sleeve of her warm-up jacket to dab at the tears. "That's just how she is. This team has always had a legacy of fighting for things off the field to make society better than what it is. And unfortunately, there's always going to be things that we're going to be fighting for."

"I've known her since I was 15 and she's always been someone with such a presence and so smart and so open-minded and so open-hearted. She's just so brave. And I think she's made everyone around her brave. So the fact that she got this award, yeah, it is a testament to the team. But she's also such an incredible person."

On Thursday at the White House, President Biden will give her a medal to prove that.

WNBA

Storm Fall Hard to Atlanta in Opening Game of Trip

By Percy Allen

The Seattle Times

The Storm's trademark buzz saw defense didn't show up in Atlanta.

Seattle entered Sunday's game ranked second in the WNBA in points allowed (76.0 per game) and buoyed by a dominant defensive performance two days earlier while giving up 57 points — the fifth fewest in the league this season.

But none of that mattered against the Dream, who used their superior size, speed and strength to overpower the Storm in a way in which few teams have done recently.

Atlanta's offensive efficiency, particularly in the paint, and Seattle's stubborn overreliance on a perimeter attack that repeatedly misfired told the story in the Storm's 90-76 defeat in front of a sold-out crowd of 3,138 at Gateway Center Arena.

"Atlanta played extremely well," coach Noelle Quinn said during a teleconference interview. "They came out guns blazing [and] shooting the ball at a

high clip. They punched first, and we were never able to recover.

"We made a couple of runs and cut it close, but at the end of the day their physicality, their aggressiveness and their athleticism bothered us and we could never get into a groove."

Indeed, Seattle came out flat and trailed by 14 points in the first quarter, recovered briefly to narrow its deficit to 46-41 at halftime before completely falling apart in the second half.

It was an uninspiring start to a three-game road trip for the Storm, who partly contributed fatigue for the 14-point shellacking and their third-most lopsided defeat of the year.

"They understand what they're trying to do," forward Breanna Stewart said. "They play fast. Obviously, transition first, but nonstop moving. It's hard to guard. It wears you down. It's obvious we were fatigued today. But it's tough when you never stop."

It was Seattle's first loss against Atlanta since July 15, 2019, which snapped a seven-

game winning streak.

The Storm (13-8) also had momentum entering the game considering their 8-2 record in the past 10 games that began with a dominant 72-60 win against Atlanta on June 6 at Climate Pledge Arena.

In their previous matchup, the Dream (10-11) didn't have prolific scoring guard Tiffany Hayes, who missed the first 19 games of the season and made her season debut Thursday.

Hayes, who led Atlanta to a 92-81 overtime win against the New York Liberty in her last outing, figured prominently in the Storm's defensive game plan that went terribly awry.

"We didn't want to give up 90," Quinn said. "That was one thing. We wanted to defend without fouling. Also wanted to bring pressure on Hayes, but she was in the pitch game a lot. We were unable to trap her as much."

The Storm held Hayes (10 points) in check, but they had no answer for center Cheyenne Parker (21 points and nine rebounds) and rookie forward Rhyne Howard (16 points, five

rebounds and three steals).

Seattle, which never led, narrowed its deficit to 50-46 midway in the third quarter.

However, Atlanta answered with a decisive 20-5 run to go up 70-51 in the final minute of the third, and the Storm never mounted any sort of a comeback the rest of the way.

Stewart bemoaned a missed free throw following a technical foul on Hayes as well as an errant midrange jumper on the same possession that could have pulled Seattle to within a point with six minutes left in the third quarter.

"I had a couple of possessions and a couple of shots that could have gone in," said Stewart, who finished with a team-high 19 points, five rebounds and two steals. "We had it. We had our moment and we couldn't capitalize on it and that happens."

Still, there's two take-aways from the Storm's dud.

Seattle was outscored 42-16 in the paint in a game in which eight-time WNBA All-Star center Tina Charles, who joined the team last week, tied her career

low with two points on 1-for-6 shooting in 14 minutes off the bench. Atlanta shot 50% inside the arc and had five players in double-digit scoring.

Meanwhile, the Storm converted just nine of 32 three-point attempts (28.1%) and has shot fewer than 30% from the perimeter in three of the past four games.

Stewart was the only double-digit scorer for Seattle, which was out-rebounded 44-30.

"It's not a secret, we struggle with athleticism and physicality and teams are physical with us in a variety of ways offensively and defensively," Quinn said. "Certain matchups don't lend well with us."

"We took 32 threes. I felt like we did shoot a lot of free throws [Seattle was 23 of 26 at the line while Atlanta converted 17 of 19], but just having a variety to our offense as well and not settling for those threes, especially when they're not falling."

On Tuesday, Seattle heads to Indiana and plays Thursday at Los Angeles before the WNBA All-Star break.

Sports Briefs

Former NFL Star Michael Vick is Being Sued in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (TNS) — Former NFL star Michael Vick, whose record took him from fame and fortune with the Atlanta Falcons to the inside of a prison cell for his role in a dogfighting ring, only to see him rebound in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles, is being sued in Broward County by creditors who want him to repay loans from at least four years ago in Maryland.

According to the lawsuit, which was filed in May, Vick was slapped with a judgment of \$692,000 for the outstanding

debts. That came from a Maryland court. Details about the origin of those debts were not part of the Broward lawsuit.

But Vick lives in Southwest Ranches, in a home protected by the state's homestead laws because it's his primary residence. Lawyers for the plaintiffs say they want Vick at a deposition Aug. 5 to list his assets so his creditors can collect.

Vick played for the Atlanta Falcons from 2001 until 2006. The following year, he was embroiled in a controversy over an illegal dogfighting ring in Virginia and ended up serving nearly two years in federal prison.

He filed for bankruptcy in 2008 and ended up paying back

most of what he owed, according to published reports. He returned to the NFL as quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles in 2009. After playing for the New York Jets and the Pittsburgh Steelers, he retired in 2017 and started working as a Fox Sports analyst.

No hearings have been set in the Broward collections case.

WSU Picks Up Promising 2023 Prospects in QB Sam Leavitt and LB Jailen Ruth

PULLMAN (TNS) — Washington State picked up a pair of promising prep commitments

Saturday, securing pledges from a highly regarded quarterback out of the Northwest and a high-volume tackler out of the Southeast.

Oregon QB Sam Leavitt and Florida linebacker Jailen Ruth both announced over Twitter that they will be enrolling at the Pullman school next year. They join eight other commits in the Cougars' fast-growing 2023 class.

Leavitt, an incoming senior at West Linn High, ranks No. 41 nationally among QBs in his class and is the No. 3 prep player in his home state, according to 247Sports.com. He chose WSU over offers from Florida State and Arizona.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound dual-threat QB starred at West-

view High in Portland over the past two seasons, passing for 3,705 yards and 43 touchdowns against 11 interceptions on a 57% completion rate. Westview went 9-2 last year, falling in the second round of the Class 6A playoffs.

SB Live recruiting expert Andrew Nemecek called Leavitt "arguably the state's top 2023 QB prospect."

Ruth, the No. 81 LB recruit in the '23 class (247), amassed 102 tackles and 17 sacks last season for Hawthorne High, helping the small-school heavyweight to a 10-1 record and an appearance in the Class 1A state title game. He added four forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries, returning one for a TD.

Life

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Lucas Heck / Courtesy Photos

Jason and Shawna Boettner and Kyle and Sarah Askin are the team behind Mint City Coffee Roasting Company, which will be located in downtown Chehalis.

Couples Working Toward Opening Mint City Coffee Roasting Company in Downtown Chehalis

By Matthew Zylstra

matthew@chronline.com

Life is about to get a lot better for fans of sitting down and having their coffee with friends with the impending opening of the Mint City Coffee Roasting Company in downtown Chehalis.

“We want to create that environment for people to come in and do some work and hang out,” said Jason Boettner, 36.

Jason Boettner is one of four people — two husband and wife teams — who shared an interest in going into the coffee business. Jason and his wife Shawna Boettner, 35, live in Chehalis while Kyle Askin, 34, and Sarah Askin, 33, live in Toledo.

All four partners come from different backgrounds.

“I still do online merchandising,” Jason Boettner said.

“A modern day MacGyver,” said Kyle Askin, a software developer, about Jason Boettner.

Shawna Boettner used to work for Providence Medical Group while Sarah Askin ran an art gallery.

But while their experiences might differ, they all share a common goal: making coffee people will enjoy.

Jason and Shawna Boettner own the building the coffee company will be occupying, located immediately to the right of Mackinaw’s Restaurant in the Hotel Washington. The original plan for the building wasn’t a coffee shop, however, but a brewery. But plans for a brewery fell apart after a business partner passed away. The couple began looking for something new.

“For Shawna and I, the idea (of having a coffee business) came from her parents originally,” Jason Boettner said.

The Boettners first started thinking about opening a coffee business in 2019, when they started demo-ing the building.

“It was kind of a family vision and we decided to take it and run,” Shawna Boettner said. “We just kept saying, ‘It’s going to happen if it’s meant to be.’ And then you guys moved back and the stars aligned.”

The “you guys” Shawna Boettner was referring to were Kyle and Sarah Askin.

Kyle Askin and Jason Boettner had been friends growing up together in Toledo, but Kyle Askin ended up moving away and married Sarah Askin, who, like Shawna Boettner, had grown up in Centralia. But they eventually decided to move back and go into the coffee business.



Mint City Coffee Roasting Company will be located in this historic building in downtown Chehalis.

“We moved back in 2020,” Sarah Askin said.

“You can thank COVID for that one,” added Kyle. “We weren’t living in this area and when we moved back our goals aligned so we got together.”

Before partnering with the Boettners, Kyle Askin had gotten into coffee roasting, even creating his own brand he produced at home, though his brand is being merged into the larger Mint City business.

“We started talking about the partnership agreement around late 2021. Prior to that we had just kind of talked about it and they had already started with their roasting (business),” Jason Boettner said.

Between the two couples’ aspirations for a coffee business, the group decided to work together to achieve their dream.

But their dream involves a lot of renovations.

“It was a real diamond in the rough back then,” Shawna Boettner said about their building. “We first started cutting into the walls in April 2019.”

Over three years later, and the group still has months to go before being finished. They said they plan on opening sometime

in the fall.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major reason the renovations on their building have taken so long, but a bigger reason is the experience the four want to provide to their customers.

“We’ll probably have a lounge behind the counter with sofas. The roaster will be able to be seen in the back so it’ll be a little interactive,” Jason Boettner said.

Beyond the renovations to the interior of the building, changes will be made to the outside of the structure as well. They plan on repainting the front of the store, replacing the “vintage” sign with “Mint City,” a reference to one of the unofficial nicknames of Chehalis.

Though the building will be a central part of their business, the group has other plans as well.

According to Kyle Askin, they’re going to have an online side to their business, one that will allow different ordering subscriptions for coffee beans. Their eventual goal is to be able to have same-day or next-day delivery of fresh coffee.

“We definitely want to do something wholesale. We definitely wanted to make clear we weren’t wanting to compete with

the other coffee shops in town,” Jason Boettner added.

“The full vision, long term, is to have a direct connection to a farm and before we do that, we’d like to fully establish what people want. Our coffee could be served at other places around the area,” Sarah Askin said.

A big part of what will make Mint City unique is its plan to roast its own coffee.

“We will have like an espresso blend, a specific roast for the espresso. We’ll also have roasts for specialty coffee. Range from a dark roast to a light roast. We are currently planning on doing Ethiopian, Guatemalan and Colombian beans,” said Kyle Askin.

When it comes to roasting coffee beans, the Askins certainly seem to know their stuff. They explained the science behind roasting coffee beans to The Chronicle in detail.

According to the Askins, coffee beans are from a coffee cherry, which is actually a fruit. You have to remove the fruit when ready. Then there’s a drying process and the beans get washed in a tank like cranberries. When the coffee beans are all done and dried, they have a green color. Once you get your green coffee,

you roast it at different levels to get a different flavor. The best flavor comes three days later after degassing, when you’re roasting, it creates a lot of heat and the carbon dioxide gets out.

The group believes the coffee roaster will be a major part of their business’ attractiveness to customers.

“It’ll be more than just coffee. It’ll be really nice for people to come in and have your choice of drink and have the roaster in the back,” said Sarah Askin.

All four partners are going to be playing different roles in the business. Sarah Askin and Shawna Boettner will be in charge of hiring and managing employees while also working behind the counter.

Jason Boettner sees himself playing a management role and possibly making deliveries.

“You’re also our numbers guy,” added Sarah Askin, referring to Jason Boettner.

Kyle Askin said he’d be in charge of acquiring their coffee, roasting it and “creating the flavor palette.” Sarah Askin, meanwhile, will play a big role in marketing.

“Everyone is kind of going to do marketing but you guys really know that better,” Jason Boettner said about the Askins. “We’re all going to know how every aspect of the business works.”

But even with all their planning, the group still has a few aspects of their business to figure out.

They still have to decide when exactly they’ll be open. They’re thinking sometime in the morning to early afternoon for their hours. They also plan on being open during the week and on Saturdays, though they’re unsure about Sundays.

“You can subscribe to the website to get updates on that,” Kyle Askin added.

When asked what they looked forward to in starting their business, all four gave different answers.

“I’m looking forward to just the partnership,” Shawna Boettner said.

“I’m looking forward to this space having people in it and serving them and bringing it to life,” said Sarah Askin.

“It’ll be fun having people stop in,” said Jason Boettner.

“I’m looking forward to making a really good cup of coffee for someone,” Kyle Askin said.

For more information, contact hello@mintcitycoffee.com or go to mintcitycoffee.com.

Puzzles

Find Answers to the Puzzles in the Next Edition

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aquarium
 - 5 Big burger
 - 8 Unsightly
 - 12 Small bird
 - 13 Future fish
 - 14 Piped up
 - 15 Ess molding
 - 16 Hardened, as cement
 - 17 Make like a snake
 - 18 Unwritten tests
 - 20 Whiff
 - 22 24-hour period
 - 23 Duffer's goal
 - 24 — -craftsy
 - 27 Rescue price, maybe
 - 30 Settle up
 - 31 Stun
 - 32 Woosnam of golf
 - 34 Pants problem
 - 35 Pen brand

- 37 Strong soap
- 38 Vandalize
- 40 Rodeo gear
- 42 Barely get by
- 43 Phoenix cager
- 44 Hard sell, maybe
- 46 Utah city
- 49 Lowly laborer
- 50 Jackie's second
- 52 Road map nos.
- 54 Enthralled
- 55 Goalie's org.
- 56 Draw on glass
- 57 Assayers' samples
- 58 Big parties
- 59 Stop sleeping

DOWN

- 1 Telephone ABC
- 2 Ship of myth
- 3 "Faint heart — won ..."

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | P | | | U | M | P | | A | C | M | E | | | | |
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| I | D | A | | | C | H | A | R | | V | A | S | E | | | |
| M | I | L | I | E | U | | | | E | L | E | N | A | | | |
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| T | R | E | V | I | | | | | D | I | P | S | | | | |
| A | I | R | | | C | O | O | L | | E | T | O | N | | | |
| J | O | G | S | | A | L | L | Y | | N | U | B | | | | |
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| | | | | | A | N | I | S | E | | A | P | O | G | E | E |
| B | R | I | M | | | | | | M | A | U | I | | Y | I | P |
| A | T | O | P | | | | | | M | U | T | E | | M | R | I |
| D | E | N | S | | | | | | A | G | E | | | S | E | C |

- 4 Works clay
- 5 Like a damp rock
- 6 Cato's hello
- 7 Unwitting tool
- 8 Auditorium guides
- 9 Run fast
- 10 Tilt to one side
- 11 Fabric meas.
- 19 Put down
- 21 Thrash with a stick
- 24 Spring mo.
- 25 Attack
- 26 The strong silent —
- 27 Road rally
- 28 Greases
- 29 The "Say Hey Kid"
- 33 Prefix for classic
- 35 Swelter
- 36 Reykjavik's nation
- 39 Boxers' plays
- 40 Carry
- 41 Greeley or Mellon
- 43 Makes dirty
- 44 Scorch
- 45 Bishop of Rome
- 47 Comics' Miss Kett
- 48 Giraffe feature
- 49 Ski instructor
- 51 Frat letter
- 53 Not he

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | 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 | | | |

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to water quality.

RILFTE

| | | | | | |
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Answer: Filter

Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

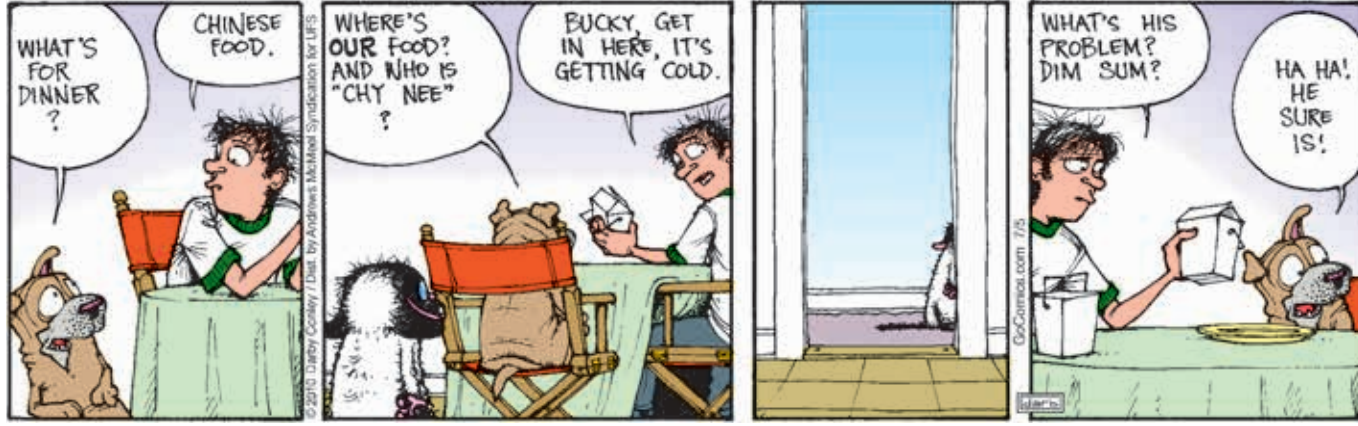
HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

BURGER TIME WORD SEARCH

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

- BEEF
- BISON
- BUN
- BURGER
- CHEESE
- DINER
- DINNER
- FAST FOOD
- FLAT TOP
- FRENCH FRIES
- GRILL
- JUICY
- LETTUCE
- LUNCH
- MOUTH
- WATERING
- ONION RINGS
- ONIONS
- PATTY
- ROLL
- SEAR
- SIZZLE
- VEGGIE
- KETCHUP
- SALMON

GET FUZZY by Darby Conley



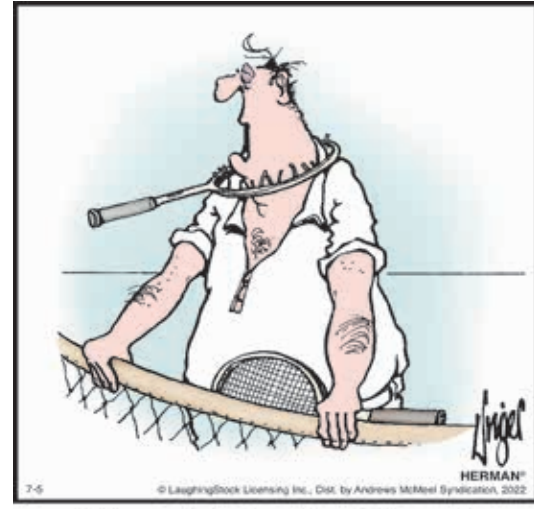
NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



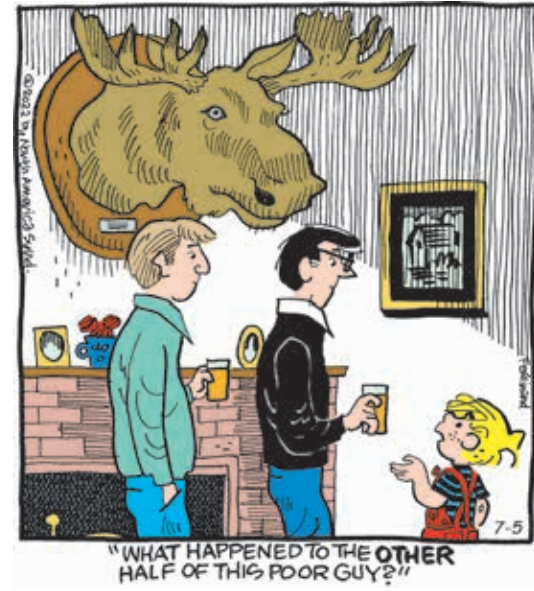
HERMAN by Jim Unger



RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary B. Price



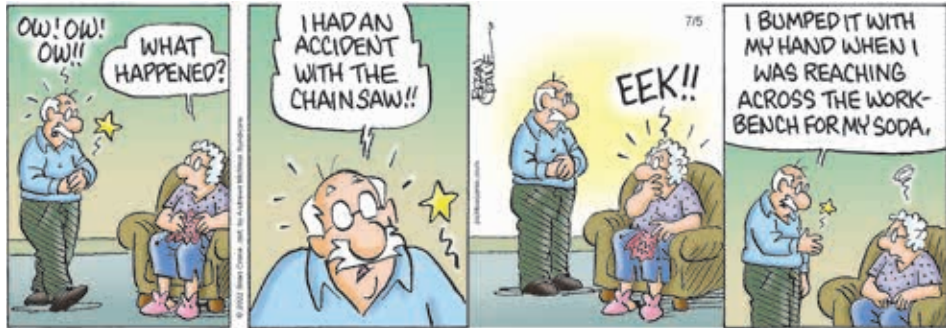
DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



DILBERT by Scott Adams



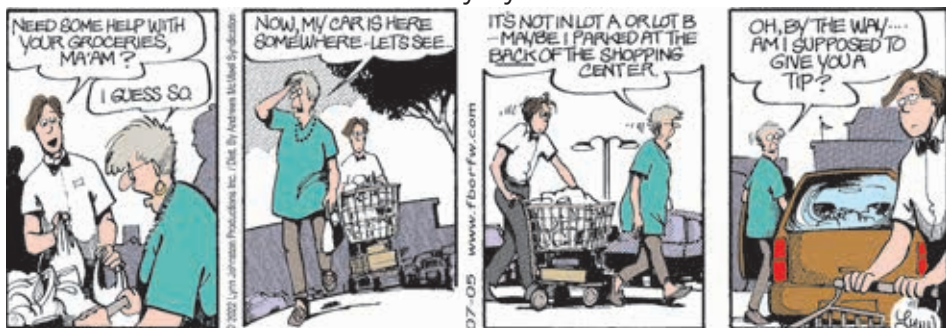
PICKLES by Brian Crane



WIZARD OF ID by Parker & Hart



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



CLASSIC PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



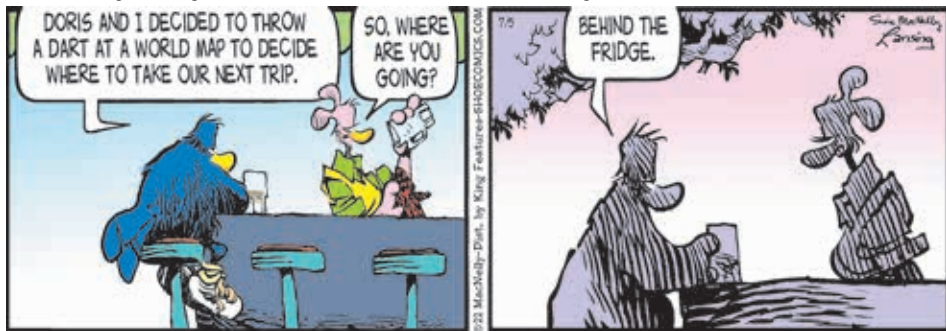
HI & LOIS by Greg & Brian Walker



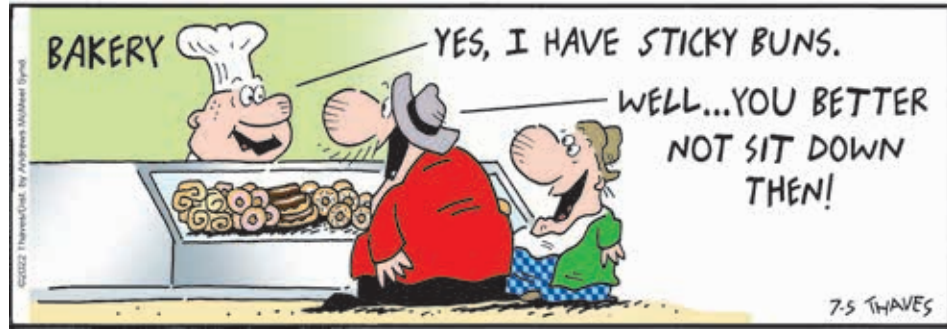
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SHOE by Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



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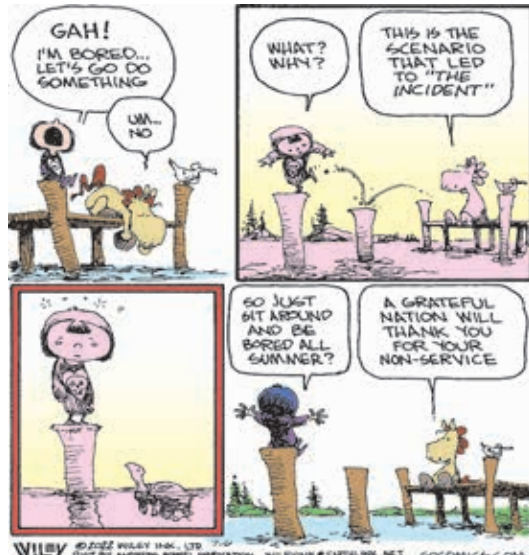
BETLE BAILEY by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



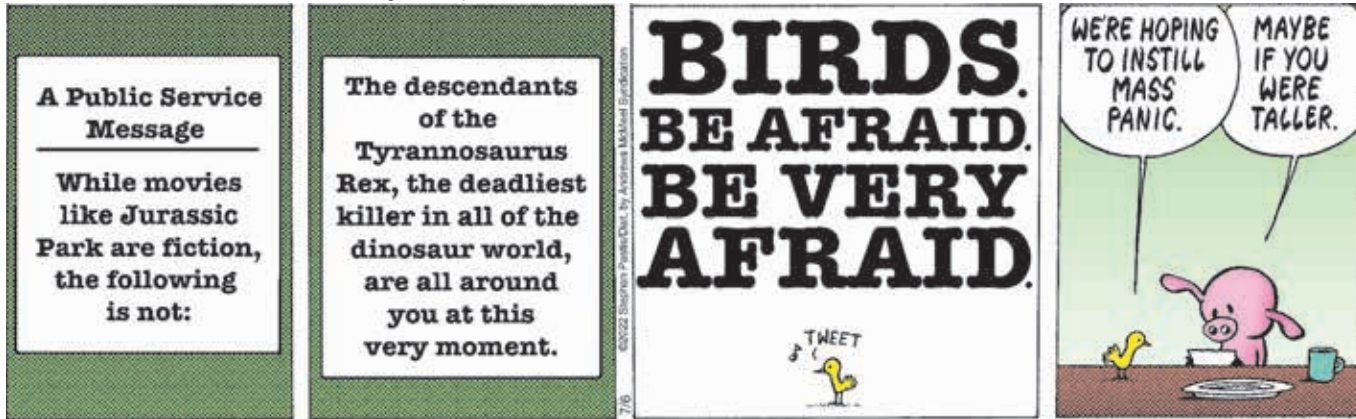
GET FUZZY by Darby Conley



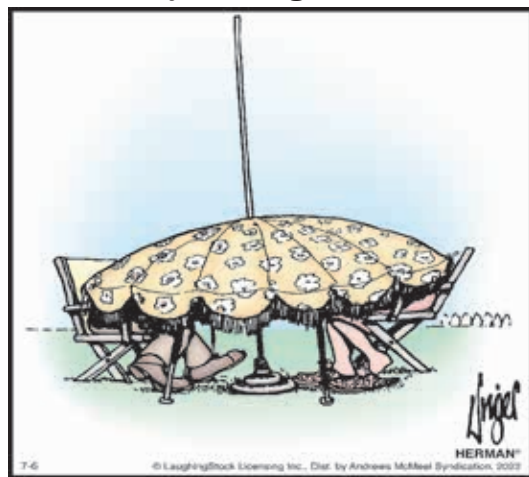
NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



HERMAN by Jim Unger



RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary B. Price



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



DILBERT by Scott Adams



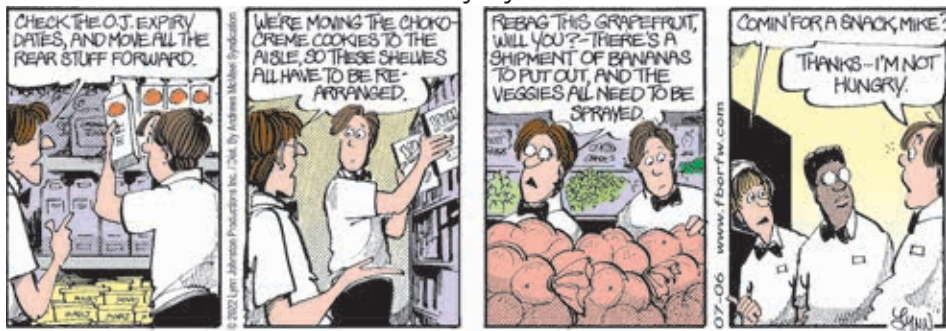
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WIZARD OF ID by Parker & Hart



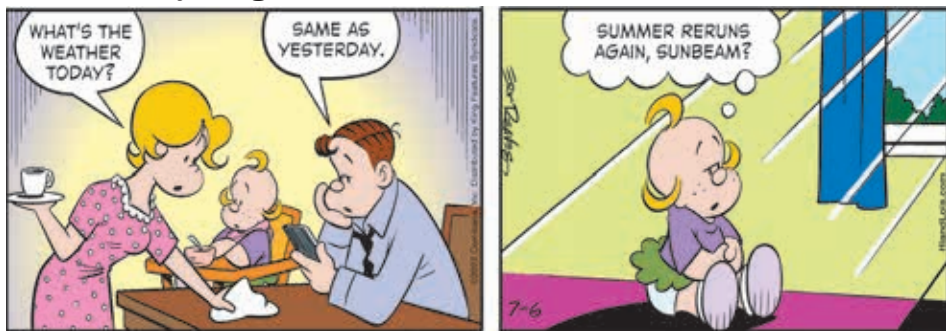
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



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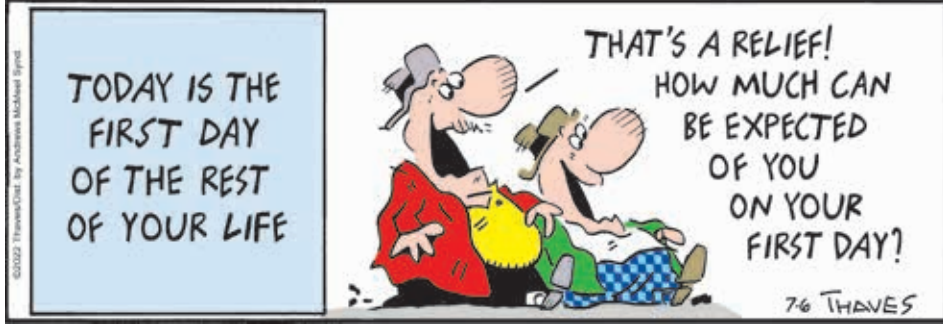
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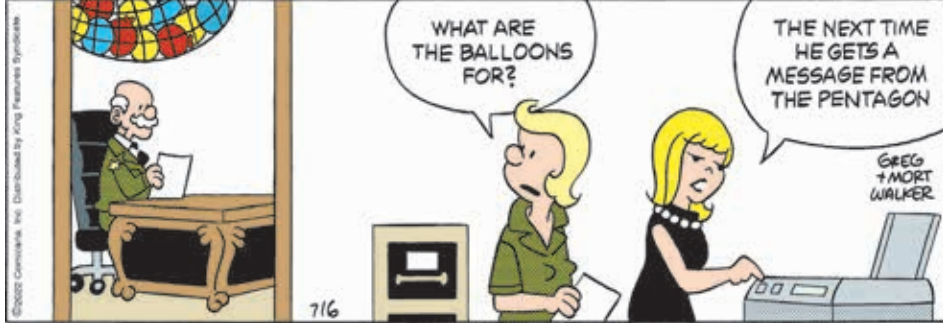
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|--|--|--|---|
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*Private party only, limit 1 item per ad. Business sales, bazaars, swap meets, auctions, hay, wood, produce, real estate and animals are excluded. Some restrictions may apply. Price must appear in ad.

