



Thurston Co. Opens New \$48M Jail

State-of-the-Art Facility Allows Sheriff to go Beyond 'Just Warehousing' Inmates

BY STEVEN WYBLE swyble@yelmonline.com

Thurston County's new jail, the Accountability and Restitution Center, is vacant no more. In fact, it's already overcrowded.

But the new facility is still a breath of fresh air to jail staff, as well as the inmates now occupying the facility.

About 350 inmates made the move Saturday, Aug 15 from the old county jail to the ARC, an approximately 10,000-square-foot facility located at 3491 Ferguson St. SW in Tumwater.

The ARC is a new, state-of-the-art corrections facility that was completed in 2010 and cost \$48 million to construct. The facility was unable to open due to budget shortfalls and the need for staffing changes.

The Thurston County Board of Commissioners and the sheriff's office signed an agreement early this year to open the new facility.

The previously occupied jail was built in 1978 to house 86 inmates, and the jail population soared over the next two decades, according to the sheriff's office. The old facility was remodeled three times over the years.

The sheriff's office spent a good portion of 2014 preparing staff for the transition

See \$48M JAIL, page A8



Lt. Shawn Bell, left, and Sheriff John Snaza stand outside the newly opened Accountability and Restitution Center in Tumwater last Thursday.

Alder Lake Fire Burns 173 Acres



A Smokey the Bear sign at Rocky Point campground on Alder Lake on Highway 7, across the water from the fire, lists the fire danger as extreme.



A helicopter carries water from Alder Lake in an attempt to keep the wildfire in check on Tuesday morning. Below, a U.S. Forest Service observer, left, watches a helicopter dump water on the edge of the Alder Lake wildfire Tuesday morning. Also watching were two concerned citizens from the Mineral area, middle, and a man at right who flew out from Pennsylvania as a firefighting volunteer.

STILL GROWING: Three Evacuation Levels Planned Should Fire Spread

BY DAMEON PESANTI dpesanti@chronline.com

Burning through steep, thick terrain, the Alder Lake fire has grown to about 173 acres at a rate of 20 to 30 acres per day since it was first reported on Aug. 11, according to officials from the U.S. Forest Service.

On Tuesday night, with the scent of burning wood lingering in the air, officials from four different agencies told a crowd of more than 100 people in the Mineral school gymnasium the latest updates on the Alder Lake fire. Dozens of officials from national, state and local agencies were on hand to explain the situation and tell residents living along Pleasant Valley Road to be prepared should the fire grow to three critical levels. Alder Lake is located about 30 miles southeast of Yelm.

"This is what they mean: level one be

alert; level two be ready — it's not time to start planning, you should have already done that; level 3 is leave immediately," said Lewis County Director of Emergency Management Steve Mansfield.

The fire is more than a mile away from the neighborhood, but the two are separated by rugged and steep terrain.

The fire is being managed jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, but they are also working with the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and neighboring fire protection districts. It's currently burning across the Pierce and Lewis county line, partially on state land, but mostly in the national forest.

According to officials from the U.S. Forest Service, the fire burned through 173 acres of old-growth forest as of Tuesday night. It was started when lightning struck a steep slope on July 26 and smoldered for about two weeks until Aug. 11 when it was big enough to be seen and reported.

The Mineral Lake Fire Department was the first agency to respond to the fire, but it was too far up into the mountains for them to attack.



The mountainside hit by the fire is a north-facing slope that sits at a 40-60 percent grade. Officials say the blaze is spreading laterally to the east and west then burning to the north and south. Russell Wilstead, assistant fire management officer on the

Gifford Pinchot National Forest, said the fire is contained by "only a couple percent," but it is moving slowly.

In the days since it was first reported,

See BURN, page A8

Subscriber mailing label below this line

Yelm Residents Question High Water Rates

PAYING FOR GROWTH: City Says Rates Can't Go Lower by Law

BY STEVEN WYBLE swyble@yelmonline.com

Some Yelm residents are feeling the heat not just in the weather, but in their monthly water bills, and they're asking why the city's water rates are so high.

The city says it is charging the rate it must by law: a rate that pays for the utility's debt, as well as the cost of operating the utility. And the city points out that while water rates are higher in Yelm, some of Yelm's other utilities are cheaper than in surrounding communities.

Yelm resident Megan Zahringer has expressed frustration with the city's water rates.

"My friends who live in Olym-

pia and Lacey and all these other areas, their base pay is like \$13, \$16," Zahringer said.

Yelm's base charge for water in 2015 is \$32.52. Adding in the base charges for sewer and storm drain, the total base charge for Yelm utility customers is \$89.68.

The cost of water has gone up over the years in Yelm. In 2007, the water base charge was \$11. The sewer base was \$41.06 and the storm drain base was \$2.50.

In 2014, the water base charge was \$30.04, the sewer base was \$52.56, and the storm drain base remained \$2.50. For 2015, the water base is \$32.52, the sewer base is \$54.66 and the storm drain base is \$2.50.

The city uses a tiered rate system for water, so the more water a customer uses, the higher the rate they pay per cubic foot.

Stormwater is the water dis-

charge that runs off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets and parking lots. The rates vary depending on property size and impervious surface area.

Sewer rates are determined by base flow. Residential accounts are charged a set sewer fee, whereas commercial accounts include a base flow charge plus additional charges when the base flow exceeds 900 cubic feet.

"My main problem is just our base water," Zahringer said. "I don't understand it. It was before this water bill even came that I've had an issue with the base, because I think last year I called them (the city) because we weren't home for



Yelm Mayor Ron Harding

YELM WATER RATES:

- The city of Yelm uses a tiered rate system for water:
• 0-400 cubic feet of water is charged \$3.05 per cubic feet
• 401-1,000 is charged \$4.71 per cubic feet
• 1,001-2,000 is charged \$10.64
• 2,001-3,000 is charged \$11.55
• 3,001 and more is charged \$13.23

a full month and we still had a \$90 water bill and I was concerned that our neighbors were using our water. But they explained to me that that's our base pay."

"Yes, we're suffering," said

See H2O, page A8



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Pete Caster / Nisqually Valley News

Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall flips a coin to decide who will be first on the ballot in this November's general election for Tenino Mayor last week at the auditor's office in Olympia. Wayne Fournier won the coin toss and will be first on the ballot while current Tenino Mayor Bret Brodersen will be second.

Fournier Tops Tenino Ballot by Coin Toss Win

Tied Primary Race: 'Meaningless in the Grand Scheme of Things'

BY DAMEON PESANTI
dpesanti@chronline.com

The primary race for Tenino mayor was determined by a coin toss last week in the Thurston County Courthouse. Wayne Fournier won the coin toss to be listed above Bret Brodersen on the November ballot.

"It's all fun to watch unfold, but it's meaningless in the grand scheme of things. What matters is we get our message out there and winning the election," Fournier said in a later interview.

The race was tied after the Aug. 4 primary closed and remained that way even after the final three votes were counted last week. Those three were votes split between Fournier, Brodersen and John O'Callahan.

"A lot of people didn't vote that probably wish they had," said Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall. "Every vote does matter, especially in these smaller elections. It's almost like your vote counts four times."

Both names were written on a piece of paper and one was randomly drawn from a bucket to determine who would be heads. Brodersen's name was drawn, but the coin landed on tails, giving Fournier the victory.

Typically the top vote-getter is listed at the top of the ballot.

Brodersen and Fournier each had 136 votes, while O'Callahan had 78. Overall, the voting turnout was quite low in the Thurston County primary. At 37.8 percent (351 out of 928), Tenino had a substantially higher percentage of voters turn out than the county

at large. Only 22 percent of eligible voters (26,054 out of 116,658) participated county-wide.

The last race Thurston County officials recalled as having a tie at the mayoral level was in Bucoda in 2005. The race was hotly contested in the city after Brodersen made the decision to fire former police chief John Hutchings last March.

"I thought it was interesting that there was a tie and required a coin toss. That's truly an unusual situation for that to happen," Brodersen said. "I don't know that the results of that play true into how people are going to vote. It just shows there's a lot of interest in the city of Tenino."

The city became responsible for paying \$86,460 for benefits Hutchings received while working as a full-time employee who was classified as part-time. Hutchings recently filed a \$850,000 claim against the city for damages, claiming comments by Brodersen have tarnished his reputation.

Brodersen, 39, was appointed mayor in June 2013 after former mayor Eric Strawn stepped down from his position. Brodersen has experience on the city's planning commission and city council and has also served as mayor pro-tem.

Fournier has been a city councilor for nearly four years. He has also served on various boards and commissions in college and within his career. Fournier, 35, is a professional firefighter who has lived in Tenino most of his life.



Wayne Fournier

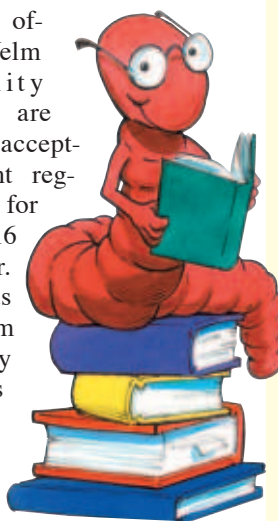


Bret Brodersen

Yelm Community Schools In Session Starting Tuesday, Sept. 8

All the offices of Yelm Community Schools are open and accepting student registration for the 2015-16 school year.

Students new to Yelm Community Schools must register as soon as possible in order to plan for the appropriate number of instructional staff for each classroom. You can visit the district website at www.ycs.wednet.edu. You will find "School Locator" and "Registration for New Students" to assist in the registration process.



Important Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, Sept. 2**
Noon to 5 p.m. — Ridgeline Middle School orientation
Noon to 1:30 p.m. — 9th grade orientation
1:30-3 p.m. — 8th grade orientation
3-5 p.m. — 7th grade orientation
5:30-7 p.m. — Fort Stevens open house
5:30-6:30 p.m. — Lackamas and Mill Pond open houses
6-7 p.m. — McKenna, Prairie and Southworth open houses

- Friday, Sept. 4**
Noon to 5 p.m. — Yelm Middle School orientation
Noon to 1 p.m. — 9th grade orientation
1-2 p.m. — 8th grade orientation
2-3 p.m. — 7th grade orientation
3-5 p.m. — All grades orientation

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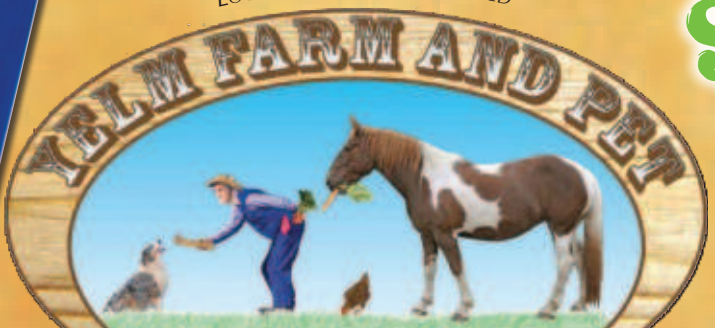


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Yelm Now Chicken, Duck and Rabbit Friendly

City Council Passes Ordinances Allowing the Animals as Common Household Pets

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

The Yelm City Council on Tuesday evening unanimously voted to allow chickens, ducks and rabbits as common household pets within Yelm city limits.

Yelm's previous animal control code prohibited raising livestock in the city, including

chickens, ducks and rabbits.

The amendment to the Yelm Municipal Code makes keeping such animals subject to certain restrictions. The new ordinance does not supercede any neighborhood covenants or homeowners association rules.

The new ordinance now allows Yelm residents up to three chickens or ducks on a 5,000-square-foot lot, with an

additional animal for every 1,000 square feet over 5,000.

It would also allow five rabbits on lots up to one acre, with one additional rabbit for every additional 1,000 square feet of a lot area over one acre, up to 10 rabbits.

Chicken coups would be required to be at least 20 feet from any property line to mitigate the impact to neighbors. Chicken coups would also be required to be clean.

"(We set) the 20 feet from property line in order to ensure

the impacts are felt first on the person keeping them versus the neighbors to help ensure there aren't any problems down the road," said Community Development Director Grant Beck.

The issue of raising chickens in Yelm city limits came to the forefront this January, when the city passed its updated Unified Development Code.

"This was spurred by requests from citizens last year to the council to allow the keeping of chickens in their neighborhoods on their private property,"

Beck said, adding it has been nine months of debate and study sessions by the council that led to the unanimous vote.

One of the proponents of backyard chickens was Denise Smith, who testified Tuesday evening.

"I really do feel like the city council and the city have come up with something that is fair and hopefully will satisfy both ends of the spectrum and I do appreciate the time and work that you put in," she said to the council.

Rainier Baseball to Play 2016 Season at RAC

School District, Sportman's Club Part Ways Over Fee for Irrigation of Fields

BY JENNA LOUGHLIN

jloughlin@yelmonline.com

After decades of allowing the district to use its fields, the Rainier Sportsman's Club and the Rainier School District have chosen to part ways.

In years past, the district has used the club's field for football practice, baseball practice and games, parts of its 17-acre property for hosting cross-country meets and the building for testing all at no cost other than maintaining the club's grounds. It also used the club's well water to irrigate the high school's football field and baseball field for football practice.

There has never been a written contract or agreement between the club and the district, just verbal agreements with a handshake.

The change came about when new board members were elected to head the sportsman's club this past spring. Because RSC needs funds to pay for upkeep and repairs to its building — which was completed in 1968 after five years and 19,167 hours of volunteer labor — the new leadership made the decision to require payment from the school district for continued use of its facilities.

"We decided that we need to start getting some funds to put back into the premises," RSC President Jack Dolman, of Yelm, said. "For the past 30 years the school district has been using water, no fee. I met with the superintendent and I explained to him

IF YOU WANT TO GO:

- The Rainier Sportsman's Club meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the hall, 404 Alaska St., and is open to new members. For more information, call 360-446-7712.
- The Rainier School Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the next to last Wednesday of each month in the district office, 307 Alaska St. For more information, call 360-446-2207 or visit www.rainier.wednet.edu.



Jenna Loughlin / Nisqually Valley News

The Rainier Sportsman's Club recently asked for the Rainier School District to pay for the use of its fields and its water in order to have funds to put back into its hall on Alaska Street.

we can't go any longer. I mean the building's falling apart, we don't have the funds to put back into it."

RSD Superintendent Tim Garchow said he understands.

"The relationship with the Rainier School District and the sportsman's club has been a great one for a long time. ... The sportsman's club supports Rainier School District and the Rainier School District supports the sportsman's club," Garchow said. "I understand that when an organization has goals, goals cost money and you need to charge.

"Mr. Dolman is doing exactly what I would do. He's doing what he believes and the board believes to be in the best interest of their organization by increasing revenues to meet their goals, and I applaud him, that's great leadership," Garchow continued. "And I'm doing what I hope is viewed as good leadership by being a good steward of the tax dollars and making sure that we are going with the option that works the best at the lowest cost."

Where the two sides differed was the price. The RSC board wanted the district to pay \$1,000 per month for the electricity to run its water pump for irrigation and \$300 per month for its

baseball field and its property for cross-country each season, Dolman said. The fee for the fields would be waived if the district mowed the grass.

"From the get-go, when we first met with Tim, and he was very accommodating and sociable, it was explained to him that, 'We're here to help you. We don't want animosity between the two. The school's part of the community, we're part of the community. We'll do whatever we can to help you people out,'" Dolman said.

RSC board member Dean Conway of Rainier said past bills were as high as \$600 to \$700 because of the irrigation.

"They've been getting water for 30 years for nothing," RSC Vice President Richard Burnham, of Bucoda, said of the school district. "Our bank account just keeps going down, down, down and the building is, nobody wants to use it for weddings and things anymore because it looks like hell. We pay the light bill, we can't afford to do anything on the building or anything else, so it's time that they step up and pay to use whatever it is they want to use."

Garchow said his understanding was RSC was offering a package deal of \$1,000 per month for water for 12 months, regardless of if the district used any water, \$300 per month for the fields and \$4,000 toward any repairs to the pump or well should they be needed. He said when he asked if the district could rent the fields, but not use the club's water, he was told no.

"If the use of the water and the use of the field were not connected and the sportsman's club are willing to allow us to use the baseball field in exchange for mowing it while still purchasing the water from the city, we'd be more than happy to do that," Garchow said.

Dolman said it is not true that the district had to pay RSC for water or electricity in order to rent the fields.

"The bottom line is they've been using the place all along and the club has never charged them a nickel, they just thought they had ownership of it," he said.

Garchow said he looked into other options and determined the district could use city water at a cost of \$3,000 total for the three months it irrigates its fields. The district also found it could rent the Regional Athletic Complex, or RAC, in Lacey for its five double-header home baseball games for less than \$1,000 including transportation. In the end, the choice was spending \$12,000 or \$4,000.

"Being the steward of tax dollars, part of my job is to look at how much things cost and are there less expensive options out there and weigh the quality versus

the cost of various options," Garchow said. "This decision is in no way meant to be disrespectful to the sportsman's club, to their leadership, to their board or to their members. This decision was made on the basis of best use of tax dollars to water the field and have facilities for athletics."

Conway expected a different response.

"We're trying to make money to survive," he said. "So we're just trying to keep afloat and we thought that, being we're so generous to the school district over the last three or four decades, that they might kinda help us with the \$700 light bill they were generating, but Tim the Toolman don't wanna talk that way."

Conway said he believes Garchow is after RSC's property.

"This outfit here, years ago if it went to the wayside the Women's Fire Auxiliary got the place," he said. "There's no more Women's Auxiliary. So then they changed all that. ... Now if we decide to throw our hands in the air then the school district would get it. It's the same type of thing they had with the building over there (historic schoolhouse). ... Well I think Tim the Toolman just wants this place, myself personally. ... They've not tried to help us; they've tried to deplete our checkbook. They have not been cooperative about anything. I think he's an ass myself."

Conway admitted he has never met or spoken to Garchow.

Garchow said he was unaware that the district was in line to obtain the club's property and thought the bylaws left everything to the Woman's Auxiliary of Lacey.

"I am not interested in taking over their fields or taking over their facilities," he said.

Burnham said he doubts the city has enough water pressure for the district to water its fields. Garchow said by watering during off-peak hours, the district has been successfully watering its fields since the beginning of August and does not anticipate any issues going forward as the district has switched to more efficient sprinkler heads.

In the future, Dolman said there is a possibility that the district could use the field again, but in the meantime the club is talking with other groups. At its last meeting, Dolman said two men asked to use RSC's field for youth football next year and the board was in favor of it, so they were asked to come back and talk to the club next year to set up a schedule. Conway said the RSC will not charge the organization to use or irrigate the field, they will just have to keep it mowed.

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More Than Just Scraping By

If you are not a fan of dreaded "morning breath" (and who is?), there is a very simple and effective way to banish it. Along with brushing and flossing, many people are embracing the Ayurvedic self-care ritual known as "tongue scraping." This oral hygiene practice involves using an inexpensive tongue scraper to remove bacteria, food debris, fungi, toxins, and dead cells from the surface of the tongue. As a result of removing this virtual compost layer of unwanted debris from the surface of the tongue, and especially bacteria at the back of the tongue that toothbrushes find difficult to reach, a source of halitosis (bad breath) is eliminated. Moreover, tongue scraping may also improve the way food tastes.

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Unemployment Relatively Steady for Five Months

'Economy Continues on a Positive Track' of Growth in Majority of Industries

BY JENNA LOUGHLIN
jloughlin@yelmonline.com

The unemployment figures out for July shows local unemployment continuing to hold relatively steady for the fifth month in a row.

According to preliminary and not seasonally adjusted figures released by the state Employment Security Department earlier this week, Washington state's unemployment rate last month was 5.4 percent, Thurston County's was 6.0 percent and Pierce County's was 6.4 percent.

Lewis, Grays Harbor, Pend Oreille and Ferry counties had the highest unemployment rates in July 2015, between 8.4 and 9.8 percent, while Douglas, Asotin, Snohomish, Chelan and King had the lowest rates, at or below 5.0 percent. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment held steady from June to July at 5.3 percent.

Since dropping 1.1 percent from February to March, both Thurston and Pierce counties have not seen its unemployment rate change, either up or down, by more than 0.4 percent.

The July Monthly Employment Report from the state ESD estimates Washington gained 5,900 new nonfarm jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis from June 2015 to July 2015 with a gain of 7,000 new private sector jobs and a loss of 1,100 jobs in the public sector.

"Washington's economy continues on a positive track with 5,900 new nonfarm jobs from June to July 2015," state labor economist Paul Turek said. "The number of people in the labor market decreased slightly since last month, but we still have roughly 52,000 more people in the labor market than we did in July 2014 – and the majority of industries continued to experience growth."

Eight sectors saw growth across the state from June to July while four suffered losses and one remained unchanged. The top three industries with the largest gains, on a seasonally adjusted basis, were: financial activities with 2,600 new jobs; retail trade with 1,700 new jobs; and leisure and hospitality with 1,500 new jobs.

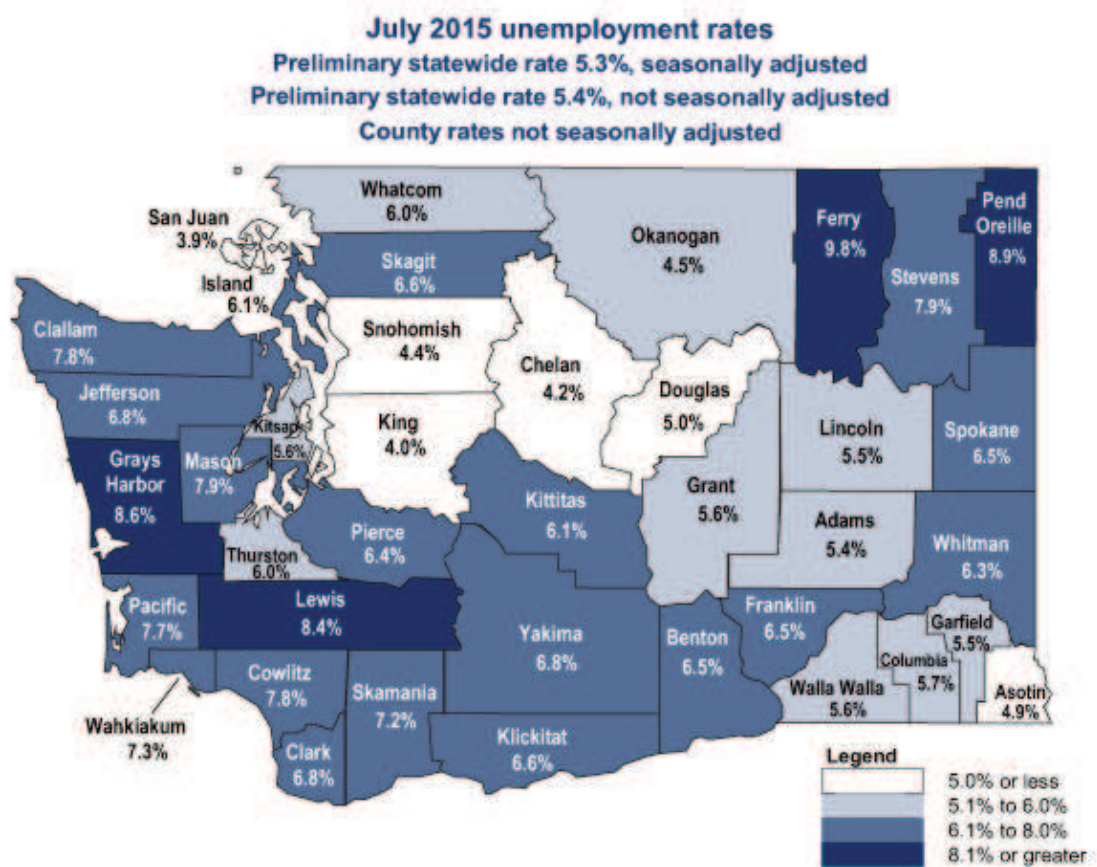
Wholesale trade lost 1,800 jobs, government lost 1,000 jobs and education and health services lost 300 jobs.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates Washington gained 108,600 jobs from July 2014 to July 2015, on a not seasonally adjusted basis, with 101,200 new jobs in the private sector and 7,400 new jobs in the public sector.

From July 2014 to July 2015, 12 major industries saw growth and only one suffered losses. The top five industry sectors with the largest employment gains from July 2014 to July 2015, not seasonally adjusted, were: professional and business services with 24,000 new jobs; construction with 18,600 new jobs; leisure and hospitality with 16,800 new jobs; retail trade with 13,600 new jobs; and education and health services with 12,300 new jobs.

The mining and logging industry lost 100 jobs from July 2014 to July 2015.

According to estimates by the BLS, the preliminary labor force for Thurston County last month was 122,623. Out of those, 115,225 were employed while 7,398 were not. The revised numbers for June showed 124,144 people in the labor force with 116,842 people employed and 7,302 people unemployed for a rate of 5.9 percent. The revised number for July 2014 showed 121,196 people in the labor force with 113,389 people employed and 7,807 people unemployed for a rate of 6.4 percent.



The preliminary labor force for Pierce County last month was 384,865. Out of those, 360,296 were employed while 24,569 were not. The revised number for June showed 387,237 people in the labor force with 362,671 people employed and 24,566 people unemployed for a rate of 6.3 percent. The revised number for July 2014 showed 379,681 people in the labor force with 353,193 people employed and 26,488 people unemployed for a rate of 7.0 percent.

The preliminary labor force for the state last month was 3,560,075. Out of those, 3,369,506 were employed while 190,569 were not. The revised number for

June showed 3,552,927 people in the labor force with 3,366,477 people employed and 186,450 people unemployed for a rate of 5.2 percent. The revised number

for July 2014 showed 3,516,818 people in the labor force with 3,304,901 people employed and 211,917 people unemployed for a rate of 6.0 percent.

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Thurston County Credit Rating Improves

Standard and Poor's Rating Services has given Thurston County high marks for financial management.

The company has assigned a long-term rating of "Double-A" to the county's series 2015 Limited Tax General Obligation refunding bonds. At the same time, Standard and Poor's assigned its "AA" long-term rating to the county's existing General Obligation debt saying the outlook on all ratings is stable. That's up from the previous rating of AA-.

County Commission Chair Cathy Wolfe said the Standard and Poor's review shows the county is doing a good job with financial management.

"The report says the county has shown 'strong management, with good financial policies and practices,'" she said. "We are very

pleased to achieve such a high rating."

County Manager Cliff Moore says the rating will allow the county to attract lower interest rates for bond debt, saving county taxpayers money.

"The county can refinance some bond issues for an accumulated savings of about \$1 million over the life of those bonds," he said.

The Standard and Poor's rating shows a stable outlook for Thurston County financial management in view of the county's "Strong budgetary flexibility, strong budgetary performance, strong management and very strong liquidity scores." The report states the Thurston County ratings could go even higher in coming years as the economy continues to recover.

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OUR VIEWS

Provide Aid to Those Suffering From Massive Fires

Smoke choked the air in the Nisqually Valley over the weekend and throughout this week, providing a tangible reminder of an historic, devastating fire season that has wreaked havoc across the Pacific Northwest.

While our area has seen a number of fires, including the 173-acre Alder Lake fire just 30 miles southeast of Yelm, it's Eastern Washington that has absorbed the brunt of the blazes burning homes and properties throughout the region.

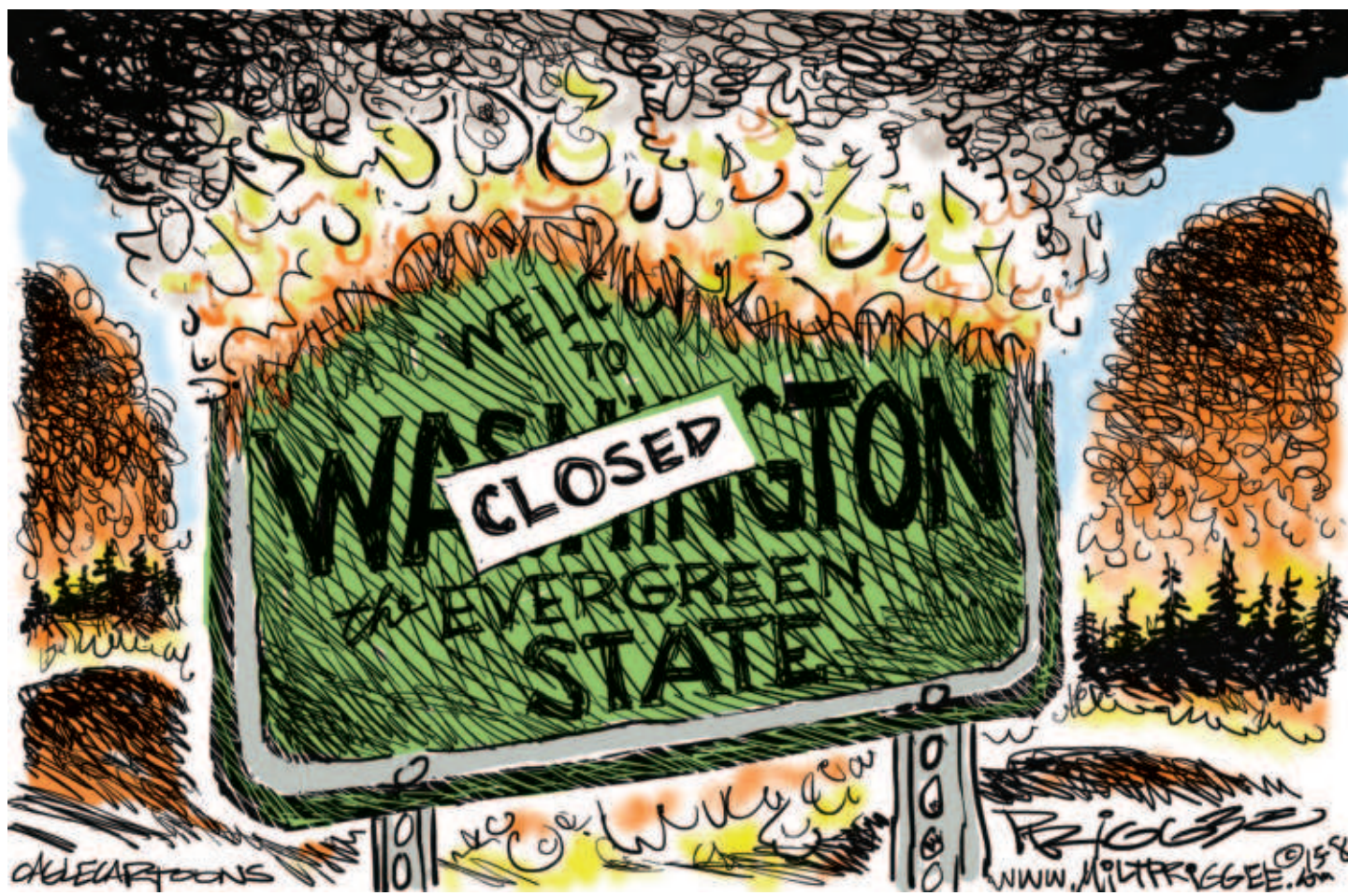
In Okanogan County, more than 370,000 acres have been scorched, setting an unfortunate state record for a single wildfire. More than 600,000 acres have been burned in all, with a total of 16 fires still active as of Monday afternoon.

The disasters have as usual brought forth scores of charitable donations and offers of assistance. In order to ensure your money provides the most positive impact, consider donating to local charities with low administrative costs and proven records of providing aid following fires. The information was provided by newspaper publisher Scott Wilson, a native of Okanogan County.

- Okanogan County Community Action Council. Visit the website, www.oc-cac.com. All funds donated go to disaster relief. They are very local with boots on the ground. The Methow (Twisp, Winthrop) are in Okanogan County along with Omak, Okanogan, Riverside, Conconully, Malott and Tonasket.

- Community Foundation of North Central Washington. Visit the website, www.cfnw.org; you'll see "Community Fund" options to direct funds toward one area or another. This fund reaches Chelan, and also Okanogan County.

- A fund targeted at people who were burned out of their homes in the Chelan area. The fund is managed by Chelan Valley Hope, a nonprofit community service



organization based in Chelan. The funding appeal comes through a web platform called "Give Naked" as "Give #104." Here is the web link: givenaked.org.

- Fund for the firefighters who were killed or injured in the Methow Valley: www.gofundme.com/methowfirefighters.

- Aid for injured or homeless livestock: The Okanogan County Sheriff's Office has an Emergency Animal Response Services Team, providing shelters and food. Checks only, to Okanogan County Sheriff, attn Deputy Yarnell,

123 N. Fifth Ave, Room 200, Okanogan WA 98840. Memo line must say "Animal Relief/Rescue."

- Volunteers: The DNR is still looking for qualified volunteers. See information at www.dnr.wa.gov/wildfirevolunteer.

Closer to home, the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, located at 512 Washington St. SE in Olympia, is accepting donations for a firefighter supply drive. In order to properly supply the thousands of firefighters battling the blazes, the center is asking for the following items which

can be dropped off at its headquarters: Water, Gatorade, trail mix, beef jerky, granola bars, bandannas, lip balm, sunscreen, foot powder, baby wipes, blankets, socks, T-shirts, underwear, gum and tents. Call 360-753-8585 for more information.

At least 200 homes have been destroyed by fires this year, altering livelihoods and creating unimaginable hardships for many.

Consider easing the load of those affected by making a cash donation to help put their lives back together.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BRUSH FIRE

Thanks to Good Samaritans Who Helped Douse Flames

Editor,

My husband and I would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Todd and Veronica Ford.

Todd and Veronica spotted smoke and fire while driving home on state Route 702, Wednesday evening, Aug. 19. They came to our house to alert us of the fire. Not only did they and their older children help us to set up our garden hoses, but they stayed with us until everything was under control.

There was a brush fire behind our property that was quickly getting out of control. While waiting for the fire units to respond, my husband watered down the Scotch broom and pine tree that was precariously close to the fire.

The people who had the brush fire did not want the fire department to be called.

I shudder to think what would have happened if these strangers did not come and warn us of this fire.

So thank you for going above and beyond to alert a family of a dangerous situation. Not only did you help strangers but you taught your children a very valuable lesson to do what was morally right. It also helped us to reaffirm that there are still good people in this world who unselfishly help others.

Godspeed.

**Rich and Charlene Mizner
McKenna**

GUEST EDITORIAL

Yelm Farmers Market Success Continues to Bloom

MARKET REPORT

By Karen Rae



EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Yelm Farmers Market is just about halfway through the 2015 farmers' market season. The market continues to blossom as evidenced by the following report.*

"Thank you for making Sundays special for our whole family." — Parent of a Power of Produce Participant

The success of any farmers market comes down to people: the farmers who grow the food, the vendors with their food and crafts, the musicians who enhance the atmosphere, the growing community who votes with their dollars, and the sponsors who support it.

As the Yelm Farmers Market heads into September, we celebrate everyone who has made this year the most successful yet.

Some highlights:

- Market sales are up 30 percent from this time last year to nearly \$90,000 so far. Go, vendors.

- Population Growth: Over 8,000 adults have visited our market at Nisqually Springs Farm since opening day.

- Music to our Ears: A diverse and wonderful group of musicians are rotating every week to fill the air with song, thanks to our music sponsor Today's Dental Center.

- Vendors: The market now has a pool of over 40 vendors offering everything from gourmet mushrooms and artisanal breads and cheeses to custom-designed jewelry and natural body products, in addition to fresh fruit and vegetables. Every booth has its own fan club, with shoppers returning week after week for their gourmet hot dog, ripe corn, etc.

- So, Like ... We now have 2,200 Facebook followers.

The children's Power of Produce Club has been a runaway success, with 660 members between the ages of 5 and 12 and over 1,500 club visits to date. It is delightful to watch the children collect their \$2 tokens each week and head into the market to purchase fruit, vegetables, and plants that grow food. And, of course, every penny they spend goes directly to the farmers. Membership for this season is now closed, but our goal for next year is to sponsor 1,000 children.

We recently did a parent survey to gather feedback about how the program was going. Here are some of the comments we received.

From parents:
"Children and parents both learn so much from the vendors. We have

created so many new vegetarian dishes with advice from farmers. My children have tried so many new veggies!"

"Thank you for being kid-friendly and helping my kids navigate the farmers market so they feel comfortable spending money on good food."

"My favorite part is seeing the joy when my child comes to the market."

Children on why they like participating in the program:

"Pride. I get to give my tomatoes away."

"They have fresh food and we know where the food comes from."

"Because there's lots of great food that is so tasty and it's so great at the farmers market. I love it!"

That's just a small sample of many comments from parents and children whose lives have been impacted by this program. From all of us, a huge thank you to all of the sponsors and donors who have made it possible.

Speaking of which, if you are a sponsoring business and haven't used your business booth opportunity yet, make sure to book a date. The season will be over before you know it. Experience the market firsthand to see what a difference your contribution is making in our community.

Thank you and see you at the market.

■ *Karen Rae is the Yelm Farmers Market manager.*

LETTERS POLICY: Submit letters to the editor typed or legibly handwritten. Generally, letters should be 350 words or fewer. Deadline is noon Tuesday. Include name, address and a daytime telephone number for verification purposes. No unsigned letters will be published. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar and length. Bring letters to the Nisqually Valley News office, 106 Plaza Drive N.E., Building B, Suite 2, mail to P.O. Box 597, Yelm, WA 98597 or e-mail to yelmnews@yelmonline.com

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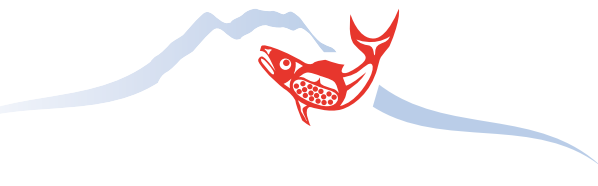
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Interim Tenino Police Chief Pending Screening

Tenino About to Lose Another Police Officer

BY JUSTYNA TOMTAS
jtomtas@chronline.com

Tenino Mayor Bret Brodersen announced at the Tuesday regular meeting of the city council an interim chief for the police department has been selected.

Brodersen said Ron Russell Ellis has agreed to come to Tenino and work as the interim police chief until the full-time position can be filled.

According to Brodersen, Ellis has municipal experience with the city of Ruston and has numerous certifications as police chief. He also has done work with tribal entities throughout the state and has done consulting work.

"He is willing to come serve as our interim chief pending the required background and polygraph test that is required for all law enforcement positions," Brodersen told the council.

Brodersen said he will seek the council's support in making an interim appointment pending the results of the required tests so the department could continue to provide services for Tenino citizens while a full-time chief is found. Ellis was not present at the

meeting because he was serving jury duty.

Currently the police department is down to two law enforcement officers, but will soon only have one. Officer Stephen Rowe is serving his last week at the department after accepting a position with the Mason County Sheriff's Office. That will leave Officer Susannah Wilson as the only full-time law enforcement official serving the city.

Brodersen said he had been working with Rowe to explore options for additional staffing to fill lateral officer positions. One offer of employment is currently pending, with more to come in the future.

"We're working on filling police positions on the police department so we can continue to have a fully functioning police department," Brodersen said.

The mayor has met with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office to ensure backup coverage is provided for the city as needed.

Lewis County Prosecutor, and Tenino Reserve Officer, Jonathan Meyer was recently appointed as the reserve officer coordinator.

During a department update, Rowe said a new officer administrator had been hired after the position was left empty for several months.

Julie Graham, a resident of Tenino, said she is unsatisfied with the number of advertise-

ments placed for the police chief position. She said she is not surprised the council only found three candidates.

"It feels like it was a pretty rinky dink way to try to get a net cast far and wide enough for such a significant position," she said to the council. "It's disturbing, and I'm also distraught on the number and the quality of whatever sorts of police we have with the departure of Officer Rowe."

Councilor and mayoral candidate Wayne Fournier said in an email that when he first took office as a council member, the police department consisted of four officers, a chief and a police clerk.

With the resignation of Rowe, the most senior officer, only one full-time law enforcement official will be employed by the city.

"The fight to maintain our police department is one I have been fighting since I first took office in 2012, and it came to an unfortunate head last March," Fournier said, citing the firing of former Tenino Police Chief John Hutchings. "We now have little independent capabilities and will undoubtedly need to rely on the Thurston County Sheriff's Department."

Fournier asked Mayor Brodersen in an email to immediately appoint an interim chief to provide leadership to the police department. After learning of Bro-

dersen's progress, Fournier said he is pleased to hear the process is ongoing.

"I'm glad to hear that we are moving forward with looking at appointing an interim chief. I think that's pertinent and very important," Fournier said.

Hutchings was fired from his position as police chief in March after Brodersen said he worked extra hours outside of his contract. The excess hours resulted in an \$86,462 bill from the Department of Retirement Services. Hutchings later filed a \$850,000 tort claim against the city for

damages he incurred.

Brodersen said in an earlier interview that the initial review of applications would be completed by Aug. 13. The first round of interviews were scheduled between Aug. 20 and Aug. 31 depending on the availability of the applicants and the panel members. A second round of interviews are scheduled for Sept. 1 through Sept. 11, with an executive session on Sept. 14 to discuss qualifications for employment.

Brodersen plans to present the council with a final candidate presentation on Sept. 22.

Questions of Volunteer Officers in Uniform Raised at Council Meeting

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

During Tuesday's Tenino City Council meeting, councilor and mayoral hopeful Wayne Fournier brought comments from citizens and deputies who stated some citizens had been volunteering for the police department without being sworn in.

"It's been stated that there has been some citizens that were noncommissioned officers, not sworn in on any capacity that have been in police uniforms throughout the summer,"

Fournier said.

Tenino Mayor Bret Brodersen said this was the first time the topic had been brought to his attention.

Fournier asked the mayor to update the council at the next meeting. He wanted to know if citizens had been in police uniforms, if they were insured, and if they were issued weapons, or badges, and whether they had access to the police department or the State Patrol computers.

Brodersen said he would look into the situation and provide more information as soon as he is able.

White Supremacist Sentenced to Life Without Parole

Murder Victim Was Picked Up at a Friend's House in Yelm

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

Eric Michael Elliser, 35, was sentenced last Friday to life without parole for the 2013 stabbing death of Derek Scott Wagner, 27.

Wagner was reportedly picked up from a friend's house in Yelm

before he was taken to Tacoma and stabbed to death.

During the investigation, Wagner's mother told police her son spent the weekend with a "former prison buddy," Josh Loper, who lived in Yelm. She said when she last heard from her son, he told her he was going to go to Tacoma to "visit some prison friends."

Jeffrey Cooke picked Wagner up on Nov. 16, 2013, and they drove to a party at Elliser's house, according to a press release from the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office.

Shane Thomas McKittrick, 33, arrived at the party shortly after Wagner and a verbal confrontation ensued. Wagner had recently been accused of having an affair with the wife of a fellow skinhead.

Wagner and Cooke left the party in Cooke's vehicle and the two headed back to Cooke's house. McKittrick chased them down in his car, according to the release. The cars pulled over a short distance from Cooke's house and a physical altercation ensued. During the fight, Elliser arrived in another vehicle and

joined in. McKittrick reportedly stabbed Wagner three times.

Wagner was able to run away, but collapsed and died in the backyard of a neighboring house. The following afternoon, a man discovered Wagner's body in his yard and called police.

According to the medical examiner, Wagner died from a fatal stab wound to the heart.

In April, a jury convicted Elliser of second-degree murder and first degree assault. Elliser's co-defendant, McKittrick, was sentenced to 25 years in prison after a jury convicted him of

second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter.

"This was a complicated and violent case that required tenacious police work and prosecution," said Prosecutor Mark Lindquist. "The Tacoma Police Department and Deputy Prosecutors Jim Schacht and Angelica Williams vigorously pursued justice."

Two other defendants pleaded guilty before trial. A jury acquitted a fifth defendant.

The defendants and the victim have ties to the Aryan Skins Kindred prison gang.

RECORDS

dent with injury at Cascara Court Southeast, Yelm.

7:46 p.m., cooking fire, confined to container at Koeppen Road Southeast, Rainier.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

10:57 a.m., good intent call, other at Penn Lane Southeast, Yelm.

11:55 a.m., good intent call, other at Jonas Hill Lane Southeast, Rainier.

6:47 p.m., dispatched and canceled en route at Killion Road Northwest, Yelm.

7:51 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at 123rd Court Southeast, Yelm.

8:19 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at 83rd Way Southeast, Yelm.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

8:51 a.m., building fire at Donovan Court Southeast, Yelm.

11:07 a.m., alarm system sounded due to malfunction at Yelm Avenue West, Yelm.

12:04 p.m., good intent call, other at Rainier View Drive Southeast, Yelm.

5:47 p.m., brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire at state Route 507, Rainier.

11:23 p.m., power line down at Canal Road Southeast, Yelm.

Thursday, Aug. 20

5:31 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Village Drive Southeast, Rainier.

5:38 p.m., fire, other at Emerald Court Southeast, Rainier.

5:46 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Killion Road Northwest, Yelm.

7:00 p.m., service call, other at 118th Lane Southeast, Yelm.

9:00 p.m., excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition at Vail Cutoff Road Southeast, Rainier.

Friday, July 21

7:08 a.m., passenger vehicle fire at Creek Street Southeast, Yelm.

1:52 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Cullens Road Northwest, Yelm.

3:19 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Bald Hill Road Southeast, Yelm.

8:08 p.m., no incident found on Vail Cutoff Road Southeast and Vail Loop Road Southeast, Rainier.

10:30 p.m., authorized controlled burning at Park Drive Southeast, Rainier.

Saturday, Aug. 22

7:10 a.m., natural vegetation fire, other at First Street North, Yelm.

11:36 a.m., unauthorized burning at Agate Street Southeast, Yelm.

7:56 p.m., attempted burning, illegal action, other at Berry Valley Drive Southeast, Yelm.

8:13 p.m., unauthorized burning at Yelm Avenue East and Fourth Street Southeast, Yelm.

8:50 p.m., brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire at Berry Valley Drive Southeast and Yelm Avenue West, Yelm.

9:30 p.m., authorized controlled burning at Ramsay Drive Southeast, Yelm.

9:41 p.m., authorized controlled burning at Emerald Lane Southeast, Rainier.

10:07 p.m., dispatched and canceled en route at Birkland Street Southeast, Yelm.

10:11 p.m., brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire at Berry Valley Drive Southeast, Yelm.

Sunday, Aug. 23

3:26 a.m., dispatched and canceled en route at 155th Avenue Southeast, Yelm.

4:50 a.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Killion Road Northwest, Yelm.

8:44 a.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Tucannon Court Southeast, Yelm.

9:52 a.m., no incident found on arrival at Morris Road Southeast, Yelm.

Yelm.

11:15 a.m., power line down at Vail Cutoff Road Southeast, Rainier.

11:39 a.m., motor vehicle accident with no injuries at state Route 507, Yelm.

11:49 a.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at First Street South, Yelm.

2:05 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Yelm Avenue East, Yelm.

2:30 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Pepperidge Lane Southeast, Yelm.

2:49 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Yelm Avenue East, Yelm.

5:55 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Railroad Street Southwest, Yelm.

7:01 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at 123rd Avenue Southeast, Yelm.

7:20 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Vail Road Southeast, Yelm.

9:51 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Field Court Southeast, Yelm.

10:22 p.m., dispatched and canceled en route at West Road Northeast, Yelm.

10:23 p.m., emergency medical service call, excluding vehicle accident with injury at Edwards Street Southwest, Yelm.

BRIEFS

Drive Sober Campaign Runs Through Labor Day

From now through Labor Day, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission is letting the public know that extra officers will be out across the state at times and locations where DUI is a problem as part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign.

"It is our hope that by publicizing these extra patrols more people will plan ahead if they will be drinking or using marijuana," said Darrin Grondel, WTSC Director. "Don't risk getting arrested for a DUI, or causing a life-changing tragedy. Designate a sober, drug-free driver."

In Thurston County, the Lacey, Olympia, Yelm, Tumwater and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, and the Washington State Patrol will be teaming up and participating in the extra patrols, with the support of the Thurston County Target Zero Task Force.

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BURN:

Continued from page A1

many old logging roads were cleared with heavy equipment to get people and materials closer to the fire.

Firefighters have tried to stop the spread, but the fire has jumped their lines several times. A crew of 90 people and one attack helicopter were on hand Tuesday to fight it, digging firelines trying to stem the spread. Officials from USFS and the DNR said more people and resources will come as they are needed and available.

It hasn't burned up into the canopy level of the trees; rather, it is staying close to the ground, moving through an understory thick and laden with dead material. Many of the trees should survive the fire, but many likely won't because the fire has burned "2 or 3 feet into the soil" and will likely hit the roots of some. He attributed the fire to the dry conditions around the state.

"It's not very often we have one here, especially in recent years," Winstead said.

Officials also urged the public to stay out of the area for their own safety and to allow fire crews the space they need to combat the blaze. Several roads in the area are also closed. Forest Road 74 from mile point 3.53 and all of the spur roads are closed, as is the 7409.

Lewis County Sheriff Rob Snaza told the crowd his faith in DNR is "120 percent." He said his department will post the information on Facebook and encouraged everyone to use the county's emergency alert system Code Red to stay updated. Should the fire reach a level three, which would be near some Pleasant Valley homes, he couldn't force residents to leave, but would strongly encourage them to do so, especially if they had children.

Phyllis Turvill lives on Pleasant Valley. She said she is more comfortable after hearing how the fire was being fought, but is still nervous.

"Level two is a half-mile from my house," she said.

While she was at the meeting, her husband was at home doing what he could to prepare should they have to evacuate.

"One of my neighbors lived here for 45 years and said there's never been a fire like this," she said.

\$48M JAIL:

Continued from page A1

to the ARC through four days of intensive training, said Lt. Shawn Ball, who helped lead the coordination of the transition to the ARC.

"They knew what they were going to get to step into," he said. "I think they were relatively excited and motivated by that training that they had. Now that they're actually doing it, we're having very positive reactions from the staff. They're happy."

Committees made up of staff members gave input into the design of the jail, he added.

With the move, the sheriff's office has gained about 80 beds, Ball said, and the facility is already overcrowded. But they expect to gain about another 120 beds once the second phase of the project – a "flex" facility – is constructed, though it's unclear when that would happen. The facility would require at least 15 additional corrections staff.

"That would alleviate our maximum in-custody (population) and also benefit those who are mentally ill and it would give us more room to work with," Sheriff John Snaza said.

"That's why we call it a 'flex'" Ball said. "We don't want to label it as one thing, because we really want to treat our mentally ill separate and not have them further victimized by the general population and we need the flexibility, where gender sometimes requires the flexibility, so it's really a multipurpose combination of maximum, open dormitory, therapeutic kind of housing, is what that design is supposed to be."

The flex facility is expected to be built adjacent to the ARC, but the construction process has been delayed because the land-use regulations, particularly those regarding water runoff, have changed since the ARC was built, Snaza said.

But the facility is sorely needed and would be more cost-effective than using the old jail to house inmates.

"If we have that (the flex facility), we're going to be able to meet the needs better than if we use the old jail, because the old jail isn't designed to work with the mentally ill and isn't as, if you will, flexible. ... It would be more staff intensive to use the other jail. It wouldn't be cost-effective."

Using the old jail facility is a potential, worst-case-scenario option, Snaza said. But

doing so would require at least 15 additional corrections deputies.

"We're talking about a facility that has not been updated, so it will require some new updating because we haven't, as a county, put money into our old jail because we have the new jail," Snaza said.

The county would have to put money into the old jail to make it user-friendly and staff it, and the end result isn't as cost-effective as a new flex unit would be, he said.

The front end of the old jail is currently used for video court appearances, but is not being used for housing at all.

"The cost numbers don't even out to why you would invest in something that is not going to benefit us," Snaza said.

The county commissioners have been reviewing what they're going to do with the old facility, but haven't discussed the matter with the sheriff's office yet, Snaza said.

A major change is that the new jail will be under a direct supervision model, as opposed to indirect supervision. Snaza said such a model allows the sheriff's office to have more of an impact on its inmates.

"You've got the programs that occur right in the dormitory, so you're not transferring them around all over the place," he said.

The direct supervision model allows the sheriff's office to prevent internal power structures from developing within the jail, Ball said.

"In the old concept of indirect supervision, the deputy would pop in there once an hour for 10, 15 minutes and then when he was gone, there was some other power structure that would develop, because there were no deputies," he said. "In direct supervision, the deputy is actually assigned and lives in there 24 hours a day. There's always a deputy in the room."

Having a uniformed guard present at all times can alleviate anxiety inmates have about being in jail, Ball said. And the guards can provide inmates with information about treatment, jail programs, and the court system that is often more reliable than the advice they would get from fellow inmates, he added.

"Being incarcerated, I really believe it's more of a positive," Snaza said. "If you're going to be in jail, a positive is that you know that you can serve your time and focus on what you're trying to get out of it."

Another focus at the new jail will be inmate behavior management. The sheriff's office trains jail staff to expect inmates to

behave like a "normal adult," Ball said.

"We try to create an environment in which we can allow that normal interaction, so your behavior drives your access, your limitations and your actions," he said. "With behavior management, things like having TVs, that's a huge tool. The public sometimes thinks, 'Oh, those guys have TVs?' But it's a behavioral management tool."

The goal is to keep inmates engaged with resources, Ball said. And Thurston County supports a lot of programming for inmates, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, domestic violence classes, and chemical dependency treatment.

"We really try not to just warehouse defendants. We try to give them opportunities through the general education diplomas, and counseling, and treatments that will help maybe keep them out (of jail)," he said.

As for the physical design of the jail, one consideration was that both inmates and staff are most vulnerable when inmates are being moved. To minimize the need to move inmates around, there are classrooms and medical facilities in every housing space, Ball said.

When it comes to housing inmates, the layout in the new jail is much easier to navigate, Ball said. Each housing area sits along a hallway the length of about one and a half football fields. The old jail was two stories, the units were three tiers high, and walls and hallways were segmented.

"Navigating the facility was quite cumbersome," Ball said. "This place is linear so we literally just have this one kind of straight shot to deal with business and it's easier to navigate. Inmates are allowed to move about in certain classifications, so it's very easy for them to direct themselves toward court or medical."

Snaza said opening the new jail has been a goal of his since before he was elected in 2010.

"One of the campaign promises that I made is that I would do everything that I could to make sure that we worked together with the county commissioners to make sure we got into this facility. And I would like to say, not a lot of people get to keep the promises that they make."

"Obviously, that followed me the whole campaign. The ARC was a huge topic of discussion for myself and my opponent as well as for any commissioner that was running for office. So it was a big deal. ... (Now) it's reality."

H2O:

Continued from page A1

Yelm resident Kathleen Remski. "I feel for people just strictly on a Social Security check, or on a disability check. Where are they getting the extra money to pay this \$90 to somebody that maybe gets \$1,000 a month in a Social Security or disability check?"

"We're on a very strict budget," Zahringer added. "My husband's our sole provider and I'm a stay-

at-home mom with my kids, so our bills are very strictly budgeted. So when I opened this up, I almost passed out."

Zahringer's July 2015 bill was for \$308, which included a water usage charge of \$215.12.

"I was like, mind blown, because I was already blown away from the June bill and so we adjusted things to use less water ... and it was way higher. I was like, 'How is this possible?'"

Yelm Mayor Ron Harding said an important point people some-

times miss is that their monthly bill actually covers three separate utilities. So people's high "water" bill is actually a water, sewer and storm water bill.

"Most cities, people would get three separate bills, like phone, cable and power," Harding said. "What we've done in the city is bill it all on one bill."

While the water rate has gone up because of system improvements, Harding said the sewer system will require improvements in the near future as well, and sewer rates will increase.

"If you compare sewer bills to neighboring cities, you would find our sewer rate ... is much lower," Harding said. "You've got to compare it all. Is the water rate higher? I've said that. For a small city, we're experiencing kind of that flux communities get in when they're growing, but they don't quite have enough population to spread the costs of those improvements out like some of the other cities do, and

that equates to a higher rate in our city than some other cities. Lacey spreads it out over 47,000 people. For us to do the same improvement, we're spreading that ... increase out to 8,500 people. Per capita, the rate is higher."

But the higher water rate is evened out by lower rates for other utilities, Harding said. For example, the sewer rates are lower; statewide it's not unusual to have a base sewer rate of \$100, he said.

Yelm also has lower property taxes than surrounding communities, having lowered the property tax rate by 1 percent for the past four years.

"No other city in the state has done that," he said. "The council has looked at other ways to mitigate some of those costs to consumers. We can't do that through the utility rate, because we're bound to charge the rate that pays for the debt and operating the utility. We can't charge less than to operate the utility, so we've looked at property

taxes, fees for services, and always tried to scale ours down less than other communities. It's a bit unfair to pick one service out and say on the surface that it's an unfair rate, because what we've done is try to take our system as a whole and make sure that we're comparable to other communities."

Harding said the city's water is a standalone utility, and that the water rates are based on the cost to operate the utility or system.

"In our case we operate a really, really lean system," he said. "The overhead cost is fairly small for our water system, but that's one aspect. The second aspect is debt, and the debt is factored into any capital improvements we've made and that compounds. ... Anytime we add (improvements) that goes to a debt and compounds the rate."

During the summer, many factors contribute to high water rates, and it's not necessarily the utility's fault, Harding added.

"Generally people start summer off and see this pattern: they start off being diligent about their bill because they understand as they increase usage in the summertime that adds to their bill because that rate is a tiered user rate," he said. "And that's where people ... get into a bit of trouble with their bill. It's more about managing that usage, because people start off good, and seem like they're doing a good job at managing their water usage, and then start to relax a bit, so we've seen every August to September range, people will be less strict about how much water they're using, and let sprinklers on or let kids wash the vehicles or fill the pools up or whatever the circumstances are, whatever adds to that water usage."

Another factor that affects the city's water rates is the litigation from the city's water rights case, which was heard by the state Supreme Court earlier this year. The cost of that litigation gets passed on to the ratepayers — and it must, by law, Harding said. Because of the litigation, the city has been under a microscope and been forced to add some additional improvements to the system that haven't been added by other jurisdictions, he added.

"If we're awarded our new water rights and we have more of the commodity to sell and then are able to get more users on the system, that will help us equalize those rates," Harding said.



Bullfighters Brave It All for Rodeo Family



Braiden Johnson coaxes a bull back into the shutes last Saturday evening at the event.



Braiden Johnson, of Tenino, center, and his brother Colt head in to help a bucked rider last Saturday evening at the Bulls and Barrels Challenge at the Southwest Washington Fair in Chehalis.

Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

Tenino Brothers Protect Bull Riders, Make Sure They Make It Home Safe

BY NATALIE JOHNSON

njohnson@chronline.com

Bull riders brave up to eight seconds on the back of one kicking-mad animal, risking life and limb for glory.

But three men, clad in hot pink, stand eye-to-eye with every single thousand-plus-pound bull at bull riding events, including last Saturday night's Twin Cities Bulls and Barrels Challenge in Centralia during the Southwest Washington Fair.

"I love the experience. I love the family," said bullfighter Braiden Johnson. "It's a good feeling that you're protecting people."

The three bullfighters — Cody Messerle, of Prineville, Oregon, and brothers Colt and Braiden Johnson of Tenino — don't mind letting the bull riders hog the spotlight.

"It doesn't bother us," Colt Johnson, 31, said.

As each bull and rider rocketed out of the chute, Messerle and the Johnson brothers stayed close, ready to react when the riders fell. Whether the riders stayed on the bull for the full eight seconds or were bucked off early, one of the bullfighters was always there to quickly pull the rider out of harm's way and

distract the raging bull.

"We protect the bull riders," Messerle, 25, said. "(We do) whatever it takes to make sure they go home before we do."

Messerle said their main strategy is to "get their attention and run." More than once, bullfighters had to climb the 6-foot-high fences to avoid a particularly angry bull.

"It's a little rougher than a football game," Colt Johnson said. "There's a lot of people who do what we do who have been more than injured trying to protect a cowboy."

That's partly why Colt got involved in bullfighting. He said he watched his brother Braiden at a rodeo and decided he wanted to help.

"Otherwise I would have never gotten into it," Colt said. "He's a little bit better than me. He ends up protecting me. He's the cat, I'm more the ... grizzly bear."

Braiden said he never planned to get involved in rodeos, until he met someone who suggested bullfighting.

"I met a guy in a bar. I used to play football and he said 'try this out,'" Braiden said. "It's awesome. I love it."

Last year, Braiden Johnson and Messerle were Northwest Professional Rodeo Association finals bullfighters of the year.

The bullfighters know they could be seriously hurt while protecting bull riders.

"Some people get bad luck, some people get good luck," Colt Johnson said. "There's people who've been doing it for 30 years."



Bullfighter Colt Johnson, 31, of Tenino, stands face-to-face in front of a bull as it bucks off a rider during the Bulls and Barrels Challenge last Saturday at the Southwest Washington Fair in Chehalis.

Some bulls were easier for the bullfighters than others. Most calmed down after launching their riders across the arena and went quietly back into the gate. Others gave the bullfighters a run for their money.

Each wore protective padding, colorful scarves, hats, and bright pink shirts to attract the bulls. While fighting bulls all Saturday night, Colt Johnson also wore a white hat.

"My little niece wore this hat once," he said. "It's good luck."

The Johnson brothers used the Bulls and

Barrels Challenge to help raise awareness for a cause close to their hearts. Their niece, Rowyn Johnson, died in September after being hit by a neighbor's car in a driveway. The nonprofit Raise for Rowyn was created to help families struggling with the loss of a child.

Late in the Challenge, bull rider Cody Ford rode Rowyn's Wild Child, whose horns were painted bright blue in honor of Rowyn's favorite color.

For more information about Raise for Rowyn, go to raiseforrowyn.org.

Nisqually Valley Happenings



FRIDAY, 28

• **Red Wind Casino: The Boinkers**, starting at 8:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, 29

• **Rainier Community Garden Work Party** 9 a.m. to noon.

Located at Rainier High School, 308 Second St. W. in downtown Rainier.

Information: 360-561-0990, www.facebook.com/rainiercommunitygarden.

• **The Tenino Farmers Market** is open through Sept. 26. The market is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Olympic Street in downtown Tenino.



• **South Sound Speedway** racing in Rochester, just south of Tenino. Back gate opens at 1 p.m., front gate opens at 4:45 p.m. with racing starting at 6:30 p.m. Races end about 10 p.m. Super Late Model 100, Mini Stocks, Stinger 8, Outlaw Compacts. Information: 360-858-1464, www.facebook.com/southsoundspeedway.

• **Red Wind Casino: The Boinkers**, starting at 8:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, 30

• **Yelm Farmers Market**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nisqually Springs Farm, next to Stewart's Meats, 17835 state Route 507 in Yelm. Welcome to new and returning Power of Produce Kids' Club members. Every child aged between 5 and 12 can join for free, get some goodies including \$2 tokens to spend on fruit, vegetables or a plant that grows food.

TUESDAY, 1

• **Rainier Community Garden** monthly meeting and potluck, 6 p.m. at Rainier High School, 308 Second St. W. in downtown Rainier. Information: 360-561-0990.

• **Red Wind Casino: Chris Anderson**, starting at 6:30 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, 4

• **Roy's Old General Store Wedding and Event Center** features Chris Guenther and the Honky Tonk Drifters,



dinner starting at 6 p.m. and live music at 8 p.m. \$5 cover, 21 and over.

• **Red Wind Casino: Stir Crazy**, starting at 8:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, 5

• **Wounded Warrior Car Show**, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Yelm City Park, hosted by VFW Post 5580.



• **Free Outdoor Summer Movie Night** hosted by Yelm Lions Foundation, starting at dusk at Longmire Park, featuring the movie "Maleficent." Concessions will be sold, but you can bring your own snacks. Information: 360-480-9128.

• **Roy's Old General Store Wedding and Event Center** features Dakota Poorman Band, dinner starting at 6 p.m. and live music at 8 p.m. \$5 cover, 21 and over.

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• **Northwest Trek "Get Out of the Rut"** antler-clashing, elk-bugling end-of-summer fun from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: www.nwtrek.org.

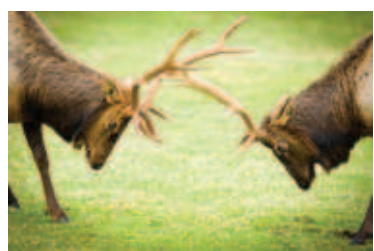
• **Red Wind Casino: Stir Crazy**, starting at 8:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, 6

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100, Legends, Vintage Modifieds, Baby Grands. Information: 360-858-1464, www.facebook.com/southsoundspeedway.



• **Northwest Trek "Get Out of the Rut"** antler-clashing, elk-bugling end-of-summer fun from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: www.nwtrek.org.

MONDAY, 7

• **Northwest Trek "Get Out of the Rut"** antler-clashing, elk-bugling end-of-summer fun from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: www.nwtrek.org.

Libraries

The following events are scheduled at libraries in the Nisqually Valley:

FRIDAY, 4

• **Open Mic**, 4-5:30 p.m. at Yelm Timberland Library for all ages. Do you play music, write poetry or do comedy? Whatever your passion is, come to the Yelm library to share your creative performances with others in a fun, supportive environment. Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Yelm Timberland Library.



Rainier Beckons

Photo Courtesy visitrainier.com

As summer winds down, you still have the opportunity to visit the jewel of Washington state — Mount Rainier — found just a short drive away from the Nisqually Valley, making it perhaps a must-go trip during the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

With the End of Summer Looming, Take a Trip to Our Jewel to the East

INFORMATION COURTESY WWW.VISITRAINIER.COM

Hit the trail, gaze at the stars, and learn about the mountain's history — all with the help of a park ranger. Mount Rainier National Park holds a number of regularly scheduled summer ranger-led programs. Programs will be held at Paradise, Sunrise/White River Campground, Longmire and Ohanapechosh.

At Paradise

Paradise Ranger Chat
Join a ranger to discuss the human or natural history of the park. Meet by the first floor relief map inside the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. (25 minutes)
Daily except Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Subalpine Saunter

Discover the ecology of the Paradise area. Meet the ranger at the flagpole in front of the visitor center. 60-75 minutes with the

ranger. Return time on your own. (60-75 minutes, 1 mile, round trip)
Daily at 10:30 a.m.

A Mountain in Motion

Explore how Mount Rainier has changed over the centuries. Meet at the large flagpole outside of the visitor center. 60-75 minutes with the ranger. Return time on your own (60-75 minutes, 1.5 miles, round trip)
Daily at 2 p.m.

Junior Ranger Program

Join a ranger or volunteer for fun and educational activities to earn your Junior Ranger Patch. Ages 6 to 11, parents must remain with their Junior Rangers. Meet inside the visitor center at the front desk. (30-45 minutes)
Daily at 1 p.m.

Paradise Inn Lobby Talk

Join a ranger to discover fascinating stories of Paradise and the historic Paradise Inn. Look for the ranger inside the Paradise Inn. (30 minutes)
Daily except Tuesdays, 2:30



Nisqually Valley News File Photograph

Paradise on Mount Rainier is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Pacific Northwest.

p.m.
Astronomy Program
Observe the heavens from the slopes of Mount Rainier. Check for start times at the visitor center or call the astronomy hotline at 360-569-6230. (2 hours)
Daily 9:45-11:45 p.m., weather permitting.

Paradise Inn Evening Program

Take a seat in the lobby of the Paradise Inn and enjoy an evening presentation with a park ranger or one of the guest speakers. Topics vary. Inquire at the Jackson Visitor Center or at the Paradise Inn front desk for program descriptions. (45 minutes)
Daily at 8:45 p.m.

Other Activities Evening Program

Join a ranger or volunteer for

a program that involves, inspires, and explores. Topics vary nightly. Meet at the Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater. Parking at the Cougar Rock Campground is limited. If you attend the program, but are not camping, please park in the Cougar Rock Picnic Area across the park road from the campground. (45 minutes)
Daily at 8:30 p.m.

Take a Hike With a Ranger

Experience the forest along the Paradise River en route to Carter Falls. Meet at the Carter Falls Trailhead 2.1 miles east of Longmire, just east of the Cougar Rock Campground. Bring water, a hat, and sturdy shoes. (2 hours, return on your own, 2 miles)
Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. at Sunrise / White River Campground

Junior Ranger Program

Children ages 6 to 11 are invited to join park staff for a fun activity about the mountain, glaciers, habitats, and more. Meet at the White River Campfire

Circle. (1 hour)
Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

Sunrise Afternoon Guided Walks

Learn about the natural and cultural history of the Sunrise area on this easy ramble with a ranger. Meet at the Sunrise Visitor Center flagpole. The trail is not wheelchair accessible.
Daily at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Evening Program

Take an in-depth look at a special topic of Mount Rainier National Park during a traditional campfire talk. Meet at the campfire circle in the White River Campground.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Ohanapechosh.

Junior Ranger Program

Ages 6 to 11. Join a ranger or volunteer for fun and educational activities. Meet at the Ohanapechosh Visitor Center. (1 hour)
Daily except Monday, 10 a.m.



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Flowers Bring a Splash of Color to Rainier

Ready, Set, Grow Program Returns for Second Year

BY JENNA LOUGHLIN
jloughlin@yelmonline.com

Visitors to the downtown area of Rainier may have noticed a little more color thanks to the city's Ready, Set, Grow program.

Beginning in the spring, businesses were invited to participate by growing a planter of flowers outside of their store to go along with the flowers the city planted along Binghampton Street. The goal of the program is to beautify the downtown corridor while also bringing some pride to the community and having fun. The added bonus was the hope of attracting more customers.

It was up to each individual business to determine what type of planter and what type of flowers or plants to grow. Participating for the second year in a row were Sugar N Spice Day Care and Main Street Cookie Company. They were joined by Alive and Well Massage Clinic.

At the day care, owner Chris Rearden used the same planter as last year, complete with sign posts listing the miles to various locations, and had dahlias come back, but also added to it.

"We thought how can it be more of a butterfly, bird attraction," she said. "So we hung a hummingbird feeder and a bird feeder."

An unexpected result of attracting birds was them "planting" seeds and having those seeds take root. The birds added sunflower, tomato and corn plants to the display.

"That bird feeder, it started plants of its own," Rearden said. "It was kind of fun to watch what was going to come up."

Joycelyn Zambuto, owner of the cookie shop, hung two containers of flowers from the roof above the sidewalk that contain a variety of plants including three colors of begonias and creeping charlie. She selected her baskets after seeing Laura Noreau's arrangement at Santa Lucia Cafe in Centralia. Through her business, Laura's Garden Renaissance based out of Chehalis, Noreau works with businesses and individuals interested in finding just the right plants for them.

"I said, 'This year I want that



Jenna Loughlin / Nisqually Valley News
Main Street Cookie Company owner Joycelyn Zambuto admires one of the colorful baskets she purchased from Laura's Garden Renaissance to participate in the city of Rainier's Ready, Set, Grow program.

lady to do my baskets and so she did," Zambuto said. "She's absolutely amazing."

One of the benefits to the display is that Zambuto can winter the basket and much of it will return next year. After using fuchsias in her display last year that did not survive the hot summer, Zambuto said she is taking the opportunity to learn more about plants and is having a lot more success with Noreau's arrangement.

"I'm just really happy to have flowers. I wish I had more time to just really be a gardener because it's like cooking or baking; the sense of satisfaction that comes with that, it does your heart good to see something grow and flourish," Zambuto said. "This is amazing and they just continue to grow. Until the first frost, I think they're going to be blooming and growing."

Her goal for next year is to learn about the different varieties and be able to better identify them for interested customers.

Rearden chose to participate in the program again this year because she enjoys getting the children at the day care, involved in planting, as is obvious by the toma-

toes, beans and sunflowers in the backyard. Ready, Set, Grow is an opportunity with a specific focus or goal that gets the kids involved, from planting to watering.

"The kids, it gives them a little bit more ownership, 'Look what we did,'" she said.

Parents and school district employees have complimented Rearden on the day care's planter. She thinks it has brought something special to her business and likes that the program makes the community look better. It would be even more fun if more businesses participated, she noted.

Zambuto said every little bit helps when it comes to beautifying the city.

"It makes the town a lot more exciting and a lot nicer to come visit," she said.

Like Rearden, she encourages other Rainier businesses to join in the Ready, Set, Grow program next spring.

"Put things out, beautify your storefront, beautify your town," Zambuto said. "I think it brings about a positive situation among the people — the customers, the business owners.



At Sugar N Spice Day Care in Rainier, from left to right, Rayanna Wisner, Tanner Dow, Gaymen Larrmon and Tyler Langworthy stand in front of the Ready, Set, Grow planter they helped plant and water.

"It just makes everyone feel flowers are like babies — everyone better about everything because loves them."

Three Shrubs That Offer Late Summer Color

IN THE GARDEN

By Marianne Binetti



The last week in August is time to harvest squash, tomatoes and beans, cut back perennials such as daisies and daylilies that have past their prime and continue to water, and fertilize potted plants and annuals in the garden.

This is also the time to celebrate the shrubs that offer late summer color.

Hardy Hibiscus

Hibiscus is an old fashioned favorite that is enjoying a new popularity due to the improvement in hardiness and the size of the blooms. August is when this heat-tolerant shrub puts on a spectacular show of color just when the rest of the garden may be winding down for the season. Your grandmother probably called this shrub the Rose of Sharon, but nurseries now know it as hibiscus moscheutos or perennial hibiscus. The compact Luna series grows just 3 feet tall with huge blooms that can be 6 inches wide. The Disco series of hardy hibiscus grows even more compact at 2 feet tall and is per-

fect for patio pots. These shrubby dwarf hibiscus plants will survive our winters in Western Washington.

There is also a tall shrub form of hardy hibiscus or hibiscus mutabilis called the Confederate Rose in the south. This shrub can become a small tree and in my garden it has survived the wind and cold of Enumclaw for more than 20 years, growing 15 feet tall and 8 feet wide. I grow a purple clematis through the branches of this huge hibiscus so the white and red hibiscus blooms can mingle with the violet blooms of the Etoile Violette clematis. The garden gossip about all the hardy hibiscus is how naked this plant can be for six months out of the year. It will be the first of your shrubs to drop leaves in the fall and the last to sprout new foliage in the spring, sometimes waiting until May to show signs of life.

Allowing a vine like clematis to use hibiscus as a lattice helps to clothe these bare branches in early spring.

Smooth Hydrangeas

These are the hydrangeas native to the eastern United States from north to New York and south to Florida. This means they can handle the cold and heat better than the more traditional big leaf hydrangea macrophylla that have blue balls of bloom. The smooth hydrangeas have smaller leaves that are a gray-green color. Some varieties like the creamy white Incrediball and the Annabelle hybrids have gigantic blooms that can be 1 foot wide. The smooth hydrangeas have held up better in hot weather than other hydrangeas, but you need to prune these shrubs in early spring to keep the stems short enough to support the large flowers.

There is also a variety of smooth hydrangea that always flowers in the pink no matter how acid the soil. The Invincibelle Spirit II is an adaptable native shrub with blooms that not only look great at the end of summer and into the autumn season, but also can be snipped for long-lasting cut flowers. A Proven Winners award plant, when you buy the Invincibelle Spirit smooth hydrangeas there is \$1 from every plant sold donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Japanese Maples

These small leaf maples from Japan are called Acer palmatum to describe the palm-shaped

leaves with five separate lobes. Many choices in leaf color, growth habit and foliage texture make the Japanese maple one of the most beloved plants to use in Western Washington landscapes. Near the end of August when many plants are looking tired and seedy, the Japanese maples will be starting to color up and put on their annual fall show. This is the month to search out the most attractive varieties and shapes for a new or newly improved landscape. If you plant a Japanese maple near ornamental grasses or sedum autumn joy you'll have a late summer display that will look great into the fall season even if you forget to water.

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Yelm Threatens to Leave Thurston County

Secession Threatened Over Road Issue; City Felt Ignored by County Commissioners

HISTORIAN

By Ed Bergh



An "indignation mass meeting" filled with 65 "ireful" Yelmites met Feb. 16, 1921 at the Yelm schoolhouse.

There they let loose on the Thurston County Commissioners for their road building policy. To Yelmites it was their "non" road building that frustrated them, hence their anger.

They "Demand Good Roads or Will Secede From Thurston County and Join Pierce County."

"We note again," read the Olympia Daily Recorder, "the Yelm road issue has the qualities of (a) sleeping volcano." The year was 1921. The war was over, the Red Scare and labor turmoil had subsided, and soon Warren Harding would be sworn in as the new president. He promised a return to "normalcy." To Yelmites, however, the road status quo was unacceptable.

Roads were a nightmare. It started with the interaction of rain and rocks. Gray skies and the forests made roads dark places. The road was often a set of parallel lines where wheels, tires, had worn down vegetation. In the rainy season these degraded to water-filled ruts. Besides dirt, gravel and paved were the two other road categories.

"There was only one mud hole from Yelm Prairie to Lackamas Prairie," wrote Ross Chilson, "but that one was just six miles long and this was only one instance of pretty much all the roads in that section were much the same."

One angry Yelmite pointed out to commissioners that roads were cratered with "chuck holes and deep ruts. Water comes over the running board of an auto several places on the road." The roads were tough on cars, according to the secessionist leader Frank H. Royse. It was a common experience that "drivers break their auto springs and use profane language."

"The Yelm cutoff road now in use is at present in very bad shape. It is covered with deep mud and chuck holes and through about four miles of its length rims through timber where one car has scant room and the tree boughs brush the car roof." The Yelm protesters wanted this to change.

Royse concluded: "This community is isolated from its county and state capitol. It is better situated geographically with regard to Tacoma than Olympia. Pierce County wants

and if something is not done we will have to resort to secession." To prevent this Yelm secessionists demanded that roads should be "widened and put in shape for a comparatively small cost."

At issue was the road to Olympia. The folks out in Yelm wanted a more direct route to Olympia and more paved roads. Their solution was what was known as the Lake St. Clair cutoff.

Yelmites Unite

The raucous meeting at the Yelm schoolhouse that February was only one symbol of local dissatisfaction with the county commissioners. Royse, postmaster Dow Hughes, and J.F. Martin were chosen as leaders. They wrote up a petition of demands and began collecting signatures to add emphasis to their complaint.

Without much effort 124 signatures were collected. The petition made several points for the commissioners to consider. From the Yelm perspective there had been a commitment from the county to build according to Yelm desires. The county, however, was no longer planning to do that.

The petition read: "We demand as our right in the premises that the Yelm-St. Clair-Olympia road be immediately opened for travel and improved to the fullest extent that available funds will allow." The county apportioned money to the various road districts, but for Yelm that was an issue also.

Out in Yelm it was assumed that the county spent less on District 7 (Yelm) than it received in taxes.

The language regarding this was quite blunt. "We ask that the honorable board keep their hands off our road district funds." Finally, without satisfaction on this matter, the Yelm insurgents promised to initiate the steps required for secession from Thurston County. A vote on the matter would be taken by the voters in District 7, signatures on a petition to the Legislature asking for a vote on the matter (the Legislature was required to issue a special act approving secession) would be collected, and Pierce County had to approve of the annexation of the Yelm area. These road rebels believed that all of these conditions could be met. For the next two weeks the word "secession" appeared in Olympia headlines in greater frequency than at any time since the Civil War.

Convincing the Commissioners

A large contingent of Yelmites appeared at the next commissioner meeting. They

had their work cut out for them. Of the commissioners, only S.Y. Bennett was sure to be on Yelm's side. A.M. Rowe was considered a fence sitter. Mike Neylon was not on a fence, described as "the red rag in the bull's face for Yelm as the discussion showed. The Yelm people believe he is the man who is standing chiefly between them and what they want."

A county official boldly declared, "The Yelmites can protest until they are black in the face and they will get nowhere and do no good if they do not unite on one plan and its alternative and go through with these aims. He said they would get no action from the commissioners, nor even a promise so long as they dilly dally. He had been emphatic in declaring he would not give a cent for the St. Clair cutoff project, which the Yelm people desire."

The commissioners also made a financial case that because the budget was so tight, there was no money to meet Yelm's demands. They believed the secession threat was a bluff. The commissioners also played an insulting political card. Elected by the public, the commissioners were elected to handle county affairs and not to "keep their hands off" a road district fund of the "commands of 124 people." The Yelm folks would have none of it.

Making Their Case

The secession story was front page news. Lengthy articles detailed the verbal sparring between the key interests, the commissioners, and the Olympia Chamber of Commerce. Letters to the editor competed with editorials to capture the public's attention and shape opinions. Factual accuracy was another matter. "Radical opinions" and the "misstatements floating about" made consensus harder to accomplish. One sly fellow made fun of the situation opining, "If the Yelm insurrection brings results what is to prevent the Westside (of Olympia) threatening to adjourn to the Black Hills until the Fourth St. Bridge is completed."

The pro-Yelm forces pulled out all the stops. They priced the three different plans before the commissioners demonstrating the fiscal wisdom of their proposal. They offered cost savings by using wooden pilings instead of cement at a Northern Pacific Railroad. Somehow they would get the rail line to pick up 60 percent of the cost of that new crossing. The Chamber of Commerce argued that the road made wise policy. There were 2,000 people in the Yelm market and it would be folly to lose them to Pierce County and Tacoma.

The commissioners were unfair, according to one of their critics. The county had no problem finding money for the Fourth Avenue bridge in Olympia, he sniped. In their minds the Yelm protesters viewed themselves as the sentinels of democracy. Publicly debated then voted on, the majority of people in Yelm who attended a certain meeting wanted the commissioners to adopt their St. Clair proposal or they would secede. One Yelmite stated the Yelm committee had contacted Olympia lawyer George Yantis about drafting the legislation needed to allow their transfer of legal loyalties to Pierce County. Two days later, Yantis denied any such role for himself.

The leadoff spokesman for Yelm was James Mosman, who presented the wisdom of their plan. He was joined by the Olympia Chamber of Commerce and together they made an economic argument for the wise allocation of county moneys to meet the desires of Yelm residents. Sam Price was less confrontational. It just made



Photo Courtesy of JT Wilcox

Helen and her father, Judson Wilcox, experience road hazards we are less familiar with today.

sense to adopt the Yelm promoted plan since it would cut two miles off a trip to Yelm. Bige Eddy admitted to exhaustion over the matter. Yelmites were tired of Olympia's reluctance to treat their needs fairly.

Then less diplomatic presenters spoke to the meeting. Hughes was described as going "hot foot" after commissioner Naylon. The paper summarized Hughes' vitriolic speech this way: "He said he had lived for 24 years in Yelm and had not yet seen any of the community's wishes granted by the commissioners. The St. Clair cutoff is what Yelm should have for an Olympia connection, but the way he felt about it he would like to see secession go through as then he would not be obliged to visit Olympia." Hughes continued, Olympia "promises but you can't depend on what he says." Then he threatened Naylon: "I would like to ... try him a round (box), darn him?" He was applauded.

Another resident threatened the naysaying commissioners with a recall drive. "I don't want to leave Olympia, I sort of like the people there. They are good people and friendly," began one speaker, adding, "But I don't want to go around where the county commissioners are unless I have a club."

Things were not going well.

Developing Consensus

Voices of moderation arose quickly. The editor of the Olympia Daily Record preached calm and understanding. The editorial said it was important to understand that the road issue was complicated. This meant decision-makers were "working in a tremendously important and puzzling capacity." More importantly, "They are slow to stampede under pressure (and) it is a virtue rather than a fault."

It was important to develop a "balanced opinion on the Yelm issue." Calling out the rumor-mongers the essay continued, "If more people had given such consideration we believe there would have been less talk of secession by Yelm." The issue was not some vindictive conspiracy by the commissioners (read Olympia) to disadvantage Yelm, but a necessity.

It was the economy, the post-war recession. The soldiers were home, industrial orders had evaporated, crop prices were down, and revenues were down. Having balanced opinion meant taking "into consideration the present tight condition, unusually tight condition, of county road funds."

Similarly, "They have a limited amount of money to be spent on a large number of roads badly in need. They could spend several times the amount available to 100 percent road advantage. The fact that they never have enough money to do all that is required makes it imperative that funds be spread over the greatest possible territory. When this is done claims of neglect and discrimination are bound to crop up." The last sentence was a message to Yelm that it was understandable to feel ignored.

The paper suggested the



Photo Provided by Harts Lake School; Symbol of Pioneer Education

A road was often a set of parallel lines where wagon wheels and tires had worn down vegetation.



Photo Courtesy of the Yelm Prairie Historical Society

Dow Hughes was a leader of the Yelm secessionist movement.

county take the "fullest opportunity to give Yelm the maximum of road relief consistently in their power. If it becomes evident later that they are not moving toward such relief as speedily as they should." It was the obligation of the county to help ameliorate the discontent. Yelm had to realize it was simply financially impossible to get its roadway dream.

The major players in the road debate decided to do some in-person research and slowly drove the three different proposed routes. More importantly, the Yelm team was able to show how deplorable road conditions were in District 7. Following the tour the commissioners were able to convince Yelmites that a good down payment on the total package was being made.

The Recorder concluded: "Putting in a good road over this route will affect the compromise, which will put an end to secession agitation and satisfy the Yelm people that Thurston County is willing to see them get the relief they deserve." It worked. The commissioners moved closer to the Yelm plan and most Yelmites were satisfied with county efforts.

Yelm never seceded.


EDITOR'S NOTE: Ed Bergh is the longtime history teacher at Yelm High School and creator of the Yelm History Project found at www.yelmhistoryproject.com. Last year he was named history teacher of the year for Washington state.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE LOCAL HISTORY:

Yelm Historical Museum, located on 207 Third St. SE, Yelm, is open noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, March through mid-November. Arrangements for group tours can be made within the operating hours. Call 360-458-4114 or Connie Smallwood at 360-970-8036.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE:

If you have any questions, contributions or corrections, feel free to contact Ed Bergh at 360-943-0588 or berghed@netscape.net.




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A perfect place to do homework

Setting up a special place to do homework is very practical and can be done without spending a fortune. Children with an organized space in which to work have better concentration and learn more easily. It also helps for them to have a sense of ownership in the space they will be using to do their work.

Choose a quiet room that is well-lit. If you decide to use a corner of a bedroom, try to separate the work area from the rest of the room to prevent children from doing their homework on the bed. If space is limited, choose a folding table fixed to the wall, but check to make sure that the surface area is big enough to accommodate text books, exercise books, and laptop. Window blinds or curtains may be needed in order to prevent natural light from reflecting on a computer screen.

Choose a chair carefully: if possible, it should be comfortable and adjustable. Investing a bit extra in an office chair is worthwhile, as it will likely be used for years to come. A moveable, variable intensity reading light is also advisable. Position it on the right of the desk for a left-handed child and to the left for one who is right-handed.

The work area should always be well-organized. Limit any disorder by equipping it with storage boxes, a small bookcase, and a container for writing utensils. A corkboard is also a great idea, and your children will love to decorate it with favorite photos and odds and ends. Ask your children to help you in the choice of these accessories. Last but not least, choose a space where distractions will be limited.



Children with an organized space in which to work have better concentration and learn more easily.

Back TO SCHOOL

for a better tomorrow

YELM SCHOOL DISTRICT STARTS TUESDAY, SEPT. 8, 2015

When your child doesn't want to go to school

On the first day of the new school year William makes it very clear that he wants to stay home. He complains, he cries, he's pale, and he suddenly develops stomach cramps. He goes back to bed and curls up in a little ball. How to react?

If this is their first day of school, children are probably feeling anxious and afraid. You as a parent are probably feeling torn, too: send-

ing your child off to school in this state can feel like abandoning them to strangers. This is an occasion for parents to listen, encourage, and be strong. Unless you are prepared to switch to homeschooling, your children need to understand that going to school is not negotiable. Show them that you understand what they are experiencing without being overprotective or trying to minimize their feelings. Reassure them that they are probably not the only ones who are stressed this morning, that many of their classmates will be feeling the same way.

Children who don't want to go back to school usually have a good reason. Are they worried about failing? Do they feel rejected by a teacher or a friend? Be attentive to what your children tell you and remember that they need your presence, support, and encouragement. Talk about all the advantages of school, point out their past efforts and successes, and then discuss how the situation they are worrying about can be resolved.

Whether your children are in kindergarten, elementary school, or high school don't hesitate to make an appointment with teachers if the problem persists. It is well proven that the involvement of parents is a determining factor in the progress and academic success of children.

The involvement of parents is a determining factor in the progress and academic success of children.



Get off to a good start with a healthy breakfast

The necessity of eating a healthy breakfast to start the day off on the right foot can never be repeated often enough. If this is true for adults, you can imagine that it is even truer for children who are still growing. Children need to drink fluids to wash out metabolized wastes from the previous day and build up their energy before going to school.

Children who eat a well-balanced breakfast have better concentration all morning. They are attentive and can assimilate the curriculum more easily because they have eaten the nutritional elements their brains need to function. However, it's not always easy to convince children to eat their breakfasts. They may reluctantly swallow a mouthful of juice and a couple of bites of bread and then say they've had enough.

A few tricks can help parents solve this problem. The night before, set the table with a colorful cloth, funny napkins, a bunch of flowers, or other things that will tempt them to sit down to the table. Set the alarm clock to go off a few minutes earlier so that children can wake up properly before sitting down. It is also important for parents to take the time to breakfast with their children. If you only rush through a cup of coffee without eating anything, your children will learn that habit. On the other hand, if you sit down for breakfast and chat with them, they will be much more motivated to empty their plates.

Try and vary the menu. Serve different types of whole-grain bread or cereals, as well as their favorite fruits, and turn breakfast into the nicest time of the day.

Children who eat a well-balanced breakfast have better concentration all morning.



The first day of school is a big step for parents too!

It only seems like yesterday when you were holding your little one in your arms, and now your son or daughter is getting ready to go to school. This is an important step in the lives of children, but it is also a big day for parents. Here are a few tips to help this first day be a happy memory to look back on.

- Reassure your children by telling them all about kindergarten well in advance. Use simple, positive words. Focus on the activities they'll enjoy and the friends they'll make.
- Visit the school with them or at least walk around the schoolyard. If your children will be going to school on foot, walk the route a few times with them. Remind them of all the safety rules and go over the landmarks with them.
- At least one week before the big day, establish a routine similar to the one your children will follow during the school year. Decide on the time they should get up and eat breakfast, get dressed, brush teeth, prepare schoolbags, and leave for the bus or walk. The same goes for the evening routine: choose when bath and bedtime will be.
- Two days before the start of school, check their school supplies. Every item should be identified with your children's names.
- The evening before the big day, help your

children choose the clothes they'll wear and involve them in the preparation of their lunchboxes.

- Avoid showing any stress you may be feeling. Calm parents mean calm children. Answer any questions simply, without further explanation, as making a fuss won't help anyone.
- Last but not least, don't forget to take a picture of them with backpack and lunchbox as they leave for their first big day!



RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT STARTS TUESDAY, SEPT. 1, 2015

Take the bus... seriously!

Most children these days take the big yellow bus to school and back. Naturally, as parents you want your children to be absolutely safe around and on board these big vehicles. Here are 10 rules that you should remind your children about:

1. Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before it is due to arrive. If your children wait alone, tell them they must return home if the school bus doesn't show up.
2. Use the sidewalk to get to the stop. If there isn't one, walk on the left side of the road, facing the traffic.
3. Step back five paces when the bus arrives and wait until it comes to a complete stop before getting any closer.
4. Board the bus calmly, holding onto the handrail.
5. Sit down immediately. Keep your schoolbag and your lunchbox on your knees or put them under the seat: never obstruct the centre aisle.
6. Stay seated and calm throughout the trip so that the driver can concentrate on driving the bus safely.
7. When the bus arrives at school, wait until it has come to a complete halt before standing up. Hold the handrail when getting off the bus and never push other children.
8. Walk quickly away from the school bus. Don't run.
9. Don't try to retrieve items dropped close to the school bus unless you tell the driver first. Alternatively, wait until the bus has gone before picking them up.
10. After school, go straight home from the bus stop.

Travelling on a school bus might be fun but it is not a game. Parents are responsible for teaching their children to behave safely and to take the bus seriously.

It is dangerous to push and shove while waiting in line to get on the bus.





Photo by Robin Trimarchi / Ledger-Enquirer via AP

In this April 26, 2015 photo, 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, one of the 20 female soldiers, who is among the 400 students who qualified to start Ranger School, tackles the Darby Queen obstacle course, one of the toughest obstacle courses in U.S. Army training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Haver and Capt. Kristen Griest are the first women to complete the U.S. Army's grueling Ranger School and graduated Friday, Aug. 21. A new Army chief is considering the role women will play in combat.

New Army Chief Ponders Decision of Women in Combat

'It's a Big Deal': Recommendation Should Be Forwarded by October

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

FORT BENNING, Georgia (AP) — The Army's new chief of staff, Gen. Mark Milley, is taking a calculated approach to arguably the most consequential decision of his early tenure — whether to recommend that any all-male combat roles remain closed to women.

Central to his thinking, he said in an Associated Press interview last week, is the question of whether allowing women to serve in the infantry, armor and other traditionally male-only fields would affect Army "readiness" for war.

"Does it improve it, or does it hurt it?" he is asking as he and leaders of the other military services weigh whether to recommend to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that he keep some positions off-limits to women. Under a January 2013 edict, all remaining all-male positions will be opened to women unless the defense secretary approves exceptions by January 2016. Carter said he expects to see the services' recommendations by October.

Milley, who took over as Army chief on Aug. 14 and has seen women in combat during his numerous tours as a commander in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he is not ready to say which direction he is leaning.

"Right now I would call myself right on the line," he said in the interview while flying to Fort Benning to attend an Army Ranger School graduation that included the first women ever to pass the rigorous Ranger training course. After the ceremony he briefly met privately with the two trailblazers, Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25.

Milley said that in coming weeks he will weigh a wide range of information, including Army assessments of the experience of Israel and other countries with women in combat, as well as studies by the Marine Corps, data collected during Army experiments and judgments reached by his own experience in war.

"Whatever decision is made is going to have some pretty far-

reaching impact," he said. "So it's a big deal, and I want to make sure I'm thinking it through."

Women have been steadily moving into previously all-male jobs across the military, including as members of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, best known as the helicopter crews that flew Navy SEALs into Osama bin Laden's compound. Women are also now serving on Navy submarines and in some Army artillery jobs.

Officials familiar with the discussions about possibly ending limits on women serving in combat said they believe the Army will allow women to seek infantry and armor jobs. Milley's predecessor as chief of staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, has hinted at that conclusion.

"In order to best manage your talent, you have to pick the best people who can perform to the standards that we have established," Odierno said earlier this month. "If you can meet the standards that we've established, then you should be able to perform in that (position). And I think that's where we're headed."

Friday's Ranger School graduation ceremony offered Milley a chance to get further insight into sentiment within the ranks as he nears his decision.

The pioneer work by Griest and Haver has cast new attention on the obstacles that remain

to women who aspire to join all-male combat units, including the 75th Ranger Regiment. Although Haver and Griest are now Ranger-qualified, no women are eligible for the elite regiment, although officials say it is among special operations units likely to be opened to women eventually.

Griest is a military police officer and has served one tour in Afghanistan. Haver is a pilot of Apache helicopters. Both are graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Of 19 women who began the Ranger

course, Haver and Griest are the only two to finish so far; one is re-

peating a prior phase of training in hopes of graduating soon.



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● ~~Feel Great: How to Have Joy, Humor and Happiness Each Day of Your Life~~
~~Happiness is a state of mind! Join this presentation to learn how to feel great, stay happy, and live life to the fullest.~~

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 2pm
● **Parkinson's: What you Need to Know**
Get an overview of Parkinson's disease (PD), the signs and symptoms and available treatment options and strategies. Also learn guidelines and strategies for managing PD as well as helping those with the disease.

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 2pm
● **Learn the Facts About Congestive Heart Failure**
Understand congestive heart failure, common causes, and prevention. Get the basics on how to live well while staying out of the hospital.

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 2pm
● **Ease Pain and Stress and Improve Quality of Life**
Learn the value stretching and aquatic exercise to reduce or minimize chronic pain. Everyone will have an opportunity to try out different techniques.

Thursday, December 17, 2015, 2pm
● **Living with Lower Cholesterol**
Join us for an afternoon to increase your understanding of cholesterol levels and how proper diet and nutrition can be combined with exercise and medications to keep your cholesterol levels in check. Learn the consequences and risks to your health when cholesterol reaches unhealthy levels.

Space is limited for this FREE educational event. For more information and to reserve your seat please call (360) 458-1800, or visit us today!

Undo Negative Comments With Positivity

FINDING REASON

By Pastor Jeff Adams



"You are so kind and gracious to others. I can see how you positively impact people all around you because you go out of your way to build others up. People feel good around you because you purposely try to be a good role model, and you intentionally say uplifting things to people.

Also, you never get angry, you always find the good in hard situations, you never let circumstances get you down, and you never unfairly judge others," one friend said to another. They continued: "But, deep down inside I simply can't stand you because I think you're nothing but a fake."

One negative can undo a bunch of positives. One negative comment can take away the positive impact of several positive ones. One negative person can negate many positive ones. One negative friend, family member, classmate, neighbor, or co-worker can crush another person.

Drs. Marcial Losada and Barbara Fredrickson, experts in their fields of psychology, established the theory of Critical Positivity Ratio by researching the impacts of positive versus negative comments. They concluded it takes between 2.9013 and 11.6346 positive comments or experiences to overcome or combat one negative comment or experience. To use round figures and to simplify, in other words it takes three to 12 positive comments or experiences to undo one negative one. Conversely, it takes one negative comment or experience to undo three to 12 positive ones.

Losada's and Fredrickson's Critical Positivity Ratio was widely cited and also perpetuated further with a term commonly used today, The Butterfly Effect (a relatively new field of study within the scientific world of nonlinear dynamics). Although Losada and Fredrickson and proponents suggest the empirical evidences support their research, American Psychologist published a report in 2014 that retracted its support of the theory, thereby undermining its scientific data.

See what just happened? One negative statement undid all the positive ones. Further research indicates there seems to be coincidental support for the idea that one negative comment or experience does tend to emotionally overwhelm multiple positive ones. So, even though the scientific equations posited by the Critical Positivity Ratio is questionable, the fact remains

that one negative comment can undo multiple positive ones. It just happened to you, the reader, as you journeyed through this column.

The Bible consistently teaches we are to love one another, encourage one another, and build one another up (John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:10-12; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:12). Jesus regularly set the example as He confronted wrongdoing harshly and dealt with hard and negative things, He always had positive encouragement with paths for hope and for better things.

The reality is we live in an extraordinarily negative world. Most of our news is negative. People we love get sick, injured and die. For many of us life on earth feels like hell more than it does like heaven. While God

may grant us tastes of heaven on Earth, we still must endure hard times. If it wasn't this way, we might not long for heaven and do what it takes to get there.

People around us go through hard things just like us. They don't always share it, either.

As we go through the negativities of life, let's choose to have a positive impact on others. Let's start by choosing to be positively impacted by the love and grace of Christ. Then, let's determine to undo negatives by our positives we share with others. One person at a time, let's generate good stuff in our communities, homes, churches and beyond (Matthew 5:13-16).

■ Jeff Adams is pastor for Paramount Christian Church. His column appears weekly in the Nisqually Valley News. Email him at jeff@paramountchristian.org.

OBITUARIES

Thomas A. Stancil

Dec. 13, 1949 — Aug. 16, 2015

On Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015, Thomas A. Stancil, age 65, lost his brief yet courageous battle with cancer at home surrounded by his family. Born Dec. 13, 1949 to Eva Violet (Ayers) and Clarence Alfred Stancil, Tom was preceded in death by his mother (1983) and father (September 2014).

Tom grew up in the Rainier community and graduated from Rainier High School in 1968. His most memorable high school moments were on the football field. Soon after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he served our country for four years. His service included time in the Vietnam War. After 40-plus years, Tom retired as a Journeyman Steam Plant Mechanic from the Centralia Steam Plant (TransAlta) on Sept. 11, 2014. His hope was to spend more time outdoors camping, hunting and fishing. Tom's highest priority in life

was his family, which includes his wife of 23 years, Roxie, and children Tamara (Terry), Arin (Amy), Sean, Josh and Abeni. Tom was incredibly proud of each of his children and never missed an opportunity to brag or show off pictures. He spent many hours in the stands at high school football games, yelling his loudest, attempting to pump up the team or on the field, coaching upcoming football athletes. He coached a team or two of baseball and provided individual support when needed. He volunteered many hours alongside Roxie for the Rainier School District in their support of the community youth and Homeless Backpack, supporting county youth in need.

Tom is also survived by his six grandchildren, Kristina, Shantel, Antonia, James, Logan and Viola; and his great-granddaughter, Payton. He is also survived by his stepmother, Lola Bowen-

Stancil, and uncle, Russ (Marietta) Stancil of Olympia; brothers Butch (Rita) of Olympia, Orville of Spanaway and Clarence (Annette) of Yelm; sisters LeeLee (Jack) Robinson, Connie (John) Barlow and Renee Corcoran of Olympia; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Memorial Service will be held 1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 6, 2015 in the Rainier High School gymnasium, Rainier, Washington. A potluck reception/celebration of life will take place afterward at the same location.

Please leave memories at www.FuneralAlternatives.org.



Thomas A. Stancil

Leila (LaFleur) Gerrish

Aug. 5, 1937 — Aug. 17, 2015

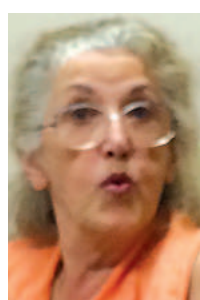
Preceded in death by her loving husband, Edward Gerrish, Leila Gerrish has passed peacefully. Leila graduated from Rainier High School and spent all of her life in Rainier surrounded by her "favorites."

She enjoyed being a CNA at Nisqually Care Center. Leila was a Friday night dancing girl with good, strong coffee in the morning sun. She liked to dig into her Ann Rule books during the afternoons. Leila had one of the most supportive, caring hearts and a spunky, adventurous soul. Her smile almost never left her face. And that laugh would hum for hours.

Leila is survived by her two sisters, four children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchild-

dren. She will be joining her mom, dad, sister, and three brothers in the heavens above. I was always her angel but now she will always be mine. In loving memory, my gammy, Leila Gerrish.

Remembrance service will be held 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, 2015 at the Yelm Eagles Club. Call Jacqueline 360-359-1932 to RSVP.



Leila Gerrish

OBITUARIES

Obituaries and memorials are published at \$15.50 per column inch, plus \$15 for a 1-by-1.5 inch photo. Copy is generally due by noon Tuesday for the following Friday's paper. Send to Nisqually Valley News, P.O. Box 597, Yelm, WA 98597, 106 Plaza Drive N.E., fax to 360-458-5741 or E-mail to yelm-news@yelmonline.com

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAYS
 • **New Life Christian Center**, Doing Life Together, worship service 10:30 a.m., Sunday prayer 10 a.m., and Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m., at 13036 Morris Road SE, Yelm. Call 360-458-2690.
 • **Nisqually Valley Baptist Church** worship service 11 a.m. Sunday led by Rev. Gene Dempsey, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday lunch and bible study. Music is from the Gaither Hymnal. Service held at 9205 336th St. S., three miles south of Roy on state

Route 507. Information: 206-412-7422.

• **Northwest Missionary Baptist Church** worship service 11 a.m. on the corner of 288th St. S. and Lyons Road in Roy. Call 360-951-6334.

• **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School**, of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, divine service 10:45 a.m., Bible study and Sunday school 9:15 a.m. at 805 Yelm Ave. E. Call 360-458-7310.

• **Paramount Christian Church**, 5 p.m. Sunday worship service at the Coffee

Place, 311 Yelm Ave. W. 360-491-7372.

• **Parkside Church** worship service 11 a.m. with Pastor Mitch Powell at 9414 282nd St. S., Roy. Call 253-843-2259.

• **Prairie Baptist Fellowship**, Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m. at Yelm Christian School, 17525 state Route 507, Yelm. Classes for all ages. Nursery available. Youth group Wednesday nights. Small groups during the week for individual study. Call 360-458-9222 or visit www.prairie-baptist.org.

• **Rainier Chapel**, Sunday school at 9 a.m., Sunday Prayer Group at 9 a.m., Sunday Family Worship Service at 10 a.m. Located at 206 Binghamton St. on state Route 507 in Rainier. Call 360-446-2614.

• **Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Olympia** worship service 10:30 a.m. at Hansen Elementary, 1919 Road 65

NW. Call Pastor Brett McNeill for more information at 360-570-1514.

• **Rehoboth Ministry** 3 p.m. Sunday service and 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Veterans building on the corner of 103rd Avenue and Grove Road, with Pastor Christi Horowitz.

• **Roy Community Church** worship 11 a.m., and Sunday school 10 a.m. Call 253-843-1398.

• **Roy Missionary Church** worship services 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. at 203 S. Warren St., Roy. Call 253-843-2655.

• **St. Columban Catholic Church**, 506 First St., Yelm, with Father Paul Weckert, O.S.B., holds Mass or Word and Communion 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Saturday Vigil Mass is 5 p.m. and Sunday Mass is 10:30 a.m. Confessions are 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Rosary is 30 minutes before daily Mass throughout the week. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is 9:30-

11 a.m. Thursdays. Prayer Group meets 7 p.m. Mondays in Parish Hall. Call 360-458-3031.

• **St. John's Episcopal Church**, Spanish service, 6 p.m. at Capitol Way and 19th Avenue with Rev. David James. Call 360-352-8527.

• **St. Peter's Catholic Church**, 149 Keithahn St., Tenino, holds Mass 8 a.m. Sunday with Father Paul Weckert, O.S.B. Confessions by appointment. Call 360-264-2124.

• **Valley Heart Assembly of God**, worship 10 a.m., Junior Church 10:30 a.m., adult Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays, at 11318 Vail Cut Off Road, Rainier. Call 360-446-2626.

• **Yelm Central Church of Christ** has Bible class 10 a.m. and worship 11 a.m. at 1313 Crystal Springs Road NW. Mail letters or other information to P.O. Box 2569 Yelm, WA 98597. Call 360-458-4767.

• **Yelm Church of the Nazarene** worship 10:30 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. at The American Legion, 103rd Ave, with Pastor Gordon Beell. Call 360-970-7223.

• **Yelm First Baptist Church** worship 11 a.m. at 602 103rd Ave. SE with Pastor Bob Lowe. Call 360-458-5767.

• **Yelm Prairie Christian Center** worship services 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., at 501 103rd Ave. NE with Pastor Brad Carlson. Call 360-458-7564.

• **Yelm Seventh Day Adventist Church** features Sabbath Schools 9:30-10:35 a.m. and worship service 10:50 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturdays at 17525 state Route 507 SE with Pastor Bob Stephan. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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BIRTHS

Bentley Marcus-Lee Green, a boy, was born Aug. 6, 2015 at Capitol Medical Center in Olympia. The son of **Frances Anntonette Lopez** and **Barrette Deon Green** of Olympia, the boy weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce.

Rainier Round-Up Days Recap



Pampered Chef consultant **Diane Myrick** makes quick work of shredding a potato at her booth Friday during Rainier Round-Up Days.



Jenna Loughlin / Nisqually Valley News

The stage was not the only place to hear musicians picking at their instruments. Small groups gathered together Friday as a weekend of bluegrass began at Rainier Round-Up Days.



The All Girls Band kicked off the open mic portion of the Bluegrass Festival in Wilkowsi Park during Rainier Round-Up Days last Friday.



Local crafters and vendors displayed their wares as part of Rainier Round-Up Days.

Welcome to Voices —

This is your page. Submit items, from your latest club happenings to a cute picture of your grandchild to an event in your community. It could be a wedding, anniversary, engagement, milestone birthday, birth announcement, a community award, 4-H or FFA activity, a stunning photograph of Mount Rainier and the like.

Too often the staff at the Nisqually Valley News can't get to your event (we only have so many reporters and photographers and there are just too many happenings in our area to cover). Yet we want as much of the local scene in your hometown newspaper as possible.

If you want your item on an upcoming Voices page, email photographs and/or stories to mwagar@yelmonline.com.

Thanks for participating in letting us all share in what is important to you.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are your plans for the upcoming Labor Day weekend?



"We're going to the Ellensburg Rodeo to spread my dad's (George "Tex" Martin) ashes. We're going together as a family to say our goodbyes."
DEBI HOLMES OF RAINIER, RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS MANAGER



"I'm going to the Duckabush River. We always have a family horseshoe tournament."
ADAM CHATMAN OF TACOMA, SOPHOMORE AT RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL



"Spending the weekend with family, like a family reunion."
JILL COLEMAN OF YELM, RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRAR

ON FACEBOOK

"Spending family time with my son that just gets home from basic training and the rest of his siblings."
WENDY HANSEN

"I didn't even know that it was so close. Guess I need to find something to barbecue."
JULIANNA HATCH

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

In response to the Question of the Week ...



Log on to www.yelmonline.com to answer this week's online question.

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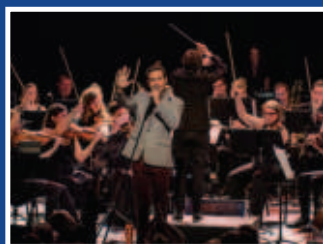
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



MOMIX: Alchemia
OCT 1 / Thursday 7:30 PM
Co-Producer: Ballet Northwest



Martin Sexton
OCT 9 / Friday 7:30 PM



Seattle Rock Orchestra: Pink Floyd Tribute
OCT 24 / Saturday 7:30 PM



National Geographic Live: Kobie Boykins
OCT 29 / Thursday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: Northwest Public Radio, South Sound Magazine



Hal Holbrook: Mark Twain Tonight!
NOV 4 / Wednesday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: Koelsch Construction Inc.



Black Box Jazz: Tarik Bentlemsani
NOV 6 / Friday 8:00 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, Music 6000, Old School Pizzeria



Golden Dragon Acrobats
NOV 7 / Saturday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: Heritage Bank, MIXX 96.1 KXXO, ShowCase Media



An Evening with David Sedaris
NOV 11 / Wednesday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, Virgil Adams Real Estate-Spence Weigand



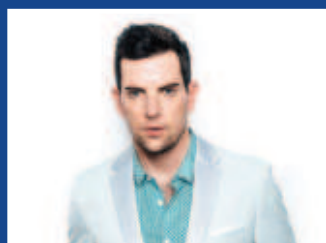
Seattle International Comedy Competition
NOV 19 / Thursday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: Right Systems Inc.



Stunt Dog Experience
NOV 22 / Sunday 2 & 6 PM
Sponsors: Batdorf & Bronson, Credit Unions of South Sound



Mamma Mia! The Movie
NOV 29 / Sunday 5:00 PM
Sponsors: MIXX 96.1 KXXO, TwinStar Credit Union, VUE Vision Uniquely Experienced, Weatherly Inn



Home for Christmas: Chris Mann in Concert
DEC 3 / Thursday 7:30 PM



Celtic Nights: Spirit of Freedom
JAN 10 / Sunday 5:00 PM
Sponsors: KCTS9, Northwest Public Radio, South Sound Wedding & Event Magazine



Black Box Jazz: John Stowell
JAN 15 / Friday 8:00 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, Music 6000, Old School Pizzeria



Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra
JAN 22 / Friday 7:30 PM



An Evening with Travis Tritt
JAN 29 / Friday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: KAYO Radio, NorthWest Harley Davidson, ShowCase Media



Silent Movie Series: Charlie Chaplin Comedies
JAN 31 / Sunday 2:00 PM
Sponsor: Pardiman Productions



Portland Cello Project: Beck, Brubeck, and Bach
FEB 5 / Friday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: Northwest Public Radio, Olympia Federal Savings
Supported by: WESTAF, NEA



The Center Salon
FEB 6 / Saturday 7:30 PM



The Theatreworks USA Production of The Lightning Thief
FEB 18 / Thursday 7:00 PM



National Geographic Live: Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner
FEB 19 / Friday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, South Sound Magazine



Silent Movie Series: Sherlock Holmes
FEB 28 / Sunday 2:00 PM
Sponsor: Pardiman Productions



Igudesman & Joo: And Now Mozart
MAR 4 / Friday 7:30 PM



The National Broadway Tour of The Producers
MAR 5 / Saturday 7:30 PM
Sponsors: Business Examiner, Chicago Title, L&E Bottling, Hometown Property Management Inc.



Literature to Life®: The Secret Life of Bees
MAR 11 / Friday 7:30 PM
Supported by: WESTAF, NEA



Kahulanui
MAR 18 / Friday 7:30 PM



Silent Movie Series: Western Double Feature
MAR 20 / Sunday 2:00 PM
Sponsor: Pardiman Productions



Black Box Jazz: Ariel Calabria
MAR 25 / Friday 8:00 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, Music 6000, Old School Pizzeria



PostSecret: the Show
MAR 31 / Thursday 7:30 PM



The National Broadway Tour of Saturday Night Fever
APR 10 / Sunday 5:00 PM
Sponsors: Capital Medical Center, Heritage Bank, KGY Radio, Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen



Timber! by Cirque Alfonse
APR 14 / Thursday 7:30 PM



Arlo Guthrie: Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Tour
APR 15 / Friday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: KGY Radio



John Mueller's Winter Dance Party
MAY 13 / Friday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: Little Creek Casino



The Kingston Trio
MAY 18 / Wednesday 7:30 PM
Sponsor: Panorama



Black Box Jazz: Leif Totusek
MAY 20 / Friday 8:00 PM
Sponsors: 88.5 KPLU, Music 6000, Old School Pizzeria

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Tyler Huey / Nisqually Valley News

Rainier junior Shouridama Beadle, left, and senior Zak Miller prepare Tuesday afternoon for the cross-country season.

Welcome to the Nisqually Valley, Seattle Seahawks

MIND OF MR. PERFECT

By Tyler Huey



With the high school regular season starting Sept. 4 and the NFL beginning a week later, football is on many people's minds. Coverage of the Seattle Seahawks can be found in many media outlets, but there's only one place that can mix and match the Nisqually Valley with

professionals.

Back in January 2015 I wrote a similar piece that declared which local players best compared to Seahawks. The time has come to do it again.

Rainier senior Tim Clifford is left tackle Russell Okung.

At 5 feet 10 inches and 200 pounds, Clifford may seem a little undersized to play right tackle for the Mountaineers. That assumption would be wrong. His size allows for quickness and

See **HUEY**, page C2

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

YELM TORNADOS

Cross-Country

Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Lake Isabella Park (Shelton), 3:45/4:15 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 at Fort Steilacoom Park, Steilacoom Invitational, 9:20 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 25 at LBA Park (Olympia), 3:45/4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30 at Lincoln Bowl, Twilight Meet, 7 p.m.

Girls' Soccer

Tuesday, Sept. 8 vs. W.F. West, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 at Black Hills (Tumwater Stadium), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12 at Shelton, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Tumwater, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17 vs. Bellarmine Prep, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 at Gig Harbor, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 vs. Stadium, 7 p.m.

Boys' Tennis

Tuesday, Sept. 8 vs. Lincoln, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 at Foss, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Shelton, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17 vs. Timberline, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21 at Black Hills, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 at South Kitsap, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 vs. Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Kent Meridian, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 vs. Timberline, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12 at Olympic, Varsity Tournament, 8 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Olympia, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17 vs. South Kitsap, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 at Northwest Christian, 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21 vs. Gig Harbor, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Stadium, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26 at Mark Morris, Monarch Challenge, 8 a.m.

RAINIER MOUNTAINEERS

Cross-Country

Thursday, Sept. 10 at Tenino City Park, Gordy Robertson Invitational Jamboree, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12 at Capital, Capital Invite, 10:15 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17 at Camp Arnold, 1A/2A Evergreen Eatonville, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19, at Fort Steilacoom Invitational

Tuesday, Sept. 22 at Toledo, Lewis and Clark Trail Race.

Thursday, Sept. 24 at Rochester, 1A/2A Evergreen

Tuesday, Sept. 29, Onalaska League Meet at Onalaska

Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Tacoma Baptist, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9 vs. Tenino, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 at Chief Leschi, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Northwest Christian, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17 vs. Life Christian Academy, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 at Mossyrock Tournament, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24 vs. North Beach, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29 at Life Christian Academy, 7 p.m.

Mind Over Matter

Rainier Boys Seek Team State Berth; Runners Must Push Their Bodies to the Limit to Reach Potential

BY TYLER HUEY
thuey@yelmonline.com

To the surprise of some, the Rainier boys' cross-country team made state last year for the first time since 2008. If that happens again, it should almost be expected.

Rainier's top runners — senior Zak Miller and junior Shouridama Beadle — didn't guarantee their five-person team would make state. They are confident that will happen, though. Coach Rob Henry also believes it is possible. Sophomore Dakota DuCharme is the third state returner, as the other two graduated.

"There's a lot of new kids here really eager to run so I'm pretty confident that we can do it," Miller said.

"We've had a lot more kids show up for the summer practices than we did last year with our state team," Beadle added. "They look more eager to run because they're younger ... and are just happy to be here. If we can get them around a winning environment and go into state as a team we'll do really good things."

Henry said it's a realistic goal for the boys since Miller and Beadle were the best runners last year, too, having finished in the top 15 at the District 4 tournament.

"They definitely have great, stronger leadership," Henry said. "It's definitely

not out of the question. That is our goal."

ONE OF the reasons the boys may be in even better shape this fall is due to the mentality change of the team leaders. In the past, both guys weren't shy about their borderline dislike for running, saying they did it to stay in shape and — in Miller's case — because he was just good.

Following a running camp they attended, their mindset has taken a 180-degree turn. Miller said they felt out of place after first arriving to the camp. Everyone seemed to love running except for them. Although change can be hard, it's often for the best.

"But, then when we got there and actually started to talk to the counselors and all of the kids there, we really figured out running's more than just running," Miller said. "It's really a team sport, something they tried to teach everyone. It's all about having fun, and I think that really changed our minds about how we feel about running."

Beadle, in part, talked about how they learned in greater detail about stretching, how to warm-up the muscles and proper nutrition.

"The camp was a great experience just to have it and learn to love running — not just as a sport, but as a pastime. ... It's really peaceful," he said. "It calms the mind and blocks everything out. It's just you running and enjoying nature."

While the boys' team has high hopes, its female counterpart is much younger and has fewer participants. Henry already named 14-year-old freshman Elaina Hansen to No. 1. Hansen, the sister of three-time school record holder



Rainier freshman Elaina Hansen, center, stretches with her teammates. The 14-year-old has been named the girls' No. 1 runner.

Ben Hansen, killed it in middle school. Henry said she has great potential, but it's a big difference to double the distance from middle school to three miles as a Mountaineer.

HANSEN SAID she prepared throughout the summer with Ben, running almost every day except for the weekends.

"He helped a lot competition wise and has really started to push me," she said. "He'll run with me, then we'll have almost a race against each other. Obviously he's faster right now, but hopefully one day I'll be faster than him."

The only way to top her older brother is to learn something that takes most runners years to master. And some never fully grasp it, which means their full potential isn't reached. Hansen knows

See **ALL-OUT**, page C2

Winning Is Contagious

RHS Volleyball Squad Eyes Return Trip to District 4 Tournament

BY TYLER HUEY
thuey@yelmonline.com

Following last year's fourth-place finish in the Pacific 2B League and subsequent losses in the District 4 tournament, Rainier's volleyball team is poised for another playoff run.

Dropping down in leagues from the Evergreen 1A helped. The girls now know their opponents, they understand what postseason play feels like, and have six seniors to help lead them to where they want to go.

"Overall we were all pretty happy with it," fifth-year Rainier coach Kristin Robinson said of what was accomplished last season. "I think none of them had really seen postseason play, so that was a new challenge and a little bit shocking."

Even though the 2014 squad lost their final four games of the season, making victories more of a habit is becoming the norm for a program long



Tyler Huey / Nisqually Valley News

Rainier senior AnnMarae Martin bumps a shot toward a teammate during volleyball practice Tuesday at the high school. The girls hope to make a return trip to the district playoffs.

known for struggling. The girls have already talked about making a return trip to the district tournament. There is a pep in their step, a true confidence that has lacked for who knows how long.

"They've kind of raised their threshold a little bit of what they expect from themselves and expect from the team," Robinson said. "I think they're envisioning that rather than just envisioning enough games to get there. Before

it was always focus on league and now it's like OK, we can get through league.

"We know our opponents a little bit better, we can get through that and prepare for the next level, which are some of those teams coming down like La Conner from up north," she continued. "A lot of teams in our district are state contenders. ... Coming into practice

See **UPBEAT**, page C2

ALL-OUT:

Continued from page C1

she hasn't reached that level yet, because she often finishes a race knowing she could do a lot more.

When runners cross the finish line, Henry said he wants them to be exhausted, "practically mentally dead." Understanding and learning their physical limitations can be a fear factor, an invisible barrier that's difficult to overcome.

"A lot of times you'll take off running and say, 'I don't know if I can finish so I am not going to go as fast, I'll save myself a little bit,'" Henry said. "You need the confidence to understand that I can push myself, I'm not going to die. I can make that step, that next gear. And that's just growth, confidence and understanding your body."

MILLER AND Beadle know their body well enough how to go full out and not leave anything on



Tyler Huey / Nisqually Valley News

Several members of Rainier's cross-country team glide past the football field. Afterward they further stretched their muscles before going on a run throughout the city.

the course. But that takes time. Hansen is attempting to get there one day, as did Ben, and hopefully each teammate is as well.

"It's great. Being able to pace yourself and being able to go full-bore all the time is huge in training aspects, because then you apply it to an actual meet. ... The competi-

tive nature comes out of you when you do it," Beadle said. "The kids that can't do it at the time, they're scared and don't want to look embarrassed. Then they realize everyone else is doing it and feel more comfortable."

It is kind of scary and hard to push yourself to go that fast, Han-

sen acknowledged. Deep down she knows she can do it. Now she just has to make it become a reality.

Perhaps that's why the boys' team is so confident it can make consecutive state berths. The best runners are. They know what it takes, and they're ready to lead the younger crop there.

"It gave the program confidence and set the gold standard of how we train and how we feel about running," Beadle said of making state. "It's no more just, 'Oh crap, we've got to run again.' Now it's, 'Yay, we're running because we're going to make state.'"

UPBEAT:

Continued from page C1

this year I've already seen good conditioning and things like that."

Some of the standout seniors to Robinson are AnnMarae Martin, Kera Anderson and Peyton Dungan. Martin, who primarily plays middle hitter, is perhaps Rainier's best player. Robinson said she's definitely Rainier's best server and hitter.

And Martin, like many of the upperclassmen, tries to teach the younger girls the ins and outs of the sport. At one point during Tuesday's practice, she could be seen assisting a freshman.

"It's not that we didn't close

out our games," Martin said of last season's final four consecutive losses to three opponents. "There's always going to be someone better than you as a team, and the only thing you can do is work together as a team to get as far as you can. If the teams were indeed better — and they were — that's just how it ends. We need to train harder and focus more on playing skills as in like tactics."

She went on to say she thought the team can do "pretty well" this season, but would not elaborate because it's too early. Anderson, a setter, also has lofty goals yet was more forthcoming on what she hopes the team accomplishes.

"I hope that we're able to make it to districts and actually

do something with it," Anderson said. "Since we were the last seed in, we played the best team and they were really good. But I hope we work harder, get a better position and set ourselves up to win."

In her sixth year of Rainier volleyball dating back to middle school, what does she like about this team? For instance, everyone is friends on and off the court and there are no arguments, she said.

"Everybody is willing to correct their mistakes or listen to the constructive criticism that older people or coaches are giving to them," Anderson said. "That's really helpful and I think that will help us go farther."

Team bonding and communication is vital, but being in the Pacific 2B may have been just as important. The reality is Rainier High is too small to compete with most 1A schools.

"I think it helps the mental-

ity of the girls knowing they're playing schools that were more in line with us. I think for all the sports in Rainier it was really hard to play the Montesanos or Rochesters, because you know they have 400 more kids than you," Robinson said. "Not necessarily girls in their program, but you can definitely see the development in their program. I think just ... knowing they were more even to start, it let all of that bad blood from the old league to wash away.

"The records, losing close games was gone," she continued. "It was great because that is something I had battled with my team. ... They always just clung to those losses and they could never move past them. But with this new league we're playing all new teams ... and we had the mentality that this was a fresh new start."



Tyler Huey / Nisqually Valley News

Junior varsity coach Mikaila Mortlock, a former high school player and Rainier graduate, hits an overhead shot.

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HUEY:

Continued from page C1

versatility, such as also playing middle linebacker.

On the other hand, the 6-foot-5 Okung is obviously a large human being, but his 310-pound frame is downright trim, athletic for someone his size who runs into other gargantuan people

for a living. Both of them may be appear a little smaller than normal for their positions, but their play says otherwise. That's why they're the best linemen on their teams.

"He does everything right every single play and he makes plays on both sides of the ball," Rainier coach Terry Shaw said. "He makes plays on defense and he's always doing his job on offense."

Yelm junior Brandon Thompson is running back Christine Michael.

Michael has all the talent in the world, yet the third-year back is in jeopardy of getting cut, in part, because of too many fumbles. Despite the flaws, he is fast, powerful, elusive, and has good feet and vision — as does Thompson.

There was a point last season in which Yelm coach Jason Ronquillo thought Thompson might be named first team All-League out of the 4A Narrows. That didn't happen, but the 5-foot-9 boy's body now looks more like a man, having packed on about 15 pounds of muscle throughout the offseason.

"The sky's the limit for Brandon. When he puts his mind to something he really has the ability to accomplish it," Ronquillo said. "His idea going into the summer was to put some work in the weight room — get stronger, get bigger — and he accomplished that. His top-end speed is pretty elite, so him increasing his body strength and weight and being able to keep that top-end speed, the sky's the limit for sure."

Rainier sophomore Ian Russell is running back Thomas Rawls.

A few differences: Russell (I'm guessing) is 6 feet to 6 feet 2 and Rawls is 5 feet 9. Russell will start at fullback for the Mountaineers while Rawls, an undrafted rookie free agent, is trying to make the Seahawks' 53-man roster. Russell is a good, nice kid; Rawls has a troubled past, which includes getting suspended indefinitely from Central Michigan last year after being arrested on three felony warrants.

Some similarities: Russell (I'm guessing) and Rawls weigh

around 215 pounds. Rawls is much more compact, but they're both powerful runners who finish carries with brute force. Similar to Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, Rainier coach Terry Shaw loves playing football the way it was meant to be: hard-hitting. "He is more than capable of handling a starter's workload in the NFL, and had Purdue's safeties ready to tap out by the end of that game last season," Seahawks.com says of Rawls.

If things go according to plan, Russell's running style will break the opposition's will, and Rawls will make the team.

Yelm senior Tim Piland is linebacker Bobby Wagner.

Just like more than 99 percent of the world, Piland will probably never sign a contract that guarantees almost \$22 million (Wagner signed a four-year extension on Aug. 1). Yelm's defensive leader will also probably not ever run a 40-yard dash in 4.46 seconds (2012 NFL Pro Day) or record 152 tackles as a senior like Wagner (2007-08 at Colony High School in Ontario, California, according to MaxPreps).

However, they are both 6-foot-tall ballhawks who love the game. Piland is relatively soft-spoken. So is Wagner. Piland is a key to the Tornados, as was Wagner to his alma mater, the Titans. And even if Piland strikes it rich one day, I wouldn't be surprised if he reacted like Wagner, who says nothing is different about his life, according to an Aug. 19 story in The News Tribune.

"Nothing. Just chillin'. ... I can't really say much has changed," Wagner said in the TNT article of signing an extension. "I live a pretty simple life. It's just been chill — and focused on football."

Hiking, mountain biking, camping and cooking are four things Piland listed as hobbies and interests in a section that focuses on seniors for next week's 2015 high school football preview. Piland also enjoys lifting weights and by looking at Wagner, he does, too. He outweighs Piland — a big guy in his own right — by about 40 pounds of muscle.

No wonder why my wife thinks Wagner is hot. Heck, I agree with her.

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