



Excavation company Rotschky Inc. buys Kelso businesses

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Severe weather shelter has helped 149 people this season

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Thursday, February 13, 2025

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KELSO

NEW MALL OWNERS REBRAND

Center eyes new restaurants, shops, June re-opening event



GREG SELLENTIN, FOR THE DAILY NEWS

A new emblem hangs on the Kelso mall on Wednesday, Jan. 22 as owners begin to rebrand the Three Rivers Mall to Three Rivers Crossing. Owners say they have also purchased a \$225,000 sign to replace the one seen from Interstate 5.

NICK MORGAN
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With a new name and fresh coat of paint, the Kelso mall is undergoing what its new owners are planning will be the start of a significant, multi-year transformation.

What's now known as Three Rivers Mall, is only a few months away from new signage rebranding itself as Three Rivers Crossing (though the new name is already on the center's social media sites).

The rebrand and revitalization includes new stores and restaurants well in the pipeline, according to Bob Davis, who purchased the mall in November with

co-owner Eric Pucci.

Davis previously owned the Allstate Insurance office in Longview, while Pucci owns RE/MAX Premier Group, and the two businessmen own numerous commercial properties and businesses across Kelso and Longview. The two businessmen own the Triangle Tavern, Davis owns buildings such as the Stewart Title Building on Washington Way and Pucci's business interests include the Silver Star Sports Bar and Grill on Vandercook Way and a Starbucks franchise on Washington Way.

Davis was mum about exactly what new chains are coming to the mall citing pending lease agreements still in negotia-

tions; however, he described in detail his work since November with four different brokers towards attracting nationally known stores and dining establishments.

"It takes a village to get this deal done," Davis said.

Davis described plans to put "a few million dollars" into the 1987-built mall, starting with fresh paint, modern LED lighting and a new \$225,000 sign to be seen from Interstate 5. He paid the down payment on that sign, and the design and build is complete on its new electronic reader board. It should be ready for installation within about 90 days.

Please see REBRAND, Page A3

2 mall vendors leave

NICK MORGAN
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Two Kelso mall vendors have announced they are leaving the center.

Bob Davis, who purchased the property in November with Eric Pucci, said the mall is requiring all businesses to standardize their minimum hours and meet certain appearance standards. Davis said the new standards are not meant to be punitive, but to ensure that stores appear established in the

mall and not temporary.

The two vendors leaving —South Kelso Neighborhood Association and Christmas Corner — appear to fall outside those standards. South Kelso Neighborhood Association has limited hours listed as 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays and noon to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and the nonprofit maximizes its 1,800-square foot floor plan for efficiency rather than aesthetics.

Christmas Corner did not return an email seeking comment, but social media posts show that the

business uses at least one temporary screen-printed sign.

Star Garcia, founder of the South Kelso Neighborhood Association, which is a food bank and resource center, said in early February that the center was asked to leave its unit after six years, adding that the mall owners did not provide exact reasons for the lease ending.

The Christmas Corner owner also posted on Facebook this week that the Kelso mall store is closing Friday, and reopening March 1 to a larger space in Longview. The owner did not answer an email about the new location or why the

store is leaving the mall by deadline.

The nonprofit

Garcia said her organization is scrambling to find a new space after being given 60 days' notice at Three Rivers Mall on Jan. 31.

Garcia started the nonprofit organization as a food giveaway from her front porch in 2017 to help people in South Kelso which Garcia described as being the highest poverty area in Cowlitz County. She opened their location in the Three Rivers Mall after

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The Tuesday, Feb. 11 edition of TDN.



BUSINESS

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SPORTS

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Kelso may adjust school boundaries

School district reviews Lexington, Wallace changes

MINKA ATKINSON
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The Kelso School Board announced Monday that the district is considering redrawing school boundaries around the West Kelso neighborhood to balance enrollment levels at Wallace and Lexington elementary schools.

West Kelso is located on the west side of the river, near the old Catlin Elementary School building.

Currently, students living in West Kelso attend Lexington Elementary School and Huntington Middle School by default. If the boundaries are changed, they would instead attend Wallace Elementary School and Ceweeman Middle School.

Middle school attendance is determined by which elementary school a student attended. Lexington and Barnes elementary schools feed into Huntington, while Butler Acres, Carrolls, Rose Valley and Wallace ele-

mentary schools feed into Ceweeman.

Lexington is the largest elementary school in Kelso School District, and is just under twice the size of the next largest, Butler Acres Elementary School. It currently has 768 students living in its boundary, while Wallace has 314, according to school district data. Due to students transferring between boundary areas, Lexington's actual enrollment is 795, while Wallace's is 307.

Next year, Lexington is predicted to have 770 resident students while Wallace is predicted to have 323. If the boundaries are changed, Lexington would instead have 713 and Wallace would have 380.

This change would affect around 30 families, Chief Financial and Operations Officer Scott Westlund said. It would take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

Families of students who

currently attend Lexington and Huntington can submit a school choice application if they would like their student to stay enrolled in the same school. However, they will need to arrange their own transportation.

Washington allows families to request transfers between schools in the same district or between different districts for various reasons using a school choice application. In Kelso, families wanting to transfer within the district should submit a written request to the principal of their student's current school.

A survey on the boundary adjustment will go out to community members Feb. 20 and remain open until March 28. An open house is scheduled for April 17 at Catlin Elementary. The board will also hold a hearing at its April 21 meeting.

The board is scheduled to vote on the boundary adjustment May 5.

VENDORS

from A1

gaining nonprofit status the following year.

Although she started the nonprofit organization at her home, she said the organization can't continue without a commercial space.

She said she started with two refrigerators when they moved into their space in 2018, and now have 11.

"It was barely fitting in, but we were making it work," Garcia said.

Garcia estimated that she has helped more than 10,000 people at the food bank in 2024, 500 people through its work boot program and 200 children during the holidays.

She said people helped with food assistance come from as far as Woodland and Clatskanie.

"If we don't find a space we're going to have to close our doors — and that's a lot of people who are going to go hun-

gry," Garcia said.

Garcia was light on specifics as to how much rent the organization can afford beyond saying, "There's not much of a budget." She said they paid some rent for their space at the mall, but noted "we did get a little bit of a discount." Typically the mall gets a percentage of sales, but Garcia said her organization got some savings because the South Kelso Neighborhood Association does not sell anything.

The organization gets no city, state or federal funding, and Garcia described links to properties renting at \$1,000 per month on social media as not feasible. She's hoping to partner with an organization or property owner that can donate space to her nonprofit as a tax write-off.

Anyone who may be able to help is asked to call the organization at 360-747-7240, email kelsoneighborhood@gmail.com or find their social media page at Facebook.com/SouthKelso.

THE DAILY NEWS

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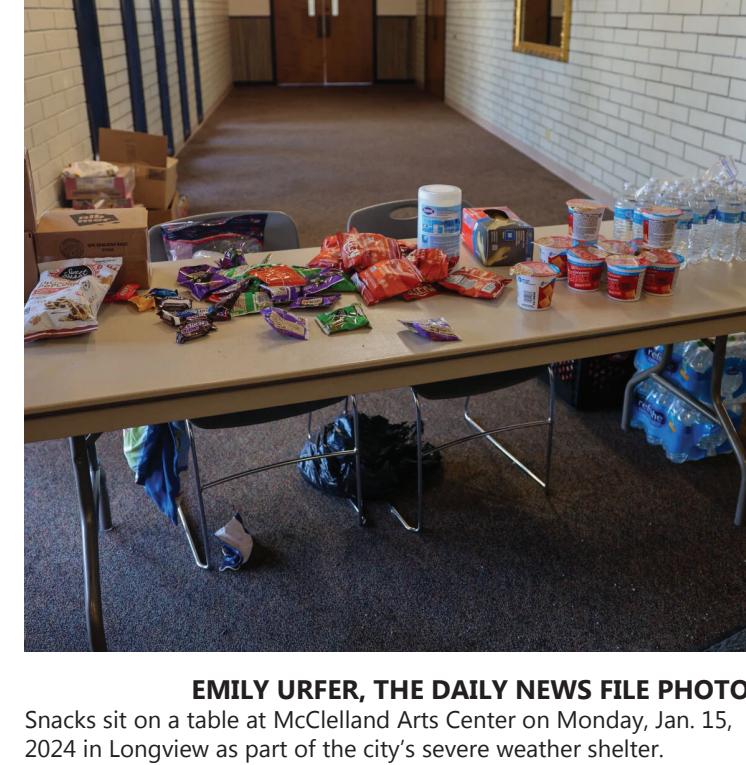
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EMILY URFER, THE DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Snacks sit on a table at McClelland Arts Center on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 in Longview as part of the city's severe weather shelter.

MALL**from A1**

"They don't just have it on the shelf," Davis said.

Grander ambitions include new stores, both inside and around the mall, housing nationally known stores and dining options — and an ecosystem that can support popular local businesses.

A hands-on approach

From plans with a local restauranteur to create something "kind of like a local Johnny Rockets" to bespoke wooden furniture designed to elevate the food court into the tentatively named "Highlander Eatery," Davis touched on big ideas to revitalize the mall.

Davis said he is working with furniture maker Ecology of Woodland and an interior decorator to create the parklike atmosphere to make the mall food court relevant in the 2020s.

He said he understands people want a meeting place to gather for lunch, and he'd like to feature three or four places with local followings.

Davis said he's met with several "strong local restauranteurs" and has worked with them on proposals to do a buildout accommodating them.

"Food at the mall is usually your last resort," Davis said. "I thought some better offerings would actually draw people there."

He hired longtime radio station manager Julie Laird of Bicoastal Media as his new promotional director to help grow the mall, adding that the current manager is also staying on board.

'Please be patient'

Davis is first to admit that his big ideas are going to take time to bear fruit. A grand opening event is currently planned for June, after the new signage and upgraded LED display is installed.

By then, construction on "pad" restaurant sites in the parking lot around the mall could begin. However, he anticipates the full transformation could take between 24 and 36 months. Davis understands those who want to see results sooner because he said he wants to see rapid results himself.

"Please be patient," Davis said.

Davis and Pucci bought the mall located on 45.15 acres at 351 Three Rivers Drive in Kelso for \$20 million, according to Cowlitz County Property Sales records. Davis said the sale closed Nov. 4.

"It really wasn't for sale," Davis said, adding that a friend was a manager of the previous group of owners.

The previous owners have out-of-state and local ties.

Three Rivers Village LLC of Chandler, Arizona was listed as the previous owner, according to Cowlitz County property records. The Arizona Secretary of State's business registry lists the managing partner as Keldy Winters of Chandler, Arizona.

According to business registries from the Arizona and Washington secretaries of state, the managing partner was listed as Keldy Winters of Arizona, but other member organizations listed in the business' registry included Three Rivers Village's member organizations was RE Land Development, LLC of Longview. RE Land Development lists Bryce Clary as its registered agent and lists as its address the same one used by Bud Clary Chevrolet.

Davis said that Bud Clary Auto Group



GREG SELLENTIN, FOR THE DAILY NEWS
A directory is seen at the Three Rivers Crossing on Wednesday, Jan. 22 in Kelso. New owners have already started updating the mall, built in 1987, with a fresh coat of paint.

office workers are slated to occupy a roughly 20,000-square-foot portion of the former Macy's building potentially as early as this summer. He anticipates that it will bring regular traffic of between 40 and 50 employees to the mall on a daily basis.

'Lifestyle center'

Davis has about 27 years in the mortgage industry and Pucci has three decades of experience working in real estate. Both of the business partners could have easily retired.

Instead, Davis recently sold his insurance business and his mortgage business last year "so I could clear the decks a little bit" and focus his time and resources on the mall.

"There's a lot of pent-up demand for something good to happen here," Davis said. "We want this to be a successful venture for our local community."

Davis said he has been to more malls in the last six months than he had in the past six years, and he's taken notes.

"They're more lifestyle centers," Davis said of the most successful malls he's seen describing "activities and places to get together."

Some of the mall's core anchors are already in that vein.

Davis said he recently extended the lease at the Regal Cinemas. The stadium seating 12-screen theater built in 2015 is the newest Regal movie theater in a 60-mile radius. He described it as a destination for movie goers in Southwest Washington.

Davis said that the Planet Fitness in Kelso is one of the chain's busiest.

He also said anchor tenant JCPenney is on an upswing. The department store chain just merged earlier this year with the SPARC Group — owner of brands that include Aéropostale, Nautica and Eddie Bauer and Brooks Brothers — to form a new parent company for JCPenney known as Catalyst Brands.

"They seem to be very optimistic," Davis said. "We're excited for them as well."

'The best case for our community'

On Jan. 13, a post on the mall's new Three Rivers Crossing Facebook page promising the new paint on the mall as "Phase 1/1000" and

GREG SELLENTIN, FOR THE DAILY NEWS
Rides for children are seen at the Three Rivers Crossing on Wednesday, Jan. 22 in Kelso. The mall's new owners are planning a multi-year renovation of the space.

"Big Changes Coming" captured locals' imagination. It garnered 369 reactions including 97 hearts, and 127 comments — the bulk being hoped-for stores.

Lindsey Cope, vice president of the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, said locals are eager to see the mall flourish again.

"I think that overwhelmingly people are optimistic and they're excited for the potential for that space," Cope said. "Everybody's been waiting with bated breath for something amazing."

She added that Davis and Pucci have the resources, track record and local presence needed to make the mall revitalization a success.

"They're not just dreamers," Cope said. "They are successful local entrepreneurs."

Davis and Pucci are bringing in a high-caliber team of experts and community members, she added, to build the mall to its potential, "and that is going to create ripples economically."

"This is the best case for our community," Cope said.

She sees a thriving mall as something that will help in her role at Cowlitz EDC recruiting companies and their people to the area.

"We get these requests for proposals — leads," Cope said. The industrial business asks about if the area can handle certain water pressure needs or power requirements. "But then towards the bottom of these requests ... what are your amenities?"

She said businesses considering a move want to know: What is there to do on the weekend? Will employees want to live where they work?

She also sees ways the mall promotes the area to visitors. The new Three Rivers Crossing sign will serve as a "better billboard off Interstate 5," catching the eyes of motorists along a major freeway between Portland and Seattle.

During the spring and summer, a bevy of softball and baseball tournaments are held at Tam O'Shanter Park. Between games, those participants are going to be looking for something exciting, affordable and contained.

"Recruitment brings recruitment," Cope said.



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EVENTS

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2 featured artists at Broadway Gallery

Painter Scott McRae and the late 3D gourd carver Diane Springer are the featured guests for The Broadway Gallery in February.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 1418 Commerce Ave. in Longview.

McRae is a Longview resident and graduate of both Linfield College and Washington State University. He began painting professionally in 1991 and also teaches art, according to the gallery.

Springer, a resident of Battle Ground, was a long-time gallery member, according to fellow Gallery artist Debra Chase.

WA state archives exhibit featured in Kelso

The Cowlitz County Historical Museum has a new temporary exhibit.

The exhibit "Browsing the Stacks: Washington State Archives," a selection of stories on loan from the Secretary of State's office, runs through about the end of November.

The exhibit, according to a museum press release, includes topics from 19th-century loggers to UFO sightings and the Seattle World's Fair, introducing guests to "topics that make our state unique."

During the exhibit's opening, there will be a complimentary "staff picks" section where the staff will share their favorite addition to the museum acquired in 2024. Light refreshments will also be served.

Attendance is free.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Join teen nights at Longview YMCA

Teens looking for something to do on Friday nights can come to the YMCA of Southwest Washington.

Youth from 13 to 18 years old can swim, as well as play video games and basketball from 8 to 10 p.m.

There will also be food at the

free, public event.

The event is set to run regularly through the year.

Participants must have guardians sign waivers before joining. For more information, call the YMCA at 360-423-4770.

Cupid's Aroma to host Valentine's dinner

Looking for a place to spend a night out with your special someone? Cupid's Aroma has you covered.

From 5-10 p.m. on Friday, Valentine's Day, Cupid's Aroma is hosting a special couple's dinner event at their restaurant, located at 1242 Commerce Ave. in Longview.

Dinner includes two Caesar salads to start, a main course of two savory crepes and a sweet crepe to share for dessert, as well as drinks. A violinist will also be playing live music during the evening.

Attendees will also get a bouquet of roses and a gift to take home.

A table for two begins at \$100. Reservations are limited.

To secure your spot, call or text 360-523-4479.

Local square dance club to host events

Dust off your dancing shoes; the R Square D Square Dance Club has called their next three dances.

The Sweethearts Dance will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Valentine's Day, at Catlin Hall, located at 106 NW Eighth Ave. in Kelso. Admission is by donation, and the group is suggesting \$7. The dance will include light refreshments, door prizes and a raffle.

The group will also be hosting two other events. The Boot Scootin' Boogie and Chili Feed is set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 22. The Shamrock Dance is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. on March 14, St. Patrick's Day. Both events will be at Catlin Hall.

For more information, follow the group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RSquareD4all or call Craig Abercrombie at 503-417-5482.

Love Street Playhouse presents 'The Miracle Worker'

Love Street Playhouse's upcoming theatrical performance "The

Miracle Worker" will debut at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Love Street Playhouse, 126 Loves Ave., Woodland.

"The Miracle Worker" is a historical drama following the growth of Annie Sullivan and her blind and deaf student, Helen Keller.

Showings will run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Feb. 14 through March 9. There will also be performances on Thursday, Feb. 27, and March 6. Showings are at 7:30 p.m., except for additional Sunday and Saturday matinees at 2 p.m., a press release by Love Street Playhouse stated.

To view the complete performance schedule, or to purchase tickets, call 800-966-8865. Tickets are \$26 per person, with a \$3 online ticket fee, the Love Street Playhouse website stated.

"The Miracle Worker," written by William Gibson, tells the story of Helen Keller's journey to learning communication as a blind and deaf individual. Teacher Annie Sullivan is hired to tutor Keller. After many weeks, the pair reaches a breakthrough that allows them to communicate. Keller then begins to experience the joys that life with communication can bring, the press release stated.

— *The Reflector*

Pomona to meet Feb. 15

The Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Pomona No. 7 has scheduled its next meeting.

The meeting, which is set to begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, will be held at the Sunnyside Grange at 214 Cowlitz Ave. W in Castle Rock.

The meeting will begin with a potluck lunch. They will then discuss their entry in the annual grange contest, which will be held on April 18.

The grange also announced their monthly project, which is to collect and donate socks.

Library to host talk on Black culture

The nonprofit group Humanities Washington will be hosting a discussion at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Longview Public Library.

The event features a presentation by LaToya Brackett, an associate professor at the University of Puget Sound. Brackett's talk is

entitled "They Want Our Rhythm, but Not Our Blues: African American Innovation Through Pop Culture," and focuses on how Black culture has often been shaped in an atmosphere of oppression and later adopted by the same society that oppressed them.

The event is free and open to all.

Woodland library to hold book sale

The Woodland Public Library needs to make some space on its shelves, and you can help by filling yours.

The Friends of Woodland Community Library announced they will hold a bag sale for used books at the new library, at 411 Lakeshore Dr.

The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 19-21 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 22.

For \$8, you can fill one of the library's provided bags with used books to take home. Genres available include mysteries, westerns, young adult, fantasy, sci-fi, romance, military fiction, crafting, cookbooks, non-fiction and children's books. Proceeds from the sale will support library activities and programs.

For more information, call 360-225-2294.

4-H program offers program for K-8 kids

Cowlitz County 4-H is offering kids the opportunity to go hands-on.

Local kids can join an outreach program, divided into two sets based on ages: kindergarten through third grade, and fourth through eighth graders. Possible project topics include baking or cooking, leather tooling, plant science and container gardening, creative arts, cardboard animals, hand sewing and basic poultry.

The programs will be held from 1-3 p.m. one Saturday a month. Younger kids started meeting last week and will meet every second Saturday of the month through July 12, while older kids start Feb. 22 and meet on the fourth Saturday through July 26.

The program costs \$10 per participant. To reserve a space, contact at jleach@wsu.edu or 360-577-3104, extension 4.

Cascade Middle School releases honor roll

THE DAILY NEWS

frontdoor@tdn.com

Longview's Cascade Middle School has announced its first semester honor roll.

4.00 grade point average

Eighth Grade: Adiel Boaglio, Anderson Brown, Cailey Bulard, Cyan Eoin Cruz, Christopher Hartung, Gunnar Jurvakainen, Sandy Luo, Inara Mccomas, Mia McFarland, Silas Moore, Hannah Sande, Andy Severson, Vaughn Shaw, Liam Street, Sophia Sully, Hailey Tideman, Viviana Tovar Carino, Kaiah Wilson, Dylan Wirtz

Seventh Grade: Katy Cannaday, Jamee Esquivel-Barnes, Fiona Huhta, Noa Kelly, Kaisi Nagunst, Afton Pickett, Olivia Triana, Ruth Vasilas

Sixth Grade: Christopher Chapman-Miller, Rowan Collins, Lexie Hunter, Jude Hutton, Elliott Knutsen, Mason Knutsen, Katherine Peterson, Fletcher Wallin

3.50-3.99 grade point average

Eighth Grade: Dominic Aguilera, Itzel Avalos Martinez, Makenna Behn-Curry, Thomas Brown, Kendall Cano, Brycen Clark, Jacob Claypool, Parker Davis, Schye Dean, Greyson Fisher, Bailey Ford, Cruz Frost, Olevia Grasser, David Harlan, Hendrix Heston, Aaron Ibarreta, Maya Langenbach, Brock Larson, Jocelyn Le, Taylor Lee, Alberta Nelson, Malachai Nelson, Carter Oldemar, Ana Perez-Misner, Claire Richmond, Julien Rome-

ro-Trotter, Pascuala Santiago-Gonzalez, Ellie Savinski, Vera Schulz, Derrick Tredway, Maiya Vodrup, Tenley Williams, Panharith Yin

Seventh Grade: Faelynn Barker, Paige Brunelle, Finn Busby-Frey, Berlyn Bush, Rose Byman, Archer Chewning, Lillian Davis, Liam Dieter, Daniel Fields, Benjermyn Francis, Jacob Frazier, Ariela Guglielmo, Eli Helgeson, Marisol Hernandez Martinez, Emilie Ireton, Scarlett Joseph, Hadley Jurvakainen, Jenna Kupfer, Yuriana Ledesma-Camacho, Aubrey Lee, Jeremiah Lorber, Tylinn Loring-King, Brooke Maben, Austin Marr, Elizabeth McCann, Xander Nimmo, Jayce Piper, Drew Rodriguez, Kimberly Rodriguez-Flores, Michael Rogus JR, Abigail Sims, Anicya Sloley, Trinity Talbitzer, Charlotte Trussell, Alexa Vargas Contreras, Shawn Warby, Tucker Wisdom, Lillian Wyatt

Sixth Grade: Alahna Agee, Scarlett Anderson, Elaine Andrade, Sulamita Bondarenko, Axxel Bondurant, Brendan Brown, Deacon Brown, Macey Bulard, Gwynnevire Carabin, Lyla Cornelian, Peyton Carrasco, David Clark, Eva Coffman, Joziah Daniels-Fields, Gabriel Dotsey, Jacob Favela, Starla Hauff, Amara Isenhart, Mason Jensen, Zachary Kleine, Isabella Knoke, Oliver Larson, Averay Laurila, Ace Marthaller, Deacon Mathers, Killian McComas, Reece Oldemar, Gracie Polston, Natalie Porter, Kendall Rickards, River Robbins, Talon Smith, Lucas Wellenbrock, James Williquette

3.0-3.49 grade point average

Eighth Grade: Emiliano Acosta-Camacho,

AJ Aiken, Coco Castellaw, Cayden Colvin, Leila Cox, J'Kari Gonzalez-Olimon, Dominic Guglielmo, Demecia Guzman-Dominguez,

Xavier Hannon, Nathaniel Hauff, Anastazia Jacobson, Jasmine Le, Hayden Lewis, Emily Lopez-Cruz, Riley McCoy, Hunter Meyer, Noah Miller, Zachary Reynolds, Jacky Robert, William Roland, Raina Thomas, Carson Wallace, Jazlynn Westerby, Matthew Williquette,

Seventh Grade: Xander Anderson, Jackson Baudro, Madison Colvin, Brody Dykstra, Athena Encke, Izaiah Garcia, Yahir Garcia-Belmonte, Michael Hagar, Kaydence Hedrick, Sofia Johnston, Carter Kasson, Aubrey Mahler, Oliver Manser, Eleanor Moore, Laylani Pearson, Sean Pederson, Zoe Perissinotto, Bonita Phosakham, Neydelin Reyes Romero, Sara Rodriguez, Abigail Schaupp, Riley Siegrist, Brycen Tozer, Alejandra Vicente Pelico, Bray Wallingford, Svetlana Zander

Sixth Grade: Alexander Abramoff, Lucas Akers, Nicole Alva Belmontes, Joseph

Bremer, Leonardo Bueno-Bolanos, Gabriel Burrell, Jorge Casillas, Madeline Davis, Lucas Edgemont, Gael Garcia Belmonte, Ryan Gilcrease, Liam Godwin, Piper Gregory, Maya Hedrick, Aurelio Lopez, Kailani Lorenzo-Moreno, Henry Maher, Mason Mcnemar, Avery Messex, Luna Miller, Touseng Moua, Sofia Parsons, Tatumn Pearson, Mailinda Perez-Misner, Akerra Roberts, Abby Stiebritz, Michelle Valenzuela Alvarez, Coehn Wyatt, Chance Yusko

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ANOTHER VIEW | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Fauci: Come clean on COVID stance

Just before he exited the White House, one of President Joe Biden's last official acts was to grant a preemptive pardon to Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has not been convicted of, or even charged with, any crime.

Significantly, the pardon dates to 2014, when the National Institutes of Health and Fauci awarded a multimillion-dollar grant to the nonprofit research group EcoHealth Alliance for the study of bat coronaviruses and work on viral manipulation, so-called gain-of-function research. (Funding of EcoHealth was terminated in December 2024.) This was in contravention to a U.S. government moratorium on such research at the time.

Opinions on Fauci fall along partisan lines, and there is little middle ground: You either love him as many Democrats do or hate him like many Republicans do. For Fauci acolytes, the pardon was seen as an attempt to prevent retribution by President Donald Trump. For Fauci haters, this preemptive pardon was seen as an explicit tactic to block possible prosecution for his possible role in the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fauci "role in the pandemic" theory is that his support of gain-of-function research helped create an engineered coronavirus more contagious and thus more transmissible. At the time, EcoHealth was working in partnership with virologists in Wuhan, China, who failed to maintain strict biosafety measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic was believed to be the result of a lab leak in Wuhan of the more transmissible virus. U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, with whom Fauci sparred in congressional testimony, went so far as to say, "If there was ever any doubt as to who bears responsibility for the COVID pandemic, Biden's pardon of Fauci forever seals the deal."

With respect to Paul, who may or may not be correct about Fauci's culpability, this is a classic case of jumping to conclusions. The theory that the virus leaked from a lab is supported by solid circumstantial evidence but no definitive proof.

Likewise, there is strong circumstantial evidence, but no proof, that the virus causing COVID-19 was the result of lab manipulation. Finally, Fauci's role in this miasma remains unclear — in part because of his obfuscation and in part the nonfeasance of scientific journalists who for years haven't aggressively pursued COVID-19's origin story. So the world is left to wonder whether the so-called lab leak theory is not just compelling, but also provably correct.

Biden's unusual preemptive pardon further obscures the forest for

the trees. The goal of reasonable critics and curious citizens is not to put Fauci in jail but rather to uncover the truth of what happened.

Some observers believe that he is not out of trouble even with the pardon, which covers what may have occurred in the past, because he could still be called to testify before Congress and would not be immune to any future perjury. And if this becomes an arcane game of legal chess, both his critics and Fauci would have available moves.

Presidential pardons cover only federal, not state, offenses. So if state attorneys general pursue him for, say, misrepresenting his role in abetting the pandemic, he might still be able to invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. If that tactic were to fail, he could simply refuse to appear and be found in contempt of state courts. The onus would fall back on state judges to imprison him. It would not be a good look either for Fauci to refuse to appear or for the courts to put a veteran of 50-plus years of government service in jail.

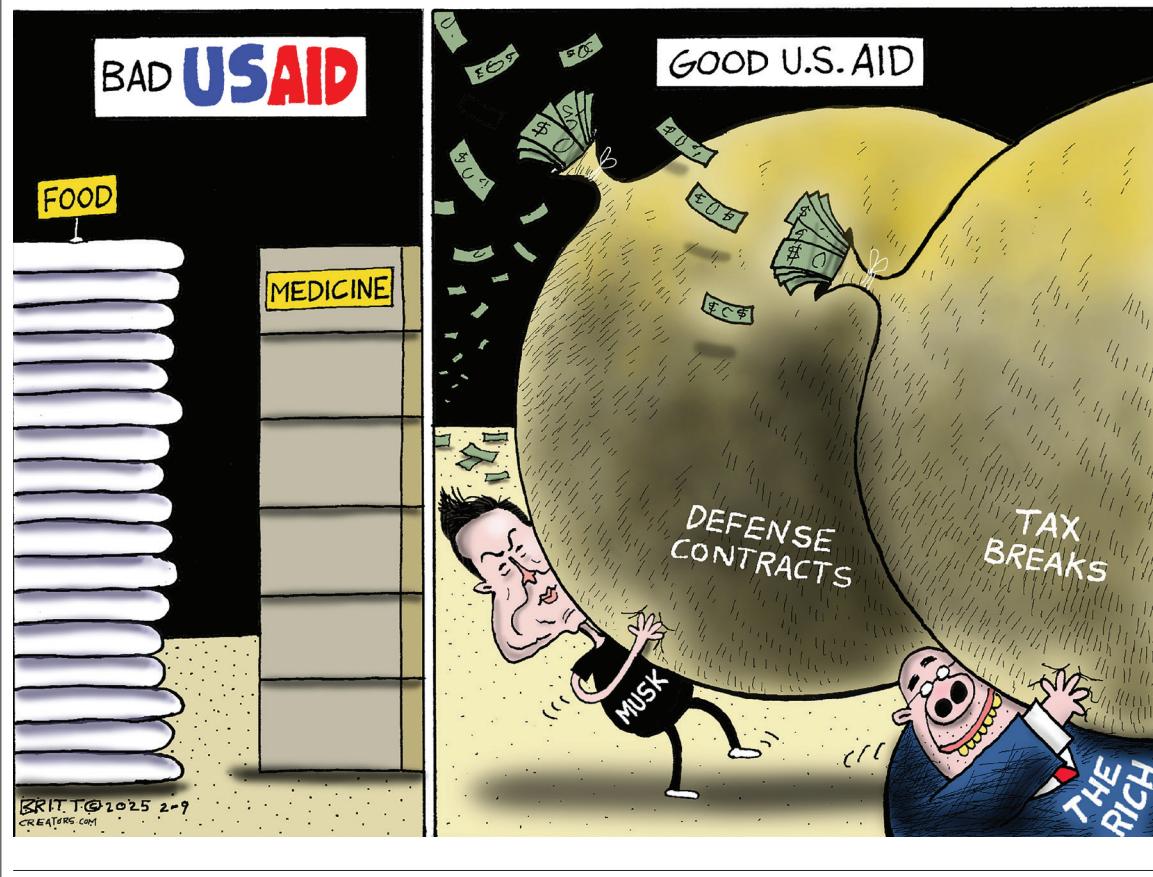
It may be time for the government and Fauci to refer to a higher power: the Bible. The Gospel of John says the truth shall set you free. If they can come to an agreement — perhaps immunity in exchange for his honest testimony — that deal would go a long way to answering crucial questions about the true source of COVID-19.

Fauci should tell us why he has gradually softened his stance against growing evidence that the origin of COVID-19 was a lab leak. He must describe why, early on, he disparaged those scientists who advanced the lab leak theory. Also essential would be a simple, understandable explanation to the lay public of gain-of-function research, the role of EcoHealth and the possibility that a lab-engineered virus — perhaps created at U.S. taxpayer expense — was responsible for the deaths of millions of people during the first half of this decade.

Consistent with the biblical theme, the Book of Proverbs says: "He who covers his sins will not prosper. But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." According to Jim Acosta, then with CNN, upon hearing of the preemptive pardon, Fauci said: "I have done nothing wrong. Certainly nothing criminal. No grounds at all." The public would be well served by some clarification of these three slightly different assertions.

If the government gives him an assurance he will not be prosecuted, Fauci should come clean to the American people. Confession is good for the soul. So is simple honesty.

MY VIEW | CHRIS BRITT



ANOTHER VIEW | JAMES STAVRIDIS

Can Iron Dome do what SDI couldn't?



Stavridis

President Donald Trump's surprise announcement that the U.S. would pursue an Iron Dome-like national missile defense system has taken a page from Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" initiative of decades ago.

Like Reagan's never-fulfilled plan for a system to "intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil

or that of our allies," Trump's vision for "The Iron Dome for America" is both sweeping and challenging.

It will face the same kinds of obstacles that confronted Reagan, who speculated in 1983 that it "may not be accomplished before the end of this century."

Nonetheless, given the threats and opportunities created by revolutionary advances in technology and a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, the U.S. has no alternative but to embrace what is rapidly becoming an existential challenge. How can that be done?

The idea of an "Iron Dome" is designed to echo the highly effective Israeli-U.S. missile defense system that has defended the Israeli population for years. But Trump's executive order tasks the Department of Defense with creating something vastly more complex than the current Israeli Iron Dome.

The new system will use a system-of-systems approach to stymie enemy ballistic missiles alongside defeating both hypersonic and cruise missiles. As with the Reagan system 40 years ago, it would emphasize a space-based system both for sensors (which already exist) and actual interceptors.

From a threat perspective, the timing is certainly right. Both China and Russia are building highly dangerous, destabilizing and deadly hypersonic cruise missiles for either conventional or nuclear strikes, traveling at many times the speed of sound, far faster than systems today.

They also have the ability to maneuver at speed, making them almost impossible to hit with current systems. The technical challenges are breathtaking. What are the chances of success? And what new systems might contribute to a successful Iron Dome that can truly protect America?

I know the world of air defense very well. Throughout my long Navy career, I served in the premier anti-air warfare warships in the world, the cruisers and destroyers equipped with the vaunted AEGIS air defense system ("shield" in Greek).

What I learned is how difficult it is to design, build, train, and operate even a single air defense system on a dedicated ship with hundreds of hand-picked crewmembers in the relatively simple tactical environment of being at sea — with no surrounding civilian communities, infrastructure or collateral damage targets to consider.

Far later in my career, when I was the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, I was involved in overseeing U.S.-Israeli military-to-military cooperation. I watched the Israelis, among the best in the world at air defense, struggle to operate a multi-layered complex system with vulnerable civilian populations in and around their major cities.

In addition to their Iron Dome, they had to integrate longer-range systems (David's

Sling and Arrow) as well as react to satellite intelligence (much of it supplied by the U.S.).

So I have a healthy respect for what the Department of Defense and the prime defense contractors must take on to create an effective system to protect the entire United States from such a wide range of threats.

Three elements will be crucial to the success of a new Iron Dome.

First will be the ability to have space-based sensors and interceptors. Without the true "God's Eye" view of the entire air, sea, and land space below, effective defenses will be impossible.

As with Reagan's plan, such space-based systems will be challenged from an arms-control standpoint; other nations will rightly see them as destabilizing and escalatory. The space-based sensors are already largely in place. The real challenge, as was the case for "Star Wars," will be basing effective interceptors in space.

A second crucial element will be artificial intelligence — the ability to use AI to knit together the space sensors and interceptors with land-based air defense systems (AEGIS ashore, Ground-Based Interceptors, and other current technologies).

Given the rapid advances in AI, this will probably be a reasonably good bet for success.

The third element that ultimately may be the most difficult to design, build and implement will be a new method of destroying incoming missiles: lasers.

The air defense community has pursued this chimera for decades. The frustration for air defenders is often having not enough defensive missiles — witness the U.S. Navy's challenges in fighting relatively primitive Houthi missiles and drones off the coast of the Red Sea.

The promise of lasers is simple: High-powered beams of light are the means of destroying the enemy's systems. You never run out of missiles and your system moves at the speed of light, far faster than a conventional defensive missile. But the technical challenges remain very high, despite some recent Navy success with the HELIOS system.

Lasers feel like they are the air defense weapon of the future ... forever. This will be the most challenging of the three elements of the system and seems to be the furthest away. But a truly effective Iron Dome system is hard to imagine without a laser component, given the high-speed nature and possibilities of being overwhelmed and running out of conventional air defense missiles.

All of this will cost a huge amount of money. The DoD's Missile Defense Agency will be in charge of responding to the president's executive order. They have been directed to provide a comprehensive architecture within 60 days — which is really the speed of light in U.S. defense contracting terms.

On Feb. 18 the first Iron Dome "Industry Day" will bring together defense firms to begin what will assuredly be a deeply challenging process.

The cost — certainly in the range of tens of billions of dollars annually — has the potential to crowd out other important defense spending. But that price tag must be weighed against the cost of the potential loss of American lives and treasure that an effective missile shield for the United States could prevent.

James Stavridis is a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Letters to the Editor policy

Letters should be original and no longer than 250 words. Letters must include the author's name, street address or telephone number for verification. The newspaper does not share that information with third parties. Only the name and city of residence are published. One submission can print per month. All submissions are subject to editing for length, spelling, grammar and clarity. Send submissions to letters@tdn.com or The Daily News, PO Box 1666, Longview, WA 98632.

NATION & WORLD

DIGEST

Senator seeks watchdog inquiry into FBI pick Patel

WASHINGTON — A top Democratic senator asked the Justice Department's inspector general to investigate after he says he received information that President Donald Trump's pick to lead the FBI, Kash Patel, was "personally directing the ongoing purge" of agents at the bureau.

The letter Tuesday from Sen. Dick Durbin, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asserts that Patel may have misled the panel at his confirmation hearing last month when he said in response to a question he was not aware of any plans inside the FBI to punish or fire agents.

The hearing took place just hours before news broke that a group of senior FBI executives were told either to resign or be fired, and one day before it was revealed that the Justice Department demanded a list of thousands of agents who worked on investigations related to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, a move some bureau employees fear could be a precursor to more expansive firings.

Judge orders restoration of med webpages, data

WASHINGTON — U.S. District Judge John Bates in Washington on Tuesday ordered government agencies to restore public access to health-related webpages and data they removed to comply with an executive order by President Donald Trump.

Bates agreed to issue a temporary restraining order requested by the Doctors for America advocacy group on behalf of its members. The judge told the government to restore access to several webpages and data the group identified as missing from websites and to identify others that also were taken down "without adequate notice or reasoned explanation."

Trump signed an order to use the term "sex" and not "gender" in federal policies and documents. The Office of Personnel Management then required agency heads to eliminate programs and websites that promote "gender ideology."

BRIEFLY

NATO: U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday will be the first member of the new Trump administration to visit NATO, where the allies are keen to understand how America now plans to influence the war in Ukraine.

BANNON: Longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon pleaded guilty Tuesday in state court in Manhattan to defrauding donors a private effort to build a wall on the U.S. southern border. He was spared jail time under the plea deal.

EU: U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum "will not go unanswered," European Union President Ursula von der Leyen vowed Tuesday, saying they will trigger tough countermeasures from the 27-nation bloc.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Christian and Jewish groups representing millions of Americans filed a federal court lawsuit Tuesday in Washington challenging a Trump administration move that gives immigration agents more leeway to make arrests at houses of worship, which they say infringes on religious freedom.

TEACHER RELEASED: Marc Fogel, an American teacher deemed wrongfully detained and serving a 14-year prison sentence in Russia, was released Tuesday.

FEMA: Four Federal Emergency Management Agency employees were fired Tuesday over payments to reimburse New York City for hotel costs for migrants, said Department of Homeland Security officials, who gave no details on how the four violated policies.

— Associated Press

PODCAST: Snap this code, then tap the link to hear our latest daily news podcast "Hot Off the Wire."

MIDDLE EAST

Trump restates intention

Jordan's king says he opposes displacing Palestinians in Gaza

ZEKE MILLER, CHRIS MEGERIAN AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump hosted Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday and renewed his insistence that Gaza could somehow be emptied of all residents, controlled by the U.S. and redeveloped as a tourist area.

It's an audacious, but highly unlikely, scheme to dramatically remake the Middle East and would require Jordan and other Arab nations to accept more refugees

from Gaza — something Abdullah reiterated after their meeting that he opposes.

The pair met in the Oval Office along with Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The president suggested he wouldn't withhold U.S. aid to Jordan or Egypt if they don't agree to dramatically increase the number of people from Gaza they take in.

"I don't have to threaten that. I do believe we're above that," Trump said. That contradicted the Republican president previously suggesting that holding back aid from Washington was a possibility.

Abdullah was asked repeatedly about Trump's plan to clear out Gaza and overhaul it as a resort on the Mediterranean Sea — but

didn't make substantive comments on it while also not committing to the idea that his country could accept large numbers of new refugees from Gaza.

He did say, however, that Jordan would be willing "right away" to take as many as 2,000 children in Gaza who are suffering from cancer or otherwise ill.

Abdullah left the White House after about two hours and was headed to Capitol Hill to meet with a bipartisan group of lawmakers.

He posted on social media that during his meeting with Trump, "I reiterated Jordan's steadfast position against the displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank."

Trump used his appearance

with Abdullah to repeat suggestions that the U.S. could come to control Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened Tuesday to withdraw from the ceasefire in Gaza and directed troops to prepare to resume fighting Hamas if the militant group does not release more hostages Saturday.

Hamas said Monday — and reiterated Tuesday — that it planned to delay the release of three more hostages after accusing Israel of failing to meet the terms of the ceasefire, including by not allowing an agreed-upon number of tents and other aid into Gaza.

Trump predicted Hamas would not release all the remaining hostages as he demanded Monday.

US ECONOMY



JACQUELYN MARTIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks Tuesday to the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Fed chair says bank accounts 'safe'

Trump's dismantling of consumer protection agency prompts worry

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans' bank accounts are safe despite the Trump administration's shutdown of a consumer financial regulatory agency, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday.

Powell, testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, said "bank accounts overall across the economy are safe" and backed by government deposit insurance.

Powell's comments followed par-

tisan comments from Republican and Democratic senators regarding the Trump administration's order over the weekend for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to end all of its supervisory and rulemaking work.

Massachusetts Democrat Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who pushed for creation of the CFPB in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and recession, said, "I'd be really worried about doing business with a giant bank when there's no cop on the beat."

Powell, meanwhile, received little scrutiny from senators about the Fed's interest-rate policy, which contributed to higher borrowing costs but is credited for

helping bring down inflation.

While several senators flagged the spike in inflation that followed the pandemic, Powell faced little questioning about when the Fed believes it could return inflation — now at 2.6%, according to the Fed's preferred measure — to its 2% target.

Sen. John Kennedy, a Republican from Louisiana, praised Powell and the Fed for bringing down inflation from a 7.2% peak in June 2022. Kennedy noted that many economists forecast the Fed's steep rate hikes in 2022 and 2023 would cause a recession. Instead, the economy continued to expand.

Powell largely sought to avoid responding when asked about

the potential impact of additional tariffs, which President Donald Trump proposed, on inflation and the Fed's key rate, which is currently at about 4.3%, down from a two-decade high of 5.3% last year.

Powell instead underscored his previous comments that with the economy generally healthy, the Fed can afford to wait and see how the economy evolves and whether tariffs affect growth and inflation before making any further rate cuts. The Fed cut its key rate three times last year, but left it unchanged last month..

"We do not need to be in a hurry to adjust our policy stance," Powell said in the first of two days of testimony on Capitol Hill.

Lawsuit: Administration owes businesses millions

Shutdown of USAID leaves US companies holding unpaid bills

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration's dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development is stifling American businesses on hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid bills for work that was already done, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

The administration's abrupt freeze on foreign aid also forced mass layoffs by U.S. suppliers and contractors for USAID, including 750 furloughs at one company, Washington-based Chemonics International, the lawsuit says.

"One cannot overstate the impact of that unlawful course of conduct: on businesses large and small forced to shut down their programs and let employees go; on hungry children across the globe who will go without; on populations around the world facing deadly disease; and on our constitutional order," the U.S. businesses and organizations said.

It was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington against President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, acting USAID Deputy Administrator Peter Marocco, a Trump appointee who has been a central figure in hollowing out the agency, and Russell Vought, Trump's head of the Office of Management and Budget.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas in Manhattan issued an order to continue a ban prior to a hearing Friday. The ban was put in place last week by another federal New York jurist in response to a lawsuit that 19 Democratic attorneys

Judge permits DOGE Treasury ban to stand

Musk team prohibited from financial records until Friday hearing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A federal judge made some tweaks Tuesday but left a ban intact for now to prevent Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency from accessing Treasury Department records containing sensitive data for millions of Americans.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas in Manhattan issued an order to continue a ban prior to a hearing Friday. The ban was put in place last week by another federal New York jurist in response to a lawsuit that 19 Democratic attorneys

general brought against President Donald Trump.

Justice Department attorneys told Vargas in a filing Sunday that the ban needed to be reversed.

Vargas made changes to the ban to clarify its reach. For instance, she said Treasury Department officers nominated by Trump and confirmed by the Senate can access the records, making it clear that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is not subject to the ban.

The lawsuit contended that Musk's 'DOGE' team was composed of "political appointees" who should not have access to Treasury records handled by "civil servants" specially trained in protecting such sensitive information as Social Security and bank account numbers.

2 Talley Way businesses sold

NICK MORGAN
nmorgan@tdn.com

A Kelso sand and gravel business going back more than half a century and a related metal fabrication business serving the rock crushing industry were bought by one of Southwest Washington's largest excavation and construction companies.

Rotschy Inc. is the new owner of J.L. Storedahl & Sons, Inc. and Nor-Tech Fabrication, LLC on Talley Way, according to a press release issued Monday by the Vancouver based contractor and excavation company.

Last month, Rotschy was the low bidder awarded a \$44 million Port of Longview railroad expansion contract, despite local union leaders highlighting a Washington State Department of Labor and Industries investigation into child labor and worker safety violations that stemmed from a 16-year-old boy losing his legs while working a job in La Center. The teen was

operating a walk-behind trencher in June 2023 when he was dragged underneath, according to a release issued by L&I last year.

No name or leadership changes are expected after the recent ownership change. Rotschy states in the release that it "deeply respects the legacy and reputation" of the two recently purchased businesses.

"To honor that, both companies will continue to operate independently, maintaining their respective management structures, employees and business practices," Rotschy stated in the release.

The businesses

J.L. Storedahl & Sons' history dates back to Aug. 4, 1969, when it was incorporated as Les Darr Trucking Co. according to the Washington state Secretary of State's office corporations and charities database. It was changed to its current name in 1988 under the leadership of company presi-

dent Jerry Storedahl.

The company has five operating quarries, one sand and gravel pit and two sand pits, according to a detailed case study written by rock crushing equipment manufacturer Astec that was linked on the J.L. Storedahl & Sons website. It states that the company and is operated by brothers Kevin and Kimball Storedahl, and eight of their children.

Nor-Tech Fabricating, LLC was incorporated in 2006 and currently lists Jerry, Kevin and Kimball Storedahl as governors at the company, according to the Washington state Secretary of State's office database.

The company describes itself as a custom fabrication, machining, industrial sandblast and painting shop that specializes in the rock crushing industry by manufacturing feeders, hoppers, conveyors, wash plants and portable crusher plants.

It also has a transportation

division that makes dump boxes, trailers and applies Mitsubishi Chemical Group's QuickSilver polyethylene coating to dump box liners.

Rotschy spokesman Nick Massie said in quotes attributed to him in the release that the companies will continue to support the regional construction and materials industries, and that its pricing will remain competitive.

"We want to assure customers, suppliers and partners that pricing structures will remain consistent with market trends, and competition in the industry remains robust," Massie said. He declined to comment beyond what was in the press release.

According to the company's website it was founded by Cecil Rotschy in 1988 as a small excavation business helping build forest roads in southern Washington. Since then, it's gone on to build complex projects such as public roads, highways, bridges, reservoirs, water treatment plants, fish hatcheries and railroad projects.

Trump administration, Democratic AGs launch battle: Funding freeze heads to appeals court

JENNIFER SHUTT
WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

WASHINGTON — The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday declined to block a lower court's order that requires the Trump administration to unfreeze funding for grants and loans.

The two-page ruling follows the U.S. Justice Department asking the appeals court to halt a temporary restraining order from Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr. of the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island.

"We are confident the District Court will act with dispatch to provide any clarification needed with respect to, among other things, the defendants' contention that the February 10 Order 'bars both the President and much of the Federal Government from exercising their own lawful authorities to withhold funding without the prior approval of the district court,'" the appeals court wrote.

OMB memo

The case began in late January when the Office of Management and Budget released a two-page memo instructing departments and agencies across the federal government to halt funding on trillions of dollars in grants and loans.

The memo quickly became the subject of two separate lawsuits.

This case, *State of New York v. Trump*, was filed by Democratic attorneys general from New York, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

McConnell issued a tem-

porary restraining order in late January, blocking the Trump administration from implementing the funding freeze envisioned in the OMB memo, even though OMB had rescinded the memo after the judge in the other case issued an administrative stay.

One week later, on Feb. 7, the Democratic attorneys general filed an emergency request with McConnell, alleging the Trump administration wasn't following along with his ruling and asking the district court to enforce the temporary restraining order.

McConnell issued a ruling Monday, requiring the Trump administration to unfreeze all of the grant and loan funding that would have been halted by OMB's original two-page memo.

McConnell also wrote the Trump administration must "restore withheld funds" connected to the bipartisan infrastructure law and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the climate change, health care and tax package that Democrats passed when they held unified control of government.

President Donald Trump called for funding from those two laws to be halted in his executive order on "Unleashing American Energy."

The Department of Justice appealed the district court's rulings to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, located in Boston, Massachusetts.

DOJ denied

The appeals court released its ruling on Tuesday, denying the Justice Department's motion for an administrative stay "without prejudice."

The appeals court wrote that "parties may file any further memoranda in support of their positions on the motion for a stay

pending appeal in this court by" 5 p.m. Eastern on Thursday.

The Justice Department wrote in its request for an administrative stay to the circuit court that the "district court's order represents an extraordinary usurpation of the President's Executive Power."

"At a minimum, this Court should clarify that the district court's order is unlawful to the extent that it (a) extends beyond the since-rescinded OMB guidance, (b) prevents agencies from exercising whatever authority they possess under their organic statutes and regulations to delay or freeze funding, and (c) prevents the President from exercising the discretion that is committed to him under Article II of the Constitution," the Justice Department wrote.

The Democratic attorneys general responded in a 17-page brief to the circuit court that the DOJ's assertion the temporary restraining order "intrudes deeply into the prerogatives of the Executive Branch ... is badly flawed."

"The 'rule of law' id., does not permit federal agencies to impose blanket freezes of funds on policy grounds without regard to whether they have any authority to do so under the applicable statutes and grant terms and where, indeed, Congress has required those funds to be spent, as the district court correctly explained."

Emergency motion

The Justice Department filed a five-page emergency motion with the district court following the appeals court's decision, asking for a ruling before 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

DOJ lawyers wrote they wanted the district court to "address the court of appeals' expectation that 'the District Court will act with dispatch to provide any clarification needed with respect to, among other things, the defendants' contention that the February 10 Order 'bars both the President and much of the Federal Government from exercising their own lawful authorities to withhold funding without the prior approval of the district court."

DOJ also asked the district court to clarify if the Trump administration can "permissibly withhold certain FEMA funding."

"In short, FEMA seeks to withhold Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding based on concerns regarding the program," DOJ wrote.

That program "funds nonfederal entities providing food, shelter, transportation, and supportive services to noncitizen migrants released from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) custody," according to a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

Congress approved \$650 million for the program in the last full-year spending bill for the Department of Homeland Security, in order to alleviate "overcrowding in [CBP] short-term holding facilities."

Washington State Standard is part of States Newsroom, a non-profit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)3 public charity. *Washington State Standard* maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Bill Lucia for questions: info@washingtystatestandard.com.

ALEX BRANDON, AP

President Donald Trump speaks with reporters as he signs executive orders in the Oval Office at the White House, Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, in Washington.



PERSONAL FINANCE | ADVICE



SPLIT DECISIONS

How divorce can affect your home's mortgage

LIBBY WELLS | Bankrate.com

One of the biggest decisions divorcing couples face is what to do with their shared home. It's often an emotional decision — and if the home has an outstanding mortgage, the situation gets extra complicated.

Depending on the details of your mortgage, the circumstances of your divorce and other variables, you may have limited options for splitting your house. Here are some of the possible next steps:

1 Sell your home

The easiest option is often to sell the home and split the profits. Depending on where you are in the divorce process, you might agree to sell the home while the case is still pending rather than after it's settled.

If you go this route — and many couples do — consider the costs. These might include the Realtor's commission, the costs of repairs or staging, property transfer taxes and capital gains taxes. These expenses typically come out of the proceeds of the sale.

2 Refinance your mortgage

Some divorcing couples with a joint mortgage refinance to a new mortgage in only one person's name. This releases the other person from responsibility for the mortgage. That person must also be removed from the house title, which you can do with a quitclaim deed.

Keep in mind: The party applying for the refinance can use only their own income and credit score to qualify, says Jeremy Runnels, CFP, of West Coast Financial in San Diego, California.

"The lender is going to look at the individual and make sure they're OK having them as the sole guarantor," Runnels says.

If the borrower will receive spousal support, they can use that income to qualify for a refinance as long as the divorce settlement stipulates that they will receive the support for at least three years, Runnels says.

3 Pay your ex for their share of equity

If you've built a substantial amount of equity in the home, the person keeping the house could apply for a cash-out refinance to buy out their ex-partner's share. The party keeping the home will still need to qualify for the refinance — and cash-out refinance rates may be higher

than the rate on the original mortgage.

"Their income needs to be high enough to handle the new mortgage on their own, and the home must have the equity in it to take the cash out," says Michael Becker, loan originator at Sierra Pacific Mortgage in Columbia, Maryland.

If you want to keep the house and don't have enough equity, the solution might be a home equity line of credit or home-equity loan.

4 Explore other mortgage options

It is possible to keep the mortgage as-is, but this approach can have drawbacks. Both individuals on the loan are still legally liable for mortgage payments, and if one person doesn't pay, the other will be impacted. A divorce agreement should specify who is responsible for payments, but there's a risk that one party may not follow such an agreement.

A mortgage assumption is another potential, but less common, approach. In an assumption, one mortgage holder transfers the loan to another person, who then pays the remaining balance at the mortgage's existing loan terms and interest rate. Many mortgages don't allow for assumptions, but it's worth checking with your servicer.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Before choosing a course of action, consider the long-term impact on your finances. You may ask a financial adviser to help you weigh the pros and cons.

1 Home value and equity

Whether you plan to refinance the joint mortgage or sell the home, you'll need a professional appraisal to determine its worth — and the equity stake the parties have to split. Parties should agree on an appraiser and to accept the outcome of the valuation.

Your home's value can affect the options for your mortgage. If you don't have much equity, you'll have a more difficult time qualifying to refinance.

2 Tax implications

Whether you sell the home as part of the divorce agreement or buy out your spouse's share, capital gains taxes could come into play. This is a tax on the sale of assets when the profit exceeds a certain amount.

If you sell the home, you and your spouse might be able to deduct up to \$250,000 of gain each from your federal taxable income, but it applies only to the primary residence you've lived in for at least two of the last five years before the sale.

There are also tax considerations regarding spousal support payments. The spouse who pays spousal support can't deduct those payments from their taxable income, but the spouse receiving the support does not have to declare it as income.

3 Credit protection

The worst thing divorcing couples can do is take financial revenge.

"Many times, out of bitterness, I've seen one or both spouses ruin the credit of the other spouse," Becker says. "They decide that it's the other person's problem and refuse to pay bills on joint accounts. This can damage your credit greatly and keep you from being able to qualify for any mortgage for a long time."

Keep paying all of your bills through the divorce to protect your credit.

"Close your joint accounts and get your own accounts set up," Runnels says. "If you're arguing with your spouse over who is going to pay a bill, and you get a ding on your credit, it's going to be harder to get a loan."

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Sports

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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SECTION B

Castle Rock,
Tenino girls
take it down
to the wire in
season-ender

PAGE B2



Hard hits are
getting more
common
in women's
hockey

PAGE B4

QUEST FOR DISTRICT STARTS



Andrew Lwowski, The Daily News file

Mark Morris' Dalton Stevens (3) shoots a jumper over R.A. Long's Rhet Young (34) in the Lumberjacks Civil War win Friday, Feb. 7 in the Lumberdome. Dalton has helped lead the Monarchs to the No. 2 seed in the district tournament.

What are the odds RAL and MM face off again?

ANDREW LWOWSKI
alwowski@tdn.com

With the conclusion to the regular season on Friday, Mark Morris and R.A. Long of the 2A conference; Toutle Lake of 2B; and Wahkiakum of 1B will continue their seasons in district play.

The Lumberjacks (19-1, 13-1) and the Monarchs (19-3, 11-3) faced off for the 2A Greater St. Helens League title Friday with the Lumberjacks completing the regular season sweep and locking in the No. 1 seed ahead of districts.

Toutle Lake (4-18, 4-13) slipped into the 2B district tournament after bumping out Morton-White Pass 56-38 Friday. They lost in the

opening round to Toledo 67-49, and will face the loser of Mossyrock and Adna in the consolation bracket at Castle Rock High Friday at 6 p.m. If the Ducks lose, their season is over.

No. 2 Wahkiakum (11-9, 6-2) will host No. 3 Naselle (11-9, 5-3) Wednesday. With a win, the Mules will play the winner of No. 1 Willapa Valley and No. 4 Oakville. Should the Mules lose, they will drop into the consolation bracket and play Monday.

2A

Both R.A. Long and Mark Morris, however, may not know who they are facing until Thursday, after the Pigtail games and just two days before the District 4 2A Tournament on Saturday.

Here are the possible scenarios and the chances the two meet for a third time:

Out of the six GSHL teams, their rankings are as follows (but this does not necessarily reflect tournament seedings):

- 1) R.A. Long
 - 2) Mark Morris
 - 3) Columbia River
 - 4) Ridgefield
 - 5) Washougal
 - 6) Hockinson
- On Wednesday, Washougal (7-13, 5-9) will host Aberdeen (7-13, 3-7 Evergreen 2A) in bracket A.

On Thursday, Hockinson (6-14, 4-10) will travel to W F West (11-

Please see DISTRICT, Page B2

Is this the best Jacks' boys basketball team ever?

RAL finishes with 19-1 record in regular season play

DAN ROSENFIELD
drosenfield@tdn.com

R.A. Long boys basketball finished the season with a 19-1 overall record and a 13-1 mark in the 2A Greater St. Helens League, culminating in the league championship. The 19-1 finish is likely the Jacks' best in a 20-game regular season in program history.

"Winning a league championship on your

home court, I don't know when that's been done at R.A. Long, so, that's why we cut down this net, because that doesn't happen very often ... We were playing for a lot more than just first place; pride, some history, (it's a) good feeling," R.A. Long coach Jeray Key said with part of the cut-down net in his hand on Friday.

R.A. Long senior

Please see JACKS, Page B3



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS FILE

Joshua Crane (21) and Lumberjack teammates cheer as they take turns cutting down the net after defeating Mark Morris for the 2A GSHL title Friday, Feb. 7 in Longview. The Jacks won their first league championship since 2022.

SCORES

MONDAY

GIRLS BASKETBALL

1A Districts Play-In:

Castle Rock def. Tenino, 50-48

- Shyann Watkins – 9 points, 9 rebounds
- Ashlyn Meyers – 8 points, 9 rebounds
- Valerie Shetler – 7 points
- Dakota Davis – 9 rebounds, 4 steals
- Sophia Buchanan – 5 assists, 3 steals

Castle Rock coach Jordan Garbe: "It was a close one, but we got the win and secured a spot in the district tournament. Tenino came to play tonight, kudos to them for their hard work and making it to this point in the season."

Tonight was an all around team win. Every girl that stepped on the floor scored and rebounded. Our leading scorer was Shyann Watkins. She had some huge rebound put backs that helped her lead the team on the scoring end. Ashlyn Meyers had 8 points and they all came in the fourth quarter. Her last bucket was an awesome offensive rebound put back, over some great defense, that helped us take the lead back from Tenino with only seconds left in the game. Ellie Foster also helped us bring a spark off of the bench on both the defensive and offensive ends. She had some nice drives to the hoop and I look for more of those shots to fall for her as she continues to improve.

This is the second year in a row that our program has made the district tournament. It's amazing for our team and the community. We really appreciate how so many people came out to support us tonight and we look forward to competing to our best ability in the district tournament."

Regular Season:

Corbett def. Rainier, 53-42

- Lilli Dean 11 points, 10 rebounds
- Cordi Biddix 10 points, 4 assists
- Taylor Johns – 10 rebounds
- Miley Cook – 10 rebounds
- Miranda Guinto – 3 steals

TUESDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL

Neah-Kah-Nie def. Rainier, 70-26

Knappa def. Clatskanie, 66-47

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Adna def. Toutle Lake, 48-29

Knappa def. Clatskanie, 41-27

Neah-Kah-Nie def. Rainier, 45-33

BOYS WRESTLING

District 4 2A Tournament

MARK MORRIS

- Charlie Jones (120)
- Axton Flemens (150)
- Kenneth Mullen (190)
- Camren Lair (190)

R.A. LONG

- Adam Silvia (120)
- Richard Ramirez (150)

WOODLAND

- Roberto Clayton (132)
- Jake Sams (144)
- Nathan Karchesky (175)

DISTRICTS

from B1

10, 7-3 Evergreen 2A) in bracket B.

If both GSHL teams win the Pigtail games, Hockinson, the sixth and lowest seed of the GSHL teams, will be reseeded to face R.A. Long. Washougal would then face Mark Morris.

The only teams Mark Morris can play in the opening round of the district tournament is W F West, Aberdeen or Washougal, says Monarchs coach Ken Kelly, as it assures the top-seed has the

Castle Rock ends Tenino's season in nail-biter

DYLAN WILHELM
The Reflector

CASTLE ROCK — With one second remaining on the clock in a 1A District 4 Tournament Pigtail Game, Tenino trailed Castle Rock by two.

Tenino coach Kirs Gofinch called a timeout, hoping to draw up a play that the Beavers could execute to force overtime and extend their season. They had a chance just seconds earlier down one, but a turnover forced them to foul, and the Rockets added a point at the free-throw line.

The ball was inbounded from just behind the half-court line, flipped ahead just inside the three-point line at the wing. The shot would have had to be quick, precise, and over the hand of an out-stretched defender, but the chance itself was there.

Instead, the ball slipped away, allowing the clock to run out on not just the game, but Tenino's season as well.

Final score: Castle Rock 50, Tenino 48.

"It's tough, especially when it comes down to the wire like that," Gofinch said after the game with a faint voice and tears welling in her eyes. "They got a taste, and they really wanted this one ... We always go around and find something positive (after the

game), but they were pretty quiet today."

Gofinch said that the final play is one they would like to have back, but like any coach or player after a close loss, she kept replaying multiple other plays throughout the game that could have ended up making a difference.

Missed free throws, turnovers, fouls, Castle Rock offensive rebounds; any one play or sequence of events that could have changed the final outcome.

"I tell them all the time, I've still got games from high school that haunt me," Gofinch said. "There's all those little plays that add up in the end."

Those will be the plays that stick in the Beavers' mind for the coming days and weeks, but they also made several plays to be in that position in the final seconds.

After giving up five points in the first 25 seconds of the game, Brianna Asay scored six straight points to settle things down. She added four more points in the second, including two free throws after a hard foul in the final seconds of the first half, to give Tenino a 25-24 lead at halftime.

With around five minutes left in the game, the Beavers trailed 45-39. They held Castle Rock scoreless over the next three minutes to get back



DYLAN WILHELM, THE REFLECTOR

Tenino's Brianna Asay puts up a floater with her right during Tenino's 50-48 loss at Castle Rock in a 1A District 4 Tournament Pigtail Game on Feb. 11.

within two, and just 10 seconds after the Rockets hit a bucket to push their lead back to four, Georgia Gore drilled a three to make it a one-point game.

Less than a minute later, with 22 seconds remaining, Keira Laughlin hit a layup to give them a 48-47 lead.

"They stuck it out," Gofinch said. "We're really proud of them ... They never give up. They are playing hard till the final buzzer. We're here to get better, and we're here to never give up. And that's what they do."

Castle Rock's Ashlyn Meyers gave the Rockets the lead by banking in a layup with just over nine seconds remaining, leading to the final two Tenino possessions.

Asay finished with a game-high 12 points, while Kylie Gonia scored eight. Kylie Gonia and Chloe Grayless scored seven apiece, while Laughlin and Charley

Jones both added six. Holly Thoren rounded out the Tenino side of the scorebook with two.

Gofinch became even more emotional when talking about her three seniors: Brynn Williams, Asay, and Thoren. While it's Gofinch's first year as the varsity coach at Tenino, she coached those three when they were seventh-graders.

"I got a soft spot for them," Gofinch said. "It just breaks my heart. I wanted to get a little deeper in the tournament. I wanted that for them. They're a really special group."

Gofinch said that she wants to make sure that group holds their heads up high for setting the foundation. After all, Tenino won as many games this season as it had the past two seasons combined, and it reached the district tournament for the first time since 2022.



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS FILE

Lumberjacks' Payton Hill (1) goes up for a contested layup during R.A. Long's Civil War victory at Mark Morris on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Hill's long range shooting has added dimensions to R.A. Long's offense as its reached district play.

times," so he is well aware of the competition.

"At the end of the day, it's going to come down to us doing what we do and playing our style of basketball," Key said.

One point of emphasis is maintaining mental stability as the Jacks are coming off an emotional win for the league title over the Monarchs.

"We're not satisfied yet with winning the league title," Key added. "There's a lot more work to be done and we're approaching it one day at a time."

Odds of a third Civil War

Should R.A. Long win Saturday, the team would face the winner of Tumwater and Columbia River Tuesday, Feb. 18. Should Mark Morris win Saturday, the team will face the winner of Ridgefield and Black Hills.

The Monarchs split the season series with Ridgefield and defeated Black Hills in December.

The Lumberjacks split the season series with Columbia River and have not faced Tumwater.

The two teams to advance from those pairing would play for the district title and both teams would advance to state.

NFL eyes rule changes during offseason

JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The NFL offseason won't last long.

By the time the Philadelphia Eagles complete their Super Bowl victory parade on Friday, it will be less than two weeks until the scouting combine kicks off in Indianapolis.

Free agency follows on March 10 with the two-day negotiating period. The annual league meeting starts on March 30.

The seven teams with new head coaches may open offseason workout programs on April 7 and the remaining 25 teams can follow two weeks later.

Then, it's time for the NFL draft on April 24 in Green Bay, where Miami quarterback Cam Ward is the bettors' pick to be the No. 1 overall pick.

Eventually, it will be back to the Super Bowl, and BetMGM Sportsbook says the Eagles are favored to repeat as champions.

They are followed by the Baltimore Ravens, Buffalo Bills and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Some of the league's offseason priorities include player health and safety and conversations about potential new rules, including reviewing kickoffs following a one-year experiment with dynamic changes.

Player safety

"We're going to talk about moving players to better-performing helmets. That's a big one," NFL executive Jeff Miller told The Associated Press.

In 2024, players suffered the fewest concussions in a season since the league began tracking data nine years ago, according to the NFL. The total decline from 2023 was 17%, including all practices and games in both the preseason and regular season.

Miller, the league's executive vice president overseeing player health and safety, and NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills have

cited several reasons for the drop-off, including safer equipment, enforcement of safety rules and broader efforts to foster a culture of safety regarding concussions.

"It's not the end of the story. There are still opportunities to decrease those," Miller said, pointing out the desire to have more players choose position-specific helmets designed to reduce the impact of hits. "But also we need to enforce some of the rules around head contact, which our friends on the officiating side are doing a better and better job of, and eliminating more unnecessary or avoidable head contact is going to make players safer."

Miller said the league will continue to work on ways to decrease lower-extremity injuries. They're researching playing surfaces and working with Nike on cleat design to prevent injuries.

Player safety

The league and its competition committee also will review kickoffs

and decide whether to tweak the rules.

"It's really going to be the headline for us in the offseason, how'd we do and what changes need to be made?" Miller said. "The story in Year 1 was a good one, 332 more returns than a year ago and a lower injury rate."

Replay Review

Replay assist will be a major topic, too. NFL executive Troy Vincent said in December that expanding replay assist to include facemask penalties and other plays is going to be considered.

Current rules only allowed replay assist to help officials pick up a flag incorrectly thrown on the field, or in assisting proper enforcement of a foul called on the field.

Hits on a defenseless player, tripping, the fair catch, an illegal batted ball, an illegal double-team block, illegal formations on kickoffs and taunting are other areas that warrant consideration for replay assist.

JACKS from B1

TraMayne Jenkins believes this could be the greatest R.A. Long boys basketball team of all time. The record certainly shows that, but Key knows nothing is certain until you can prove it in the playoffs.

"There's still a lot of season left for that to be decided, so we'll see here down the road in the next few weeks what type of team we're gonna be," Key said.

What makes this team so special?

For starters, although they don't have a dominant scorer like Cavin Holden, they have so many different players that they can rely on on any given night.

The Jacks have multiple guys that can score in double-figures such as Rhet Young, Joshua Crane, Landon Irwin, Cameron Newsome, Payton Thill, TraMayne Jenkins and Jeffrey Rookridge. Most of those guys have led the team in scoring in different games this season and rarely anyone scores over 20 points as they share the ball well.

On Friday against Mark Morris, with the game tied at 50-50, Thill hit a 3-pointer to put the Jacks up for good with 1:55 left in the fourth quarter.

"Biggest shot of the game," Key said. "He's an unsung hero ... That was something he'll never forget."

Newsome and Jeffrey Rookridge each



DAN ROSENFIELD, THE DAILY NEWS FILE

Joshua Crane (21) and Lumberjack teammates cheer as they take turns cutting down the net after defeating Mark Morris for the 2A GSHL title Friday, Feb. 7 in Longview. The Jacks won their first league championship since 2022.

knocked down big 3-pointers of their own at the buzzer at the end of the first and third quarters, respectively.

In the Jacks' previous matchup against the Monarchs on Jan. 15, Irwin hit five 3-pointers while Young led the squad with 18 points.

"We have a deep bench and you don't know who's night it's gonna be," Jenkins said. "It (could) be Cam, it could be me, it could be Payton, you don't know."

With the league title in hand, R.A. Long only met one of its goals and this team craves more, such as winning their third district championship in the past four seasons and claiming hardware at state for the third time since 1953.

"We're o-o now," Jenkins said. "We

just checked one box, we gotta go check two more, that's (the) district championship, then state, so we're just taking it game by game, and we're doing what we do."

First, they have to win two games in the district tournament to claim an automatic bid to the state tournament, where the path to a state championship will begin.

"You gotta go win two before you lose two," Key said. "I mean, it's as simple as that."

Districts: R.A. Long vs TBD

When: TBD, Saturday

Where: The Lumberdome

Overall record: 19-1

League record: 13-1

Owner: 49ers will 'do everything' to keep QB

JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — San Francisco 49ers owner Jed York said the team remains committed to keeping quarterback Brock Purdy as the two sides enter an offseason with the intention of signing a long-term contract.

York said he recently saw Purdy's agent, Kyle Strongin, and remains hopeful a deal can be reached.

"I know we want Brock to be here for a long time and we'll do everything we can to make that work," York said Monday.

York spoke briefly after a ceremony passing on the responsibility of hosting a

Super Bowl from New Orleans to the San Francisco Bay area. The game is returning to the Niners' home at Levi's Stadium for the second time after the team previously hosted the Super Bowl in February 2016.

After three seasons with long playoff runs, including an overtime loss in last year's Super Bowl to Kansas City, the 49ers had a disappointing season in 2024 with a slew of injuries and poor play leading to a 6-11 record.

But with a core in place featuring Purdy and stars like Christian McCaffrey, George Kittle, Trent Williams, Nick Bosa and Fred Warner,

the Niners believe they have the talent to compete for the chance to play the Super Bowl at home next season.

York is confident that coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch will do what it takes to turn the team around.

"There's so much work before you get to that point," he said. "Obviously it started at the end of the season to get this thing ready and get this thing right and get this thing back on track. There's no one that I respect more and trust more than John Lynch and Kyle Shanahan to get us back on track."

Purdy's contract

extension is one of the main items on the offseason to-do list for San Francisco. He is nearing the end of one of the NFL's biggest bargains for the 49ers, with one year left on the rookie deal he signed as the last pick of the 2022 draft.

Purdy has made less than \$1 million a year for his first three seasons and is set to get a small raise in 2025 to about \$5.2 million under the league's proven performance escalator for making the Pro Bowl last season.

But Purdy's play has far exceeded that salary and he is now eligible to negotiate an extension for the first time and could be in line for a contract that

will pay him in excess of \$50 million a year.

After finishing fourth in MVP voting in his first full season as a starter in 2023, Purdy was far less productive this season as injuries to several key playmakers had a major impact on the Niners offense.

Purdy's passer rating dropped nearly 17 points to 96.1, he had only 20 TD passes and 12 interceptions on the season, and also came up short in several late-game scenarios when the 49ers had a chance for a comeback win.

But the belief in Purdy as an organization remains as strong as it has been.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legals

NOTICE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION

PERMIT NO: ST0501366

APPLICANT: National Products Inc.

8410 Dallas Avenue South

Seattle, WA 98108

FACILITY: National Products - Kelso - Facility

2209 Tally Way

Kelso, WA 98626

National Products Inc. has applied for a State Waste Discharge Permit in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Chapter 173-216 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

National Products Inc. proposes to discharge treated industrial wastewater. The wastewater, following treatment, must meet the requirements of Chapter 90.48 RCW and applicable regulations for a permit to be issued.

The Department of Ecology is proposing to issue the permit and is hereby issuing public notice of its intent. Interested persons are invited to submit their name, address, and comments regarding this permit to:

Gayle Garbush

Department of Ecology, Southwest Region Office, PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Email comments should be sent to swrowwpermits@ecy.wa.gov.

All respondents to this notice will receive a copy of the draft permit and fact sheet before the final permit is issued.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyada@ecy.wa.gov.

For TTY or Washington Relay Service, call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website at https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency-Accessibility for more information

2/13, 2/20 COL-WA-100684

Legals

Summons

In the Superior Court of the State of Washington for the County of Cowlitz

No. 25-2-00003-08

The State of Washington to ALL OTHER PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S OWNERSHIP OR ANY CLOUD ON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE.

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 14th day of January, 2025, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the Plaintiff MARY FRANCES MARTIN RYCHEL and MARGARET ANN MARTIN TONIN, as successor co-trustees of The Rose J. Martin Survivor's Trust, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for Plaintiffs, at her office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. COMPLAINT TO QUIET TITLE RE PROPERTY BETWEEN PARCELS 50215 AND 50207, VACANT LOTS ON DAVIDSON AVE, WOODLAND, WA 98674

Plaintiffs' Attorneys, WALSTEAD MERTSCHING P.O. Address 1549 Longview, WA 98632 Cowlitz County Washington.

1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 COL-WA-100625

CHECKING IN

JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

Boston Fleet defenseman Megan Keller gave a knowing laugh when reminded of being on the receiving end of Catherine Dubois' illegal check a month into the PWHL's second season.

The 28-year-old has delivered and taken enough hits to appreciate that she played a role by putting herself in a vulnerable position.

"That one brought me back to earth here," Keller said, noting how she was at the end of a long shift and reaching for the puck when the Montreal forward got a step ahead and shouldered her in the head.

"I definitely could have helped myself out a bit there and just fortunate to be all right," the U.S. national team player added. "But that's good to learn from, to not put myself in that position and be prepared for that next time."

Keller was unhurt and Dubois received a one-game suspension, one of four issued along with two fines by the PWHL for illegal hits so far this season, including a two-game suspension for Minnesota's Maggie Flaherty. In its inaugural season, three suspensions and two fines were issued for illegal hits.

Body checking is becoming more and more familiar at the highest level of women's pro

hockey. Checking was previously banned but players overwhelmingly demanded that it be included when the PWHL was launched 18 months ago.

"I think the women have evolved as athletes and want to play the game physically," said PWHL executive vice president of hockey operations Jayna Hefford. "That's part of hockey as they know it. And I think it's hard to avoid contact when there's players that are this big and this fast."

The key is getting players to safely adapt to a physical style many were unaccustomed to since it was not — and is still not — allowed across the younger levels of the sport.

Minnesota coach Ken Klee, a former NHL player, said it was important for players to take "ownership of protecting themselves. It's not just the ref's job to protect them."

The PWHL took two key steps entering its second season, starting with clarifying its checking rules. Hitting is allowed when both players are moving in the same direction.

Open ice hits and checks when players' backs are turned are banned.

The league also had former NHL star Ryan Getzlaf address players on the best ways to safely deliver a hit and provide tips on avoiding injuries when getting checked.

Getzlaf showed NHL and PWHL videos of illegal and legal hits,



Ottawa Charge forward Rebecca Leslie and Minnesota Frost forward Claire Butorac battle for the puck during the second period of a PWHL hockey game, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, in St. Paul, Minn.

while describing how players use their hands and arms, and turn their head and body when knowing a check might be coming. He also consulted with former players to understand how the women's game has evolved. He said he was nervous about addressing a group of elite players he considers his peers.

"They're bigger, stronger and faster than they've ever been, and I think that was part of it," Getzlaf said. "They want to make sure that the game was equivalent to the work that they were putting in."

U.S. and Canadian national team players are more accustomed to hitting because the IIHF has gradually provided referees more leeway in allowing checking when those two rival nations play. That was evident at the world championships in Utica, New York, last year, when a more

physical brand was allowed in Canada's 6-5 overtime win in the gold-medal game, and in Finland's shootout win over the Czech Republic for bronze.

The rise in physical play came after the IIHF had PWHL officials outline their checking rules with an eye on establishing a new standard for the sport potentially in time for the 2026 Winter Games. The women's pro league in Sweden first introduced checking two years ago.

Toronto forward Emma Maltais is regarded as one of the PWHL's most physical players despite her 5-foot-4 frame. It's a style she learned growing up playing in boys' leagues, and carried over at Ohio State, where the WCHA has more liberal rules toward checking.

What stands out is how Maltais has kept her game clean

with three minor penalties while tied with a league-leading 32 hits heading into the second half of the season.

"I don't know if it's because of my smaller stature and don't really use my hands, or because I've got a lower center of gravity to follow through on hits, but I feel like it's a big advantage when I'm playing physical," Maltais said.

"The cool thing about hitting is if you finish a hit, that player feels that hit not only in the moment, but the next time you forecheck them," she added. "And I think it's something that gets the girls going."

The hope among PWHL officials is introducing hitting at the pre-college level to help girls begin adapting.

"I think it's an important piece that we start some of the education around it sooner," New York

Sirens coach Greg Fargo said after spending 12 seasons coaching at Colgate. "It was really interesting when the PWHL became widely known to be a very physical league and to witness that as a fan. I think some of that naturally trickled down to the college ranks where they started a little bit more to color outside the lines."

As Sirens coach, Fargo has appreciated how important hitting is at the PWHL level.

"It's not just about being physical and finishing checks, but being physical is a real pathway to creating more space and more room offensively," he added. "My guess is the physicality is only going to ramp up as we get into the second half of the season and the playoffs."

Vonn 'disappointed' with Shiffrin passing on team-up

Legendary U.S. skier says that pairing would have been another 'Dream Team'

ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria — They are the two best skiers in U.S. history. Actually in women's skiing overall. So it should come as no surprise that having Lindsey Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin on the same team at times creates friction.

It happened years ago when Vonn was finishing up her career and Shiffrin was still in the earlier stages of hers. And now it's happening again with Vonn having returned to racing at the age of 40 after nearly six years of retirement.

But who knew that it would be the all-new event of team combined to bring the friction to the surface.

Vonn said Monday that she was "disappointed" with how Shiffrin handled her decision to race in the combined at the skiing world championships with downhill world champion Breezy Johnson instead of pairing with her in a skiing "dream team."

Vonn had campaigned to race with Shiffrin on an American team that would have united the two most successful skiers in World Cup history. Never mind that neither skier is technically even allowed to select who they pair with — that's something that the U.S. team's coaching staff decides based on "season-best results" in both downhill and slalom.

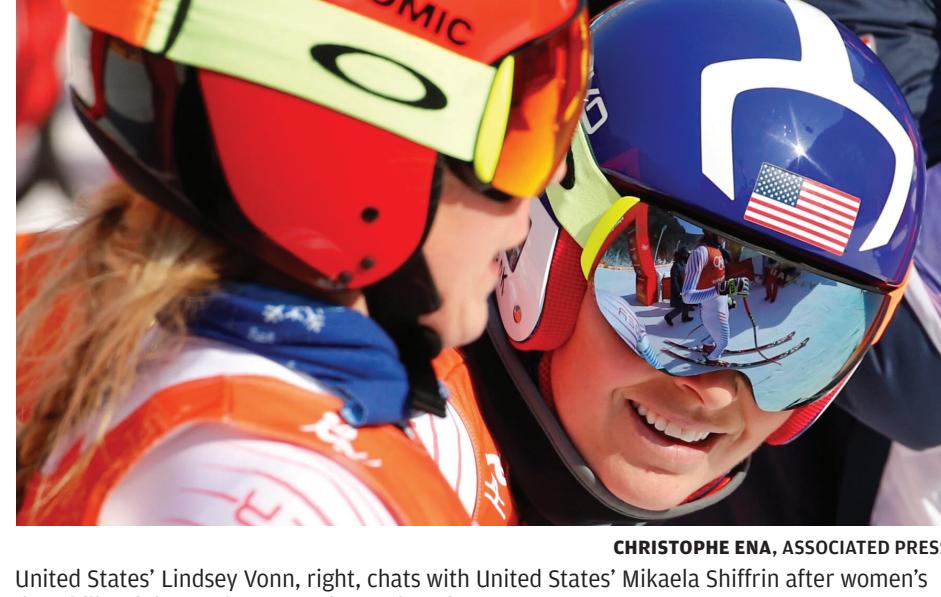
But Shiffrin then announced that she wasn't going to race in the team combined because she was be-

hind in her training for giant slalom following her crash in Killington, Vermont, in November.

On Monday, Shiffrin changed her plans. Saying that she was struggling to overcome her fears following her November crash, she decided to withdraw from defending her giant slalom title and race the combined instead, pairing with Johnson. Johnson will race the downhill and Shiffrin the slalom. Speeds are not as high in slalom as they are in giant slalom so it's a less dangerous event.

"I'm excited for Breezy and Mikaela to team up together and I believe they are a great pair. However, I am disappointed in the way it was handled," Vonn said in a statement sent to The Associated Press.

Vonn said she reached



United States' Lindsey Vonn, right, chats with United States' Mikaela Shiffrin after women's

out to Shiffrin and that Shiffrin agreed it would be great to race together. But then Vonn was told that Shiffrin wasn't entering the combined. Vonn only learned of Shiffrin's final decision to race it via Instagram. "Despite the lack of communication I am a team player and am looking forward to be partnered with AJ Hurt, who is an amazing young skier," Vonn added.

Shiffrin's spokeswoman declined to comment on the situation. The combined event entails one racer competing in a downhill run and another in a slalom run, with their two times added up to determine the final results. Each nation can enter up to four pairings.

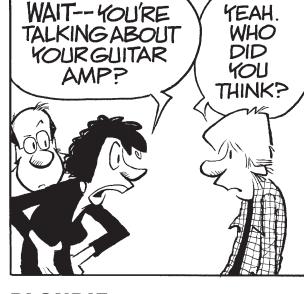
Since Johnson won the world title in the downhill and Shiffrin has two World Cup wins this season, they were named to Team 1. The No. 2 team is super-G bronze medalist Lauren Macuga with Paula Moltzan. Vonn and Hurt are the No. 3 team and the No. 4 team is Jacqueline Wiles with Katie Hensien.

COMICS & PUZZLES

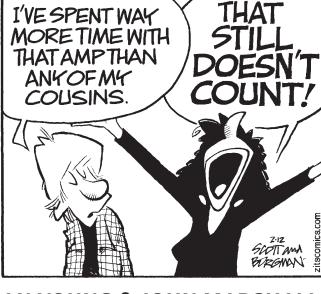
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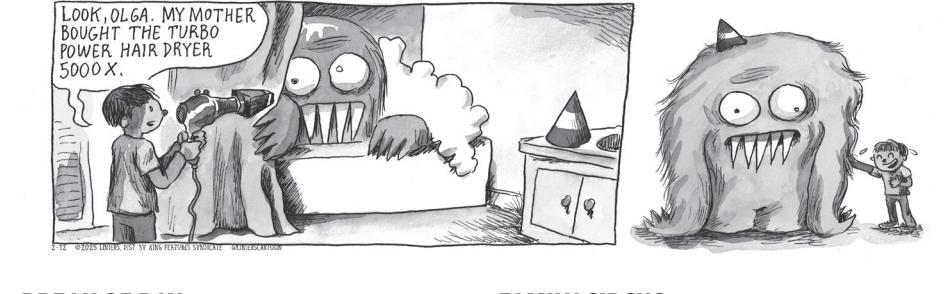
BEETLE BAILEY



GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



MACANUDO

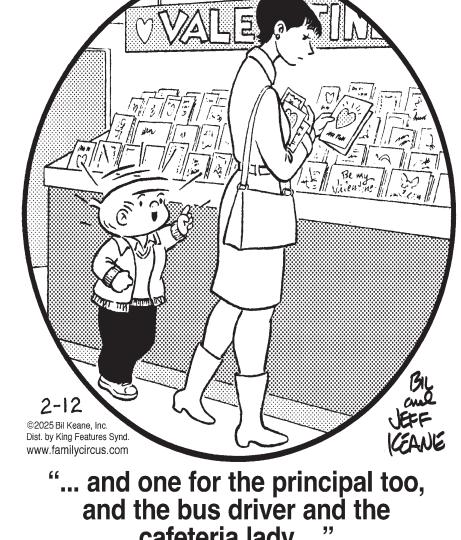


LINIERS

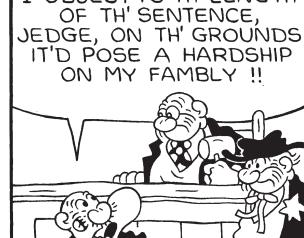
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CHRIS BROWNE

BREAK OF DAY
NATE FAKESFAMILY CIRCUS
BIL & JEFF KEANE

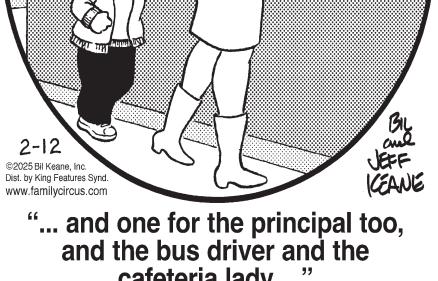
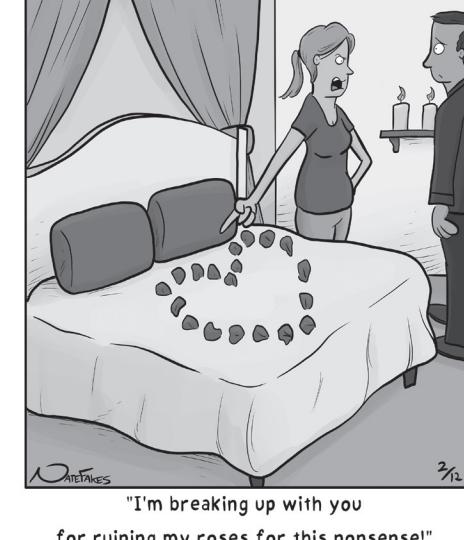
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH



JOHN ROSE



NATE FAKES



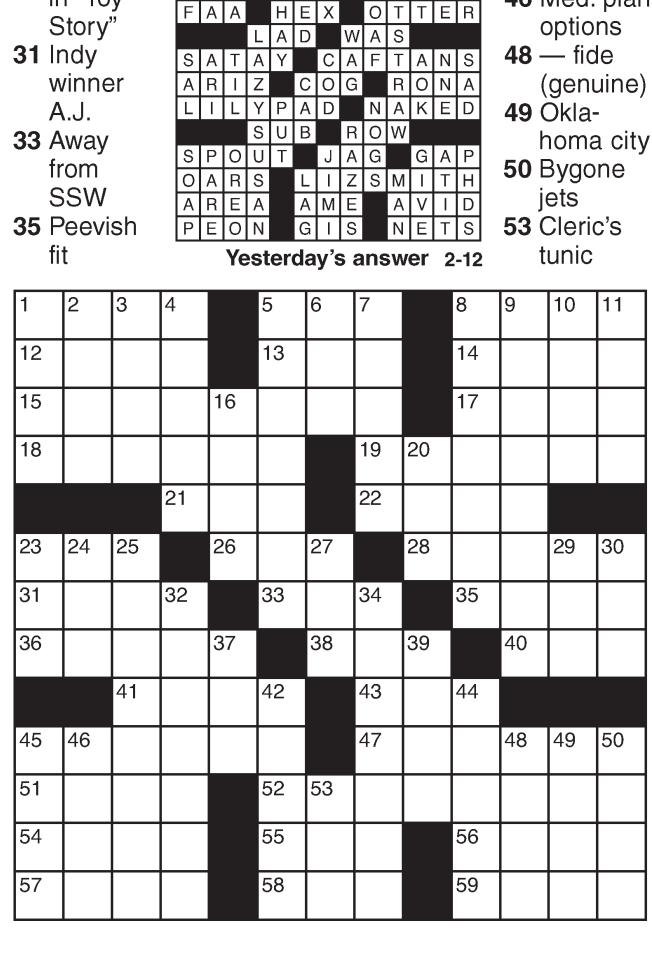
"... and one for the principal too, and the bus driver and the cafeteria lady ..."

SHEFFER CROSSWORD

ACROSS	36	Seized	16	Killer
1	Havana's	vehicles	whale	fellow
5	High	38	20	motor
tennis	tennis	Business	City	city
shot	shot	mag	labor	org.
8	Pitt of	40	Punker	cont.
"Money-	"Money-	Vicious	24	"The
ball"	ball"	41	Shacks	Bells"
12	Spoken	43	Cyclades	writer
13	Shock	isle	3	Sheepish
partner	partner	45	cont.	remarks
14	Shake-	1912	4	choir
spearean	spearean	Olympic	relatives	members
villain	villain	legend	51	of loons
15	Military	47	Mine, to	52
groups	groups	1912	Marcel	spoofs
17	Bar fight	Olympic	54	Dresses
souvenir	souvenir	legend	51	in
18	Order by	47	52	54
classes	classes	relatives	mine	Dresses
19	Vehement	45	to	in
protest	protest	1912	Marcel	50
21	High	Olympic	52	54
school	school	legend	From	Dresses
subj.	subj.	45	Vientiane	in
22	Poi base	47	51	50
23	Likely	relatives	From	50
26	Small	of loons	Vientiane	50
battery	battery	45	6	50
28	Cowboy	51	Personal	30
in "Toy	in "Toy	mine	7	Since
Story"	Story"	to	32	Jan. 1
31	Indy	52	Marcel	30
winner	winner	spoofs	33	32
A.J.	A.J.	54	Dresses	Sight-seer
33	Away	56	in	34
from	from	squad	54	bafflers
SSW	SSW	57	Celeb's	37
35	Peevish	58	aide	NASCAR
fit	fit	tummy	39	advertiser
		muscles	42	Business
			1965	abbr.
			March	43
			Site	1965
			Capital	March
			of South	Site
			Korea	1965
			45	"I did it!"
			46	Med. plan
			48	options
			49	— fide
			50	(genuine)
			51	Oklahoma
			52	Bygone
			53	jets
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				Cleric's
				tunic

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-12

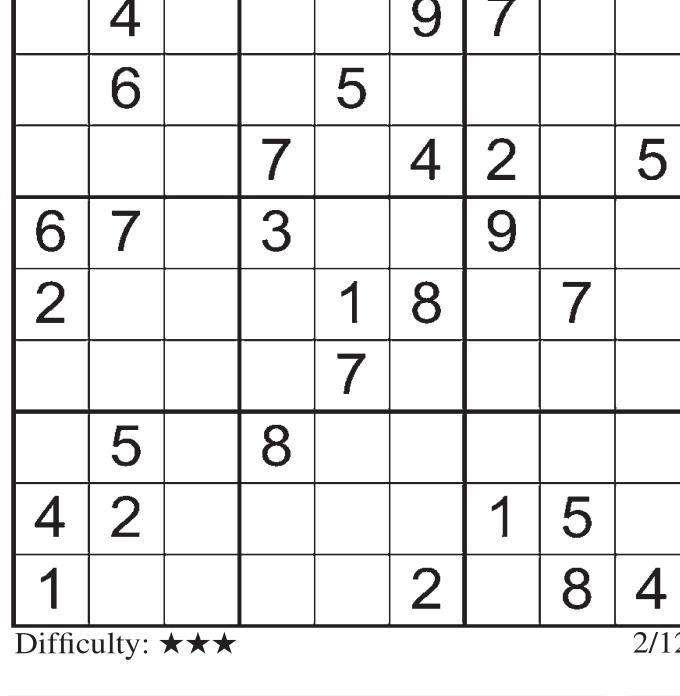


KING CLASSIC SUDOKU

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

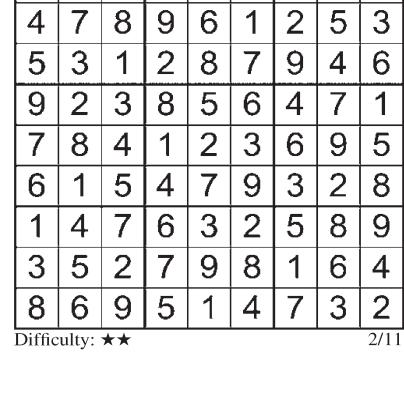
King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle



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2/11

WUZZLES

WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

1.



2.



Print Your Answers Here:

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Today's Answers:

1. Burttishing

2. Released from his contract

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

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Unscramble these Jumbles,

one letter to each square,

to form four ordinary words.

That's OK.

This has some scratches as well.

Someone also wrote their name on the back.

GETTING DEALS DONE AT A SWAP

MEET USUALLY INVOLVES SOME ---



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGAIN TUNER WRENCH GLOOMY

Answer: She had doubted that she'd like his new beard, but it was — GROWING ON HER

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Ten years later: Seahawks look back at 'The Call'

DAVE BOLING
The Spokesman-Review

In the aftermath of the heartbreaking Super Bowl 49 loss, coach Pete Carroll promised that the Seahawks would not allow the defeat to define them.

But from the distance of 10 years, it has.

At least to some extent, it overshadowed so many of the successes the Seahawks enjoyed in Carroll's tenure.

Ask a nonaffiliated football fan to associate the terms "Seahawks" and "Super Bowl," and it's likely they're not remembering the Seahawks' domination of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 48, but are still shaking their head about the decision, with the game on the line, to pass the ball from the 1-yard line rather than handing it to power-back Marshawn Lynch.

The Patriots' winning interception kept the Seahawks from defending their Super Bowl title. With two in hand, many think the young/talented Seahawks might have been favored to add a third the following season, creating a certifiable dynasty.

"It's something we have to deal with, that, in the long run, will

make us stronger," Carroll said the following morning at the team hotel in suburban Phoenix.

Actually, though, it did not.

The Play

Surely, an 80-yard winning drive, led by quarterback Russell Wilson in the final two minutes, would have earned a catchy nickname to immortalize the achievement.

Down 28-24, needing a touchdown to win, Wilson passed to Lynch for a 31-yard gain and followed with a 33-yard connection from Wilson to Jermaine Kearse.

Kearse's juggling, circus catch, would join the pantheon of clutch Super Bowl plays, having taken them to the New England 5.

The winning drive was then simply a matter of punching it in — and not leaving too much time on the clock for Patriot Tom Brady to work magic of his own.

From the New England 5, Lynch slashed off left tackle. Behind a crushing lead block by fullback Will Tukuafu, Lynch got to the 1, as New England linebacker Dont'a Hightower

undercut the block of tackle Russell Okung to prevent a score.

How many small things could have changed this outcome? This was one: Sustain the block, Lynch scores, and the game is nearly over.

Still, plenty of time remaining. Second-and-goal at the 1, with one Seattle timeout remaining.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick sends in his bulky linemen for goal-line defense. Carroll and coordinator Darrell Bevell see this as creating an advantage for the Hawks to pass.

With Kearse and Ricardo Lockette wide to the right, the play calls for Kearse to lead two Patriots into each other to create a cushion for Lockette on a slant-in.

But former Seahawks cornerback Brandon Browner knows what's coming, and on the snap, jams Kearse, to give Malcolm Butler a free run to jump Lockette before the ball can get to him.

Was the interception the problem of play-call or poor execution? It was indisputably a great play by Butler, a rookie undrafted free agent from a Division II program.

It came out later



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

New England Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler (21) intercepts a pass intended for Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Ricardo Lockette (83) during the second half of Super Bowl XLIX.

that during practice the previous week, Belichick had personally set up this scenario for the Patriots defense, and specifically schooled Butler on how to aggressively defend it.

In that case, the result was a function of superior preparation.

The Call

Analysts immediately labeled the decision to pass as the worst call in the history of the Super Bowl.

ESPN stats provided a detailed breakdown that is somewhat enlightening in retrospect.

Wilson's pass from the 1 was the 109th such attempt of the season. His was the only one intercepted.

During the 2014 season, Lynch was given the ball five times from the 1-yard

line and scored only once.

The Patriots had defended rushes from their 1 six times that season and allowed five touchdowns.

Based on league averages, had the Seahawks run on second down, called timeout and run again on third, it would have resulted in a touchdown 79% of the time.

Wilson already had connected on 6 of 7 passes for 132 yards and a touchdown on play-action passes,

benefiting from the Patriots' focus on stopping Lynch runs. On this play, though, they did not employ a play-fake. Why?

Coordinator Darrell Bevell admitted that he was responsible for the play call, while Carroll publicly

shouldered the blame.

Bevell mentioned that he would have liked to have seen Lockette make a stronger move to the pass than he did.

Carroll tried to explain the decision based on the down/distance calculus, particularly in regard to the time on the clock and the Patriots' beefed-up manpower. They could try the pass and still have time to run on third or fourth down, if necessary.

But in the process of explaining, he revealed a deeply held coaching strategy that always guided him. He never called a play based on the potential damage of failure.

Maybe he should.

In this case, the worst possible outcome at the 1-yard-line would be exactly what happened.

A season full of storylines

Jordan lawsuit stands tall as NASCAR season opens

JENNA FRYER | Associated Press

NASCAR has no shortage of storylines headed into its 76th season, and the biggest one is the federal court showdown between the stock car series and NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan.

Jordan's 23XI Cup Series team that he co-owns with three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin didn't like the terms of the take-it-or-leave-it charter offer last fall and, along with Front Row Motorsports, refused to sign as 13 others did. The two teams will race this season — 23XI's driver, Tyler Reddick, was the regular-season champion and a title contender — as the case proceeds.

23XI and Front Row head into the season-opening Daytona 500 this weekend coming off a flurry of courtroom victories, including one that recognizes and compensates their six combined cars as chartered entries. A trial is set for December — after the season ends.

This year marks the start of a new seven-year television package that welcomes Amazon and Warner Bros. Discovery to a multi-network deal spanning the February through November season.

NASCAR will take the Cup Series outside the United States for a race that counts for the first time in the modern era.

Its two previous points races outside the U.S. were in Canada, in 1952 and 1958, and all other events outside the country were exhibitions. NASCAR will race in Mexico City in June, a showcase for stars like Mexican driver Daniel Suarez. NASCAR will use the same track that Formula 1 uses, and the hope is to land younger fans.

"I actually think things are in an OK place," said Chase Elliott, voted the most popular driver by fans seven times. The son of Hall of Fame driver Bill Elliott said he believes NASCAR's current leadership group "has been open to more change over the past three or four years" than the past three decades.

NASCAR has been owned and operated by the Daytona-based France family since its 1948 inception.

"As long as we're willing to say that some of the stuff hasn't been good, then it's fine," Elliott said of competition issues the past few years. "I hope we can continue to go in a good direction."

The first speed bump

Nine drivers will attempt to qualify for one of the four open spots in the Daytona

500. Among the nine are seven-time NASCAR champion and two-time race winner Jimmie Johnson, former Cup Series champion Martin Truex Jr., and four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves in his NASCAR debut.

NASCAR went public last month with a new rule that could expand the field to 41 to accommodate a world-class driver. It was earmarked for Castroneves, who, if he doesn't earn one of the four open spots, will race as an extra car not eligible for payment or points.

Johnson and Truex could have been considered for the waiver if they asked at least 90 days in advance, language NASCAR said was in the charters signed by teams in September. Trackhouse Racing was the only team to request the waiver, if needed, for Castroneves.

"I just think it reeks of desperation," said Hamlin, who as co-owner of 23XI Racing has signed some splashy one-off entrants, including former F1 drivers Juan Pablo Montoya and Kamui Kobayashi.

"I don't know how nice you can really say it. It just feels like you are really trying to get any kind of headline you can to be relevant and I don't love it," Hamlin said of the provisional. "You are the premier stock car series in the U.S., the premier racing sport in the U.S. — be the big boys and force people to come in here and get their credentials and do it the natural way."

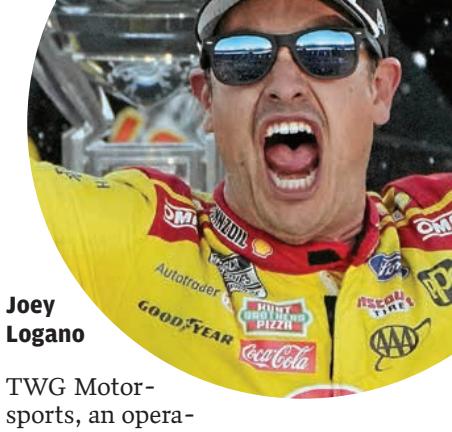
The rule will be tested this week at Daytona International Speedway, where two open spots will be awarded Wednesday based on speed and the other two awarded in Thursday's two qualifying races.

What to watch for in 2025

■ Team Penske has won three consecutive Cup Series championships with Ryan Blaney's win sandwiched between a pair of Joey Logano titles. Logano's third overall title broke a tie with Kyle Busch as the only active drivers with multiple championships. Busch is trying to bounce back from last year, when his record run of 19 consecutive seasons with at least one win came to an end.

■ Trackhouse, 23XI and Front Row have all expanded into three-car teams with the charters from Stewart-Haas Racing, which ceased operations as a four-car program at the end of last season. Gene Haas will field one car branded Haas Factory for driver Cole Custer.

■ Spire Motorsports partnered with



Joey Logano

TWG Motor-sports, an operation run by Dan Towriss and Mark Walter.

The two were granted expansion with Cadillac onto the F1 grid for 2026 and are the new majority owners of Andretti Global in IndyCar.

■ William Byron is the defending Daytona 500 winner, and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Kyle Larson is the hottest driver in motorsports right now with offseason wins in big sprint car races in Australia and Oklahoma.

■ NASCAR will spend 2025 reviewing the playoff structure because fans are showing boredom with the current format and didn't like Logano winning the title. There was also a controversial penultimate race in which NASCAR accused the manufacturers of manipulating the finish to set the championship quartet.

■ NASCAR vowed to tighten the rule book and warned of penalties for anyone who tries to game the system to determine an outcome. The first test comes with the Daytona 500, a race in which the cars from Chevrolet, Ford and Toyota all work within an overall strategy for each brand.

■ The season starts on Fox, which has maintained its long relationship with NASCAR for this new \$7.7 billion television deal. Fox Sports will broadcast 12 races this year, while NBC Sports has 14. New partners Amazon and TNT each have five races, and newly inducted Hall of Famer Carl Edwards could return to NASCAR as part of all the new talent.

The drivers have to do their part, Logano said, and it starts with navigating all the new platforms. It is up to the drivers, he said, to make sure viewers can find them.

"I think the biggest challenge I see this year is going to be educating our fans where to watch the race, that's my number one concern," said Logano. "I think that's probably the same for everybody in the industry. We've got to communicate with our fans where to watch and how to watch."



Daytona 500

Distance: 500 miles, 200 laps

Where: Daytona International Speedway, a 2.5-mile superspeedway at Daytona Beach, Florida

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday TV: Fox

Radio: Motor Racing Network

Last year's winner: William Byron

Qualifying: 36 spots go to chartered team cars. Four spots will go to open cars: two based on single-lap qualifying and two based on results of the two Duel races. Helio Castroneves also was extended a special invitation. He can compete for one of the four open spots, but if he fails to qualify there, he will be added as a 41st entrant.

DUELS AT DAYTONA

Distance: Each race: 150 miles, 60 laps

When: 7 and 8:45 p.m. Thursday TV: FS1

Radio: Motor Racing Network

Last year's winner: Tyler Reddick and Christopher Bell

DAYTONA 500 WINNERS

2024	William Byron	2002	Ward Burton	1980	Buddy Baker
2023	R. Stenhouse Jr.	2001	Michael Waltrip	1979	Richard Petty
2022	Austin Cindric	2000	Dale Jarrett	1978	Bobby Allison
2021	M. McDowell	1999	Jeff Gordon	1977	Cale Yarborough
2020	Denny Hamlin	1998	Dale Earnhardt	1976	David Pearson
2019	Denny Hamlin	1997	Jeff Gordon	1975	Benny Parsons
2018	Austin Dillon	1996	Dale Jarrett	1974	Richard Petty
2017	Kurt Busch	1995	Sterling Marlin	1973	Richard Petty
2016	Denny Hamlin	1994	Sterling Marlin	1972	A.J. Foyt
2015	Joey Logano	1993	Dale Jarrett	1971	Richard Petty
2014	D. Earnhardt Jr.	1992	Davey Allison	1970	Pete Hamilton
2013	Jimmie Johnson	1991	Ernie Irvan	1969	L. Yarborough
2012	Matt Kenseth	1990	Derrick Cope	1968	C. Yarborough
2011	Trevor Bayne	1989	Darrell Waltrip	1967	Mario Andretti
2010	Jamie McMurray	1988	Bobby Allison	1966	Richard Petty
2009	Matt Kenseth	1987	Bill Elliott	1965	Fred Lorenzen
2008	Ryan Newson	1986	Geoff Bodine	1964	Richard Petty
2007	Kevin Harvick	1985	Bill Elliott	1963	Tony Lund
2006	Jimmie Johnson	1984	Cale Yarborough	1962	Glenn Roberts
2005	Jeff Gordon	1983	Cale Yarborough	1961	Marvin Panch
2004	D. Earnhardt Jr.	1982	Bobby Allison	1960	Junior Johnson
2003	Michael Waltrip	1981	Richard Petty	1959	Lee Petty

XFINITY UP NEXT: United Rentals 300: Daytona, 5 p.m. Saturday (CW)

TRUCKS UP NEXT: Fresh From Florida 250: Daytona, 7:30 p.m. Saturday (FS1)

All times Eastern

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Trustee Sale # 12698-WA

Title # 240432234-WA-MSI Notice of Trustee's Sale Grantor(s): JON MARSDEN A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SEPARATE ESTATE Grantee(s): COWLITZ COUNTY TITLE, as Trustee Original beneficiary of the deed of trust: MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR ACADEMY MORTGAGE CORPORATION, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS Current beneficiary of the deed of trust: U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2022-A Current trustee of the deed of trust: CLEAR RECON CORP Current mortgage servicer of the deed of trust: SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING Reference number of the deed of trust: 3536233 Parcel number(s): WC1012002 PTN SW 1/4 SEC 10 TWN 6N RNG 1W I. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, CLEAR RECON CORP, 601 West 1st Avenue, Suite 1400, Spokane, WA 99201, Trustee will on 2/21/2025 at 11:00 AM OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE COWLITZ COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 207 4TH AVENUE NORTH, KELSO, WA 98626 sell at public auction the highest and best bidder payable, in the form of cash, or cashier's check or certified checks from federally or State chartered banks, at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of Cowlitz, State of Washington, to-wit: PARCEL A: A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE SOUTH 88° 23' 23" EAST 1343.29 FEET, THENCE NORTH 1° 31' 27" EAST 996.80 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF "NEW TL T-12H" AS SHOWN ON THE FACE OF THAT SURVEY NUMBER 22 OF SURVEYS, PAGE 38, UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 3107337, RECORDS OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON, SAID POINT BEING THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 88° 45' 50" WEST 352.23 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF A TRACT OF LAND SOLD TO JOHN B. SHELTON BY AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 800616006; THENCE ALONG SAID EAST LINE NORTH 1° 31' 27" EAST 250.16 FEET; THENCE TO A POINT NORTH 1° 31' 27" EAST 250.16 FEET; THENCE FROM THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 1° 31' 27" WEST 250.16 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF COWLITZ, STATE OF WASHINGTON Commonly known as: 198 STAR RD KALAMA, WA 98625 which is subject to that certain Deed of Trust dated 12/4/2015, recorded 12/28/2015, as Auditor's File No. 3536233, the subject Deed of Trust was modified by Loan Modification recorded 6/01/2021 as Instrument 3683738 records of Cowlitz County, Washington, from JON MARSDEN, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SEPARATE ESTATE, as Grantor(s), to COWLITZ COUNTY TITLE, as Trustee, to secure an obligation in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR ACADEMY MORTGAGE CORPORATION, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, the beneficial interest in which was assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2022-A, under an Assignment recorded under Auditor's File No 3726475. II. No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust or the Beneficiary's successor is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any Court by reason of the Borrower's or Grantor's default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust/Mortgage. III. The default(s) for which this foreclosure is made is/are as follows: Failure to pay when due the following amounts which are now in arrears: \$21,381.25 IV. The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: The principal sum of \$250,741.69, together with interest as provided in the Note from 3/1/2024, and such other costs and fees as are provided by statute. V. The above described real property will be sold to satisfy the expense of sale and the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute. Said sale will be made without warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances on 2/21/2025. The defaults referred to in Paragraph III must be cured by 2/10/2025, (11 days before the sale date) to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time before 2/10/2025 (11 days before the sale) the default as set forth in Paragraph III is cured and the Trustee's fees and costs are paid. Payment must be in cash or with cashier's or certified checks from a State or federally chartered bank. The sale may be terminated any time after the 2/10/2025 (11 days before the sale date) and before the sale, by the Borrower or Grantor or the or the Grantor's successor interest or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance by paying the principal and interest secured by the Deed of Trust, plus costs, fees and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust and curing all other defaults. VI. A written Notice of Default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Borrower and Grantor at the following address(es): SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "I" by both first class and certified mail on 9/6/2024, proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served, if applicable, with said written Notice of Default or the written Notice of Default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described in Paragraph I above, and the Trustee has possession of proof of such service or posting. VII. The Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide in writing to anyone requesting it, a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale. VIII. The effect of the sale will be to deprive the Grantor and all those who hold by, through or under the Grantor of all their interest in the above-described property. IX. Anyone having any objections to this sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. Failure to bring such a lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustee's sale. X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS - The purchaser at the trustee's sale is entitled to possession of the property on the 20th day following the sale, as against the grantor under the Deed of Trust (the owner) and anyone having an interest junior to the Deed of Trust, including occupants who are not tenants. After the 20th day following the sale the purchaser has the right to evict occupants who are not tenants by summary proceedings under chapter 59.12 RCW. For tenant-occupied property, the purchaser shall provide a tenant with written notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.060. If you are a servicemember or a dependent of a servicemember, you may be entitled to certain protections under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and any comparable state laws regarding the risk of foreclosure. If you believe you may be entitled to these protections, please contact our office immediately. THIS NOTICE IS THE FINAL STEP BEFORE THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF YOUR HOME. You have only until 90 calendar days BEFORE the date of sale listed in this Notice of Trustee Sale to be referred to mediation. If this is an amended notice of Trustee Sale providing a 45 day notice of the sale, mediation must be requested no later than 25 calendar days before the date of sale listed in this amended Notice of Trustee Sale. DO NOT DELAY. CONTACT A HOUSING COUNSELOR OR AN ATTORNEY LICENSED IN WASHINGTON NOW to assess your situation and refer you to mediation if you are eligible and it may help you save your home. See below for safe sources of help. SEEKING ASSISTANCE Housing counselors and legal assistance may be available at little or no cost to you. If you would like assistance in determining your rights and opportunities to keep your house, you may contact the following: The statewide foreclosure hotline for assistance and referral to housing counselors recommended by the Housing Finance Commission Telephone: 1-877-894-HOME(1-877-894-4663) . Web site: http://www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/homeownership/post_purchase_counselors_foreclosure.htm The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Telephone: 1-800-569-4287 Web site: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfn/hcc/fc/index.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=WA&filterSvc=dfr> The statewide civil legal aid hotline for assistance and referrals to other housing counselors and attorneys Telephone: 1-800-606-4819 Web site: <http://nwjustice.org/what-clear/this-is-an-attempt-to-collect-a-debt-and-any-information-obtained-will-be-used-for-that-purpose> Dated: OCT 07, 2024 CLEAR RECON CORP, as Successor Trustee Monica Chavez, Authorized Signor For additional information or service you may contact: Clear Recon Corp 601 West 1st Avenue, Suite 1400 Spokane, WA 99201 Phone: (206) 707-9599

EXHIBIT "I"

NAME ADDRESS
JENNIFER M MARSDEN 198 STAR RD
KALAMA, WA 98625
JENNIFER MARIE LOTT 198 STAR RD
KALAMA, WA 98625
JON MARSDEN 198 STAR RD
KALAMA, WA 98625
JON MARSDEN 2320 40TH AVENUE
LONGVIEW, WA 98632
JON MARSDEN C/O LAW OFFICE OF CHAD R. ZANDI,
PLLC, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1447 THIRD AVENUE SUITE A
LONGVIEW, WA 98632
JON MARSDEN C/O LAW OFFICE OF CHAD R. ZANDI,
PLLC, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1447 THIRD AVENUE SUITE A, PO BOX
868
LONGVIEW, WA 98632
JON MARSDEN C/O LAW OFFICE OF CHAD R. ZANDI,
PLLC, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
PO BOX 868
LONGVIEW, WA 98632

1/23, 2/13 COL-WA-100432

Notice and Summons by Publication
Superior Court of Washington
County of Cowlitz
Juvenile Court
No. 25-7-00028-08
(Termination)
In re the Interest of:
BANKSTON, BABY GIRL
DOB: 05/07/23

TO: JOHN DOE / ANYONE
CLAIMING A PATERNAL
INTEREST

You are hereby notified that there has been filed in the Cowlitz County Superior Court, Cause No. 25-7-00028-08, a Petition for Termination of the Parent-Child Relationship between Baby Girl Bankston, born on May 7, 2023, in Longview, Cowlitz County, WA, and John Doe / Anyone Claiming a Paternal Interest. A court hearing on the matter will be on April 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cowlitz County Youth Services Center, 1725 First Avenue, Longview, Washington 98632.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, an attorney will be appointed for you. Your failure to appear at this hearing or respond to this notice or file a claim of paternity under RCW 26.26 may result in a default order permanently terminating all of your rights to the above-named child. 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 COL-WA-100665

Legals

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals

Trustee Sale # 12698-WA Title # 230274316-WA-MSI

Notice of Trustee's Sale Grantor(s): NATHAN J MUELLER, AN UNMARRIED PERSON Grantee(s): STEWART TITLE COMPANY, as Trustee Original beneficiary of the deed of trust: MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC., BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS Current beneficiary of the deed of trust: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Current trustee of the deed of trust: CLEAR RECON CORP Current mortgage servicer of the deed of trust: LOANCARE, LLC Reference number of the deed of trust: 3724723 Parcel number(s): WD2506002 A PORTION OF LOT 1 AND 3 OF LARGE LOT SUBDIVISION LL 20-01 RECORDED IN VOLUME 2 OF LARGE LOTS AT PAGES 30 AND 31 UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 3650682, COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON I. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, CLEAR RECON CORP, 601 West 1st Avenue, Suite 1400, Spokane, WA 99201, Trustee will on 2/21/2025 at 9:00 AM AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE COWLITZ SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE, 312 SW 1ST AVENUE, KELSO, WA 98626 sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder payable, in the form of cash, or cashier's check or certified checks from federally or State chartered banks, at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of Cowlitz, State of Washington, to-wit: A PORTION OF LOT 1 AND 3 OF LARGE LOT SUBDIVISION LL 20-01 RECORDED IN VOLUME 2 OF LARGE LOTS AT PAGES 30 AND 31 UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 3650682, COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON I. 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