



TDN delays explained by president, who cites cybersecurity

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Longview historical award nominations open now

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Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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LONGVIEW

SHELTER ADOPTIONS RETURN



NICK MORGAN, THE DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

ABOVE: Humane Society for Southwest Washington president Andrea Bruno feeds kibble to "Rico," a 5-year-old pit bull and terrier mix available for adoption, on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Longview campus. BELOW: Humane Society for Southwest Washington president Andrea Bruno stands outside the nonprofit's new Longview campus, which opened for adoptions last week.



Open house set for Thursday with new owners

NICK MORGAN
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Benefiting from an infusion of resources through Southwest Washington's largest animal welfare organization, the animal shelter in Longview is resuming pet adoptions after a four-week hiatus.

The newly renamed Humane Society for Southwest Washington Longview campus boasts fresh paint and minor renovations designed to make the dog adoption process easier than ever, according to Andrea Bruno, president of the Vancouver-based nonprofit.

"It's been a tremendous effort," Bruno said, adding that roughly 50 volunteers worked to shine up the facility by throwing away old debris, assembling new furniture and cleaning and organizing the space.

The public will be able to check out the updates — and maybe adopt a new furry friend — at an open house slated to run noon to 6 p.m. Thursday at 909 Columbia Blvd. in Longview.

Humane Society for Southwest Washington absorbed the assets of the Cowlitz County Humane Society and took over operations Jan. 1.

The Humane Society of Cowlitz County voted late last year to dissolve after serving the community since 1973. Bruno said the Humane Society of Cowlitz County did well with the limited resources it had, and that her goal is to pick up where the Cowlitz County Humane Society left off with "TLC and elbow grease."

Sam Ellingson, director of communications for the Hu-

mane Society for Southwest Washington, said the new Longview campus staff is a mix of new and former staff members. He said the Humane Society for Southwest Washington has a central services model, and that most of the eliminations were administrative support staff.

About 16 employees are working on site. About 25 full- and part-time staff worked at the site at the time the Cowlitz County Humane Society dissolved last year, according to an earlier news report.

"There was a lot of duplication there," Ellingson said, adding that the Vancouver-based organization is able to operate more efficiently by applying the central services and systems it already in place.

Adoptions with walk-in ease

Renovations on the Longview campus thus far have been largely light demolition. Bruno said the organization plans to launch fundraising campaigns for upcoming renovations once they have estimates from contractors for the more elaborate renovations.

Bruno described the changes to the lobby as the first of multiple phases. Other planned renovations include relocating and updating the clinic to another part of the facility and featuring new equipment such as an X-ray machine, new lighting and new surgery table.

Thanks to new walk-in access to wings containing the adoptable dogs and cats, pet seekers will also find it easier

Please see SHELTER, Page A3

Body found in Ariel suspected to be shot in Woodland

MATT ESNAYRA
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The Vancouver man accused of murdering a Portland man and dumping his body on a remote logging road in Ariel may have been attempting to silence him, according to police records.

A bail hearing for Joseph Klimas III, 45, was set for Monday afternoon over his connection to the shooting of Cesar Reyes, 46, whose body was discovered on Nov. 11 in Ariel, though police believe he was shot in Woodland.

Klimas is suspected of first-degree murder and unlawful possession of a firearm.

According to a police report, an inmate in the Cowlitz County Jail tipped off authorities to Reyes' killer, and a recorded jail call alludes to the crime.

The shooting

Weeks after Reyes' body was found, the Vancouver Police Department contacted the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office about a recorded phone call by Klimas to an inmate facing a murder charge at the Clark County Jail.

During the call, a police report states Klimas said he had "done something similar" to what the inmate was charged with, adding that the person involved was "on vacation." Klimas then began

talking about a person named "Pelon," a nickname used by Reyes.

In January, a Cowlitz County Jail inmate — arrested in December for suspected assault and violating the Control Substance Act — told authorities what he knew about the case.

He said Pelon was shot and killed near a slough in the 1100 block of Whalen Road by a suspect driving a white SUV, the report states.

Text messages between the inmate and Klimas the day before Reyes was discovered, reportedly show Klimas offering to buy a gun and full clip of ammunition

Please see BODY, Page A3

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‘Cybersecurity event’ hits TDN Printed papers delayed across 24 states

THE DAILY NEWS
frontdoor@tdn.com

A “cybersecurity event” has disrupted many of the systems and networks this week at Lee Enterprises, the parent company of The Daily News — and dozens of other newspapers, the company’s CEO confirmed Friday night.

“We are now focused on determining what information — if any — may have been affected by the situation,” CEO Kevin Mowbray said in an email to company employees. “We are working to complete this investigation as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

“We have notified law enforcement of the situation.”

Mowbray could not speculate on details, he said, because the incident is under investigation “and we will not be able to share information that could compromise our investigation or any investigation by law enforcement.”

He added that the company is working to identify “additional steps we can take to help prevent something like this from happening again.”

His email did not say when the problems would be fixed.

However, people can read PDF versions of this week’s editions of The Daily News online now.

Lee Enterprises owns newspapers across 24 states, along with marketing services, digital publications and weekly and specialty publications. In the Pacific Northwest, it also owns the Albany Dem-



Hayley Day, The Daily News

The Daily News office sign is displayed in January in Longview.

ocrat-Herald and Corvallis Gazette-Times in Oregon.

The company’s computers were hit the morning of Feb. 3, and many of Lee’s newspapers initially were not able to build pages and publish, though the company has since worked to print and deliver back issues.

The Daily News was not able to publish print versions last week. The Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday editions were expected to be mailed Monday, though can be read now online at tdn.com as PDFs versions of the paper.

The complications reduced the size and offerings in those issues, as well as today’s, but still includes local news and sports. The Daily News staff, which typically

does not design the papers in the Longview office, stepped in to do since Feb. 3 in order to correct the delays as soon as possible. Usually all Lee newspapers are laid out by professional designers at corporate design centers out of state to create efficiency, then sent to presses near the publications to print.

“We’re sorry for the disruptions this has caused to The Daily News print editions, and we’re grateful to readers for their patience,” Regional Editor Penny Rosenberg said.

“We’ve done some phenomenal reporting in the last week, and we invite you to check it out at The Daily News website or mobile app, which have continued to post the latest news.”

City historical award nominations open

THE DAILY NEWS
frontdoor@tdn.com

Each year, the Robert A. Long Historic Preservation Award recognizes members of the community who have made an outstanding contribution to preserving the story of Longview.

The city of Longview is seeking nominations for the 2025 edition of the award. According to

an announcement from the city, nominations should include a written summary of the nominee’s accomplishments with regards to historic preservation in Longview.

Only activities completed within the past three years are to be used in nominations. All materials must be clearly identified with the name of the associated project or individual, and additional materials may be requested.

Senate votes to adopt ‘Evergreen State’ nickname

THE CHRONICLE STAFF

The Washington state Senate on Thursday passed a bill 49-0 that, if signed into law, would officially deem Washington the “Evergreen State.”

This marks the third year in a row that the state Senate has passed such a resolution. It has yet to be passed into law.

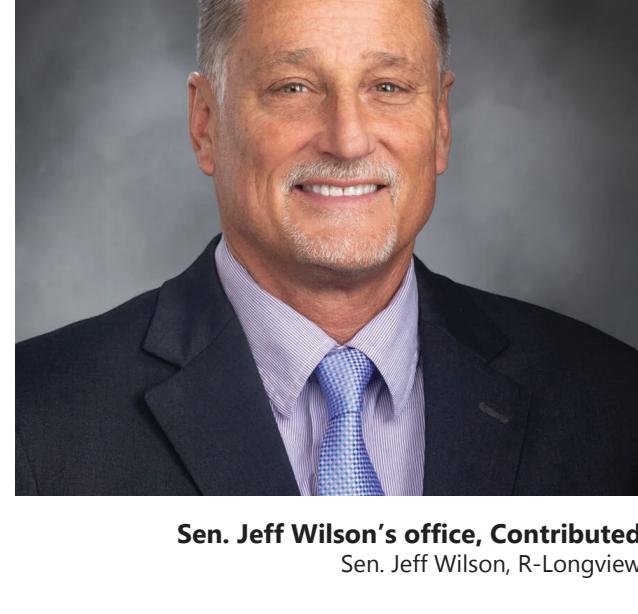
Nineteenth Legislative District Sen. Jeff Wilson, R-Longview, is the primary bill sponsor. He said he hopes the House will follow suit this time.

While most people already consider Washington to be the “Evergreen State,” there remains no copy of the resolution. Newspaper reports from 1893 announced that the Senate had passed a resolution to officially adopt the nickname the “Evergreen state” but there is no evidence of any further action.

“After 132 years, we have an opportunity today to correct an oversight,” Wilson said.

While announcing Senate Bill 5000, which would officially adopt the state’s nickname, Wilson shared the name’s peculiar origin.

The “Evergreen State” was first popularized by a 27-year-old real estate promoter in late 19th century Seattle named Charles Conover, who used the name in a local advertisement.



Sen. Jeff Wilson’s office, Contributed

Sen. Jeff Wilson, R-Longview

Winners will receive a plaque, recognition at a meeting of the Longview City Council and have their photo and nameplate placed in the lobby of City Hall.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on March 13. For additional information, contact 360-442-5083 or irener@mylongview.com

Applications can be submitted by email to irener@mylongview.com or mailed to the City of Longview Building and Planning, c/o Irene Rutikanga, 1525 Broadway St., Longview, WA 98632.

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SHELTER**from A1**

to make a connection.

Before, dogs would need to be brought out to the lobby from their kennels in the back, but now people looking to adopt can walk in the dog adoption wing and peruse the aisle of available canines in their kennels.

Dixie cups and kibble dispensers give people a chance to get a feel for the dogs' personalities. A feline adoption wing makes adoptable cats similarly accessible.

"We believe people should go in and see the animals," Bruno said of their open adoption policy. She described it as a growing industry standard.

Once interested, an adoption counselor can provide more information about the animal and its needs and arrange for a meet-and-greet.

Every dog and cat gets micro-chipped, vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they can be adopted. According to Bruno, those veterinary services included in the adoption cost are significantly below what they would cost pet owners on the open market.

It's all about lowering barriers and ensuring that the animal's stay at the shelter is "a very short stop on their journey," she added.

"We're all about removing barriers and trying to get these animals into homes," Bruno said.

Revised layout, same mission

To expand its adoption area, the Longview campus moved intakes to a separate "admissions" entrance on the side of the building. A key benefit, according to Bruno, is that dogs in the process of being admitted to the shelter and dogs ready for adoption no longer cross paths.

The separation also allowed the shelter to maintain its intake



NICK MORGAN, THE DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

ABOVE: Humane Society for Southwest Washington president Andrea Bruno stands in a new feline adoption wing at the organization's new campus in Longview. RIGHT: Andrea Bruno, president of the Humane Society for Southwest Washington, stands beside a pet supply shop in the adoption lobby of its new Longview campus.

operations after taking the reins Jan. 1. Adoptions only resumed Wednesday.

Animal control will continue to be handled by the sheriff's department and municipalities, but the organization has sheltering contracts with municipalities to be the designated drop-off location.

The city of Longview, for instance, will vote on its municipal contract at the Thursday meeting. The one-year contract for animal licensing and shelter services is valued at \$115,000: a \$160,000 fee minus a roughly \$45,000 credit stemming from redemption and licensing fees, according to the draft agreement.

The now-dissolved Cowlitz County Humane Society stopped providing animal control more than two years ago. The Longview agenda shows that regional animal



control remains a concern for the city. Staff recommend that the City Council in addition to authorizing the one-year agreement, direct the city manager and staff "to collaborate with local jurisdictions in exploring sustainable, cooperative solutions for future animal control/shelter services."

While the new shelter owners do not plan to offer animal control services, Bruno said she wants

her organization to maintain the same presence in Cowlitz County as its predecessor. One example includes continuing the Humane Society for Southwest Washington's Claws for Paws crab dinner and auction fundraiser on Feb. 22.

"We hope the community here will continue to support our work," Bruno said.

Rep. Ley pleads guilty

SHARI PHIEL
THE COLUMBIAN

State Rep. John Ley, who was elected to the 18th District in November, pleaded guilty Friday to two charges of attempted voter violations: knowingly providing false information and candidacy declaration.

Ley, who was facing two felony voter fraud charges, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charges by way of an "in re Barr" plea, meaning he pleaded guilty to lesser related charges he didn't commit to avoid the risk of conviction on a greater offense. Had Ley been

convicted of a felony, he could have been ousted from his seat in the Legislature.

"I never intended to violate the law, nor do I believe that I have. I maintain my actual innocence," Ley, 69, said in his statement to Clark County

Judge John Fairgrieve.

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Judge John Fairgrieve.

Ley received a 364-day suspended sentence and will serve 12 months of probation.

Ley said he had been

a resident of the 18th Legislative District for many years and had legally voted in several elections prior to the state drawing new district boundaries in 2022. The state's redistricting efforts put Ley's Camas home in the 17th District.

Ley was one of three Republicans to run for the 18th Legislative District Position 2 seat in 2022. About a month before filing to run, Ley changed the address on his voter registration from his Fremont Street home in Camas, to his friends' Battle Ground address where he rented a room for \$1 a month.

BODY**from A1**

from the inmate, with plans to meet in the same remote Woodland location the inmate said the murder took place.

At about 1:21 a.m., the day the body was found, Klimas told the inmate he was about 10 minutes out from the site, according to police records.

The inmate said Klimas told him he shot Reyes because Reyes was telling people information he didn't want shared. The report does not explain what the information was.

On the day of the shooting, deputies report finding Reyes' body face down but still warm, with a gunshot wound to the right side

of his face, on a logging road near milepost 42 on Lewis River Road, near Lake Merwin in Ariel, about 40 minutes from the reported site of the shooting in Woodland.

Two witnesses also reported seeing a white SUV in the area earlier that morning.

Authorities obtained security camera footage from a nearby business located in the 2200 block of Lewis River Road, the report states, showing a white Ford Explorer heading east on Lewis River Road at about 5:54 a.m., and then heading west at 6:30 a.m.

An autopsy shows Reyes died as a result of a gunshot wound to his head and neck from a large caliber bullet that was recovered from his left shoulder.

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UTILITIES



TED SHAFFREY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Susquehanna nuclear power plant operates Jan. 14 in Berwick, Pa.

'Behind the meter'

Big tech companies look to make their own deals with power plants

MARC LEVY
Associated Press

Looking for a quick fix for their fast-growing electricity diets, tech giants are increasingly looking to strike deals with power plant owners to plug in directly, avoiding a potentially longer and more expensive process of hooking into a fraying electric grid that serves everyone else.

It's raising questions about whether diverting power to higher-paying customers will leave enough for others and whether it's fair to excuse big power users from paying for the grid.

It's raising questions about whether diverting power to higher-paying customers will leave enough for others and whether it's fair to excuse big power users from paying for the grid.

Susquehanna nuclear plant in eastern Pennsylvania.

The arrangement between the plant's owners and AWS — called a "behind the meter" connection — is the first such to come before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

For now, FERC rejected a deal

that could eventually send 960 megawatts — about 40% of the plant's capacity — to the data center. That's enough to power more than a half-million homes.

That leaves the deal and others that likely would follow in limbo. It's not clear when FERC, which blocked the deal on a procedural ground, will take up the matter again or how the change in presidential administrations might affect things.

"The companies, they're very frustrated because they have a business opportunity now that's really big," said Bill Green, director of the MIT Energy Initiative. "And if they're delayed five years in the queue, for example — I don't know if it would be five years, but years anyway — they might completely miss the business opportunity."

FERC's big decision

A favorable ruling from FERC could open the door to many more huge data centers and other massive power users like hydrogen plants and bitcoin miners, analysts say.

FERC's 2-1 rejection in November was procedural. Recent comments by commissioners suggest they weren't ready to decide how to regulate such a novel matter without more study.

In the meantime, the agency is hearing arguments for and against the Susquehanna-AWS deal.

Monitoring Analytics, the market watchdog in the mid-Atlantic grid, wrote in a filing to FERC that the impact would be "extreme" if the Susquehanna-AWS model were extended to all nuclear power plants in the territory.

frustration with how they are paid in the broader electricity markets. Many say they have been forced to compete in some markets against a flood of cheap natural gas as well as state-subsidized solar and wind energy.

Power plant owners also say the arrangement benefits the wider public by bypassing the costly buildout of long power lines and leaving more transmission capacity on the grid for everyone else.

Energy prices would increase significantly and there's no explanation for how rising demand for power will be met even before big power plants drop out of the supply mix, it said.

Separately, two electric utility owners — which make money in deregulated states from building out the grid and delivering power — protested that the Susquehanna-AWS arrangement amounts to freeloading off a grid that ordinary customers pay to build and maintain.

Chicago-based Exelon and Columbus, Ohio-based American Electric Power say the Susquehanna-AWS arrangement would allow AWS to avoid paying \$140 million a year that it would otherwise owe.

Bill seeks state psychiatric hospital admittance cap

JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Seattle Times

When a person is charged with a crime but found too mentally ill to participate in their defense, Washington state must offer them temporary treatment.

The process, known as "competency restoration," usually includes medication and basic education about the charges against them. The person is then sent back to jail and eventually goes to court.

The state is constitutionally required to offer these services. But in recent years, competency restoration has morphed from part of the court process to the main way people with serious mental illness get treatment, straining the mental health system.

People sat in overwhelmed county jails for months waiting for a spot at the state hospital for these short-term services. The backlog led to a lawsuit requiring the state to admit these patients quickly. Washington's failure to do so resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in fines.

As the state has finally made progress and begun admitting people on time, a lawmaker is proposing a bill to help the state keep its momentum.

Rep. Darya Farivar, D-Seattle, wants to limit the number of competency restoration patients each county could send to state hospitals, and fine cities and counties that exceed those numbers.

The goal, she said, is to encourage local authorities to rely more on community mental health services, instead of waiting until a person's behavioral health issues escalate to the point they're charged with a crime.

"The legislation before you asks cities and counties to think carefully about who they're sending to competency restoration, and asks them not to buy into the myth that by sending folks into the system they'll get care," Farivar said in her bill's first hearing.

Reactions to House Bill 1218 are mixed, highlighting the tension between counties and the state over who is responsible for criminal defendants who need mental health treatment.

Representatives for city and county associations are concerned they would have to shoulder the financial responsibility for decisions outside their control. Derek Young, the interim director of the Washington Association

of Counties, noted county leaders are not the ones deciding who needs competency restoration.

"Prosecutors and judges are separately elected," he said. "They're the ones making those decisions."

Others worry that limiting the number of people who can get competency restoration care will keep people from one of the few entry points to getting mental health treatment.

Supporters of the bill say competency restoration does not provide patients with anything more than immediate stabilization. To really help people, they say, the state and counties should focus on diverting patients away from the criminal system and into community-based treatment and housing programs.

"We owe it to the people who are suffering," Farivar said, "the people caught in this never-ending cycle."

HB 1218 would limit the number of patients each county can send to the state's two psychiatric hospitals — Western State in Lakewood and the much smaller Eastern State in Medical Lake — for competency restoration.

Starting in 2026, each county would have a cap, set by averaging the county's number of restoration orders from the previous two years. If a county exceeds its cap, it will be fined and the money would go to a newly created fund that would pay for diversion programs, such as housing assistance.

In the first year after the cap goes into effect, counties with more than two patients over the limit would pay a portion of bed costs for each new patient. If they exceed more than 10 patients over the limit, they would assume all costs for that patient's stay. Fines would continue to increase in subsequent years.

According to the state, it costs \$1,637 a day to house a patient at the state hospital.

Data from Disability Rights Washington shows in 2023, more than 1,300 people were found to need restoration. In 2024, that number rose to more than 1,800.

Farivar said while the state is anticipating opening 350 beds at a new state hospital building in 2028, those will barely cover projected increases in patients who need this type of treatment.

"According to our projections, we'll only

have 90 beds to spare," Farivar said. "In about four years, we're likely to run out of beds again and be out of compliance with the judge's orders."

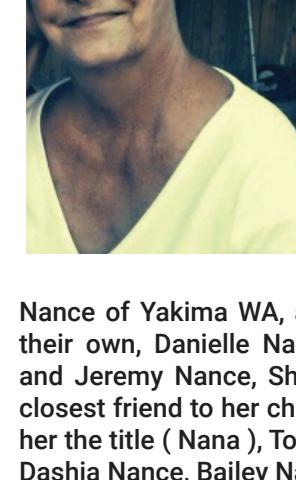
Representatives for Washington's cities and counties said they want to see more diversion services. But they worried the proposed bill would financially strain them, as well as denying people the services they need.

"Our concern is that it will create an artificial cap, not really addressing the problem," said Candice Bock, the director of government relations for the Association of Washington Cities. "Then you get into the awkwardness of administering the cap, who's going to get beds first, and pitting cities and counties against one another."

Kim Mosolf, a lawyer who helped craft the bill, said the proposal directs people to more effective services.

Diann Marie Nance

February 11, 1954 - January 13, 2025



Diann Marie Nance (Cyr) was born February 11, 1954, in Yakima WA to Leo & Audrina Cyr, she came from a big family with lots of siblings, Blaine Cyr, Kathleen (Kath) Johnson, Lorin Cyr, Patricia (Patty) Pleasant, Audrina White, Christine (Chris) Patterson, Debra (Debbie) Grant, Joseph (Joe) Cyr, and Eileen Henley-Creasy. Diann later married the love of her life Vernon Nance of Yakima WA, and they started a family of their own, Danielle Nance, Jamie Powell (Nance), and Jeremy Nance. She was the best mother and closest friend to her children, her kids later on gave her the title (Nana). To Chevelle Bacastow (Nance), Dashia Nance, Bailey Nance, Madison Nance, Trinity Tippens-Powell, and Gage Powell. Diann was a very devoted wife, Mother, Nana, Daughter, Sister and friend. She loved music, her family, cooking, making cookies with her grandchildren, beautiful rocks, flowers, birds, and her church family, and of course her love for JESUS, she would do anything for anyone, especially those in need. Diann was the most selfless person you could ever meet. Diann survived by her husband Vernon Nance, her children, grandchildren, her beautiful mother Audrina and all her siblings. Diann was and always will be the most beautiful soul, a service will proceed at a later date. ("UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN BEAUTIFUL ANGEL").

THE DAILY NEWS

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OUR VIEW

Wills is the way

Longview's search for a new city manager spanned much of 2024, but it has at last come to a conclusion. And in our opinion, the quest was a successful one.

Late last month, the Longview City Council and Jen Wills, the city's former parks and recreation director, inked the new contract for Wills to head up city staff. It was a long process and thoroughly discussed. There were other options to consider. But ultimately, Wills had the secret sauce that makes her the perfect fit for the position.

Track record

Wills has been with the city of Longview for 18 years and counting. Nine of those years were as the parks and recreation director. This is a work history that speaks for itself; she's a true civil servant with a wealth of experience working within the Longview government.

She's done a great deal to add to the city, as well. During her tenure with the parks department, the city added many events that we now consider traditions. Just a few months after beginning her tenure as parks director, Longview launched the first Extreme Machines show. Nine years later, kids are still delighted to have the chance to get up close with trucks, bulldozers and more. The department also partnered with the Rotary Club of Longview to launch the club's Crafted event.

She hasn't forgotten about existing city assets, either. Wills has been helping to navigate the Mint Valley Racquet & Fitness Complex renovation process and exploring fixes to the irrigation system at Mint Valley Golf Course.

More than just a list of accomplishments, this is proof that Wills knows how the city works. Yes, there will be a period where she adjusts to her new role. That's inevitable with any change of job. But Wills is coming into the post with existing relationships and an understanding of city protocols.

Public facing positivity

During her interview to be city manager, Wills touted her ability to bridge divides and build relationships through cooperation. This will be valuable in the role due to the nature of city government.

The Longview government is divided into branches that are, by necessity, competing for resources. After all, budgets aren't unlimited and not everyone can get what they want. That can blow up into a full-blown rivalry if left unattended, but we believe Wills, with her focus on building collaborative relationships, won't make that mistake.

Furthermore, she's also right that the city manager is going to be the face of the city in some respects. Yes, the elected City Council is here to set policy and lead the agenda. But they also have responsibilities at their day jobs, and it's not feasible to expect them to be at City Hall all the time.

The city manager, on the other hand, is the full-time employee who leads the city staff, and is going to be there each and every day, working to keep Longview's

government humming along. We're sure that means plenty of interaction with Longview's citizens, and that's likely to benefit from Wills' personality.

If you've ever interacted with Wills, even briefly, her positivity is hard to miss. She even manages to make her outgoing voicemail sound upbeat and friendly. Her letters as parks director illustrate her love for the city, volunteerism and what is possible when the community comes together for a cause. We think she'll bring those good vibes to her new role.

Obstacles ahead

While we're confident that Wills was a good choice, we also want to acknowledge that Wills has some challenges ahead of her. The position of city manager is, whether we like it or not, a political one. And there can be some very divided opinions among the City Council. Wills is going to need to work hard to bridge divides; after all, staying politically neutral and prioritizing fairness sounds like it should be easy, but it's often anything but.

She's also making a huge leap in the scale of her responsibilities. Wills clearly loved getting hands-on with the parks department's programming, but she will have much more on her plate any may not have that luxury again soon. She's also moving outside her immediate field of expertise, as Wills holds a bachelor of science in recreation management. She'll need to translate that experience into new fields. We're confident she can do it, but it will be tough.

The city government as a whole will also have to adjust to a manager who is not also acting as the finance director, like in previous years. While Longview was fortunate to have past managers who could pull double duty, that's not the norm for most cities, but was an added bonus to ours.

Selection process

There were also complaints about the selection process, primarily from Councilman Erik Halvorson. Halvorson said he felt there were not enough candidates brought forward and that he wanted more insight on the hiring process.

We understand the council's insistence on bringing in a hiring firm to find more candidates. Many of the newer members felt former City Manager Kris Swanson's hiring was not transparent enough. But we also think that sorting through all the rejected candidates may not be the best use of the council's time. After all, you hire a recruiter to bring you the best candidates, otherwise you just make a cattle call.

Some may wonder why we needed a search firm at all if the end result was hiring an internal candidate. Instead, we see it a different way: Longview hired recruiters to find the most qualified candidates and someone who had worked for the city for almost two decades turned out to rate as their equal. That's a compliment to the Longview city government and the people who work there.

MY VIEW | PHIL HANDS



ANOTHER VIEW | BRIER DUDLEY

Newspaper publishers to face challenges

It's late for a New Year's column but I want to share the 2025 outlook I've heard from several local newspaper publishers.

These conversations inform columns I write about the local journalism crisis and the need to find solutions, before it's too late to save the small businesses providing America's essential, local reporting.

Most of the publishers I talked to are concerned about advertising that leveled off or declined in late 2024 and hasn't picked up much in 2025.

Several said readers remain loyal, with subscription levels holding steady and strong community support, despite the sturm und drang at the national level about trust in media, bias and raging partisanship.

Growing digital subscriptions is the big hope and may offset weakness in other parts of the business.

But overall, 2025 looks extraordinarily challenging. I wish I was as hopeful as these publishers, and remain convinced that the industry needs public support to prevent further job losses and closures.

Long term, the industry must find ways to get fairly compensated by tech platforms profiting from its work.

That's all needed to regrow newsrooms, improve the product and help persuade future generations to read and pay for the local journalism that's necessary for a healthy democracy.

I spoke with publishers, including those of daily and weekly newspapers in Washington and Oregon, and the owner of a New Jersey-based company publishing 92 papers with a combined 600 employees.

"Honestly, we ended the year pretty significantly under advertising revenue. I feel that just continues to be a challenge," said Ben Campbell, publisher and co-owner of The Columbian daily newspaper in Vancouver. "I don't know if it's the economy or the election had anything to do with it, but I think a lot of businesses down here were kind of in a holding pattern."

A few advertisers resumed spending in January, though, and "my outlook for this year is, it's pretty optimistic," Campbell said.

"Like, we grew our digital subscriptions by 15% last year and our plan is to grow another 15 to 20% this year, so that's definitely trending in the right direction," he said.

CherryRoad Media, the New Jersey-based publisher, lost 8% of its subscribers through 2024, owner Jeremy Gulban told me.

Yet price increases helped keep revenue flat and digital subscriptions are growing — "just not as fast as we would like," Gulban said.

"I'm not pessimistic on that piece of it because I think if we put out a good product, and we really promote it ... we can get that number up," he said.

At the News-Register, an independent paper serving Oregon's Yamhill County, "we're kind of treading water in our company," Jeb Bladine, president and publisher, told me.

The McMinnville paper's circulation held steady over the last five years, at around 5,500, even though the paper charges more than some of its peers. It publishes three days a week — one print edition and two electronic editions.

That in turn helps the News-Register maintain a relatively large newsroom. With around 10 people, it's larger than any of Oregon's daily newspapers, other than The Oregonian, Bladine said.

The News-Register is among the few independent papers still operating a printing facility. That saw business pick up last year as

other presses around the state closed.

The paper is also pursuing new models of community support and hired a person to do outreach.

That employee's message to local businesses will be that "we understand how everything's changed," Bladine said, "but, you know, we've all got to decide whether we want to have a community newspaper and an independent community newspaper."

For local businesses wanting to help, the News-Register created a membership program. They make a monthly contribution and receive a branding campaign and lower ad rate.

The paper also raised \$17,000 from community members to support a "public access" team in the newsroom, working on things like public records and open public meetings.

Bladine is now working with a group of Oregon publishers to develop a nonprofit to help others pursue community support and other new revenue models. He's also involved in efforts to find support through legislation, including a state proposal to require tech giants to pay online news providers.

As with all small businesses and consumers, rising costs are a problem, threatening many local publishers' toehold on stability.

But there's little room to reduce costs further particularly at lean-running operations like CherryRoad.

"We don't have a lot of room to cut," Gulban said. "There's probably a little bit more efficiency we could gain ... but at some point we've got to get people to pay for the product. Otherwise it just doesn't work."

Gulban, a software entrepreneur, started acquiring papers in 2020, including papers spun out of the giant Gannett chain. His publishing business has yet to be profitable, but he's undeterred.

"We're fine, overall," he said. "It's just at some point we need to make this thing work. We need to make a profit, as does every business, and even if you're not-for-profit you still need to be cash-flow positive."

So 2022 and 2023 were about building scale and 2024 was a year of finding efficiencies and sorting out the business. The focus in 2025 will be revenue growth, he said.

That could be complicated by tariffs on newsprint that's largely sourced from Canada.

Although paused for now, President Donald Trump's threat to add a 25% tariff on Canadian products could be the death knell for some local newspapers and would accelerate others' plans to reduce or eliminate print editions.

"If we have to charge our commercial printing customers 25% more, how many of them are just going to go out of business because they can't afford it?" Gulban said.

Gulban laid out the total situation in a recent call with his newsrooms.

The bad news he shared is that "we have all these issues overall as an industry," he said.

"But the good news is, if you guys put out a good product that our local consumers will pay for, and we get to around 15% of local households paying to subscribe, then we don't have a problem," he said. "So this, we can solve this ourselves, if we put out a good product and we promote and we get people to subscribe to it."

Brier Dudley is editor of The Seattle Times Save the Free Press Initiative. Its weekly newsletter: st.news/FreePressNewsletter. Reach him at bdudley@seattletimes.com

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.

ON GARDENING

Become maestro of your garden

NORMAN WINTER

Tribune News Service

Agastache, also known as anise hyssop and hummingbird mint, needs to be at the top of your list as we rocket toward planting season. Your trusty friend The Garden Guy is here to give you the long and the short (or to be more specific, the short and tall) of these ever-so-important pollinator plants. You will soon become the "maestro" of your garden.

Maestro is a new series making its debut this year in the Proven Winners lineup. Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold might be considered opposites from the standpoint of size when compared with their Meant To Bee agastache pair introduced in 2022. Both, however, will be pollinator champs if you give them a try.

The Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold plants defy everything you may have thought possible with agastache. Let me give you some examples. Meant To Bee Royal Raspberry is tall, reaching 28 to 32 inches, with Meant To Bee Queen Nectarine topping out at 30 to 36 inches. These are a beautiful, swaying-in-the-breeze type of plants.

Perhaps you have tried Blue Boa, Blue Fortune or Black Adder; all top 3 feet, particularly in the South. So, we are used to agastache plants growing to a big size. With the Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold, we have a new dimension offering new garden possibilities. These are tough, stocky little plants that may reach 18 inches, but mine were considerably less. Like me, you will wonder how this little plant keeps on blooming.

This tight little habit offers mixed-container partnerships and even the possibility of monoculture. I was struck by the beauty of a Proven Winners recipe that had ColorBlaze El Brighto coleus as the thriller plant with Maestro Gold as the filler and the much-underused Waikiki Sunset lysimachia as



NORMAN WINTER, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Maestro Coral is a new agastache debuting this year. Commonly called anise hyssop or hummingbird mint, they are colorful, as seen here in contrast with this gold carex grass, and welcome to all pollinators.

the spiller.

I felt lucky to get to trial them last year and even found myself wondering what to do. My favorite partnership consisted of planting them together, the gold and coral, along with some golden-leaved carex grass.

I also believe that they, like the Meant To Bee, offer great opportunities to be combined with flowers like Totally Stoked Riptide Stoke's asters and Unplugged So Blue salvia. Remember that you will be using the Maestro at the front of the border and Meant To Bee further back.

The Maestro agastache pair are recommended perennial in zones 8 and warmer, and annual everywhere, while the Meant To Bee Queen Nectarine and Royal Raspberry are perennial in zones 5 through 9. Both like plenty of sun and fertile, well-drained soil. A winter bog

is not your garden friend.

In this column thus far, I have mentioned several varieties of agastache, and there are dozens more. Yet I must admit I can't remember the last time I saw any for sale at the garden center. Is it because we still don't know this plant? Or perhaps as a perennial it is not yet in bloom, and we want instant gratification? The same questions could also be asked of the garden center.

As so many of us are eager to grow flowers for both beauty and pollinators, and garden centers want to provide those flowers, let's start asking now. The agastache is a game changer for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, and they are drop-dead gorgeous, too!

Follow Norman Winter on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Clipping coupons can save a ton of money

Dear Readers: We received hundreds of comments about couponing, and I'm absolutely delighted to see that so many people use them. So many times, you might think,

"Well, it's only 25 cents," but here are a couple of my readers who have some very interesting thoughts on coupons:

HELOISE

I don't usually write in to things,

but the letter from the woman who uses coupons, much to her husband's embarrassment, hit a nerve. My husband (now retired) always goes through digital coupons online and clips the ones we use. Last time, we saved about \$80! I love him for it. He is great at saving money while still buying what we need!

Just wanted to give a different perspective. Thanks. — *Pat D., An Avid Fan of "Hints From Heloise"*

Couponing continued

Dear Heloise: I was stunned when I read the letter from one of your readers who said her husband was mortified by her coupon-clipping habits.

I decided to see how much I saved one year by clipping coupons for the various items we use. My husband laughed at me, but when I showed him the amount we saved on New Year's Day, he was shocked. It was just a little over \$800!

Although we're not rich or poor, it's always nice to save \$800 from shopping carefully with coupons.

P.S.: I love reading your column. Thanks for all the great hints! — *Audrey N., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Unsigned check is cashed

Dear Heloise: In the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, we read a letter in your column about the woman

who did not sign checks for her grandchildren's gifts, which then got her a visit from them so that the grandchildren could get the checks signed. We had heard about this idea, and after five years with no response from an adult grandchild for his birthday gifts, we thought we would try it.

We made the check out with no signature, put it in the greeting card and mailed it. When our bank statement came, we saw the check had been deposited to an ATM at the grandchild's bank. Apparently, the check still cleared our grandchild's bank and our bank without a problem.

Our bank then told us that we could protest the check and send it back to our grandchild's bank. Our bank had a \$30 fee for the protest, and the grandchild's bank had a \$35 fee for a returned deposit. Since the gift was \$100, we did not protest the payment to avoid making the banks more money. Our next step is not to put any more checks in cards. — *William T., A Loyal Reader*

William, I'm sorry your grandchild did not see fit to call or drop by to see you. Good manners are a social skill that is all too often neglected. Perhaps you might want to reconsider your generous gifts if the recipient does not acknowledge your kindness. — *Heloise*

Large lettering

Dear Heloise: My mother's eyesight is bad, so to help her out, we got a large sheet of cardboard from a craft store. We then took a magic marker and wrote all of her important phone numbers on it. Then I hung it up on the inside of a cupboard door in her home. The letters and numbers are about 2 inches tall. Now she can call her doctors, dentist, friends and others with ease. — *G.W., in Utah*

Send a money-saving or time-saving hint to Heloise@Heloise.com.

xfinity

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Sports

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

TDN.COM

SECTION B

RA Long
snags league
title, Civil War
rivalry Friday

PAGE B3



Kelso Hall of
Fame inductees
honored at
Saturday event

PAGE B4

LASSIES KEEP SEASON ALIVE



Dan Rosenfield, The Daily News

Kelso's Maali Amrine shoots a layup in a game against Shelton on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Amrine scored 15 points in the contest.

Kelso girls basketball advances to bi-district tournament

DAN ROSENFIELD
drosenfield@tdn.com

Kelso's Peyton Champagne and Maali Amrine led the Lassies past Shelton 64-53 on Saturday afternoon at home to keep their season alive and advance to the bi-district tournament.

Amrine, a freshman, came alive in the second half. She scored 6-straight points in a row at 1 point and gave the Lassies the lead at 42-40 with 1:34 to go in the third quarter after they were down 40-36. With Kelso leading 57-53 with 1:12 left in the game, she grabbed a crucial offensive rebound, got fouled and hit both free throws to put the game away. Amrine finished with

15 points.

"She did not play like a freshman," Kelso coach Andrew Johnson said. "We always talk about when you get to the postseason, you're no longer freshmen, you're sophomores. She played like the girl we see at practice every single day."

Before that, Champagne hit a dagger 3-pointer to put the Lassies up 57-52. She hit three triples in the game and finished with 19 points and four steals, both team-highs.

Early in the fourth quarter, however, Kelso didn't have much to smile about as Bregan Ruhland collided with a Shelton player, fell down to the floor and grabbed her knee in pain, fearing the worst.

"I honestly was concerned about my ACL," she said. "I was worried if I was out that my season was done and it could affect college. I didn't want (my season) to end. I wasn't ready."

She went to the locker room, but came back on the floor a few minutes later after her trainer taped her knee up and cleared her.

"I was like 'Can she tape me any faster? I just want to get back in,'" she said.

The Lassies took charge early in the game. Players hit some 3s and got out in the fast break to take a 28-21 lead halfway through the

Please see LASSIES, Page B4

Preview | High School girls basketball playoffs

What are the chances to reach state tournament?

DAN ROSENFIELD
drosenfield@tdn.com

With the regular season over for girls basketball in Washington, many of the local teams in the Lower Columbia area will be, and have already started, district tournament play.

Here's how to keep up with each team during their postseason run.

3A

Kelso

The Lassies finished in third place in the 3A Greater St. Helens League. They beat Shelton on Saturday in the bi-district play-in game and will advance to the bi-district tournament on Thursday to play River

Ridge High School of Olympia.

"Playoffs are one game at a time," Kelso coach Andrew Johnson said. "It's one game seasons from here on out."

The Lassies have a luxury not many other teams have in their respective tournaments. They can make it to state by making the semifinals and if they lose one game, they can still afford a second loss if they make it to the consolation semifinals.

2A

Mark Morris

The Monarchs finished third in the 2A Greater St. Helens League thanks to their resounding victory over the Columbia River Rapids late in the season. They are riding a four-game winning streak, but will hit the road for a battle with Black Hills at 6 p.m. Friday. Black

Please see PREVIEW, Page B2

SCORES

SATURDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL

R.A. Long def. Mark Morris, 58-52

Heritage def. Kelso, 70-56

- Bryar Iddings – 12 points
- Tucker Amrine – 12 points
- Bronson Miller – 10 points

Columbia River def. Woodland, 81-52

- Elijah Andersen – 22 points
- Jackson Gabbard – 9 points
Woodland coach Justin Gabbard: "That's a wrap for us ... Our record doesn't show the success we had this season. We grew so much as a team, got much better throughout the year, and gave our community so much to be proud."

Rainier (OR) def. Yamhill-Carlton, 37-35

Clatskanie def. Gaston, 58-21

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Clatskanie def. Gaston, 39-13

Yamhill-Carlton def. Rainier, 64-35

FRIDAY

BOYS BASKETBALL

1A Trico League tiebreaker: Columbia (White Salmon) def. Castle Rock, 60-57

2B Districts: Toledo def. Toutle Lake, 67-49

GIRLS BASKETBALL

3A Districts Play-In: Kelso def. Shelton, 63-54

- Peyton Champagne – 19 points, 4 steals
- Maali Amrine – 15 points
- Hayden Johnson – 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals
- Karsyn Hall – 3 steals

2B Districts: Toutle Lake def. North Beach, 51-11

- Kendal Dean – 16 points, 7 assists, 6 steals
- Lainey Dean – 11 points, 6 assists
- Payton Thayer – 11 points

Toutle Lake coach Daren Dean: "Great first game in the district tournament. The girls were focused and ready from the tip off. They shared the ball well and played great defense."

BOYS WRESTLING

3A Districts: (Kelso)

- 113: Preston Myren (Sr) – 1st, Layne Swift (Fr) – 2nd - both moving on to state
- 120: Gage Austreng (Fr) – 4th
- 126: Ryder Newton (Jr) – 1st - moving on to state, Ryder Griffith (So) – 4th
- 132: Koltin Rice (Sr) – 2nd - moving on to state
- 138: Loyalty Saraphanh (So) – 4th
- 144: Chris Travis (Sr) – 1st - moving on to state
- 150: Balian Andrews (So) – 4th
- 157: Carter Bailey (Sr) – 4th
- 165: Alex Carmen (Jr) – 4th
- 175: Adrian Gonzalez (Sr) – 4th

2A GSHL:

- Mark Morris – 4th
- Woodland – 6th
- R.A. Long – 8th

1A Trico:

- Castle Rock – 1st
- Kalama – 5th

GIRLS WRESTLING

3A Districts:

- Kelso – 1st

GIRLS BOWLING

2A State:

- R.A. Long – 2nd
- Hailey Wright – 4th (1,041)
- Jade Walters – 5th (1,040)

R.A. Long coach Shane Berridge: "It felt really cool coming back into the building where we'd won the team and individual titles the previous years. We had to return the trophy and we saw a lot of familiar faces."

When all the dust settled, we finished in 2nd place with 7,167. Always really cool for the girls to bring home some hardware to put in the display

case and our non-seniors gained some amazing experience that they'll hopefully use next year when we're back competing for another team title."

NWAC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lower Columbia def. Green River, 68-66

NWAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lower Columbia def. Green River, 64-48

LEAGUE BOWLING

High Scores Week of Feb. 2

League; Series ; Game

Sunday Swingers

Jsutin Fugleberg	708	267
Meri Waldron	536	184

4 O'Clock Scholars (two games)

Kam Todd	399	214
Debbie Ryan	327	183

Queens & Knights

Kevin McGreevy	727	278
Sami Strehle-Cuevas	633	257

Brunswick Classic

Jared McNeal	796	300
Laura Cowling	640	241

Hilander Seniors

Allen Pellham,	668	241
Lee Kerr	475	172

Funtimes

Heath Jones	697	256
Sandi Lovgren	552	225

NightHawks

Lamar Swagerty	708	243
Kyrah Lukan	632	237

Wed Mourners

Sue Warner	649	246
Joy McGill	474	184

Jackpot Classic

John Dibble	699	254
Lori Risher	551	203

Swinging Seniors

Don McGill	778	276
Marci Bunting	588	215

Working Girls Trios

Raye Hamm	517	193
Ten Grand	802	298

Larry Nugent

Sami Strehle-Cuevas	675	246
Grandmas	492	182

Darlene Brown

Joe Bernard	688	247
Rayetta Hamm	528	186

Happy Hour

JC Evans	763	279
BreAnn Hollis	543	189

PREVIEW

from B1

Hills finished third in the Evergreen 2A League,

but second among 2A schools (Shelton is 3A)

and is ranked 15th in the RPI for 2A while the Monarchs are 24th.

The Monarchs have one of the toughest paths in the entire tournament.

The team needs to get through Black Hills,

possibly Columbia River,

and either 20-1 W.F. West

or Woodland in the district championship game

(although making it there will come with an automatic state berth, win or lose).

The Monarchs will only have room for one loss

in the double elimination tournament and will need at least two wins to

make it to state.

R.A. Long

The Jills placed sixth in the 2A Greater St. Helens

League and earned the final spot in the district

tournament for the first time since 2022. They

will play at Tumwater on

Wednesday at 6 p.m. in a

loser-out contest.

R.A. Long coach J.D.

Ott said he believes the

Thunderbirds will run a

lot of zone on top of man

defense. He spent time

at practice preparing for

2-3 and 1-3-1 zones.

Woodland

The Beavers had a chance to take the league

championship on Thursday, but came up short

against Columbia River.

Still, they finished second

in the 2A Greater St. Helens

League and will play

the winner of R.A. Long

and Tumwater at home

Friday at a time to be

determined. Woodland

ranks 13th in the RPI for

Jacks are Back

RAL boys basketball wins first league championship since 2022

DAN ROSENFIELD
drosenfield@tdn.com

If you weren't at The Lumberdome on Friday night, what were you doing?

You missed a Civil War boys basketball game for the ages that had huge league championship implications. If R.A. Long won, they would claim the 2A Greater St. Helens League championship outright. If Mark Morris won, the two rivals would share the title, an unfathomable reality.

The Jacks wouldn't let that happen. They built a big lead in the first quarter and survived a comeback bid from the Monarchs and came away with the 58-52 victory to win their first league championship since 2022.

"It's a good feeling, these guys worked hard for it," R.A. Long coach Jeray Key said. "We knew it was gonna be a tough game."

Mark Morris finished in a tie for second place in the league with Columbia River, but held the tiebreaker from beating the Rapids in both meetings.

With the game tied at 50-50, R.A. Long's Payton Thill hit a 3-pointer to put the Jacks up for good with 1:55 left in the fourth quarter. After a free throw from Thill to put the hosts up 54-50, Mark Morris' Dalton Stevens raced down the court and made a layup to cut the deficit to 2 points, however, the Monarchs wouldn't get any closer.

The Jacks got out to a hot start and led 14-6 late in the first quarter. Rhet Young had a couple of buckets early for R.A. Long and the Monarchs' only points came on 3-pointers from Stevens and Drew Ibarreta.

With a 21-11 lead late in the period, Cameron Newsome knocked down a fadeaway 3 at the buzzer to put the Jacks up 24-11.

The Monarchs chipped into the deficit in the second quarter after holding the Jacks to just 8 points and scored 13 of their own. R.A. Long led 32-24 at halftime.

The Jacks led 38-29 midway through the third, but Dalton Stevens pulled the Monarchs within 6 at 41-35 after he got a big block and went coast-to-coast to score.

After the Jacks went back up

by 8, Jadyn Brooks hit a 3 for the Monarchs and cut the deficit to just 5, but Jeffrey Rookridge had other ideas. He hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter to stretch the lead back to 8 at 46-38.

Three-pointers from Nathan Stephens and Ibarreta helped trim the deficit to just 2 points and the Monarchs eventually tied it up at 48-48 after two free throws from Carson Bogner. Joshua Crane and Stevens traded buckets to even the score again before Thill's dagger 3.

Both R.A. Long and Mark Morris will get ready to play in the district tournament Saturday, Feb. 15,



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

Dalton Stevens (3) of Mark Morris shoots a corner fade away over TraMayne Jenkins (11) of R.A. Long in the Civil War Friday, Feb. 7 in Longview.



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

ABOVE: 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. BELOW: 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.



DAN ROSENFIELD, THE DAILY NEWS

R.A. Long guard Payton Thill cuts a thread off the net after the Lumberjacks defeated Mark Morris in the Civil War and secured their 2A GSHL title Friday, Feb. 7 in the Lumberdome.



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS

Lumberjacks' TraMayne Jenkins (11) looks for a pass during the win over Mark Morris Friday, Feb. 7 in the Lumberdome.



ANDREW LWOWSKI, THE DAILY NEWS

Mark Morris' Jadyn Brooks (22) contests a shot from R.A. Long's Cam Newsome (2) during the Lumberjacks win Friday, Feb. 7 in Longview.

HILANDER HEROS

TDN SPORTS
sports@tdn.com

The Hilander Hall of Fame was formed in July 2024 to fuel scholarships and programs through the Kelso Public Schools Foundation.

To nominate a Hilander athlete or coach, individuals pay \$1 per nomination, \$10 for families and

\$50 for companies.

To vote, individuals pay \$5 per vote, \$50 for families and \$100 for companies, but only one vote is accepted per vote enter.

Top vote getters earn induction into the Hall of Fame.

Learn more and start the next nominations at www.hilanders.org/hof.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE STARTING FROM LEFT: A Scottish dance team performs at the Kelso Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Stewart was the keynote speaker and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He is the current head coach of the Gonzaga women's cross country and track and field teams. / Kelso volleyball coach and newly-named track and field coach Michelle Mury smiles as she walks over to accept her induction certificate at the Kelso Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Mury won the Division II championship in the javelin when she was in college at Seattle Pacific University. / Former Kelso track star Kiana Davis accepts her Hall of Fame induction certificate at the Kelso Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Davis won 10 state medals during her time in high school, which is still the most by any Kelso athlete to this day. She overcame a traumatic brain injury in 2018 and participated in the 2021 and 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials.

DAN ROSENFIELD, THE DAILY NEWS PHOTOS



LASSIES from B1

second quarter. Along with Champagne, Karsyn Hall and Hayden Johnson got in the passing lane with three steals each. The Highclimbers went on a run of their own and hit a couple of 3-pointers to take a 33-31 at halftime.

The Lassies stepped up their perimeter defense in the second half and held the Highclimbers to only 20 points in the final two quarters.

"We just really wanted to play physical," coach Johnson said.

"They got two really good players down low and we wanted to play physical and we wanted to take away the three and we did that in the second half."

Hayden Johnson was the third Hilander in double figures with 11 points and almost had a double-double with eight rebounds.

The Lassies will await their fate in the bi-district tournament which begins on Thursday.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE STARTING FROM LEFT: Kelso's Karsyn Hall looks around for her teammates in a game against Shelton on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Hall finished with three steals. / Kelso's Peyton Champagne shoots a 3-pointer in a game against Shelton on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Kelso High School. Champagne hit three triples in the game and finished with 19 points and four steals.

Advanced Auto Transport

VEHICLE AUCTION
February 13, 2025.

Viewing: 10am
Auction: 11am

Address of Auction
2202 Talley Way,
Kelso WA 98626
(360) 635-1860

Gymnastics judge banned

GENEVA (AP) — A senior judge in gymnastics was banned for four years on Thursday for manipulating scores to help an athlete from her own country Cyprus qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Evangelia Trikomiti "unduly interfered with the judges' work" last May at the European Championships in rhythmic gymnastics that sent Vera Tugolukova to Paris, said the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation which investigated the case.

Tugolukova, who switched national eligibility from Russia in 2022, placed 16th in the Olympic individual all-around event. She carried the Cyprus flag at the Paris Games closing ceremony at Stade de France.

Trikomiti's intervention in scoring at the European qualifier held in Budapest in May denied an Olympic place to 15-year-old Liliana Lewi ska of Poland.

The Polish gymnastics federation filed allegations against Trikomiti, who was charged by the GEF in July three days before the Olympics opening ceremony. She was provisionally suspended and removed from Olympic duty.

The case did not stop the 15-year-old Tugolukova from competing in Paris because investigators could not act against field-of-play decisions taken in May, the GEF said.

Trikomiti faced a disciplinary case for allegedly breaking the International Gymnastics Federation's code of ethics and judges' competition oath. It requires "complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules

which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship."

Two judges at the Olympic qualifying event testified against Trikomiti at a hearing held in December before an independent panel of three arbitrators.

Trikomiti's lawyers argued witnesses "had apparent biases and grudges that render their evidence unreliable" and that her "only connection to Ms. Tugolukova was their shared nationality," the published verdict stated.

Trikomiti was banned from judging for four years though not from coaching. European Gymnastics, where Trikomiti is an executive committee member, was ordered to pay 8,000 euros (\$8,300) toward the cost of the investigation.

"While competition manipulation should of course never happen, this decision reinforces the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation's commitment to ensuring fair and safe competition through the prosecution of any infringement to the sport's integrity and safety rules," its director Alex McLin said in a statement.

The GEF was created in 2019 and funded by the FIG to better protect athletes after the scandal of sexual abuse by a former United States team doctor.

In a statement Thursday, the foundation based in Lausanne, Switzerland, praised "the crucial role of informants and/or whistleblowers" in its work.

SPORTS

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals

Summons Served by Publication.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COWLITZ

In re: The United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service or Successor Agency United States Department of Agriculture; Plaintiff, v. The Estate of Melaney J. Guptill; unknown heirs, spouses, legatees and devisees of the Estate of Melaney J. Guptill; unknown occupants of the subject real property; parties in possession of the subject real property; parties claiming a right to possession of the subject property; and also all other unknown persons or parties claiming to have any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein; Beacon Water and Sewer, Defendants. No. 23-2-01590-06

SUMMONS SERVED BY PUBLICATION FOR THE ESTATE OF MELANEY J. GUPTILL (60) days SUMMONS SERVED BY PUBLICATION

TO DEFENDANTS: THE ESTATE OF MELANEY J. GUPTILL A lawsuit has been started against you in the above-entitled court by The Plaintiff in the above-referenced case, The United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service or Successor Agency United States Department of Agriculture. Plaintiff's claim is stated in the written complaint, a copy of which is served upon you with this summons. To defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the complaint by stating your defense in writing, and by serving a copy upon the person signing this summons within 60 days after the service of this summons, excluding the day of service, or a default judgment may be entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where plaintiff is entitled to what she or he asks for it because you have not responded. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be entered. You may demand that the plaintiff file this lawsuit with the court. If you do so, the demand must be in writing and must be served to the person signing this summons. Within 14 days after you serve the demand, the plaintiff must file this lawsuit with the court, or the service on you of this summons and complaint will be void if you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. This summons is issued pursuant to rule 4 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington. By: /s/ Bryce Dille, (WSBA #2862) Bryce Dille, Esq. Plaintiff's Attorney, Private counsel I certify /s/ that the foregoing is true and correct in this Declaration. Bryce H. Dille, (WSBA #2862) 1800 Cooper Point Rd SW Bldg 11, Olympia, WA 98502 Telephone No.: (360) 350 - 0270 Email: bdille@schuergelaw.com Dated: 12/13/24 (c) By Whom Served. Service of summons and process, except when service is by publication, shall be by the sheriff of the county wherein the service is made, or by deputy, or by any person over 18 years of age who is competent to be a witness in the action, other than a party. Subpoenas may be served as provided in rule 45. (d) Service. (1) Of Summons and Complaint. The summons and complaint shall be served together. (2) Personal in State. Personal service of summons and other process shall be as provided in RCW 4.28.080-.090, 23B.05.040, 23B.15.100, 46.64.040, and 48.05.200 and .210, and other statutes which provide for personal service. (3) By Publication. Service of summons and other process by publication shall be as provided in RCW 4.28.100 and .110, 13.34.080, and 26.33.310, and other statutes which provide for service by publication (4) Alternative to Service by Publication. In circumstances justifying service by publication, if the serving party files an affidavit stating facts from which the court determines that service by mail is just as likely to give actual notice as service by publication, the court may order that service be made by any person over 18 years of age, who is competent to be a witness, other than a party, by mailing copies of the summons and other process to the party to be served at last known address or any other address determined by the court to be appropriate. Two copies shall be mailed, postage prepaid, one by ordinary first-class mail and the other by a form of mail requiring a signed receipt showing when and to whom it was delivered. The envelopes must bear the return address of the sender. The summons shall contain the date it was deposited in the mail and shall require the defendant to appear and answer the complaint within 90 days from the date of mailing. Service under this subsection has the same jurisdictional effect as service by publication. Signed at: WA this 18th day of December 2024. SCHUERGER LAW GROUP, /s/ Bryce H. Dille, WSB #2862 Bryce H. Dille, WSB #2862, 1800 Cooper Point Rd SW Bldg 11, Olympia, WA 98502 Telephone No.: (360) 350 - 0270 Email: bdille@schuergelaw.com

1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4 COL-WA-100651

Probate Notice to Creditors
RCW 11.40.030
SUPERIOR COURT OF
WASHINGTON FOR COWLITZ
COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF BARBARA J. SMITH,
Deceased.

CASE NO. 25-4-00003-08

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication:
Feb. 11, 2025

Personal Representative:
DEBRA S. SNEATHEN

Attorney for Personal Representative:
JACOB D. RAHN

WSBA#58262
of KEVIN D. RAHN, PLLC

Address for Mailing or Service:
1315 14th Ave
Longview, WA 98632

Court of proceedings and Cause Number: IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR COWLITZ COUNTY
Case No. 25-4-00003-08

2/11, 2/18, 2/25 COL-WA-100682

SUPERIOR COURT OF
WASHINGTON IN AND FOR
COWLITZ COUNTY

In re the Matter of the ESTATE
OF MARSHA E. HOLBORN,
Deceased.

NO. 24-4-00427-08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned has been appointed as the Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3);

(2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice; or

(3) twenty-four months from the date of the decedent's death. If the claim is not presented within the applicable timeframe, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FILING OF NOTICE
TO CREDITORS with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Cowlitz County: 22 day of January, 2025.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION:
January 28, 2025 published with the Longview Daily News.

JACK L. HOLBORN

Personal Representative
Address: c/o Amanda G. Proujan, WSB #48091

LAW OFFICE OF AMANDA G PROUJAN, PLLC

1516 Hudson St, Suite 204

Longview WA 98632

(360) 998-3029

amanda.agplaw@gmail.com

1/28, 2/4, 2/11 COL-WA-100649

Gerald Mills NTC

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR COWLITZ COUNTY

Estate of MARY LUCILLE MILLS and JOHN DAVID MILLS,
Deceased.

NO. 24-4-00332-08

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of these estates. Any person having a claim against either decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: February 11, 2025

Personal Representative: GERALD GLEN MILLS

Attorney for the Personal Representative: JEFF KURT PETERSEN

Address for Mailing or Service: 841A 12TH AVENUE, LONGVIEW, WA 98632

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Cowlitz County Superior Court, Case #24-4-00332-08

2/11, 2/18, 2/25 COL-WA-100676

Legals

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR COWLITZ COUNTY

Estate of BRENT RICHARD WHITE, Deceased.

NO. 24-4-00437-08

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: February 11, 2025

Personal Representative: TRENT J. WHITE

Attorney for the Personal Representative: JEFF KURT PETERSEN

Address for Mailing or Service: 841A 12TH AVENUE, LONGVIEW, WA 98632

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Cowlitz County Superior Court, Case #24-4-00437-08

2/11, 2/18, 2/25 COL-WA-100675

Legals

ORDINANCE 25-4021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON REPEALING PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE 16-3881 AND 18-3909 AND FIXING STORMWATER RATES TO BE CHARGED BY THE CITY OF KELSO FOR STORMWATER DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT AND FOR STORMWATER CAPITAL RECOVERY FEES

A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE WILL BE ON FILE AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND PURCHASE AT A REASONABLE PRICE, AT THE OFFICE OF THE KELSO CITY CLERK, 203 S. PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 102, KELSO, WASHINGTON, MONDAY – THURSDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM AND 6PM.

2/11 COL-WA-100687

Request For Proposal
Community Integrated Health Services, LLC, (CIHS), is a quasi-governmental, behavioral health agency (BHA) headquartered in Chehalis, Washington and serves clients within Lewis, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties. CIHS is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide an AI Provider Documentation Solution and the professional services required for implementation, maintenance, support, and further development or enhancements.

RFP listed at:

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/166/Board-of-Commissioners

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

2/4, 2/11 COL-WA-100672

Legals

ORDINANCE 25-4020

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KELSO, WASHINGTON AMENDING KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.10, STORMWATER UTILITY.

A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE WILL BE ON FILE AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND PURCHASE AT A REASONABLE PRICE, AT THE OFFICE OF THE KELSO CITY CLERK, 203 S. PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 102, KELSO, WASHINGTON, MONDAY – THURSDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM AND 6PM.

2/11 COL-WA-100686

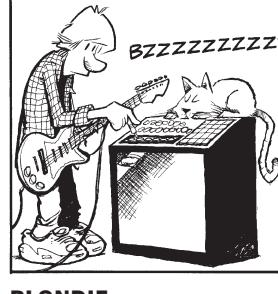
To submit application:
Submit electronically to:
Brad Stewart at BStewart@cihservices.com
Proposal Due Date: February 11, 2025 by 5:00 pm
2/1, 2/4, 2/11 COL-WA-100664

COMICS & PUZZLES

ENJOY HUNDREDS MORE COMICS AND PUZZLES ONLINE



ZITS



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BRIAN & GREG WALKER



BLONDIE



DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH



FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



BEETLE BAILEY



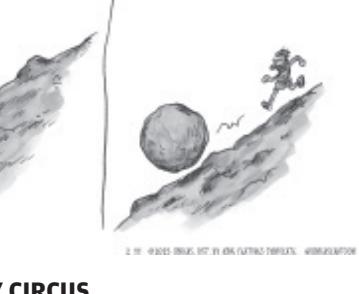
GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



MACANUDO



LINIERS



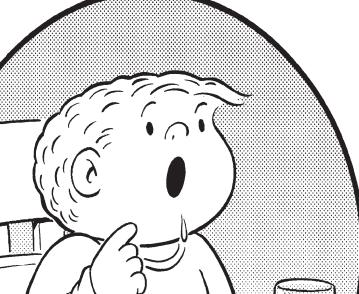
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



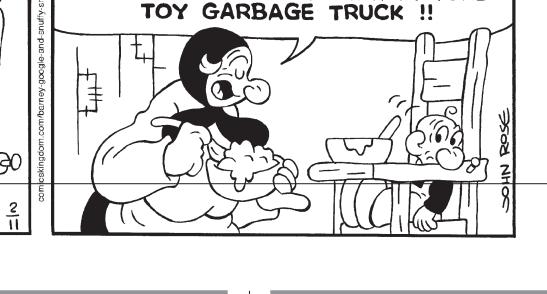
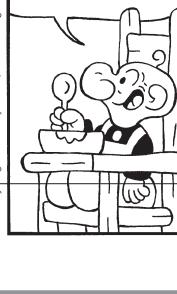
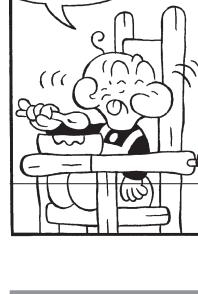
BREAK OF DAY



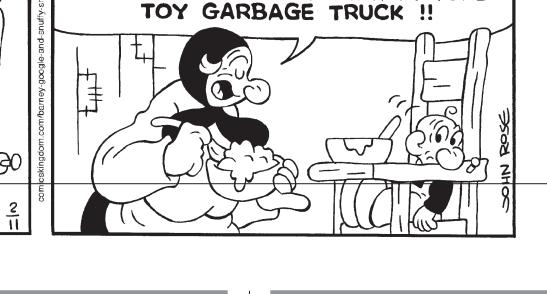
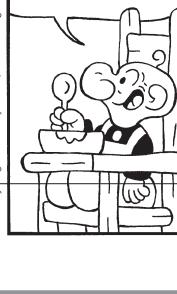
NATE FAKES



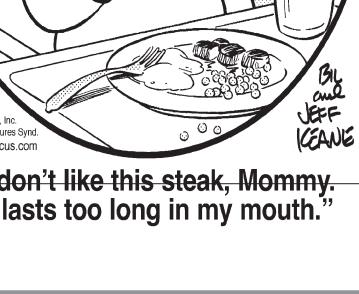
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH



JOHN ROSE



FAMILY CIRCUS



"I don't like this steak, Mommy. It lasts too long in my mouth."

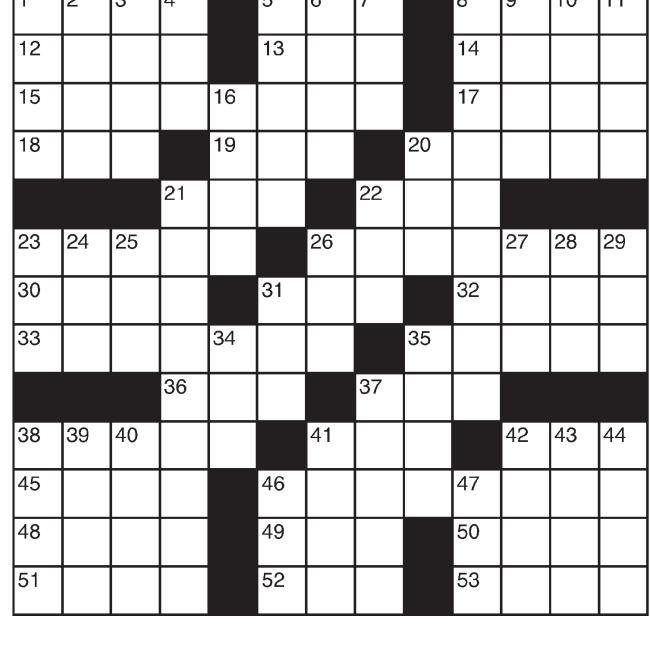
SHEFFER CROSSWORD

ACROSS	33	Pond	DOWN	21	Revolving
1	Use a	floater	1	Wild	tray
squeegee	35	Unclothed	2	canine	22
5	ACLU	36	Long	Concept	Witty
concerns	lunch?	37	Tier	3	one
8	Oodles	38	Teapot	23	Bando
12	Valhalla	39	feature	24	baseball
VIP	40	41	Em	25	"Exodus"
13 — Jima	42	Binge	halves	26	hero
14 Slightly	43	Hiatus	Ticked off	27	NASA
15 Reveals	44	45	Candy	28	Compass
by	Galley	46	sold in	29	dir.
accident	gear	47	twos	30	Blue
17 California	48	Vicinity	7	31	Taxi
valley	49	columnist	Soak	32	Impose
18 LAX and	50	Soul, to	(up)	33	Eggy
JFK	51	Sartre	8	34	drinks
overseer	52	Eager	Breaking	35	Demolishes
19 Bad spell	53	Drudge	point	36	Daytime
20 Playful	54	PX	9	37	drama
sea critter	55	Patrons	Final	38	Rid of
21 Young	56	Trawler	notice	39	rind
bloke	57	gear	10	40	Sweet
22 Used	58	59	Clock	41	sandwich
to be	60	61	reading	42	Rock's
23 Skewered	62	63	11	43	Hendrix
Thai	64	65	Swizzle	44	Donate
recipe	66	67	12	45	Bickering
26 Beach	68	69	Horse-drawn	46	Profs'
robes	70	71	carriage	47	degrees
30 Four	72	73	20	48	Trail the
Corners	74	75	48	49	pack
st.	76	77	49	50	47 "Sheesh!"

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-11



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

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

Difficulty: ★★

2/11

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

2/10

WUZZLES

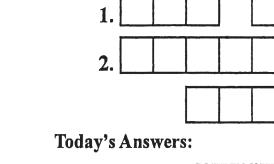
WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

1.



2. Adding machines



Today's Answers:

1. Hot water

2. Adding machines

Created by Tom Underwood

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IGNAA

NURET

WNCRH

GMYOLO

SHE HAD DOUBTED THAT SHE'D LIKE HIS NEW BEARD, BUT IT WAS ---

Just trim it. I think it's really coming in nicely now.

2. DOLLY GAUZE BLOTH MAINLY

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

DOLLY GAUZE BLOTH MAINLY

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Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOLLY GAUZE BLOTH MAINLY

Answer: When he complained about how full he was, his wife told him to stop his — BELLYACHING

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