



Tri-City Herald

SOCCER CAPTAIN FINDS MOTIVATION IN THE PAST
SPORTS | C1

JUST HOW GOOD FOR YOU ARE TOMATOES, ANYWAY? LIFE | D1



NEW @ tricityherald.com Are you conservative or liberal? At Olympia Dispatch, Chris Mulick has found an online game that asks you to define yourself. | **More, A2**

50 cents

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007

tricityherald.com

EDUCATION

Mexico lends help to schools

U.S. public school programs trying out curriculum in Spanish

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — Some Oregon high schools are adopting Mexico's public school curriculum to help educate Spanish-speaking students with textbooks, an website, DVDs and CDs provided free by Mexico to teach math, science and even U.S. history.

The Oregon Department of Education and Mexico's Secretariat of Public Education are discussing aligning their curricula so courses will be valid in both countries.

Similar ventures are under way in Yakima, San Diego and Austin, Texas.

"Students come to us with such complex issues," said Tim King, director of Clackamas Middle College and Clackamas Web Academy, where a virtual course using Mexico's learning materials got started this week.

See **SCHOOLS** | Page A2

WARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Officials look into teacher's past

Man allegedly had a relationship with former student

KRISTIN M. KRAEMER
HERALD STAFF WRITER

WARDEN — State officials are investigating whether a former Warden teacher has repeatedly had inappropriate relationships with students

during his 15-year career.

One day after Kelly Smith resigned from his job as a Warden High School math teacher and coach, the district's superintendent sent a letter to the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction about recent claims that

had surfaced in the small Grant County town. State law requires district officials to file reports of any allegations of unprofessional conduct by certificated employees.

In her letter to OSPI's Office of Professional Practices, Superintendent Sandra Sheldon said: "... I have a reasonable basis to believe that Kelly Smith has committed an act of unpro-

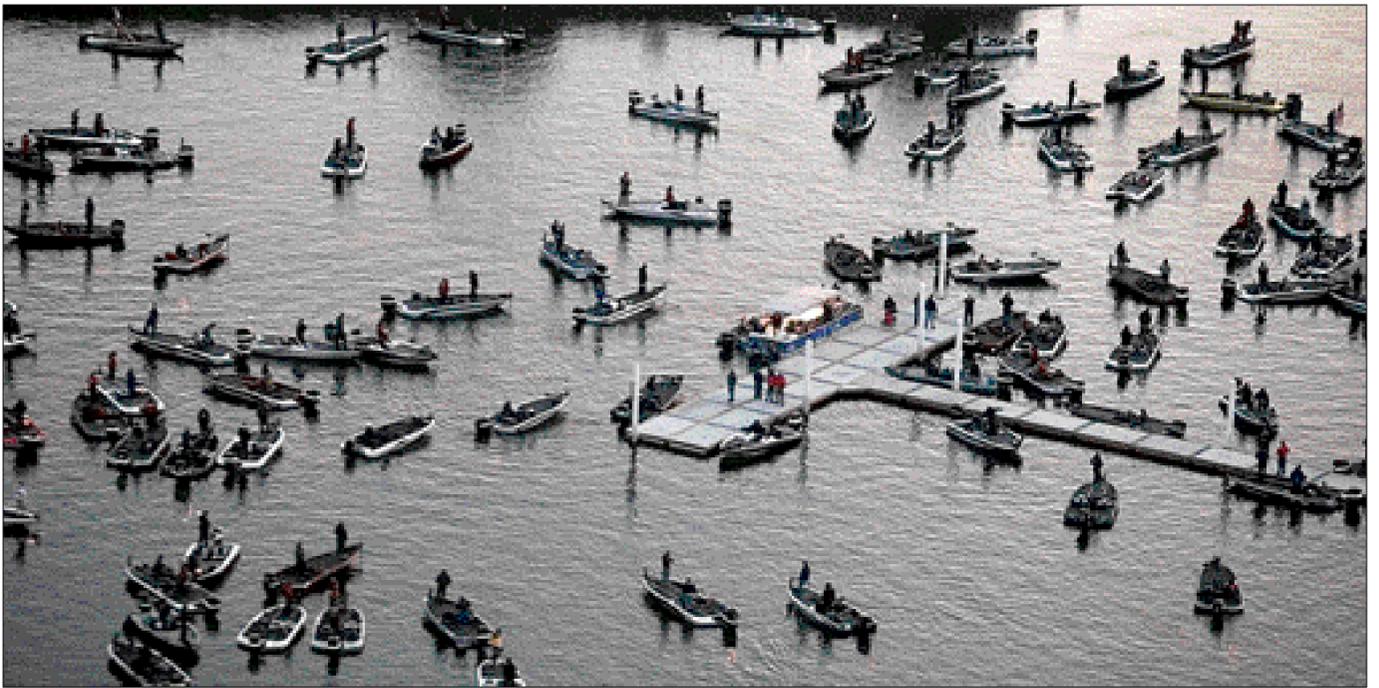
fessional conduct including grooming behaviors."

Smith, who is married and lives in Moses Lake, could not be reached Wednesday for comment.

Sheldon said the school district placed Smith on paid administrative leave Aug. 27 as the allegations were

See **TEACHER** | Page A2

COLUMBIA RIVER BASS, BEWARE!



Bob Brawdy | bbrawdy@tricityherald.com

Almost 200 boats entered the FLW Series Columbia River series bass fishing tournament line up Wednesday in the Columbia Point Marina Park boat basin, waiting for the 6:30 a.m. start of the four-day event. Two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the Washington Army National Guard's 66th Theater Aviation Command at Fort Lewis participated in a ceremonial flyover to help kick off the event. See stories, **B1** and **C1**. See video at tricityherald.com.

HANFORD

Full construction resumes at vit plant

Building had been stopped for 2 years because of concerns about earthquake standards

ANNETTE CARY
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Thirty-five truckloads of concrete will be poured at the High Level Waste Facility at Hanford's vitrification plant today.

The pour marks the resumption of full construction after concerns about earthquake design standards halted construction on two key buildings 20 months ago. It puts the Waste Treatment, or vitrification, plant back on a revised schedule to begin turning millions of gallons of radioactive waste into a stable glass form in 2019 for disposal.

Today will mark the first major structural construction completed on the High Level Waste Facility since late 2005. Major structural construction on the Pretreatment Facility the second building affected by earthquake design questions, is expected to begin in January. Together, the two buildings



Construction has resumed at the High Level Waste Facility at Hanford's vitrification plant. Workers Wednesday were preparing for the first major concrete pour at the building today since restarting construction. Rajah Bose | rbose@tricityherald.com

have a footprint the size of six football fields.

"Resuming construction on a facility of this magnitude and complexity is no a simple task," Shirley Olinger, acting manager for DOE's Hanford Office of River Protection, said Wednesday as she watched workers prepare for the concrete pour.

Contractor Bechtel National has been preparing since spring to be ready to restart construction on the two buildings. It got a green light a month ago when

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman confirmed that earthquake design standards were adequate.

Workers have been rehired to increase the construction staff from 250 to more than 600. With support staff and field engineers, Bechtel has about 1,300 people working at the construction site and a total of 2,500 employees assigned to the project.

See **VIT PLANT** | Page A2

Army tests soldiers' brains – just in case

Doctors say it might help diagnose, treat troops with trauma

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Before they leave for Iraq, thousands of troops with the 101st Airborne Division line up at laptop computers to take a test: basic math, matching numbers and symbols, and identifying patterns. They press a button quickly to measure response time.

It's all part of a fledgling Army program that records how soldiers' brains work when healthy, giving doctors baseline data to help diagnose and treat the soldiers if they suffer a traumatic brain injury — the signature injury of the Iraq war.

"This allows the Army to be much more proactive," said

INSIDE
Senate shuts down bill to give troops equal time at home and in the field. | **A6**

Lt. Col. Mark McGrail, division surgeon for the 101st. "We don't want to wait until the soldier is getting out of

the Army to say, 'But I've had these symptoms.'"

The mandatory brain-function tests are starting with the 101st at Fort Campbell and are expected to spread to other military bases in the next couple of months. Commanders at each base will decide whether to adopt the program.

The tests provide a standard, objective measurement for each soldier's reaction time, their short-term memory and other cognitive skills. That data would be used when the soldiers come home to identify mild brain trauma

See **BRAINS** | Page A2



COMING TOMORROW

Ringling Bros. ringmaster says there's nowhere he'd rather raise a family than the circus. | **A&E**

CUPPA TEA?

Scientists say ancient beverage might be more helpful than we thought. | **D6**



CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT

Just hours after he was officially crowned the victor in his much-hyped sales battle with 50 Cent, Kanye West turned up at GQ's 50th anniversary party as the featured performer. But the evening was more like a coronation for West, whose *Graduation* widely outsold 50 Cent's *Curtis* in first week sales, according to Nielsen SoundScan: 957,000 copies to 691,000 copies. "To be a champion, you've got to take out a champion," West declared Tuesday night, as an all-star crowd including Jay-Z, Beyoncé and Diddy cheered him on. Moments later, he called for his "theme music," then launched into a performance of his song *Good Life*. | **More celebrity news, D5**



HIGH **79** LOW **40** MORE WEATHER, A10

INSIDE

Business | **B4-6** Classified | **C4** Comics | **D4** Herpetology | **D5** Life | **D1-6** Mid-Columbia | **B1-3** Money & Markets | **B5** Movies | **D2**

Obituaries | **B3** Opinion | **A8-9** Puzzles | **D5** Sports | **D1-4**

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