

Scottish Balladeer

 Musician Al Stewart Comes to Centralia College / **Life 1**

 Blazers
Win / **Sports 1**


Consultant: Closures 'a Bad Idea'

Closing Green Hill or Maple Lane Would Likely Lead to 'Imminent Harm'

 By Marqise Allen
mallen@chronline.com

The consultant charged with studying the proposal of closing Green Hill School or Maple Lane School cautioned members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee about closing either

during a hearing in Olympia Wednesday afternoon.

"There are efficiencies that are possible, but we think closing either of those facilities will be a bad idea," said lead consultant Chris Murray of Christopher Murray & Associates. "It would introduce an imminent

probability of doing serious harm to a quality program."

Gov. Chris Gregoire proposed across-the-board reductions at Green Hill School, Maple Lane School and Naselle Youth Camp instead of closing a facility in her December budget proposal.

Closure of either Green Hill or Maple Lane had an anticipated savings of about \$12 million. However, Murray told the committee during Thursday's public hearing that the state would only see an annual savings of \$7.1 million with the closure of Maple Lane and a \$5.4 mil-

lion savings with the closure of Green Hill.

The savings would also not be realized for at least three years, due to \$35 million in construction the state's juvenile detention system would need to offset the loss.

please see **CLOSURES**, back page

TransAlta Under Fire

Despite Technological Efforts, Legal and Political Wrangling Makes Future Uncertain for Coal-Fired Facility

 By Dan Schreiber
dschreiber@chronline.com

Despite efforts by TransAlta to reduce potentially harmful emissions at its Centralia coal-fired steam plant, conservationist groups still want to take steps to shut down the facility and make Washington the first state to rely exclusively on coal-free energy.

The Department of Ecology consistently puts the plant on a list of the state's top polluters, and last week

the Sierra Club and other groups listed their grievances at the Pollution Control Hearings Board in Lacey.

The groups want emissions limits included in the plant's state-issued five-year operating permit, a document that was renewed in late 2009 but which includes no caps on mercury, nitrogen oxide or carbon dioxide, the prime culprit in global climate change.

please see **TRANSALTA**, back page



Brandon Swanson / bswanson@chronline.com

Mount Rainier looms in the background as steam billows from the TransAlta coal plant near Centralia Sept. 8. Conservationist groups claim the plant is solely responsible for periodic haze at the national park surrounding the mountain.

OFFSHORE BASALT ROCK COULD BE CANDIDATE FOR CARBON STORAGE

By The Chronicle

Researchers at Columbia University in New York have identified a vault of basalt sea rock along the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate off the coasts of Washington, California and Oregon that they think might be a good place to store carbon

dioxide emissions from power facilities.

It's the latest buzz phrase in coal energy — carbon capture, or alternatively carbon sequestration. It's a process that involves pipeline transport of CO₂ into underground or undersea rocks.

After drilling studies, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia says a century's worth of future carbon dioxide emissions nationwide could be stored securely in the Juan de Fuca reservoir.

Scientists have identified two basic methods carbon capture

— physical trapping and geothermal trapping. The former is done by suppressing carbon under solid rock and the latter involves injecting carbon into more porous volcanic rock like basalt, which would then turn to a more carbonate substance like limestone.

Pedestrian Killed on I-5 Committed Suicide

DEATH DETERMINATION: Centralia Police Say Michael Wingert Was Under Investigation for Child Rape

 By Eric Schwartz
eschwartz@chronline.com

A Centralia man killed after being struck by northbound traffic on Interstate 5 near Mellen Street Dec. 30 was determined to have committed suicide, according to the Lewis County Coroner's Office.

Michael J. Wingert, 29, was under investigation for child rape, according to the Centralia Police Department. Detective Carl Buster said police were looking for him at the time of his death, though no warrant had been issued.

please see **PEDESTRIAN**, page Main 5

Judge Orders Change in Reynolds' Death Determination

By The Chronicle

Barb Thompson is awaiting a decision by Lewis County Coroner Terry Wilson over a court-ordered change to her daughter's death certificate.

Thurston County Superior Court Judge Richard Hicks ruled Friday that the death certificate of former state trooper Ronda Reynolds should be changed to re-move "suicide."

The order followed an unprecedented jury trial in Lewis County that found that Reynolds' 1998 death was not likely a suicide and that Wilson was arbitrary and capricious in his ruling.

Hicks' order allows 10 days for Wilson — who has changed the cause from suicide to undetermined and back to suicide since 1998 — to change the certificate,

please see **REYNOLDS**, back page



Ronda Reynolds change in death certificate ordered

Weather

TONIGHT: Low 37-43
TOMORROW: High 45-51
Rain
see details on back page

Weather picture by McKenna Church, second grade, Onalaska Elementary School

Today's News

MAKING BREAD: Centralia Facility Will Produce Frozen Bread Dough for 360 Subway Stores / **Main 2**

UNEMPLOYMENT: More Than \$50 Million in Jobless Benefits Paid to Lewis County Residents in 2009 / **Main 2**

ON THE BIKE: Brian Mittge Says the Open Road Offers Satisfaction / **Opinion: Main 6**

UP AND DOWN: Winlock Hoops Squad Responding Enthusiastically Despite Unfortunate Set of Coincidental Problems, Aaron VanTuyl Writes / **Sports 1**

COLLEGE HOOPS: Trailblazers Fall Just Short of SWACC Upset / **Sports 1**

Tomorrow's News

LEGALIZE THIS: Fine, John McCroskey Says — Legalize Pot, but Don't Make Me Pay for the Damage / **Opinion**

Deaths

DeGross, Darrell, 71, Enumclaw
Jennings, Harry D., 68, Centralia
Byrd, Joan "JoAnn" Elizabeth, 71, Vancouver
Orr, Thelma Irene, 81, Moses Lake

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