



Portland bringing back the Fire for its WNBA team

SPORTS, B9



Cucumber Avocado Soup keeps kitchen cool

FOOD, B1

The Columbian

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 | Serving Clark County, Washington | www.columbian.com

Should city ban masks on officers?

Vancouver city councilor raises concerns about use of face coverings

By ALEXIS WEISEND
The Columbian

The Vancouver City Council wants to explore banning law enforcement officers from covering

their faces or otherwise masking their identities.

"This is not a theoretical concern," said Councilor Diana Perez, who brought up the idea at Monday's city council meeting. "We are seeing incidents across the country where unidentified agents and impersonators and unmarked vehicles are detaining or kidnapping people."

Protests have erupted across

the country over masked, plain-clothed Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents detaining undocumented immigrants. Viral videos show confused and fearful people whisked away in unmarked cars by people who are presumably ICE agents with their faces obscured by hats, neck gaiters and sunglasses.

The requirement that law enforcement be identifiable is not an

issue many cities are tackling. But lawmakers at state and federal levels have put forth proposals.

U.S. border czar Tom Homan told The New York Times last month that ICE agents are wearing masks to protect their identities because they have become targets for attacks and doxing (that is, providing such personal information as home addresses publicly online).

But growing news reports of people pretending to be ICE agents and assaulting or kidnapping people has heightened pressure to legally require all law enforcement to identify themselves so people can differentiate between them and bad actors.

ICE recently detained a father dropping off his children at Frank-

MASKS, Page A2

Camas treats lake to fight ALGAE BLOOMS



Photos by AMANDA COWAN/The Columbian

City of Camas crews travel along Lacamas Lake while spraying aluminum sulfate to the water on Tuesday morning in hopes of eliminating harmful algae blooms.

Residents can still use Lacamas Lake during treatment, official says

By SHARI PHIEL
The Columbian

Lacamas Lake is getting a new weapon in the fight against toxic algae blooms. Crews from the city of Camas spent the early part of this week on boats spraying aluminum sulfate on the lake.

The aluminum sulfate binds with organic matter in the water, making the phosphorus unavailable to feed algae, said Rob Charles, utilities manager for

COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM

the city.

This was the first of two planned treatments for Lacamas Lake this summer. The city plans to apply EutroSORB G, a chemical that quickly eliminates phosphorus in water, later in the summer. The city is also increasing its water quality monitoring to find the best time to apply the second treatment.

"We haven't seen those huge blooms yet, so we're hoping this treatment will be a little more ef-

LAKE, Page A2



Boats come ashore for a refill at Lacamas Lake on Tuesday morning. Crews applied aluminum sulfate to the lake this week as the city works to control warm weather algae blooms.

COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM

Boys & Girls Clubs faces loss of funds

Nonprofit's summer, after-school programs at risk as money frozen

By CHRISSY BOOKER
The Columbian

The Trump administration's decision to withhold billions of dollars in federal education grants jeopardizes programs offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington.

Among the \$6.8 billion in withheld funds is money for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a federal initiative that supports enrichment programs outside of regular school hours. Those dollars fund yearlong operations at the Boys & Girls Clubs' Burton Elementary Clubhouse in east Vancouver, including an eight-week summer program.

But with federal dollars paused, both the summer program and after-school offerings slated to begin in the fall are at risk, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington Executive Director Francisco Bueno said.

"We often think about stability being one of our main purposes. If we need to make significant changes to service, it will have a huge impact on those who need us most," Bueno said. "When families don't have a place for their kids to go after school, they might not be able to keep the same job, they might not know where their kids are going or if they're safe. The impact is not just on the child, it's

FUNDING, Page A2



Vancouver continues work on curb ramps this summer

CLARK COUNTY, A3

2 killed in New Jersey flooding

WEATHER, B12



Allison Schragger: Social Security needs more than risky wagers

OPINION, A4

97°/60° | Advice B2 Obituaries A6 Regional news A7 Television B4 DAILY: \$3.00
Comics B5 Puzzles A6, B2, B4 Sports B9 Weather B12 © 2025 The Columbian



LOCAL FLAVORS
ARRIVING DAILY

FROM TRUSTED FARMS TO YOUR TABLE

NEW SEASONS
MARKET