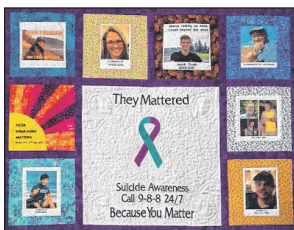


Vancouver author wins award for picture book depicting Rarámuri runner

LIFE, B1



Survivors of Suicide Support Group displays quilt honoring those who've died

CLARK COUNTY, A3

The Columbian

Thursday, September 18, 2025 | Serving Clark County, Washington | www.columbian.com

Ecology, railroad reach settlement

Company fined \$31K over clean water violations

By SHARI PHIEL
The Columbian

Nearly two years after launching an investigation into allegations that Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad violated local, state

and federal clean water rules at three work sites, the state Department of Ecology announced Tuesday it has reached a settlement with the railroad.

The railroad has been ordered to pay \$31,058 in fines. The three work sites were near Curtin Creek in the Barberton area, Northeast 78th Street in the Walnut Grove neighborhood and the Chelatchie Bluff

mineral lands. Construction work at the three sites is tied to the railroad's efforts to develop several new rail yards along the 33 miles of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad tracks between Vancouver and Amboy.

The settlement also requires the railroad to resolve environmental concerns Ecology laid out in a March 2024 order, which includes preventing soil ero-

COMMUNITY FUNDED JOURNALISM

sion on the sites and not discharging stormwater or pollutants from its properties.

According to the order, stormwater runoff observed and sampled from a property owned by the railroad company showed measurable turbidity. "Tur-

bid stormwater runoff is a discharge of pollutants. The runoff discharged directly into a wetland area adjacent to Curtin Creek," the order stated.

"The settlement resolves an appeal of a legal order that Ecology issued in spring 2024, which required the company to not pollute at three Clark County construction sites and secure the proper water quality per-

mits. PVJR appealed Ecology's order and failed to get the permits," Ecology said in a news release Tuesday.

The issues came to light in September 2023 when residents in the Chelatchie and Curtin Creek areas filed complaints with Ecology that heavy equipment the railroad and its contractor was using for road and

SETTLEMENT, Page A2

Mabry Work Center Restitution Program's 40th

Endeavor helps rebuild lives



Photos by TAYLOR BALKOM/The Columbian

Crew Chief Mike Petersen walks around the Veterans Community Garden on Tuesday at Clark County's Mabry Work Center. The center celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Litter crew picked up 157,247 pounds of trash in 2024

By MIA RYDER-MARKS
The Columbian

Clark County officials on Tuesday celebrated the 40th anniversary of a program that serves as an alternative to jail and helps people give back to their community.

Mabry Work Center on Northeast 117th Avenue houses the county's Community Restitution Program, which enables those with misdemeanors or felony charges to work off their sentences by picking up litter or maintaining parks. It gives

people the chance to fulfill their obligations with the courts while also retaining their jobs, participating in addiction treatment or going to school.

"This is a lot more than just taking folks out on a van cleaning up the parks," said Bryan Farrell, Clark County District Court administrator. "It's about helping them rebuild their lives."

Giving back

The Mabry Center started as a

small program in 1983. It launched as a relief valve for the jail, which was, like today, experiencing overcrowding.

Today, the Mabry site has 12 contracted crews, and the programs vary from roadside and wastewater maintenance to garden upkeep.

On Tuesday, Mike Petersen, a Mabry crew chief, stood on the outskirts of a vast garden. Eggplants and tomato plants sprawled behind him.

WORK CENTER, Page A2

Youth football coach fired

Parents upset after coach Joshua Warbis revealed as sex offender

By MICAH RICE
and WILL DENNER
The Columbian

Clark County Youth Football has come under fire after parents were notified that a registered sex offender had been coaching one of its teams for the past month.

Joshua Gene Warbis, 48, is listed on the Clark County Sheriff's Office sex offender registry as a Level III offender, the group deemed the highest risk to reoffend. In both 2009 and 2005, he was convicted in Washington of multiple felony counts of sex crimes involving teenage girls.



Joshua Gene Warbis
Level III offender, deemed highest risk to offend

Parents say they were informed this week that Warbis had been removed as head coach of the Evergreen Raiders, a team of fourth- and fifth-graders, after his sex offender status became known.

Now, parents want to know why Warbis was allowed to coach in the first place. One of those is Lisa Manske, a mother of an Evergreen Raiders player, who has requested her child be moved to a different team.

"In hindsight, I'm like, 'You knew that you were a sex offender, I feel like you maybe sought out this position,'" Manske told

COACH, Page A2



Vans sit in a line Tuesday at Clark County's Mabry Work Center. The center celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.



Program manager Lisa Biffle, right, stands underneath a banner Tuesday at Clark County's Mabry Work Center. The center celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.



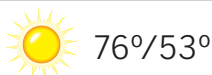
Huskies fired up to reclaim Apple Cup from Cougars

SPORTS, B9

Lisa Jarvis:

Crackdown on drug ads is long overdue

OPINION, A4



76°/53°

Advice B2 Music..... B3 Puzzles A6, B2, B4 Television B4
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