

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026



The Seattle Times

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Trump moves forward with revamp of Head Start program

PRESCHOOL | Advocates worry regulation rollback will gut services for low-income kids.

By MORIAH BALINGIT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Donald Trump’s administration said Thursday it plans to overhaul Head Start, tossing out many of the regulations that are the hallmark of the

early education program for the nation’s poorest children. Officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the federally funded preschool program, said the proposed changes would encourage more

local decision-making. But the proposal has sparked alarm across the Head Start community, where advocates say it threatens the backbone of the antipoverty initiative. In Washington state, advocates say the proposed overhaul could effectively gut early learning services for thousands of the state’s poorest children, especially those who are homeless, disabled or in

foster care. About 14,000 children are enrolled in Washington’s Head Start programs — the “vast majority” of whom are from families “well below the poverty level,” said Joel Ryan, the executive director of Washington’s Head Start association and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, the
See > **HEAD START, A4**

Can Dems lure enough progressives to hold seat?

3RD DISTRICT | GOP’s Braun takes lead in primary vote.

By ANUMITA KAUR
Seattle Times D.C. correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — State Sen. John Braun inched past U.S. Rep Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in primary returns Thursday in Southwest Washington’s 3rd Congressional District after the vast majority of votes were accounted for. Gluesenkamp Perez, the two-term Democratic incumbent, received nearly 37% of votes as of Thursday night. Braun, her Republican challenger and state Senate minority leader, received about 40%.



John Braun

The ratio suggests that Gluesenkamp Perez may be in a somewhat strong position headed into the fall, political observers said. But another number
See > **PRIMARY, A14**

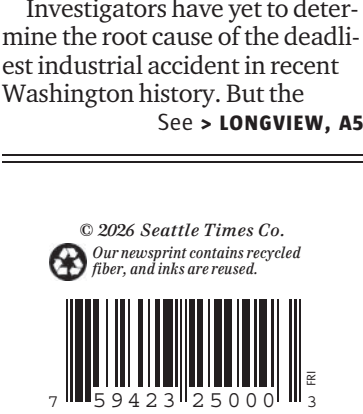
Key chemical in Longview implosion falls through oversight gaps

TIMES WATCHDOG

By REBECCA MOSS
Seattle Times investigative reporter

It sounded like a bomb, a succession of two shocking blasts, when in the winter of 1993, a white liquor clarifier tank exploded at an Oregon paper mill. Two pipe fitters lay dead. Neighbors’ homes rattled as debris seemed to fall from the sky. Nearly two decades later, on a spring morning in 2012, four workers were injured by the same chemical compound on the opposite side of the country. A valve ruptured at a South Carolina paper mill, white liquor drenching workers’ bodies. They were hospitalized with burns that left skin marred and leathery, corroding the muscle, tendon and bone beneath. And when an estimated 900,000 gallons of white liquor spilled from a ruptured tank at the Nippon Dynawave paper mill in Longview on May 26, it was the inescapable mass of those same alkaline chemicals that contributed to the death of 11 workers. Investigators have yet to determine the root cause of the deadliest industrial accident in recent Washington history. But the
See > **LONGVIEW, A5**

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Seattle community clinics, resident doctors heartbroken by hospital cuts



Dr. Ashvini Vaidya, right, a Providence Swedish resident at the Seattle Indian Health Board, checks in with 5-month-old Naziyah and her mom, Rayna Bercier. Bercier said she wanted to cry after she heard the residency program would cut partnerships with some clinics.

By ELISE TAKAHAMA
Seattle Times health reporter

When Rayna Bercier takes her baby to see the doctor, she feels at home. She’s in the hands of Dr. Ashvini Vaidya, a family medicine resident who works at the Seattle Indian Health Board clinic in the Chinatown International District. She’s attentive, observant and nonjudgmental, Bercier said, recalling how “on top of things” Vaidya was throughout her pregnancy. Bercier’s two older daughters saw doctors at another clinic, but after her youngest was born in March, she didn’t want to leave Vaidya. “When I developed that relationship with

PROVIDENCE SWEDISH | Merger will strain clinics and worsen state’s doctor shortage, experts warn.

her, I was like, ‘We’re staying here. This is where I want to be,’” said the 34-year-old Seattle aesthetician. Bercier was near tears when she found out family medicine residents like Vaidya will soon no longer provide care at the Native health clinic, following Providence Swedish’s decision to end some of its training partner-

ships with community health centers. Health experts say the cutbacks will not only further strain those local clinics but also exacerbate the already troubling doctor shortage in the state. “If that program wasn’t there, I never would have found my daughter’s doctor,” Bercier said. Providence Swedish recently announced the merger of its decades-old First Hill and Cherry Hill family medicine residencies, which will involve cutting 18 positions over the next four years, a quarter of total spots. Residency partnerships will continue at two community clinics instead of the current five.
See > **CUTS, A14**

THREE DAYS, 50 SEASONS: PLANNING THE BIGGEST PARTY IN MARINERS’ HISTORY

Mike Vorel
Seattle Times columnist

Larry Sundblad would have loved to see this.

A West Seattle resident, Vietnam War veteran and longtime employee of the Seattle parks department, Larry bought Mariners season tickets in the team’s second season. He maintained those season tickets for decades, from 1978 until he died at 79 in May 2025.



From his seats at the Kingdome and T-Mobile Park, the father of four and grandfather of seven was a constant as players and coaches and uniforms and stadiums came and went. Through wins and losses and decadeslong droughts, he remained a Mariners mainstay. So it’s fitting that, as vice president of marketing and fan engagement, Mandy Sundblad — Larry’s daughter — is overseeing the franchise’s “50 Seasons” celebration this weekend. “My dad passed away last year, but we still have those tickets for him,”
See > **VOREL, A13**

A display has been constructed at T-Mobile Park for the Mariners’ 50 Seasons celebration, which will be held Friday through Sunday. The highlights include an Alumni Home Run Derby and a salute to the 50 greatest Mariners.



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