

The Columbian
Life

Section D

Today's weather picture by **Caroline Gilbert, 8**, Pleasant Valley Primary School



SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007



DAVE BARRY

The legend that is 'Louie'

When I heard that Richard Berry, the man who wrote "Louie Louie," had died, I said ... Well, I can't tell you, in a family newspaper, what I said. But it was not a happy remark. It was the remark of a person who realizes he'll never get to thank somebody for something. I remember the day I first heard "Louie Louie." I was outside my house, playing basketball with my friends on a "court" that featured a backboard nailed to a tree next to a geologically challenging surface of dirt and random rocks, which meant that whenever anybody dribbled the ball, it would ricochet off into the woods and down the hill, which meant that our games mostly consisted of arguing about who would go get it.

So we spent a lot of our basketball time listening to a transistor radio perched on a tree stump, tuned to WABC in New York City. (I mean the radio was tuned to WABC; the stump was tuned to WOR.) And one miraculous day in 1963, out of the crappy little transistor speaker came ...

Well, you know what it sounds like: This guy just wailing away, totally unintelligibly, with this band just whomping away behind him in the now-legendary "Louie" rhythm, whomp-whomp-whomp, whomp-whomp, whomp-whomp-whomp ...

And it was just so cool. It was 500 million times cooler than, for example, Bobby Rydell. It was so cool that I wanted to dance to it right there on the rocky dirt court, although, of course, as a 15-year-old boy of that era, I would have sawed off both my feet with a nail file before I would have danced in front of my friends.

I loved "Louie Louie" even before I found out that it had dirty words. Actually, it turned out that it didn't have dirty words, but for years we — and when I say "we," I'm referring to the teenagers of that era and J. Edgar Hoover — were convinced that it did, which, of course, just made it cooler. We loved that song with no idea whatsoever what it was about.

But for me the coolest thing about "Louie Louie" was this: I could play it on the guitar. In fact, just about anybody could play it, including a reasonably trainable chicken. Three chords, nothing tricky. This is why, when I — like so many teenage boys of that era — became part of a band in a futile attempt to appeal to girls, "Louie Louie" was the first song we learned.

We'd whomp away on our cheap, untuneable guitars plugged into our Distort-O-Matic amplifiers, and our dogs would hide and our moms would leave the house on unnecessary errands, and we'd wail unintelligibly into our fast-food-drive-thru-intercom-quality public address system, and when we were finally done playing and the last out-of-tune notes had leaked out of the room, we'd look at each other and say: "Hey! We sound like the Kingsmen!" And the beauty of that song is, we kind of did.

BARRY, Page D5



Battle Ground's team tries to regroup during the commercial break of a recent taping of "High Five Challenge." The show, regionally broadcast on PBS, typically attracts 60,000 to 80,000 viewers per episode.

Photos by **KRISTINA WRIGHT** for The Columbian

Battle Ground team gets a 'High Five'

By **BRETT OPPEGAARD**
Columbian staff writer

After 11 years of trying, coach Jonas Fridriksson and his Battle Ground High School academic team finally made it. They were in the playoffs of the "High Five Challenge" television game show.

This is a moment Fridriksson intends to savor. He's cutting out extracurricular



Jonas Fridriksson, Battle Ground's academic coach, and his 9-year-old son, Levi, watch the team struggle through much of the match.

work next year to spend more time with his three children, including a 10-month-old daughter.

But the comfort of accomplishment transforms into anxiety when the show starts. In the spacious basement of Oregon Public Broadcasting in Portland, four high-definition studio cameras and dozens of audience members watch as Central Catholic High School, one of Oregon's top private schools, repeatedly beats Battle Ground to the buzzer. By the commercial break, the Portland team has built a seemingly insurmountable lead in the "Jeopardy"-like quiz show.

Fridriksson gives a pep talk. The second round will have fresh topics, making it a new game. When play resumes, the teacher winces as categories appear that he knows don't interest his students, including a set of questions labeled "Celeb Meltdowns." The score gradually becomes an intellectual exercise of its own: Is it even possible for Battle Ground to make a comeback? After slumbering, can the

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Did you know?

"High Five Challenge" has never received the consistent commercial backing creator Wayne Faligowski had hoped for, causing him to regularly switch studios over the program's 14 seasons. Two years ago, he decided to try teaming with Oregon Public Broadcasting. In turn, he's had to develop means other than paid commercials to raise money to support the program's \$160,000 annual budget. The transition has been harder than imagined, Faligowski acknowledges.

He had been making \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year on the project before switching to public television. Since the move, he hasn't been able to draw a salary from the program and has borrowed about \$60,000 against his Beaverton, Ore., house to keep the show going.

"I don't care if I get that money back in two to three years," the 65-year-old says. "Or if it never comes back, that's how it goes. But I'm not going to go on for a third year in the negative."



Wayne Faligowski
Creator and host of "High Five Challenge"

Families can do part to save planet

By **ALEX FRYER**
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — John and Cori Fraley of Bothell are a typical family: two kids, two cars, a 1,900-square-foot house.

They have a computer and two TVs and keep their home at a comfortable 68 degrees when it's cold out. Together, they log about 2,500 miles behind the wheel each month.

But this middle-class lifestyle comes at a cost to the environment, scientists say.

The Fraleys produce about 44,000 pounds of greenhouse-gas emissions each year, through the cars they drive, the electricity and natural gas they use, and the waste they

generate. That's typical for an American family, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Individual households account for about one-fifth of the nation's greenhouse-gas emissions, which scientist say contribute to the rising temperatures and dramatic environmental changes being documented across the globe.

Most of those emissions are in the form of carbon dioxide released through the burning of fossil fuels that power our homes and cars and help make the things we buy.

The Fraleys want to do their part to help. They will try to cut their greenhouse-gas emis-

sions next month as part of a Seattle Times special project that encourages readers to reduce their climate-changing emissions by at least 15 percent during May.

But in this age of widescreen TVs, multiple-car families and digital everything, can a household make meaningful cuts in energy use, short of going off the grid?

And even if it does, can it make a dent in global warming?

Almost every aspect of modern life contributes to greenhouse gases — water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide — that stay in

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John and Cori Fraley spend some time with sons Aaron and Alex just before bedtime April 4. The Fraleys produce about 44,000 pounds of greenhouse-gas emissions each year.

DEAN RUTZ/Seattle Times

your Guide:



Travel: Puglia, in Italy's heel, has it all ... except too many tourists /D4



Books: Reporters, photographers remember Halberstam in Vietnam /D8

Coming Monday: 'Miracle Worker' translates into life lesson at VSAA /D1

DAVE BARRY is a columnist for the Miami Herald. His classic column was originally published March 23, 1997. He is currently taking a leave of absence from writing his weekly humor column. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.

Team:

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team suddenly wake up? That last question also reflects on this rural upstart of a town in the center of Clark County. When Fridriksson started his job at the high school in the mid-1990s, Battle Ground was half its current size of 16,000 people and plagued with a school funding crisis. Rapid growth only made the old problems worse, replacing civic pride in the city's rural roots with a defeatist pall. New community leaders, such as Fridriksson, are changing attitudes. Voters in 2005 passed the largest bond issue in city history, a \$63 million boost for school construction. Battle Ground also is in the process of building a \$3.4 million library. Battle Ground has begun a transition. While keeping pride in its past, it's showing a progressive spurt of optimism. During the city's rustic yesteryear, country-western apparel store John's Shoes and Clothing grew into a downtown landmark. Now it competes with strip malls and big-box

stores. The area's pastures and heavy-machinery shops rapidly are being replaced by subdivisions and commercial complexes. Fridriksson, reared in Alaska, doesn't even own cowboy boots. When people meet the 37-year-old and learn he's a teacher, the next question they usually ask is: "What sport do you coach?" When the 6-foot-3, 250-pounder says "Knowledge Bowl," they typically act surprised and ask when bowling became a school activity. Fridriksson has to clarify with the "Jeopardy" comparison. It's like that game show, he says, only with slightly different rules. The "High Five Challenge" is another variation. It doesn't take much training, Fridriksson says, for his "Knowledge Bowl" players to make the transition. The primary difference is that teams lose points in the "High Five Challenge" for an incorrect answer. In "Knowledge Bowl," there is no penalty for trying. Fridriksson's team is led by senior Forrest Marler, one of the half-dozen "High Five Challenge" participants from throughout Washington chosen this year to be an all-star. Since Battle Ground's earlier



Battle Ground celebrates after the show, with coach Jonas Fridriksson, center, shaking hands with senior Forrest Marler, while Fridriksson's son Levi gives a thumbs-up to senior Alex Rhoades.

KRISTINA WRIGHT for The Columbian

victory was aired at school, Marler has become a celebrity of sorts on campus. He wants to keep that social momentum. Marler, 6-foot-2 and 250 pounds, wears a black suit with a white tie to the taping of the playoff match. He also wants to

intimidate. Fellow seniors Alex Rhoades and Tyler Jessup also wear dark shirts, pants and ties, like they could be auditioning for "The Sopranos." When Fridriksson arrives at the television studio and sees the three of them together, he quips, "Getting married?" Fridriksson jokes with them like he's a friend, not an authority figure. He says, "These are the kinds of kids that, outside of band, not that many people around the school get to know. They are pretty reserved. They kind of go under the radar. They are not troublemakers. They are not the athletes. We tend to make a big deal out of the kid that scores the winning touchdown, while these ones get overlooked."

As they wait for their match, Battle Ground team members watch another show being taped. "Justin Timberlake" is the answer to two of the questions in that segment's final round. Neither team gets those questions right. Rhoades acknowledges that many of the students in this type of competition don't know much about sports or popular culture, making those the most feared categories. When Battle Ground's turn on stage comes, the boys in black take their places behind the first three microphones of their podium. Hannah Smith, a junior, and Jimmy Kramer, a sophomore, fill the other spots. When taping starts, host Wayne Faligowski cheerily runs onto the set giving the

Battle Ground players the program's customary slapping of high-fives. Faligowski, a former KOIN-TV reporter, quit the news business in 1993 to create and develop this local game show. He says about the career change, "I was fed up with the junk on TV. I want good kids to be on there."

Southwest Washington always has been a major contributor to the program. Vancouver's Hudson's Bay High School won four out of the first five championships. Mountain View High School, in east Vancouver, was the defending champion this year, but its team didn't score high enough in the regular season to make the playoffs. Battle Ground had the fourth-highest total of the year out of 60 schools.

It's the first time that Fridriksson and Battle Ground's team have been able to advance this far. Central Catholic exploits the inexperience by repeatedly beating Battle Ground to the buzzer. The Clark County kids' expressions show they know the answers, it's just that Faligowski keeps calling on their competitors with the quicker triggers. Marler keeps the game within reach by interjecting right answers every so often.

As the time left dwindles, Battle Ground finds itself down by 190 points with only a few seconds remaining. Battle Ground rings in first on a question about "American Idol"

ON TV

■ **"High Five Challenge"**
Noon Sundays, PBS.
Today: Columbia River High School vs. Oak Hill High School from Eugene, Ore.
May 20: Battle Ground High School vs. Portland's Central Catholic High School.
The finals: Columbia River vs. Bellevue High School on May 27.

contestant Taylor Hicks. But Central Catholic tries to steal the 80 points, through a quirky — and risky — maneuver of the game. A correct answer would cement Central Catholic's place in the finals. But the Portland team is wrong, causing it to lose double that amount. With a clicking thump of the scoreboard beneath its podium, Central Catholic's lead dramatically shrinks to 30 points. Off-camera, Fridriksson straightens up in his chair. The final question, worth 40 points, appears on the numerous studio screens:

"Actor Vincent Pastore of 'The Sopranos' dropped out of this competition after he found the training too strenuous." Battle Ground's Smith, who has been virtually silent throughout the show, rings in and correctly answers: "Dancing with the Stars." Central Catholic's team appears stunned as Faligowski suddenly wraps up the episode, declaring Battle Ground the winner.

ON THE WEB
www.high-five.com

The first thing Rhoades says to Fridriksson afterward is: "You are not going to show that at school, are you?"

"I think it teaches a great lesson about never giving up," Fridriksson says. "It always could come down to the last question."

"No," Marler interjects. "It teaches you to give up while you are ahead and coast. ... I can't believe that just happened."

Later, in the parking lot, Fridriksson says he'll broadcast the episode on the school's TV network because it demonstrates the community's grit as well as what it can accomplish with its newfound bravado.

"They just came into the city and beat a prestigious private school," Fridriksson says of his team members. "Here are kids that have put a lot of time and effort into their academics, inside and outside the classroom. There just are not that many opportunities for them to shine in front of the student body. ... I want them to get the recognition they deserve."

POSTSCRIPT

Even though Battle Ground High School beat Central Catholic High School in a match that will air May 20, its score was not high enough to earn the team a spot in the final round. Vancouver's Columbia River High School, which finished 15th out of 60 schools during the regular season, randomly was chosen as a wild card for the playoffs. In that role, it was matched against the top-scoring team of the year, Oak Hill School of Eugene, Ore. Columbia River upset Oak Hill, scoring the highest total of the playoffs, 2,400 points, which qualified the team for the finals. The Vancouver school then lost the championship match to Bellevue. Besides Marler of Battle Ground, Aaron Brown of Mountain View High School also was named one of the tournament's all-stars.



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