



From Conan to egg cream

Richie Brose serves up New York goodies, accompanied by some New York lip

Food

Lucky dreams

A \$40,000 contract awaits a firm with vision for the site of former Lucky Lager plant

Local, A3

Get fit while you window shop

It's warm, it's safe, it's social; it's mall-walking

Recreation, B1



The Columbian

SERVING CLARK COUNTY, WASH.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16, 1996

50 CENTS

Repeat sex offenders targeted

Two strikes, you're out! Law gains support in state Legislature

By HAL SPENCER
The Associated Press
OLYMPIA — The Legislature wants to send repeat sex offenders to prison for life after two convictions — a move driven partly by fear that a landmark law permitting civil commitment of offenders will be struck down. Both chambers are pushing "two strikes, you're out" legislation this election year. But agreement ends there. The Democratic Senate backs a two-strikes bill that applies only to

those who prey sexually on children. The Republican House supports a measure that would apply to those who sexually assault children and adults. Both houses and parties "do have strong consensus that something must be done" to more quickly put away sex offenders, Senate Law and Justice Chairman Adam Smith, D-Seattle, said Monday during a hearing on a measure he is co-sponsoring. The debate will be on the content and breadth of the legislation, he said.

The drive to speed removal of sex offenders from society has been around for a few years. But it was given new life last year when a federal court judge declared Washington's civil commitment law unconstitutional because it amounts to punishing sex offenders who already have served their time. The law remains in effect while the ruling is appealed, which is expected to take several years. The commitment law allows a jury to find a habitual sex offender likely

to reoffend and to commit him or her to a special unit at the state prison at Monroe. The inmate can be held until declared cured. The unit now contains more than 25 "patients." Smith, and House Corrections Chairwoman Ida Ballasiotis, both said last year they would pursue legislation that would at least mitigate the damage done should the civil commitment procedure be found illegal. The two-strikes approach is their

Both houses and parties "do have strong consensus that something must be done."

— Adam Smith, D-Seattle

Please see Offenders, Page A10

"I think he was very, very lonely in the end."
— Lollie Schulze

A descent to suicide



Clayton Wright, shown at age 14, was one of 40 people who committed suicide in Clark County last year.

Clayton Wright ended his life Dec. 28 with a shotgun, but those closest to him said the 25-year-old man's spiral to destruction started long ago with liquor and drugs

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
The Columbian

CAMAS — Ray Wright slid the small picture from his wallet. He looked it over once, squeezed his eyelids shut, then stretched out his right arm.

"There he is. That's my boy, Clayton," he said, cupping the snapshot as if it were a handful of sand about to slip through his fingers. "He's thicker now. Looks older. But if he walked in here today, you'd know him. He's good looking, clean cut."

During these past few weeks, while most people were building hope for a new year, Clayton Wright watched his remaining dreams crumble in an alcohol-induced haze.

The 25-year-old killed himself Dec. 28.

His was the 40th and final suicide of 1995, the highest number recorded in Clark County. The previous high was 27 in 1994 and 1992. Self-inflicted deaths outnumbered homicides more than four to one last year, Don Phillips, a deputy coroner, said. Each year in the nation about 25,000 people kill themselves.

The Wright family agreed to talk to The Columbian with the hope Clayton's story would help others, that the end of his troubled life would deliver a message.

In the two weeks after Clayton's death, four other Clark County residents killed themselves.

"People don't discuss suicide and drug abuse because they expect them to go away," Ray Wright said. "We shouldn't hide the fact that this is going on in our world. We need to figure out a way to stop it."

The boy in this well-worn, wallet-size picture frame is smiling. He's about 14, with blond hair parted down the middle. An average boy whose mother begged him to wear a nice shirt for his class picture. A boy on the edge about to move out of his parents' home, drop out



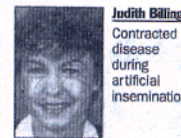
Lollie Schulze hopes the story of her son's death will help others realize the devastating consequences of substance abuse. Husband Jeff Schulze is in background.

TROY WATKIN/The Columbian

Please see Clayton, Page A6

State school chief Billings has AIDS

TACOMA (AP) — Superintendent of Public Instruction Judith Billings says she has AIDS, but feels good physically and is considering running for Congress. "I haven't felt this good in ages," Billings said in an interview published Tuesday by The News Tribune of Tacoma. "There is nothing to indicate I can't keep a full schedule." Billings, a Democrat, said she will not seek a third term as state schools chief, but may consider a run at the 9th Congressional District seat now held by freshman Republican Rep. Randy Dote. Billings, 56, said she contracted the deadly disease in the 1980s.



Contracted disease during artificial insemination

Please see Billings, Page A10

Morris will run for commission spot

Betty Sue Morris, a state legislator for the past seven years, wasted no time Monday in seeking to fill an upcoming void in county government. "I am going to run" for county commissioner, Morris said. "I am conducting committee members from past (legislative) campaigns and asking for their support." Her announcement came the day after fellow Democrat John Magnano made public his intention not to seek re-election when his term expires at the end of the



She'll seek job now held by fellow Democrat Magnano

Please see Morris, Page A10

Many babies in the area sick with common virus

A respiratory virus that can cause serious breathing problems in babies is hitting hard this winter in the Vancouver-Portland area. About 20 babies in December and another 20 so far this month have been admitted to Southwest Washington Medical Center with the respiratory syncytial virus, said Cheryl Snodgrass, nurse manager of the hospital's Pediatric/Adolescent Unit. At least one had to be put on a respirator

after being transferred to a Portland hospital. Last week, all at one time, the unit had eight infants with the virus. That's a lot, Snodgrass said, considering that on any given day the unit has an average of six patients ages 17 and younger who are there for a variety of reasons. A year ago, only five babies were sick enough from the virus to be admitted to the hospital in December and January. "We're seeing more severe


Please see Illness, Page A10

Wednesday's weather:
High ...45 Low...32
For more on local and national weather, see Page C10

Monday's winning lottery numbers:
Washington Daily Game 3-4-9
Keno 5-6-10-12-13-14-17-24-26-28-29-32-40-58-61-66-67-72-76-80
Oregon Daily 4 1-1-1-7

TV highlight:
"The Long March of Newt Gingrich," on "Frontline" looks into the life and career of the House speaker (9 p.m. on Channel 10)

What's inside...
Ready to testify
Hillary Clinton says she wants to cooperate with the Senate Whitewater Committee



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FROM PAGE A1/NORTHWEST

Clayton ...

From Page A1

of school and became a hopeless alcoholic and drug addict.

Clayton's mother, Lollie Schulze, now remarried, said her son had a happy childhood, playing with toy trucks and cars and riding his bicycle around his Salmon Creek neighborhood. He won an award in a grade-school spelling bee.

"He was a proud boy," Ray said. "He loved to achieve. He was always trying to be the best at something — break-dancing, bowling, skate-boarding."

But Ray and Lollie began having marital problems in the late 1970s, and Clayton suffered with them.

Ray, who now owns Riverside Bowl in Camas, sold real estate during the day and worked nights and weekends at a bowling alley. Lollie worked as a saleswoman during the day. They rarely saw each other and drifted apart. Eventually, they divorced.

During that time, Clayton went from being an average student to a failing one. He stepped turning in assignments. He complained that Ray didn't have time for him. He complained that Lollie didn't understand him. He complained his teachers picked on him.

Clayton began experimenting with drugs. He told people he started smoking pot when he was 15 years old. He said he was drinking beer by age 8.

Shortly after his parents sep-

rated, Clayton trespassed on a construction site and broke out the windows of one of the company's trucks. His mother later caught him smoking cigarettes.

After the divorce in 1984, the 14-year-old moved around Salmon Creek and Battle Ground with Lollie. He posed for his final class picture and gave a small copy to his father, who rarely called and visited even less frequently. Lollie soon lost her job selling books and fell into a deep depression. She spent a short stint in a local mental hospital.

"I couldn't stop crying," Lollie said. "We couldn't seem to get stabilized."

She started dating and by the end of summer 1984 she married Jeff Schulze, a retired James River Corp. electrician. Clayton was jealous and resented the marriage, Lollie said.

He also was having problems with his classmates.

"Kids would tease him and know he would lose his cool," Lollie said. "Clay would get red and hold everything inside, just like his father." Eventually, he would lose control and erupt in a temper tantrum.

That fall, Clayton enrolled at Cascade Junior High School. Doctors diagnosed him with a peptic ulcer about that time.

Party every night

By 16, Clayton had met his future wife, Shannon, and became too much for his mother and stepfather to handle. He moved in with a neighbor and dropped out of Evergreen High School a year later.

Getting help ...

COLUMBIA RIVER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CRISIS TEAM: 737-1399. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, someone on the crisis team answers the phone. Other times, Metro Crisis Intervention Services in Portland answers, and pages someone from Columbia River Mental Health Services if necessary.

COLUMBIA RIVER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES GENERAL NUMBER: 695-9416.

CRISIS LINE OF CLARK COUNTY: 696-9560.

SW WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY AND CRISIS INTERVENTION: 256-2064 at medical center, 895-8232 at Memorial Campus.

SUICIDE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT: a support group for family members and close friends of people who have committed suicide. Vancouver group meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at International Air Academy, 2901 E. Mill Plain Blvd. For information, call Tom Lane, 573-5998.

Portland group meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month in Virginia Bencher's home near Lloyd Center, call Bencher for information and directions, (503) 235-0478.

STEPPING STONES: a program for children and teenagers who have lost loved ones by any means of death, 696-5100.

He and Shannon spent most of their time together and began abusing drugs, especially methamphetamine and beer.

"Drugs and alcohol completely destroyed him," Shannon said. "The party thing became every night. We loved each other, I guess, but it was a sick kind of love."

During one six-month stretch in the late 1980s, the couple stayed awake on methamphetamine for weeks at a time. The \$400 public-assistance check Shannon received each month was spent in two days.

The couple bounced from house to house. Clayton dealt drugs and worked several hard-labor jobs, including framing houses, removing asbestos and breaking rocks in a rock quarry. Shannon said he would drink a beer in the morning before work, a beer at lunch and the rest of the case when he came home for the night. If it wasn't alcohol, it was methamphetamine.

Meth

Methamphetamine is a lumpy powder colored white to brown. It

is snorted, injected and smoked, and it's the most popular illegal drug in Clark County, said Camas Police Sgt. Paul Pearce.

"Initially, it makes people euphoric and gives them lots of energy," Pearce said. "But long-term, it causes psychotic behavior and extreme paranoia. The users hallucinate and do erratic things."

At the end of this six-month stretch, Clayton's nose "exploded" with blood from snorting so much methamphetamine, Shannon said. He spent the night over a toilet with a rag up his nose.

The next night, Shannon tried to kill herself. She locked herself in a bathroom and tried to slit her wrists. Clayton broke down the door, and they wrestled with the knife. It cut her hands. They vowed to quit alcohol and illegal drugs, but a few days later they started drinking again.

"Clay had a lot of problems," Shannon said. "We fought all the time, and he would break down and cry about his family, his parents, his friends."

In 1990, the couple had a daughter named Kayla. Clayton and Shannon were married a year later.

"We thought it would help our relationship," Shannon said, "but nothing changed. The drinking got worse and worse, and so did our fights." Clayton threatened suicide many times. The marriage officially lasted seven months.

After they separated, Clayton moved around Clark County, living with other drug users. He was arrested for several misdemeanors, and spent eight months in the Clark County Jail for being a

habitual offender.

When he was released in February 1990, Clayton and Shannon reunited. After a few days of bliss, the alcohol returned and so did the fights. During one argument police were called, and Clayton was arrested for domestic violence. Shannon obtained a restraining order.

Last June, a judge signed the divorce order, and Clayton moved back in with his mother, unemployed, broke and without a driver's license.

Clayton complained that his former drug buddies had done "funny stuff" to his clothes, making them reflect at night so police could see him. He said his eyeballs and skin glowed. He constantly said "people" were after him.

Last one night, his sister Sherrie, who was visiting her mother's Vancouver home, found Clayton outside smashing flower pots. He told her he was getting rid of all the little people in caps and dark glasses who were popping up out of the flowers.

"He thought someone had sabotaged his life and took away all his real friends," Lollie said. "I think he was just very, very lonely in the end."

Recently, he looked in a mirror and told his mother he didn't see himself anymore. It would prove prophetic.

On Dec. 26, Jeff and Lollie left to visit relatives in Oregon. When they returned, they found Clayton's body slumped on the basement floor next to the gun cabinet.

He had found some hidden ammunition, loaded one of Jeff's shotguns, put it in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

The gun was still connected to a wire cable that secured it to the cabinet.

Clayton didn't leave a note, just 12 empty beer cans.

The warnings

Most suicidal people show at least a few warning signs of depression, but it's a matter of recognizing those signs. Sometimes they are subtle or the person manages to do a good job of hiding them.

Basically, there are marked changes in a person's usual behavior, such as:

- An increasing isolation from family and friends.
- Not tending to duties at job.
- Faltering in school

performance.

- Giving away possessions.
- Being clearly depressed and then suddenly getting better for no reason.
- Talking in very hopeless terms.
- Giving up, such as putting affairs in order, giving away valued possessions, resigning from clubs and organizations.
- Neglecting personal appearance.
- Decrease or increase in sleep.

- Spending a lot of time in bed.
- Increase or beginning of alcohol and drug use.
- Dramatic decrease or increase in appetite.
- Trouble concentrating; inability to sit still.
- Unexplained loss of energy; excessive fatigue.
- Constant feelings of worthlessness or self-hatred.
- Excessive and unnecessary risk-taking.
- Preoccupation with death, dying or suicide.

- Writing a suicide note.
 - Moodiness.
 - Unusual outbursts of anger.
 - Increased anxiety.
- WHAT TO DO**
- Take all threats of suicide seriously.
 - Trust your suspicions that the person might be self-destructive.
 - Tell the person you are concerned about his or her well-being. Listen with understanding.
 - Ask direct questions about the person's intentions. Determine if he or she has a plan for suicide. The more detailed the plan, the greater the risk.
 - Get professional help for the person from a counselor, psychologist pastor or crisis line. Stay with the person or leave him or her with a responsible adult if you need to get help.
 - Acknowledge the person's positive responses to problems.

Teen apparently commits suicide after shooting 3 others in Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — A 14-year-old boy apparently shot three members of a friend's family, killing two of them, before fatally shooting himself, investigators said.

Killed were Patsy Ann Watts, 35, her son Nick, 14, and a family friend, Keith Flaiz, 14.

Tara Watts, 9, remained in critical condition today at Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center with a gunshot wound to the chest.

Duane Bigoni, a Multnomah County deputy medical examiner, said Flaiz appeared to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Policeman accidentally shoots man in chase

SEATTLE (AP) — A 29-year-old man was shot and killed after a Seattle police officer's gun accidentally discharged during a chase, authorities said.

Edward A. Anderson was shot early Monday as he tried to run from officers who were responding to a domestic-violence call at a townhouse in the Central District, police said.

The King County Medical Examiner's office said Anderson suffered a wound to the neck.

wound. Portland police spokesman Lt. C.W. Jensen said the shootings could be a multiple homicide and suicide.

The girl was discovered by her father, Terry B. Watts, 34, about 4:15 p.m. at their home in southeast Portland.

Watts, a commercial painter, told police he came home from work and found his wife dead and his daughter unconscious and bleeding on the first floor of the house. The boys' bodies were found in the basement.

Steve Duckett, who grew up with Terry Watts in Milwaukie, went to the hospital shortly after the shootings.

"He's in shock," Duckett said.

"He doesn't know what's going on... It's not going to hit him for a couple of days."

Teresa Stangle has lived next door to the family for six or seven years. She said Patsy Watts was an aerobics instructor before becoming a full-time homemaker, and she sometimes looked after neighborhood children.

"She was a wonderful lady. I talked to her every day," Stangle said. "I'm just in shock, complete shock."

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