

NW SATURDAY

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PHOTOS BY JOHN LOK / THE SEATTLE TIMES
It was launch day in Redmond at the Champions Science Adventures camp. The kids spent the earlier part of this week building the rockets.

THEY HAVE LIFTOFF

Young aspiring space explorers launched their very own solid-fuel-propelled rockets on Friday as part of Champions Science Adventures summer camp. The camp offers hands-on programs that inspire children ages 5-12 to investigate and learn about the science that surrounds them. About 90 children from several camp locations throughout the greater Puget Sound area participated in the launch at Sixty Acres Park in Redmond.



Carol Smyth inspects a row of model rockets before a launch.



Dane Vedaa, 8, listens to instructions before launching his model rocket.

County exec: Tax needed to avoid closures

RECOMMENDS SALES-TAX INCREASE

Some public-health clinics, regional police services and 39 urban parks could shut down

BY KEITH ERVIN
Seattle Times staff reporter

King County Executive Kurt Triplett asked the County Council on Friday to put a tax increase before voters, saying the government otherwise would have to close 39 urban parks along with some public-health clinics and regional police services.

Triplett sent the council a proposed ordinance that — with voter approval — would increase the sales tax one-tenth of a percent, but said he would “fully support” an alternative property-tax increase proposed by council members Larry Gossett and Julia Patterson.

Both taxes face tough going in the council, where they are opposed by two liberal Democrats running for county executive, Dow Constantine and Larry Phillips. The two joined state Rep. Ross Hunter, state Sen. Fred Jarrett and executive director of the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, Susan Hutchison, at a candidates forum

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2 SPARED PRISON FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH ‘POT PRINCE’

MAIL-ORDER MARIJUANA SEEDS

Canadian legalization activist to surrender, expects 5-year term for lucrative exports to U.S.

BY IAN ITH
Seattle Times staff reporter

After four years of politically charged legal wrangling, two employees of Canada’s so-called “Prince of Pot” have avoided prison for their roles in exporting marijuana seeds to the U.S. by mail-order.

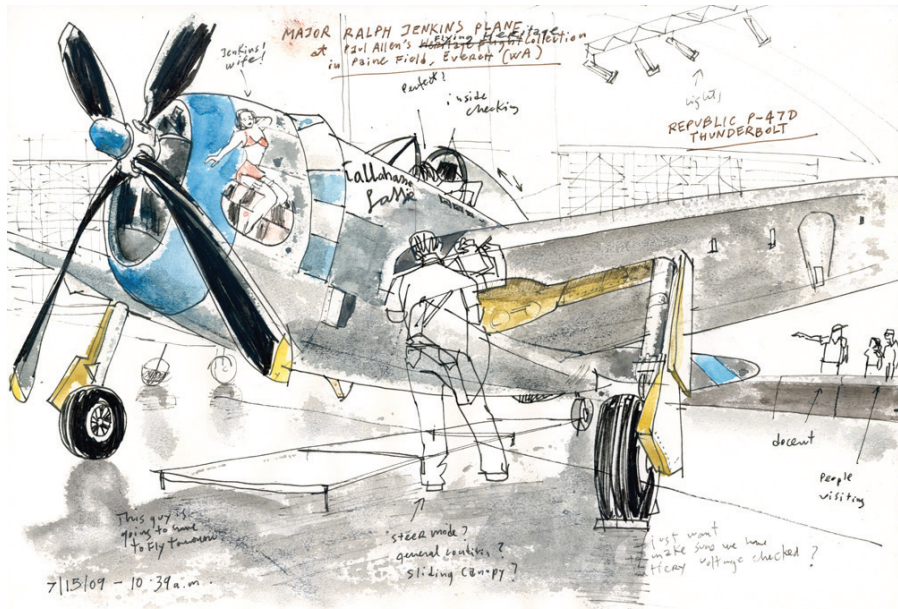
The plea deal, finalized on Friday, sets the stage for the Prince of Pot himself, Marc Emery, to surrender to U.S. authorities later this year to face prison time. That will close the long-running, high-profile case that had pitted some of Canada’s most vocal marijuana activists against the Justice Department in a war of words.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo Martinez accepted the deal for Michelle Rainey, 38, and Gregory Williams, 54, to be sentenced to two years of probation for conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. Both may return to Canada,

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Seattle Sketcher

Gabriel Campanario, Seattle Times news artist



A Tallahassee Lassie flies again

Sketched July 15, 10:39 a.m.

Two World War II fighter planes from Paul Allen’s Flying Heritage Collection will return to the sky today in Everett. One of them is this P-47D Thunderbolt, which I sketched as mechanics were doing flight checks this week. Retired Col. Ralph Jenkins, 90, of Seattle, will be at Paine Field to watch the flight of this plane, which is painted like the six “Tallahassee Lassie” Thunderbolts he flew during the war.

Named for his wife, the Tallahassee Lassie planes featured her image painted on the nose. “There were a lot of girl pictures on P-47s,” explains Jenkins, who flew 129 combat missions, including on D-Day. He said his wife was a good sport about the art. They met in Tallahassee 67 years ago and married in just four months. “She was a very pretty bride and is here with me today.”

The free air show starts at noon and lasts about an hour. Watch from the west end of 109th Street Southwest at Paine Field, near the museum hangar. After, museum visitors can meet Jenkins and pilots who specialize in flying World War II planes. Details are on my blog and at www.flyingheritage.com.

Gabriel Campanario sketches and blogs about life in the Puget Sound area: seattletimes.com/seattlesketcher. E-mail: gcampanario@seattletimes.com

SEATTLE SKETCHER AT SEAFAIR

Seattle Times news artist Gabriel Campanario is sketching at Seafair events every Saturday this month. Look for his drawings from Snohomish’s Kila Ha Ya Days tonight on his blog — seattletimes.com/seattlesketcher — and tomorrow in Sunday’s Seattle Times.

TRADE OLD LIGHT BULBS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT ONES

It’s a simple trade — bulbs for bulbs. But those who bring incandescent light bulbs to Lowe’s and Ace Hardware locations at one of Puget Sound Energy’s weekend Rock the Bulb events will walk away with up to 10 new Energy Star CFL bulbs and huge potential savings on their energy bills.

CFL bulbs, which come in four basic shapes, can last up to 10,000 hours — 10 times the life span of an incandescent — while using about 75 percent less energy to produce the same amount of light.

Even used and burned-out incandescent bulbs are fair game for trade during Rock the Bulb, which aims to distribute 400,000 CFLs between now and November.

The events are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday at a series of Lowe’s and Ace Hardware Stores through Halloween weekend. Today and Sunday, the exchange is at the Lowe’s in Bellevue, 11959 Northup Way. Visit www.rockthebulb.com/events for a complete list of stores and dates.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PUBLIC SPACE AT CAPITOL

The public is invited to comment on rules being established on the use of public areas of the state Capitol in Olympia.

This follows the furor that erupted last December after an atheist group put up an anti-religion sign next to a Nativity scene.

The existing policy and opportunity to comment can be found at: www.ga.wa.gov/rules/rules_proposed.htm.

The department anticipates draft rules will be released by mid-August. A public hearing and comment period will be in early fall.

PLUS:
COMICS & PUZZLES > B7-B9
OBITUARIES > B6 WEATHER > B10

Man sentenced to nine months for stabbing ‘therapy cat’

BY JENNIFER SULLIVAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

A drunken man who stabbed a “therapy cat” while in treatment was sentenced to nine months in jail Friday by a judge who cut short Tracy Clark’s efforts to blame his rage on his alcohol problem.

Clark said he was deeply sorry for hurting the animal, named Scatt, and said that he likes dogs and cats and “very, very much regrets what happened.”

But when he started to blame his drinking, Superior Court Judge Michael Hayden stopped him and told him to stop making excuses for his violent behavior. He sent Clark to jail and ordered that he spend his days in alcohol treatment at the King County Community Center for Alternative Programs.

“I see about a dozen prior drug and alcohol convictions, six against people and one

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