

**INTERLEAGUE**  
 Mariners beat the Padres  
 8-2 at Safeco Field.  
**SPORTS, C1**

**BEACH BLANKET**  
 A big, colorful towel is the  
 essential summer accessory  
 for lounging in the sun.  
**LIFE, D1**



**WEATHER**  
 Like Bob Hope,  
 we'll reach 100.  
 High **100**  
 Low **52**  
 Real Feel: High **102**, Low **60**  
**FORECAST, A**

VOICE  
 OF THE  
 MID-COLUMBIA

**Tri-City Herald**

**Thousands dial in for Do Not Call list**

**SATURDAY**  
 JUNE 28, 2003

50 CENTS

www.tri-cityherald.com

**■ About 735,000 numbers registered on first day**

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Striking back against telemarketers for countless interrupted meals, the public poured an avalanche of discontent into the new national do-not-call list Friday, registering more than 735,000 phone numbers on the first day.

"They're a real pain in the neck," said Helen McKenna, 75, a retired writer from San Diego. "They don't mind if they interrupt your supper. Sometimes they

call when I'm asleep."

McKenna tried to register for the free government service intended to block most telemarketing calls, but she couldn't access the program's Web site at www.donotcall.gov.

The Internet site responded slowly on the first day because of "extraordinary amounts of traffic," the Federal Trade Commission said. The FTC, which launched the registry soon after midnight, said that at noon the Web site was being visited 1,000 times every second. The agency scrambled to add more computer

equipment to handle the load.

Even more consumers registered by calling the toll-free number 888-382-1222, which is available in states west of the Mississippi River, including Minnesota and Louisiana. To ensure the system can handle the volume of calls, the number will not operate nationwide until July 7.

Slightly more than half of the phone numbers registered by Friday afternoon

See List, Page A2

**Block telemarketers**

888-382-1222  
 www.donotcall.gov.

**AAA Office swamped by mistaken inquiries**

**By The Associated Press**

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — A West Virginia AAA office received hundreds of unwanted calls Friday thanks to — oddly enough — the national Do Not Call list.

The Bridgeport AAA office at times had all six of its lines full of people who had misdialed the list's number — 888-382-1222 — by a few digits. By midday, six AAA employees had talked to about 500 callers.

"People in the office are kind of

amused by it all and having a good time chatting with people from all over the country," said Wayne Northey, regional president of AAA East Central. As Northey tries to have his office's number disconnected, his staff is trying to determine how callers dialed the wrong number. Not only did they dial the wrong toll-free area code, but they also flubbed the prefix — 388 instead of 382.

"I can't imagine there are that many people who can't dial a number," he said.

**Suspect sought**

**Israel**

**Splash down**

local agencies that provide social services.

The organization announced earlier this month that 20 agencies will receive a portion of the \$4 million it collected during its fall 2002 campaign. The remaining money will go toward agencies the United Way already had earmarked for grants and other programs.

The allocations range from as much as \$145,000 to the Mid-Columbia Corps of the Salvation Army for emergency services to as little as \$18,562 for youth development at the YMCA.

In addition to the \$1.9 million, the United Way awarded a one-time \$4,000 supplemental grant to the American Red Cross to help area military families.

— By the Herald staff

## Lotteries

Friday's Drawing

### Washington

Daily game: 4-8-9

**Keno:** 3-4-5-7-8-14-15-25-30-31-39-43-51-57-58-60-61-66-72-75

**Lucky for Life:** 11-51-71-81

**Mega Millions:** 1-14-20-31-40

**Mega Ball:** 43

**Est. jackpot:** \$12 million

### Oregon

**Pick 4:** 1 p.m.: 3-6-2-4;  
 4 p.m.: 2-2-8-8; 7 p.m.:  
 6-1-2-2; 10 p.m.: 6-1-4-0

**By Megan Patrick**  
 Herald staff writer

The Fourth of July is synonymous with fireworks, barbecues and a dose of patriotism.

But while fireworks can be cracklin' good fun, they come with serious risks, said Keith Ramsay, Richland deputy fire marshal.

Fireworks go on sale at noon today, but only within the city limits of Richland, West Richland and in Walla Walla County, Sale, possession and use are illegal in Franklin County and the rest of Benton County and could result in fines up to \$1,000 and jail time, Ramsay said.

In most cases, however, fireworks will just be confiscated, he said.

Above all, safety is the biggest concern for fire officials. Last year, 231 fireworks-related incidents were reported to the state fire marshal, and there was no adult supervision in 18 percent of them.

Ramsay said the most important step to staying safe is having a plan.

Before lighting up, designate a sober, responsible adult to be in charge and discuss what to do if something goes wrong.

Ramsay also recommended keeping a bucket of water nearby to soak used fireworks overnight before throwing them away.

Never let children light fireworks or let them be unsupervised. Also teach kids the classic "stop, drop and roll" technique in case their clothes catch fire.

Keep pets inside, away from the loud noise.

Always use eye protection when lighting fireworks and never hold them in your hand or lean over them. If a firework is a dud, let it sit for at least 15 minutes before soaking it in that bucket of water.

Ramsay reminded users that even legal fireworks are Class C explosives and dangerous. Sparklers, for example, burn at temperatures above 1,000 degrees and can inflict severe burns, he said.

Fireworks can be sold and used in Richland, West Richland and Walla Walla County between noon and 11 p.m. today and

See **Fireworks**, Page B2

its 29 community colleges and five technical colleges for the next year. That is approximately \$25 million less than what was provided annually in the prior budget biennium.

Even with higher revenue from increased tuition, the colleges will have to cut their budgets by an average of 1.7 percent over the next two years, Sutton said.

Columbia Basin College officials anticipated the tuition increase, which accompanies a \$1.5 million funding cut for

See **CBC**, Page B2

## Kennewick man jailed after Tri-City car chase

**By Brent Champaco**  
 Herald staff writer

A 24-year-old Kennewick man was arrested Thursday after he led police on a car chase throughout the Tri-Cities that hit speeds up to 100 mph.

Chad Smith was booked into the Benton County jail on suspicion of felony eluding, fourth-degree assault, domestic violence and driving with a suspended license.

The incident reportedly started about 8:30 a.m. when Benton County sheriff's deputies were called to 4607 S. Goose Gap Road for a reported case of domestic disturbance and a person threatening to commit suicide.

Deputies reported that as they arrived, Smith drove off in a gray 1991 Cadillac DeV-

ille. Deputies followed, but the car didn't stop and the chase continued into west Kennewick and onto Highway 240.

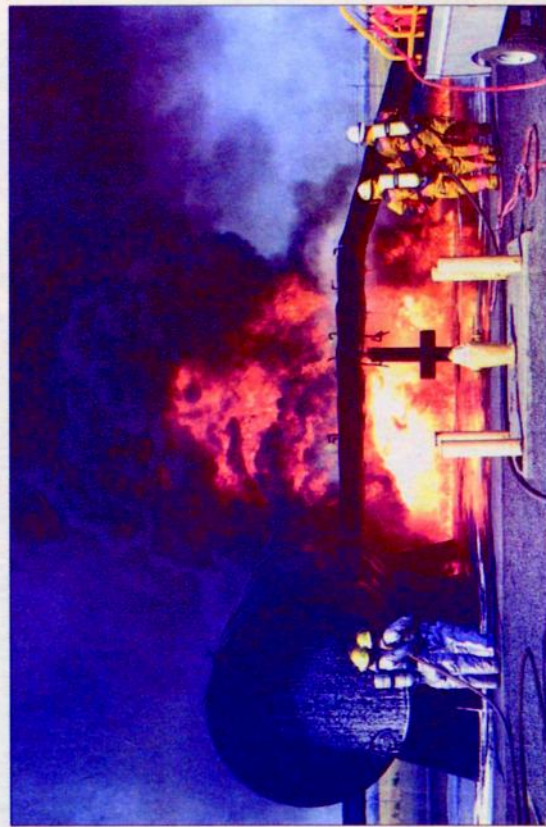
Officers set up spike strips near the interchange at the blue bridge to puncture the car's tires, but the vehicle drove around them, said sheriff's department Capt. Charles Kissler.

The chase continued into Pasco and along Interstate 182 into Richland, at times reaching speeds around 100 mph. The car turned onto George Washington Way, where police set up another set of spikes that flattened one of the car's tires.

"That was enough to stop him, or at least slow him

See **Chase**, Page B2

## Knockdown power



Firefighters took just 15 seconds to wipe out a fuselage fire in a demonstration using an environmentally friendly fire suppressant. See **story on B2**.

Herald/Shirley Wentworth

## Mid-Columbia

WWW.TRI-CITY-HERALD.COM

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003

TRI-CITY HERALD

# Developers test nontoxic fire suppressant

By Shirley Wentworth  
 Herald staff writer

MOSES LAKE — Jack Kobiesia's hands still trembled after the huge orange and black inferno was struck down.

His company, Ray Poland and Sons Inc. of Kennewick, teamed up with Pyrocool Technologies Inc. of Lynchburg, Va., to set part of a fuel-soaked airplane on fire as a demonstration of the effectiveness of a fire suppressant.

"Fifteen seconds," Kobiesia, a design engineer, declared triumphantly. Then he turned and said with shaking hands, "I've seen it so many times, but I still get excited. I'm afraid of fire."

Part of the nervousness comes from being on the edge.

The firefighters were poised with 264 gallons of Pyrocool-based mixed solution

— as opposed to the 3,000 gallons of traditional fire suppressant mix normally needed for that size of a fire.

About 62 gallons were used to take down the first fire.

That's just one advantage of Pyrocool, according to its developers. Less is needed, reducing costs, and it works more quickly. Yet, the best part is that the suppressant is nontoxic.

It doesn't kill wildlife, a long-standing problem with traditional fire suppressants.

That was one of the motivating factors for Buddy Tinsley, president of Pyrocool Technology, who received the Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the Environmental Protection Agency in 1998.

The award was given for developing an

environmentally responsible fire extinguishment and cooling agent.

The EPA gives the award to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments in chemical technologies that are economically and scientifically sound, as well as less hazardous to human health and the environment.

Clean-up costs from using traditional fire suppressant are enormous, Tinsley said. Fire departments have to pay to dispose of it, and it ruins wastewater system. It generally has to be treated before disposal.

"We've been the lone environmental voice crying in the wilderness," Tinsley said.

Although Pyrocool is sold worldwide, the product is still pushing uphill. Part of the resistance is from the firefighting

whatever we can to help you," Hagar said.

Another such disaster was a landfill fire in Warren, Ohio, which had been raging since Feb. 20.

"We were called there last week and put it out Thursday and Friday," Tinsley said.

Many of those attending Friday's demo were impressed but wished they could see a comparison between Pyrocool and their product.

Chimacum Fire Chief Chuck Boggs, though, said he got some free samples so he could compare it himself.

Friday's demo cost about \$16,000 to put on.

Reporter Shirley Wentworth can be reached at 509-488-0657 or via e-mail at [swentworth@cbm.net](mailto:swentworth@cbm.net).

community, which is skeptical. Part of the pressure is political.

"You're fighting a culture shift — a paradigm shift," Tinsley said.

Kobiesia said that even while it's been difficult to get the attention of certain agencies, they're frequently called to disasters. One such disaster was the World Trade Center, where they were called three weeks after the attack to extinguish a fire that was approaching freon tanks between the towers 150 feet underground. Mike Hagar and Eddie Tyler, firefighters with the Lynchburg Fire Department, who put out Friday's demo fires, went to New York on that mission.

They've also worked with Tinsley to design Pyrocool with the features that firefighters want.

"We're saying, 'Try it,' and we'll do

## Prosser man accused of stealing women's underwear from homes

By Kristin M. Kraemer  
 Herald staff writer

A 21-year-old man who set fire to the Prosser High School teachers' lounge in 2001 is now accused of breaking into several homes and stealing women's underwear.

Gabriel Ray Baddley of Prosser pleaded innocent Friday in Benton County Superior Court to three counts of second-degree residential burglary with sexual motivation. His trial is set for Sept. 8.

Baddley was arrested Dec. 18 after Prosser police stopped him

blaze at Prosser High School that caused an estimated \$500,000 in damage.

**In other court news:**

A Richland woman caught with drugs in her home near two juveniles was sentenced to a year in jail.

Denise L. Merkt, 42, was convicted by a jury May 27 of possession of methamphetamine and second-degree criminal mistreatment. The jury was unable to reach a verdict to a third charge of maintaining a dwelling for keeping or selling controlled substances. Merkt was told Friday that she has until July 7 to report

■ A 20-year-old man admitted to harassing two employees of a job training center after learning that he'd been fired from Columbia Crest Winery.

Adam Ibarra was sentenced to 10 days on jail work crew with 355 days suspended. He originally was charged with threatening to bomb or injure property, but the charge was reduced to harassment, a gross misdemeanor, in the plea agreement.

Two employees at the Skills Resource Training Center in Pasco reported to police April 4 that Ibarra told them, "I'm going

## Umatilla, Morrow counties see overall decline in employment

By Kathleen Gilstrap  
 Herald Oregon bureau

SALEM — Umatilla County gained 350 nonfarm jobs between April and May, while Morrow County lost another 40.

The figures, released by the Oregon Employment Department this month, also show slight decreases in the number of people working in May compared with last year.

In Umatilla County, there were 28,380 people with nonfarm jobs in May, compared with 28,430 jobs a year ago, a decrease of 0.2 percent. In

