

# Tri-City Herald

**SUNDAY**

**DUST DEVILS EKE OUT WIN AGAINST THE VOLCANOES**

Sports | D1



Pitcher Josh Hungerman gets the W

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE TRI-CITIES | PART 1 OF 2**

## STANDING TALL



Julie Cooper is a domestic violence survivor who wants to use her experience to help others cope with their own physical and emotional trauma after she finishes school to become a psychologist.

Paul T. Erickson | perickson@tricityherald.com

Deaths of two women, allegedly at hands of boyfriends, highlight domestic violence locally

**PAULA HORTON**  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

**J**ulie Cooper looks in the mirror now and knows she's a strong, competent woman who doesn't need a man to survive.

It's a stark contrast to how the 40-year-old Richland woman felt four years ago after her 12-year marriage ended and she was set up on a blind date with a man who later physically abused her.

The relationship turned sour nearly immediately, but she excused the name-calling and belittling as caused by drinking. She stayed with him as it got worse because "the prospect of being alone scared the crap out of me."

Cooper became one of nearly 1.3 million women in the nation each year who are physically assaulted by an intimate partner.

Domestic violence is one of the most common crimes in America,

and like sex offenses, one of the most under-reported crimes, advocates say. Victims often suffer in silence because of fear, shame and secrecy.

But the recent deaths of two young women, allegedly at the hands of their ex-boyfriends, within two weeks of each other have highlighted domestic violence in the Tri-Cities.

See **STANDING** | Page A6

**GULF COAST DISASTER**

## Oil flows freely for chance at better fix

**TOM BREEN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW ORLEANS** — Robotic submarines working a mile underwater removed a leaking cap from the gushing Gulf oil well Saturday, starting a painful trade-off: Millions more gallons of crude will flow freely into the sea for at least two days until a new seal can be mounted to capture all of it.

There's no guarantee for such a delicate operation almost a mile below the water's surface, officials said, and the permanent fix of plugging the well from the bottom remains slated for mid-August.

See **OIL** | Page A2

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

## Benefits may not kick in till age 70 if idea catches on

**DAVID LIGHTMAN**  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

**WASHINGTON** — Young Americans might not get full Social Security retirement benefits until they reach age 70 if some trial balloons that prominent lawmakers of both parties are floating become law.

No one who's slated to receive benefits in the next decade or two is likely to be affected, but there's a gentle, growing and unusually bipartisan push to raise the retirement age for full Social Security benefits for people born in the 1960s and after.

The suggestions are being taken seriously after decades when they were politically impossible because officials — and, increasingly, their constituents — are confronting

See **BENEFITS** | Page A2

**COLUMBIA, SNAKE RIVERS**

## Big salmon, steelhead runs amaze biologists

**KEVIN MCCULLEN**  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Numbers of salmon and steelhead returning up the Columbia River are well above the 10-year average again this year, including a record sockeye run that's amazed biologists and buoyed hopes of recovery for the endangered Snake River population.

Biologists cite favorable ocean conditions, improvements in freshwater rearing habitat and hatchery practices, and work at dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to improve fish passage as reasons for a chinook return

that's 140 percent above the 10-year average and a sockeye run of 353,044 fish that has easily surpassed the previous record.

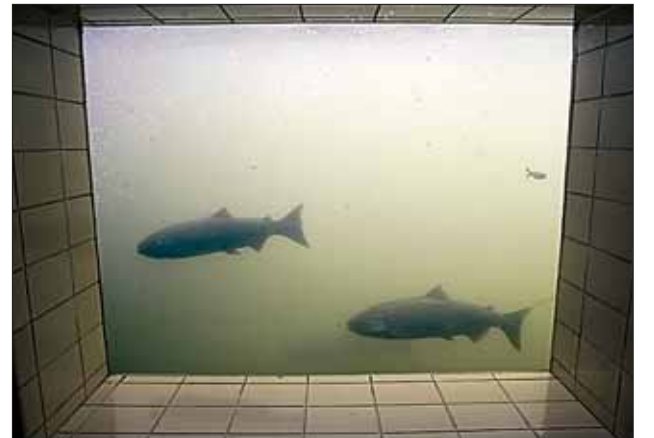
Steelhead counted at Bonneville Dam as of July 6 also were above the 10-year norm, with 9,188 wild steelhead counted — 244 percent above the average. And based on catches of juvenile fish in May by researchers with NOAA Fisheries during an ocean survey, returns of wild and hatchery salmon and steelhead into the Columbia and Snake River system appear promising next year and beyond, biologists said last week.

"The overall pattern looks good," said John Ferguson, director of the fish ecology division

at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. "Our ocean survey is just one indicator, and we caught a lot of (juvenile) fish. So overall we are looking for average to better than average returns in the future."

NOAA Fisheries and managers of other federal agencies involved in the recovery of the 12 species of wild salmon and steelhead that are listed under the Endangered Species Act in the Columbia River Basin say they are encouraged by this year's run. And it follows two previous years of strong runs.

See **SALMON** | Page A2



Herald file

Biologists are crediting favorable ocean conditions, improved fish passage at dams and better knowledge of fish for improved salmon and steelhead counts on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

**COMING TOMORROW**

YouTube launches new format that hopes to get viewers to 'leanback' and a little stay longer.  
**| TECH & GADGETS**



**HIGH POWER BILL**

Boise's paper mill, plant in Wallula could be hit with a 21% rate increase, which, they say, could result in layoffs.  
**| Business, B6**



**PET-PALOOZA**

See pets that made our page this week as we highlight more of our furry friends.  
**| PetZone, C12**



HIGH **97** LOW **65** MORE WEATHER, **A12**

**INSIDE** Books | **C4-5** Business | **B5-6** Classified | **E4, F1** Crossword | **C6**

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Kelly Abken, left, with Domestic Violence Services speaks during a domestic violence awareness vigil at Volunteer Park in Pasco in June.

Paul T. Erickson | perickson@tricityherald.com

“ Bruises to bodies heal, but it’s the bruises to our hearts and souls that are harder to overcome. ”

## STANDING | Two of three homicides in Franklin County this year are linked to domestic violence

FROM PAGE A2

“This is a terrible lesson for those two families, but it’s a lesson for the whole community,” said Kelly Abken, director of Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties. “I’m hopeful it’s a wake-up call for the community.”

The numbers show the recent domestic violence incidents are not isolated events.

Last year, there were 48,186 domestic violence offenses reported in the state — a 13 percent increase over the 42,496 reported in 2008, according to statistics from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Benton County law enforcement agencies reported 857 domestic violence offenses last year, while Franklin County agencies had 627.

There was essentially no change in Benton County from the 855 domestic violence offenses reported in 2008, but Franklin County saw a 9 percent increase when compared with 575 reported in 2008.

The top three offenses last year were simple assault (618 in Benton County and 431 in Franklin County), violations of no-contact orders (151 each in Benton and Franklin counties) and aggravated assaults (71 in Benton County and 34 in Franklin County).

### Three homicides this year

No victims of domestic violence in the Tri-Cities were killed last year, but two of the three homicides in Franklin County so far this year are being linked to domestic violence.

“Domestic violence is one of the three major focuses of both our workload and our emphasis,” said Franklin County Prosecutor Steve Lowe. “Gangs and domestic violence are the two most violent issues. Child sex (cases) is the other, and drugs are right in the middle of it.”

Lowe said his office gets new domestic violence cases every week that cross all offense levels — felony, misdemeanors and juvenile offenses.

In May, he filed murder charges in Franklin County Superior Court in two cases:

► Shenay Greenough, 19, of West Richland, was allegedly strangled May 8 by Kurtis Robert Chapman, 22, of Pasco. Her body was found two days later under Chapman’s Pasco home. He faces an Oct. 20 trial on charges of second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter for the deaths of Greenough and her nearly full-term baby, Kyana Shenay.

► On May 24, 21-year-old Griselda Ocampo Meza was stabbed to death in her Pasco apartment, allegedly by her former live-in boyfriend, Gregorio Luna Luna. She had a 5-year-old son with Luna, but ended their seven-year relationship earlier this year after a series of assaults by him. She had obtained a protection order against him, telling a judge she feared for her life. Luna, who was deported May 1 but recrossed the border and returned to Pasco the night before the attack, is charged with first-degree murder. His trial is set for Aug. 4.

The Tri-Cities once had the highest rate of domestic violence-related murders in the state, Abken said.

Since 1998, the community has had 31 deaths attributed to domestic violence. Of those, 21 were women, seven were men and three were children, according to Domestic Violence Services.

Statewide, 430 people were killed by domestic violence abusers between 1997 and 2008, according to the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The information is the most recent available.



The death of Shenay Greenough, 19, of West Richland, in early May is one of 31 deaths attributed to domestic violence in the Tri-Cities since 1998. Above, investigators are shown at 429 N. Waldemar Ave., Pasco, where her body was found stuffed in the home’s crawl space. Her boyfriend, Kurtis Robert Chapman, 22, who lived at the home, is facing trial in the case.

Herald file

Total domestic violence fatalities in that same time were 635. That includes 22 abusers killed by their victims in self-defense or probable self-defense.

Another 180 fatalities were abusers either killed by friends or family members of the victim, by law enforcement or by suicide. The remaining three were children killed by female domestic violence victims.

“Domestic violence can be lethal at any time,” Abken said. “We have recently seen unfortunate tragedies of people being killed, but domestic violence will also kill your heart, your dreams and your spirit.”

“It’s a very, very hard life to live,” she added.

### Anyone can suffer

Domestic violence can affect people of any race, age, gender or income level. The majority of incidents are between men and women who have been in a romantic relationship, with men the primary aggressor. But there also are men victimized by women, siblings assaulting siblings and children beating parents.

Forty-one men who were killed in domestic violence cases from 1997-2008 died at the hands of a female abuser or a female abuser’s associate, according to the 2008 fatality review.

Last year, Domestic Violence Services helped 172 women, 202 children and two men in the Tri-Cities who needed emergency shelter. In addition to providing emergency housing for up to 30 days, Domestic Violence Services helps victims navigate the legal system, request protection orders and find counseling or support groups. The nonprofit agency also offers education and prevention training and runs a 24-hour crisis line.

The agency, which has been in the Tri-Cities since 2003, helped more than 1,600 clients get outreach services last year and answered nearly 8,400 calls on its crisis line.

Domestic violence abuse can be physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial and psychological. Victims who are physically assaulted nearly always also suffer verbal and emotional abuse, Abken said.

Verbal and emotional abuse often are the precursors to being physically abused, she said. But Abken said some abusers never lay a hand on their victim.

“Verbal and emotional abuse is oftentimes the

hardest to break free from,” she said. “Bruises to bodies heal, but it’s the bruises to our hearts and souls that are harder to overcome.”

Power and control drive abusers. They often play mind games and have short tempers, which causes their victims to feel unsettled and like they must walk on eggshells around their abuser, advocates say.

Often the victim is in survival mode, just trying to get through the day without an incident, Abken said.

“If you’re just trying to survive day to day, then it’s hard to make plans for the future,” she said. “So many perpetrators say, ‘You’re crazy,’ and he’s telling her it’s her fault.”

“Not all victims want the relationship to end, but they want the abuse to end.”

What makes a victim finally leave an abuser is as different as the people involved.

Sometimes they put up with emotional abuse but draw the line when they get hit and they’re out.

### Why victims may stay

Kids also can be a driving force.

Often victims stay in an abusive relationship because they don’t want to break up the family or the perpetrator threatens to keep the kids from the victim if she leaves.

Twice as many abusers file for full custody of children when a relationship ends than nonabusers, Abken said, because it’s another way for them to try to continue to control their victims.

But once victims start seeing the effect the violence is having on their children, it can motivate them to leave.

Julie Cooper says that’s what happened with her and her former boyfriend.

She stayed with her abusive live-in boyfriend for three years, partly because he convinced her she couldn’t raise her now 14-year-old daughter on her own and because she didn’t want to abandon his daughter, who was close to the same age.

The Herald is not naming Cooper’s former boyfriend to protect his daughter’s identity.

Cooper, a full-time psychology student who just graduated from Columbia Basin College and will attend Washington State University Tri-Cities in the fall, returned to him three times. She kept telling herself she could help

him get better.

She said he spit in her face, hacked into her e-mail, threatened her daughter and called her names. He broke down two locked doors, held her face-down on the bathroom floor while screaming at her, then made her clean up the mess when he was done, she said.

The last time he hurt her was last year after he’d been drinking at the county fair. When they got home, he head-butted her in the face, then punched her in the back of the head as she tried to get away while telling her daughter to call the police.

“What went through my head is I thought, ‘This is so pathetic that I’m yelling to my 13-year-old daughter to call 911,’” Cooper said.

She later learned the two girls had locked themselves in the bathroom during the attack. She realized the effect it was having on her daughter and could no longer rationalize staying.

“I don’t want her to think it’s OK. It’s not OK,” Cooper said.

Initially, she was afraid to ask for help because she didn’t want to look weak, but she soon learned she couldn’t do it alone. She turned to friends and relatives and got help from Domestic Violence Services advocates.

Cooper says she’s still dealing with her former boyfriend — she constantly scans parking lots before she gets out of the car — but she’s not going to let him stop her.

“I’m not afraid of him,” she said, noting that once the criminal case against him was over she took a vacation to Mexico by herself. “It was the best thing I ever did.”

Her long-term goal now is to get her doctorate and counsel other domestic violence victims.

Cooper said she was glad her abuser was convicted of assaulting her and violating a no-contact order just after he left jail for the assault last August, but she felt the punishment was inadequate.

The 41-year-old Kennewick man was sentenced in Benton County District Court to seven days in jail for violating the court order and 10 days in jail for the domestic violence fourth-degree assault charge, but was allowed to serve both sentences on work release.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HITS HOME

## Remembering victims in Tri-Cities 1998-2010

**June 28, 1998: Lucia Barela, 31, of Pasco,** allegedly killed by a blow to the head by her husband, Juan Carlos Vargas. Arrest warrant issued. Believed to have fled to Mexico.

**July 26, 1998: Christa Garcia, 18, of Pasco,** allegedly shot by her suitor, Jorge Siqueiros. Arrest warrant issued. Believed to have fled to Mexico.



Reeves

**April 28, 1999: Amy Reeves, 20, of Kennewick,** shot by her ex-boyfriend, David Scott Chapman, who then killed himself.

**March 13, 2000: Neftali Castillo, 38, of Pasco,** killed in a fire set by his cousin's girlfriend, Antonia Bahena Bahena, 43, of Pasco. Convicted.

**Sept. 16, 2000: Tara Jensen, 32, of Pasco,** shot by her husband, James Jensen. Convicted.



Jensen

**Jan. 7, 2001: Linda Grover, 45, of Pasco,** killed by a blow to the head by her boyfriend, Kit Merriman. Convicted.

**Feb. 13, 2001: Janine Crandall, 49, of Richland,** shot by her husband, David Crandall, who then killed himself.

**July 28, 2001: Maria Avila-Lopez, 21, of Pasco,** shot by her estranged husband, Ruben Torres, who then killed himself.

**Sept. 7, 2001: Salvador Farias, 28, of Basin City,** shot by his girlfriend's estranged husband, Daniel Camacho. Convicted.

**March 3, 2002: San Juanita Montelongo, 20, of Pasco,** beaten to death by her boyfriend, DeLonde Pleasant. Convicted.

**Aug. 9, 2002: Shona Malcomb-Kelly, 39, of Kennewick,** died from internal injuries hours after being kned by her brother, Ernest Gallegos Jr. Convicted.



Brown

**March 7, 2003: David Brown, 37, of Kennewick,** stabbed by his wife, Thelma Marcel Brown. Convicted.



Sital Ross

**Aug. 6, 2003: Marisela Sital Ross Serna, 45, of Kennewick, and her nephew, Nathan Sital, 21, Kennewick,** allegedly shot by Sital-Ross' ex-boyfriend, Jesus "Jesse" Morales. Arrest warrant issued. Believed to have fled to Mexico.

**Feb. 14, 2003: Diana Kovic, 48, of Kennewick,** shot by her husband, John Kovic, who then killed himself.

**Aug. 5, 2003: Donald Aaron Hayden, 33, of Pasco,** shot by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend, James Strong, who then killed himself.



D. Carr

**July 9, 2004: Debra Carr, 49, of Kennewick, and her husband, Glen, 55,** shot by their estranged son-in-law, James Moran. Moran later committed suicide in 2005 while being chased by police for the murders of a Kennewick mother and daughter.

**Aug. 23, 2004: Sandra Godinez, 24, of Kennewick,** stabbed by her husband, Juan Pablo Sanchez Sanchez. Convicted.



J. Prather

**June 2, 2005: Julie Prather, 31, of Kennewick, and her children Alex, 7, Alysha, 4,** stabbed by her husband and the children's father, Richard Prather. Convicted.

**Jan. 19, 2006: Barb Davis Kozak, 43, of Kennewick,** shot by her husband, William Kozak, who later killed himself.



Kozak

**July 6, 2006: Yana Samolyuk, 18, of Kennewick,** stabbed by her estranged husband, Igor Samolyuk. Convicted.



Samolyuk

**July 21, 2006: Patricia Leighton, 41, of Pasco,** shot by her estranged husband, Steven Leighton, who later killed himself.

**Aug. 25, 2006: Julie Britt, 34, of Kennewick,** shot by her estranged husband, Doug Britt, who then killed himself.



J. Britt

**Oct. 8, 2006: Cleveland Everhart, 65, of Pasco,** died of a heart attack brought on by an attack by his caretaker's former boyfriend, Charles Harper. Convicted.



Garcia

**June 22, 2008: Tairra Jo Garcia, 19, of Pasco,** shot by her boyfriend, Marnicus Lockhard. Convicted.

**May 8, 2010: Shenay Greenough, 19, of West Richland, and her nearly full-term baby, Kyana Shenay,** allegedly strangled by her ex-boyfriend, Kurtis Chapman. Awaiting trial.



Greenough

**May 24, 2010: Griselda Ocampo Meza, 21, of Pasco,** allegedly stabbed by her former boyfriend, Gregorio Luna Luna. Awaiting trial.



Ocampo Meza



Nearly 100 people attended a candlelight vigil June 2 for Griselda Ocampo-Meza, 21, who was allegedly killed by her former boyfriend Gregorio Luna Luna.

Herald File

## FROM PAGE A6

That meant he was required to spend the nights in jail, but was released during the day to go to work.

"To me, I think that sucker should have been there 24 hours a day," Cooper said. "I thought that was a little lenient."

## Tougher sentencing OK'd

In June, tougher sentencing enhancements for repeated domestic abusers went into effect after being approved by the Legislature earlier this year, but that wouldn't have made a difference in Cooper's case.

The law, proposed by Attorney General Rob McKenna, changed how misdemeanor convictions for abusers are counted when they are convicted of a felony domestic violence offense.

"The key is that misdemeanor convictions will now be counted in sentencing for felony convictions," McKenna said. "In the old law, when an individual was convicted of felony domestic violence none of the misdemeanors were counted so their sentences didn't reflect that they had a prior criminal history."

The new law also increases the sentencing range for abusers with a prior felony domestic violence conviction. Now

there's more weight given to that prior conviction, pushing the standard sentencing range up, McKenna said.

About 7 percent to 8 percent of domestic violence offenders will be affected by the new law, he said.

Take, for example, a person with no prior felony convictions who has two misdemeanor domestic violence convictions.

Before the stricter sentencing enhancement, if that person was convicted of first-degree domestic violence assault the middle of the standard sentencing range was nine years.

Now, however, the two prior misdemeanor convictions would increase the middle range sentence to 10 years and nine months.

It took two tries for McKenna to successfully lobby the Legislature to pass the sentencing enhancements.

"We were tired of seeing a string of women and children victims," he said. "We're seeing offenders who commit a string of misdemeanor domestic violence assaults and end up pleading out to a misdemeanor level and they're causing tremendous harm, repeatedly victimizing one person or a series of victims."

McKenna said the new law also may increase victim cooperation in prosecutions.

Some victims in the past may not have wanted to testify, he said, because "they figure the guy's going to be out of jail in a matter of months. But by stiffening the sentence of serial offenders it gives them confidence." McKenna said his office will be supporting continued funding for domestic violence services.

"We're moving in the right direction by empowering survivors to take action and treating domestic violence seriously in a way it was not in the past," he said. "And ... we're talking about what we can do with offenders — if there's treatment and how does it work — so we can break the pattern of behavior with treatment as well as punishment."

Offender programs include anger management, treatment and victim panels that abusers can be ordered to attend. The only way to end domestic violence is by stopping or changing the abuser's behavior, Abken said.

"Victims can't stop it no matter what they do," she said. "Fifty percent of perpetrators come from abusive homes but 50 percent don't. That other 50 percent are learning it somewhere. ... We can help all the victims in the world, but if we keep raising perpetrators it will never stop."

► Paula Horton: 582-1556; phorton@tricityherald.com

## How to get help

## ► Domestic Violence Services of Benton &amp; Franklin Counties:

Call the 24-hour crisis line at 582-9841 or 800-648-1277 or go to dvsbf.org

► Consejo Counseling: Call the 24-hour hotline at 540-0075 or go to consejocounseling.org

► Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Call the hotline at 800-562-6025 or go to www.wscadv.org

► Northwest Justice Project in Pasco provides civil legal services for qualified low-income clients, including family law cases involving domestic violence. Call the state bilingual hotline — Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral System, or CLEAR — at 888-201-1014 or go to www.nwjustice.org.



# Tri-City Herald

**LOCAL FANS WATCH  
DUTCH FALL IN CUP**

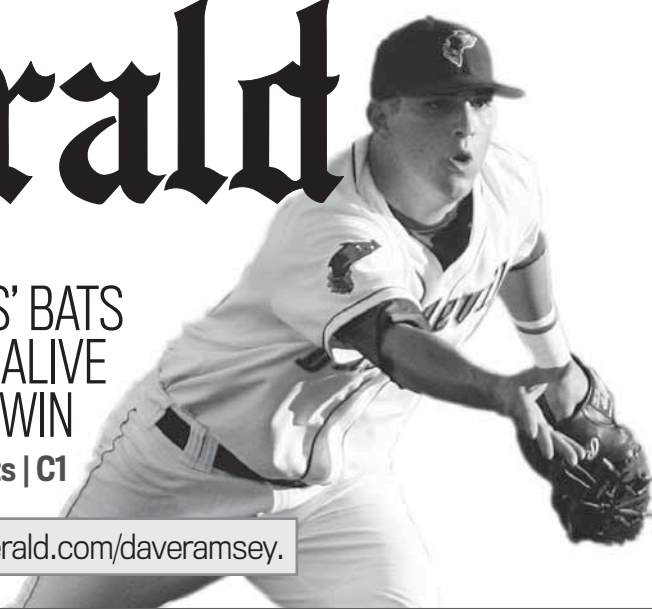
Mid-Columbia | B1

**HOT READS**

YouTube wants you to 'Leanback.' | B4  
Which sites are best for travel deals? | B3

**DEVILS' BATS  
COME ALIVE  
IN BIG WIN**

Sports | C1



**TODAY @ tricityherald.com** Don't think about investing in foreign currency, warns Dave Ramsey at tricityherald.com/daveramsey.

50 cents

Monday, July 12, 2010

tricityherald.com

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE TRI-CITIES | PART 2 OF 2**

## HARD TO SEEK HELP



Paul T. Erickson | perickson@tricityherald.com

Family photos cover silhouettes that represent women who were killed by domestic violence. Kelly Abken, director of Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties, takes the images to annual vigils the agency holds to put a face on domestic violence. Benton County law enforcement agencies reported 857 domestic violence offenses last year, while Franklin County agencies had 627.

With funding, program cuts many domestic violence victims won't get help – even if they want it

**PAULA HORTON**  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

On one specific day last year, domestic violence advocates took a census of services provided to victims around the country and found that while many victims were getting support they needed, thousands were still being turned away when they sought help.

In Washington, the census found nearly 1,600 victims were served Sept. 15, 2009, with 900 of those seeking refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing. Another 563 victims called domestic violence hotlines seeking help, according to the 2009 Domestic Violence Counts review.

Across the country, more than 65,000 victims received help from domestic violence programs, with a nearly equal split of victims needing shelter and legal advocacy and counseling. But because of funding and program cuts, more than 9,000 victims didn't get the help they needed.

In Washington, 200 of the 304 victims whose needs were not met that day were looking for somewhere to stay to escape their abuser.

Having enough money to find a new place to live is just one of many challenges victims must overcome. If they don't have jobs or money saved, it's also difficult for them to hire an attorney or even buy necessities like food, advocates say.

And victims usually are the ones who have uproot their lives to be safe, said Kelly Abken, director of Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties.

"Victims have to make all the accommodations for the perpetrators' behavior," she said. "Too many victims, when they are able to break free they ... lose everything."

They also have to deal with feelings of shame or face judgment from others.

Victims often get questions like, "Why did you stay for so long?" or "Why did you keep going back?" and "Why didn't you ask for help sooner?"

See **HELP** | Page A4

**'BAREFOOT BANDIT'**

## Fugitive caught in Bahamas

Colton Harris-Moore, wanted in dozens of crimes in Northwest, arrested after high-speed chase

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASSAU, Bahamas — For two years he stayed a step ahead of the law — stealing cars, powerboats and even airplanes, police say, while building a reputation as a 21st-century folk hero. On Sunday, Colton Harris-Moore's celebrity became his downfall.

Witnesses on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera recognized the 19-year-old dubbed the "Barefoot Bandit" and called police, who captured him after a high-speed boat chase, Bahamas Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade said at a celebratory news conference in Nassau, the capital.

Greenslade said shots were fired during the water chase but he did not say who fired them. He also said Harris-Moore was carrying a handgun that he tried to throw away.

Another senior police official, however, said police fired to disable the motor on the suspect's stolen boat, and that Harris-Moore threw his gun in the water. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case, also said that police recovered a laptop and a GPS locator from the suspect.



Harris-Moore

See **CAUGHT** | Page A2

## Haiti recovery bogged down 6 months later

Rubble continues to make most of Port-au-Prince impassable after devastating earthquake

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORAIL-CESSELESSE, Haiti — The sun was beating down on the rocky cactus plain when men with machetes came for Menmen Villase, nine months pregnant, shoved her onto her bulging stomach and sliced up the plastic tarp that sheltered her and her four children.

The family was one of thousands of earthquake homeless who had come to this Manhattan-sized stretch of disused sugarcane land between the sea and barren mountains north of Port-au-Prince, seeking refuge from overflowing camps in the city.

But this real estate is earmarked for building a new Haiti. Villase had walked into one of the fights over land, rooted in Haiti's history of slavery, occupation and upheaval,

See **HAITI** | Page A2

## FDA nears approval of genetically engineered salmon

Salmon hybrid grows twice as fast as normal salmon

**LES BLUMENTHAL**

HERALD WASHINGTON, D.C., BUREAU

WASHINGTON — They may not be the 500-pound "Frankenfish" that some researchers were talking about 10 years ago, but a Massachusetts company says it's on the verge of receiving federal approval to market a quick-growing Atlantic salmon that's been genetically modified with help from a Pacific Chinook salmon.

Though genetically engineered crops such as corn and soybeans have been part of the American diet for several years, if the Food and

Drug Administration approves it, the salmon would be the first transgenic animal headed for the dinner table.

"I would serve it to my kids," said Val Giddings, who worked as a geneticist at the U.S. Agriculture Department for a decade before becoming a private consultant.

The financial rewards could be enormous.

Aquaculture is an \$86 billion-a-year business, with nearly half of all fish consumed globally farm raised. As wild stocks dwindle and the

See **SALMON** | Page A2



Photo courtesy AquaBounty

AquaBounty salmon (rear) have a growth hormone gene from the Chinook salmon to a normal Atlantic salmon (front) that results in a transgenic salmon that grows to market size in about half the time as a normal salmon - 16 to 18 months rather than three years.

**COMING TOMORROW**

Actor Sean Astin of *Lord of the Rings* fame finds his niche voicing *Special Agent Oso*. | **Family & Friends**



**ALICIA COMES HOME**

Alicia Foss of Kennebec finally returns home after lengthy recovery from double lung transplant she received in Seattle. | **B1**

**CARMELO ANTHONY GETS MARRIED IN NEW YORK**

Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony and actress LaLa Vazquez have tied the knot in New York City. Michael Gagliardo, a publicist for Vazquez, confirms that the wedding took place Saturday night at the Manhattan restaurant Cipriani. He provided no details. Us Magazine first reported the nuptials on its website. Kim Kardashian, Serena Williams, Spike Lee and LeBron James were among the 300 guests. | **More celebrity news, C8**



HIGH **85** LOW **52** MORE WEATHER, **A8**

**INSIDE** Bridge | **C8**  
Classified | **D1**  
Comics | **C7**  
Horoscope | **C8**

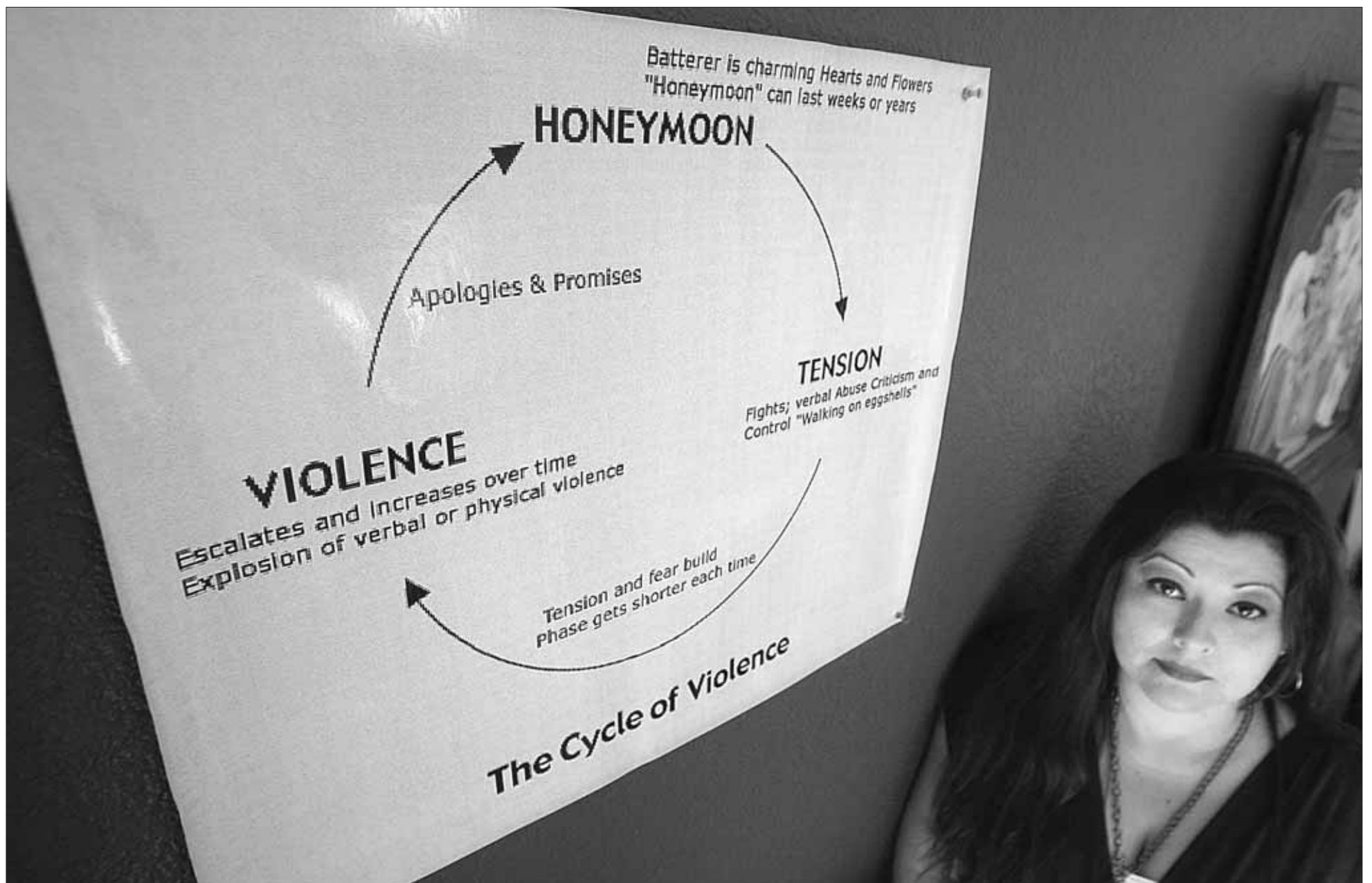
Mid-Columbia | **B1-2**  
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Melinda Garcia is a domestic violence advocate at Consejo, a counseling and referral service that serves mostly Spanish-speaking clients.

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## Counseling center rids at least one barrier

Consejo Counseling helps mostly Spanish-speaking clients that are victims of domestic violence

PAULA HORTON  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Six months ago, an advocacy agency that serves mostly Spanish-speaking clients opened in the Tri-Cities.

Since then, Consejo Counseling & Referral Service has helped about 150 clients who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and other crimes.

"The need is here," said Melinda Garcia, the agency's domestic violence advocate.

Consejo, which means advice in Spanish, has been providing victim services to Latinos and low-income families across Washington since 1978.

The agency, headquartered in Seattle, has nine offices in Western Washington, one in Yakima and was in Walla Walla before moving to the Tri-Cities in January.

Three advocates in the Kennewick office help clients with a variety of services, including obtaining anti-harassment and protection

orders, completing crime victim compensation applications, and providing legal and health advocacy for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Domestic violence victims account for a little more than half of the agency's clients, Garcia said. Her clients are men and women and cover all ages, from teenagers (who don't need parental consent to get services) to a woman in her early 50s. But, Garcia said, the majority are women, ages 19-30, who aren't married but were in long-term relationships and have children with their abusers.

Griselda Ocampo Meza fit that description and was one of Garcia's clients.

The 21-year-old Pasco mother of a 5-year-old boy was killed May 24 at her apartment. Her former boyfriend is accused of fatally stabbing her.

Ocampo Meza and Gregorio Luna Luna, 31, had been together for seven years, but she reportedly ended the relationship earlier this year and filed for a protection order against him in February.

Some clients are referred to Consejo through other community-based services or organizations, and some find their way to it on their own.

Consejo's advocates also do a lot of community outreach to let people know they are

there and how they can help, Garcia said.

For domestic violence clients, she helps them petition the court for protection orders, talks to them about safety planning and provides options for steps they could take next.

"It's our job as advocates to explain the process, get them out of the situation to where they are safe, and help them, if we need to, to get to a shelter," Garcia said. "I give them options, but they are the ones making that choice."

It's the same aid provided by Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties, but some clients may feel more comfortable seeking help from advocates who speak the same language.

A barrier many Consejo clients face initially is a fear to ask for help because they are in the country illegally. But Garcia said a victim's immigration status doesn't stop Consejo from helping them escape an abusive relationship.

"When we start to provide services to individuals, our goal is to empower them so they feel they have the confidence to do (what they need to do)," she said. "We guide them like a mother bird."

Consejo also runs peer support groups, though Garcia admits it's hard to get groups together because of the odd hours that people

work. The groups, which have had as few as four victims and as many as nine, help victims learn they're not alone.

"They listen to other victims until they're able to feel comfortable enough to share their own feelings," Garcia said. "And what I always hear is, 'I thought I was the only one.'"

Many clients also are in the area without any family to lean on, so the friends they make in the support groups often become their family.

That's what happened with Ocampo Meza, who Garcia said had become good friends with the women in her support group. She was the youngest and the other women took on a protective role like a mother for her, Garcia said.

Garcia, who's been a domestic violence advocate for about six years, said Ocampo Meza was the first client she's had who was killed.

News of the young mother's death hit others in her support group hard, but Garcia said it also "made them stronger and pulled them closer together to help one another."

The tragedy also has brought in new clients.

"They say, 'I'm in the same situation and I saw what happened on the news. I don't want that to be me,'" Garcia said.

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### WHERE TO GET HELP

► **Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties:** Call the 24-hour crisis line at 582-9841 or 800-648-1277 or go to [dvsbf.org](http://dvsbf.org).  
► **Consejo Counseling:** Call the 24-hour hotline at 540-0075

or go to [consejocounseling.org](http://consejocounseling.org).

► **Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** Call the hotline at 800-562-6025 or go to [www.wscadv.org](http://www.wscadv.org).  
► **Northwest Justice Project** in Pasco provides civil legal services

for qualified low-income clients, including family law cases involving domestic violence. Call the state bilingual hotline — Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral system, or CLEAR — at 888-201-1014 or go to [www.nwjustice.org](http://www.nwjustice.org).

## HELP | Victims often will return to their abuser multiple times before they have strength to break free

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"So many times we want to hold victims accountable for the abuse that's been perpetrated against them, but it's his fault that he assaulted her," Abken said. "For those on the outside it can be difficult and challenging to understand, but we have to respect victims and know that they are the experts on their own lives."

A victim often returns to her abuser multiple times before she breaks free for good.

"They go back for a multitude of reasons," Abken said. "Too many times these guys are just relentless and they wear her down and it's just easier to go back. ... As hard as she's trying to break free, he's trying 10 times as hard to keep them."

Abken cited a woman who left her abuser and got assistance from her family to pay legal costs as she battled for custody of the kids. A judge awarded joint custody, and when the abuser had the children he tried to turn them against her and be the "good" parent by letting them do whatever they wanted.

When the woman found out he wasn't stopping their teen daughter from dating an older man, she went back so she could watch out for her children, Abken said.

Her family and friends couldn't believe she would return after all she'd gone through and all the support they had given her, Abken said.

"But the bottom line is, by her going back she's trying to keep her family together and she's doing the best she can and having faith that it will get



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The Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties shelter includes this children's playroom complete with a toy kitchen and workshop.

better," she said. "How is she wrong? He is the one who's wrong. ... She went back stronger to save her kids."

Advocates say the most dangerous time for a woman is after she's left a violent relationship or is trying to break up. Domestic violence advocates say that's why they help victims make a safety plan, including emergency shelters and protection orders if necessary, when they are ready to leave.

"Leaving typically results in an escalation of violence," Abken said. "Protection orders can too. ... Fortunately, for many victims (getting a protection order) works. It's a useful tool, and for some perpetrators the threat of getting arrested is enough to make them back off."

"But for some perpetrators it's a

piece of paper that's not going to stop them," she added.

Then there are protection order violations, where a victim willingly agrees to meet or be with an abuser who she previously sought protection from. That can be very frustrating for law enforcement and friends or relatives.

Abken said these violations are just another part of the process of victims struggling to break free. But, she adds, even if the victim initiated the contact it doesn't make it OK for the abuser to violate the order or assault the victim again.

In Franklin County, the prosecutor's office won't charge victims with order violations. Prosecutor Steve Lowe said he doesn't think it's legal,

because the responsibility is on the abuser to follow the court's order and keep away from the victim.

Lowe cites statutory rape as an example. If a 21-year-old has consensual sex with a 13-year-old, the 21-year-old can be charged with statutory rape but prosecutors aren't going to charge the teen with rendering criminal assistance for being a willing participant.

The responsibility is on the adult to know it's against the law to have sex with a teenager, he said.

Advocates say people can help domestic violence victims by doing a few simple things:

- Don't judge the victim for going back.
- Put energy, anger and frustration where it belongs — at the abuser.
- Provide support for the victim, whether it's the first time or the 100th time.

"For so many clients it is such an uphill battle, but the successes are worth hanging in there," Abken said. "We have to stay in there for the women in our community."

"Everyone gets there at a different point," she added. "But having a support system and options are critical for her being free and building a new life."

Abken said there are good laws in place to hold abusers accountable, but it's essential to make sure the laws and programs are utilized.

One of the biggest obstacles prosecutors face is lack of cooperation from victims. There's a number of reasons for that, Lowe said.

"In many cases, the person who we put in jail is the only provider for the family," he said. "It's a choice of how their family survives and putting up with whatever abuse there is

in the family. ... For some, the future of the family is more important than their safety."

One way to get victims to cooperate is making sure they know they're not responsible for charges being filed against their abuser. The prosecutor's office, acting for the state, decides whether to file charges, Lowe said.

That sometimes can divert blame by the abuser from the victim to prosecutors, he said.

But when victims aren't willing to testify, it becomes much more difficult for prosecutors, Lowe said. Franklin County has had a few victimless prosecutions, but "we're not the best at it," he admits.

Victims can be subpoenaed to testify, but if they don't show up prosecutors often have to drop charges, he said. Sometimes if children are able and willing to cooperate, it helps avoid a trial because both parents don't want their children to have to testify, Lowe said.

Lowe has added domestic violence to the felony diversion program, which he said helps when a victim wants the abuser to get treatment instead of a conviction.

Diversion requires defendants to admit they committed an act of domestic violence, participate in treatment and stay out of trouble. If they complete the program, the case is dropped. If they don't complete the program, the case goes back to prosecutors with stipulated facts, meaning the defendant already has admitted guilt and a trial isn't required, Lowe said.

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