

# News of the Weird



Bryan Sperry, who lettered in football for both K-State and KU during the 1940s, scored a touchdown Saturday during the Kansas alumni game.

## 89-year-old Former Kansas Player Scores in Alumni Scrimmage

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — An 89-year-old former University of Kansas football player has gained fresh fame after making a touchdown run during an alumni scrimmage.

Bryan Sperry was all grins Saturday as he jogged toward the Memorial Stadium end zone during the scrimmage before Kansas' annual spring football game, The Kansas City Star reported. His decades-younger opponents intentionally missed repeated tackles before showering him with congratulatory hugs and pats on the back.

"That was fun," the Pittsburg resident said. "I didn't know if I could run."

Sperry was 17 years old when he first left home to play football at Kansas State, but World War II interrupted his schooling. The process of returning soldiers home by boat after the war took months, so the military sent Sperry to a university in England to wait. While there, he says, he played 13 games on a team that was a mix of professionals, college players and high school graduates with limited football experience.

Upon returning home in February 1946, he headed for a tryout, mostly for veterans, held by then-Kansas football coach George Sauer. He played "end" while at Kansas — offense and defense, Sperry said: "Well, we played both ways in those days."

The Jayhawks finished 7-2-1 in 1946 and in 1947, with a

team captained by KU legends Otto Schnellbacher and Don Fambrough, the Jayhawks went 8-1-2, their only loss coming to Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl. Sperry finished his career in 1948.

"There aren't many people that are lettermen of both KU and K-State," Sperry said.

With his playing days behind him, he spent decades as a high school football coach and math instructor at Pittsburg State.

## Romania: Robbers Trained to Steal Jewels, Cars Detained

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Prosecutors detained 14 people Friday who are suspected of belonging to a network of well-dressed robbers who were trained to rob luxury items in Romania and the European Union.

The alleged leader was among those detained and prosecutors have asked for their arrest.

"They were trained to break windows and steal very expensive watches in a short time, 30 seconds," said police spokesman Mihai Pitulescu, adding that one heist netted 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million).

They wore designer suits for the heists, and allegedly committed 10 million euros (\$10.9 million) of theft since 2013 in Romania, Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Andorra, Croatia and Belgium.

Investigators say they found jewelry, watches, and cars including a purple Rolls Royce in more than 50 house searches.

Members who were recruited from Romania's poor northeast signed an agreement with "the Academy of Romanian Criminals," providing personal details about their families, and a strand of hair for identification purposes, investigators said. Houses with blacked-out windows were rented for training.

Mediafax news agency reported the robbers were recruited from children's homes and poor families, and some dressed in women's clothes during the heists.

Police say 200 detectives including special forces and secret service agents took part in the investigation.

## Daily Outtake: Action-Packed Moment on the Pitch



Centralia's Simon Stahr, left, crosses the ball during nonleague boys soccer action against Kelso Friday in the Hub City. Chronicle Sports Reporter Brandon Hansen filed this photo, along with dozens more, at www.chronline.com and at www.lewiscountysports.com. Check both sites regularly for many more photos that did not get published in the print edition.

## Notable Quote

"Maybe it would bring Waldo home, maybe it would not, but it is not right that someone can just come into our yard and take something that we made to be fun and different."



Leah Wegener  
Centralia resident frustrated with theft of lawn art  
(see page Main 4 for the full story)

## Staff Pick

### Of Wolves, Rumors and Researchers

The mantra of a journalist is "trust, but verify," so when I saw a post on Facebook about a possible wolf sighting on White Pass I knew I had to investigate.



Dameron Pesanti  
reporter

Coming of age in Montana during the era of predator reintroduction, I learned quickly that many of these sightings weren't wolves, but actually big coyotes or household dogs fortunate enough to have a national forest as their backyards. But this time it might be different. A wolf policy leader with the

Department of Fish and Wildlife told me last February that they've had reports of wolves around Mount St. Helens, Naches and near Enumclaw, and confirmation of an established pack in our area could come either this summer or the next.

I've been meaning for some time to follow up with the department about its efforts to locate the newcomers, but it felt urgent to do so after seeing that Facebook post and reading about Central Oregon's new lone wolf (see page Main 9).

Wolves can cover a huge amount of territory, a pack in the lower 48 states up to 100 miles or more, according to the International Wolf Center. What's going on in the hills?

Has a pack escaped the rain shadow and crossed the peaks into Western Washington? Or have they avoided making the orographic ascent and instead opted to move south along the mountains? Who knows.

The experts tell me that when the individuals start appearing it's only a matter of time before a pack is formed. On Monday, I put out several calls to sources within Fish and Wildlife, but as of yet no one has returned them. Like the wolves themselves, these experts can be difficult to track down.

Following only the drought gripping the West and the new American oil boom, I think wolf re-establishment is the biggest environmental story of our time, if not the most divisive.

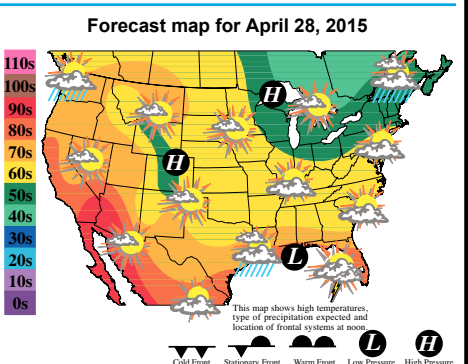
## 5-Day Forecast for the Lewis County Area

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Few Showers 60° 42°	Showers Likely 61° 39°	Mostly Cloudy 61° 43°	Mostly Cloudy 60° 40°	Partly Cloudy 64° 42°

## River Stages

Gauge	Flood Stage	24 hr. Change
Chehalis at Mellen St.	65.0	-0.01
Skookumchuck at Pearl St.	85.0	-0.01
Cowlitz at Packwood	10.5	0.00
Cowlitz at Randle	18.0	-0.01
Cowlitz at Mayfield Dam	---	+0.03

## National Map



## Almanac

Data reported from Centralia

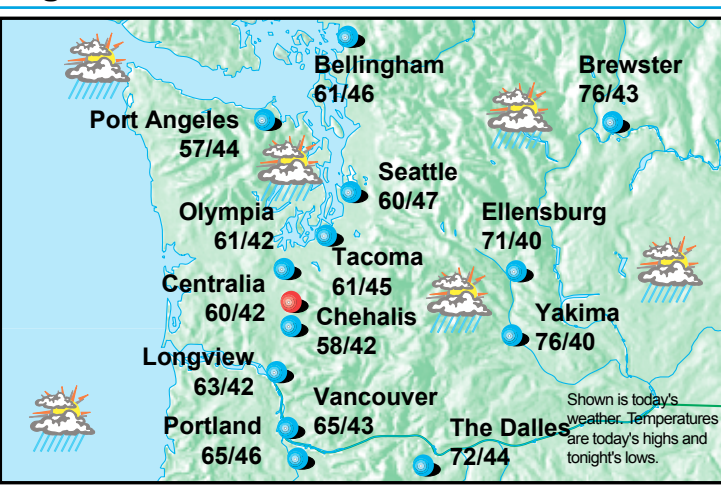
**Temperature**

Yesterday's High ..... 75  
 Yesterday's Low ..... 52  
 Normal High ..... 64  
 Normal Low ..... 43  
 Record High ..... 89 in 1931  
 Record Low ..... 27 in 1954

**Precipitation**

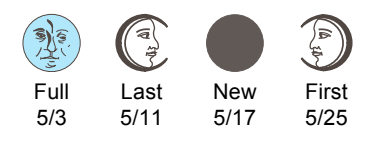
Yesterday ..... 0.01"  
 Month to date ..... 1.67"  
 Normal month to date ..... 3.16"  
 Year to date ..... 16.48"  
 Normal year to date ..... 20.11"

## Regional Weather



## Sun and Moon

Sunrise today ..... 6:00 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 8:18 p.m.  
 Moonrise ..... 3:07 p.m.  
 Moonset ..... 3:39 a.m.



## Pollen Forecast

Allergen	Today	Wednesday
Trees	Moderate	Low
Grass	None	None
Weeds	Very High	High
Mold	None	None

## National Cities

City	Today		Wed.	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Anchorage	53/39	pc	53/39	pc
Boise	79/46	s	75/44	s
Boston	59/46	sh	63/47	s
Dallas	64/49	mc	71/53	s
Honolulu	85/73	s	86/73	s
Las Vegas	92/67	s	94/70	sh
Nashville	67/50	pc	67/48	sh
Phoenix	91/67	s	95/68	s
St. Louis	67/48	s	68/49	s
Salt Lake City	74/52	s	79/55	s
San Francisco	63/50	s	62/50	s
Washington, DC	67/48	s	70/51	pc

## World Cities

City	Today		Wed.	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Baghdad	99/72	s	100/72	s
Beijing	84/57	s	84/57	s
London	55/41	s	54/41	cl
Mexico City	82/55	pc	75/54	pc
Moscow	68/50	pc	70/48	s
New Delhi	104/77	s	99/79	s
Paris	55/43	s	59/43	cl
Rio de Janeiro	77/68	s	75/68	s
Rome	64/50	cl	66/50	pc
Sydney	63/57	s	63/59	sh

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## Best Ranking Website in Lewis County

(Based on a 3 month traffic survey by Alexa)

# Chronline.com

Where you (and many others) go for news, information and advertising.