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Cougars win eighth NWAACC title

Frank Jordan
Clackamas Print

The Clackamas softball team defeated Columbia Basin College 8-1 in the second championship game last Sunday to win the eighth title in school history. The win ended the six-year reign of Columbia College as NWAACC champions and re-established Clackamas as the premiere junior college softball program in the Pacific Northwest. "I am so proud of these girls," said Assistant Head Coach Paul Fiskum,

who also picked up the hardware as the NWAACC Coach of the Year. "We had an outstanding tournament, from our great pitching, solid defense and probably the best hitting performance that a Clackamas team has had in the tournament ever. A great weekend overall."

The Cougars opened tournament play on Friday against their old nemesis from Spokane CC. All-tournament performer Casey Middagh set the tone for the weekend with a home run in the bottom of the first to give the Cougars a quick 1-0 lead. CCC led 2-0 until the fifth, when Spokane scored four runs on three hits and three walks to take a 4-2 lead.

In a three-hour game that had three rain delays, the Cougars showed everyone that there would be no quit in this team. Anna Alcalá brought the Cougars within 5-4 with a two-run homer in the sixth, then Christina Roberti followed with a single. Kayce Ernst pinch-ran for Roberti and scored on a Caitlin Ooley RBI single to tie the game.

In the seventh, Erin Snyder singled, was sacrificed to second, then scored the game-winning run on consecutive wild pitches. Chelsea Koch recorded the final three outs on the hill in the seventh to pick up the relief victory.

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Denise Nasuta Contributed Photo

The softball team gathers around after their championship victory over Columbia Basin College. Coach Paul Fiskum (back row, left) was named NWAACC coach of the year.



Laura Cameron Clackamas Print

The endangered *Rana aurora*, or the Red-legged Frog, has recently made an appearance in the ponds outside of the Pauling Center. This rare species could spread to surrounding water bodies and aid in a local comeback for the species. College staff have been leaving the frogs alone (with the exception of keeping trash and other unnatural and damaging things out of the pond), and encourage others to do the same.

Indigenous rare amphibian in Pauling pond excites, amazes

Laura Cameron
Clackamas Print

Out in the Pauling Center courtyard is a rather unremarkable little pond. Often overlooked, it is only about the size of two bathtubs and constantly crowded by the myriad plants growing around it. Yet this tiny body of water has been discovered to be a safe haven for an endangered species: *Rana aurora*, the Red-legged Frog.

Like the pond, red-legged frogs are rather unremarkable; they are small--around three to five inches long--and hard to distinguish from more common frogs. They are usually brown or green, with mottled backs. The only thing that would grab your attention is the characteristic that gives them their name; the bright brownish-red coloring on their legs and sides. It is divided into two subspecies: the Northern Red-legged Frog, *R. a. aurora*, and the larger and slightly rarer California Red-legged Frog, *R. a. draytonii*.

While the frog itself seems unexceptional, its presence in the Pauling pond is worthy of notice. For one thing, it shows that the pond, while small, is unpolluted, as frogs are highly intolerant to impurities in the water. For another thing--and this is tied directly to the first point--it shows that, at least in this area, the frogs are making a comeback. The red-legged frog is not only living in the Pauling pond, it is thriving there.

"We don't know exactly how long they've been there," says Biology instructor Jennifer Bown. "Four or five years, probably. We've just left them to themselves, and they're doing great. The only help they get from us is that we try to keep trash out of the pond; other than that, it's all up to the

frogs." Bown also stresses that the frogs should continue to be left alone. "Please don't go out there and try to catch them. They're endangered, after all!"

While the frogs are still listed as an endangered species, they are doing very well here at Clackamas; they continue to thrive in the Pauling pond, and frog calls have been heard coming from the fountain in front of Dye, though it has yet to be confirmed whether these are red-legged frogs or a more common species. With these two safe spots to start from, the frog could spread out to surrounding bodies of water, bringing *R. aurora* that much closer to being removed from the endangered species list.

"We don't know exactly how long they've been there ... We've just left them to themselves, and they're doing great."

Jennifer Bown
Biology Instructor

ASG event prompts alcohol awareness

Isaiah Creel

Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to raise awareness of the negative effects of drinking and driving, Associated Student Government is hosting their annual Alcohol Awareness Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today in the courtyard.

The goal of the event is to provide students with information and examples of what happens if they choose to drive a car after drinking. This event has been held every spring term for approximately six years.

"This year, we decided to hold it just before Memorial Day," said Officer of Community Relations Catrina Schehen. "The weather is getting nice, and a lot of students are of drinking age."

Attractions include two inspirational speakers, a beer goggle setup designed to give students an idea of what it's like to be under the influence of alcohol, a free barbecue and free t-shirts.

Two wrecked cars are on display in the courtyard to show students the results of drinking and driving.

"If you went out and did a survey, most people wouldn't think they were impaired [after drinking], but they are," said ASG President Teresa Roberts. "Sometimes we all need to



Micheale Cooper Clackamas Print

ABOVE: The two cars sitting on campus this week are products of drunk driving accidents. BELOW and FAR BELOW: The outside and inside views of one of the wrecked cars. Not a single window was left intact after the crash.

see the impact of what happens [when one drinks and drives]."

While ASG acknowledges that some students will only attend the free barbecue and take advantage of free t-shirts, they are hopeful that the information regarding alcohol's ill effects will reach some students.

"Just be responsible if you're going to choose to drink," said Roberts.



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