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Volcanoes bullpen blows up on Independence Day

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

The Volcanoes lost a lead in the opening game of a Fourth of July home series with the Hillsboro Hops, who won 6-3.

A crowd of 5,223, after watching pregame ceremonies that included cadets from the McNary High School Junior ROTC, saw Salem-Keizer take a 2-1 lead in the second inning and a 3-2 lead in the third before giving up four runs to the visitors in the eighth.

Hillsboro scored the first run of the game in the first. Bryan Araiza, who had bunted a single and gone to third base on a single by Eudy Ramos, crossed the plate as Tim Susnara hit into a force out.

The Volcanoes answered with two runs in the second. After Ryan Kirby walked and Manuel Geraldo singled down the left field line, both advanced as Dalton Combs grounded out. Kirby scored as Shane Matheny struck out but reached first base on a passed ball by Susnara. Orlando Garcia drove Geraldo home with a sacrifice fielder's choice.

The Hops tied the score in the third. Camden Duzenack was hit by a pitch from starter Julio Benitez and went to third on a double to right by Araiza. Ramos's sacrifice fly to right in foul territory drove in Duzenack.

Salem-Keizer went ahead by a run in the third. Rob Calabrese singled to center and went to third on Kirby's single to center. Geraldo, who was to have a 4-for-4 night, scored Calabrese with a single to left.

In the volcano fifth, after Geraldo bunted a single with two out, Hops starter Tyler Keele was relieved by Junior Garcia. Geraldo then was caught stealing.



ABOVE: Volcanoes first baseman Ryan Kirby was 1-for-4 with a run in a 6-3 home loss on the Fourth of July. TOP RIGHT: Fireworks followed the baseball game. BOTTOM RIGHT: Willamette Valley Pipes and Drums played *Amazing Grace* during a pregame ceremony that honored fallen military veterans.

Luis Pino replaced Benitez on the mound at the start of the sixth.

Dalton Combs led off the volcano sixth with a walk. Matheny then bunted for a hit but was called out for interference, umpire Pete Rivera ruling that he had run out of the path to first base. Jolbert Cabrera argued the call hotly and was ejected from the game. A fly, a walk, and a force out followed, and the inning was over.

Jason Bahr replaced Pino to start off the eighth. Araiza walked, and Ramos scored him with a double to center. Ramos doubled to left center following a pitch that many people in the crowd thought was a third strike, driving in

Araiza. Ramos then tagged on a fly to right and went to third. Ellis singled to left, batting in Ramos. Tra'mayne Holmes singled to right, sending Ellis home, and went to second on an outfield throw.

Nick Deeg relieved Pino and allowed a single to left by Ryan Grotjohn, which scored Holmes. Deeg then hit a batter and retired the next one for the third out.

In the bottom of the eighth, Geraldo led off with an infield single, Combs and Matheny were then retired, and Erbert Gonzalez replaced Junior Garcia on the mound. Orlando Garcia singled to left, but the next two batters were retired. The Volcanoes could not muster more than one walk in the

ninth. "One bad call" was Cabrera's answer to the question of what went wrong with the game.

Junior Garcia was the winning pitcher at 2-0, and Gonzalez had his fourth save. Bahr took the loss for an 0-1 record. Benitez allowed two runs, both earned, and six hits in his five innings but struck out three and walked none.

A fireworks display followed the game.

**Wednesday, June 28:
Boise 8, Volcanoes 3**
Walks and errors contributed to three of the Hawks' runs as Boise took the rubber game of this road series.

A Salem-Keizer run in the top of the first inning was



followed by a four-run rally in the Boise half of the first. Three walks, two errors, and a single produced the runs.

The Volcanoes scored one run each in the second and fourth and were behind only 4-3 until the Hawks scored three times in the fifth. Their final run came in the seventh on a home run by Daniel Jipping.

There were two errors as well as eight hits on each side. In the volcano first, Malique Ziegler reached first base on an error and second on another error and scored as Kevin Rivera was thrown out on a steal attempt.

Both starters were the pitchers of record. Jose Marte, who was pulled after two in-

nings, took the loss at 0-1. Breiling Eusebio, who had seven strikeouts in his five innings, was the winner at 3-0.

**Thursday, June 29:
Volcanoes 2, Tri-City 0
(12 innings)**

Pitchers kept bats on both sides quiet until the 12th inning of this first of a five-game series in Pasco, Washington.

In the top of the 12th, Kevin Rivera led off with a single and Manuel Geraldo singled him to third base. Ryan Kirby singled Rivera home, and Geraldo went to third on an outfield error. A single by Juan Rodriguez scored Geraldo.

The Volcanoes ended up outthitting the Dust Devils 8-6.

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Checking walleye off the old bucket list



On the Wild Side

by G.I. Wilson

We arrive at the boat launch at 6:30 a.m. Strong west winds come roaring through the elm trees. The Columbia looks more like the Pacific than a river. Wind waves of two to four feet are tipped with white.

"Could be an interesting ride out there," Tom mutters.

"Hey, that 28-foot Alumaweld is built to handle the ocean," Devon responds. "This will be nothing."

Devon Pearsall put this trip together. He had heard about the successes' Donald Koskela of Pastime Fishing Adventures, had been having on recent walleye trips. He needs four anglers for a trip.

Pearsall, formally of Keizer, has fished salmon, steelhead and sturgeon all his life. He was a professional fishing guide for a number of years.

Pearsall calls longtime friend Tom Gerold, of Keizer, and sets things in motion. Gerold is a serious bass fisherman. He has his own bass boat, has fished tournaments, has fished salmon and sturgeon for years.

Next call was to me. I had fished with both of them mul-

tiple times.

When I tell my friend Jon Moberg about the trip, he is eager to join us. Jon grew up in a commercial fishing family. He commercial fished for salmon in Alaska for 39 years and has always wanted to fish walleye.

So, here we are, on the Columbia River, hoping to check walleye off the old bucket list.

Koskela gives us a brief introduction to our gear, how to hook up night crawlers, keep your sinker 4-6 oz (bottom walkers) tapping the bottom, don't set the hook, swing the rod up, and out, and reel.

He has each of us set up with a different color spinner and beads looking for the hot color of the day. Trailing the spinner we have a three-hook worm rig. Worms are to be hooked so they remain straight.

We feel the power of the 200 hp Merc as we head up-river with strong winds to our back. Koskela assures us that as soon as we round the first big curve the mountains will block much of the wind.

In a matter of minutes,



Jon Moberg caught a walleye on a recent fishing trip to the Columbia River.

we're fishing for walleye.

"Tom, that's a bite," Koskela almost whispers.

Tom slowly eases the rod out of the holder. "Remember, don't set the hook," Koskela cautions. "Slowly swing up and reel. That's it. You got him!"

Our first walleye of the day.

In fact, the four of us have never landed a walleye.

A guide friend of Koskela's, Charlie, is fishing the same area. Fishing is slow. We manage two more fish and see Charlie land a couple, then later head upriver.

Koskela keeps assuring us, "We'll find em." Text from

Charlie, "found fish."

We catch up with Charlie in time to see them land two fish. We drop in and I immediately have my first walleye. In a matter of minutes, we land three more.

We continue to hook fish each pass through the area.

If you have caught other

species of fish, you will probably be disappointed in the "bite and fight" of walleye. The bite is usually pretty subtle. You lift up and reel them in. Some anglers call it "catch and eat" based on the fine quality of the meat.

Reading the bite can be the most difficult part. You are trolling along on bouncing water trying to keep your sinker doing a "tic, tic, tic" along the bottom. Usually, the bite will just slightly change the tic.

"You've got a hitch hiker, G.I.," Koskela calls out. "Reel him in." I couldn't believe it. I was watching my rod tip and never realized I had a fish on. It was simply following along. This happened to us several times during the day.

Bite slows, Charlie heads back downriver, we head upriver. Another hot spot with bigger fish.

Jon hooks a heavy fish. He slowly brings an 8-9 pounder to the net. Large females like this are the broodstock of the species. After photo ops she is released to lay more eggs.

Pressure is off. With good numbers of fine eating fish in the cooler, the wind calming down, we take more notice of our surroundings.

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