

# Trail runner recounts life-or-death fight with cougar

## He jammed foot into cat's neck

By P. SOLOMON BANDA  
Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — When a young mountain lion clamped its jaws onto Travis Kauffman's wrist and clawed at his face, he screamed a "barbarian yell," jammed his foot onto the animal's neck and held it there until the cat quit thrashing and died.

After a couple of minutes, Kauffman recalled, "it finally stopped moving and then the jaws opened and I was able to kind of scramble back up the hill and get the heck out of Dodge."

Through it all, the 31-year-old trail runner said, the cat remained eerily silent.

It was the first time Kauffman publicly recounted the Feb. 4 ordeal that left him with 28 stitches and a reputation for toughness and bravery that overshadows his wiry frame.

"I will never be able to live up to the reputation," said Kauffman, who stands 5-foot-10 and weighs about 155 pounds (70 kilograms). "The story is bigger than my puny form."



Travis Kauffman, front, responds to questions during a news conference Thursday about his encounter with a mountain lion while running a trail just west of Fort Collins, Colo., this month.

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

*'I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE UP TO THE REPUTATION. THE STORY IS BIGGER THAN MY PUNY FORM.'*

Travis Kauffman

Kauffman said he was running a trail in the mountains west of Fort Collins, Colorado, when he heard pine needles rustle behind him. He turned to see the mountain lion about 10 feet away.

"One of my worst fears was confirmed," he said.

That cat lunged, and Kauffman raised his hands and screamed.

The animal locked its teeth onto his wrist and they tumbled off the side of the trail.

A wave of fear rolled over him, he said, and he worried that the animal's full-grown mother would join the attack to defend her offspring. But no other cat appeared.

Fear then gave way to the fighting instinct, he said.

Kauffman grabbed a rock with his free hand and beat the cat on the back of the head. He also tried stabbing it with twigs, but nothing worked.

"I knew with two pretty good blows to the back of the head (and) it didn't release, that I was probably going to have to do something a little more drastic," he said. "I was able to kind of shift my weight and get a foot on its neck" until it succumbed.

Bleeding from his face and wrist, he jogged back down the trail, where he met other runners who got him to a hospital.

"I was just thankful that he had his eyes and his fingers and all his parts, and it didn't look as bad as I maybe would have thought that it could," said his girlfriend, Annie Bierbower.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers retrieved the dead cat. They said their investigation and a necropsy confirmed Kauffman's account.

"Travis is a pretty amazing young man," said Ty Petersburg, a wildlife manager for the agency.

Kauffman was the 22nd person attacked by a mountain lion in Colorado since

1990, Parks and Wildlife said. Three of the attacks were fatal.

A necropsy report said the lion that attacked Kauffman was male, four or five months old, weighing 35 to 40 pounds. The cat had limited fat, indicating it was hungry but not starving. It showed no sign of rabies or other diseases, the report said, but many of its organs had been scavenged by other animals before the body was recovered.

Adult male mountain lions average about 150 pounds, Parks and Wildlife said.

Petersburg said officers set up cameras and traps in the area for several days after the attack. They saw no large mountain lions but captured two young ones in good health. He said both are in a rehabilitation center, and the agency hopes to release them back into the wild.

Kauffman, an environmental consultant, described himself as an avid runner, cyclist and skier who has a pet cat at home. He said he doesn't plan to retreat from the outdoors.

"I will go run those trails again," he said, but added, "I will go with a buddy there."

## Authorities seek ID for woman found dead near Lincoln City

Associated Press

LINCOLN CITY — The Oregon State Police is asking for the public's help to identify the body of a woman found in the Pacific Ocean near Lincoln City.

The state police said authorities recovered the woman's body around 5 p.m. Sunday from a cove just north of a unique coastal feature called "God's Thumb."

The woman is white, with long dark brown hair.

She is about 5 feet and 7 inches tall and weighs around 200 pounds.

The state police asks anyone who knows of a missing woman who meets that description to call authorities.

## New clamming days possible in Long Beach

Chinook Observer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — State shellfish managers have tentatively scheduled razor clam digs on ocean beaches for 12 days starting Mar. 16 and extending into late April.

Of these, only two additional days are scheduled for the Long Beach and Ocean Park area — on April 20 and April 21 in connection with the Razor Clam Festival.

Final approval will

depend on whether results of marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife typically announces whether a dig will go forward about a week before the opening, said Dan Ayres, coastal shellfish manager for the department.

Ayres noted the first three digs in March are on evening low tides, while those that follow are on morning low tides.

No digging is allowed before noon during evening digs and digging must be completed by noon during morning digs.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will consider additional dates later this spring if enough clams remain available for harvest, Ayres said. However, the department has been cutting back on digs in May to avoid possible disturbance of nesting endangered western snowy plovers.

## ON THE RECORD

**Domestic assault**  
• Cash Reynolds, 24, of Pe Ell, Washington, was arrested by Seaside police early Saturday near Fifth Avenue and Downing Street on one count each of fourth-degree assault and disorderly conduct after

a domestic disturbance.

**DUII**  
• Janet Theus, 32, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office at 1480 S.E. Ninth St. in Warrenton on one count of driving while under

the influence of intoxicants.  
• Daniel Salenski, 39, of Seaside, was arrested Sunday along U.S. Highway 30 by the sheriff's office on one count of DUII and two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

## DEATHS

**Feb. 15, 2019**  
COFFEY, Myrtle A., 81, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**Feb. 13, 2019**  
SHELLABARGER, Stephen, 79, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ranton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**TUESDAY**  
**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.  
**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.  
**Cannon Beach City Council**, 5:30 p.m., work session, goal

setting, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.  
**Seaside School District Board of Directors**, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.  
**Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Astoria City Council**, 1 p.m., work session, goal setting, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

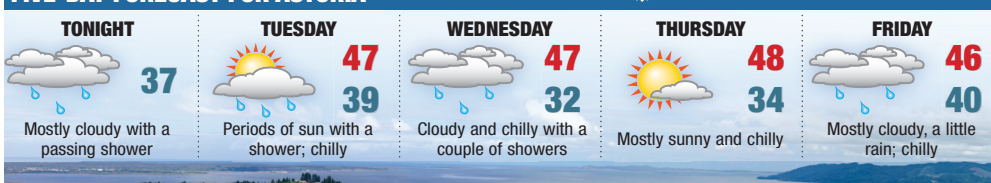
## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 7-0-8-6  
4 p.m.: 6-6-3-7  
7 p.m.: 8-0-9-2  
10 p.m.: 6-2-0-2  
**Sunday's Lucky Lines:** 1-6-11-15-20-21-28-29  
Estimated jackpot: \$51,000  
**Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 2-4-3-0  
4 p.m.: 3-9-5-1  
7 p.m.: 1-3-1-8  
10 p.m.: 8-6-8-7  
**Saturday's Lucky Lines:** 4-8-11-13-18-22-28-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$49,000  
**Saturday's Megabucks:** 1-12-22-26-39-48  
Estimated jackpot: \$8.3 million

**Saturday's Powerball:** 29-30-41-48-64, Powerball: 1  
Estimated jackpot: \$282 million  
**Friday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 7-4-5-0  
4 p.m.: 1-2-4-3  
7 p.m.: 8-0-1-6  
10 p.m.: 3-4-6-4  
**Friday's Mega Millions:** 10-38-40-43-65, Mega Ball: 12  
Estimated jackpot: \$206 million

**WASHINGTON**  
**Sunday's Daily Game:** 9-8-7  
**Sunday's Keno:** 02-03-04-06-08-09-11-22-34-41-43-44-48-53-57-67-69-70-73-78  
**Sunday's Match 4:** 06-12-18-20  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 5-9-4  
**Saturday's Hit 5:** 08-10-21-27-37  
Estimated jackpot: \$270,000  
**Saturday's Keno:** 07-08-14-18-28-31-35-40-44-51-53-57-59-60-63-66-73-77-79-80  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 10-36-37-46-47-49  
Estimated jackpot: \$4.4 million  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 02-12-19-24  
**Friday's Daily Game:** 5-3-5  
**Friday's Keno:** 19-20-21-23-25-29-32-37-39-41-47-50-55-58-61-71-72-74-77-80  
**Friday's Match 4:** 02-04-11-22

## FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



## ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.  
**Temperatures**  
High/Low ..... 46°/30°  
Normal high/low ..... 52°/37°  
Record high ..... 67° in 1941  
Record low ..... 25° in 1985  
**Precipitation**  
Sunday ..... 0.02"  
Month to date ..... 6.08"  
Normal month to date ..... 4.46"  
Year to date ..... 11.01"  
Normal year to date ..... 14.66"

## SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight ..... 5:45 p.m.  
Sunrise Tuesday ..... 7:13 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 4:48 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 6:52 a.m.  
Full Last New First  
Feb 19 Feb 26 Mar 6 Mar 14

## UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Clyde Tombaugh discovers dwarf planet Pluto in 1930.

## TOMORROW'S TIDES

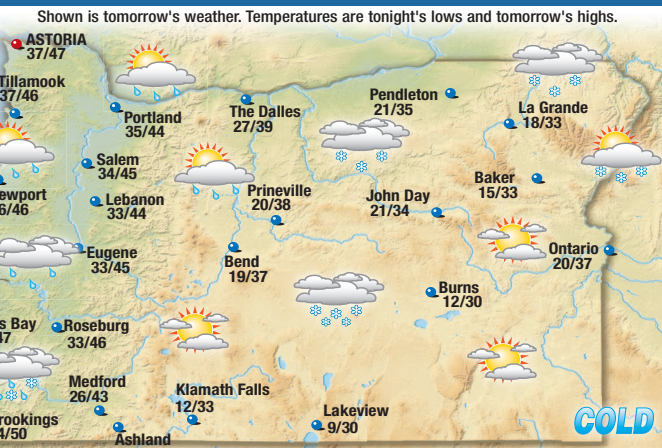
Astoria / Port Docks  
Time High Time Low  
1:17 a.m. 8.6 ft. 6:57 a.m. 2.0 ft.  
12:48 p.m. 10.1 ft. 7:42 p.m. -1.3 ft.

## NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.	W	Th	F	S
Atlanta	58	42	c	46	38	r
Boston	36	18	sn	31	17	s
Chicago	28	16	sf	30	25	c
Denver	19	9	sn	21	10	sn
Des Moines	20	2	c	20	17	c
Detroit	27	11	c	29	19	s
El Paso	64	36	s	49	29	pc
Fairbanks	25	13	c	20	-3	c
Honolulu	80	65	pc	80	63	sh
Indianapolis	32	19	c	34	30	s
Kansas City	26	17	c	29	25	sn
Las Vegas	49	35	pc	47	32	s
Los Angeles	60	38	pc	58	42	r
Memphis	45	32	pc	42	40	r
Miami	86	70	pc	84	70	pc
Nashville	44	30	pc	48	42	r
New Orleans	60	56	c	68	62	c
New York	45	23	r	36	26	s
Okla. City	38	26	c	33	24	sn
Philadelphia	49	26	pc	40	27	s
St. Louis	34	23	c	37	30	c
Salt Lake City	33	20	pc	28	20	pc
San Francisco	56	39	s	55	42	s
Seattle	44	36	pc	44	37	pc
Washington, DC	50	32	c	42	32	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

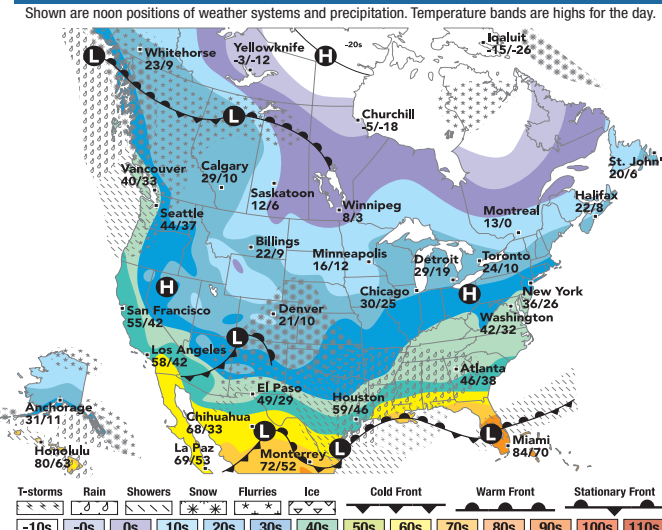
## REGIONAL WEATHER



## REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tues.	W	Th	F	S
Baker City	30	15	sf	33	26	sn
Bend	34	19	sf	37	28	sf
Brookings	50	34	pc	50	39	c
Eugene	46	33	pc	45	36	c
Ilwaco	46	39	pc	47	40	pc
Klamath Falls	34	12	pc	33	23	pc
Medford	45	26	pc	43	35	sf
Newberg	44	33	pc	44	36	pc
Newport	46	36	pc	46	38	pc
North Bend	49	34	pc	48	39	sh
City	Today <td>Tues.<td>W<td>Th<td>F<td>S</td></td></td></td></td>	Tues. <td>W<td>Th<td>F<td>S</td></td></td></td>	W <td>Th<td>F<td>S</td></td></td>	Th <td>F<td>S</td></td>	F <td>S</td>	S
Olympia	44	33	pc	43	31	pc
Pendleton	30	21	sf	35	30	sn
Portland	44	35	pc	44	36	pc
Roseburg	45	33	pc	46	39	sh
Salem	47	34	pc	45	36	pc
Seaside	46	38	pc	47	40	pc
Spokane	22	8	pc	24	16	pc
Springfield	46	32	pc	45	37	pc
Vancouver	43	35	pc	44	37	pc
Yakima	32	17	pc	31	23	pc

## TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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