

**SPORTS, C1**  
Gonzaga's Morrison No. 3 pick in NBA draft.



**LIFE, D1**  
Don't overdo it as you launch into summer exercise.



**BUSINESS, B6**  
Daimler-Chrysler, Roger Penske team up to bring itty bitty car to U.S.



The Susquehanna River rises Wednesday in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Up to 200,000 residents in the area were ordered to evacuate.

## City wary of river's levee

Up to 200,000 ordered to leave as water gets close to cresting point

By The Associated Press

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Packing the family car, Laura Lockman was taking no chances, not with up to 200,000 of her neighbors ordered to evacuate, not in a house where water once reached the second floor. She, her husband, their three children and a puppy named Pebbles were leaving their

Wilkes-Barre home, a half-mile from the Susquehanna River, swelling from some of the Northeast's worst flooding in decades. They weren't among those ordered to leave, but that didn't matter. "I just want to get out of here. I just want to be safe, that's all," said Lockman, 42. Wednesday's exodus from the northeastern

Pennsylvania city was the biggest shock among many caused by the record deluge that has dropped several inches across the region — more than a foot in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore — and killed at least 12 people from Virginia to New York. The Susquehanna and its tributaries, running from upstate New York through Pennsylvania, accounted for some of the worst

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## Insurgents say attacks could stop

Coalition of 11 groups want U.S. to pull out of Iraq within 2 years

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Eleven Sunni insurgent groups have offered an immediate halt to all attacks — including those on American troops — if the United States agrees to withdraw foreign forces from Iraq in two years, insurgent and government officials said Wednesday. Withdrawal is the centerpiece of a set of demands from the groups, which operate north of Baghdad in the heavily Sunni Arab provinces of Salahuddin and Diyala. Although much of the fighting has been to the west, those provinces are increasingly violent, and attacks there have crippled oil and commerce routes. The groups who've made contact have largely shunned attacks on Iraqi civilians, focusing instead on the U.S.-led coalition forces. Their offer coincides with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's decision to reach out to the Sunni insurgency with a reconciliation plan that includes an amnesty for fighters. The Islamic Army in Iraq, Muhammad Army and the Mujahedeen Shura Council — the umbrella

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## Driving down a sunset boulevard



A car cruises down Highway 240 as the weather cools off at sunset after a hot day. The forecast calls for high temperatures to stay in the 90s for the rest of the week, according to the National Weather Service. See Weather, A10

## Rattler bite a close call for boy, 5

Child picked up snake, thinking it was a fake, while on camping trip

By Aimee Chou  
Herald staff writer

A 5-year-old Richland boy who mistook a live baby rattlesnake for a toy now has a finger swollen to almost twice its size, as well as a painful lesson. Cole Holland was bitten on his left index finger while camping Saturday with his family at Crow Butte Park on the Columbia River near Paterson. "This little guy didn't know what a real rattlesnake looked like," said his father, John Holland, at Kadlec Medical Center where Cole was treated until he was released Wednesday. "We could have shown him." So when Cole found a live snake near their campsite, he picked it up and was bitten. Three nearby campers were EMTs, and they treated the bite as a Prosser ambulance crew rushed to the remote site



Cole Holland, 5, of Richland, found out the hard way that baby rattlers pack a big bite. Cole was on a camping trip Saturday with his father, John, right, sister Whitney, 8, and mother Shawna when he picked up a snake. His left index finger is swollen and resembles a roasted hot dog. They brought home the dead snake, which was killed by neighboring campers.

Herald/Paul T. Erickson

in Benton County's southwest corner. Prosser Memorial Hospital doctors gave the boy six vials of antivenin before he was transferred to Kadlec, where he received two more vials. Doctors said it may be as long as a year before the venom bruising recedes, said Cole's mother, Shawna Holland.

"What have you learned, Cole?" she asked. "No more picking up snakes except my (uncle's)," he replied. His father said the incident shows parents should teach their children about snakes. He also hopes recreation areas like Crow Butte will put up signs alerting campers of potential hazards. With the exception of another

snake bite in 2002, Crow Butte Park Association manager Bob Brown said he's rarely heard of incidents in nearly two decades. The park does have one sign warning of snakes on the east end of the park near a trailhead. But Brown said as temperatures have soared recently, park

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## Utility won't have to pay fee to Enron

Feds say Snohomish district's canceled contract was justified

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Snohomish County Public Utility District does not have to pay more than \$120 million for canceling its contract with the bankrupt energy giant Enron Corp., federal regulators declared Wednesday. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said in a news release that it was denying Enron's claim because the company's "financial fraud induced Snohomish to enter into the contract." The decision ends a yearslong struggle by the utility that helped reveal the extent of Enron's misdeeds. It was the Snohomish PUD that uncovered and transcribed profanity-laced audiotapes of Enron traders gleefully conspiring to steal money from

"those poor grandmothers" in California during the energy crunch of 2000-01. "All this time, Snohomish County ratepayers have had a big \$120 million bill hanging over their head," Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said Wednesday. "To finally get relief, it's a great victory." As a Western drought and California's deregulation plan drove energy prices sky-high, Snohomish in 2001 entered into a nine-year contract with Enron to buy power at \$109 per megawatt hour, more than four times as much as the utility had been accustomed to paying for such contracts. Customers, including Cantwell, saw their rates increase drastically. That fall, as Enron collapsed, Snohomish canceled the contract, saying it was voided by Enron's fraudulent practices. Enron sued in 2005, arguing it was entitled to the profits it would have made had the contract been fulfilled.

# Bite: Keep victims still, quickly go to hospital

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staff members have found "quite a few more rattlesnakes." He said they typically move 15 to 20 rattlesnakes a year away from the park, but that they typically are not a problem.

"Normally snakes move away unless you absolutely step on them or pick them up," he said.

John Matheson, Kadlec's emergency room medical director, said bites usually aren't dangerous if treated promptly. "The problem is bites usually occur some distance away, because the snake population is far away," he said.

He said that between the time of the bite and professional treatment, many people make common mistakes such as applying tourniquets, adding ice (which injures already sensitive muscle tissue), trying to suck venom out or cutting through skin. It's best just to keep the victim inactive and get to a hospital.

"It sounds trite, but it's important to keep calm," Matheson said.

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