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VOICE of the Valley

57TH YEAR, NUMBER 25
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026



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Obituaries

Einar Joseph Fosness

Einar Joseph Fosness passed away in Hobart Washington on May 20, 2026, at the age of 86.

He was born on July 5, 1939, in Barton North Dakota to Ole and Marie Fosness. Einar was the youngest of 11 children.

He attended elementary school at rural Norman #3, west of Barton, and 6th grade at Banner school. He finished the remainder of grade school and high school in Barton, graduating in 1957.

Einar's dedication to hard work began at a very young age. At 12 years old he began working for local farmers followed by working at the grain elevators during his teenage years. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1957. He completed his basic training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and Fort Polk, Louisiana. After basic training he was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and Stuttgart, Germany. In 1958, he was sent to Beirut, Lebanon followed by New Ulm, Germany before being honorably discharged at Fort Sheridan, Illinois on June 9, 1959.



After completing his military service, he returned to North Dakota for a short time before moving to Washington. He went to work for Boeing in June 1961, where he was an assembler/installer and a member of the machinist union. He retired from Boeing in 2004 after 43 years. In all those years, other than vacation time, Einar never missed a day of work.

Einar eventually made his home in Hobart, Washington where he made many friends who he considered an extension of his family.

Einar enjoyed bluegrass and country western music. He learned to play the guitar while in high school. In his younger days, Einar enjoyed skiing, fishing, and traveling. One of his favorite places was Nashville, Tennessee.

Einar's siblings talked about how he was filled with pranks and mischief but was also known to be a quiet, reserved, deep thinker and a curious man.

He enjoyed greeting his friends at the Hobart Food Market near his home and was recently memorialized as their "long-time bench warmer". Einar would tell his friends his real talent was storytelling. He loved to share stories and tell jokes. He treasured the special attention he received at the birthday celebrations the community threw for him each year.

He was a proud member of the Hobart Community Church.

Einar was preceded in death by his parents Ole and Marie Fosness; his brothers Harold, Peter, Ole and Norman, and his sisters Virginia LaFleur, Gladys Isaacson, Dorothy Gronvold, Lilly Olsen, Mae Metcalfe, and Elsie Arends.

He is survived by many nieces, nephews, friends and sister-in-law Elaine Fosness.

Friends are invited to Einar's celebration of life which will begin at 11am on Friday, June 26, 2026 at the Hobart Community Church, 27524 200th St., Maple Valley, WA 98038. After the refreshments, his committal service with US Army honors will follow at the Maple Valley Hobart Cemetery 25115 SE 208th St., Maple Valley WA 98038. Friends are also invited to share memories and photos on the family's online webpage at: www.flintofts.com



The weekend of June 12, 2026 at Pacific Raceways saw the cars from the Good Ol' Days of racing returned to the track for the 2026 Nostalgia Drags. Along with the racing action was a beautiful display of custom and race cars for everyone to enjoy. Some of the local drivers were on hand with their cars, getting ready for the upcoming Muckleshoot Casino Resort Northwest Nationals to be held July 24-26. Robert Smyth in his 1997 Oldsmobile (Upper Left), with Jim Mabry with his 1975 Chevy Vega (Upper Right) and running his '23 M&M Dragster was Giovanni Collecchi (Bottom Left). It was a good day to race as the weather was fine and everyone there had a great day of drag racing and show cars. There is plenty more action coming this season so be sure to check out www.pacificraceways.com for more information. By the way there are still tickets available for the Northwest Nationals so be sure to get yours. Photo by Bill Archer



Tahoma Graduate Secures Fashionista Award

Sharon (Dufenhorst) White, from Tahoma graduating class of 1960, wears her "everyday" attire while attending lunch and daily events at her apartment in South Hill Village, Spokane. She holds a trophy she won this month titled "Fashionista Award." The award, with votes cast by South Hill residents, states she is "always put together". Sharon calls her clothing style, "just everyday outfits". At age seven, Sharon and the Dufenhorst family of seven, moved to a Lake Francis farm in Maple Valley in 1949. She graduated from Tahoma High School in a class of 44 students. She then moved to Renton, and finally on to Spokane in 2008. ~ By D'Ann Tedford

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TAYLOR CREEK CHURCH

A place for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and fellowship with His people. We invite you to join us each Sunday for Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9 am, and for our Worship Service with verse-by-verse teaching of the Word of God at 10:15 am. (Children's Church and Nursery are provided through Kindergarten) A cry room is provided for nursing mothers with a video feed of the service.

We invite you to also join us throughout the week for personal encouragement and spiritual growth through Adult Small Group Bible Studies, Studies for Men, Studies for Women, as well as Youth Ministry (grades 7-12) and Adventure Club (ages 3 through grade 6).

We are located at 21110 244th Ave. SE (right off Hwy 18). For more information about our church or other activities, please call the church office at (425) 432-0634 or visit our website at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Senior Pastor: Jason Katen

An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church

By Pastor Jason Katen

A Father's Time That Is Never Wasted

As parents of busy children, we often feel too tired to spend time in activities with them after a long day or even a long week at work. Often, our children are the first to be put to the side thinking there will always be time.

Gordon McDonald tells a story about Boswell, the famous biographer of Samuel Johnson. Boswell frequently mentioned a special childhood memory, a day fishing with his dad. Apparently, Boswell's life had been deeply etched for the better on this single day, for he constantly referred to the many matters his father had talked to him about on that one occasion. Many years later, the following entry was found in his father's journal. These are the words penned by Boswell's dad: "Gone fishing today with my son; a day wasted."

What we may think is a wasted day is a child's fond memory for life. Don't miss the opportunities with your children. You need to develop the lines of communication when they are young. If you don't take the time early on, don't expect it to be there when they are older.

A parent will never look back and regret the time they spent with their children, only the time they did not spend. One successful businessman said, "I was so busy trying to improve my family's standard of living that, before I knew it, my children were grown and gone, and I never got to know them. Now they are too busy for me." We can get busy, but we should never be too busy to influence our children because if we don't, someone else will.

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." These are the words that, if heeded, will leave no regrets. It is to the credit of Boswell's father that he never ruined his son's day, but think how much better it would have been if he had understood that the time spent with his children is never time wasted. Now that you know, make plans to spend some time.

Would you like to know more about forgiveness? Contact us at 425-432-0634 or www.taylorcreekchurch.org. We would love to talk to you about the hope we have in Christ. You can also join us every Sunday at 9 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol

It's one of King County's newest protected forests, but in its day, Lady Dyar's Little Lake Ranch was a Wedding Wonderland like no other. Over 30+ years, this secluded site in the foothills east of Enumclaw hosted thousands of weddings, co-witnessed by the swans, peacocks, and frogs that called "Little Lake" home.

In the early years, the property was owned by the William and Theresia Moeller family, who emigrated from Austria in 1887. Theresia's mother, Mrs. Schafer, bought the 160-acre homestead claim for \$100, 120 acres of which were given to the Moellers. The property was located in the North quarter of Section 20, Township 20 North, Range 7 East.

By 1905, the Moellers completed construction of several impressive farm buildings and a 1,344-sf home. As William's health began to fail, the Moellers sold the property in 1917, after their boys enlisted for World War I. All of their sons, Emil, William, Joseph, Arthur, and Louis, eventually worked for the nearby White River Lumber Company, though Art and Louis Moeller later bought a farm they named Good Hope Dairy, located near the present-day Safeway.

The 1926 Metsker maps show the property owned by I.J. and Harvey McCoy. By 1936, the 120 acres were held by the Federal Land Bank. Fifteen years later, Ralph Maynard Dyar, a former rancher and banker, and his first wife purchased the property and built a new 752-sf rambler. Dyar was born in Michigan in 1874 and was 77 years old when he and Mrs. Dyar retired and moved to Enumclaw in 1951. Soon after its acquisition, Ralph M. Dyar posted a notice in the Enumclaw Courier-Herald, "No Hunting or Fishing at Little Lake Ranch," adding the property was formerly named Gilbert's Game Farm.

It isn't clear when Ralph Dyar's first wife died, but in July 1959, he married Vera Josephine Mary Bankes of Victoria, British Columbia. Judge Duane Radliff officiated the ceremony held at his Little Lake home. It was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Moore. Ralph Dyar was 85, with a daughter from his first marriage, Mrs. George King of Lewiston, plus two grandsons. Vera Proudfoot was 36. She was previously married to James Proudfoot in 1950. Ralph died three years later on December 23, 1962, and is buried in the local Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. After Mr. Dyar's death, the vivacious Vera found things too quiet around the ranch and began advertising her site for weddings. The first nuptials mentioned in a newspaper clipping occurred in 1968.

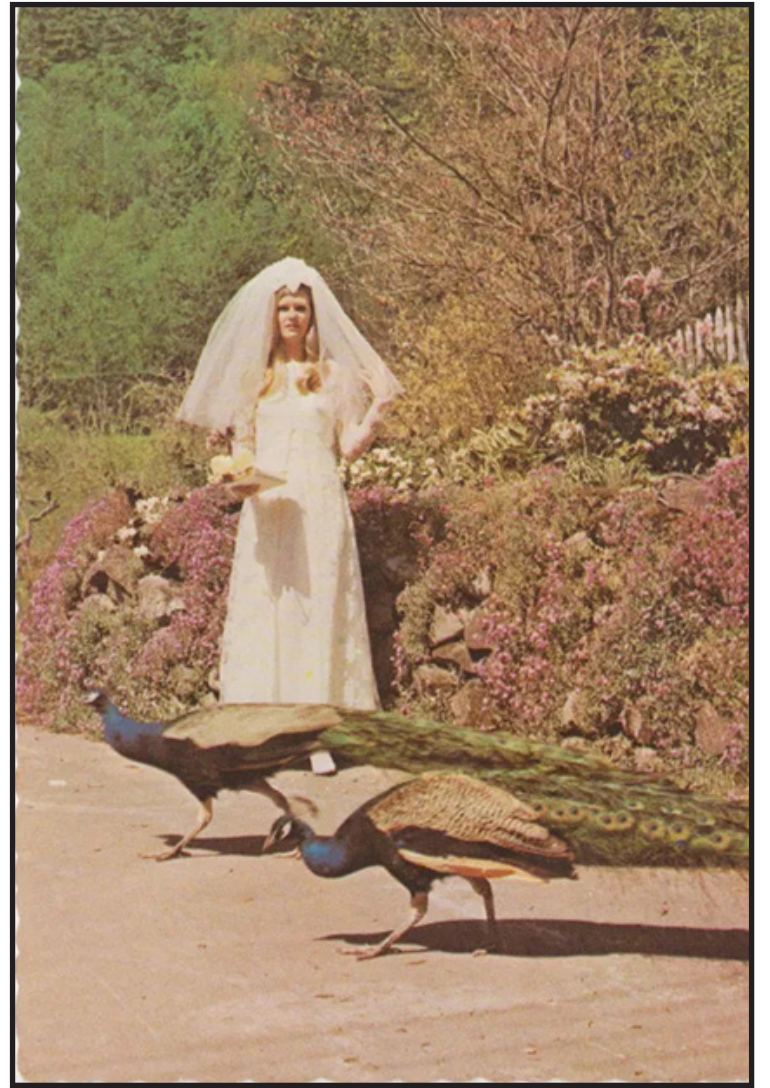
Lady Dyar, as she came to be known, regularly invited reporters to her weddings. An early story appeared in the June 21, 1972, issue of the Oshawa Times, when Lady Dyar admitted that she wasn't really a Lady — it was just a nickname that originated during her days in British Columbia when she played the part of a Lady in a school play.

Business boomed, and four years later, another article about Lady Dyar's "Wedding Wonderland" was featured in the July 29, 1976, Enumclaw Courier-Herald. By then, over 500 weddings had been held.

In 1975, Vera married Gale Leroy Zerba, who had previously worked as a groundskeeper for the Dyars. The pond had been turned into a 9-acre lake with an island in the middle. The couple installed attractive features like a waterfall, the remnants of which are still visible on the northeast shore of the lake. Little Lake's picturesque setting was advertised as a venue where couples could get married by lake's edge, under a gazebo, in a canoe, inside the barn, on horseback, or in a horse-drawn buggy, while wearing turn-of-the-century garb, blue jeans, or nothing at all. Such was its free-spirit reputation.

Lady Dyar told a reporter, "I like the excitement, the loveliness of the bride." And further confessed, "I get caught up in the emotions of the parents and brides and often feel teardrops in my eyes." But Vera made clear there was one thing she couldn't guarantee: "Success of the marriage — that's outside my department."

In the 1990s, Little Lake regularly hosted weddings and sourced its catering needs from the nearby Baumgartner Delicatessen, whose bread came from the famed Rainier Natural Foods Bakery on the Auburn-Enumclaw



Highway. A 1991 Seattle Times article perhaps overestimated that Lady Dyar's Wedding Ranch had hosted the hitching of 6,000 couples. As Vera Dyar aged, her wedding business slowed down. In 1999, she sold 5 acres of her estate to Dale and Laurie Eaton, who built a nearby home in 2002. By 2017, a deal was made with the Muckleshoot Tribe, King County Parks, Forterra Northwest, and Vera Dyar Zerba to preserve the remaining 155 acres as a permanent forested park, called Little Lake Forest. Lady Dyar was represented by the Farr Law Group of Enumclaw. The sales price was \$1.57 million. Vera "Lady Dyar" Zerba passed away on February 2, 2020, at age 96.

In 2026, King County Parks completed construction of a parking lot with a dozen paved spaces, ample room for horse trailers, plus a portable toilet. The Little Lake Forest trailhead is located at 29900 S.E. 435th Place and reached by driving east on Battersby Avenue past the modern King County garbage and recycle transfer station and the fully reclaimed former Enumclaw municipal dump.

This column is indebted to Miss Skookum and her Northwest Past blog for the photo of an unidentified bride taken by Doug Tiedeman. It was used on a postcard, the back of which read, "Weddings at Little Lake Ranch, Lady Dyar, TA5-3879. Have your outdoor wedding held in a jewel-like setting amidst tall firs, strutting peacocks, and magnificent floral baskets. All this and more beside a shimmering 14-acre lake. Every Bride's dream. Indoor weddings and catering are also available. Very reasonable rates." Genealogical information was provided by Donna Brathovde, a Ravensdale historian and research specialist. Publishing this article in the month of June was no coincidence. The tradition of the June nuptials dates to the early Roman Empire. June is named for Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage, home, and childbirth. Romans believed that couples who married in June were under Juno's direct protection, bringing prosperity, fertility, and long-lasting happiness to the marital union.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor,
DO NOT Necessarily Reflect the Opinion of the Newspaper

Our Roads Need Funding

A Sales Tax Isn't The Right Answer — And We Have Better Options

Editor, the VOICE:

I've been following the King County Transportation District's road funding debate closely, and I want to put something on the table that I think a lot of people in Ravensdale and Maple Valley have been thinking.

First, the stakes are real. South King County — our part of King County — contains 18% of the road miles and nearly a quarter of all the bridges the county is responsible for. Without new revenue, the Roads and Services Division has said it will eliminate all funding for new, planned, and emergency road projects on those 1,500 miles of roads. That's not an abstract budget problem. We already have a preview of what it looks like when bridge funding gets

deferred: the Fairfax Bridge on SR 165 — a state road, not a county one, but our neighbors know it well — closed indefinitely last year after 104 years of deferred maintenance. Replacing it now will cost an estimated \$160 million. That's what kicking the can down the road actually costs. Out here, transit options exist but they're limited — not frequent enough or accessible enough to be a real alternative for most people's daily lives. When the roads degrade, this community feels it more than most.

So, I understand why the Transportation District felt pressure to act. But I don't think a sales tax was the right tool — and I don't think we should accept the idea that it was the only one.

Sales taxes are regressive. They take a larger share from families spending most of their income on necessities than from households that can save and invest. Families in this community are already stretched. Adding to a tax structure that already hits working people harder than anyone else isn't the answer, even when the underlying need is legitimate.

What I'd rather see the district pursue seriously is developer impact fees. SE King County has seen significant growth — new subdivisions, warehouses, commercial development. Every one of those projects puts more vehicles on our roads and more weight on our bridges. Right now, the cost of that additional wear falls on everyone through general taxes. Impact fees change that equation: they require developers to contribute to the infrastructure their projects actually use. The people profiting from growth should help pay for the roads that growth depends on. That's not a radical idea — it's used in counties across the state. It's just been underutilized here.

Vehicle license fees are also available to the Transportation District — up to \$50 per vehicle without a public vote — and worth considering, particularly as more electric vehicles on the road pay no gas tax at all. But that's a cost spread across all vehicle owners, and families are already stretched. The developer impact fee is the more targeted and equitable place to start.

What I find hard to make sense of is this: the council member who represents SE King County on this board voted to defeat an amendment that would have protected our area's proportional share of any revenue collected — then voted against the tax entirely. That's two votes that both hurt this district, with no alternative offered.

Our roads aren't a Seattle problem. They're our problem. And we deserve representation on this board that comes to the table with something other than no.

Tom Marsland - Ravensdale

Tahoma's Class of 2016 Reunion will be July 11, 2026

The reunion will take place on **Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 4:00 PM** in the commons at Tahoma High School. All alumni from the Class of 2016 are welcome to attend.

Alumni can RSVP at www.tahoma2016.com, where they can also find additional information or reach out to me directly at williamlathrop1@gmail.com with any questions.



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Black Diamond Police Reports

On 05/10/2026 at approximately 1715 hours, officers were dispatched to the 29000 block of 216th Ave SE in reference to a threats call with firearms possibly be involved. Officers arrived, finding all subjects involved were no longer on scene. Through investigation it was determined no crime occurred and no weapons were seen or found to be involved.

On 05/10/26 at approximately 1955 hours, officers were dispatched to the 32000 block of Maple Ave SE, in reference to a 911 hang up. Upon arrival officers found the caller was attempting to leave the household, but was successful in doing so and did not require police assistance.

On 05/11/2026, officers were contacted by a citizen who advised officers that they were the victim of a recent hit and run at the 24200 block of Roberts Dr. The citizen advised they did not require any medical aid and provided officers information regarding the incident. Officers conducted an area check for the suspect vehicle with negative results. Officers investigated the incident and took a collision report. Officers established probable cause for the crime of hit and run attended and positively identified the suspect.

On 05/11/2026, officers were dispatched to a possible order violation at the 23300 block of Summerland Ln. Dispatch advised that a father was attempting to pick up their child from daycare, but were refused due to employees belief that there was a court protection order restricting the father from contacting their child. Officers investigated the incident and determined that a valid court protection order had been signed. Officers served the order to the protected party. The child's mother than took custody of their child.

On 05/12/2026, officers were dispatched to a welfare check at the 32500 block of McKay Ln. Officers contacted the subject and their relative who is their caretaker. Officers were advised that the subject suffers from Parkinson disease and had been possibly verbally and financially abused by other family members who they were living with previously in Arizona. Upon making contact the subject they were found to be of sound mind, clean, well dressed and in an orderly residence. No police assistance was requested.

On 05/13/2026, Officers contacted a subject 23900 block on SE Emerald ST. Officers were able to identify the subject and they came back clear with no warrants. Officer ended the contact

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. **Wednesday, July 1, 2026.** 2-hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133. 206-364-2000. **Saturday, June 27, 2026.** 3-hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 1370. **Wednesday, July 1, 2026.** 3-hour preview 8-10 a.m. **Auction @ 10 a.m.** For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, WA 98003 253-941-4565. **Thursday, June 25, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery, 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. **Tuesday, June 30, 2026 @ Noon.** Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTIONS Stan's Mt. View Towing Inc #5254 will sell to the highest bidder 22 abandoned vehicles on **Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 2 p.m.** Prior inspections will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale location is 9000 Delridge Way SW Seattle, WA 98106.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Todd's Towing, 1410 East North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045. Auction: **Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 10 a.m.** Preview @ 9 a.m. 425-888-3414.
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, June 23, 2026)

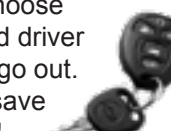
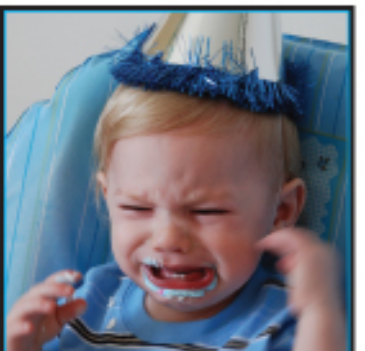
LEGAL NOTICES

Hultquist Homes Inc., Greg Rumsey, PO Box 1987 Issaquah, WA 98027-0085, is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit.

The proposed project, Mountain View Short Plat, is located at 26036 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd SE in Maple Valley in King County. This project involves 1.148 acres of soil disturbance for Residential, construction activities. All discharges and runoff goes to ground water. Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320. Comments can be submitted to: ecyrewqiano@ecy.wa.gov, or ATTN: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater Washington State Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47696 Olympia, WA 98504-7696
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, June 16 & 23, 2026)

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We prefer letters to be typed and E-mail is preferred. Letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number and address to verify authorship. Deadline for letters is 3 p.m. on Thursday each week.

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