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Jokumsen cold case trial scheduled to begin

Kevin Jokumsen, a former Enumclaw local, will soon face a jury of his peers for the alleged killing of his wife, Donna Mae Jokumsen, in 1987.

Though long suspected of the crime, it took 30 years for detectives to bring the case to a grand

jury, which indicted Jokumsen, 56, in August 2017.

Just over two years later, it appears the case is ready to go to trial, with the first day scheduled for Sept. 30.

Prosecutors may have a difficult time during the trial,

as Donna Mae (maiden name Douglas) has never been found dead or alive. Although the case was re-opened in 2016 by detectives in Chandler, Arizona, it's been reported little to no new evidence has been discovered since the original police

investigation.

Here's what we know, according to original 1987 testimonies and follow-up interviews in 1996 and 2016.

While living in Enumclaw,

See **CASE**, Page 7

Buckley Columbia Bank branch to close Nov. 15

By **RAY MILLER-STILL**
Editor

Buckley residents will soon have to add another destination to their list of errands when they leave town to shop.

As of Nov. 15, the local Columbia Bank branch will close after serving the community for the last dozen years, leaving the city without any banking services.

There were multiple reasons why the bank decided to close the branch, said Senior Vice President Nicole Sherman.

"These positions are never easy," she said. "Some of what drives [this decision] is the fact that we provide a great client experience, but... clients are choosing different methods to do their banking. One of those methods is digital — mobile banking, online banking, etc. Our branches are definitely an essential part of our business model, but we also have to look at clients banking when, where, and how they want, so balancing that with giving them the continued in-branch experience."

Additionally, there are three other branches within 12 miles of each other, with the Bonney Lake and Enumclaw branches offering extended opening hours on Saturday.

"It just made sense to consolidate Buckley into one of those branches that had extended hours," Sherman continued, adding that the Buckley branch's employees will continue working at other locations

But not everyone is happy with the decision.

See **BANK**, Page 5

Complaints upheld against former councilman, political booster

By **KEVIN HANSON**
Senior Writer

A political feud that swirled for nearly four years in Enumclaw city politics was settled last week in an Olympia meeting room.

The issue was simple, as matters go when falling under the purview of the state's Public Disclosure Commission: cases had been brought — stemming from a 2015 Enumclaw City Council race — against Darrel Dickson, a former councilman, and Karen Jensen, a friend and political supporter.

The outcome was equally straightforward: Dickson settled the case against him prior to any PDC hearing and agreed to punishment. He was fined \$4,000, with half that sum suspended. It will not have to be repaid unless Dickson someday commits another PDC violation.

The case against Jensen and, by extension, Citizens For A Better Enumclaw, was more involved. At the end of an all-day hearing she was fined \$2,000; again, half the sum was suspended and will not require repayment unless she commits another PCD violation.

IT STARTS WITH A CONTENTIOUS RACE

Dickson was a sitting member of the Enumclaw City Council and was, in the fall of 2015, challenged by political newcomer Kim Lauk. While new to the world of city governance, she grew up in a political environment as the daughter of Christopher Hurst, a longtime member of the state House of Representatives.

The race was not particularly cordial and ended with Lauk ousting the one-term councilman. Lauk joined the council in 2016 but her tenure was relatively short; she suddenly

See **HEARING**, Page 4

Getting down and dirty



PHOTOS BY RAY MILLER-STILL

Thousands of athletes descended on Black Diamond last weekend for the city's annual hosting of the Tough Mudder, an event filled with crazy obstacle courses like army-crawling under electrified wires, sprinting over a mud pit on floating platforms, and trusting teammates — or even strangers — to get over insurmountable climbing walls.



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Case

From Page 1

Jokumsen and Donna Mae dated in high school and married in 1985. It appears most members of their families thought the relationship was toxic — Jokumsen's older sister described them being together like putting "gas on a fire" — but the families were split on who was more violent to the other.

The Enumclaw Police Department responded to three incidents of domestic violence regarding Jokumsen in the summer of 1986, two in July and one in September.

The Enumclaw police were unable to provide further details to these events, but according to Chandler police interviews with Jokumsen, he said he was charged at least once (though it was later dropped) and arrested another time for violating a restraining order (but it was because Donna Mae took his car from where he was working).

Donna Mae started divorce proceedings in August 1986, but by October, the two were back together. Looking for a fresh start, they moved to Arizona in January 1987.

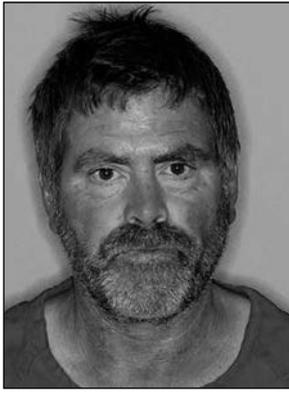
The arrangement didn't last. According to multiple interviews with Donna Mae's family and friends, she had decided to leave Jokumsen to come back to Washington with her two children less than a year later. Her father told police she called him on July 2 or 3 and said, "I'm leaving Kevin," adding that she just couldn't take it anymore.

Donna Mae disappeared July 5, 1987, and was never seen again.

The investigation began July 11, when Donna Mae's mother called the Chandler police to say her daughter never arrived.

After being brought in for questioning, Jokumsen told Chandler police he and Donna Mae had a very strong relationship, and he denied having domestic problems or violence.

According to Jokumsen, he and Donna Mae had a good talk on July 3 about her and the kids going back to Washington for the summer because the weather in Arizona was too



KEVIN JOKUMSEN

hot for her. He said Donna Mae was also homesick and discouraged at being unable to find a banking job, and was instead working at a cleaning service and the Humpty Dumpty Restaurant. Jokumsen also said he gave her a few hundred dollars to rent a U-Haul for the vacation.

After their talk, she left to spend the weekend with friends in Mesa, Arizona.

Donna Mae's family and friends have a different recollection of events. Donna Mae was beaten and raped by Jokumsen on July 3 before spending the weekend with them in Mesa, according to Myra Sandoval, Jackie Oxford and Dawn Kirby. All three of them were also aware she was planning to take the kids and leave Jokumsen for good.

Donna Mae first showed up at the Humpty Dumpty Restaurant, where Sandoval was working, around midnight July 4 with a red face, split lip and marks on her neck, according to Sandoval's 1987 statement. They left for a friend's house in Mesa that morning.

On July 5, Donna Mae left her friends to go home, switch cars (the El Camino she was driving was having issues, so she picked up the Chevrolet Chevelle) and returned to Mesa, according to Sandoval. She then left again around 10 p.m. to pick up her kids and some belongings, promising to return later that evening.

That's the last time anyone admitted to seeing her alive.

Officers eventually confronted Jokumsen with the evidence of his previous incidents of domestic issues and/or violence. He recanted his previous statement about having a good talk on July 3, and said they had a verbal argument — she was drunk and



DONNA MAE DOUGLAS

obnoxious, he told detectives — and he attempted to prevent Mae from leaving. Eventually, Donna Mae told him she wanted to talk to him on July 5 about something and then drove off to her friends' place, according to Jokumsen's statement.

Jokumsen went on to say his wife returned the early evening of July 5, where they talked briefly before switching cars from the El Camino to the Chevelle, and drove back to Mesa to say goodbye to her friends prior to leaving for Washington. This was confirmed by Sandoval, Oxford and Kirby; Kirby added that the two of them planned to have Kirby follow Donna Mae in the morning so Donna Mae could get the Chevelle tuned up before leaving.

Jokumsen said when he woke up early on July 6, the Chevelle was back at his house, but Donna Mae was nowhere to be found. He also told police the Chevelle was dirty when she left with it the previous night, but it was now clean, inside and out.

Shortly after Donna Mae's disappearance, Oxford told police she talked with Jokumsen, who told her he was aware of Donna Mae's plan to separate. Jokumsen, in a follow-up interview, denied knowledge of Donna Mae's plans to leave him, and said he didn't tell Oxford that he and Mae were splitting.

Eventually, Jokumsen told officers he was open to a polygraph test. The polygrapher reported "it was his opinion that Jokumsen was being untruthful when

asked relevant questions about his wife's disappearance," read a letter from the Chandler Police Department to the Enumclaw Police Department.

Because no body was found, Donna Mae went into the system as a missing person, and no charges were filed, although detectives suspected foul play at the hands of Jokumsen.

Detectives re-opened the case again in 1996. Despite no sign of Donna Mae, detectives ended their investigation by continuing to treat her as missing.

The case was re-opened again in 2016. It appeared little, if any, additional evidence was discovered when the case was re-opened both times.

However, one key piece of evidence may be a tip the Chandler police received in 1993. According to the tip, Donna Mae was killed by Tyrone Reclosado and his girlfriend, Barbara Roman, who are unrelated to Jokumsen. The tip contained details about Donna Mae, such as her age, that she was from Washington, had two children, and even said where the body was buried.

According to court minutes, Roman is willing to testify that Reclosado was gone for lengthy periods of time during the July 4 weekend in 1987, and returned home with blood on his shirt; nothing in the 2017 Chandler police report indicated if detectives checked the site or if they found anything, and a department spokesman didn't comment by deadline.

Additionally, detectives re-interviewed Oxford in 2016, and she said she recalled hosing off the Chevelle before Donna Mae left Mesa for the final time. However, her most recent testimony didn't address why the inside of the car was clean.

It also appears that Sandoval's testimony will be questioned by the defense, as she was under the influence of an unreported substance that July 4 weekend in 1987, and has admitted her drug use has impacted her memory;

POLICE BLOTTER

ENUMCLAW

September 19

- Enumclaw police arrested a suspect wanted on a Bonney Lake warrant. The individual was booked into the city jail.

September 18

- EPD staff headed to the SCORE jail in Des Moines to take custody of an inmate wanted on an Enumclaw Municipal Court warrant. The suspect was returned and booked into the city jail.

- Police received an anonymous tip about someone possibly growing more marijuana plants in his back yard than is allowed for personal use. An officer contacted the resident in question and, after checking the plants, determine there could be a compliance issue. An officer was to return the following week to determine if full compliance with the law had been met.

- Police were contacted by someone alleging threats had been made by another driver. The confrontation took place in a McHugh Avenue parking lot. Police contacted both individuals by phone and determine nothing had occurred that reached criminal status.

- A vehicle was reported stolen from an Initial Place location sometime during the night. The vehicle keys and a purse had been stolen a day earlier in Tacoma. A report was filed with the Tacoma Police Department and a city officer took the stolen vehicle report.

- Police were called after an individual made "concerning statements" at a downtown Enumclaw business. The suspect was last seen at the bus stop next to City Hall but could not be located.

September 17

- Police were asked to help locate a person who refused friends' request to get help and then jumped from a moving vehicle. The area around Garrett Street was searched but the person was not found.

- An officer was advised at 11 a.m. of a fight in the city jail. The issue was settled upon arrival.

September 16

- Police conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of state Route 410 and 252nd Avenue Southeast. The driver was booked and released due to a suspended license. The vehicle was impounded.

- Officers were told of a suspicious subject in a dune buggy, with chain saws, near phone poles. The location was at Cole Street and Battersby Avenue. It was determined the individuals were part of a construction crew working in the area.

- Someone was reported to be throwing items from a downtown hotel onto the road. The room was determined to be empty so management agreed to clear the items from the road.

- Police were called at 1:49 a.m. to assist with a heroin overdose at a Cole Street location.

the court has found this evidence to be admissible, as well as her two prior federal convictions for selling narcotics, which may impact her credibility.

Despite the apparent lack of new information, prosecutors brought the case to a grand jury, which indicted Jokumsen on Aug. 30, 2017.

A day later, an Auburn detective familiar with Jokumsen spotted him in an industrial area in Kent, the

Courier-Herald reported in 2017. He was arrested and extradited to Arizona.

Jokumsen has pleaded not guilty and denies killing his wife. His lawyer, Casey Arellano, did not respond to a request for comment.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Suspect in 1987 cold case acquitted, not enough evidence

BY RAY MILLER-STILL
Editor

Former Enumclaw local Kevin Jokumsen is now a free man.

Jokumsen, 56, was charged with second-degree murder for allegedly killing his wife, Donna Mae (Douglas) Jokumsen, in 1987, but at least partially due to a lack of evidence — including a body — he remained uncharged until 2017.

It appears a lack of evidence was the Achilles' heel of the prosecution, as Jokumsen's attorneys successfully motioned on Oct. 29

for what's known as a "directed verdict"; in layman's terms, asking a judge to "decide the case in the defendant's favor because the plaintiff did not present sufficient evidence to prove the case against the defendant," reads the Arizona courts website.

With Judge Ronda Fisk of the Arizona Maricopa County Superior Court granting the motion, Jokumsen was officially acquitted and was released from custody almost immediately.

Unsurprisingly, the state of Arizona disagreed with the motion, arguing that sufficient

evidence of Jokumsen's guilt had been presented to at least go forward with a court case, if not prove him guilty.

In its response to the motion for a directed verdict, the state reiterated Jokumsen and Douglas had what could be generously called a rocky relationship; in the mid-1980s, the Enumclaw Police Department was involved in three domestic violence incidents between the two. Records were no longer available to review, and Jokumsen and Douglas' families



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS.

Donna May (Douglas) Jokumsen, left, and Kevin Dale Jokumsen, right.

See TRIAL, Page 10

Buckley budget available to public

BY KEVIN HANSON
Senior Writer

Interested Buckley residents have a week to review a proposed city budget for 2020 and perhaps one opportunity to make their feelings known to the City Council.

The word from Buckley City Hall is that a preliminary budget for the coming year will be posted to the

city website today, Aug. 6. Also, a printed document should be available for viewing at City Hall.

A public hearing on the budget is slated for the council's Nov. 12 meeting and the council has tentative plans to adopt the 2020 spending plan on Nov. 26. City Administrator Dave Schmidt said plans could change if there

are contentious issues to be addressed. It's possible a second public hearing could be scheduled, he said, and conducted on the 26th prior to a council vote.

Among the items Buckley property owners may look for in the city budget is exactly how much they

See BUDGET, Page 9

The many faces of Halloween



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HANSON

Downtown Enumclaw was packed, as usual, with Halloween trick-or-treaters. Cole Street was closed to traffic and businesses opened their doors to hand out goodies to kids like Cooper Clark, 11 months old and dressed as a spotted dinosaur, and year-old Avery Jane Storton in her bee costume. Others taking part included Melissa Snoen, owner of The Ballet Workshop, in bright makeup to lead her students in a "Thriller" dance routine, and a truly impressive dinosaur.



Family finishes Tour du Mont Blanc

BY KEVIN HANSON
Senior Writer

Combining their fondness for international travel, a love of the outdoors and a passion for hiking, Enumclaw's Chilman family this summer tackled the popular Tour du Mont Blanc.

The 110-mile trek is generally regarded as one of the most popular hikes in all of Europe. Various routes pass through

Switzerland, Italy and France.

The Chilmans - Tyler, Cheryl and 11-year-old daughter Mette - made an extended stay. They were gone 35 days, with 11 days spent on the TMB hike and the rest on a 2,500-mile road trip through France. An integral part of the trip was the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion.

See BLANC, Page 4



FREE HEALTH TALK

Healthy habits for the holidays... and beyond.

Thursday, November 21

Appetizers: 5:30 p.m. | Presentation: 6 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Hospital | 1455 Battersby Avenue, Enumclaw



Holiday Bazaar at Danish Hall

The annual Christmas bazaar, hosted by Enumclaw's Danish Sisterhood, is planned for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Danish Hall, 1708 Porter St.

Attendees will find a bake sale, jams and pickles, handiwork and other crafts. There's also an opportunity

to enter a raffle, with the drawing at 1 p.m.

Also available is a traditional Danish lunch served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. On the menu are yellow split pea soup, potato salad and Danish open-faced sandwiches.

For information, contact Judi at 253-797-2906.



Trial

From Page 1

disagree who was the instigator and who was the victim in these incidents, but Jokumsen was charged once for violating a no-contact order (the charge was later dropped).

One of these incidents led to Douglas starting the divorce process in 1986, but it was never completed, and the couple decided to move to Arizona to get a fresh start in January 1987.

However, the state alleges violence against Douglas continued, and in July 4, 1987, she went to a friend's workplace at midnight with a split lip and red marks on her neck.

According to the state and Douglas' friends, Douglas stayed most of the weekend with them, only going home

"Thank god, the truth came out."

Jeanne Jokumsen,
Kevin Jokumsen's mother

once to switch what car she was driving and get money for a U-haul. Douglas' friends said she was planning to leave Jokumsen; Jokumsen said Douglas told him she was planning on returning to Washington for the summer because she didn't do well in the summer heat and was discouraged when Douglas couldn't find a job she went to school for.

Douglas then returned to her friends' place and spent a few more hours with them before deciding to pick up her two children, some clothes, and then return before taking off to Washington in the morning.

This was the last time anyone saw Douglas alive; her car was found at her and Jokumsen's house, but Jokumsen said he had no idea how

the car got back or where Douglas could have gone.

Both Jokumsen and Douglas' children were safe with Jokumsen, as it appears Douglas never picked them up to go to Washington.

Douglas' parents called investigators a few days later, as they also appeared to know of Douglas' plan to leave Jokumsen, but became worried when she never showed.

The state also argued Jokumsen harbored ill will toward Douglas in regard to her reportedly being into drinking and marijuana, spending too much time with her friends/not enough time with her family, and being financially irresponsible. Additionally, Jokumsen allegedly lied to investigators about the history of reported domestic violence and the fact that, a month after her disappearance,

Jokumsen lied to detectives about pawning Douglas' jewelry.

All in all, the state believed a jury could draw enough reasonable inferences from these facts for a judge to deny the motion of directed verdict.

But with Judge Fisk granting the motion for directed verdict, the case against Jokumsen has been closed for the third, and final, time, an acquittal means the state of Arizona can't appeal the judge's ruling, nor can Jokumsen be tried for the same crime a second time.

Jeanne Jokumsen, his mother, called The Courier-Herald minutes afterward to deliver the news.

"Thank god, the truth came out," she said.

Contact information for Douglas' parents couldn't be found before deadline.

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- ★ **COAT DRIVE** - Taking donations of new or gently used coats through the month of November. All donations will be given to Nativity House in Tacoma. Thank you to those that assist in keeping our extended community warm through the winter!
- ★ **Thursday Nov 7, 6:30pm** - Zumba Gold Exercise Class with Karen
- ★ **Saturday Nov 9, 11:30am** - Michelle's "Around the World" Lunch Buffet - Michelle would like to show her favorite cooking style! Join us for a hot meal on a chilly day!
- ★ **Monday Nov 11, 11:00am** - Veteran's Day Appreciation Breakfast - Let us honor you with a COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST to thank you for your Service. -Showcasing our updated Veteran's Wall of Honor.
- ★ **Monday Nov 11, 5:15pm** - Seahawks vs. 49ers Game in the Lobby - Home-made pizza by Chef Paul!
- ★ **Thursday Nov 14, 3:00pm** - Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour, Hospitality Room
- ★ **Wednesday Nov 20, 1:30pm** - Country & Western with Hank & Eulaine - Hospitality Room
- ★ **Thursday Nov 21, 8:00am** - Monthly Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast
- ★ **Saturday Nov 23, 11:30am and 1:30pm** - Family Thanksgiving Feast - Join our Cedar Ridge family for all the delicious Thanksgiving favorites! RSVP required. Followed by "Edelweiss" Sound of Music Singing.
- ★ **November 24, 5:20pm** - Seahawks vs. Eagles Game in the Lobby - Baked Potato Bar with all the fixings!
- ★ **Wednesday Nov 27, 1:00pm** - Mystery Drive with Kevin Join us for a road trip with a guaranteed spectacular view!
- ★ **Thursday Nov 28, 11:30am** Thanksgiving Day Lunch Join us for a delicious Thanksgiving day meal with all your favorites and meet our Cedar Ridge Family. Please RSVP (253) 299-6461
- ★ **Thursday Nov 28, 4:30pm** - Thanksgiving Day Dinner - We welcome you to spend the holiday with us! Please RSVP (253) 299-6461
- ★ **Toys-for-Tots Fundraiser** through the month of December! Donation box in front lobby. Thank you for the support!
- ★ **Tuesday Dec 3, 1:00pm** - Tree lighting Ceremony/Joyful Noise Concert - Join us for a hot cup of cocoa, sparkling cider and treats!
- ★ **Saturday Dec 7, 11:30am** - Friends and Family Breakfast Brunch! Please RSVP (253-299-6461)

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