

The athlete and the educator inside Laura Jones

by Jim Fossett

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THORP – Thorp School Student Services Coordinator **Laura Jones** is in her third year on the job. In that time she impressed me as an extraordinary educator devoted to the job and her students. But what escaped me in all those years is that Laura was an accomplished athlete – which in fact explains a lot about who she is today.

Early in life, sports became her taproot
“It all started when I was six,” she said. “I became a year-round competitive swimmer until I had to stop when I was 12 because I had to have my first shoulder reconstruction.”

In that same time period she also competed in basketball and soccer.

“Those sports also contributed to some of the instability in my shoulder. In eighth grade, after I had my first shoulder reconstruction, the doctors told me I couldn’t swim anymore, so we had to decide what sport I was going to play because my father said I had to be a three-sport athlete in high school. That meant I needed a fall sport.”

She said her mom wanted her to run cross-country because in middle school Laura became the city champion.

“But my dad wanted me to play golf because he thought it would be a laid-back sport. What they didn’t realize is that I didn’t and still don’t take on anything in a laid-back way,” she laughed. “Anyway, I chose golf, basketball and soccer.”

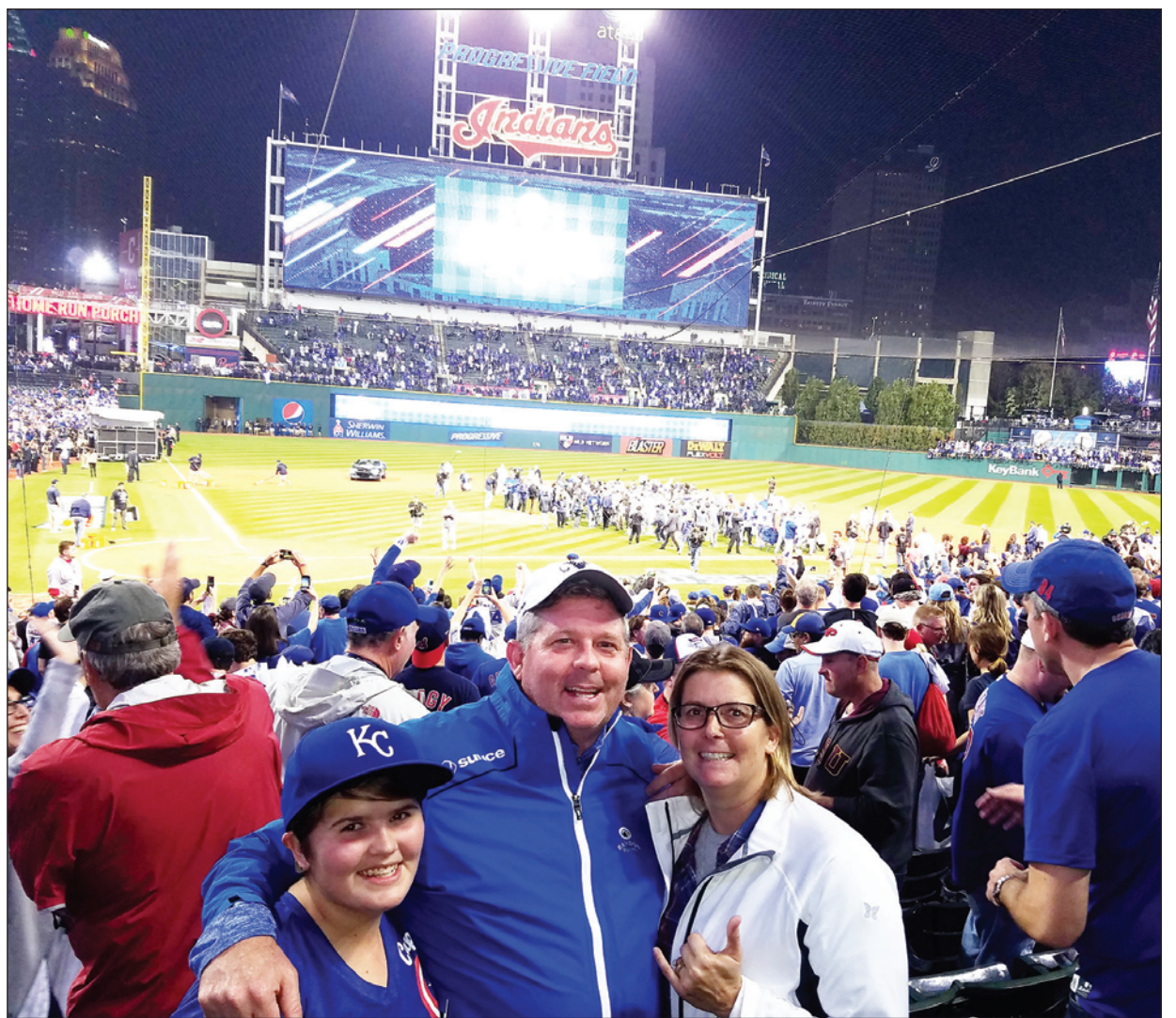
In her high school career, she played on a state championship soccer team. Her golf team took third place at state twice and she competed on a fourth place state basketball team.

In her senior year, she was recruited by Division-1 schools to play golf or basketball and she said she couldn’t decide which one to pursue.

“Some Division-2 colleges were recruiting me to do both, but I wasn’t sure I wanted to do both, so I had to decide to play basketball or golf. I eventually decided on Division-1 golf at Illinois State University.”

While she was at Illinois State, she racked up some top 10 finishes and her team was conference champion. In the summer of 1993 she was the Illinois State Women’s Amateur Champion.

See THE ATHLETE..., page B5



THE JONES FAMILY, sports fans all, at Game 7 of the 2016 World Series. To their delight, the Cubs won. (L-R) Husband Mike, daughter Kali and Laura.

Photo courtesy of Jones Family

CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Nature at Home: Eastern WA Resilient Forests & Communities Program, Thursday, April 29, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. Free, Everyone Welcome. Working with a diverse and extensive network of partners, TNC is accelerating forest and watershed restoration, building resilience in the face of a warming climate and more deeply connecting people to the land and water that sustain our communities. Join The Conservancy’s own forest partnerships manager, Darcy Batura, to learn about the state of forest health in eastern Washington and what TNC is doing to help. Register at: <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/9000000000>

Kittitas Audubon First Saturday Bird Walk, Saturday, May 1, 8:00 a.m., meet at Irene Rinehart parking lot on Umptanum Road near Ellensburg. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather. Please wear masks and plan on social distancing. Most walks run 2-3 hours. Walks are free and ev-

eryone is welcome. For more information, visit www.kittitasaudubon.org.

Kittitas County Farmers Market, Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., East 4th Avenue in Ellensburg. Every Saturday, May thru October. Enjoy food, vendor booths, produce, music & more.

Master Gardeners at Kittitas County Farmers Market, Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., East 4th Avenue in Ellensburg. Gardeners will be on hand to discuss aspects of home gardening and offer a variety of brochures.

Mother's Day Fundraiser hosted by Cle Elum Volunteer Firefighters Assn., Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at 301 Pennsylvania Ave., Cle Elum. Gift bags, flower baskets, baked goods, earrings, and more!

Science on Tap: Aiming for a General Solution to Neglected Tropical Diseases, The case of Leishmaniasis, Tuesday, May 4, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Dr. Timothy K. Beng, CWU

Chemistry and Dr. Blaise Dondji, CWU Biology will be speaking about Leishmaniasis, one of the World’s most problematic diseases in developing countries. Everyone welcome. Join Zoom Meeting ID: 850 7431 5539 Password: compound

Mountains to Sound Greenway Explore-A-Thon Virtual Breakfast, Thursday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. Join us for a virtual journey through the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. We’ll be celebrating this incredible landscape and offering a behind-the-scenes look at some of the Greenway Trust’s most inspiring projects to conserve and enhance it. RSVP for the Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN__SW600XLSXuLKGxemmib3Q

Cle Elum Mother's Day Market, Friday, May 7 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Downtown Cle Elum. Vendors located along 1st St. between Oakes and Peoh. A variety of vendors and businesses selling wares, holding sidewalk sales and specials.

Kitty City Motorcycle Poker Run, Saturday, May 8, Starts at 10:00 a.m. in Downtown Kittitas. Call 509-260-0956 for info. Route goes from Kittitas to Peshastin to Plain to Lake Wenatchee to Cle Elum.

Roslyn Cemetery Clean Up - Volunteers Needed, Saturday, May 15, 9:30 a.m.-Noon. Volunteers are needed to help clean the cemetery. Bring gloves, weed eaters, brush cutters, shovels, rakes, wheel barrows, etc. Sign up from 9:00-9:30 a.m. at the cemetery kiosk. For info, call Dick at 425-941-2296.

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce's Industry Nights Virtual Series, Wednesday, May 19. Allows specific industries in Kittitas County to speak with their Legislators, Senator Judy Warnick, Representative Tom Dent and Representative Alex Ybarra in a roundtable form of discussion about their particular industry, what their plans are for 2021, how COVID-19 has affected their business, and where they see their industry heading. Each Industry Nights will be from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on Zoom from now until November (Every 3rd Wednesday of the month). The series will then end with the annual Legislative Day on December 15, 2021. For the full Industry Nights schedule or to register your business, visit: www.kittitascounty-chamber.com/government-affairs or call 509-925-2002 for more info.

Masks are required per the Governor. Dine-In at 25% capacity or Take-Out available. Call a day ahead and we'll deliver lunch to local businesses on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

MONDAY – FRIDAY:
Breakfast 8:00 a.m-10:00 p.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Thurs, April 29: Chicken Caesar Salad
Fri, April 30: Polish Sausage
Mon, May 3: Super Ham Sammy
Tues, May 4: Southern Charm Burger
Wed, May 5: Salisbury Steak
Thurs, May 6: Turkey Pot Pie
Fri, May 7: Chicken Cutlet Swiss Sandwich

Other activities at the center during the month include:

MONDAY: Bingo (card selling starts at Noon and play starts at 1:00 p.m.)
(Please wear a mask to all activities)

Cle Elum Eagles #649

“People Helping People”
220 Pennsylvania Ave., Cle Elum, WA
509-674-2385
www.cleelumegles.com

Senior Nutrition Meal Program

Every Week, Monday-Friday
Available as a Grab & Go Meal.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Anyone over 60 years of age qualifies for free meals, regardless of income, open to the public.

Substitute Menu: 2 Chicken Strips, BBQ Sauce, JoJo’s, Garden Salad with Ranch Dressing & Applesauce Cup.

Frozen Meals Available Saturdays & Sundays.
Call 509-933-3333 to make arrangements.

SENIOR LIVING

Upper Kittitas County Senior Center

“Working with Seniors & Community”
719 E. Third St., Cle Elum, WA
509-674-7530

www.centennial-center.org

The UKC Senior Center is serving low cost lunch at the Putnam Centennial Center. Everyone is welcome (not just seniors).

CLE ELUM
Mother's Day
MARKET

Friday, May 7th 2PM - 6PM
Saturday, May 8th 10AM - 4PM

Downtown Cle Elum

VISIT VENDORS LOCATED ALONG 1ST STREET, BETWEEN OAKES AND PEOH

SHOP AT ONE OF BUSINESSES LISTED ON THE COUPON BELOW AND GET A **FREE TOTE BAG!***

*Tote bags are limited and subject to availability

Local Market Vendors

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| SECRET VALLEY FARM
JAM, CANNED GOODS, EGGS | MASTER GARDENERS
INFORMATION CENTER | SECRET VALLEY PRODUCE
PLANT STARTS, HANGING FLOWER BASKETS, EGGS, PRODUCE |
| HARMONY HILL CANDLE
SOY CANDLES | SERENDIPITY
VINTAGE MARKET | YOUTH SERVICES OF
KITTITAS COUNTY |
| VANG GARDENS
FLOWER BOUQUETS | CLE ELUM EAGLES
LARGE PLANT SALE | AND MUCH MORE... |

Local Businesses Running Sidewalk Sales or Specials

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BASECAMP OUTFITTERS | CAVALLINI'S
FARM & HOME | TUCKAWAY ANTIQUES
MULE & ELK |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|

CLE ELUM DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Cle Elum

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

THIS IS ANOTHER TRIBUNE Sponsorship Program SUPPORTED Community Love

sermo

Kitty City
MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN

41 YEARS

Saturday MAY 8

10AM

Downtown Kittitas, Washington

509-260-0956

NEW ROUTE

Kittitas

Peshastin

Plain

Lake Wenatchee

Cle Elum

5 USE THIS COUPON AT THE BUSINESSES LISTED AND RECEIVE \$5 OFF 5

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 509 Bake House | Hair Affair & Co. (Products only) | Owens Meats | Stella's |
| Basecamp Outfitters | Hawk American Outdoors | Pacific Crest Creatives | Timesaver PC |
| Cavallini Gifts & Home Decor | Intermountain Radio Shack | Pioneer Coffee Roasting Co. | Troutwater Fly Shop |
| Cle Elum Bakery | Ireland Jewelers | Ruby's Store | Tuckaway Antiques |
| Cle Elum Farm & Home Supply | Miner's Pizza Co. | Rustik Kreations | Warrior's Den |
| Glondo's Sausage Co. | Mule & Elk Brewing Co. | Salon Estheva | Winning Foundations |

FIVE DOLLARS

*NO CASH BACK *EXPIRES MAY 31, 2021