



APPLE CUP CAN COUGS MAKE IT 3 IN A ROW?

UW vs. WSU, 3:45 p.m., FSN TV
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How Zune stacks up

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Setting and enjoying the perfect holiday table

DIGS > BEHIND
CLASSIFIEDS

PARTLY CLOUDY
to mostly cloudy.
High 53, low 45.
> LOCAL B8

The Seattle Times

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Scrabble: It's man vs. machine

BY ERIK LACITIS
Seattle Times staff reporter

At first, it looked like it'd be a rout in this Scrabble stunt set up Friday at lunchtime outside Westlake Center.

It wasn't looking like the best Scrabble player in the U.S. could beat a computer program designed to play the game. Jim Kramer, 48, a soft-spoken proofreader from Roseville, Minn., was getting trounced in Game 1 of the best two-out-of-three competition.

So much, it seemed, for those who might believe there was something about the intuitive way humans think that no computer could match in a game.

There was Kramer, spending a couple of minutes pondering his next move, and there was "Genius," as the computer was named, literally making its move in a tenth of a second.

In that split of a second, Genius had rifled
Please see > SCRABBLE, A10



STEVE RINGMAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Jim Kramer, U.S. Scrabble champion, plays against the game's computer version Friday.

Friends gather in Vegas Dead soldier's parting gift: \$100,000 party

BY BOB SIPCHEN
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — Shortly after Jeffrey "Toz" Toczylowski's last mission in Iraq a year ago this month, friends received a message.

"If you are getting this e-mail, it means that I have passed away," the missive said. "No, it's not a sick Toz joke, but a letter I wanted to write in case this happened."



Capt. Jeffrey Toczylowski

The Army Special Forces captain, 30, said he would like family and friends to attend his burial at Arlington National Cemetery, "but understand if you can't make it."

The message, distributed by a fellow Green Beret after Toczylowski's family had been notified of his death, added: "There will also be a party in Vegas with a 100k to help pay for travel, room and a party."

Please see > PARTY, A11

Newsline

A quick look at today's news

Nevada: Police are investigating the mysterious deaths of the state controller and her husband. > Close-up A3

Health: The FDA ended its ban on silicone-gel breast implants. > A4

O.J. Simpson: Fox News' Bill O'Reilly vowed to boycott advertisers on the

Fox network's O.J. special. > A10

Prison: Collect calls from inmates will drop from nearly \$22 to \$3.50 for 20 minutes. > Local B1

Obituary: Legendary Michigan coach Bo Schembechler died Friday. > Sports D1

Icos: More than 300 of 500 workers in the state were given layoff notices. > Business E1

> News updates
seattletimes.com

Winds may have weakened crane

Bolts and welds at base failed, state safety specialist says



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Pinnacle BellCentre Apartments: A section of the crane lies crumpled against the building in downtown Bellevue. The top unit belonged to Matt Ammon, who was killed.

RECENT GUSTS COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO STRESS

State inspects cranes only if there are reports of problems

BY STEVE MILETICH AND SUSAN KELLEHER
Seattle Times staff reporters

High winds earlier this week may have weakened metal fasteners in the base of a giant construction crane that collapsed in Bellevue Thursday night, killing one man and severely damaging three downtown buildings.

"That's what we're focusing on," Charles Lemon, crane-safety specialist for the state Department of Labor and Industries, said Friday.

Dozens of bolts and welds failed where the base of the crane was secured, Lemon said. The bolts connected the crane to large steel beams and a concrete slab in an underground parking garage at a corner of the construction site.

Winds had dropped when the crane collapsed Thursday, but stronger winds earlier in the week might have rocked the 210-foot tower crane and placed excessive stress on the base, Lemon said.

He said investigators would also examine the crane for structural problems that could have put stress on the base.

Lemon said the crane operator was preparing to close down at the time of the accident, and the crane was not carrying a load — virtually eliminating excessive weight as the cause of the collapse. The operator was trapped in the control cab of the crane about 30 feet off the ground after a plunge of nearly 200 feet, according to fire officials. Firefighters used a ladder to reach him, and he was able to walk away from the scene.

The crane had never been inspected by state officials, said John Ecker, compliance manager for Labor and Industries.

Please see > SAFETY, A8

THE MAN WHO DIED | Microsoft job brought lawyer to the Northwest

BY SARA JEAN GREEN, ELIZABETH RHODES
AND MANUEL VALDES
Seattle Times staff reporters

Matt Ammon was a bright young attorney who loved legal challenges, fast cars, football and playing cards.

Microsoft wooed the Pittsburgh native to the Northwest earlier this year. Ammon had done work for the technology giant as a patent lawyer at the Kansas City, Mo., law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon before moving to Bellevue in June.

Ammon, 31, was killed Thursday when a tower crane collapsed in downtown Bellevue and the crane's 154-foot jib sliced through the roof of his fourth-floor apartment in the Pinnacle BellCentre complex at 308
Please see > AMMON, A8



Matt Ammon, 31, moved to area in June.

MORE INSIDE |

Diagram of the crane > A8

Firefighters work as some residents return home > A9

Damage to buildings assessed; map of construction site and buildings > A9

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