

Albany Democrat-Herald



Easy sauces,
dressing, and
condiment
recipes



OSU gymnastics

Law proves team inspiration **B1**

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RAIN 64 • 49

FORECAST, A6

| **SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020**

| democratherald.com

| gazettetimes.com

40 years after St. Helens

Volcanic eruption
transformed the region
and gripped the nation

JAY MCINTOSH | The Daily News

It turned day to night, order to chaos and amusement to shock and terror. In hours an expanse of thick forest became a drab wasteland of ash, mud and fallen trees. Some said it transformed a heaven on earth into an ugly hell.

When the top of Mount St. Helens blew off with the fury of an atom bomb, it blasted into our lives.

As the eyes of the nation turned to Southwest Washington in the week that followed, the magnitude of a tragic and unforgettable Sunday sank in. Its emotional aftermath came to be written in faces and voices and actions. A woman cried over the mudhole where her riverside house once stood; a father's hands shook with frustration as he prepared to backpack into the devastated area to search for his missing son; an eerie silence engulfed a caravan of 80 cars and trucks of Toutle and Silver Lake residents briefly visiting their homes Tuesday afternoon to retrieve valuables.

May 18, 1980, began like any warm, spring Sunday. People slept in, went out for breakfast, got ready for church, drank coffee and read the morning paper. Four babies were born in Longview that day, including one at 8:41a.m.

Please see **VOLCANO**, Page A9

■ **Inside:** More volcano coverage A8, 11-12

ROGER WERTH
LONGVIEW DAILY NEWS PHOTO

Mount St. Helens in Washington erupts May 18, 1980, with a fury more powerful than the atomic bomb that leveled Hiroshima.



WEATHER BEAVER SAYS:

- The rain and drizzle will pick back up Sunday and continue through Monday, with a high of 64 today and 61 on Monday. **For details, see Page A6.**

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- **Gallery:** Sweet Home grads
- **Gallery:** Mount St. Helens

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