

# The Olympian

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**LIVING:** A rugelach baking contest Sunday at Blintzapalooza, C1

**SPORTS, B1, B2**

## Prep boys soccer ready to kick off: Players, teams to keep an eye on

**LOCAL:** The jobs picture and who's hiring, A3

# Mudslide toll hits 16, but it's climbing

## Not all surprised that Hazel Landslide slid

BY KEN ARMSTRONG, MIKE CARTER AND MIKE BAKER  
*The Seattle Times*

Since the 1950s, geological reports on the hill that buckled during the weekend in Snohomish County have included pessimistic analyses and the occasional dire prediction. But no language seems more prescient than what appears in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, warning of "the potential for a large

See WARNING, A7



**Joshua Trujillo**, an Iraq War veteran and local Little League coach, searches through debris Monday following Saturday's destructive mudslide near Oso. The search for survivors grew to include scores of people still unaccounted for.

## Orange flags mark bodies buried under acres of wet, unstable mud

BY PHUONG LE AND MANUEL VALDES  
*The Associated Press*

**ARLINGTON**— Rescuers slogging through muck and rain Tuesday in an increasingly desperate search for survivors of a massive mudslide instead recovered two bodies and believe they have located another eight, Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots said.

The announcement put the official death toll at 16, with the possibility of 24 dead once the other bodies are confirmed.

The grim discoveries cast a further pall over the four-day search, as the threat of flash floods or another landslide loomed over the rescuers. With scores still missing, authorities are working off a list of 176 people unaccounted for, though some names were believed to be duplicates.

See MUDSLIDE, A7

**WHY IS IT TAKING CREWS SO LONG TO FIND MORE PEOPLE?**

The debris field is a huge, dangerous mess — 15 feet thick in some places. "It's muddy, in areas it's like quicksand," one official said. Searchers are also running into gasoline and septic discharge and dealing with ground that geologists warn remains unstable.

*The Associated Press*



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WARNING

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David Miller, a geotechnical engineer who documented the hillside landslide in a report written in 1997 for the Washington Department of Ecology and the Tillamook Tribe, said he has reviewed reports and maps from the 1950s, 1960s and 1980s.

Miller has done analyses for the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Forest Service, and was hired by King County in the 1990s to map out its geologically hazardous areas.

His perspective stands in contrast to that of the Washington Department of Emergency Management and a news conference Monday. "It was a completely unforeseen slide. This came out of nowhere."

The 2008 slide took place in winter on Jan. 25. Three days later, as the new channel on the land, residents and agencies said reported the case several of weeks or nearly a year later.

They didn't even stop opening traffic," said Tracy Drury, an environmental engineer who assessed the area with Miller soon after the landslide.

Wood said the house was built in 2006 on Steadhead Drive, according to Snohomish County records. The house was granted "flood hazard permits" that required there be a 1-foot to 2-foot above "base flood elevation," according to county building permit records. Another home was built in the neighborhood in 2005.

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Obituaries

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Obituary: Lois Marie Schurz

Lois Marie Schurz died peacefully on March 12, 2014 in Seattle, WA. She was 89 years old. She was born in Seattle, WA and lived in Olympia, WA for most of her life.

Obituary: Kenneth Lee Forbes

Kenneth Lee Forbes was born in Olympia, WA on March 12, 1924. He passed away on March 12, 2014. He was 90 years old. He was a member of the Olympia Community Church.

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