

## FRONT PAGE

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Mariner Action](#)
- [Police & Fire Logs](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [News Tip](#)
- [More News](#)
- HOT LINKS**
- [Election 2005](#)
- [Graying of Douglas County](#)
- [Government Links](#)
- [Road Reports](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)
- [Email Headlines](#)
- [Click & Vote Poll](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Furry Tail Times](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- OPINION**
- [Public Forum](#)
- [Guest Columns](#)
- [Staff Columns](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Write the Editor](#)
- [Blog](#)
- SPOTLIGHT**
- 
- EDUCATION**
- [Education](#)
- [Graduation](#)
- [Spelling Bee](#)
- ENTERTAINMENT**
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Life](#)
- [Health & Fitness](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Senior Times](#)
- COMMUNITY**
- [Our Community](#)
- [Submit: Engagement](#)
- [Submit: Wedding](#)
- [Submit: Anniversary](#)
- [Submit: Announcement](#)
- MARKETPLACE**
- [Classifieds](#)

## Fallen boxer may suffer permanent brain damage

June 21, 2005

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EUGENE (AP) -- Linda Shampang will never be the same woman who stepped through the ropes at Seven Feathers Hotel & Casino Resort in Canyonville last week to make her professional boxing debut, according to the doctor who performed surgery on the fighter.

Dr. Glenn Keiper told the Register-Guard of Eugene that Shampang suffered a large, subdural hematoma that compressed the left side of her brain.

"She's a very ill woman," Keiper said Monday. He added that Shampang's best hope is "recovery to the point where she can enjoy her life again with some types of deficits."

The 50-year-old boxer from Leaburg collapsed in a Canyonville hotel room Thursday, hours after her first professional match. Shampang remained in critical condition Monday at Sacred Heart Medical Center's intensive care unit.

Keiper said Shampang would likely remain in a coma for at least another week: "The damage has been done and it's just going to take her brain time to wake up."

A 5-foot-2, 125-pound fitness instructor at Oakway Fitness Center in Eugene, Shampang took up boxing at age 48 and got her state boxing license last fall.

On Thursday, she debuted against Jenny Houts, a woman 14 years younger and about 5 inches taller. Houts scored a technical knockout in the third round.

"I think it was ended at the proper time," said Carl Salter, executive director of the Cow Creek Gaming & Regulation Commission, which oversees boxing matches at Seven Feathers.

Prospective professional boxers in the state must apply with the Oregon State Boxing & Wrestling Commission. Fighters provide their amateur and professional record, and must pass a physical and eye examination along with a blood screening, said Brad Darcy, the commission's executive director.

If applicants are 36 or older, they must also complete a brain scan. If they have no amateur or professional record, as Shampang did not, the commission can ask for further information such as a letter of recommendation from a manager or trainer. Shampang's trainer, Kip Triplett of Creswell, wrote a letter for Shampang.

Neither Darcy nor Salter saw the scheduled four-round bout as a mismatch.

"They both had very limited records and very limited experience," Darcy said.

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