

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

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FLOATING YOUR BOAT? CHECK THIS LIST FIRST

Tips to prepare for hitting the water
ADVENTURE, E1



LOOKS LIKE UW LANDS THOMAS

Star recruit expected to name his choice today

PLUS, EVERETT, M'S ERUPT FOR WIN

SPORTS, C1

'DEFINITELY FOOD LEFT'

Seems a 'debt of thanks' costs \$13,200 in Tacoma

City officials spend \$13,200 to pay for a fancy private party at the Museum of Glass celebrating the \$100 million-plus cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway.

BY SUSAN GORDON
The News Tribune

City officials who wanted to say "a quiet thank you" to honor folks who lent a hand in the Superfund cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway spent \$13,200 on a private reception Monday.

The party in the Museum of Glass foyer featured a chocolate fountain, smoked salmon, fresh strawberries, cream puffs and other fancy finger foods.

Officials paid for the soiree by tapping the city's \$94.5 million waterway cleanup fund, which is largely backed by the public.

The private party took place after local dignitaries commended the city's Foss revitalization effort in a public ceremony along the Foss Waterway esplanade. After the speeches, 12 Japanese-style fishing

Please see PARTY, page A9

MONDAY'S PARTY COSTS

Rent space in Museum of Glass	\$1,979
Catering, room decorations	\$7,057
Invitations, including mailing	\$150
112 glass floats and display stands	\$3,242
Engraving the floats	\$645
Party favors (daisy seeds in Tagro, a byproduct of the city's wastewater treatment plant)	\$147
Total	\$13,220

Source: City of Tacoma

DO DATABASES DEHUMANIZE?

Killings expose sex offender lists' possible pitfalls

Vigilantes who use Internet-based registries to hunt convicted sex offenders raise questions about public safety versus fairness to an offender trying to rehabilitate.

BY DAVID CHARY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The killings of two men listed on Maine's Internet sex offender registry might offer a grim lesson about the consequences of such registry laws, but defense lawyers and crime researchers question whether a thoughtful national debate on the subject is possible.

In a climate in which politicians seek ever-tougher punishment and ostracism of sex offenders, they say, few are willing to examine the fairness and risks of registry requirements.

"We've basically dehumanized these people with words such as 'predator,'"

Please see LISTS, back page

Bridge discounts: How long?

Time frame unknown for break in tolls to cross Narrows

The state Transportation Commission begins to discuss the Tacoma Narrows bridge tolls, including more discounts. But drivers probably won't know the cost of crossing until fall.

BY JOSEPH TURNER
The News Tribune

Tolls on the new Tacoma Narrows bridge could be discounted longer than just one year — perhaps two years or more — for drivers who

install an electronic device in their cars for automated toll collection.

Such drivers would pay \$1.50 round-trip — instead of \$3 — to cross the new bridge for the first 11 months of operation, and between \$2 and \$2.50 in the following year.

Such a discount is considered an incentive for people to sign up for the electronic toll collection instead of stopping at a tollbooth and paying the full \$3 toll.

No decisions have been made. The discount was just one of several scenarios pre-

sent Wednesday to the Washington Transportation Commission, which is just beginning to tackle the issue of tolls for the new bridge.

The first tolls are scheduled to be collected on April 2, 2007, when the new bridge is expected to open to traffic.

But drivers probably will have a clearer idea of what they'll be paying by September.

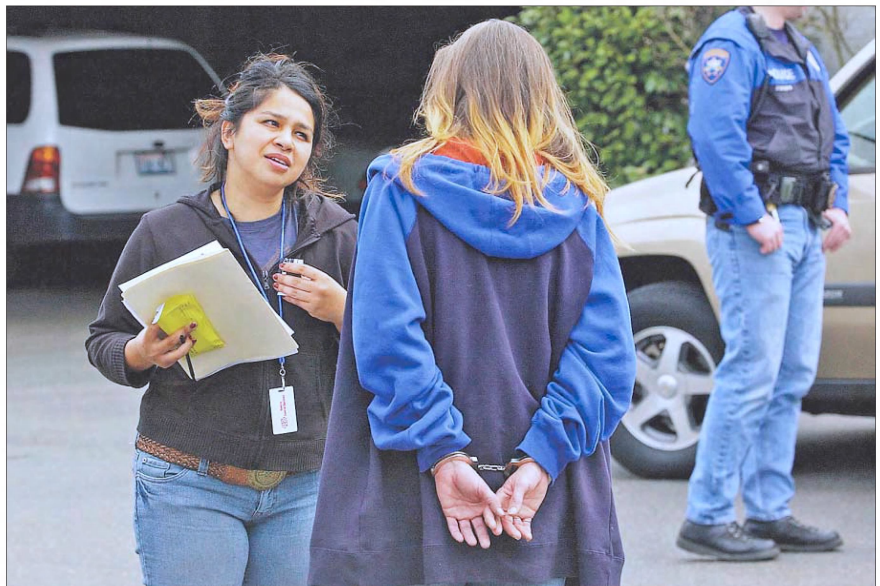
That's when a nine-member citizen advisory

Please see BRIDGE, page A9

HOT BUTTON: ONLINE POLL

Should regular users of the new Tacoma Narrows bridge get a toll discount for buying an electronic pass? To vote and post a comment, go to www.thenews-tribune.com.

PROGRAM HELPS WOMEN OFF THE STREETS



PETER HALEY/The News Tribune

Moments after a woman is arrested in a Tacoma police sting operation, Divina Baham, left, talks to her about PROMISE, a diversion program intended to help women quit the business of prostitution. Baham knows the difficulties of life on the streets — she worked as a prostitute as a young woman.

Prostitutes make another go at life

A former teen prostitute who turned her life around guides others to do the same. Their stories show what it's like to sell sex on the street — and how hard it is to leave the business.

BY ANGIE LEVENTIS
The News Tribune

The teenager in ripped jeans and a torn sleeveless shirt sits on a curb in South Tacoma, waiting while police check her record.

She was arrested for getting into the wrong car with the wrong guy and offering to do the wrong things for payment, says the cop posing as a client.

The 18-year-old woman doesn't seem too fazed and,

when asked, politely tells police she's been prostituting for about two months.

The cops are also low-key. Tacoma police and neighboring departments have been doing stings like this for decades.

The only part of this scene that's different is a social worker, who gives the woman a message before the journey to jail:

"You can get out of this life. I did. 'This is all about help,' Divina Baham says to the teen. 'Everybody needs help once in a while.'"

The woman on the curb is courteous but not too interested. Baham gives her a pamphlet anyway.

Please see PROSTITUTES, back page

"You can't say it don't bother you. Every time you get in a car, it takes away a little bit of yourself."

A WOMAN WHO IS TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE PROSTITUTION BUSINESS



U.S. Army

This Stryker model, which Fort Lewis soldiers are testing, can scan and analyze chemical agents.

'PRETTY EASY TO LEARN,' SERGEANT SAYS

Fort Lewis soldiers get some new wheels

The Army rolls out its \$2.1 million nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance Strykers at Fort Lewis. Each has a 'miniature laboratory' onboard to analyze threats.

BY MICHAEL SILBERT
The News Tribune

Soldiers at Fort Lewis are learning to use the Army's newest version of the Stryker armored vehicle, one that might be called on to protect troops

from the nastiest of weapons.

The new Strykers are equipped with an array of sensors, collection tools and computers to detect and identify radiation and chemical and biological agents. Each vehicle's crew of four soldiers, protected inside their pressurized truck, would go into potentially contaminated areas and warn others to stay clear.

The \$2.1 million nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicles are the ninth of 10 versions of the Stryker to be delivered by General Dynamics

WAR'S GROW COSTLIER FOR U.S.
Fixing, replacing equipment adds to price tag. A10

Land Systems.

The Stryker is the 21-ton medium-weight troop carrier first taken into combat less than three years ago. Two Fort Lewis infantry brigades have gone to war in them, with one of those brigades due to return to Iraq this summer.

Please see STRYKERS, back page

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WEATHER

TIME YOUR WALK CAREFULLY: Look for a few showers on an otherwise pleasant day. High: 62. Low: 46. Details: C8



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