

INSIDE:
People who want a role in designing and building the new regional transit system flock to a meeting in Tacoma. **B2**

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

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LOCAL

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B

Senators agree on selecting judges

Murray and Gorton deal should speed confirmation of several nominations to federal bench

By Peter Callaghan
THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Washington's two U.S. senators have made peace over who should have more say in appointing federal judges from the state.

Democratic Sen. Patty Murray will agree to consult with Republican Sen. Slade Gorton before recommending attorneys to President Clinton for appointment. Gorton, in turn, will help move the nominees through a Senate controlled by his party.

The understanding was reached after several months of informal conversations between the pair. It may clear the way for Senate approval of two U.S. District Court judges and three 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges. The jobs either have been left vacant by the dispute or were at risk of being held hostage to it.

"I guess it's more fun to read that we're fighting, but we're both realists," Murray said of the new ap-

proach. "I know one senator can block an appointment. What good does it do me to send up a name that will never be approved?"

Said Gorton: "My position is that the selection of judges is a partnership. I can't say all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted, but we are making progress toward what I hope is an accommodation on the three vacancies on the 9th Circuit.

To that end, Gorton said he'll ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold confirmation hearings on the appointment of Seattle attorney M. Margaret McKeown to the 9th Circuit. The action would be the first movement on the McKeown nomi-



Republican Gorton will get a say in selecting the nominees.



Democrat Murray will get Gorton's help in getting the GOP Senate's OK.

nation since Clinton sent it to the Senate 16 months ago.

And Gorton has said he'll probably cooperate with a second appointment to the 9th Circuit — a post that likely will go to Seattle attorney Ronald Gould or King County Superior or Court Judge Robert Alsdorf.

"My attitude toward (Gould and Alsdorf) will improve if we continue to work together," Gorton said. He still hopes Washington state Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Durham will get a future spot on the 9th Circuit, something Murray said is possible.

The first evidence of the breakthrough appeared earlier this month

when both senators interviewed finalists for a Western Washington district court seat and agreed to recommend Seattle lawyer Marvin "Monte" Gray — coincidentally a partner in Gorton's former law firm.

Gorton then endorsed the appointment of Pasco attorney Ed Shea for a district court position for Eastern Washington. Gorton had resisted Murray's nomination of Shea to demonstrate his concern over the appointment process.

The success of the Gray nomination helped the two move forward on the other vacancies, both said Monday.

"Because I've been willing to work with him, it's given him the ability to endorse Shea and call for a hearing on McKeown," Murray said.

The improvement in the relationship came gradually, beginning from a low point in April. That's when Gorton asked Murray and the White

Please see **Judges, B3**

Port works to clear the way for 3rd runway

Buying up homes near Sea-Tac despite lawsuits

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Port of Seattle continues to buy homes that will be razed to make way for a third runway at Sea-Tac Airport, even though it faces the prospect of yet another lawsuit against the project.

Since the port won federal approval for its \$1.5 billion master plan last month, it's made offers to 32 homeowners near the airport. Thirteen have signed deals to sell and 12 more have made verbal commitments, a port spokesman said.

By the end of the year, the port expects to make offers to 88 homeowners as part of a three-year, \$100 million buyout plan, as its preparations for a third runway move forward.

But opponents say the port is sticking its neck out.

"Anything the port does right now is at its own risk," said Peter Kirsch, the Denver attorney for the Airport Communities Coalition in its challenges to the project. "It is still highly speculative that the port will ever be able to build this project."

Kirsch said opponents have until Sept. 2 to decide whether to sue the Federal Aviation Administration over its approval of the master plan's third-runway component. He would not say whether a lawsuit would be filed, but called it a "reasonable possibility."

But port officials say they're confident they'll prevail in any legal action, and are going ahead with the property purchases as part of the \$587 million runway project.

The 8,500-foot third runway is intended to accommodate air traffic growth forecast to increase 20 percent by 2010.

"We're moving along, we think, at a very good pace," port spokesman Rachel Carlson said.

Construction on the runway would begin until about 2005, but port

Please see **Runway, B2**

Leaving 'a little bit of their hearts'

Street-side memorial for woman killed in collision continues to grow

A neighbor across the street says the first flowers went down as soon as the cars were towed and after the body was taken away. The flowers have been arriving ever since.

Roses and marigolds, blue as the sea and yellow like sunshine. Gladioli and snapdragons, baby's breath and chrysanthemums, pale dry hydrangeas plus daisies pure white. Single blossoms and full bouquets, some placed in pots, some in baskets, some strewn on the grass or the newly wounded earth. Neighbors change the water every day.

From a hundred or more such floral offerings the scent hangs on a summer afternoon thickly and sweet, as if too heavy to float away.

The people come, too. Newcomers who don't know what happened ask why, and who, and how. Those who know explain. A man is suspected of stealing a Chevrolet Suburban. It hit the vehicle of Paula Joyce, mother of four. The driver ran away, and a suspect was captured. And now neighbors, strangers, family and friends have begun to build a memorial of flowers and love.

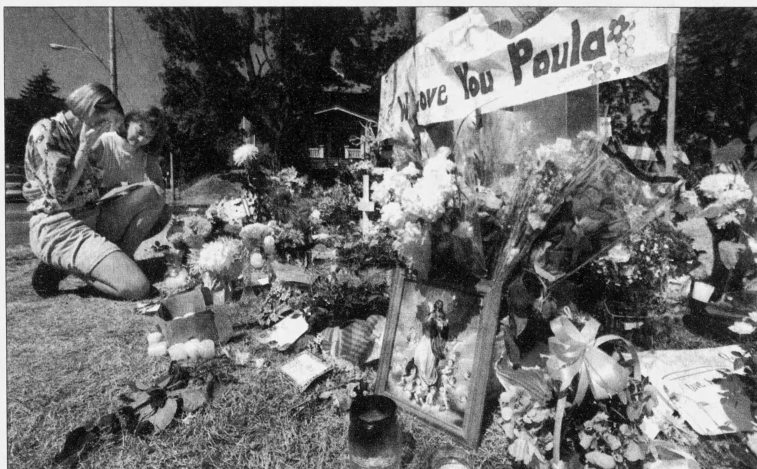
The procession rarely ends. Parents and children, older couples, young men and women by ones and twos. They come and they stand and they look. Some cry. They lean down to read the notes — many unsigned — left in memory of Paula Joyce.

"My mommy, I love you so much," reads a comment written on a piece of paper adorned with four hearts. "You will live on in your husband and children," someone promises.

"I don't think I can ever understand what your family is going through," writes an 11-year-old girl. She continues by quoting a song familiar to death, "Amazing Grace."

"Was blind but now I see. I remember the day you married my cousin," writes a member of the family.

"I love you Aunt Paula." Drivers pass, craning their necks. Lilies and zinnia. Dahlias the size of saucers and tiny red roses. Two



PETER HALEY/THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Rhonda Mueller, left, and Ann Myers, sisters of Paula Joyce, visit the memorial at North 21st Street and North Union Avenue where Joyce was killed in a collision last week. Mueller lives nearby, and Myers is from Idaho.

teddy bears sit staring. Candles flicker within glass enclosures. A bumblebee hovers before a portrait of the victim.

"We just thought it would be the right thing to do," says Penny Anderson. She came with her great-nephew, Jimmy Newell, 8.

"Children need to know that when bad things happen, good people rally," she says. Jimmy offers garden roses in a Styrofoam cup. He plants a single tall feather into the lawn near where Joyce died.

You can still see the marks where the two colliding vehicles chewed the ground and the curb.

Jimmy says. He picks up a piece of tire and a bright shiny shard of a shattered headlight.

"I hope he learns that people care," says Anderson. "You have to help the children understand, or they'll live in fear. Everybody here just gave a little bit of their hearts."

"People do have to suffer sometimes by other people's mistakes," says Jimmy.

They leave. Others arrive. "You feel their loss. It could have been one of yours. And you don't know why," says Dave Rotz.

"This could have been anybody," says Mary Miller. "We've just come to pay our respects."

"It's been hundreds of people," says Ronnie O'Neal, who lives on the corner where the crash occurred. "It's been wonderful to see the community come together."

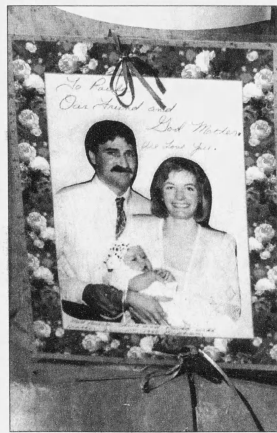
She too gave flowers. "We just had to. There was a young mother killed there. You just have to show your sympathy."

She watches the candles burn at night.

Aimee Ettel stands crying. She knew Paula Joyce. She baby-sat the children. Her tears fall into shadows.

"It's terrible that the children will have to grow up without their mommy," she says. "Especially this mommy."

C.R. Roberts' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at 597-8535 or by fax at 597-8274. Address e-mail to crrop.tribnet.com



DAVID PIERINI/ THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Among the items left in memory of Paula Joyce was this photo of her, her husband and one of their children.

Suspect in fatal collision to get mental examination

Seattle man faces charges of 2nd-degree murder, vehicular homicide

By John Galle
THE NEWS TRIBUNE

A Seattle man accused of killing a Tacoma woman at a North End intersection Friday was sent to Western State Hospital on Monday for a mental health examination.

Valdez Vernon Stewart, 21, is charged in the high-speed crash that killed 34-year-old Paula Joyce, a mother of four. According to court documents, Stewart was driving a stolen Chevrolet Suburban that ran a red light and plowed broadside

into Joyce's pickup truck.

Stewart testified distractedly about a fifth-floor courtroom Monday while lawyers and Pierce County Superior Court Judge Karen Strombom discussed charges against him.

Deputy prosecutor Hugh Birgenheier charged Stewart with second-degree murder, vehicular homicide, possessing stolen property, vehicle theft, failure to remain at the scene



Valdez Stewart says he doesn't remember collision.

of an injury accident, resisting arrest and driving with a revoked license.

He said he charged Stewart with both second-degree murder and vehicular homicide because a case could be made for both.

Birgenheier delayed Stewart's arraignment on the charges for at least two weeks while Stewart's mental health is evaluated.

"I think the interview he gave The News Tribune over the weekend raises some questions about his mental health," Birgenheier said after the hearing. "I thought we ought to get him evaluated right away."

Stewart contended in an interview Sunday that he blacked out

before the wreck at North 21st Street and North Union Avenue and remembers nothing about it. He also claims that he was not driving the car that struck Joyce.

Birgenheier said he wants to know early in the case whether Stewart is competent to stand trial or whether he suffers from a mental condition he might use as a defense during the trial.

Contrary to what he told a News Tribune reporter, court records show Stewart was previously convicted of two crimes in King County — third-degree assault, the deputy prosecutor said.

Birgenheier sought and Judge Strombom set bail at \$1 million be-

cause of Stewart's record and his alleged attempt to flee from the accident scene.

According to court documents, Stewart was traveling north on North Union Avenue when the accident happened.

Stewart, slightly injured, then crawled from his wrecked vehicle and fled the scene on foot, the documents state. Witnesses followed him until two off-duty Tacoma police officers out jogging apprehended him.

Though held by leg restraints, Stewart repeatedly kicked at the windows of a patrol car after he was placed inside, court records state.

At Tacoma General Hospital, it

Please see **Suspect, B3**

Judge rules newspaper can keep sting photos

By Peter Callaghan
THE NEWS TRIBUNE

The Lakewood Journal will not have to give up unpublished photographs taken during the July 2 arrest of Pierce County Councilman Wendell Brown, a Lakewood judge ruled Monday.

Judge Frederick Whang rejected the city's claim the photos were "official" pictures taken by the newspaper while observing a prostitution sting.

He overturned a subpoena the Lakewood city attorney's office served on the newspaper last week.

Brown was arrested after Lakewood police said he talked to a police decoy about sex and followed her into a motel room. His trial on solicitation charges is set for Sept. 24.

City Attorney Daniel Heid argued Monday that the city is obligated to seek the photos to comply with a discovery motion filed by Brown's defense attorney. Court procedures require the city to share all evidence relevant to the case. Any future conviction could be at risk if the city should have turned over the photos to Brown but didn't, Heid said.

An attorney representing the weekly newspaper argued the photos were the property of the Journal and the city's agreement to let a reporter and photographer observe the sting operation did not change that.

To force the newspaper to give up the photos to the government would trample on the constitutional rights of the publisher, attorney William Holt said.

Holt said numerous court decisions require the courts to tread lightly when seeking evidence gathered by reporters. Only if the material is highly relevant to the case and is critical to the prosecution or lawsuit can attorneys seek such evidence, Holt said. And even then they must show it cannot be gotten elsewhere.

Holt argued that the city has not met that test because there is little question it was Brown who was ar-

Please see **Photos, B2**

OPEN MIKE

Want to share your opinions, your news, your thoughts on any subject with other readers? Call **TRIBnet** at 596-6500 and then punch in the **TRIB** Code **OPEN** (ext. 6736).

I'm calling in reference to Mr. Howard Reynolds' comment referring to people having to wait to get a driver's license and he thinks it should be by mail. I don't think it should be mail-in. People get their driver's license too easy. I think people ought to take a defensive driver's course to get their driver's license renewed.

— William Fox, Graham

In reference to the Open Mike comment about speed traps on Yakima Avenue in Tacoma: At least Tacoma police set speed traps. All Puyallup does is spend \$25,000 on Harley-Davidsons and put them in the paper for publicity. At least kids on your streets might be able to ride a bicycle. Ours can't.

— James Vasboe, Puyallup

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Got a question about something going on in the South Sound? We'll try to find an answer. Call **TRIBnet** at 596-6500 and then punch in the **TRIB** Code **ASRS** (ext. 2757).

Where do you go to get a tattoo removed in this town? The only place listed in the phone book is in Kirkland.

— News Tribune reader

Removing tattoos is considered a medical procedure, so it must be performed by a doctor. Cascade Eye and Skin Centers in Tacoma (272-9309) and Puyallup (845-4666) remove tattoos surgically. Pierce County Laser Clinic (373-0047) removes tattoos by laser treatment.

— Rob Carson, The News Tribune

LOTTERY

Drawings for Washington Lotto and Quinto, Oregon Megabucks, and Powerball are on Wednesday and Saturday. Others are played daily. Call TRIBnet at 596-6500 and then punch in the TRIB Code ASRS (ext. 5825).

WASHINGTON DAILY GAMES 6-0-4
WASHINGTON LOTTO (Aug. 9):
 8:10:11-20:26:40
 One winner of \$7 million
 Wednesday: \$1 million

QUINTO (Aug. 9):
 3 9 0 7 3
 No winner
 Wednesday: \$400,000

KENO 7: 8, 11, 12, 13, 19, 23, 28, 44, 46, 49, 53, 60, 64, 65, 67, 68, 71, 76, 79

OREGON DAILY 4: 1-5-8-3
 1-4-12-16-18-19
 No winner
 Wednesday: \$1.75 million

POWERBALL (Aug. 9):
 17-13-37-27 Powerball 12
 No winner
 Wednesday: \$8 million

LOOKING BACK

A daily review of stories from The News Tribune and The Daily Ledger of years past. Items come from files of The News Tribune and the Tacoma Public Library. Photos provided by the Washington State Historical Society.

100 years ago: Aug. 12, 1897
 Very little was heard around the corridors of the hotels of Tacoma yesterday except for remarks about the loss of the steamer Meeker, the principal guests being a large number of passengers from the ill-fated vessel. The hotels were the center of attraction and were kept busy all day answering the questions of many persons outside of the newspaper profession. The rush of Alaskan business has slackened up in the last few days and is not expected to commence to any great extent before the sailing of the City of Seattle, which will take a big load of passengers from Tacoma who are coming here from the East to take passage.

50 years ago: Aug. 12, 1947
 A costume parade and contest will highlight the program of events scheduled for Friday, Ladies' Day in the Days of Ezra Meeker celebration. The costume parade, starting at 7 o'clock, will proceed from Pioneer Park to the platform at Meeker Avenue, where winners will be named in the following classifications: bustle dresses, Victorian dresses, Gay Nineties, old wedding dresses, sunbonnets, old-time bathing suits, single men, couples, miscellaneous.

25 years ago: Aug. 12, 1972
 Financing for the proposed \$26 million North Pacific World Trade Center in Tacoma probably will be secured early this fall if Tacoma residents approve on Sept. 19 the \$12 million bond issue for a civic center. This was the prediction made Thursday by Frank Hayes, president of the Tacoma Area Chamber of Commerce. The discussion followed an address to the Tacoma Lions Club.



Olaf Bull, musical director of the Tacoma Theatre and a violin teacher, presents an unconventional performance on the beach, circa 1905. Bull was noted for such unusual performances and even played his violin on top of Mount Rainier.

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- <http://www.tribnet.com/projects/poy/>
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- Quickscan headlines of the past five days. <http://www.tribnet.com/news/quickscan.htm>

Regional Transit Authority session draws nearly 1,000 potential bidders

By BRUER DUDLEY
 THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Nearly 1,000 consultants hoping to work on the \$3.9 billion Regional Transit Authority filled the Tacoma Convention Center on Monday. They were invited to learn how and when to bid on the largest public works venture in state history. "We want to see lots of competition," RTA light-rail director Paul Bay told the crowd. "We want to get your creative juices flowing to figure out how to do this very challenging set of projects." Consultants ranged from a Federal Way T-shirt designer to the Canadian firm building Kuala Lumpur's rail system. In between were hundreds of architects, engineers, lawyers, construction managers and financiers. About 40 contracts will be issued over the next two years, including \$128 million worth of commuter trains and design services that eventually could cost more than \$800 million. RTA services begin this fall with added express buses between Seattle and Tacoma. Commuter trains are to begin rolling in 2000, and electric light-rail service is to start in 2001. Potential bidders were urged to form partnerships with local experience, national expertise and minority-owned firms. "This is like a junior high school dance," Bay said. "Here's your opportunity to select some partners." Tacoma architect Peter Rasmussen said it was

"sort of a who's who in the consulting businesses," but RTA officials made it clear they won't play favorites. "I particularly liked their approach on integrity," he said. "They wanted to make sure everyone knew this was a level playing field." Peter Shaw, an Olympia event planner, was encouraged by the pledge to include a diversity of businesses. "It seems to me they're going to make a concerted effort to supply opportunity," Shaw said. Most of the firms were angling for the RTA's biggest fish — the new light-rail system. It will cost \$1.75 billion to design and build. That's only for light-rail service between northern Seattle and SeaTac, and between the Tacoma Dome and downtown Tacoma. Voters will decide later whether to extend the system; they approved the first phase in November. Design of the light-rail system is divided into two contracts being issued this fall. One is for designing the system; the other, larger contract is for civil engineering of facilities such as stations and tunnels. RTA director Bob White was pleased by the turnout, and noted that less than four experienced firms are interested in the light-rail civil-engineering contract. "We want them to bring that expertise but we're not looking for cookie-cutter design, either," White said. "We're looking for some off-the-shelf things, but we're looking for people who think about how it's going to work in our community."

Suspect in attempted murder freed from jail

By JOHN GILLIE
 THE NEWS TRIBUNE

A Roy woman accused of luring her estranged husband into the woods at Fort Lewis to shoot him has been released from jail and allowed to return to work. U.S. Magistrate Judge J. Kelley Arnold approved a plan Friday that allowed Brenda Lee Working, 39, to be released from jail and return to work while awaiting federal indictment on charges of attempted murder and the use of a firearm in a federal crime. Under that plan, Working will wear an electronic ankle bracelet that will notify authorities if she leaves a home in Centralia, where she is staying

with relatives. The plan allows her to leave that home only to go to work in Olympia, said assistant U.S. attorney Arlen Sturm. Working is an auditor in the state revenue department, according to divorce papers. Working has also been charged by the state with attempted murder. Deputy Pierce County prosecutor Steve Gregorich said Monday he will dismiss state charges when he is sure the crime occurred on federal land, not on Pierce County right of way inside the fort. Authorities say Working lured her 46-year-old husband, Michael Working, an unemployed machinist, to the woods Aug. 1 and repeatedly shot him. He survived the bullet wounds and has been released from the hospital.

Runway

Continued from B1

officials say they need to own the surrounding land to begin relocating a stream and a road. Meanwhile, other runway-related lawsuits are working their way through the legal maze. The state Growth Management Hearings Board is due next week to rule whether the City of Des

Moines had the right to approve a comprehensive plan that conflicts with federal plans for the runway. The Airport Communities Coalition's challenge to the port's environmental impact statement is scheduled for a hearing in December. The coalition's lawsuit against the Puget Sound Regional Council over the way it approved the third runway is set for trial in January, and a concurrent lawsuit against the port has a court date in May. News Tribune staff writer Al Gibbs contributed to this report.

Photos

Continued from B1

rested, the arrest was observed by numerous police officers and a photo showing Brown being handcuffed has already been published. "We appeared ready to agree the newspaper's Amendment rights were threatened by the city's subpoena. But he resolved the issue on a technical point. Because the city does not own the photos, it would not be violating Brown's rights by re-

fusing to produce them to Brown's attorney, Whang ruled. Heid said the city was satisfied with the result. A side issue concerned the city's claim that the Journal had agreed to share photos taken during the sting operation. Lakewood Police Sgt. John Solheim testified he had such an agreement. Journal reporter Steve Dunkelberger testified there was no agreement to share all photos. And Holt argued that a reporter is not empowered to waive the honor of his or her publication. Whang said the city is free to sue the Journal for breach of contract but that he was not able to resolve the dispute.

THE AREA IN BRIEF

PUYALLUP

Bicyclist, 15, dies after being hit by truck
 A 15-year-old boy died Monday after he was hit by a delivery truck while bicycling in Puyallup. Bryan Essman of Puyallup was riding east on the sidewalk along East Main Avenue shortly before 11:30 a.m. The delivery van was eastbound on the same street, Puyallup police said. The truck driver and Essman reached Fifth Street Southeast at the same time, police said. When the truck started turning south onto Fifth Street, it struck Essman, who had ridden into the intersection, police said. Essman, a Puyallup High School student, died at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma. He was wearing a bicycle helmet. Police believe he died of internal injuries. An autopsy is expected today. The accident remains under investigation, but Sgt. Roger Cox said he doesn't expect charges to be filed.

FIRCREST

Council will adjourn for rotary
 The Fircrest City Council plans to cancel tonight's meeting. Though the council will convene, members will vote to immediately adjourn and continue tonight's agenda until Aug. 18 so several members can attend the rotary reception for Paula Joyce. Joyce, of Tacoma, was killed in a hit-and-run accident last week. Two of Joyce's brothers-in-law work for the City of Fircrest. Council members will take up tonight's agenda beginning 6 p.m. next Monday at City Hall, 115 Ramsdell St.

FORT LEWIS

Celebrated MASH unit being deactivated
 Fort Lewis' 18th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, the most decorated hospital in the U.S. Army, will stop active operations Wednesday. An inactivation ceremony is planned for 9 a.m. Wednesday at Watkins Field. The unit — unrelated to the 43rd MASH unit, made famous by the "M*A*S*H" movie and TV series — was formed Dec. 21, 1928. It has been activated and inactivated sev-

PIERCE COUNTY

Outdoor burning ban goes into effect

Weeks of hot, dry weather have resulted in a countywide ban against outdoor burning. Effective midnight Monday, the ban bars all outdoor burning except small campfires made in fire pits using seasoned firewood. The ban has been ordered by the Pierce County Fire Prevention Bureau, the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association, and the state Department of Natural Resources. The burn ban will remain in effect until canceled by Pierce County Fire Marshal Wayne Wiersholm. The fire marshal predicts that if the dry weather continues, the burn ban will be in effect well into the fall or until the region experiences significant rainfall.

Resurfacing will disrupt Canyon Road

Motorists are urged to find alternative routes to Canyon Road Thursday and Friday while a 5-mile stretch is resurfaced. The work will be done between 118th Street East near Summit and 192nd Street East near Frederickson. On both days, crews will be working between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and one lane will be open each way. On Thursday, crews will resurface the two southbound lanes. On Friday, crews will re-surface the two northbound lanes. About 10,000 cars a day travel on Canyon Road.

SEATTLE

Drug tests ground state ferry captain
 A captain who was fired after the state ferry Elwha ran aground has had his licenses revoked because of drug use, the Coast Guard said Monday. An administrative law judge canceled all Coast Guard licenses and merchant mariner's documents held by Captain Charles G. Peterson because he recently tested positive for marijuana while undergoing a rehabilitation program. Peterson, 47, of Anacortes, was serving as master of the Elwha when it veered off course and scraped bottom at the south end of San Juan Island in July 1996. He pleaded no contest to administrative charges of misconduct, negligence and use of a dangerous drug. Last August, he was ordered to undergo drug and alcohol treatment. His licenses were suspended, then reinstated.



Couple booked after man says they bound him with tape

By ANTHONY K. ALBERT AND CHERYL REID
 THE NEWS TRIBUNE

A Tacoma man told authorities he was bound with duct tape and held against his will at a Parkland home over the weekend. Pierce County sheriff's deputies said. Deputies were dispatched about 1 p.m. Saturday to the 11500 block of 19th Avenue Court East in Parkland. A 19-year-old Tacoma man said he got up about 5:30 a.m. Saturday to help move furniture in a home in the Parkland area. Once at the home, he said, he was tied to a weight-lifting bench with rope and duct tape and put face down on the floor. The man remained at the home in that position and said he urinated in his pants. He freed himself Sunday afternoon and ran next door for help. The man and woman who live in the home told deputies the Tacoma man broke into their home last week, took items and threatened their two children with a knife. They said they saw the man Saturday but left the home. Deputies were allowed to search the home and found the weight bench and a strong smell of urine in one of the rooms. The couple was booked into the Pierce County Jail on suspicion of unlawful imprisonment.

2 men arrested after house east of Tacoma is burglarized

Two men suspected of breaking into a home east of Tacoma on a Tuesday night claim they were just looking for parts for a Jeep. Pierce County sheriff's deputies said. The Tacoma couple who own the home in the 3300 block of Waller Road East arrived to find two men standing in their front door about 8:30 p.m. They subdued one of the men, a 25-year-old transient, and called for help. Sheriff's deputies used a police dog and the second man, a 24-year-old from Tacoma, hiding in the brush near the intersection of Waller Road East and Pioneer Way. The 25-year-old said he had asked his buddy if he knew where he could get parts for his Jeep. He said they went to the house and his buddy kicked open the door. But the 24-year-old told deputies it was the other man who kicked in the door. Deputies found some of the couple's belongings near a 1985 Toyota Celica parked in their driveway. They recovered a flashlight and a .38-caliber handgun believed to have belonged to the suspects. Both men were booked into the Pierce County Jail on suspicion of burglary.

Fircrest man hit with bottle; Tacoma man booked as suspect

A Fircrest man was struck over the head with a beer bottle early Monday while standing near a friend's car, Tacoma police said. Three men approached the 30-year-old Fircrest man as he stood in the 700 block of South M Street about 1:15 a.m. The man heard someone from the group yell for him to check his pockets. He was then struck over the head with a bottle, causing a severe cut above his left eye. The Fircrest man took a bat from a second man in the group to defend himself, and a fight ensued. Several Tacoma police officers responding to another call nearby heard the fight and went to the Fircrest man's side. They took a 31-year-old Tacoma man into custody, who claimed the Fircrest man was making trouble. Officers booked the Tacoma man into the Pierce County Jail on suspicion of assault. The Tacoma man's 15-year-old accomplice was charged for a curfew violation; the third man was not found.

Sex offenders who haven't registered sought in King

King County Police, along with Seattle police, the county corrections department and prosecutors began a weeklong effort Monday to lock up sex offenders who fail to register. Felony arrest warrants were issued and given to arrest teams Monday night. The teams were to go to the last-known address of the registration violators, arrest them and book them into the King County Jail.