

# SOUTHSOUND

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## IN BRIEF

### TACOMA

#### Vigil tonight for girl missing for 11 years

The family of a Tacoma girl missing for 11 years will gather tonight for a candlelight vigil. The remembrance for Teikah Lewis will start at 7 p.m. at the site where she disappeared — 4102 S. Center St. — the former New Frontier dance hall building alley. (The bowling alley was razed several years ago.)

"Another year goes," Teikah's mother, Theresa Lewis, said this week. Her daughter was 21 years old the night of Jan. 23, 1999, when she vanished. She was last seen playing near a coin-operated racing game on her family members nearby. Tacoma police believe a stranger might have taken Teikah but have never had a description of an abductor to release.

Teikah was wearing a green Twenty Bird sweat shirt, white sweatpants and no shoes. She had a clear plastic purse. At the time of her disappearance, she was about 5 feet tall and 75 pounds. Anyone with information about Teikah's whereabouts or her disappearance is asked to call Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers at 253-391-5999. *Stacy Melick, staff writer*

### TACOMA

#### Boyfriend pleads guilty to 2007 death

A 40-year-old man pleaded guilty to a second-degree murder Friday in the 2007 death of a woman whose body was found buried in a yard in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood last year. Glenn D. Riccio faces a handed range of 15 years, three months to 22 years, four months in prison when sentenced March 19, Pierce County deputy prosecutor Steve Pinner said.

Detectors interviewed Riccio shortly after his girlfriend, Jessica Louise Armstrong, 30, disappeared in 2007, but he denied knowing what happened to her. Interviewed again in February 2009, Riccio admitted killing Armstrong on her request, according to court papers. He told detectives she'd been depressed about legal issues and the possibility of losing custody of her children, court documents state.

Working from a hand-drawn map provided by Riccio, investigators found Armstrong's body wrapped in plastic in a yard in the 1900 block of South Sherman Avenue. An autopsy found she'd been shot once in the head. *Matt Lynn, staff writer*

### TACOMA

#### Religious leaders to pray for peace

An interfaith prayer service after recent tragedies — from local police shooting to the earth quake in Haiti — will take place Monday night in Tacoma. The community service, sponsored by Associated Ministers, will include prayer, hymns and readings from the Bible and the Quran. As many as a dozen religious leaders, including pastors, rabbis and an imam, will take part in the service from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Charles Roman Catholic Church, 1122 S. 12th St.

Associated Ministers describes the event as a "community interfaith service for peace and wholeness" after the fatal shooting of four Lakewood police officers and a Pierce County sheriff's deputy, as well as the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti.

In a statement, the Christian ecumenical agency describes the service's purpose: "As we grieve the sense of loss on a personal level, and as we lament the death and destruction in all of God's creation, let us also come together as a community to place our hope in something beyond ourselves."

For more information, contact Associated Ministers at 253-383-3056 or visit www.associatedministers.org. *Steve Majumdar, staff writer*

### BUCKLEY

#### Rally to back keeping Rainier School open

A community rally to support Rainier School in Buckley is scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at the grounds near Highway 910 and River Avenue in Buckley. State officials have threatened to close the 70-year-old school for the developmental disability by 2011. Rainier School houses 371 students and employs 190 people. *Debra Carlson, staff writer*

### AUBURN

#### Hydroplane champ's life to be celebrated

A memorial and celebration of life for hydroplane champion George Henley of Eatonville will be Jan. 30 at Emerald Downs in Auburn, his family announced Friday. Henley, 73, owned Henley's Silver Lake Racetrack in Eatonville. He died Dec. 21 of a heart attack. At the helm of the unlimited hydroplane "Pay to Day," Henley won the Gold Cup on Lake Washington in 1974 when the race returned to Seattle after a seven-year hiatus.

That season he won seven races and the national points championship. He retired from unlimited racing in 1976. The memorial will be 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 30 on the second floor of the horse racing track at 2500 Emerald Downs Drive. More information is available at www.henleyhydroplane.com. *Mike Anshel, staff writer*

### SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Accuracy is important to us at The News Tribune. We take care in our reporting and editing, but errors do occur. We want to correct them. If you believe printed information is in error, please call 253-597-8412.

# Clubs pass sprinkler check

**UP TO CODE:** Six that were warned now OK; no response from two

**BY JAYCE OCHS**  
Staff writer

Six Tacoma nightclubs that needed to install water sprinklers or alarms, their dance floors have done so and now are in accordance with a state law that went into effect Dec. 1.

Tacoma Fire Department inspectors have been checking on two other clubs but have gotten no response and say the clubs might have gone out of business.

The legislation, approved in May 2007, required clubs to install sprinklers in case of fire. The law was inspired by a Rhode Island nightclub fire that resulted in more than 100 deaths and more than 200 injuries in 2003.

In late December, nine nightclubs in Tacoma still lacked the sprinkler systems, according to the Fire Department.

Of nine, two have installed the systems and four have shown their dance floors so they would not have to meet the sprinkler requirement. One club has closed, and the

department hasn't heard from the other two.

Deputy fire marshal Phil Ferrell listed The Swiss and Club Silverstone for putting in the sprinklers to protect their customers.

"They stepped up and did things in a timely manner," he said. "They deserve more recognition." Three other clubs — Rob's Jazz Bar, Latitude 48 and Mami — either eliminated their dance floors or declined their size to comply with the law and are no longer required to install sprinkler systems.

A fourth, Heli's Kabaret, moved to a different building that already had a sprinkler system.

Ferrell added that five officials will periodically check on the clubs that have opted to reduce their dance floors.

First-time violators will receive a letter of warning; second-time offenders could face fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail; a third offense could lead to a revocation of the venue's business license.

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### SPRINKLER STATUS

Here is the status of nine Tacoma nightclubs that needed to comply with a new state law concerning water sprinklers.

**CLUB SILVERSTONE**, 3915 14th Avenue, installed sprinklers.

**LA BONITA**, 1605 Portland Ave., installed sprinklers.

**LA PATRIE**, 434 Portland Ave., Shrink dance floor.

**JAZZTONE**, 2805 Sixth Ave., Shrink dance floor.

**ROB'S JAZZ BAR**, 10 Tacoma Ave. N., Shrink dance floor.

**MAMI'S AMERICAN MUSIC CAFE**, 201 Pacific Ave., Closed.

**MIS MARY RED DRAGON**, 3422 S. G St., Unresponsive, may be closed.

**HELI'S KABARET**, 124 1/2 Jolly Ave., Unresponsive, may be closed.

*Source: Tacoma Fire Department*

## A CALL FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE



Liara Francisco of Olympia claps for abortion rights at a rally on the Capitol steps for the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Liara Francisco of Olympia claps for abortion rights at a rally on the Capitol steps for the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Several dozen people gathered there Friday to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the ruling that legalized abortion nationwide and also to protest cases on the Basic Health Plan in Washington. Radical Women, a socialist feminist group, sponsored the event.

## Police slayings witness: They 'protected us'

**BY STEVE MALICK**  
Staff writer

A barista who was inside a Portland coffee shop Nov. 29 when four Lakewood police officers were killed says she thinks about that morning every day.

"I saw some pretty bad things," the 29-year-old barista, who wanted to be identified only as Sara, said in an interview Thursday with KOMO-TV. "I think about it daily, but I have peace. The Lord gives me peace, and I'm able to handle it."

Sara recalled the Sunday morning after Thanksgiving, when police Sgt. Mark Henniger and officers Tim Grubbs, Craig Robinson and Randall Owens were gunned down in the Porra Coffee Co. shop, 11401 S. Steele St., as they prepared for their shift.

Sara said she was making a drink for Grubbs when Henniger, the man who talked her four, entered. "I greeted him and said 'hi' and he was standing right in front of the door — I saw everything that happened before I turned around and ran out the door," Sara said.

Clemmons walked up to the tables and reached into his jacket, she said. "He could have been pulling on his wallet, so I really wasn't too alarmed." Sara recalled. "Looked down, was making a latte, heard a gunshot and looked back up."

Sara declined to say what she saw next "for the privacy of the families and for my own feelings."

Sara and another barista grabbed their trays and ran from the shop. As they drove away, she said, she could see one of the officers struggling with Clemmons near the front door. The two bustles drove to a nearby con-

stant news website photo.com

**A Forra barista, who asked only to be identified as Sara, discusses the slaying of four police officers.**

venience store and called 911. Sara said she didn't know the four officers had been killed until hours later.

A Seattle police officer shot and killed Clemmons two days later.

On Thursday, Sara helped present a check for \$14,000 — money raised by Forra and its customers — to the president of the Lakewood police union. The money will go into an educational trust fund for the families of the four officers. Sara said she wished the check was for 100 times more.

"They took the fall that day, and we were able to get out," she said. "They really protected us."

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## Families cry, boyfriend gets 16 years

**SENTENCE:** Girl killed second day she could walk

**BY ADAM LYNN**  
Staff writer

On July 24, 2008, Aalyah Kabalo was made the kind of developmental trap that parents write down in their baby books. The girl, who had celebrated her first birthday 17 days earlier, started walking.

Her journey through life was tragically short.

The next day, her mother's boyfriend — Steven Andrew Dwight Kendall — fatally assaulted Aalyah in what his attorney called "a moment of frustration, ignorance and anger."

Court documents don't state what set Kendall off, but the girl suffered a massive blow to the abdomen and skull fractures, according to an autopsy. She died the same day.

On Friday, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Bruce Tolleson sentenced Kendall, 25, to 16 years, four months in prison for killing Aalyah.

The ruling left both Aalyah's and Kendall's families in tears.

Kendall pleaded guilty in November to one count of second-degree murder on the girl's death. He initially claimed Aalyah suffered her injuries accidentally, but later admitted he assaulted her in a fit of anger.

On Friday, he declined to make a public statement, choosing instead to head forward a bench trial to ensure that Tolleson read to himself before pronouncing the sentence.

The girl's mother, Adil Alana Kabalo, was also sentenced to jail. She stepped forward to speak but was overcome with emotion and returned something to her son.

Others did speak, on behalf of the girl and Kendall.

Aalyah's father, Margah Windham, said he felt guilty for running out on the girl and her mother, creating a void that Kendall filled.

"I neglected my responsibilities and disappeared," Windham said. "I apologized every day who couldn't I just be there for her?"

The girl's great-grandmother, Alice Smith, flew in from her home in Hawaii to address Tolleson. She held up a framed photograph of the girl as she spoke.

"This is my great-granddaughter. She is the only one I love. I miss her," Smith said before asking Tolleson to sentence Kendall to the high end of the sentencing range: 18 years, four months in prison.

Deputy prosecutor Patrick Hammond also asked for a high-end sentence, saying Kendall did not call 911 after the girl was hurt but put her in bed, where she died.

Kendall's attorney, Mary K. High, asked for a low-end sentence of 10 years, three months. Kendall didn't call 911 because he suffered "a moment of panic" after the assault, High said.

If he could turn back the clock, he would," she said.

Three people then spoke for Kendall.

The defendant's aunt, Neida Jackson, asked Tolleson to show leniency to Kendall, whom she described as "a great young man" who has been nothing but a joy to his family. Kendall had no criminal history prior to assaulting Aalyah.

"Sometimes, because we're all humans, we make mistakes," said Jackson, who offered condolences to the girl's relatives before she addressed Tolleson. "This tragedy has effected all of us."

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