

SOUNDSOUND

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010 · THENEWSTRIEBUNE.COM · PAGE A3

Police follow tip on '99 case

TEEKAH LEWIS: Authorities dig up part of garden after man claims to have visions about disappearance

By STACEY MALICK Staff Writer Tacoma police this week investigated a new tip in the 11-year-old disappearance of Tacoma toddler TEEKAH LEWIS but found no evidence of her whereabouts. The tip was given to the child's mother, Theresa Lewis, Saturday during an annual candlelight vigil for TEEKAH. A man told Lewis he had visitors and provided information about TEEKAH's whereabouts, but police and Lewis declined to be more specific. Lewis was told the information was from police, who Wednesday searched and dug in a hole that never seen the man before. Neither had police during their investigation of TEEKAH's disappearance, Fulham said.



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When tips about a case come to police, investigators assess how credible and detailed they are and decide where to go from there, Fulham said. This tip was detailed enough to warrant being checked, he said. Though he wasn't the first lead board concerning the toddler's disappearance, the man's information surprised Lewis. "It was just the 1st and a mother's intuition," Lewis said Thursday. "This is the best I've ever seen. It was really hard because it came to me in a dream." After Lewis contacted police, de-

fective interviewed the man, who is in his 40s and lives in the Puget Sound area, and conducted a search Wednesday. The man has not been arrested. Lewis said she wants the tip fully investigated and wants to know why the man came to her, instead of contacting police. She said she has not slept well since Saturday night and, when she has, she's had dreams about what the man told her. If the man is lying, Lewis wants to know he would put her and her family through the experience. "People just don't know how hard it is for a mother who has a missing child," Lewis said. "I don't want it to be true, but I want closure."

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IN BRIEF

TACOMA

SuperBall Series cancels Dome appearance Organizers have pulled the plug on the SuperBall Series rodeo event scheduled for Feb. 12 and 13 at the Tacoma Dome. The events would have showcased riders from around the world competing for \$200,000 in prizes. The Tacoma stop was canceled because of a change in tour routing. Dome spokeswoman Angela Barabba said. For tickets purchased through Ticketmaster, refund information is available by calling 1-800-745-5000 or going online to www.ticketmaster.com. Email: A.justin@staff writer

OCEAN BEACHES

Clam digging approved on four beaches The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has opened four major clam beaches for digging this weekend. Twin Harbors beach, Opalish and Monarchs are open through Sunday. Kalaloch will be open Saturday and Sunday. The opening follows a delay for testing for high levels of parasite shellfish poisoning that forced the closure of Long Beach for the weekend dig. KXRO reports that testing has shown that the clams are safe to eat at the four beaches, which will open on the evening tides. The Associated Press

FROM OUR READERS

APPLAUSE Thank you for publishing the results of the inspections of local nightclubs for compliance with codes for sprinkler systems and safe capacity. Thank you to the inspectors who persevered in working with the club owners to enforce the standards. Thank you to the club owners for working with the inspectors to keep the patrons, the families of patrons and the community safe. I look forward to great entertainment in safe facilities. MYRA PAUL, Gig Harbor

How refreshing to see that Mount Tacoma's star baseball player Deborah Anderson is more proud of her improved grade point average than of her 207 points per game. As a lifelong athletic baseball coach for Tacoma Metro Parks youth softball and as a former Division I athlete in a variety of sports I understand the emotional and physical benefits of exercise. However, the message that is lost in our current culture, which glorifies the achievements and outrageous salaries of professional athletes, is that very few high school or even college athletes end up making a decent living from their athletic talents. Even the most talented player can be derailed by a career-ending injury. Making the most of your education is the key to success. Deborah Anderson is a great example for other young student-athletes of staying her priorities in the right order. DR. CHRISTINA SZCZEL, Tacoma

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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 353-597-8412.

The jumble puzzle in Thursday's Take Time pull-out section was cut off leaving off the answer to Wednesday's puzzle. The answer is "money" but the answer to Monday's puzzle also was cut off in some sections on Tuesday. The answer was a tough "tosque."

An AS story Thursday gave the incorrect amount of sales tax the City of Tacoma receives from a car sold in the city. It gets 5.8 percent in sales tax for every car sold, which means the sale of a \$32,000 car would generate \$2,525 in city revenue.



Theresa Hempstead's wedding ring on display gets a cleaning Thursday from Barbara DeBarn of E-Z Way Restoration Products at the Tacoma Home & Garden Show. Hempstead, of Enumclaw, is left. Her friend declined to be identified.

Smell the flowers, win a home

HOME SHOW: 500 home, garden exhibitors on hand

By COLE COSGROVE Staff Writer The smell of fresh bark and the sight of spreading daisies might seem out of place against the backdrop of the neon-decked walls inside the Tacoma Dome. But after 22 years, the Tacoma Home & Garden Show has taken root as an annual tradition - for vendors and visitors alike. About 500 exhibitors claim for corners at the show, which runs through Sunday. In the northeast corner of the Dome, a fully landscaped garden - complete with fresh grass - surrounds a simple 997-square-foot house. It looks more in ready from the outside, though it's hollow on the inside and lacks a finished roof. Azar Homes will give away the home in a drawing. "It'll be finished, though," marketing coordinator Tiffany Landers said Thursday. In the opposite corner of the Dome, at the E-Z Way Restoration Products booth, Barbara DeBarn quickly ran through her catalog of services as she demonstrated her product. "This is motor-mouth riding again," DeBarn said. "This is a recording - push here and pop through."

ROME & GARDEN SHOW

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: Adults, \$10; seniors 62 and older, \$5; Friday only children 16 and younger, free. Seminar schedule: See@tribuneonline.com/contrib. DREAMS FOR SALE For the next few days, the Tacoma Dome will offer visitors the chance to buy their domestic dreams - if those dreams involve ornate and/or garden, here are a few. Dream: The lobby will be transformed into the "perfect outdoor living environment." Reality: It's perfect, except years living in the Tacoma Dome lobby. Dream: One lucky person will win a new house in "The Dream Home Sweepstakes." Reality: Even if you win, you still have to find some way to unload your current house in this economy. Dream: A "Rustic Romance" garden display provides an outdoor getaway. Reality: Your rustic romantic rendezvous may be interrupted by a sewer "leaving party." Cole Cosgrove, staff writer

For more coverage of the show, check out the Word on the Street blog.

In case you missed it, like everybody else, Strickland made C-SPAN appearance

She's only been in jail a couple of days for a month. She hasn't even attained Bill Barrera cult status, let alone learned the secret handshake necessary to join the inner circle of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. But there was Mayor Marilyn Strickland on C-SPAN last week, baring her some national face time. Strickland was one of about 200 mayors who went to D.C. to rub elbows with President Barack Obama and others in his administration. Alas, as an elite subgroup of about 15 long-tenured and big-city mayors - think New Orleans and Philadelphia - stood outside the White House for a 20-minute on-camera tongue wag. Our madam mayor wasn't picked for that crew. But check out the Web video at C-SPAN.com. (Find the link on our Public Blog, http://blog.thenewstribune.com/topics/1.) Well? Yes, Strickland still fits up on the right side of the frame and settles in for the news anchor.

It's just crazy enough to be true. They say they're doing it to save water and labor costs. The governor last year ordered a review of landscaping policies to reduce the Capitol's carbon footprint. But we think it's a further slide down the slippery slope of the low and steady - all the bigger staff that was inevitable with Democratic change. The men will grow their hair the women will grow their breasts - sicke that, reverse it. The Legislature will grow the sales tax, the lobbyists will grow their bar tabs. And that 3-inch grass? Don't be surprised if it grows into 6-foot grass, harvested by amateur pharmacologists. For use by adults 21 and older, in batches of 40 grams or less, according to bills now floating around Olympia. Acting Criminal Justice said: "Let it grow, let it grow, really slowly!"

Our 1971 Ford Pinto seems safer than it did a week ago. Our city's marmalade, the Toga Toga, doesn't appear on the recall list. Since 1995, when the classic Toga Toga pitstop was renamed for FLOWN, the city included in the association. The Toga Toga and its owners are negated, gritty and cheap. Just like us. Hold on. We interrupt this Nose item for a news bulletin. Our research assistant in terms of the Tacoma is a separate recall list. Apparently the floor mats of the 2005-10 models are prone to get jammed under the gas pedal. Eugh, the horror! There's no way to look cool with your feet tangled in a floor mat. Imagine the further embarrassment of getting pulled over driving 28 mph in a 25 mph zone. Time to rename the vehicle again. Introducing the Toga Provec.

Attention, Facebook players and picnicers: The lawn of the state Capitol campus may soon be out such a well place to go backyard anymore. This spring, state workers will quit cutting the grass to its 1 1/2-inch maximum and it will grow to a length of 3 inches. We know what you're thinking: "Our government would let something grow out of control?" To minor its normal size!"

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