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LOCAL

Lindsey's Day spotlights families of missing

EVENT: Attention brought to other cases on anniversary of disappearance

BY BOLE HOONE Staff Writer
About 345 red balloons bearing heartfelt messages were released Saturday above Capitol Lake, a balloon for each of the 11-year-old McCleary girl named Lindsey Baum has been missing.

Saturday's event, Lindsey's Day of Hope and Awareness, was a gathering to support not only Lindsey's families but all families with missing children. Friends and family of Nancy Meyer, the Trinity woman who disappeared 15 months ago, also participated, as did Theresa Lewis of Tacoma, the mother of Treckah Lewis who disappeared at a Tacoma arcade bowling alley January 1990.

Treckah was 11 on July 4, she said.
"I told her I would be right back," Theresa recalled about that night. She next remembers seeing her daughter in the arcade and then she was gone. Lewis was one of the guest speakers Saturday at Heritage Park; others were Melissa Baum, Lindsey's mother, and Bev Poston, Nancy Meyer's longtime friend and co-worker.

Baum thanked everyone who attended — about 200 people throughout the day — and said she hoped the day would bring attention to all missing children and adults.
"She needs to come home," Baum told the audience.
Poston worked with Meyer for 10 years at the state Department of Ecology. Poston told the crowd that before Meyer disappeared, she told Poston she was happy, was blessed to have good friends and that life was going well. Since, Poston has been among a group of volunteers who have participated in about two dozen



Photos of Lindsey Baum and other missing children were on display Saturday for Lindsey's Day of Hope at Heritage Park in Olympia.

child.
"Treckah was my world, my everything. That person made my heart beat," she said about Treckah's absence. "Life is no empty without her."
The event was not without hope. Also speaking were Kameron Thomas and her 15-year-old son Apollo, of Hoquiam. Thomas told a story about how her special-needs son needed being abducted last Tuesday afternoon. At the time, both Thomas and Apollo were in their garden when she suddenly heard her son's distressed voice and saw him being forced down the street by another man. Thomas urged an Apollo to get away from the man,

and be used an creative maneuver to free himself and run back to the house.
Apollo's would-be abductor later was identified as 66-year-old Michael Hickman, a Hoquiam man with a history of mental health problems. Thomas urged those in the audience to familiarize themselves with the legal process, particularly civil commitment hearings, which few people understand are open to the public, she said.
"Nothing isn't the word," she said about seeing her son forced down the sidewalk.
"There is no word for that."
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