

THE SKANNER™

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



For The Skanner news alerts Text "NEWS" to 503-715-0890 or scan this QR code



PARK JUBILEE

Nuwani, 1, and her cousin Darius play in the new water feature at Jefferson Park, Saturday, July 14, during the Jefferson Park Jubilee. The event celebrated the Grand opening of the renovated park and included a dedication ceremony with Taiko and Bon Odori performances, activities, food, demonstrations of Kirikiti, skateboarding, lawn bowling and much more.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Ballot Fraud in Motion?

Nonprofit sends out voter info for dogs, cats, dead people

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The voter registration form arrived in the mail last month with some key information already filled in: Rosie Charlston's name was complete, as was her Seattle address.

Problem is, Rosie was a black lab who died in 1998.

A group called the Voter Participation Center has touted the distribution of some 5 million registration forms in recent weeks, targeting Democratic-leaning voting blocs such as unmarried women, blacks, Latinos and young adults.

But residents and election administrators around the country also have reported a series of bizarre and questionable mailings addressed to animals, dead people, noncitizens and people already registered to vote.

Brenda Charlston wasn't the only person to get documents for her pet: A Virginia man said similar documents arrived for his dead dog, Mozart, while a woman in the state got forms for her cat, Scampers.

"On a serious note, I think it's tampering with our voting system," Charlston said. "They're fishing for votes: That's how I view it."

Every presidential election cycle brings with it a variety of registration drives targeting people who typically are underrepresented at the polls, and Republicans have long seized on sloppy or questionable registrations as a sign of potential fraud on the part of Democrats.

It's an issue that is particularly sensitive this year. GOP political leaders have used fears of fraud to successfully push laws across the country that could make voting more difficult by requiring voters to show identification. Democrats have fought the laws, arguing that they can disenfranchise citizens, minorities in particular.

The group at the root of the questionable mailings — the Voter Participation Center

State Tries to ID Veterans in Prison

Effort brings solidarity for ex-soldiers, more services from VA

By Rachel La Corte
The Associated Press

ABERDEEN, Wash. (AP) — More than 80 inmates enter a large visitation room at Stafford Creek Correctional Center. All are U.S. military veterans, but not all of them realize it.

Teri Herold-Prayer, a research manager for the state Department of Corrections, asks the large group how many veterans are present. About two-thirds raise their hands. When she asks how many served in the mili-

tary, all of their hands shoot up. "You're ALL veterans," she told them, regardless of whether they served in a war or not. She stressed that when both they, and the state, know their veteran status, the state can better help them get the benefits they've earned once they're released, easing their re-entry into the community and hopefully cutting back on recidivism.

"I don't want you back here," she said. "I don't think you want to come back here, either."

Herold-Prayer's visit is part of

a statewide effort to identify all veterans in the state's 12 prisons. The project was sparked two years ago after a Veterans Health Administration directive allowed health care benefits to be provided to veterans in work release. That federal change prompted officials at the state Department of Corrections to investigate what more could be done for the state's veterans who are inmates.

"Incarcerated veterans are uniquely qualified for benefits that can help them succeed once

they complete their prison sentence," said Chad Lewis, a spokesman for the department. "They've earned these benefits, and the public is safer when they have housing and mental-health treatment."

The trick, Lewis said, was identifying veterans in the system, something he said was "more difficult than you might expect."

Up until a few years ago, state officials were only able to verify 4 percent of the prison popu-

See VETS on page 3

See VOTERS on page 3

INDEX	
News	2,4
Calendar	2
Opinion	3
Bids/Classifieds	3

Higher Fees Add to College Costs

Tuition has increased as much as 20 percent each year since 2009

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Talk about rising college costs has centered on double-digit tuition increases, but tuition is only one part of the sticker shock awaiting students at Washington's four-year colleges and universities.

Along with the typical fees for dorm

rooms, books and meals, students and parents can expect an array of other mandatory fees included in their total college bill.

The fee to access wireless Internet and computers: \$75 to \$123. The fee to work out in the campus gym or use other recreational facilities: \$200 to \$300. Your college is renovating its stadium or dormitories? Your share: \$50 to \$250.

Those are just the mandatory fees. Stu-

dents can voluntarily pay for other fees, such as \$5 to support a college's environmental efforts or \$10 to see how close you are to graduating.

"Students do feel nicked and dined a lot of the time," said Carly Ray, a Washington State University senior from Puyallup who is mostly paying her current college

See COSTS on page 3