

MORE WORK FOR WAL-MART

Hearing examiner requires impact study for Mill Creek

BUSINESS, PAGE E1

35¢

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TUESDAY'S Herald



Chance of showers
High 65, Low 49
Details B8

ERETT, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

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OFFENSIVE SCRAMBLE

Two injuries make Holmgren's job harder

SPORTS, PAGE C1

TOUGH TV CHOICES

"Chris" vs. "Earl"

VICTOR BALTA, PAGE D1

DUMP TRUCK KILLS MAN

Crash near site of earlier fatality

LOCAL NEWS, PAGE B1

Pepper spray sickens 29

The Edmonds-Woodway High School students were sent to the hospital after the spray was discharged during a confrontation.

By ERIC STEVICK
Herald Writer

EDMONDS — A dispute that ended in a misty blast of pepper spray sent 29 Edmonds-Woodway High School students to hospitals Monday, officials said. All the students were treated

and released.

"One student sprayed the other with personal defense pepper spray in an apparent act of self-defense," said Sgt. Don Anderson of the Edmonds Police Department.

The confrontation between the two girls occurred around

11:30 a.m. in a wide-open hallway where many students were gathered.

Several students were exposed initially and the school of 1,800 was evacuated.

Classes resumed around noon, but some spray had not dissipated in a small pocket of the campus, said Debbie Jakala, an Edmonds School District spokeswoman.

That resulted in more students complaining about breathing problems and need-

ing medical treatment.

Particularly vulnerable were some students in the school's deaf and hard-of-hearing program, who have medical conditions.

Angel Parrish accompanied her son, Austin, 13, to Providence Everett Medical Center.

Austin has respiratory problems and had spinal meningitis as a child, she said.

"He understands what

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Wanted: Man known only by DNA

The state filed rape charges using a DNA profile, shown below, to identify the suspect.

By JIM HALEY
Herald Writer

The police don't know his name. But they think they know what he did.

The alleged rapist left behind enough evidence seven years ago for investigators to learn the man's genetic profile.

Last week, Snohomish County prosecutors took the unusual step of filing rape charges against the unknown suspect, filing the case not under his name, but instead using his genetic code.

The Snohomish County Superior Court papers list the suspect as "Individual A." The documents say the man's real name is unknown but he is "identified by unique genetic sequence of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)."

Prosecutors said they filed the case the way they did to avoid problems with statute of limitations on the 1999 attack of a young woman along I-5.

Defense attorneys say the case raises concerns, in part because it makes anybody who may share the genetic profile a defendant in a criminal case.

The charging papers contain an arrest warrant for the man who matches the genetic profile, deputy prosecutor Ed Stemler said.

"We know a crime has been committed. We have evidence of who committed the crime and we want to do anything in our power to alert all police agencies who we're looking for," Stemler said. "The only way to do that was to put the suspect's DNA markers in the (charges) so that will be in the system."

Such charges against an un-

THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON,
Plaintiff,
v.

INDIVIDUAL A *
Real name unknown, but identified by unique genetic sequence of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA):

Locus: Alleles:
D3S1358: 15, 16
vWa: 16, 17
FGA: 20, 23
Amelogenin: X, Y
D8S1179: 11, 13
D21S11: 30.2, 31
D18S51: 13, 15
D5S818: 11
D13S317: 11, 12
D7S820: 8
D16S539: 9, 13
TH01: 6, 9
TPOX: 8, 10
CSF1PO: 12
Defendant.

known defendant are sometimes filed in cases where the statute of limitations is about to run out, and the only way to preserve the possibility of prosecution is to file charges against the DNA, lawyers said.

That was on the mind of prosecutors, said Craig Matheson, who heads the Snohomish County prosecutor's Special Assault Unit. In

See DNA,
back page, this section

Poll workers' new role



JENNIFER BUCHANAN / The Herald

Laura Danner (right) smiles as a ballot is dropped off at community collection center in Mountlake Terrace on Monday night. Danner and her husband, Ben, used to work at the polls on election day but now that they are closed, they have been dispatched to the collection centers to gather the ballots.

Instead of working polls, they have drop boxes

By JEFF SWITZER
Herald Writer

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE — Stationed between the sunglasses and the dog food, across from the check stands, Laura and Ben Danner will get no rest today.

That's OK by them. They've been here before — working a 13-hour election day — even if they haven't been here before.

The Danners are just two of a few dozen workers who graduated from working polls in the last election to collecting ballots at drop-off sites in this election.

In the past, they spent election days in churches and schools. Today, the Danners are stationed at a QFC in Mountlake Terrace.

There's no touch-screen voting machine here. No ledger full of voters' names and signatures. Just a steady river of shoppers and a trickle of voters.

"The public keeps telling us, 'Oh, we're so glad to see you here!'" said Laura Danner, who has worked 42 years of elections.

Today's primary marks the county's first all-mail election and the largest of its kind in the state.

Inside

■ Where and when you can drop off your primary election ballot. **Page A6**

■ A voting activist encourages voters to use the county's few voting machines. **Page B1**

It closes a chapter in the county's election history and ends a time when the county depended on 900 poll workers to run 143 polling places.

"It's sad for us to see the polls

close," Laura Danner said. "We're thrilled and delighted that, as that era ended, they're hiring us to work the collection locations."

Ballot collection sites across the county give voters a convenient way to return their mail-in ballots, officials said.

Like the Danners, a few dozen workers were hired to fan out to 21 ballot collection sites around the county at coffee shops and grocery stores. Each earns \$15 an hour, compared with the

See POLL,
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E. COLI OUTBREAK CONTINUES

■ A Whidbey Island woman is recovering after contracting E. coli possibly linked to tainted spinach. **Page B1**

■ The FDA bluntly told California farmers last year that they needed to improve crop-handling safety. **Page E1**

FLASH

WHAT'S NEW TODAY

Running friendship

Members of the Snohomish High School girls cross country team share their successes and a close bond that extends beyond race days. **Page C2**

Move it or lose it

Staying active can help you keep what you've got, and regain what you've lost. **Sassy Senior, Page D1**

ADHD risk

A new study indicates smoking during pregnancy and early childhood exposure to lead increases the risk of ADHD. **Page A5**

She's going places



Edmonds-Woodway High School senior Ana Fuell has seen a lot of the world and her hard work in school is sure to take her even further. **SuperKid, Page B2**

Going home is good

Some say you can never go home. Don't tell Alice Vermillion. She did go home, and was welcomed back by the new owners. **Kristi O'Harran, Page B3**

Help for 'geniuses'

\$500,000 grants help people in a variety of endeavors focus on their work. **Page A2**

Take it home

If you're in the mood for a feel-good Disney movie, "Stick It" hits the shelves today. **Page D3**



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