

MT EARNS RESPECT 1B

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TACOMA WEEKLY

BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

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SECTION A, PAGE 1

Banker, doctor honored at MLK event Celebrating King through song, dance at the dome

By John Larson
Tacoma Weekly Staff Writer

A banker and doctor were honored with achievement awards during Tacoma's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration at Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall Jan. 15.

Calvin Pearson, an assistant vice president and manager of three branches for Columbia Bank, was honored for his community service and promoting education. Pearson has been active in organizations such as City Club of Tacoma, Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and Upper Tacoma Business Association. Last year, he was appointed to the board of directors of Bates Technical College.

Dr. Antoine D. Johnson operates a medical clinic on Hilltop that serves low-income patients. He has volunteered his time as a ring doctor for amateur boxing in Tacoma, and he and his fiancée are putting together a mentorship program aimed

at helping children improve their math abilities.

The event is organized by the city's Human Rights and Human Services Department. John Briehl, director of the department, spoke on the theme of this year's event, "Reflections on the Past, Thoughts of the Future."

"Reflecting on the past can dredge up some unpleasant memories," Briehl said. Doing so can cause people to become bitter, something King was well aware of. "He knew it had the power to plant hatred and fear in the human heart," Briehl noted. "Forgiveness is a power that only

you have the power to give," he told attendees.

A surprise guest at the event, Governor Christine Gregoire said King challenged America to be the country it wanted to be. She noted that King was a strong advocate and drew cheers when she mentioned her efforts

along these lines in Washington. She

said King's dream still inspires her and many other Americans. "Let us go out and remember it and live it every day," she commented.

Mayor Bill Baarsma discussed race relations in Tacoma. Minorities struggled to achieve equal rights here in the area of housing, he noted. He mentioned a fair housing law passed by the city council but later cancelled out by a citizen referendum. Groups like Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective and Tacoma Urban League worked hard in the civil rights struggle, he said, leading to Tacoma becoming the first city in the state with a human rights commission.

"We are starting to see Dr. King's vision of a promised land become a reality in Tacoma," Baarsma declared.

Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg discussed visiting New Orleans last month and observing the abject condition of the Lower Ninth Ward, a predominately black neighborhood that was

U.S. Court sanctions Tacoma

By John Larson
Tacoma Weekly Staff Writer

The city of Tacoma took a gamble when it appealed a March 2005 jury verdict ordering it to pay \$138,000 to a woman who sued because she felt police officers had violated her rights after entering her home. This week it found out it lost that bet.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling Jan. 16 that determined the city's appeal was frivolous and ordered it to pay the plaintiff's attorney's fees and "double costs" incurred in the appeal.

The case stems from an incident in November 2000, when police officers entered the Tacoma home of Susan Frunz, who had recently gotten a divorce. A neighbor called police because Frunz was in the house, and her ex-husband had a restraining order.

Frunz got the house in the divorce, and her husband had moved out of town by the time of incident.

Officers entered the house, pointed guns at Frunz and several friends, handcuffed her and searched the house. The officers, who did not have a warrant, made no arrests and did not file a report.

Frunz sued the city and won. The jury leveled punitive damages against the three officers involved.

Last November the 9th Circuit upheld this decision and ordered the city to file legal documents to make a case for why the appeal was not frivolous.

City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli discussed the court's action during a Jan. 16 meeting with city council members. She said the city appealed the decision to protect the rights of police officers performing their job duties.

Another attorney in her office, Jean Holman, argued the appeal. Pauli said she is ultimately responsible, because she signed paperwork for the appeal.

The 9th Circuit ordered Pauli to inform the council of the sanctions on her office. She told the council that City Manager Eric Anderson should hire outside legal counsel to determine whether she and her staff acted improperly.

Pauli has 30 days to meet with Frunz's attorneys. At this point, it is not known the exact amount of fees and costs the city will be required to pay.



PHOTO BY JOHN LARSON

UPLIFTED. Duane George, (right) lifts Vania Bynum in the air during a modern dance performance at Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall Jan. 15 during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration.

▶ See MLK / page 8A

Dugan Foundation launches campaign for spay-neuter clinic

By Jamie Forsythe
Tacoma Weekly

Since its creation, the Dugan Foundation has always been an advocate for getting companion animals spayed or neutered while educating the public about the importance of sterilization. Now the foundation's creator and supporters are taking that one step farther with the launch of a capital and endowment campaign to fund the creation of a high-volume spay-neuter clinic in Tacoma.

Although the exact location of the future facility is still being determined, Jim Dugan, president and founder of the foundation, is currently examining two potential locations both in South Tacoma – one is an empty parcel of land near South 56th Street and Interstate 5 and the other a business currently caring for pets as a boarding and day care facility, the Puget Sound Pet Pavilion located on South 80th Street. "The parcel currently under investigation would provide high visibility and be centrally located in the county," Dugan noted, adding that it's presently being reviewed by an architecture firm.

The surplus land, owned by Tacoma Public Utilities, is in the process of being turned over to the city, according to

Tacoma City Councilmember Julie Anderson. She said this could be a possible location for the clinic. Dugan noted that he's been working with Benjii Bittle of the city's Community and Economic Development Department to determine what parcels the city owns that may be appropriate for such use. Bittle could not be reached for comment by press time. However, Tacoma City Manager Eric Anderson said the Dugan Foundation had inquired whether the city had any surplus land on which to build the clinic.

Dugan recently toured the Pet Pavilion, which co-owner Dr. Michael Jones is looking to sell, to see first-hand the space available. Pet Pavilion's 23,100-square-foot building on a 1.57 acre-lot is currently on the market for \$3 million, which must be sold with the business at an additional cost of \$300,000.

However, after further review, Dugan noted neither of these options may be the right fit for the foundation. "Whatever the outcome, the process of looking for the right site will continue to be stewarded by the city of Tacoma," he commented, noting the foundation will push forward with its endeavor to create a facility

▶ See DUGAN / page 8A



PHOTO BY JAMIE FORSYTHE

FOR SALE. (Left) Dr. Michael Jones, one of the co-owners of the Puget Sound Pet Pavilion, gives Jim Dugan, president and founder of the Dugan Foundation, a tour of a surgical room at the facility on South 80th Street. Owners of the Pet Pavilion are selling the building and business at a total cost of \$3.3 million, and Dugan is actively seeking a location for a high-volume spay-neuter clinic.

Inside Tacoma Weekly

Local News2A
Opinions & Views....4A
Education6A
Sports1B
Sport Shorts3B
A&E1C
Make A Scene5C
Calendar7C
Downtown News1D
Downtown News3D

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Opinions & Viewpoints



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Quote of the Week

"We're embarking on pretty exciting initiatives. We have a responsibility as a Museum of Glass to be the steward of the glass story here in the Northwest."

- Tim Close
Director, Museum of Glass
See full story on pg. 1C