

# AUBURN REPORTER

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## Auburn Schools names its employee of the year

BY HENRY STEWART-WOOD  
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Janis Campbell-Aikens, director of child nutrition at Auburn Public Schools, was recently named employee of the year by the Puget Sound Educational Service District. This means Campbell-Aikens will be eligible for the Washington Educator of the Year award.

"I'm very humbled to receive this recognition, but I also want to say that the original award was for the entire child nutrition department in recognition of the work they've done all through the pandemic," Campbell-Aikens said. "Really it's in honor of the entire staff."



Janis Campbell-Aikens

Once the award went on to the regional level, it had to be narrowed down to a single employee. Campbell-Aikens was chosen because she's the director, she said.

Campbell-Aikens has been the director of child nutrition at the school district for about two and a half years. When the pandemic caused school closures, she had been the director for about a year.

Back in 2020, schools closed due to the pandemic on a Friday, and the following Monday, child nutrition staff had bagged lunches and breakfasts ready to go, Campbell-Aikens said. The child nutrition staff members haven't stopped preparing grab-and-go meals since schools first closed down, Campbell-Aikens said.

"We were able to turn the program around really quickly, partly because the staff is very good at the summer food service program, so we had that foundation to build on," Campbell-Aikens said.

See **EMPLOYEE**, Page 2

## How did Auburn spend your taxes?

The largest expense during the first quarter was the Auburn Police Department.

BY HENRY STEWART-WOOD  
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Auburn spent \$17.8 million during the first quarter of 2021 — \$2.1 million less than the city planned for in its budget. The majority of the

\$17.8 million was spent on personnel, amounting to \$11.2 million. Supplies and services were the second largest expenditure, accounting for \$4.1 million, and "other expenditures" cost the city \$2.5 million. By far the largest expense during the first quarter was the Auburn Police

Department. The police department cost the city \$7.6 million during the first three months of 2021. If jail is included under the police umbrella, the number jumps to \$8.7 million, according to the city's fiscal report. More money was spent on the Auburn Police

Department and jail than on the Parks, Arts and Recreation, Community Development, Public Works, Human Resources, Community and Human Services and every other city department combined. From Jan. 1 through March 31, 2021, Auburn brought in \$13.7 million in revenue. This exceeded the city's expected \$13

million in revenue. Of the \$13.7 million, sales taxes accounted for the largest chunk of the revenue at \$5.8 million, and property taxes accounted for just over \$1.2 million of the total revenue. Other taxes, service fees and other revenues brought in a combined \$6.7 million.

See **TAXES**, Page 4

## FIRE SWEEPS APARTMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fire inflicted heavy damage to the second floor and roof of the 2-story apartment-and ground-floor retail building at 115 East Main Street beginning late on the night of Friday, July 23, and continuing into early Saturday morning. The Valley Regional Fire Authority reports that all residents got out safely.

All residents were able to escape the downtown Auburn building safely.

BY ROBERT WHALE  
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Firefighters had to rescue two residents from the roof of an apartment building in downtown Auburn that burned late Friday night (July 23) and into early Saturday morning.

But in the end, all residents got out safely, according to the Valley Regional Fire Authority.

The VRFA responded to the

two-alarm apartment fire at 115 East Main St. at about 10 p.m. after witnesses called 911 to report smoke and flames visible at the top of the building.

Firefighters eventually brought the conflagration under control.

The building for decades housed the now closed Nelson's Jewelry store on its southwest corner, and is presently home to a number of other businesses.

The VRFA reports that the second floor and roof of the building sustained heavy fire, smoke and water damage.

"We did receive a call from the property manager, who told us that all tenants are accounted for and were able to evacuate," Auburn Police reported on Facebook.

The Red Cross set up a temporary shelter at Safeway for people who lost their homes.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

It is not lost on Auburn residents that just across East Main Street is the now empty lot where the Heritage Apartments Building stood for more than 90 years before succumbing to a fire that began in the building's laundry room and destroyed the structure on Dec. 26, 2017. The owner of that lot has filed plans with the city of Auburn to replace that building.

## Local exterminator notices a big change in rats over the past 40 years

BY CAMERON SHEPPARD  
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There's a literal rat race happening right now in the Puget Sound region as rodents thrive alongside the growing human population.

Rats are not native to the region and are believed to have arrived with the earliest Northwest settlers. Rats are commensal creatures, which means they largely depend on living in close proximity to humans.

According to Kurt Trefts, co-founder of Cascade Pest Control and a rat expert by trade, rats likely came to the Puget Sound on the ships of some of Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia's earliest settlers and traders.

Trefts called people great "enablers" of rats. The large warehouses, canneries and other industrial facilities that made the Puget Sound such an important region of shipping and commerce proved to be more than sufficient shelter for rats to hide, eat

scavengable scraps left by people and breed quickly.

Trefts said rats are adaptable scavengers that can sustain themselves on garbage waste and spilled grease, exploiting the sloppy habits of people living in a growing urban sprawl.

Trefts said as people continued to develop farms, towns and cities among the wooded forests surrounding the Puget Sound, rats have followed, enjoying the "bounty" that people provided for them.

Over the years, pest controllers began to notice the same thing.

Trefts has been working in pest control in the Puget Sound region for over 40 years. Year-by-year, he has noticed the changing trends of pest populations and prevalence based on the kind of service calls he was responding to across the region.

"In the '70s and '80s, the primary problem was carpenter ants," Trefts said. "Rats were usually pretty

confined to the waterfront areas."

Over time, he and other peers in his industry began to notice a change.


"We realized that control of rats was more intensive," Trefts said. "It became the main thing. It was obvious that it was widespread."

He said semi-rural communities, like Bellevue, in which suburban communities were built wall-to-wall next to one another, provided shelter and sustenance for the highly adaptable rodents.

Trefts said the newly built homes, with dark rat-cozy spaces in the walls and crawl spaces, provided "perfect" nests for families of rats. He said simple overlooked details like over-filled birdfeeders and grease from barbecues were just enough for rats to sustain themselves.

Rats have even been noted as having eaten dog droppings from a residential lawn.

See **RATS**, Page 6




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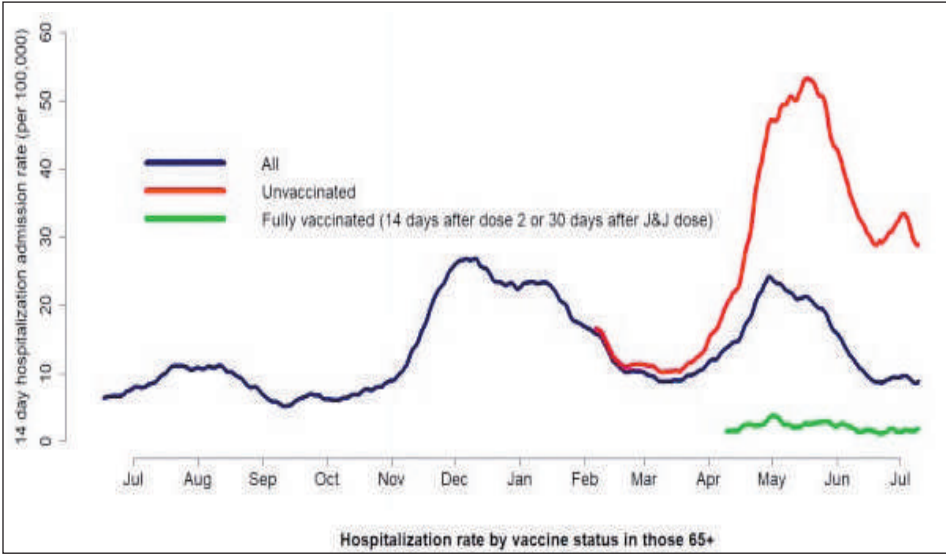
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COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations  
are on the rise again in the state

BY HENRY  
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COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise across Washington, according to a Washington State Department of Health.

Case counts and hospitalizations flattened at the end of June only to increase starting in the first week of July, according to the department's July 27 media release. Beginning July 8, hospitalizations increased among people ages 40-49 and ages 70-79. More recent reports show an increase in hospitalizations across all age groups, according to the



COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

department. Case counts in King and Pierce counties have increased since July 8.

Cases among people ages 20-39 are increasing, while cases among other age groups are flattening, according to the Department of Health.

The transmission rate also increased sharply around the end of June and beginning of July. This is likely due to the delta variant, which is more transmissible than the original

COVID-19 virus and is now the dominant strain among people who have contracted the virus.

Projections suggest that on July 19, around 90% of all cases were attributed to the delta variant, according to the Department of Health.

On July 2, the estimated reproductive number of the virus was 1.46, and in order for cases to decline, the reproductive rate has to be below 1.0 for a

substantial period of time. The reproductive number determines how many people will likely contract the virus from a single case, according to the Department of Health.

This announcement comes one day after several counties across Washington recommended that masks be worn at indoor public spaces by all people regardless of vaccination status due to the spread of the delta variant.

Employee

From Page 1

The staff have been serving meals throughout the year with few days off. They served meals during winter and spring breaks and are continuing throughout the summer, Campbell-Aikens said.

In addition to serving meals at the schools, child nutrition staff have also been serving meals via vans that drive along routes and stop at specific locations

throughout the city, Campbell-Aikens said.

"They have done an amazing job. They have served at this point over 2 million grab-and-go meals since we started," Campbell-Aikens said. "The dedication of my staff to this community and to the kids, I think that's what I'm most proud of."

Things will start to return to normal when kids return to in-person school in fall. The USDA issued a waiver so all school-provided meals in Auburn Public Schools will be free during the next school year,

Campbell-Aikens said.

Campbell-Aikens and her staff are looking forward to being able to serve meals to students in-person this coming fall.

"We work hard to provide really healthy meals and we're working hard to provide meals that are culturally appropriate for our kids," Campbell-Aikens said. "We just want to continue working at that and get better and better at that and at providing the healthiest, freshest, tastiest food that we can for the kids of Auburn."

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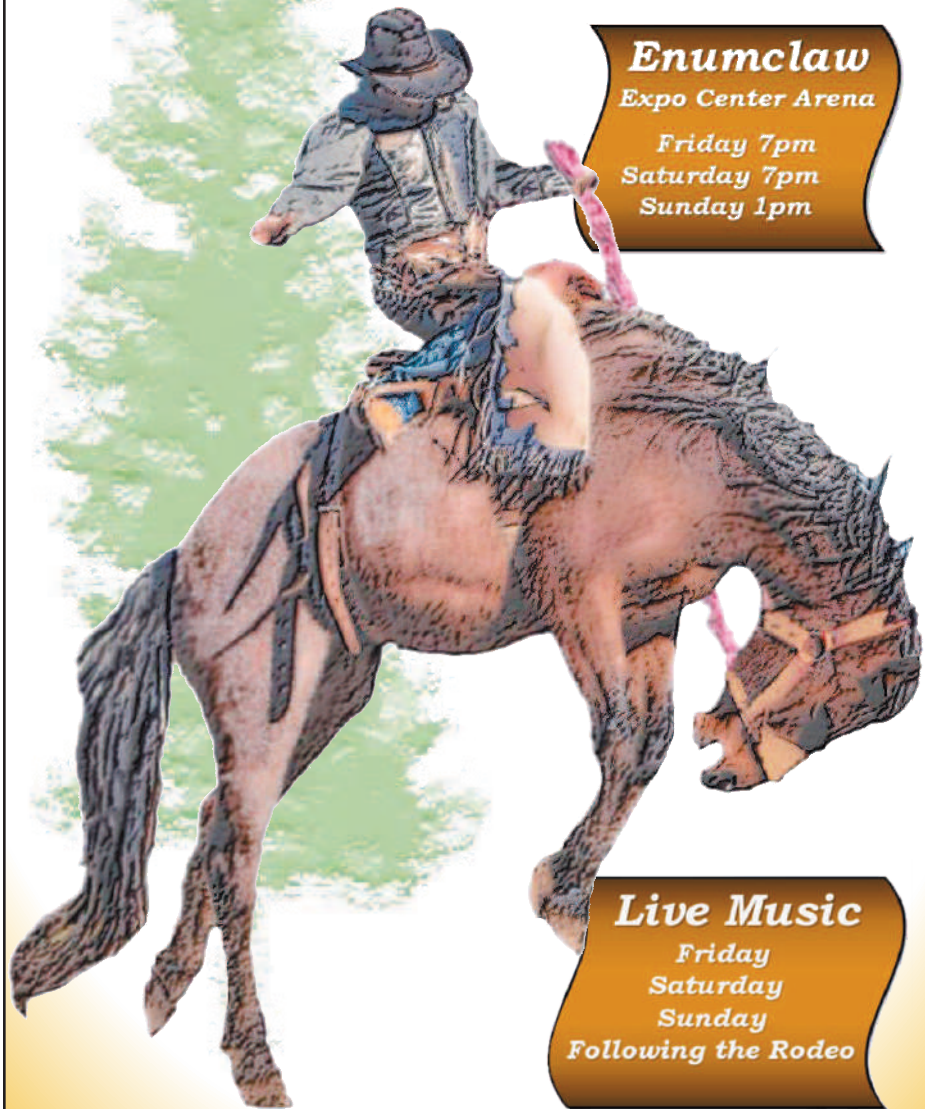
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AUGUST 27-29



# King County Council discusses removal of homeless encampments

BY CAMERON SHEPPARD  
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The King County Council is discussing a motion to establish standards for the removal of homeless encampments on public property in the county.

Councilmember Reagan Dunn sponsored the motion, noting the number of homeless encampments in unincorporated areas of King County. The county does not currently have rules for removing homeless encampments, according to council staff.

Some cities, like Auburn, have adopted ordinances to prohibit public camping, but residents from around the county feel like their local governments are not doing enough to remove the encampments that neighbor their homes, businesses and parks.

Dunn’s motion seeks to have a number of factors considered when determining whether it is appropriate to remove an encampment or not, with safety being the



COURTESY PHOTO

Sponsor of the motion to establish guidelines for the removal of encampments, Councilmember Reagan Dunn.

number one priority.

The motion emphasizes the consideration of sanitation quality and risk of exposure to infections such as hepatitis, the risk of fire, the prevalence of crime and whether or not vandalism is occurring at the site of the encampment. Additionally whether or not the encampment is impeding public operations will be taken into account as well.

He also said that the availability of local shelter should be taken into consideration when determining if it would be appropriate to clear the

site of the camp if no alternative housing resources were available.

He described it as a “balanced, yet assertive” approach to the issue. Removals would need to be “urgent” before they could be conducted.

Dunn said the motion comes following the county’s acquisition of supportive housing facilities in Auburn, Redmond, and Renton as a part of the Health Through Housing initiative.

“In all, King County has spent nearly \$1 billion on services for those experiencing homelessness since 2015, and it is not unreasonable to begin moving this population into County shelters and housing options that taxpayers have funded,” Dunn said via press release statement.

The motion also asks for the development of procedures of the removals of encampments. The motion currently contains measures to allow for public notice and comment before conducting a removal, but it is still

unclear which agencies will be directly involved in the removal.

King County Councilmember, Girmay Zahilay, raised questions regarding what the “enforcement mechanism” of the removal would be, or if peace officers would be present. He raised questions about what would occur if people resisted the removal of the encampment or the referral of housing services.

The motion does not specify who would be trained to conduct the removal of the encampment.

It is also unclear how the new state laws limiting the situations in which police can use force will impact how encampments could be removed.

Dunn added that he

had heard of encampment removals being met with armed resistance in isolated cases, and emphasized that it was important to avoid these kinds of risks.

The King County Executive would be part of determining the guidelines and enforcement terms as part of the motion, according to council staff.

Councilmember Joe McDermott raised concerns that the motion would be an “overlap” of the responsibilities of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, a governing body established to respond to all the nuances of the region’s homelessness crisis.

The motion has only been discussed currently, but will appear again before the council in the coming weeks.



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# Councilmember Yolanda Trout-Manuel is running for re-election

BY HENRY STEWART-WOOD  
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Meet Yolanda Trout-Manuel, the incumbent for Auburn City Council's Position 4. Trout-Manuel has served as an Auburn council member since January 2014. During that time, she has been involved in numerous committees. She's currently the chair of the finance committee and the Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Board. Trout-Manuel is also vice chair of the Domestic

Violence Initiative Regional Task Force and the Law Safety and Justice committee. Trout-Manuel said one of the biggest issues in Auburn is homelessness. "As I've gone out doorbelling, just about everyone I talk to, their biggest concern every day is the homeless issue,"



Yolanda Trout-Manuel

Trout-Manuel said. "The homeless issue is the number one concern." If re-elected, Trout-Manuel will continue working to address the homelessness issue in Auburn. Trout-Manuel plans to support wraparound services for housing mental health and other services. Trout-Manuel also wants to continue supporting Certificate Technical Education and other apprenticeship programs in Auburn schools if re-elected. Trout-Manuel considered retiring after this term, but over the past seven months, she's received

a lot of support from her constituents asking her to run again, Trout-Manuel said. Trout-Manuel said people should vote for her because she listens to her constituents and works for the people of Auburn as a whole, not a specific party. "They can count on me whenever for anything. I'm very honest and transparent," Trout-Manuel said. "I'm not a party person. This is a non-partisan position, so I work for everybody, not a party, not a group. I work for everyone. I want everyone to be heard."

One fact about Trout-Manuel is that after her brother was killed by a drunk driver in 1993, she successfully lobbied the state government to add lanes to the highway he was driving on and erect signs in memory of people killed in drunk driving accidents.

### Editor's Note

A short profile on the other candidate in this race, Hanan Amer, ran in the July 16 edition of the Auburn Reporter.

## Six shots fired near Auburn police officers

BY HENRY STEWART-WOOD  
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Auburn police were recovering a stolen vehicle in the area of 931 18th Street NE in Auburn on July 27 when around six shots were fired from a different vehicle a few blocks away, said Kolby Crossley,

public information officer for Auburn Police Department. The officers were unable to discern whether the shots were fired at them. No one was injured in the shooting, Crossley said. Police are still investigating the incident, and there's currently no description of the suspect or the vehicle they were driving, Crossley said.

## Taxes

From Page 1

Auburn's sales tax is 3.6%, and the state's rate is 6.5%, so people in

Auburn pay a 10.1% sales tax. Washington has the fourth-highest average sales tax rate in the country, and only Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas have higher sales taxes. The city spent around \$60,000 repairing local streets during the first quarter. The city spent an additional \$625,000 preserving arterial streets. Arterial street preservation is funded by local utility taxes such as garbage collection and electricity. Auburn City Council is responsible for allocating funds to departments.



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## POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents are from Auburn's police blotter from July 22-27. All told, there were 12 burglaries, two catalytic converter thefts and 12 car thefts reported in Auburn between July 22-27.

### July 22

Car fire: Police assisted in the investigation of a vehicle fire in the 800 block of B Street SE at about 11:30 p.m. Gun theft: At around 2 a.m., firearms were stolen during a burglary that occurred in the 1400 block of Outlet Collection Way SW. Burglary: Between 6 a.m. and noon, a residential burglary occurred in the 31600 block of 104th

Avenue SE.

### July 23

Assault on police: A man was arrested for assaulting a police officer and malicious mischief at 3:40 p.m. in the 4900 block of D Street. The man was later released to the hospital. Vehicle theft: A vehicle with a 9mm handgun was stolen from the Muckleshoot Casino between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

### July 24

Vehicle theft: A car was stolen in Auburn and then impounded in Kent between 9 p.m. July 23 and 11 a.m. July 24. Burglary: A residential burglary occurred in the 2800 block of Riverwalk Drive SE between 5:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Assault: A man assaulted

his mother in front of a child at around 12 a.m. 2400 block of N Street NE

### July 25

Domestic violence: A domestic violence with a knife occurred on 37th Street NE at about 10:30 a.m. When police arrived, all parties were uncooperative. Samurai sword: At around 1:30 p.m., a father threatened his daughter with a samurai sword in the 900 block of East Main Street. Organized retail theft: An employee at the Kate Spade store in the Outlet Collections of Seattle mall reported an organized theft at the store at around 2 p.m.

### July 26

Taser: A woman reportedly tased a man after he sexually assaulted her at 901 Outlet Collection Way

SW around 3:10 p.m. Stabbing: A man was stabbed in South King County between 10:50 p.m. and 11:14 p.m. and called 911 from the 5100 block of Auburn Way North. Drugged: A woman called 911 to report someone potentially slipping something in her drink at 2425 Auburn Way N.

### July 27

Catalytic converter: Two catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles in the 1900 block of Auburn Way North between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Firearm surrender: A person surrendered their firearm to police in the 300 block of Main Street at 3:30 p.m. Hit and run: Occupants driving a stolen vehicle committed a hit and run on 129th Avenue SE at 3:30 a.m.

## KC Library asking those 5 and older to wear face coverings

### REPORTER STAFF

The King County Library System has updated its safety guidelines to recommend all people ages 5 and older wear face coverings while

in the libraries. As of July 27, masks are required for unvaccinated people and recommended for all patrons ages 5 and up, according to the King County Library System. The change was made after King County updated its mask guidance July 23

after recommendations by Public Health - Seattle & King County to wear face coverings in indoor public settings due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. "We're asking everyone to wear a mask at all times while inside the library," according to the statement by the King County

Library System. "This is regardless of vaccination status." The mask must cover your nose and mouth. Vented masks, bandanas and neck gaiters are not acceptable. All library staff members are required to wear a mask.

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## King County primary election candidates to watch

With the Aug. 3 primary election, the public will narrow the field to the finalists as only the top two advance in each position to the general election. Some are obvious, such as King County Executive, while others may be decided this weekend, including finalists for mayor of Seattle.

In the race for county executive, there hasn’t been much doubt that incumbent Dow Constantine and State Sen. Joe Nguyen would be facing each other in November. As the incumbent, Constantine can create news and recently received the endorsement of the Seattle Times. He has raised the most money with \$1.5 million. But this race will get a lot closer over the next few months as Nguyen starts to run to Constantine’s left. Nguyen will look for Seattle Democratic votes by drawing attention to his view of Constantine’s record, as he recently did in a mailer.

The race for mayor of Seattle is harder to predict. Three candidates appear to have separated themselves from the field, according to polling: Bruce Harrell, a former council member who received the Seattle Times endorsement, Council President Lorena Gonzalez, and former Chief Seattle Club director Colleen Echohawk. Each has raised around \$400,000 and each has key endorsements. Two others who could surprise are former state Rep. Jessyn Farrell and Andrew Houston, who has raised the about the same amount as the front-runners.

City attorney is an elected position in Seattle. What



BOB ROEGNER

are Seattle residents most concerned about? Homelessness or how the city has handled the police department? City Attorney Pete Holmes could be in trouble. A poll showed him at 16% to either Anne Davison, who ran for Lt. Governor as a Republican last year, or Nicole Thomas-Kennedy, a public defender, both of whom were at 14%.

In King County Council races, all of the incumbents have received a Times endorsement, but some races will become closer because the conservative wing of the county council of has drawn several challengers.

In council District 3, Kathy Lambert is the incumbent and has over \$200,000 to call upon for the campaign. Her likely November opponent is Sarah Perry, who owns a consulting firm and previously worked for Seattle University in development. Joe Cohen is the third person in the race. He worked for Sen. Maria Cantwell and also for the Justice Department. A question in this race is whether the district — one of the fastest growing — has changed enough from rural to urban to elect Perry? And can Perry

make a case for “time for a change?”

Districts 1 and 5 have only two candidates and will be decided in November. District 5 incumbent Dave Upthegrove and his opponent Shukri Olow have raised about the same amount of money — \$177,000 at this writing — in what insiders believe will be a close race in November.

In District 7, Pete von Reichbauer is the incumbent and has raised almost \$200,000. Federal Way City Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson appeared in good position to advance to the general. But some supporters wonder if she has taken the race seriously? She has used signs with her first name that stand out, but they only recently started to surface in Auburn, which is a major part of the of the district. She missed free publicity by not responding to invitations from the Seattle Times and Sound Publishing to interview with the Auburn Reporter and Federal Way Mirror about her candidacy. Saudia Abdullah knows King County, as she works as corrections director in adult/juvenile Detention and has raised more money than Assefa-Dawson. Abdullah now appears likely to advance to November.

In District 9, Reagan Dunn has raised \$265,679 and is expected to face Renton City Councilmember Kim-Khanh Van in November. However, it was discovered that another competitor, Ubax Gardheere, had been arrested several years ago for causing a disturbance on a children’s school bus during a mental

health episode. That usually will result in the candidate being discounted. Dunn has acknowledged his own DUI issue previously and wished her well.

### South King County races

Auburn City Council Position 4 will likely see incumbent Yolanda Trout and challenger Hanan Amer both advance.

The race for mayor of Kent and Kent City Council Position 4 will be decided in November, as will mayor of Federal Way. In Position 6 of the Kent City Council, incumbent Brenda Fincher is the front-runner.

Federal Way City Council Position 4 is held by Hoang Tran. He and Katherine Festa are most likely to advance. Festa has outraised the incumbent, but that will change closer to November. The third candidate, Daniel Miller, hasn’t raised any money. Federal Way City Council Position 5 between incumbent Leandra Craft and challenger Jack Walsh will be decided in November, as will Position 2 between incumbent Greg Baruso and Erica Norton.

In Federal Way City Council Position 6 are four candidates: incumbent Martin Moore, who has raised the most money; former councilmember Jack Dovey, who was a councilmember when the city had the council-manager form of government; along with Adrienne Obregon and Renae Seam. Moore ran for the Legislature last year as an independent Republican. Dovey has been endorsed by mainstream Republicans. Moore

and Dovey are the most well known of the group. Will both advance, or will they split the vote? If they split the vote, Renae Seam, who has been endorsed by King County Democrats, is the most likely to benefit.

In Renton City Council Position 1, Joe Todd and James Alberson are likely to advance to November. In Position 2 with four candidates, incumbent Angelina Benedetti has raised \$18,863 with challenger Carmen Rivera at \$23,050. Both appear to be the strongest and will advance.

School board races tend to be more low key than city races, but this year, both Federal Way and Kent have races worth following.

Kent School Board Position 4 has four candidates, but no one has raised much money. Awale Farah is a board member of Communities in Schools, which positions him with knowledge of the district. In Position 5, Tim Clark is the front-runner and was formerly a Kent School Board member and Kent City Council member. He also served on the board of Green River College and was a teacher for many years.

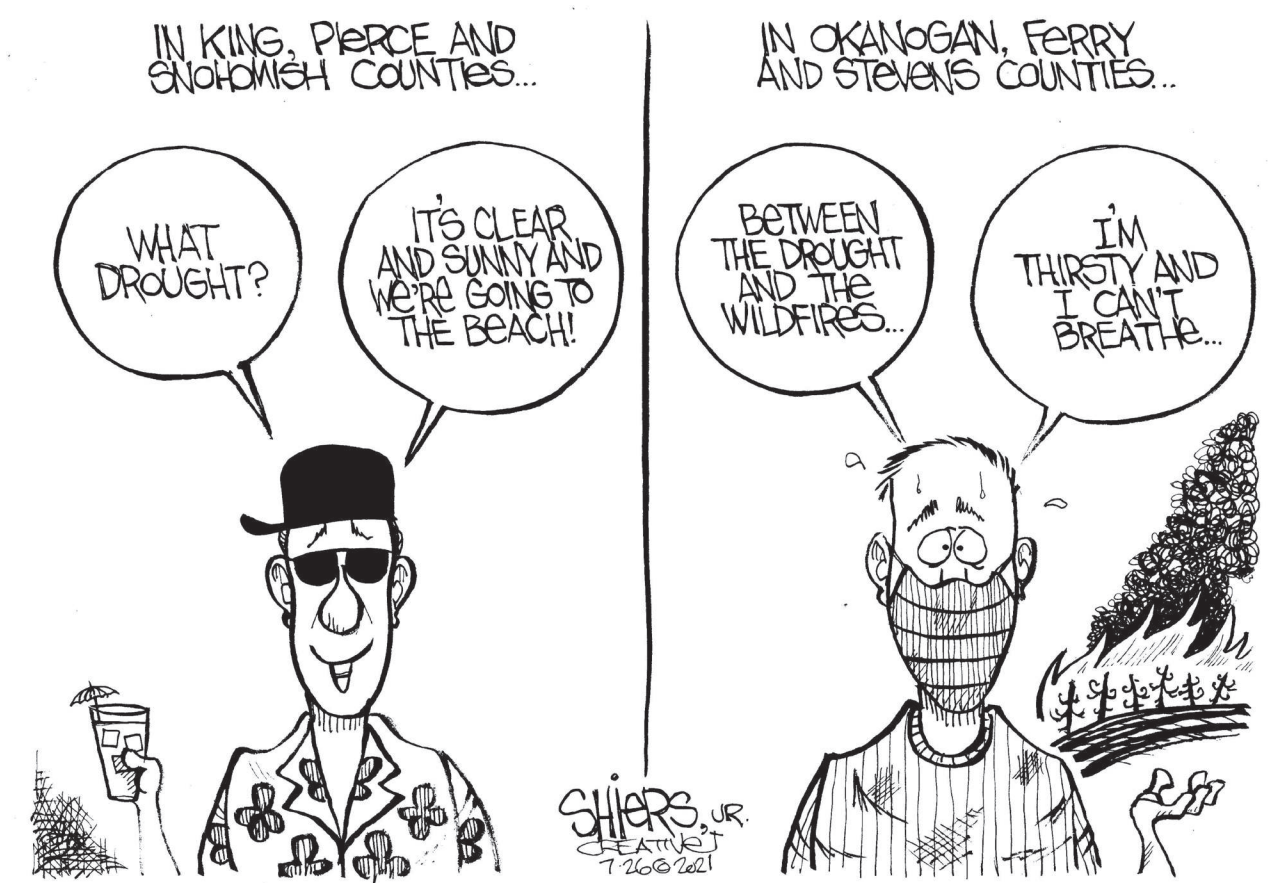
Federal Way is going through a superintendent change from Tammy Campbell to Danielle Pfeiffer, who has been the deputy superintendent for several years. She shares Campbell’s belief that every student has unlimited potential and that it is the board and superintendent’s job to create a welcoming, equitable and inclusive environment to ensure student success. They are committed to keeping students in the

classrooms where they can learn.

Incumbent Federal Way School Board member Trudy Davis shares their commitment to student success. However, the other candidates in Position 4 have caused some concern because they appear to have their own agendas. Janis Clark has run for the Legislature from Tacoma more than once, and from Federal Way, and now wants to be elected to the school board. The Tacoma News Tribune withdrew an endorsement of her for another board after it learned of her military legal problems. Jim Storvick has expressed his disagreement with the school board for elevating Pfeiffer to superintendent. But the school board operates as a team with the superintendent, and Storvick has been critical of the very board he wants to join, even though the board’s priority was to maintain continuity of strong leadership and consistency for the district’s 23,000 students and 3,000 staff, rather than disrupt the system with a search for new superintendent. Jenny Gallagher has also expressed disagreement, but not her ideas for improvement.

Voters will find their mailbox full of campaign literature in the closing days of the primary. Do your homework, voters. The health of your schools, city government and special purpose districts depend on your choices.

*Federal Way resident Bob Roegner is a former mayor of Auburn. Contact bjroegner@comcast.net.*



## Massive reforestation effort needed in Washington and beyond

Massive forest fires in the western parts of our country are not only choking us with layers of thick smoke, but are leaving behind millions of acres of scorched hillsides, ridges and valleys.

Simply, there are not enough trees to absorb CO2 and prevent erosion.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, record wildfire seasons in recent years have destroyed millions of trees. Many forests have burned so severely that natural regeneration is not possible, which makes replanting necessary.

Unfortunately, much of the U.S. Forest Service budget is diverted to fighting massive fires with much less funding left for site preparation and replanting.

“This has left the Forest Service with a backlog of more than one million



DON C. BRUNELL

acres of forest land in need of replanting. Each year — with every wildfire, storm or insect epidemic — the backlog steadily increases,” according to the foundation.

What is needed is a massive salvage and replanting effort such as the one undertaken by Weyerhaeuser following the eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980. That morning the mountain blasted sideways at 650 mph and devastated almost 150,000 acres of state, national and privately

owned forests.

Weyerhaeuser was the largest private landowner affected by the eruption. Nearly 68,000 acres (about 14 percent) of its St. Helens Tree Farm was flattened. Trees were scattered across the landscape, resembling a massive game of pick up sticks.

Much of the downed timber was usable, but was at great risk of damage from insects and diseases. Over two years, Weyerhaeuser recovered 850 million board feet of timber — enough lumber to build 85,000 three-bedroom homes. Tree removal prepared the land for replanting. By June 1987, Weyerhaeuser hand planted 18.4 million trees on more than 45,500 acres. Today, a healthy forest thrives.

Meanwhile, in 1982, Congress set aside 110,000 acres within the Gifford

Pinchot National Forest for the National Volcanic Monument. There was no salvage logging or tree replanting within the blast zone.

The problem with denuded (stripped bare) forest lands is increasing. Overall in the U.S., 86 large fires have burned close to 1.5 million acres in 12 states so far this year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Heavy smoke is again blanketing much of our western states and Canada. Unfortunately, smoke from wildfires is overlapping the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to warn that the smoke is a huge health risk.

“According to the scientists, an additional 178 positive COVID-19 cases reported between Aug. 16 and Oct. 10 at Renown Regional Medical Center can

be attributed to increased air pollution in the area due to wildfire smoke,” according to a July 16 story in the Reno Gazette-Journal. “The scientists looked at confirmed COVID-19 cases at Renown over a 159-day study period when 8 percent of nearly 36,000 people tested were positive.”

By September 2020, California wildfires alone generated more than 91 million metric tons of CO2, according to the Global Fire Emissions Database (GFED). That was about 25 percent more than annual emissions from fossil fuels in the entire state.

A 2015 U.S. Forest Service study of federal forests in the Wenatchee area found that large wildfires can leave behind thousands of acres of fire-killed trees that eventually become fuels for future fires.

The growing number of wildfires across the planet are public health threats. Robbing them of their fuel is critical to controlling massive wildfires.

Salvage logging of burned-over lands makes sense. Milling charred trees creates thousands of jobs and makes new homes more affordable. Replanting seedlings replenishes the forests’ ability to covert CO2 into life-giving oxygen.

The bottom line is that clearing dead trees and debris from the forest floor is urgently needed.

*Don C. Brunell is a business analyst, writer and columnist. He is a former president of the Association of Washington Business, the state’s oldest and largest business organization, and now lives in Vancouver. Contact thebrunells@msn.com.*





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OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/2021

# Firearm violence in King County on upward trend

By CAMERON SHEPPARD  
csheppard@soundpublishing.com

Firearm violence in King County appears to be on an upward trend over the past few years, according to data from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Crime Strategies Unit.

Data released this month shows that half-way through 2021, law enforcement agencies across the county have reported 580 collective incidents in which gunshots were fired. The county recorded less than 450 shots-fired incidents through the same point during 2020, 2019 and 2018.

While the number of shooting incidents is up around 33 percent from the four-year average, the number of shooting victims is up around 61 percent from the four-year average.

With just under 200 shooting victims, 154 non-fatal and 42 homicides, the county has well surpassed Q1-Q2 numbers from the last four years. Numbers of shooting victims from the first halves of the last four years have barely ever come close to surpassing 140.

Of the 196 shooting victims, 85 percent were male, 36 percent were between the ages of 18-24 and 80 percent were people of color.

Similar to previous years, nearly half of shooting victims, both fatal and nonfatal, were Black, according to the Shots Fired Report. Black people make up less than 10 percent of the population in King County, according to U.S. Census data from recent years.

King County Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Satterburg called the uptick in shooting a "public health crisis," and said there is no single explanation for the trend, but likely multiple contributing factors. He cited the pandemic, the protests and prevalence of firearms.

"The violence that has occurred has created a significant workload for the King County Superior Court and for the prosecutors in my office," said Satterburg. "We now have over 250 open murder cases that we need to get to court."

Satterburg said it will take some time for the court system to work through the backlog of cases, which he blamed on the pandemic.

## Rats

From Page 1

Trefts and his peers began to notice they could work to keep the rats out of a home, but not the neighborhood, because they were "really well established."

Trefts believes that the Puget Sound region has more rats per capita than New York City, mostly because New York has a higher population density and vertical skyscrapers that can shelter rats.

Near the end of 2020, national pest control company Orkin ranked Seattle as the 12th rattiest city in the country.

Trefts knew that rats were rarer in more eastern inland urban communities like Spokane and Boise, so he wondered why the rat species in the Puget Sound were so pervasive. His theory was that the "unique" climate and geography of the Puget Sound offered ecosystems with food and shelter that allowed the rats to survive independent of people.

He believes that wetlands and greenbelts surrounding the pockets of human development offer just "enough in the wild that they can live on," breaking the commensal mold in which rat populations and colonies were believed to be almost entirely dependent on people and their dwellings.

Trefts said even the marine intertidal zones of the Puget Sound offer great scavenging for rats with the kelp, dead animals and small marine creatures that can easily be found on the beach.

If rats have become an invasive species in Puget Sound ecosystems, how is it affecting other native species?

Dave Pehling, zoologist and researcher at Washington State University, said it is difficult to fully measure the extent to which rats have established themselves in native ecosystems because comprehensive population data does not exist. However, he did say it was more than possible for rat populations to disperse among woodlands and greenspaces.

He said wetlands and seashores can be rich in food for rats. He said rats can be a "huge problem" for wetland ecosystems in which they may prey on native species if needed.

He said roof rats have been known to get into birds' nests to prey on them, and will even eat native mice.

"They can live on anything," Pehling said.

Even though Pehling admitted to the possibility of widespread invasive rats establishing themselves in local ecosystems, he maintained that rat populations are largely a human-driven problem.

"Humans are sloppy. They throw away nearly half their food," he said.



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# Former school nurse sentenced for sexual misconduct with a minor

Mark David Glenn, an Auburn resident, must register as a sex offender.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
osullivan@fedwaymirror.com

A former school nurse in Federal Way has been found guilty of sexual misconduct with a minor and must register as a sex offender, according to King County Superior Court documents.

Mark David Glenn, 52, of Auburn, was charged with third-degree child rape, second-degree sexual misconduct with a minor and communication with a minor for immoral purposes on Jan. 8, 2020, in King County Superior Court.

On July 16, Glenn was sentenced for one count of second-degree sexual misconduct with a minor, which is a gross misdemeanor in Washington state. He was also sentenced to 364 days in jail, which has



SOUND PUBLISHING FILE PHOTO

Mark David Glenn pleaded not guilty in January 2020 to charges of child rape and sexual misconduct involving three Todd Beamer High School students.

been satisfied with electronic home detention, according to sentencing documents.

As a result of the verdict, Glenn must register as a sex offender for the next 10 years.

Glenn was employed by a

third-party agency as a nurse with the Federal Way Public Schools district from Dec. 2018 through Sept. 2019. During his time with the district, he worked at 20 different schools, including elementary and middle schools

as well as four of the district's high schools.

The school nurse's office is where Glenn met with each of his three victims and where his alleged sexual misconduct occurred, charging documents stated.

In Oct. 2019, the district was made aware of Glenn's sexual contact with a 15-year-old student that began the prior spring. In March 2019, Glenn began to spend time in the nurse's office alone with the student, where she said he made sexual comments and complimented her appearance, the documents state. On several occasions, Glenn allegedly touched the girl inappropriately, had her sit on his lap and asked if she could touch him.

While communicating with the girl on Kik, a messaging app, Glenn allegedly sent the victim a photo of his genitals and a video of him masturbating, asking for the girl to send him a sexually explicit video in return, to which

she declined.

In the spring of 2019, Glenn picked up the girl and parked by a trailhead near a Federal Way water park. He then began to rape her while also touching himself, the charging documents stated.

While working at Todd Beamer High School, Glenn asked a second victim — a 17-year-old girl — inappropriate questions about her body and asked her to remove her pants while the girl was in the nurse's office for a minor injury.

A 16-year-old girl, the third victim, also said Glenn touched her inappropriately multiple times.

Glenn pleaded not guilty on Jan. 23, 2020, but was placed back in custody on Feb. 29, 2020, after he allegedly threatened to carry out a mass shooting, the Mirror previously reported.

In Dec. 2020, Glenn lost his nursing license from the Washington State Department of Health.

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# Face covering recommendation in indoor public spaces expands

King County joins several counties on the new health directive.

By STEVE HUNTER  
shunter@soundpublishing.com

Several local health officers from across the Puget Sound region are joining together to recommend that everyone wear facial coverings when in indoor public settings where vaccination status is unknown, according to a July 26 media release from Public Health – Seattle & King County.

The recommendation from several local health jurisdictions underscores that wearing a mask is an effective and simple measure that people can take to add an extra layer of protection for themselves and their community at a time when rates of COVID-19 are increasing in the region and around the country, according to the release.

In King County, similar to other parts of the region and country, COVID-19 rates are on the rise, largely due to the spread of the more contagious delta variant and increasing activities as restrictions have been lifted.

King County Health Officer Dr.

Jeffrey Duchin issued July 26 an updated health officer directive for King County to reflect the new guidance that strongly recommends people wear masks in indoor public settings. Universal masking in indoor public spaces provides a more reliable way to ensure everyone is safer as we monitor the current increasing disease trends. This extra layer of protection is intended for settings like grocery stores, restaurants, retail, theaters, and entertainment establishments, where people can't be sure everyone is vaccinated.

The joint statement issued by several local health officers underscores the importance of masking as an extra layer of protection.

"The health officers of King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, San Juan and Grays Harbor counties have joined together to pass on their best public health advice to protect you, your family, and our communities," according to the statement. "We recommend all residents wear facial coverings when in indoor public settings where the vaccination status of those around you is unknown. This step will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public, including customers and workers, help stem the increase in COVID-19

cases and hospitalizations in many parts of the state, and decrease the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

Vaccinations are our best defense against COVID-19 and are safe, effective, and readily available for everyone age 12 and over. Please get yours immediately if you are not already vaccinated."

Duchin said in his public briefing July 23 the reasons behind wearing face coverings.

"The delta variant presents a significant new threat, but we have great tools at our disposal to fight COVID-19, most important, our vaccines, which continue to do an excellent job of what they're intended to do – prevent serious illness," Duchin said. "But, until we're further down the road, and in a safer and more stable place, it makes sense to continue to take advantage of effective measures to reduce our risk."

"Wearing a mask in indoor public settings where not everyone is known to be vaccinated is easy and effective and provides an extra layer of protection for all and allows us to more safely get back to doing the things we want to do and need to do."

Washington state already requires unvaccinated people to wear masks

in indoor public settings, although in stores and other public spaces, there is no practical way to know who is vaccinated and who isn't. For this reason, universal masking in indoor public spaces provides a more reliable way to ensure everyone is safer as we monitor the current increasing disease trends.

Masking in public spaces is also beneficial for those who are in close contact with someone at increased risk, to model mask-wearing for children, and to protect from other respiratory illnesses or allergens.

The vast majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths occur in unvaccinated people, according to the media release. Vaccination is the single most important thing people can do to protect themselves and those in the community. But no vaccine provides 100% protection; a small percentage of vaccinated people may develop COVID-19 and be able to pass the infection to others, although this is much less likely than for unvaccinated people. When vaccinated people do become infected, their illness is typically not serious.

Wearing a mask in indoor public spaces helps protect us all, including those who are unable to be protected

by the vaccine, such as the 300,000 children in King County who aren't able to get vaccinated yet, and the many thousands of people who have immune systems that are weakened or suppressed.

In addition to masking, improving airflow and ventilation in public spaces are critical steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 indoors. COVID-19 builds up in closed spaces as infected people breathe, and the risk increases where people are singing, shouting, or exercising, and with closer contact and longer exposure.

Windows and doors should be opened whenever possible to maximize the movement of air. Building and business owners should evaluate their HVAC systems to increase outside airflow, upgrade filtration where possible and consider the need for portable HEPA filtration.

Public Health – Seattle & King County also reminds the public that if you have even mild symptoms, whether or not you're vaccinated, get a COVID-19 test and quarantine yourself away from others while you wait for your results. Information on where to get tested for COVID-19 is available at King County's COVID-19 testing webpage.

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**legals**

**Legal Notices**

Commercial Construction & Maintenance Inc, Paul Pence, 3664 Guyton Rd Hoover, AL 35244-4300, is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit.

The proposed project, Auburn Way Retail Center, is located at 120 49th St NE in Auburn in King county. This project involves 1.96 acres of soil disturbance for commercial construction activities. The receiving waterbody is an unnamed stream adjacent to 86th Ave South. Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320. Comments can be submitted to: [ecyrewqiano@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyrewqiano@ecy.wa.gov) or ATTN: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater Washington State Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47696 Olympia, WA 98504-7696 #933590 7/30/21, 8/6/21

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**Auburn - Public Auction/Landlord Lien Foreclosure Sale - 8/12/21 at 10:00 AM - 1974 KIRK 51 X 12 mobile home VIN: 11805110, Forest Villa Manor #14 4205 Auburn Way S (206) 941-1001**

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Enumclaw Garage/ Craft Supply Sale. Semanski Farms, 2751 Olie Ann Pl. Stampin Up stamps, scrapbooking paper and supplies, quilting fabric, kids toys, kids clothes, and household items. July 30th to Aug 1st, 9AM-3PM

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# Single-use plastic bag ban begins Oct. 1 in Washington

REPORTER STAFF

Washingtonians will begin to see fewer plastic bags littering the state's roadsides, parks and streams beginning Oct. 1 when the statewide plastic bag ban goes into effect, prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic carry-out bags by restaurants, retail, small vendors and grocery stores.

The ban had been originally scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 2021, but the limited availability of compliant bags prompted Gov. Jay Inslee to delay it through a proclamation. The proclamation was recently rescinded.

"Single-use plastic bags are not easily recyclable, which makes managing them at the end of their lives almost impossible," said Laurie Davies, manager of the Department of Ecology's Solid Waste Management Program. "Reducing their use will protect our rivers

and streams, and help our recycling system run more efficiently."

Plastic bags are a common form of pollution that threatens human health, wildlife and the environment. Harmful chemicals are released when plastics are produced, used, incinerated, or slowly disintegrate into microscopic particles. Plastic bags are also a major contaminant in Washington's recycling system that clog sorting machines and put workers' safety at risk.

Ecology recommends people invest in reusable bags for groceries or to carry out food from restaurants. Like any reusable item, reusable bags should be washed and properly stored after each use.

If customers choose to use compliant plastic or paper bags offered by a merchant, the law requires the business to charge 8 cents per bag. That 8-cent charge is not a tax; it is a sale kept

entirely by the merchant to provide an incentive for customers to bring their own bags and to recoup the costs for the more durable compliant bags.

Food banks and pantries, and individuals receiving food stamps, WIC, SNAP, or other government assistance are not subject to the 8-cent charge. Some single-use plastic bags are exempt from the law, including plastics to wrap meats and produce, bags for prescriptions, and newspaper or dry-cleaning bags.

The Washington Legislature has been focused on reducing the use of single-use plastics in the state for several years. In 2021, a new law aimed at doing just that was passed. Ecology is implementing the new law. It will increase recycled content in bottles and trash bags, and drive development of new markets for Washington's recyclable plastic.

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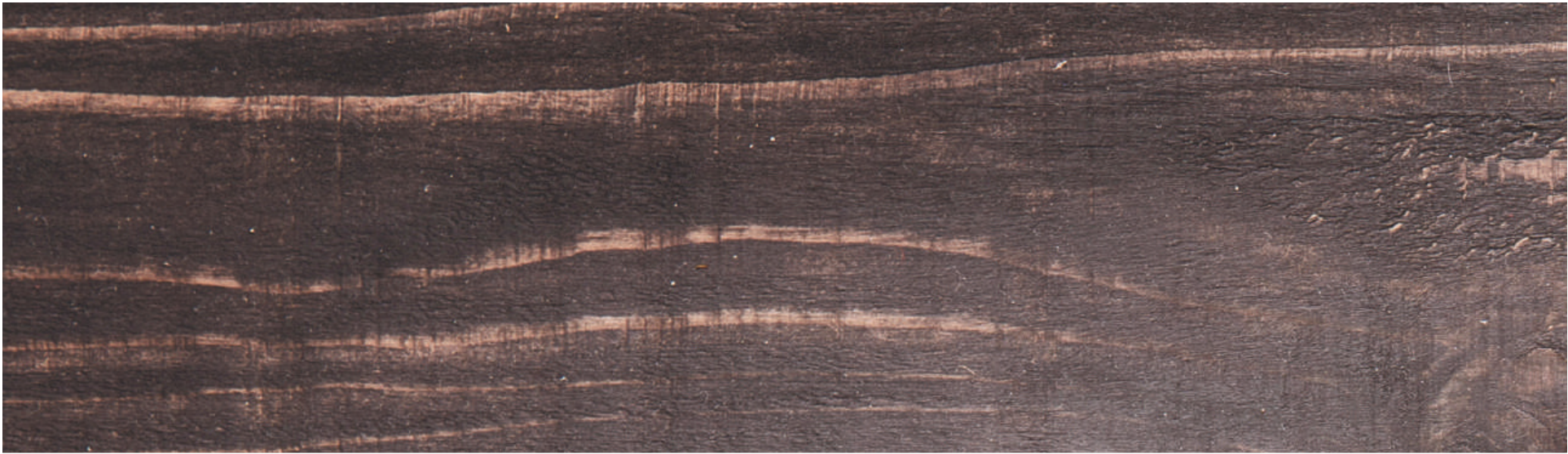
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