



Closed
Hawthorne
Suites to become
apartments

Page 3

Two sons of man fatally shot at bus stop were shot 2 days earlier

By STEVE HUNTER
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A 39-year-old Federal Way man, fatally shot at a Kent bus stop, had gone to that location to confront a man after his two teen sons were shot and injured two days earlier at the same spot. Antonio Wells died from multiple gunshot wounds in the Nov.

26 incident at the bus stop in the 23200 block of Pacific Highway South near Kent Des Moines Road. According to Kent Police reports, Wells was the father of two boys, ages 16 and 14, who got into an argument at the bus stop at about 4:47 p.m. Nov. 24 with unknown suspects, which ended in a shootout. Both boys

were transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. While detectives were at the hospital to interview the boys, they were informed by hospital staff about a 17-year-old victim from the same shooting who was dropped off after the first two teens arrived. Police have not released any further information about that victim.

At about 3:40 p.m. Nov. 26, officers were called to the bus stop and found Wells, who died at the scene. Wells had arrived in a vehicle and confronted a Black man in his 30s at the same bus stop where his sons had been shot, according to police. Wells reportedly punched the man who in turn pulled out a firearm and shot Wells.

A third shooting near the same location occurred at about 4:48 p.m. Nov. 27. Officers were providing a visible police presence in the 23200 block of Pacific Highway South for a vigil held by friends and family of Wells. While on scene in full uniform, officers heard shots fired within

See **INCIDENT**, Page 2

Large warehouse to replace KOA campground in Kent

By STEVE HUNTER
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A California developer plans to replace the Seattle/Tacoma KOA campground that has operated in Kent for more than 40 years with a large warehouse. KOA (Kampgrounds of America) closed the Kent location at 5801 South 212th St., near Russell Road, on Nov. 1. South Dakota-based Recreational Adventures Co., which owned and operated the KOA, sold the 8.1 acres in April to Lift Partners, of San Francisco, for \$10.3 million, according to King County property records. Lift Partners is a full-service real estate investment company focused on industrial and office opportunities along the West Coast, according to its website. “The KOA site is being reviewed for development of an approximately 100,000-square-foot warehouse building,” said Matt Gilbert, city deputy director of Economic and Community Development, in an email. “Assuming the plan review process proceeds per normal, the site should be under construction in spring/summer 2022.” Lift Partners will face new city requirements to build the warehouse. “This will be one of the early warehouses built under the city’s newly adopted industrial design standards, which require employee amenities like outdoor amenity spaces, less visible semi-truck areas and better building aesthetics,” Gilbert said. The warehouse will be built just down the road from the Amazon Fulfillment Center, an



STEVE HUNTER, KENT REPORTER

A few campers remained recently at the closed KOA Campground in Kent along South 212th Street.

800,000-square-foot facility that opened in 2016 on the former Boeing property. KOA had 189 sites at its Kent location, which opened in 1978. Recreational Adventures Co. took over operation and ownership in 1995, according to an email from Gwyn Wathen,

marketing director for Recreational Adventures. The property sold for \$1.9 million in January 1996, according to county property records, which means Recreational Adventures made about \$8 million on this year’s sale. Recreational Adventures

operates 14 KOA Campgrounds across the nation, Wathen said. He did not respond to questions about why the company decided to sell the property. A few campers remained on the property this month, but no new campers are allowed because the site is officially

closed. The King County Assessor appraised the property at \$6.5 million this year. The assessor listed the quality of the campground’s buildings as average. The land was appraised at \$2.7 million in 2016, according to county property records.

Councilmember Boyce to challenge Sen. Das for 47th District seat

By STEVE HUNTER
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Kent City Councilmember Bill Boyce will challenge incumbent Sen. Mona Das, D-Kent, for the District 47 legislative seat. Boyce, a Kent Republican, is the first Black man to serve on the Kent City Council. If elected next year, he would be the first Black senator from the 47th District, according to a Dec. 4 email to announce his campaign. “As a child I attended a racially segregated school,” said Boyce, who was born and raised in North Carolina. “In my lifetime we’ve seen so much progress on extending the American dream to everyone. I would be honored if voters would join me in making history in the 47th District and continuing that progress.” Das announced Dec. 3 that she is running for a second four-year term. She barely defeated Republican incumbent Joe Fain in 2018. “I’m running again because I want kids growing up in our



Bill Boyce and Mona Das

community to have the same opportunities that I had,” Das said in the Dec. 3 release. “I want them to want to be part of our community in South King County, to grow up, go to school, work and raise a family right here. I want them to want to give back to our community the way I have felt so compelled to serve South King County.” The 2022 primary election is Aug. 2 and the general election

is Nov. 8. The 47th Legislative District covers Kent’s East Hill as well as Covington, Black Diamond and portions of Auburn, Renton and Maple Valley. Boyce served as an Army Airborne Ranger (stationed at Fort Lewis now called Joint Base Lewis-McChord), and after earning a bachelor’s degree and moving to Kent in 1984, he served on the Kent School

Board for over 16 years, and has been on the Kent City Council for 10 years. He was first elected to the council in 2011 when he defeated incumbent Debbie Raplee who had served eight years on the council. He resigned from the school board after winning the council seat. Boyce ran unopposed for the council in 2015 and defeated Mizan Rahman in 2019. He lost a council race in 2003 when he challenged Les Thomas. “I have always listened to the concerns of those I represent, from the school board to the city council,” Boyce said. “And I’m hearing a lot of people right now tell me they are not happy with the direction our Legislature has taken recently.” Boyce said massive tax increases that target middle- and low-income families, an insurance scheme that is essentially a backdoor income tax, police reform that went too far, and a complete disregard of parental concerns are at the top of the list of worries of people in the 47th District.

“When they choose me as their senator, voters can count on me to be fiscally responsible, socially conscious, and always hear them out,” Boyce said. “That’s a contrast to what we have in Olympia right now.” Boyce was the first civilian at-large to serve on the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission when he was appointed by Democrat Gov. Gary Locke in 2002. He also served as the Commissioner of the Criminal Justice Training Center and is on the Board of Trustees for Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Boyce is a human resources leader at Boeing and has worked for the company in various roles for over 30 years. Boyce and his wife, Debbie, have lived in the 47th District for more than three decades. They raised their five children here and now their grandchildren are growing up close to home.

See **SENATE**, Page 2



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Incident

From Page 1

the crowd where one victim was shot in the north parking lot of a former Burger King with numerous subjects and vehicles in the area quickly fleeing, according to police reports.

Officers noted it turned into an extremely chaotic scene. One officer observed muzzle flashes and heard rounds going over his/her head. Officers were then grabbed by witnesses pulling them toward the down victim through the crowd while others were fleeing and running past them, according to police reports.

All the while, officers noted they had no idea who was armed and who had shot at others amidst the chaos. It took several minutes to get the area secure so firefighters and



Three shootings in four days occurred Nov. 24-27 near this bus stop along Pacific Highway South near Kent Des Moines Road in Kent.

paramedics could enter. Officers found a male with gunshot wounds to his lower body. He was

conscious and talking with officers. Paramedics transported the male to Harborview Medical Center. Police did not release the age of the male

Another victim showed up at Valley Medical Center in Renton with a gunshot wound to the shoulder from the same Nov. 27 incident.

Police have said they have limited suspect information. No arrests have been made in any of the three shootings in four days.

Kent Police were back at the same scene around noon Sunday, Dec. 5, with three police SUVs and a Metro bus at the location. Police public information officers have not responded to several requests from the Kent Reporter for information about that incident.

14th homicide

The killing is the 14th homicide so far this year in Kent. The city had nine homicides in 2020, four in 2019 and seven in 2018.

Senate

From Page 1

Das seeks second term

Voters narrowly elected Das in November 2018 to a four-year term over Fain, of Auburn. Das received 50.79% of the vote while Fain had 49.03%. The final tally was 28,394 to 27,413 votes.

Das was born to Indian parents who immigrated to America's rust belt with only \$6 in their pockets, yet full of hope about building a better life for their family, according to the release. Das came to the United States when she was eight months old and spent her childhood moving around due to her father's job, living in eight states and three countries. She finally settled down in Kent, where she currently lives.

Das graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor's degree in psychology and earned a master's degree in business administration in sustainable business from Seattle-based Pinchot University, now part of San Francisco-based Presidio Graduate School. She also attended the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. For 15 years, Das operated her own mortgage business, MOXY Money. Now, she works full time as a legislator, which pays \$56,881 per year. She has centered her career around sustainable development, equal access to housing, and empowering marginalized voices.

Das serves as the Majority Caucus vice-chair, vice chair of the Senate Housing Affordability & Stability Committee, and as a member of the Senate Transportation Committee; the Senate Financial

Institutions, Economic Development & Trade Committee; and the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee.

During her first year as an elected official, Das said she worked tirelessly on behalf of the environment, affordable housing and equity and inclusion. Das said she loves the outdoors, hiking, biking, paddle boarding and camping in her free time. Das loves to travel, and has visited 37 countries. She is a proud auntie to two nephews.

With her win over Fain, Das ended his eight years in the Senate. Fain was first elected in 2010 when he beat one-term Democratic incumbent Claudia Kauffman 55% to 45%. He was reelected in 2014 when he defeated Democrat Carol Barber 64% to 36%.

Campaign contributions

With contributions so far of \$135,944 and a campaign starting balance of \$3,150.87, Das has a total amount of \$139,145, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission on Dec. 7.

She has 13 contributors of \$2,000 each, including the Muckle-shoot Indian Tribe.

Das has expenditures of \$25,199. Her largest expense so far is \$5,000 to Katie Skipper Communications, of Bellevue, for strategic counsel.

Das raised \$382,972 in 2018 when she defeated Fain, who raised \$610,058, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission.

Boyce recently registered with the Public Disclosure Commission but has not yet filed any campaign fundraising reports.

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Developer plans to remodel Hawthorne Suites hotel into apartments

BY STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

A Seattle developer plans to turn the Hawthorne Suites hotel into apartments along South 212th Street in Kent.

Goodman Real Estate bought the building and 6.4 acres on Nov. 17 for \$19 million from HSK 212 LLC, according to King County property records.

“They are planning to repurpose the existing extended stay hotel as apartments,” said Matt Gilbert, city deputy director of Economic and Community Development, in an email. “The owner is at the very beginning of the permitting process, and in fact has not yet filed formal applications.”

Hawthorne Suites, which is now closed, opened in 1990 at 6329 S. 212th St., just west of 64th Avenue South.

Goodman is the same developer that built three other Kent apartment complexes: the Midtown 64 Apartments at West Meeker Street and 64th Avenue



STEVE HUNTER, KENT REPORTER

The former Hawthorne Suites includes 19 buildings.

South in 2020; the Platform Apartments downtown on West Smith Street across from Kent Station in 2014; and the Signature Pointe Apartments, 25102 62nd Ave. S., in 1989.

“They will be meeting with staff at the end of December for an early review of their plans,” Gilbert said. “They plan on doing the work next year.”

According to Gilbert, the general scope of the work includes:

Phase 1

- Site work
 - 1) Add iconic signage at

- property entry.
- 2) Landscaping refresh.
- 3) New landscape lights for circulation safety.
- 4) Add parking stalls.
- 5) Add carpports.

■ Existing 19 hotel/motel buildings

- 1) Change of use from hotel/ motel to apartments (R-2 occupancy).
- 2) Interior remodel.
- 3) Exterior siding/ stair/ deck repair.

Phase 2

- Existing clubhouse
 - 1) Interior remodel.
 - 2) Replace existing conference room with 4 commercial flex space (B occupancy).



STEVE HUNTER, KENT REPORTER

The Hawthorne Suites has closed in Kent. A developer plans to turn the former hotel along South 212th Street into apartments.

- Existing pool/ rec house
 - 1) Interior remodel.
- Outdoor amenity area
 - 1) Remove existing hot tub/ spa.
 - 2) Replace existing tennis court with covered BBQ and pickleball court.

The King County Assessor's Office appraised the building at \$9 million and the land at \$5 million in 2021 for 2022 taxes. The appraiser described the building condition as average and dropped the value

\$2 million from 2020. Lala Salama Hospital-ity Inc. bought the property and building for \$9.1 million in 2013 and sold it for \$16.7 million in 2018 to HSK 212 LLC, according to county property records.

Kent’s West Hill water tower on the way up to 16 stories

BY STEVE HUNTER
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The new water tower on Kent’s West Hill keeps getting higher and higher.

The city Public Works Department recently released the latest construction photos Nov. 30 as crews are putting up the walls and aim to finish the 16-story tower by spring 2022, in preparation to be put into use next fall. Once complete, a painted mural will be added to the water tank.

The \$8.4 million reservoir will address a water

storage deficiency on the West Hill to ensure residents and businesses have adequate water supply during peak usage times, according to the city’s website. It also will provide the necessary fire flow storage for the West Hill water service area so there is sufficient water available to fight fires.

Crews expect to complete the project by next fall. The steel will be erected throughout the winter of 2021-2022 and will be topped off in the spring of 2022. The 165-foot tower will be cleaned,

coated, filled and tested before putting into service.

The reservoir is going up at a former small city park at 24731 38th Ave. S., near Military Road South. The city

closed the pedestrian path on the south side of tank site (formally Kronisch Park) during construction. This path will be reopened when construction is complete.

Construction began in March on the project by Anacortes-based T Bailey Inc. The project will be paid for from the city’s water utility fund, covered

by ratepayer fees.

The Kent City Council unanimously approved in November 2019 the transfer of a 0.65 acre-city park to the Public Works Department from the Parks Department to build the water storage tank. The council in September 2019 delayed a vote on the removal of the undeveloped Kronisch Park after several people testified they wanted city officials to find a different spot for the tower in order to preserve the park and keep such a tall tower away from their business or home.



COURTESY PHOTO, CITY OF KENT

Crews put up the walls last month on an eventual 16-story water reservoir on Kent’s West Hill. The \$8.4 million reservoir is expected to be ready for use next fall.

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More than 12,000 people in the greater Seattle area are homeless. 10% of those are under the age of 18.

Photography: Lee Jeffries and Francis Catania, Retouching: Rebecca Bausher

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Madeline’s mom found what she needed to start a new life at Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission. Be inspired, volunteer, or donate at ugm.org/madeline.

SEATTLE’S
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Light rail parking garage, guideway going up on Kent’s West Hill

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

Crews are making progress on Kent’s West Hill with the construction of the new Sound Transit light rail line and parking garage. The estimated \$3.1 billion project will extend light rail 7.8 miles from Angle Lake Station in SeaTac to the Federal Way Transit Center. Passenger service is slated to start in 2024. Floors are going up for the Kent Des Moines

Station parking garage that will include 500 parking stalls and sit just east of the new elevated light rail station along a new South 236th Street, just south of Pacific Highway South and across from Highline College. Work also continues on the elevated guideway that will go over Kent Des Moines Road, aka State Route 516, and to Interstate 5 where the line will run parallel to the west of the freeway. Crews also are working on a new parking garage



COURTESY PHOTO, CITY OF KENT

Crews construct a 500-spot parking garage for Sound Transit’s Kent Des Moines Station light rail stop along Pacific Highway South, just south of Kent Des Moines Road.


at South 272nd Street, just west of I-5. That facility will accommodate 1,100 vehicles. The area around the Kent Des Moines Station will eventually be redeveloped by Sound Transit, which is using the property

now to stage construction equipment. The city of Kent is partnering with the agency to ensure a vision for future development focused on the opportunities that can be created through easy access to transit.

Larry Wayne Albrecht

February 12, 1939 - November 17, 2021

*If you knew him, You loved him.
Heaven is now a better place.*



Larry Albrecht, long time resident of Kent, passed peacefully in his sleep, on November 17th, surrounded by family. He owned Kent East Hill Tire from 1960 'til he retired and handed the reins to his sons, Jeff and Rob.

Larry was a one-of-a-kind husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. We'll love and miss him until we reunite one day.

Larry is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothea; son Jeff (Sandi); daughter Julie (Jack); son Robbie (Kellie); sister Doris Stansell; sister-in-law Alice Church; 6 grandchildren, 1 great grand & numerous nieces & nephews.

Preceded in death by parents William & Amelia; brother Bill & sister Della.

Celebration of Larry's Life is December 13th, 1:00pm, Meridian Valley CC in Kent.

Donation to Providence Hospice of Seattle in lieu of flowers appreciated. <https://foundation.providence.org/wa/hospiceseattle>

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South King mayors meet to address crime, gun violence

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN
osullivan@soundpublishing.com



Dana Ralph

Mayors of South King County cities met privately last week as the first step in addressing the surge of violence affecting the south Puget Sound. Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell said in a statement that the Dec. 3 meeting was “a positive step and a work in progress.” The meeting was attended by Ferrell and mayors Dana Ralph of Kent, Nancy Backus of Auburn and Armondo Pavone of Renton. “We are speaking about important issues impacting our entire region,” Ferrell said. “While we continue to work toward a comprehensive and broad-based set of solutions, I can tell you what we will do locally.” “This meeting was scheduled to strategize next steps on how we collaborate with police, legislators, prosecutors and judges,” said Kent Mayor Dana Ralph. “We all have a role in how to keep our community safe. In time, we look forward to sharing our plan and accomplishments in conjunction with our partners.” Ferrell said the coalition will ask their King County partners for a commitment to hold high-impact offenders accountable.

For the upcoming Legislative agenda, Ferrell is recommending the Federal Way City Council seek to re-criminalize controlled substances, and to “fix the pursuits section of HB 1054 to allow police officers to once again utilize ‘reasonable suspicion’ standard in investigative stops.” The Federal Way Police Department will share information with other agencies to document drug referrals. This way, Ferrell said, police can move more quickly amid the current laws to get to the third interaction with those in possession of hard narcotics, to arrest and prosecute offenders. Ferrell also said Federal Way is planning to develop a South King County Top 10 list of high-impact offenders (for drugs and guns). The city will also aim to identify a main source of drug production and distribution. This information and Top 10 list will be shared with regional agencies, he added.

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Message to Sound Transit: Not in my backyard

It is easy to oppose something you don't like, particularly if it is expensive, but also hard to think objectively if a project will be an inconvenience to you.

Where is the best location for the Sound Transit maintenance facility? This decision will have an impact on any area it is placed in. Because it will serve locations in South King County, it seems obvious that the facility should be in South King County before light rail heads on to Tacoma and eventually Olympia. But other maintenance facilities will be needed in north Seattle and Bellevue as the connections come on line from Snohomish County.

Up until now, it has seemed like the decision was months or even years away. But the Sound Transit board is likely to select a preferred alternative by their Dec. 16 meeting and finalize that selection in late 2022 after further in-depth study. We could get an early clue to their thinking as soon as the Dec. 9 at the meeting of the expansion committee. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, from



BOB ROEGNER
INSIDE POLITICS

Bellevue, chairs the expansion committee and says she will come to the Dec. 9 meeting with a recommendation.

One location site is at the Midway Landfill in Kent. The other two sites are in south Federal Way at South 336th Street, which is a 59-acre site between I-5 and Pacific Highway 99. If selected, two churches and two businesses with about 94 employees would need to be relocated along with 73 residential evictions. Also, the area has a minority population of 7,973 people. The 344th Street alternative site is 62 acres and is between I-5 and 18th Place South. Both Federal Way options are projected

to cost between \$1.2 billion and \$1.4 billion and could be completed in about three years. If the 344th Street site is selected, it would require Ellenos Yogurt manufacturing and Garagetown private storage to move, including 217 employees along with 60 unit owners and three churches.

The Midway site is the most expensive and would take the longest to build, which troubles the chair of the 18-member Sound Transit board, Kent Keel, who is a University Place City Councilmember and also a member of the system expansion committee. He makes the point that adding more years and billions of dollars doesn't seem to make sense. However, the board is made up of mostly elected officials who want to be reelected. And most of the public participation has favored the Midway site because no one is inconvenienced, either through their business or home being in the way at that location.

However, that just makes the Midway location the path of least resistance because it is a Superfund waste location

fill site. The site is located between South 244th and 252nd streets and between Pacific Highway South and I-5. This site is projected to cost \$1.8 billion to \$2.4 billion and take six to eight years depending on which design is selected. This issue seems like it has been around for many years of controversial debate, but the list was only cut to three sites a few months ago.

The public participation has been mostly those who have a business or home in the two Federal Way locations, and it is easy to understand why they oppose the two Federal Way locations, which is part of the reason that the elected officials in Federal Way oppose the two Federal Way sites. They want to be reelected. Businesses and residences affected have formed a political action Committee of 60-70 residents and have tried to learn where Sound Transit is leaning. The Group is called "Protect Federal Way." Given the changes in the city council with the recent elections, don't expect the council to change positions. And it will look like "not in

my backyard" will win again.

The Sound Transit Board is governed by 18 elected officials proportional to the population in the Sound Transit district. Ten members are from King County, four are from Pierce County and three are from Snohomish County. The Secretary of Transportation also sits on the board. I'm a little surprised that the Midway site is still in contention given the potential dangers to the future of the Sound Transit staff who will work there, but it is the most politically expedient because no one is inconvenienced by its selection. However, the Sound Transit board is not done with this topic and there are some advantages. The 400 employees who work at the facility will earn about \$80,000 per year. The professionals who will build the facility can't give an iron-clad agreement that nothing will ever happen over the 30 years or more that Sound Transit employees will work there.

But would you want a relative of yours working at a Superfund site? Even the salaries of the employees

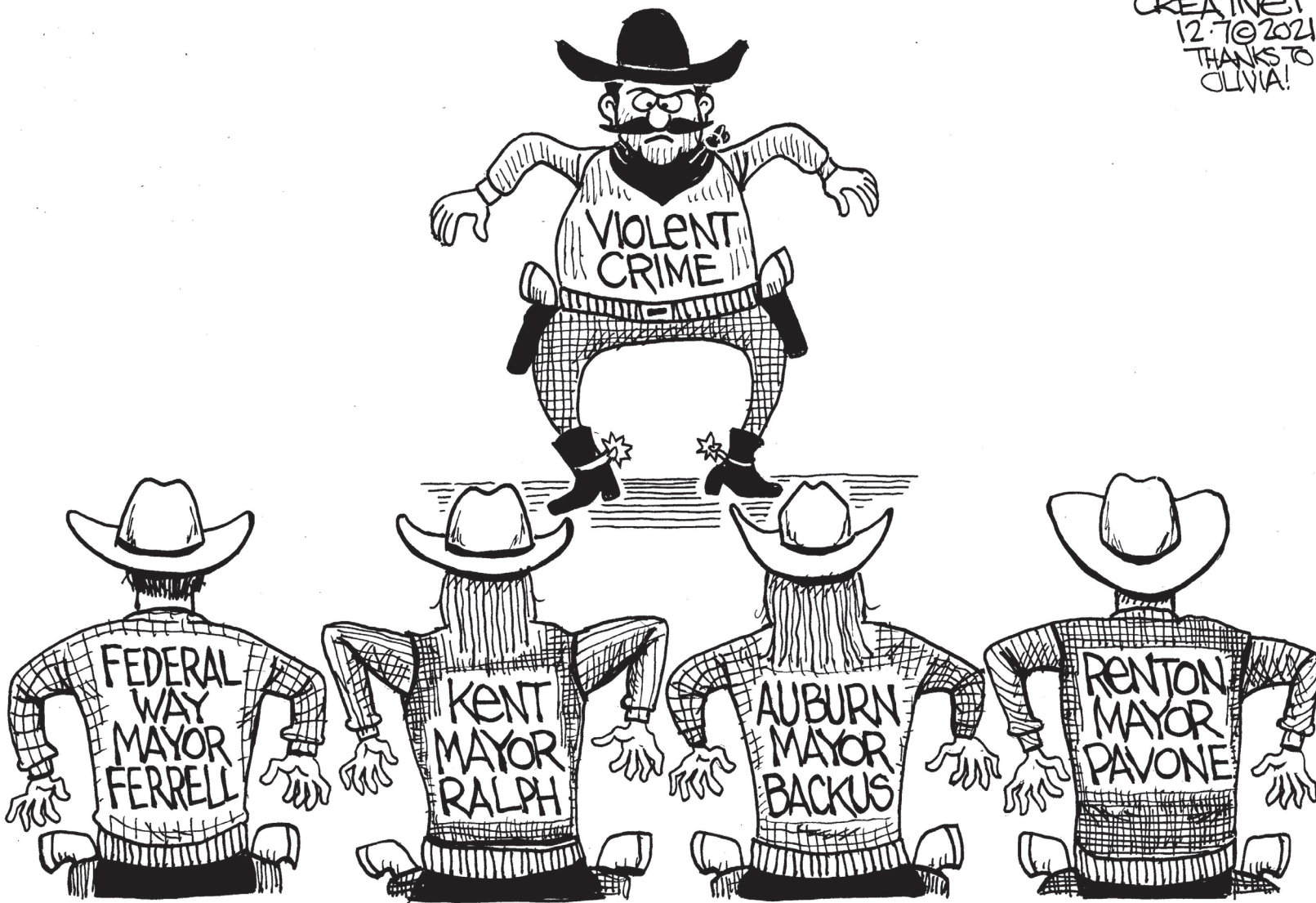
didn't influence the Federal Way council to drop its opposition and they say economic development is important to them. The city of Kent has said it will not oppose Midway site and the Puyallup Tribe prefers the Midway site due to the potential impacts to ecosystems such as fish habitats and water resources. And to add to the intrigue, rumors continue to circulate one of the church owners in Federal Way could be a willing seller.

Watch the political messaging after the final vote on which site is selected. Some board members will argue that the Midway site is too expensive or unsafe, while others will message that they were listening to the public if the Midway site is chosen. If the site chosen is Midway, then taxpayer money doesn't mean much, nor does the safety of future Sound Transit employees. Reelection is what counts.

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

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In a U.S. Chamber of Commerce poll released in early December, the findings spell trouble for America's employers, whether they are in the private or public sectors. It found that over 60 percent of the



DON C. BRUNELL
COMMENTARY

respondents are in no hurry to return to work and over one-third of the unemployed are not actively going after a job or looking at all.

The problem is growing worse. A large number of respondents feel they can get by for at least another six months before they have to find employment. The survey discovered that one-sixth of the jobless say the amount of the money they are receiving from unemployment benefits and government programs makes it "not worth looking" for work, the Chamber added.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports there are 10.4 million open jobs and people are quitting at an all-time record high. Bottom line: there were 2.3 million fewer workers in the workforce last October compared with the same month in 2019.

COVID has changed work and workers. People who traditionally commuted to the office ended up working remotely. A Harris Poll in October found that 76 percent of employees want

to make work permanently flexible.

"The desire for work flexibility is being met with a conflicting message — about three-quarters of their employers think they (workers) are more innovative and work harder in the office or on-site," the Harris Poll found.

Not all work can be done remotely or with a flexible schedule. An obvious example is a utility line worker. For example, electric grid engineers can connect remotely to plan projects, but when an electric transmission line goes down, it is a whole other story. Sorting out jobs which can be remote is a challenge, but all jobs need people willing to work.

Employers are raising wages and benefits to recruit workers, but find it troubling when someone is hired and doesn't show up on the first day, or they interview just to fulfill obligations to continue receiving an unemployment check.

In Washington state, Gov. Jay Inslee and the Legislature suspended the job

search requirements at the start of the pandemic. With the economy recovering, job search requirements were reinstated. This means the jobless must look for work and document at least three approved job search activities each week in order to remain eligible for unemployment benefits.

On the employer side, the Harris Poll found that a lack of concern for people's work/life conflicts is a problem. Roughly two-in-five people quit because the employer did not take their concerns into consideration during the pandemic.

Employer attitudes make a difference. Among those who work fully remotely, 40 percent who implemented practices and policies since the pandemic resulted in people staying on the job.

Looking ahead, here's what needs to happen.

First, President Joe Biden and Congress need COVID recovery programs that encourage people to return to work. However, they cannot make it more worthwhile for people who are employable to continue to postpone returning to work.

Second, those providing jobs need to tailor work sites and jobs to fit into the post-pandemic economy. For example, commuting daily into the inner city is expensive and time consuming. Monthly parking rates are high, the price of gasoline is skyrocketing, and pre-COVID traffic congestion is not only time consuming, but frustrating.

One answer is to lease office space outside the city's core for meeting and internet connectivity space. People can come together and meet while still working remotely.

Finally, people must realize COVID is not a temporary inconvenience. It is permanent. Finding ways to put people back to work is essential to our post-COVID survival.

Don C. Brunell is a business analyst, writer and columnist. He retired as president of the Association of Washington Business, the state's oldest and largest business organization, and lives in Vancouver. He can be contacted at theBrunells@msn.com.

KENT REPORTER

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NASA selects Kent-based Blue Origin to help develop new space station

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

NASA has signed agreements with Kent-based Blue Origin and two other companies to develop designs of space stations and other commercial destinations in space.

The agreements are part of the agency's efforts to enable a robust, American-led commercial economy in low-Earth orbit, according to a Dec. 2 NASA news release.

The total estimated award amount for all three funded Space Act Agreements is \$415.6 million. The companies that received awards are:

- Blue Origin, of Kent, for \$130 million
 - Nanoracks LLC, of Houston, for \$160 million
 - Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, of Dulles, Virginia, for \$125.6 million
- NASA seeks to maintain an uninterrupted U.S. presence in low-Earth orbit by transitioning from the International Space Station to other platforms. These awards will stimulate U.S. private sector development of commercial, independent space stations that will be available to both government and private-sector customers, according to the news release.
- “Building on our

successful initiatives to partner with private industry to deliver cargo, and now our NASA astronauts, to the International Space Station, NASA is once again leading the way to commercialize space activities,” said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. “With commercial companies now providing transportation to low-Earth orbit in place, we are partnering with U.S. companies to develop the space destinations where people can visit, live, and work, enabling NASA to continue forging a path in space for the benefit of humanity while fostering commercial activity in space.”



COURTESY GRAPHIC, ORBITAL REEF
Orbital Reef, a commercially owned and operated space station, would eventually replace the International Space Station.

The awards are the first in a two-phase approach to ensure a seamless transition of activity from the International Space Station to commercial destinations. During this first phase, private industry, in coordination with NASA, will formulate and design commercial low-Earth orbit destination capabilities suitable for potential government and private sector needs. The first phase is expected to continue through 2025.

Blue Origin, founded by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, and Sierra Space have partnered to develop Orbital Reef, a commercially owned and operated space station to be built in low-Earth orbit, which will start operating in the second half of this decade. Orbital Reef teammates include Boeing, Redwire Space, Genesis Engineering, and Arizona State University. Orbital Reef's human-centered space architecture is designed to be a “mixed-use space business park”

that provides essential infrastructure needed to support all types of human space-flight activity in low-Earth orbit and can be scaled to serve new markets.

The station's shared infrastructure will support the proprietary needs of diverse U.S. and international users, tenants, and visitors, including those representing research, industry, government, and the commercial sector. Features such as reusable space transportation and advanced automation can minimize cost and complexity to enable the widest range of users. Accommodations, vehicle docking ports, and utilities can all be scaled with growth in market demand.

According to the NASA news release, Nanoracks' commercial low-Earth orbit destination, in collaboration with Voyager Space and Lockheed Martin, is called “Starlab.” Starlab is targeted for launch in 2027 on a single flight as a continuously crewed, commercial

space station dedicated to conducting advanced research, fostering commercial industrial activity, and ensuring continued U.S. presence and leadership in low-Earth orbit. Starlab is designed for four astronauts and will have power, volume, and a payload capability equivalent to the International Space Station.

Starlab will host the George Washington Carver Science Park featuring four main operational departments – a biology lab, plant habitation lab, physical science and materials research lab, and an open workbench area – to meet the needs of researchers and commercial customers for commercial space activities. The station will be built with flexible growth in mind, featuring interfaces both internal and external to the spacecraft to allow Nanoracks to expand the architecture as new demand sources are identified, and new markets emerge.

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City of Kent's Christmas Rush Fun Run and Walk on Dec. 11

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

The city of Kent's Christmas Rush Fun Run And Walk is set for Saturday, Dec. 11 at Hogan Park, 24400 Russell Road.

Day of race registration is at 8 a.m. The 10k starts at 9:50 a.m. and the 5k at 10 a.m. The cost is \$15. Children 12 and younger can participate for free, courtesy of Tab Wizard and Kent Bowl.

Participation rules are different due to the pandemic.

"The Kent Parks Department cares about the health and safety of our patrons, staff, volunteers and community," according to the city website. "As such, we will follow the King County mandate requiring people ages 12 and over to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result to participate in the Christmas Rush. Additionally, masking is required."

With the goal of balancing ease of use for patrons with safety, the city will accept photos or copies of

vaccine cards/test results or electronic proof.

People ages 12 and over who are not fully vaccinated must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test (taken within 72 hours of the race). Self-reported negative test results that are not from a test provider, laboratory, or health care provider cannot be accepted.

According to King County mandate, these policies will remain in effect through March 16 and will be re-evaluated at that time or sooner based on the status and impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in King County.

Masks are to be worn in the corral area, at the finish line and during the awards. Once the race begins you may remove your mask.

Course routes

The 10k course will be a certified out and back due to Green River levee construction. The race will start on Russell Road, head south and turn west on to Meeker Street. Once over the bridge, runners

will head nearly to South 212th Street and return. Runners will cross over the pedestrian bridge and take a hard left on the trail that will bring you back to the finish line. Please be aware that we're running clockwise down the road so stay to your left throughout your run.

The 5k course is a modified out and back. Runners will start on Russell Road and head south to Meeker Street and turn right. Once over the bridge, turn north on to Frager Road remembering to stay on the left side of the road. (Running clockwise) Turn around at the appropriate spot and stay to your left side on the return trip. Runners will turn left and go over foot bridge that leads to golf course. Once over foot bridge, turn north on to the trail along the river. Follow to finish located in front of city shops building on South 240th Street.

Parking

Use the parking lot at Hogan Park at Russell Road, 24400 Russell Road.

Kent celebrates Winterfest with tree lighting, parade

By REPORTER STAFF

It was a magical evening of music, fun, freebies, Santa, a parade and lights at the downtown Kent Winterfest Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade, according to the city of Kent Parks Department.

People showed up Saturday, Dec. 4, to enjoy the parade through Kent Station and historic downtown, to listen to high school bands and choirs and to watch the tree lighting at Town Square Plaza, 115 Second Ave. N., near West Smith Street. The lights will remain on display at the park throughout the holidays.

"All of us here at the



COURTESY PHOTO, CITY OF KENT

City of Kent Public Works crews decorated one of their large trucks to participate in the annual parade Dec. 4 in downtown Kent.

City of Kent government would like to send a special thank you to our friends at Kent Station, Kent Downtown Partnership and the Kent

Lions & Foundation Club for the partnership on this month of holiday happenings," according to a city Facebook posting.



COURTESY FILE PHOTO, CITY OF KENT

The city of Kent's Christmas Rush Fun Run and Walk will be on Saturday, Dec. 11, starting at Hogan Park at Russell Road.



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Kent man charged with murder after man fatally shot, left in ditch near Auburn

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN
osullivan@soundpublishing.com

A Kent man is accused of shooting a man at a Federal Way gas station and leaving his body face-down in a ditch a few miles away, according to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Robert Nelson III, 24, of Kent, was charged with first-degree murder on Dec. 1. He is being held in lieu of \$2 million bail and his arraignment is set for 9 a.m. Dec. 15 at the Maleng Regional Justice Center.

Nelson is accused of fatally shooting Uso Hale, 39, and leaving his body face-down in a watery ditch in unincorporated King County. Hale's body was discovered near the 4600 block of S. 352nd Street on Nov. 12 after neighbors called to report an object in the ditch.

An autopsy by the King County Medical Examiner's

Office reported Hale had been shot at least seven times and ruled his death a homicide. He had bullet wounds to his left cheek, chin, neck, right thigh and left arm and two wounds on his left torso. Five .45-caliber bullets were removed from Hale's body, according to charging documents. Hale's last known address was at a Federal Way apartment complex.

Prosecutors say Nelson allegedly shot Hale in the front seat of his car at a Mobil gas station (32002 Military Road South) when people were present at the gas pumps and inside the store. Later, investigators found a bullet struck and was lodged in one of the gas station windows.

Nelson allegedly fled the parking lot and left Hale's body in a ditch minutes later, documents state, and took steps to get rid of his car. The .45-caliber gun registered to Nelson has not yet been

located.

Nelson's "willingness to commit such a violent crime in a public place, risking the lives of others present, make clear that he poses a substantial danger to the community," Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Petersen wrote in the charging documents.

According to the charging documents, a close friend of Hale's said the day before his death, a man Hale had robbed of \$1,500 came looking for him in a dark, four-door vehicle believed to be a black Cadillac. The man came into the residence and "made things right," documents state. The close friend later identified the man as Nelson, according to investigators.

Interviews with people close to Hale revealed that Hale was allegedly meeting up with that same man to sell him blue pills, about \$2,000 worth, on Nov. 11. When Hale

got out of a family member's car at the gas station and into the nearby two-door Audi, the family member reported hearing shots fired. The family member attempted to follow the Audi after it fled, but lost sight of the vehicle as it sped up the hill from Peasley Canyon Road.

Video surveillance footage shows a vehicle stopping near the ditch in unincorporated King County around 4:08 p.m. Nov. 11. The vehicle, believed to be the Audi, seemed to park for about a minute, then drove away, documents state.

A plastic baggy filled with small blue pills and another baggy filled with "blue mush" — presumed to be fentanyl or Oxycodone pills — were found in Hale's pockets, along with a black cell phone. Detectives also found two copper .45-caliber bullets near Hale's body in the ditch.

Police used photos of Nelson to link him to the

person in the surveillance footage near where the body was dumped. Phone records also show Nelson received a call from Hale around 3:53 p.m. Nov. 11 and about 20 minutes later, his phone records show that his device was in the area where Hale's body was dumped, documents state.

Nelson was arrested on Nov. 24 while driving a black Cadillac, registered to his grandfather. Both the car and his apartment were searched. Police recovered a 9mm handgun, gun ammunition and a baggie of blue pills from the car.

A magazine full of .45-caliber ammunition, a gun box to a .45-caliber pistol, and boxes of copper .45-caliber ammunition were recovered from Nelson's apartment in Kent.

Charging documents state that as detectives were searching the Cadillac, "Nelson was upset and asked

multiple times why detectives were searching the vehicle." After informing Nelson that police had a warrant, Nelson allegedly said: "It's not that vehicle."

He was taken to the Burien police station for questioning when he requested to speak with his attorney.

Through the King County Sheriff's Office investigation of the homicide, sheriffs determined that the actual shooting most likely occurred in the parking lot of the gas station or close by, according to Cmdr. Tracy Grossnickle of Federal Way Police.

"Since KCSO has jurisdiction over the entire area, they kept the case and filed charges," Grossnickle said. "Due to them keeping the investigation and filing charges, it is not going to [be] considered a Federal Way homicide by our Department."



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KING COUNTY DEPT OF LOCAL SERVICES, PERMITTING DIV 35030 SE Douglas St., #210 Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9266
NOTICE OF PERMIT APPLICATION
REQUEST(S): Conditional Use and Zoning Variance Land Use Permit Applications File(s): C0UP21-0002 & VA-R121-0001
Applicant: Sili Savusa for White Center CDA
Site location: 10821 8th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146
Proposal: Establish Social Services and Outpatient Medical/Dental Offices with a reduced building setback.
Project Manager: Nancy Hopkins Goree (206) 477-0331
COMMENT PROCEDURES: DLS Permitting will issue a decision on this application following a 21-day comment period ending on **January 3, 2022**. Written comments and additional information can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager listed above.
Published this Friday December 10, 2021 #943417

King County Permitting Div., Dept. of Local Services 35030 SE Douglas St., Ste. 210, Snoqualmie WA 98065-9266
NOTICE OF PERMIT APPLICATION
REQUEST(S): Critical Area Alteration Exception
File(s): CAEX20-0004
Applicant: Marcus Talley
Site location: 24829 SE Mirrmont Blvd, Issaquah, WA 98027; parcel # 5561400080

Proposal: Construct single-family dwelling within wetland buffer
Project Manager: Greg Goforth, (206) 477-0251
COMMENT PROCEDURES: DLS Permitting will issue a decision on this application following a comment period of 21 days, ending Monday, January 03, 2022, written comments and additional information can be obtained by contacting the Project Manager listed above.
Published this Friday, 12/10/2021 #944804

Notice of Public Hearing
Covington Water District will conduct a public hearing on Tues., Dec. 7 to discuss the 2022 Budget, Capital Improvement Projects & Rates. The virtual hearing will begin at 4:30 PM via Zoom, with access information available on the Board Agenda. The public is encouraged to attend.
#943155
12/03/21

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LINCOLN COUNTY
Juvenile Department
In the Matter of SAHALIE RANCH, A Child. Case No. 21JU02167

Legal Notices

PUBLISHED SUMMONS

TO: Tameka Lashee Stevens Ranch
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:
A petition has been filed asking the court to enter a judgment establishing the paternity of the above-named child. YOU ARE DIRECTED TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER to the petition NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF LAST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS, specified herein, consenting to or objecting to the establishment of the child's paternity and informing the court of your current residence address, mailing address and telephone number. YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE MAILED TO Lincoln County Courthouse, P.O. Box 100, Newport, Oregon 97365.
This summons is published pursuant to the order of the circuit court judge of the above-entitled court, dated November 24, 2021. The order directs that this summons be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, making four publications in all, in a published newspaper of general circulation in King County, Washington.
Date of first publication: December 10, 2021
Date of last publication: December 31, 2021
NOTICE READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY IF YOU DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER AS DIRECTED ABOVE, the court may proceed in your absence without further notice and issue a judgment establishing the paternity of the above-named child ON THE DATE AN ANSWER IS REQUIRED BY THIS SUMMONS OR ON A FUTURE DATE and may make such orders and take such action as authorized by law.
RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS
(1) YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. If you are currently represented by an attorney, CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. Your previous attorney may not be representing you in this matter.
IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY and you meet the state's financial guidelines, you are entitled to have an attorney appointed for you at state expense. TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU AT STATE EXPENSE, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT the Lincoln Juvenile Department at 225 W. Olive Street, Newport, OR 97365, phone number (541) 265-4236, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for further information.
IF YOU WISH TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, please retain one as soon as possible. If you need help finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.
IF YOU ARE REPRESENTED BY AN AT-

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TORNEY, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY AND TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY ADVISED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
(2) If you contest the petition, the court will schedule a hearing on the allegations of the petition and order you to appear personally and may schedule other hearings related to the petition and order you to appear personally. IF YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR, YOU MUST APPEAR PERSONALLY IN THE COURTROOM. UNLESS THE COURT HAS GRANTED YOU AN EXCEPTION IN ADVANCE UNDER ORS 419B.918 TO APPEAR BY OTHER MEANS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TELEPHONIC OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS. AN ATTORNEY MAY NOT ATTEND THE HEARING(S) IN YOUR PLACE.
PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY
Michelle Branam
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4096
Phone: (503) 934-4400
ISSUED this 1st day of December, 2021.
Issued by:
s/ Michelle Branam
Michelle Branam #032737
Senior Assistant Attorney General #944429
12/10/21, 12/17/21, 12/24/21, 12/31/21

INVITATION TO BID
The Kent School District extends an invitation to qualified General Contractors to bid the construction project hereafter identified as the Kent Phoenix Boiler and Water Heater Replacement.

PROJECT SCHEDULED BID DATE

Sealed construction bids will be due at, or before 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 at the following location: KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 415 ADMINISTRATION CENTER - BUILDING "B"
12033 SE 256TH Street Kent, Washington 98030-6643
PROJECT SCOPE
The Kent School District wishes to contract services for the Kent Phoenix Boiler and Water Heater Replacement located at 11000 SE 264th St, Kent, WA 98030.

PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Plans, specifications, addenda, and bidder's list for this project is available through Kent School District's online plan room. Free of charge, access is provided to Prime Bidders, Subcontractors, and Vendors by going to: <http://bxwa.com> and selecting "Posted Projects", "Public Works", scroll to "Education" and "Kent School District." Bidders are encouraged to "Register" in order to receive automatic email notification of future addenda and to be placed on the "Bidder's List". This on-line plan room provides Bidders with fully usable on-line documents with the ability to download, print to your own printer, order

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full/partial plan sets from hundreds of reprographic sources (on-line print order form), and a free on-line digitizer/take-off tool. Contact Builders Exchange of Washington at (425) 258-1303 should you require assistance.
Drawings and specifications may also be examined at the office of Metrix Engineers located at 227 Williams Ave S, Renton WA 98057
Phone: 425 336-2822 and at local data centers listed below:
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www.contractorplancenter.com
Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce
83 Columbia Street, #200 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 622-8272
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NON-MANDATORY SITE INSPECTION
Site Inspection: General Contractors intending to submit sealed bids may attend a site inspection conference held at the school. Meet at the custodial entrance double doors, located at the west parking lot: Wednesday, January 19th, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.
Site: Kent Phoenix Academy 11000 SE 264th St, Kent, WA 98030
Bidders arriving after 2:05 p.m. may not be admitted. Subcontractors and vendor attendance is welcome.
BID SECURITY REQUIREMENT
Bid security, in the amount of 5% of the bid sum shall accompany each bid. Security shall be made payable to the Kent School District either by certified check or bid bond issued by a surety company licensed to conduct business in Washington State. Dated this 6th of December, 2021
Israel Vela
Secretary to the Board
Kent School District
Publication Dates: December 10th, 2021 December 17th, 2021 # 944330

INVITATION TO BID
The Kent School District extends an invitation to qualified General Contractors to bid the construction project hereafter identified as the KPA Glazing Replacement.
PROJECT SCHEDULED BID DATE
Sealed construction bids will be due at or before 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at the following location: KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 415 ADMINISTRATION CENTER - BUILDING "B"
12033 SE 256TH Street Kent, Washington 98030-6643
PROJECT SCOPE
The Kent School District wishes to contract services for the KPA Glazing Replacement located at 11000 SE 264th St, Kent, WA 98030.

PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Plans, specifications, addenda, and bidder's list for this project is available through Kent

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School District's online plan room. Free of charge, access is provided to Prime Bidders, Subcontractors, and Vendors by going to: <http://bxwa.com> and selecting "Posted Projects", "Public Works", scroll to "Education" and "Kent School District." Bidders are encouraged to "Register" in order to receive automatic email notification of future addenda and to be placed on the "Bidder's List". This on-line plan room provides Bidders with fully usable on-line documents with the ability to download, print to your own printer, order full/partial plan sets from hundreds of reprographic sources (on-line print order form), and a free on-line digitizer/take-off tool. Contact Builders Exchange of Washington at (425) 258-1303 should you require assistance. Drawings and specifications may also be examined at the office of SCR Architects located at 1221 E Pike St., Suite 205, Seattle WA 98122. Phone: (206) 458-7517 and at local data centers listed below:
Builders Exchange of Washington
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www.bxwa.com
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MANDATORY SITE INSPECTION
Site Inspection: General Contractors intending to submit sealed bids must attend the mandatory site inspection conference held at the school. Meet at the Main front entrance under the awning: Wednesday, December 15th, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.
Site: Kent Phoenix Academy 11000 SE 264th St, Kent, WA 98030
Bidders arriving after 2:05 p.m. may not be admitted. Subcontractors and vendor attendance is welcome.
BID SECURITY REQUIREMENT
Bid security, in the amount of 5% of the bid sum shall accompany each bid. Security shall be made payable to the Kent School District either by certified check or bid bond issued by a surety company licensed to conduct business in Washington State. Dated this 3rd of December, 2021
Israel Vela
Secretary to the Board
Kent School District
Publication Dates: December 3rd, 2021 December 8th, 2021 December 10th, 2021 December 15th, 2021 #943964

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Kent Library to remain closed for 4-6 weeks after water damage from fire

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

The Kent Library will remain closed for four to six weeks after water damage from its sprinkler system following a fire in the book drop.

"A fire in the book drop at the Kent Library resulted in smoke and water damage in the building," according to a King County Library System statement. "The Kent Library will be closed for repairs until further notice. Our facilities department anticipates the library may reopen in 4-6 weeks. The timeline depends on the extent of damages. We will share a reopening date when known."

Puget Sound Fire responded to a sprinkler water flow alarm just before 6 a.m. Dec. 2, according to Pat Pawlak, Puget Sound Fire spokesman. The library is downtown at 212 Second Ave. N.

"Firefighters arrived and found that that had been a fire in the book drop," Pawlak said. "A single sprinkler head activated and extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation."

All holds by customers that were ready for pickup at Kent have been marked as damaged. Patrons with holds ready for pickup at the Kent Library have been placed at the top of the holds queues.

"We will get you the next available copy as soon as possible," according to the library system's statement. "These holds will automatically be sent to the Kent Panther Lake Library."

The Kent Panther Lake Library is at 20500 108th Ave. SE, and its phone number is 253-854-0211.

Customers, who previously selected Kent as the pickup location for any holds, will be sent to Kent Panther Lake. If you want to pick up your holds at another



COURTESY PHOTO, KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Kent Library will remain closed for four to six weeks after water and smoke damage from a small fire on Dec. 3.

location during the closure, you can update pick-up locations in your account. For assistance, please call the King County Library System at 425-462-9600 or 800-462-9600.

Customers will not be able to select Kent as a pickup location for future holds or prints until the library reopens.

The book drop and self-check-in kiosks at Kent also will be unavailable during

the closure. Please return items to nearby locations. Due dates have not been automatically extended.

"However, we understand that you may need extra time to accommodate this change," according to the library system statement. "Please know that we are not currently collecting late fees."

Wireless internet access remains available outside the Kent Library from 8 a.m. to 9:10 p.m.

Tacoma woman, 26, killed in four-vehicle I-5 crash near Kent

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

A 26-year-old Tacoma woman was killed in a four-vehicle collision early Saturday morning, Dec. 4 along southbound Interstate 5 near the Kent/Federal Way border that allegedly involved a driver under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Samantha Mararac was a passenger in one of the vehicles and died at the scene, according to the Washington State Patrol.

The crash occurred at about 1:44 a.m. on I-5, just south of State Route 516 near South 272nd Street.

The State Patrol arrested a 43-year-old Kent man for investigation of vehicular homicide and DUI, according to a press memo.

A vehicle was disabled and blocking lane one of five lanes, according to the State Patrol. Two vehicles stopped in lane one to attempt to get around the vehicle. A fourth vehicle, driven by the Kent man, reportedly rear ended one of the vehicles pushing it into another vehicle, causing one of the vehicles to come to a stop facing the wrong way. The Kent driver then reportedly continued southbound

and struck that vehicle before it came to a rest in lane two.

The Kent driver, who was alone in his vehicle, was not injured.

Two others in the vehicle with Mararac were injured. The driver, a 24-year-old Renton woman, and another passenger, a 34-year-old Renton man, were each transported to Valley Medical Center in Renton.

The drivers of the other two vehicles were not injured and had no passengers.

Three vehicles were totaled and one had damage.

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Kent’s Shop with a Cop helps 38 children buy Christmas gifts

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

Thirty-eight children were able to buy Christmas gifts for themselves and others during the eighth annual Shop with a Cop presented by the Kent Police Department and Target.

Officers, police explorers, volunteers and Mayor Dana Ralph gathered in the early morning hours on Dec. 4 at Target on the East Hill to take the children shopping and let them pick out gifts. Each year the police department partners with Kent Youth and Family Services to select children for the shopping trip. Officers donate their time.

“We love this event,”



COURTESY PHOTO, KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Kent Police officer helps a child select gifts during the eighth annual Shop with a Cop Dec. 4 at Target.

according to a Kent Police statement. “Having an opportunity to spend a half hour to make a Kent child’s Christmas more joyful.....is a privilege.”

Millennium Elementary School classroom closed due to COVID-19

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

A classroom at Millennium Elementary School, 1919 SE 270th St., in Kent has been closed due to COVID-19.

The Kent School District posted the closure Dec. 2 on its School Status Map as part of its COVID-19 Dashboards.

“As of Dec. 2, one classroom is closed,” according to the district website. “Otherwise, the building is open and offering in-person instruction to students in the remaining classrooms. The school has contacted all impacted families of the closed classroom on Dec.

2. Class will resume in person Dec. 14.”

The district has closed several classrooms at schools since classes began in August. The district has not fully closed any schools. Students in a closed classroom switch to remote learning.

The district considers closure of a classroom after consultation with Public Health — Seattle & King County Public Health when:

- Two or more students or staff in the same room/area test positive for COVID-19
- The cases have symptoms that start within 14 days of each other

- The cases are not associated with one another in another setting (household, club, etc.)
- A COVID-19 outbreak in a school is considered when the following have been met:
- There are two or more COVID-19 cases among students or staff.
- The cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within a 14-day period of each other.
- The cases are epidemiologically linked.
- The cases do not share a household.
- The cases are not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during the investigation.



COURTESY PHOTO, KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millennium Elementary, 1919 SE 270th St., in Kent.

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