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# Kammerzell negotiations with city expected to be 'lengthy process'

**By Steve Hunter** shunter@soundpublishing.com

It's expected to be a "lengthy process" as Kent city officials begin negotiations with the Kent Police union over the future employment of Assistant Chief Derek Kammerzell.

"I can tell you that we are just getting started with negotiations, and expect it to be a lengthy process," City Attorney Pat Fitzpatrick



Derek Kammerzell

said in a Jan. 20 email in response to questions from the Kent Reporter. "In the meantime, he remains on paid administrative leave."

Kent Mayor Dana Ralph on Jan. 4 asked the Kent Police Officers Association for Kammerzell's resignation. Police Chief Rafael Padilla suspended Kammerzell for two weeks in July 2021 after he posted a Nazi insignia on his office door in September 2020, as reported by a co-worker, which led to an investigation

by an outside law firm.

The incident and suspension didn't become public until December 2021 when a citizens watchdog group named No Secret Police received the disciplinary report against Kammerzell from a Public Records Act request and sent the documents to media outlets.

After public outcry that Kammerzell, a 27-year veteran of the force, still worked for the police

department, Ralph asked for his resignation and Padilla said he would never work for the department again. City and police officials did not release any information when Padilla suspended Kammerzell in July 2021, despite his high ranking as one of three assistant chiefs. Fitzpatrick declined to

answer numerous other questions from the Kent Reporter, including what range of time "lengthy"

means and the potential settlements that could be discussed.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

"I appreciate your desire for more information," Fitzpatrick said. "As noted, we are just getting started with the process. I may be able to answer your questions more thoroughly at a later time."

Wayne Graff, president of the Kent Police Officers Association, has not

See POLICE, Page 2

## Kent's Glover wins 2022 King County's Larry Gossett Service Award

**By Steve Hunter** shunter@soundpublishing.com

Kendrick Glover, executive director of Glover Empower Mentoring (GEM) in Kent, received the 2022 Larry Gossett Service Award from King County for his work with youth.

The award recognizes an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the areas of racial equity, social justice and/or human

rights. "I nominated Kendrick for this award because of his leadership and tireless effort to provide a better future for our youth," said King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove, whose District 5 includes Kent. "Kendrick has transformed the lives of BIPOC youth here in South King County through compassionate community mentoring and restorative justice programs. He has created positive pathways to education, employment and healthy relationships - truly exemplifying the meaning of this award."

The King County Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Planning Committee and the King County African American Affinity Group selected the winner from the nominations. Gossett is a former King



Kendrick Glover is the 2022 winner of the King County Larry Gossett Service Award.

without the community there is no work to be

done." Glover started Glover

of the community because high school youth and young adults in South King County and engages youth and mentors in a three-pronged approach to an inspiration, influence and inspiring youth and young adults not just in King County but throughout the nation," Glover said Mississippi and received a 10-year prison sentence for robbery at age 16, according to a previous Kent how to be a servant leader Reporter story. He later turned his life around and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Seattle University. While attending Seattle

COURTESY PHOTO, KING COUNTY

University, Glover interned with Councilmember Gossett. He said he learned from Gossett.

County Council member.

This award is not just an individual award," Glover said. "It's accepted as an individual but it's on behalf

Empower Mentoring in 2014 at the Kent Parks Community Center. The nonprofit, now at 827 N. Central Ave., works with

Damarius Butts.

The inquest hearing is

expected to last two weeks

and run from 9 a.m. to noon

and 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

It is expected to be a virtual

hearing due to COVID-19.

The number of jurors on the

inquest panel has yet to be

with.

decided.

prevent and reduce delinquency, school truancy, criminal activity and other high-risk behaviors.

"I want to continue being

in accepting the award.

Glover said the nonprofit serves more than 2,000 youth per year.

Glover grew up in

"This is a full circle moment to come here," Glover said. "He (Gossett) always made me feel welcome and accepted."

## Inquest hearing for Kent man fatally shot by Seattle Police set for March

By Steve Hunter shunter@soundpublishing.com

It appears a King County inquest hearing into the fatal shooting of Damarius Butts, 19, of Kent, will be held in March.

Seattle Police shot Butts just under five years ago when they responded to a reported convenience store robbery. Inquest Administrator Michael Spearman confirmed March 14-25 for the inquest hearing at a Jan. 14 pre-hearing conference, according to King County documents and recordings.

The hearing has been postponed a couple of times since the inquest process resumed in October 2021. The hearing was scheduled to run Jan. 24 to Feb. 4 but three attorneys involved in the case were unavailable on those dates due to a trial they are involved



COURTESY PHOTO, BUTTS FAMILY

Butts was killed April 20, 2017, by police in downtown Seattle after a reported armed robbery by Butts and his 17-year-old sister at a convenience store at 627 First Ave.

A store clerk told police he saw a man grab a 12-pack of beer, donuts and chips and leave without paying, according to court documents. The man had walked into the store with a female. When the pair left the store without paying, the clerk pursued them. The clerk knocked the beer out of the man's hands, but the two continued to flee. The clerk grabbed the female, but Damarius Butts then displayed a silver pistol inside the area of his waist. The clerk let the girl go, returned to the store and called 911.

Officers responded, chased Butts and cornered him at the Federal Office Building, where gunshots were exchanged, according to police reports. Shots by Butts hit three officers, one critically, as Hudson Kang suffered a gunshot wound to the chin, according to the Seattle Times. Another officer was shot in the hand. A bullet lodged in the protective vest

of Officer Elizabeth Kennedy, who suffered bruising.

Officers recovered a gun near the body of Butts, who died at the scene of multiple gunshot wounds. He was the father of a 1-year-old daughter at the time of his death.

The Seattle officers who fired shots and are involved in the inquest hearing include Kennedy, Christopher Myers, Joshua Vaaga and Canek Gordillo. They are represented by attorneys Evan Bariault and Ted Buck. each from the Seattle firm of Frey Buck P.S. The Seattle Police Department is represented by attorneys Ghazal Sharifi, Kerala Cowart and Tom Miller.

The mother of Damarius Butts is represented by attorneys Adrien Leavitt and La Rond Baker, each part of the King County Department of Public Defense.

A coroner's inquest is required by King County law anytime a police officer kills somebody in the line of duty. The purpose of the inquest is to shed light on the facts surrounding a killing at the hands of law enforcement, according to the county website. A group of panelists will render verdicts setting out who was killed, as well as when, where, how, by whom, whether the killing was by criminal means, and to make relevant factual determinations including, but not limited to, whether the law enforcement officers complied with training and policy.

The inquest process, which had its last case in December 2017 (a Kent Police shooting of Giovonn Joseph-McDade), began again under the new

See BUTTS, Page 4



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## Kent School District interim superintendent wants Kammerzell to resign

By STEVE HUNTER shunter@soundpublishing.com

Count Kent School District Interim Superintendent Israel Vela as another community leader calling for the resignation of Kent Police Assistant Chief Derek Kammerzell.

Vela called for Kammerzell's resignation during his Jan. 12 report to the Kent



Israel Vela

School Board. He also said the incident of Kammerzell posting a Nazi insignia on his office door could factor into the district's staff and board decision when its contract with Kent Police to provide school resource officers comes up for next school year.

"While this officer does not work with our students or district we do have a relationship with the city of Kent and the Kent Police Department as a whole," Vela said. "While the actions of one person do not represent an entire organization, as a public school district we must be thoughtful of the partnerships we enter into. We always seek partners that align with our mission, vision and core values."

Kent Mayor Dana Ralph called for Kammerzell's resignation on Jan. 4. Kammerzell and the Kent Police Officers Assocation has not yet responded to the mayor's request. Police Chief Rafael Padilla suspended Kammerzell for two weeks in July 2021. The incident happened in September 2020. The suspension did not become public until December 2021 when a citizens watchdog group No Secret Police released Public Records Request documents to the media.

In August 2021, the school board on a controversial 3-2 vote approved a contract with Kent Police to provide two officers to split time among Kent-Meridian and Kentridge high schools as well as Mill Creek and Meridian middle schools for the 2021-2022 school

See VELA, Page 3

## Former Kent City Councilmember Higgins calls for Kammerzell's resignation

By STEVE HUNTER shunter@soundpublishing.com

Former Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins called for Kent Police Assistant Chief Derek Kammerzell to resign immediately.

Higgins, who served 10 years on the council from 2010-2019, read a passionate statement about the Kammerzell matter during the public comment period at the Jan. 18 Kent City Council meeting. The assistant chief has yet to respond to a Jan. 4 request by Mayor Dana Ralph to the Kent Police union for him to resign from the force after a public outcry over his posting of a Nazi insignia on his office door and other misconduct.

"Derek Kammerzell, on many ride-alongs, I saw you do a lot of good work for our citizens," Higgins said about the 27-year veteran of the department. "I don't think you're actually a Nazi, but surely you can see — you made some stupid mistakes, and the



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damage is done. "Please do one last good thing for our city and for the department where you spent your career. To you, to the KPOA (Kent Police Officers Association), I ask you, please, do the right thing and resign — without protest — today. Help the healing and the rebuilding of trust begin — today right now — in our police department."

Kammerzell and Wayne Graff, president of the Kent Police Officers Association, have not issued any statements since Ralph's request more than two weeks ago. Graff and Kammerzell have not responded to numerous emails from the Kent Reporter over the last couple of weeks.

"I do believe in

redemption and I hope you will pursue healing, education and peace," said Higgins, who was council president in 2012 and 2013. "But our police department isn't the place for you to do that. Derek, reclaim some of your honor and let KPD get to work on re-earning the public trust."

Voters elected Higgins to the council in 2009 when he defeated Ralph. He was reelected in 2013 when he ran unopposed. He decided for family reasons in 2017 not to run for a third four-year term. But when voters elected then-Councilmember Ralph as mayor in 2017, the council appointed Higgins to fill out the rest of her term through 2019.

Police Chief Rafael Padilla suspended Kammerzell in July 2021 for two weeks after an outside investigation into the Nazi issue. A co-worked reported the incident. City and police officials didn't release any information about the suspension. The matter came to light in December 2021 when a citizens watchdog group No Secret Police released documents to the media that it had acquired through the Public Records Act. The documents included Padilla's discipline report. "This burts so had"

"This hurts so bad," Higgins said when he began his comments via Zoom to the council and mayor. "We've worked so hard to build up our police department, and KPD has so many good people in it." But Higgins said the

department needs to do better. "To our police - this is

why your conduct behind closed doors is so important," he said. "How you act in private will come out in public one way or another. We expect you to be our guardians, not soldiers. You are not at war with our community. You are part of our community - a very important part."

Higgins thanked the people who reported and

released the information about the incident.

"God bless and protect the reformers and the whistle blowers in KPD," Higgins said. "Thank you for standing up to the old destructive ways of American police culture. We, the citizens of Kent, who hired you, we demand our police department lead the way, toward better policing. We must train guardians, not warriors. That is the only way to rebuild our trust."

Higgins said that trust is hard to earn, and even harder to earn back.

"To be clear, I believe Derek Kammerzell should have been terminated on day one; if he chose to appeal, he should suffer in the court of public opinion," he said. "As a council member I learned for myself, that sometimes inside city hall, the right thing to do is obvious and then something comes up from legal or elsewhere." The former council

member supports changes in state law. ■ "Let's set police accountability and discipline standards in state law. Accountability should not be set by what can be 'won' through city-by-city collective bargaining. Consistency and high standards should be uniform in every police department."

■ "Let's repeal the state law that gives police officers special appeal rights, allowing for delay, secrecy and a lack of accountability. Private appeals to a secret arbitrator destroy public confidence. Police officers should have the same appeal rights as all other public employees."

Higgins said these reforms were recommended in a 2020 article by Tim Burgess, a former Seattle City Council member and former police officer. Higgins said current Senate Bill 5677, sponsored by Sen. by Jesse Salomon, D-Shoreline, includes these reforms.

"Let's urge our legislators to pass the bill," he said.

Police

From Page 1

replied to numerous emails for comment since Ralph asked for Kammerzell's resignation.

Fitzpatrick declined to say which individuals will be involved in the negotiations. When Padilla held a pre-disciplinary meeting with Kammerzell on July 12, 2021, the attendees from the union included Graff; Ken



Clay, an executive board director with the Kent Police Officers Association; and two union attorneys from the Tacoma-based law firm McGavick Graves. Present for the city were Fitzpatrick and outside counsel from the Seattle-based Summit Law Group.

After an investigation by an outside law firm into Kammerzell's actions, Padilla suspended him for violating city policy prohibiting harassment and discrimination and for unbecoming conduct in violation of police policy. He was suspended without pay, but given the option to use two weeks of vacation pay.

Fitzpatrick declined to

impact whether the district renews a contract later this year with the Kent Police to provide school resource officers for next school year.

Kammerzell has not made any public statements since his Dec. 30 email to the Kent Reporter that included the following statement:

"I am deeply embarrassed by this incident," Kammerzell said. "I wish I could take it back. I know now what that rank represents, and that is not what I value or who I am. The expectations for an assistant chief are, rightfully, incredibly high. I do my best every day to meet and exceed those expectations."



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answer what impact that Kammerzell had already been disciplined for his actions would have on negotiations with the union now that the city wants his resignation.

Meanwhile, former Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins and Kent School District Interim Superintendent Israel Vela have asked for Kammerzell's resignation. Higgins said Kammerzell should resign immediately without protest to help the police department restore its trust again. Vela said Kammerzell's actions could Kammerzell made that statement after the news about the violation and suspension first broke. Ralph had not yet asked for Kammerzell's resignation, but instead backed up the two-week suspension by Padilla.

Kammerzell was asked Dec. 30 if he thought the two-week suspension was fair.

"I do," he said. "I did not challenge this discipline and accepted it immediately. I will work the rest of my career at KPD to overcome this singular mistake."

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# Republic Services customers in Kent could see account credits

#### By STEVE HUNTER shunter@soundpublishing.com

The settlement of a garbage strike against Republic Services in San Diego led to the return of regular service in Kent.

But city of Kent officials continue to negotiate with the company for credit to customers' accounts.

Kent Mayor Dana Ralph reported the update at the

Jan. 18 City Council meeting. Arizona-based Republic Services contracts with the city to provide garbage, recycling and yard waste services.

Ralph said city staff continues to negotiate with the company for compensation to Kent customers. Some residents didn't receive service for three or more weeks after snow, flooding and the work stoppage halted pickups.

"Instead of compensating

the city, we are asking them to credit customers' accounts for trash not picked up," Ralph said.

Ralph said they are asking Republic Services for another drop-off trash event, similar to two previous events at the accesso ShoWare Center parking lot.

"We also are working with them on customer service,' Ralph said. "Robocalls went out too late. We want to see improved responses."

confident in Republic Services. "I believe they will do the right thing," she said.

Local garbage, recycling and yard waste union drivers honored picket lines Jan. 12-14 in Kent to support the strike in California. Republic Services and the local teamsters union in California reached a settlement Jan. 17

after a month-long strike. The mayor remained

Republic Services in Kent posted the following message on its website about services:

"Effective Wednesday, Jan. 19, yard waste collection is suspended this week, through Jan. 21 so that Republic Services can use yard waste route drivers to collect material from our community members who have not had their garbage

and recycle collected due to the snowstorm and the temporary work stoppage.

"All garbage and recycling will be collected from all customers this week. Please set out your garbage and recycle carts out at the curb on your normal collection day and leave them there until collected. We will resume normal collection next week as per your collection schedule."

## Kent mayor plans four community conversations in February

**By Steve Hunter** shunter@soundpublishing.com

Kent Mayor Dana Ralph has scheduled four Coffee & Conversations in February to let residents ask her questions and so she can listen to their comments.

"As your mayor, it's important to me to hear from you, your neighbors and other Kent residents about what they'd like to see their local government working on," Ralph said in a statement. "I



will be available to answer your questions, listen to your thoughts and priorities and share information about what we're working on at Kent City Hall." Voters elected Ralph in

November 2021 to a second four-year term.

The schedule: Tuesday, Feb. 1

8-9 a.m. at Kent City Hall, Council Chambers, 220 Fourth Ave. S.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

6-7 p.m. at Half Lion Public House, 2019 W. Meeker St. Monday, Feb. 28

1:15-2:15 p.m. at the Kent Senior Activity Center, 600 E. Smith St.

Monday, Feb. 28

7 p.m. on Facebook Live

# Vela

#### From Page 2

year. The Kent City Council unanimously approved the school resource officer program on Aug. 17, 2021. The police and district have operated the program for many years.

"As a staff and board we did not know about this when entering into the school resource officer contract with Kent Police," said Vela, who added district officials found out in December 2021 from media reports about the Kammerzell incident. "How we move forward will depend on our

partner's response and input from students, families and the community."

Vela said officers play a leadership role in the schools.

"With racial equity as a central component of safety and security planning, it's imperative all staff, including our school resource officers who are members of local law enforcement agencies, not contribute to an unsafe environment for KSD students," Vela said. "We believe every student, family and staff member deserves a respectful, welcoming and inclusive learning environment where their diversity is recognized, valued

and contributes to their success."

Board members Joe Bento and Michele Bettinger voted against the contract with Kent Police in August 2021. Leslie Hamada and then board members Denise Daniels and Maya Vengadasalam voted in favor of the contract.

Bento said he preferred funds be spent on mental health counselors rather than officers and he wanted students to have a chance to share their thoughts about officers in schools.

Bettinger opposed the contract because she said there had not been an opportunity for public input about the issue.

# Legislation calls for affordable homes in WA

By Steve Hunter shunter@soundpublishing.com

State Rep. Jessica Bateman, D-Olympia, and Sen. Mona Das, D-Kent, introduced legislation to make it easier for Washington families to find safe and affordable homes, especially in areas near transit sites.

The Homes for WA Act will re-legalize familiar housing options in these locations, like duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes, according to a Jan. 6 Washington State Senate Democrats news release. The 2022 legislative session began Jan. 10 and goes for 60 days.

"Housing costs continue to skyrocket faster than wages can keep up," Bateman said. "Families frequently spend half or more of their income simply to keep a roof over their heads. These costs are unsustainable and mean a growing number of Washingtonians are at risk of falling into homelessness. This is especially true for members of the Black and indigenous communities, people of color, the LGBTQ community, seniors, people with disabilities, and lowwage workers."

The legislation (House Bill 1782 and Senate Bill 5670) is

Fun.

intended to expand middleincome housing near transit sites to provide options for residents seeking safer, shorter and more affordable commutes, according to the news release. As of Jan. 25, both bills remain in committees.

"I, like so many of our neighbors, am a renter who's ready to buy a home but can't afford what's available," Das said. "Here in our state - where so many of our community members want to live, work, go to school, and raise a family - there's simply not enough affordable housing stock. This problem is hampering our ability to grow stronger as a state, bolster our economy, and help more working families unlock their dream of home ownership.

"I'm so honored to introduce this bill alongside my colleague Rep. Bateman and Gov. Jay Inslee because it's well past time that we address this problem with the bold action Washingtonians have been advocating for."

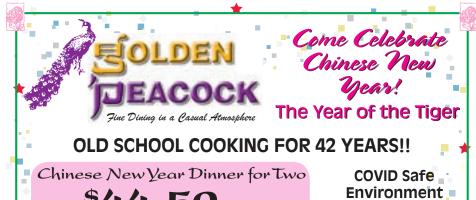
Middle-income families are frequently required to absorb increased commute costs as they are forced further away from their workplaces and

transit hubs, according to the news release. Shortening commutes and increasing transit access will also reduce air pollution and help Washington meets its goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"We must restore the full range of housing available in cities throughout our state," said Inslee, who requested the legislation. "Everyone needs a community, and so we must build communities that are for everyone. I'm not just talking about the homeless, or those living with the threat of homelessness. I'm also talking about future generations of renters, prospective home-owners, and any Washingtonians who will benefit from greater housing security.

"Increasing 'middle housing' opportunities will make it easier for most working folks, like teachers and health care workers, to live within the communities they serve. It will also help seniors to age in place and help us address spatial segregation and community equity."

The bill is headed to the Local Government Committee in the House and Local Government & Housing Committee in the Senate.





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# Kent had individual classrooms closed at 10 schools last week

**By Steve Hunter** shunter@soundpublishing.com

Individual classrooms at 10 elementary schools in the Kent School District were closed by the end of last week due to COVID-19.

Classrooms at several of the schools reopened Jan. 24 while others won't reopen until Jan. 31, depending on when the closure occurred, according to the district's COVID-19 dashboard.

It is by far the most closed classrooms during one week in the district during the 2021-2022 school year.

In addition to the individual classrooms at the 10 schools, the district entirely closed Pine Tree Elementary last week due to multiple

COVID-19 cases. It was the first, and so far only school, to be completely closed due to the pandemic this school year.

A few schools had as many as two or three classrooms closed as the omicron variant spreads through King County, the state and the nation.

The elementary schools with closed classrooms included Cedar Valley, Daniel, Fairwood, Horizon, Meridian, Panther Lake, Ridgewood, Springbrook, Sawyer Woods and Soos Creek.

There are 42 schools in the district, including 29 elementary schools.

Students switched to remote learning during the closures. Each school

contacted all impacted families of the closed classrooms, according to the district.

District officials provide no specific details about the grade of the classroom closed or the number of positive cases to protect student privacy.

The district announced earlier in January its plan to keep in-person learning going at schools as long as it has staff and not too many COVID-19 cases.

The district considers the following policy for closure of a classroom after consultation with Public Health - Seattle & King County:

Three 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.)

If a full class needs to quarantine or a school is directed to temporarily close in response to COVID-19 transmission, then:

■ Staff and families will be notified by phone, letter, and/or email of the classroom closure

Students will shift to the 100% remote model used during the 2020-21 school vear

Schedules will mirror current 2021-22 in-person schedules

Teachers will have two days to transition to synchronous



COURTESY PHOTO, KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Kent School District closed one classroom Jan. 21 at Springbrook Elementary School due to COVID-19. The classroom is scheduled to return to in-person learning on Jan. 31.

remote learning, and learning will begin online fully by the third day for impacted classrooms ■ Classroom closures will

typically last 5-10 days

# Head start programs to remain at Kent Valley Early Learning Center

By Steve Hunter shunter@soundpublishing.com

The head start and early head start space used by Kent Youth and Family Services will remain at the Kent Vallev Early Learning Center even with a new Bezos Academy preschool planning to move into the building.

The Kent School Board voted 3-2 on Jan. 12 to lease space at the Kent Valley Learning Center, 317 Fourth Ave. S., to the nonprofit Bezos Academy to open a preschool for children ages 3 to 5 from low-income families. The free preschool is expected to open in the fall, although no firm dates have been released by Bezos Academy.

Kent Youth and Family Services uses seven



Kent Youth and Family Services

classrooms, a main office, attendance office, kitchen, cafeteria, playground and gym, said Melissa Laramie, spokesperson for the Kent School District, in a Jan. 21 email. The nonprofit group uses the space for free through a memorandum of understanding that is renewed annually with the district, which owns the building.

"Kent Youth and Family Services will not have to move spaces or move out to make room for Bezos Academy," Laramie said. "The building would be basically split in half between Kent Youth and Family Services and Bezos. Kent Youth and Family Services currently only uses half the building and the half that Bezos would use is currently vacant."

The academy plans to use five classrooms to serve about 100 students ages 3 to 5. The lease is \$1 a month for 10 years as the nonprofit academy seeks community partners willing to provide basically free rent. The center is across from Kent City Hall.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and founder of the Kent-based Blue Origin aerospace company, is paying for the Montessoriinspired preschools and opened his first location in 2020 in Des Moines. Other locations include Federal Way, Pacific Beach on the Washington coast and two in Tacoma.

The district will keep two larger classroom spaces vacant for a possible move of the Kent Area Council Parent Teacher Student Association clothing bank from the former Kent Phoenix Academy, which the district might use for an additional middle school, Laramie said. The federal head start

program and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program provide free preschool education and support services to children, 3 to 5 years old, and resource referrals

and training opportunities for families who meet the income eligibility criteria and who live within the Kent School District boundaries. Both of those programs, however, have waiting lists.

Emmanuel Imah, regional partnership development leader for the Bezos Academy, said during a Jan. 12 workshop presentation to the school board that head start has a waiting list in Kent even for those who qualify and there are some families who need assistance with preschool but do not qualify under head start income guidelines.

School Board President Leslie Hamada, who voted to lease space to the Bezos Academy, said in a Kent Reporter Facebook post that head start is filled up.

"The State of Washington has not increased their budget in ECAP & ACAP to add more openings at that location available," Hamada said about the Kent Valley Early Learning Center. "Thus there are long waiting lists for kids to get that want and need free preschool."

Hamada said the Bezos Academy will offer more opportunities for children from low-income families.

"This is just another partner (nonprofit) that is offering an opportunity for Montessori-style programming," Hamada said.

The district held kindergarten classes at the Kent Valley Early Learning Center but no longer needed that space when the new River **Ridge Elementary School** opened last fall.

# **Butts**

From Page 1

guidelines with a pre-conference hearing Oct. 19, 2021 about the Butts case. Families of shooting victims had complained publicly that the process was weighted too heavily in favor of police and panelists always ruled in favor of the officers, who didn't even have to testify.

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The Washington State Supreme Court ruled in July 2021 in favor of the families of Butts, Charleena Lyles and Isaiah Obet that officers involved in their killings can be compelled to testify at inquests.

In addition to officers being required to testify, other changes include the appointment of an attorney to represent the family of those who were killed; a review of police department use-of-force policies; and questions about whether the death involved criminality.

In previous inquests, jurors only were asked whether offithe table after the process was tied up in the courts for a couple of years because of a lawsuit filed by the cities of Kent, Auburn, Federal Way and Renton that tried to stop an order by King County Executive Dow Constantine in 2018 to change the inquest process. City officials opposed several of the changes in an effort to help protect officers during the inquest, including that police policies and training should not be part of inquests.

At the pre-hearing conference Jan. 14 in the Butts case, attorneys for both sides discussed with Spearman the type of questions that should be asked to the inquest panel when it comes to officer training and policies. They also discussed whether each of the

four officers should answer each question before moving on to the next question or if each officer goes through all the questions and then the next officer who testifies does the same thing.

"If we focus on one officer at a time, such as about use of force, we look at that officer and then the next question is the same to the next officer," said Bariault, one of the attorneys for the officers. "With the scenario currently, we go through all facts and circumstances and back to each policy with each officer, and we have repetitive questions."

Bariault suggested it would

be easier for the inquest panel

to digest if they look at facts

and circumstances from each

officer's reply to the same

question.

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cers believed the killings were necessary or whether officers believed they were in danger.

The state Supreme Court ruling put inquests back on

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Baker, one of the attorneys for the Butts family, agreed it would be better not to go through the same questions over and over with each officer, but to let each of them respond.

"With so many officers involved, there are a lot of facts to find," said Baker, who added to streamline questions and answers would be more acceptable to the panel.

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# Opinion

5 | KENT REPORTER | FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

# Behind the scenes in the race for King County prosecutor

Politically speaking, it was an exciting week recently when King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg announced that his current term would be his last.

It's a job he has held for 14 years after he was appointed when Norm Maleng suddenly passed away.

As the incumbent chief deputy, Satterberg was already knowledgeable about the policy direction in the office and well known professionally. Since then, he has run unopposed in 2010 and 2014. In 2018, his opponent dropped out of the race. Satterberg has a solid reputation as a thoughtful professional and has come up with improvements to try and keep juveniles from revolving through the legal process and ending up in jail with a life wasted. Since 1949, only four people have held the position of King County prosecutor - all men.

While Satterberg has not made a public endorsement to fill his job, he has emphasized wanting to give all candidates a chance to think about it until the May filing date.



**BOB ROEGNER** INSIDE POLITICS

Two candidates, both of whom he knows, have filed paperwork with the state's Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) to run for the position.

Had Satterberg chosen to run again, there seems little doubt he would have won. He remains well respected, even to those who don't always agree with him.

The two candidates vying to replace him so far are his longtime chief deputy Leesa Manion and current Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell, who is a former staff member in the prosecutor's office.

Lisa Daugaard, executive director of the Public Defender Association, said in a recent Seattle Times story that Satterberg was ahead of his time in trying to bring more progressive outcomes to the King County Prosecutor's Office. About 30 years ago, it was enough to promise to arrest all the bad guys and put them in jail. Nowadays, the public has learned that hiring more police and building more prisons is an expensive answer.

Nowadays, the progressive prosecutor has to find ways to try and rehabilitate those who might still be an asset to society if held accountable and mentored. Satterberg proposed a juvenile diversion program that became a nonprofit called Choose 180 that wanted to keep young people out of the legal system. He was frequently challenged, but Satterberg kept at it. He also had a sister with a drug problem that caused him to think more about treatment rather than prosecution for small-time drug offenders.

I had the pleasure of working with Satterberg during my tenure with King County. The respect he has earned is justified. He truly cares about trying to do the right thing. While more candidates may decide to get in the race as they think it through, the two people who have made it clear they plan to run will provide an interesting

contrast. Manion has been Satterberg's chief of staff for 14 years and has a good reputation among other county workers. She would likely reflect her training and Satterberg's mentoring. She would be the first female and person of color to be King County prosecutor.

Ferrell was just elected to his third term as mayor of Federal Way and has been away from the prosecutor's office for several years. He made no secret of his interest in the prosecutor's job over the past few months as rumors circulated that Satterberg might not run again. But there may be a policy difference between the two candidates. Satterberg has proposed another new plan to keep youth out of the legal system.

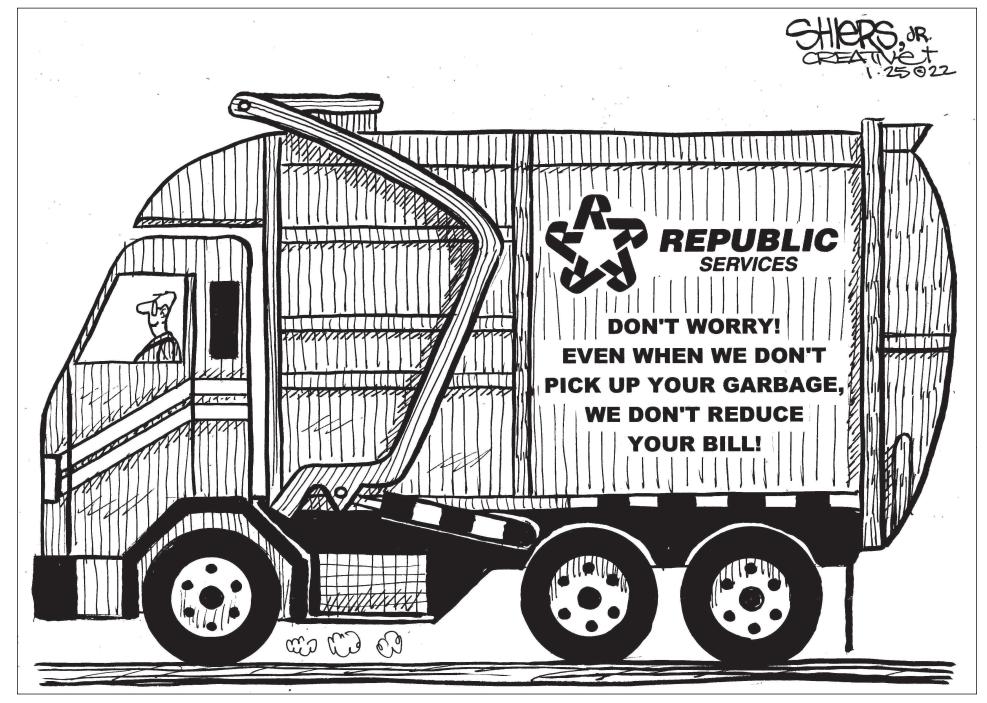
The Restorative Community Pathways program is an evidencebased strategy for holding young people who commit a first-time offense accountable, reducing youth incarceration and racial disproportionality and stopping them from becoming repeat offenders. It also includes staffing to help the victims along with a director to supervise and ensure the victims are made whole.

The program was briefed to school resource officers and was implemented in November. The mayors of Federal Way, Auburn, Renton and Kent have asked that the program be paused until they find common ground. Those four cities make up 27% of the felony filings charged by the prosecutor. The mayors like the overall intent, but they want to see more offenses added to the list. They have seen an increase in the violence in their communities. The program outlines eligible offenses so that youth who cause harm will be held accountable. Ferrell added a "pause resolution" to the agenda at a recent Federal Way City Council meeting and most of the speakers were on one side or the other

of this issue. Most actually favored the program and told how they felt it would have kept them out of trouble. The resolution was held over for a February meeting to ensure council members have a chance to study the issue. More will be heard about this issue as we get into the political season.

In parallel challenges, Kent City Councilmember Bill Boyce was elected council president, then announced his plans to run as a Republican against Democrat Mona Das for her seat in the state Senate. At the same time, Federal Way City Council President Linda Kochmar, a Republican, is getting closer to running against Democrat Claire Wilson for the Senate . This could be a busy year for incumbent legislators trying to keep their job — races are expected in Districts 30, 33 and 47, among others. But the race for King County prosecutor will be the highlight.

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



# How semiconductor chips define the evolving world order

Are these chips the new oil that the world can go to war over?

A s a child, growing up in the India of the 1990s, "chip" commonly meant crispy,



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#### JAYENDRINA SINGHA RAY

paper-thin slices of potatoes fried and salted to perfection. The Intel microprocessors, hiding unassumingly in unwieldy personal computers back then, came nowhere close to potatoes in the latter's popularity as "chips."

Fast forward to current times, semiconductor chips are the new oil that the world can go to war over.

With the worldwide shortage of chips, aggravated by the pandemic, global tensions are palpable both internally — with countries adopting plans to become selfsufficient in terms of chip production — and internationally with evolving relations between world superpowers.

Beyond economics and international relations, the chip is simultaneously defining the currentday human physically, mentally and spatially with the evolution toward a post-digital age of haptic gloves, neural implants and the metaverse.

So, the question is, how do chips define the intrapandemic world?

#### Economic repercussions

Most of what constitutes our current-day material world, namely data centers, computers, aircrafts, electronic vehicles, smartphones, automobiles and missiles, etc., relies on semiconductor chips.

These tiny circuit boards are so crucial to our economies and daily lives that a shortage of chips can impact the simple act of purchasing a car or a computer globally. With the surge in demand for electronic devices owing to social distancing, the race toward chip manufacturing and design can determine both economic development as well as the political leverage one country holds over others in the world.

Take for instance the effect of global chip shortage on automobile giants like Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volkswagen that limited vehicle production, shut down factories and laid off employees during 2020-2021, owing to unavailability of chips. Furthermore, different sections of the consumer electronics industry, including the smartphone manufacturing companies, have also been affected by the chip supply disruption.

Concurrently, global chip shortage has also come to define the international relations between world powers. In its next five-year plan, China has committed to make chip production its chief priority. Following U.S. sanctions on Chinese chip giants like SMIC and Huawei, owing to national security concerns, SMIC and Huawei have partnered to build a new semiconductor manufacturing plant in China.

Meanwhile, many have attributed the evolving tensions between the U.S. and China to the reliance of both superpowers on

# State senator proposes 1% cut in Washington state sales tax

#### By STEVE HUNTER shunter@soundpublishing.com

State Sen. Mona Das, D-Kent, proposed a bill that would cut the state sales tax by 1% across the board starting in 2023.

Senate Bill 5932 would reduce the state salesand-use tax from 6.5% to 5.5%, according to a Jan. 21 Washington State Senate Democrats news release. Das also sponsored Senate Bill 5915 that would exempt diapers from the sales tax.

"We need to get money back in people's pockets if we're to make a full recovery from the high public health cost and economic cost of this pandemic," Das said. "Both of these bills accomplish that with a bold sales tax cut. Together, they are strong tools to fix Washington's unbalanced,



Sen. Mona Das, District 47

regressive tax code that asks more of working families than it does of the wealthiest among us.

"Thanks to our federal, state and local leaders' careful stewardship during this pandemic – and the public resilience throughout our communities – we are in a strong place financially. We should seize this opportunity to live up to our values of a full, equitable recovery and reduce the sales-and-use tax that burdens lower- and middle-income families." Senate Bill 5932's 1% sales-and-use tax reduction would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023. It would apply to the sales-and-use tax currently levied on items and services categorized under the state constitution's definition of retail sale. It would not affect local governments' salesand-use taxes.

"We need to take a serious look at tax relief for all working Washingtonians," added Das. "And this is the year to do it."

As of Jan. 25, the bill had been introduced and was headed to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

SB 5915 would exempt diapers from the salesand-use tax, including both disposable and washable diapers, as well as diapers intended for adults and diapers intended for babies. It would take effect on July 1, 2022.

## Republicans support reduction

Sen. Lynda Wilson, R-Vancouver, and the Republican leader on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Drew Stokesbary, R-Auburn, and the Republican leader on the House Appropriations Committee, said they're encouraged by the introduction of Senate Bill 5932, saying it supports their message that legislators should turn part of the state's projected \$10-plus billion budget surplus into significant, direct tax relief this year, according to a Jan. 21 Washington Senate Republican news release.

Wilson and Stokesbary issued a joint statement: "It's great to see now is the time for major tax relief, in one form or another. We welcome this proposal and look forward to having serious discussions about how to best let families and employers keep more of their own money. That would be a refreshing contrast to the past few sessions, when the majority was choosing instead how to take billions more from families and employers, even though there was no budget deficit to address.

bipartisan recognition that

"A drop in the state sales tax would save billions of dollars, and so would the Republican proposals that are targeted toward lowering property taxes, promoting manufacturing growth and suspending the state gas tax. There are advantages to each, but for today, the news is how legislators on both sides of the aisle now agree that billions of dollars' worth of tax relief can happen without affecting existing services and programs.

"We're not surprised by this proposal, knowing families in districts represented by our Democratic colleagues are struggling with inflation and a variety of tax burdens just as much as the people we serve. But we do hope this first move by the Senate majority toward major tax relief isn't also its last – and we'll be looking for proposals from the House majority as well.

"Living in Washington has become unaffordable for many. It's time for the people to get a break."

The 2022 legislative session began on Jan. 10 and will last for 60 days.

# Ray

From Page 5

Taiwan, which is home to the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC) - a company credited with producing not only the most advanced chips globally, but also being the leading chip manufacturer in the world. At a larger level, the burgeoning demand for chips can therefore lead to substantial change in international relations between countries. It can also lead a country to move ahead in the race to be the global superpower.

On the other hand, at a national level, dependence on chips can affect the internal policies and economic health of a country. It is owing to the growing dependence on chips, advances in technology, and unpredictable international relations, that many multinational technology companies are trying to become more independent in terms of chip design.

## Custom chips and the metaverse

There is a surge in demand for designing custom-made chips by companies like Tesla, Meta, Apple and others. Apple's M1 processor, Tesla's Dojo chip and Baidu's Kunlun 2 are all some results of this need for customization and control over chip functions and integration.

Additionally, with the pandemic-affected society trudging toward the hope of a metaverse, and the advances in AI, chips will come to reshape core human values and social tendencies.

Take for instance our love for art or a common human inclination to own property. These, as many other core demands and values, have already found a replication/reconstruction in the metaverse through reproducible digital art (NFT) or real estate investments in virtual spaces like Decentraland or Snoopverse.

With Microsoft's possible presence in the metaverse, NVID-IA's Omniverse, Intel's commitment "to plumbing the internet of tomorrow," basic human interactions, powered by some of these companies in the metaverse, will find their fuel in chips. But there is more to it because beyond the realm of socio-economic interactions, chips will also dispense the power to tap into the human mind.

#### The human cyborg

In the July 1945 issue of The Atlantic, the editor summarizes the thoughts of the then-Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Dr. Vannevar Bush, in the following words: "For years inventions have extended man's physical powers rather than the powers of his mind. Trip hammers that multiply the fists, microscopes that sharpen the eye ... are new results, but not the end results."

While the human mind has been open to manipulation throughout history, and continues to be manipulated via social media, Bush's argument about the lack of inventions to increase the powers of the mind still holds true. However, one may contend that Elon Musk's brainimplant startup Neuralink promises a pathway into allowing the mind to take tangible control of physical actions through implanted microchips, and thereby ushers in a

way to contribute to the powers of the mind in an oblique way.

Implanted chips in brains could therefore allow the mind to initiate interactive actions by the simple act of thinking about it. While this is still far away from Bush's contention of the absence of inventions that can "duplicate ... [the creative agility of] mental process[es] artificially," it could be considered a humble beginning.

Unlike the mind, the human body has received most scientific attention, owing to which chips have already found their way into the hands of thousands of people in Sweden who have opted for scannable subdermal chip implants in their bodies to ease the hassles of carrying around personal identification documents. Chips have thereby proven to sustain and hasten the proliferation of

human cyborgs, as man and machine increasingly integrate.

We have come a long way from the naivete of potato chips to our daily reliance on semiconductor chips. As I look back at the unassuming microprocessors, hiding in the folds of the cumbrous PCs of the 1990s, I don't visualize mechanical circuit boards anymore — but what I see instead is a mechanical substitute for food that nourishes not only machines but also humans and human societies at large.

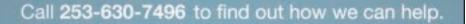
Jayendrina Singha Ray's research interests include postcolonial studies, spatial literary studies, British literature, and rhetoric and composition. Prior to teaching in the U.S., she worked as an editor with Routledge and taught English at colleges in India. She is a resident of Kirkland.



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## American Rescue Plan Act funding approved for broadband investments in WA schools

#### **By CAMERON SHEPPARD** cameron.sheppard@ soundpublishing.com

On Jan. 21, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), announced more than \$88 million in American Rescue Plan broadband investments for Washington state schools and libraries.

The funding comes via the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund, which commits federal funds to support schools and libraries in providing

digital tools and services to communities harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Every child deserves the very best education we can offer them, but that's not possible without access to high-speed internet," said Murray in a written statement. "That's why I fought so hard for this money in the American Rescue Plan, and it's great to see it being put to good use. With more help on the way from the **Bipartisan Infrastructure** Law, I am determined to make sure every student in Washington state can get online and get the education they deserve."

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Murray helped pass, will also provide at least \$100 million for broadband deployment in Washington state to help families access reliable, high-speed internet, with more federal dollars available through grant funding.

An estimated 19% of people in Washington state are eligible for the new Affordable Connectivity Program established under the legislation, which

provides up to \$30 per month in discounted internet service and a one-time \$100 discount on internetconnected devices.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also includes Murray's Digital Equity Act, which is aimed at helping close the "digital divide" by funding activities that seek to provide individuals and communities with the skills, supports, and technologies necessary to take full advantage of a broadband internet connection when they have one.

Through the Emergency

Connectivity Fund, students in Washington state who have experienced difficulty getting online will now have greater resources available to ensure they can access homework online and receive a highquality education. Additional information on the **Emergency Connectivity** Fund program is available at: emergencyconnectivityfund.org. School districts in King

County that are slated to receive broadband funding include:

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School District in Redmond with \$2,466,240 of total obligated funding.

Northshore School District in Bothell with \$1,353,951 in total obligated funding.

Issaquah School District with \$1,020,000 in total obligated funding.

Auburn School District with \$850,902 in total obligated funding.

Kent School District with \$954,563 in total obligated funding.

**Renton School District** with \$603,851 in total obligated funding.

## Kent Spotlight Series to feature mariachi group Feb. 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Mariachi Herencia de Mexico will perform Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center.

#### By Steve Hunter shunter@soundpublishing.com

Mariachi Herencia de Mexico, a youth ensemble from Chicago's immigrant barrios, will bring its mariachi music to Kent.

The Latin Grammy-nominated group of young Mexican-American musicians will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10020 SE 256th St. The concert is part of the city of Kent Spotlight Series.

Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$22 senior and \$15 youth. Buy tickets on the city of Kent website at kentwa.gov.

The group has released three highly acclaimed studio albums with chart-topping debuts on both the Billboard

and the iTunes Latin Albums charts.

Mariachi Herencia de México has performed in prestigious performing arts centers and alongside major artists like Lila Downs, Aida Cuevas, Los Lobos, Pedro Fernández as well as some of the most respected mariachi groups from both sides of the border, demonstrating that this group of students have the talent, training and bravado to hold their own with the best in the world, according to the Spotlight Series website.

Partial funding for the concert is from Western States Arts Federation, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission and Pete and Pat Curran through the Kent Parks Foundation.

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# How to curb demand for catalytic converters and reduce theft

King County senior prosecuting attorney urges Legislature to strengthen Senate bill.

#### **By Steve Hunter** shunter@soundpublishing.com

A King County senior deputy prosecuting attorney testified virtually Tuesday, Jan. 25 in front of state lawmakers about how Senate Bill 5495 can be strengthened to curb the demand for catalytic converters that are illegally stolen and then sold throughout the state.

After learning information by working closely the past year with a special operations unit to investigate catalytic converter thefts in the region, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Gary Ernsdorff urged the Senate Law and Justice Committee to consider technical changes to the bill that aim to shrink the marketplace for stolen catalytic converters, according to a King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office email.



During a June 2021 bust, Kent Police recovered nearly 800 catalytic converters, seized about \$40,000 in cash and arrested multiple suspects after a lengthy investigation into numerous thefts.

"I'd like to discuss thoughtful regulation," Ernsdorff said. "Dry up the demand for stolen catalytic converters and you dry up the thefts overnight. I encourage you to act swiftly and surely. A delay to next year's legislative session only means that thousands, maybe tens of thousands of Washingtonians will be victimized during the delay."

Ernsdorff laid out a plan for that thoughtful regulation, including: required recordkeeping and inspection, funded enforcement, and sure and swift penalties for recyclers who are not in compliance. He said this plan would decrease demand for illegal catalytic converters and allow law abiding recyclers to continue conducting their legal and profitable businesses.

Ernsdorff said the supply and demand side make for a perfect setting for catalytic converter theft.

"On the supply side, we have low level criminal actors who commit a very quick theft and they can net \$500 for one catalytic converter," he said. "It's a target rich environment, vehicles are all around us - there's no entry required so car alarms are ineffective, so this is easy pickings. The only necessary tool is a common Sawzall and we're seeing those shoplifted

everyday at big box stores."

Ernsdorff said given COVID-19 and other issues, many judges are unlikely to hold these low level offenders for a property crime, so an arrest really is just an inconvenience.

"They are back out on the street later that day or maybe the next day," he said. "And if a prosecution results under the current sentencing guidelines, sentencing can be a long time away with minimal sentences. So on the supply side, we have big return, and little risk."

On the demand side, Ernsdorff said this is a big money business due to the precious metals in the converters.

"Recyclers and middlemen make a lot of money off these transactions," he said. "Last year, I saw a buyer post a photo on Facebook of his brand new Lamborghini, bought with catalytic converter proceeds, and it was his second Lamborghini."

The prosecuting attorney said the recycling shops are similar to the dirty pawnshops

he has investigated.

"The recyclers hide behind the front desk clerk, who is low paid, does the transactions and gives the owners - the people who make the profit - plausible deniability and a straw fall man," Ernsdorff said.

He said criminal investigations are long and costly, and they have to prove that the recyclers knew the catalytic converters were stolen and that's difficult. He added there's no dedicated funding that he know of to drive a regulatory scheme at this time. He said current regulations, and there are some, are clearly ineffective.

Ernsdorff said the key is to attack the demand side with thoughtful regulation.

Ernsdorff proposed strict record-keeping requirements, including a photocopy of valid identification; multiple photographs of the catalytic converter in order to individualize it; information of the vehicle it came off of: whether or not they are the vehicle's owner or

reseller; and memorializing every other aspect of the transaction.

He also recommended mandatory permissive inspection by an enforcement agency (perhaps the Washington State Patrol), and to require mandatory inspection of paperwork for anyone buying catalytic converters; a significant fine, \$2,000; and forfeiture of any catalytic converter not in compliance with the paperwork requirement.

"And, so this is not an unfunded mandate, we need to take a significant portion of those fines and distribute them to an enforcement agency so they have monetary backing to conduct these regulatory investigations," he said.

"I'd imagine there could be pushback from the industry," he said. "But law-abiding recyclers are already required to keep some records, and if you can afford a Lamborghini you can afford a couple more minutes onto a transaction that's going to net you hundreds of dollars."

## Nonprofit sponsors study on how the pandemic impacted arts and culture in Puget Sound

#### **By CAMERON SHEPPARD** cameron.sheppard@ soundpublishing.com

On Jan. 19, the nonprofit organization ArtsFund released a COVID Cultural Impact Study, an expansive effort to analyze the pandemic's impact on Washington's cultural institutions and their role in the state's communities which Arts-Fund believes is "essential."

Arts and cultural venues were among the first to close when COVID hit in March 2020 and often remained the last to re-open, if at all. Utilizing data from both cultural organizations and Washington residents, the COVID Cultural Impact Study analyzed the depth of the challenges the pandemic has created for Washington's art and culture sector and illuminates the support necessary to revitalize these integral institutions.

"COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the way that we interact with each other and arts and culture have been a substantial part of what is seeing our communities through this change," explained Michael Greer, ArtsFund President and CEO. "We recognize we are not at the tail-end of the pandemic-we are at the beginning of a structural transformation. As our sector continues to provide economic, social, and emotional support for our communities, this study

offers both the qualitative and quantitative evidence needed for arts organizations to advocate for support and plan for the future."

According to ArtsFund, the COVID Cultural Impact Study, funded by Bank of America, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Nesholm Family Foundation, underscores how critical arts and culture organizations are to Washington's continued economic and community recovery and highlights the pivotal opportunity to transform how Washington invests in the future. Key findings include:

Across 121 reporting arts and culture organizations there was a \$95.9 million. or 21 percent, decrease in overall revenue and \$68.5 million, 20 percent, reduction in operating budgets in 2020 alone.

According to the study, the cultural workforce has been significantly impacted, prompting concern for a "cultural brain drain" with 41 percent of organizations having furloughed staff or reduced hours or pay.

While over 70 percent of cultural organizations are open in some capacity, public participation declined significantly during COVID and the constantly changing nature of the pandemic means many have not returned to in-person events. Cultural participants are expected to spend about half of what they spent pre-pandemic on cultural programming, impacting related industries including food, lodging, and retail, among others.

Cultural participants resoundingly agree, at 93 percent, that the role of art and cultural organizations will be important to Washington's post-pandemic recovery. Forty-eight percent of cultural participants have placed more value on cultural programming since March 2020.

ArtsFund said in a written statements that as organizations look to rebuild for the future, they believe study reveals the immediate need to expand and sustain public support for these organizations, center the

cultural sector in economic development, protect the cultural workforce, increase the focus on equity in participation, and find innovative ways to help organizations adapt to future needs and challenges.

ArtsFund is hosting a Community Conversation featuring cultural organizations from across the state to further discuss the COVID Cultural Impact Study on January 20, 2022. Registration is free and open to the public.

The COVID Cultural Impact Study is authored by BERK Consulting with research collaboration by GMA Research and Dr. William Beyers, University of Washington.



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# State offers free at-home COVID-19 tests

#### BY HENRY STEWART-WOOD henry.stewart-wood@ soundpublishing.com

The Washington State Department of Health will now be providing free at-home COVID-19 test kits to households in the state.

The DOH launched an online portal for ordering the free rapid tests on Friday, Jan. 21.

However, there is a limit to five tests per household, regardless of the number of people who live in a house, according to the DOH. The limit per household is due to a limited supply of tests, according to the DOH.

"We anticipate people's initial need in the test kits will exceed our current supply pretty quickly, but our focus is sharing what we have right now," said Lacy Fehrenbach, Deputy Secretary for Prevention & Health. "We want to make sure the tests we have are in homes when our state needs testing the most during this current surge."

Current data suggests that the peak of Omicron has passed, however transmission is still high, according to King County's COVID-19 dashboard.

While cases in King County are down 29% over the last 7 days, hospitalizations have increased six percent and deaths have increased 71% in the same time.

This program is very similar to the federal program that sends free rapid COVID-19 tests to households.

"This is an important step toward making tests more widely available across the state," said Umair A. Shah, Secretary of Health. "As we work with our federal partners, we look forward to seeing an increase in the number of tests flowing directly into people's homes over the next several weeks."

In addition to this statewide program, King County Library System announced its partnership with Public Health Seattle King County to provide vaccines at libraries

This partnership was also announced on Friday, Jan. 21 and vaccines will

be offered beginning Feb. 1, according to the King County Library System. The vaccine clinics will be held at the Auburn, Enumclaw,

Federal Way and Tukwila Libraries.

The vaccines are free regardless of insurance, or immmigration status,

according to the county. Single, double and booster shots will be available for patients five years old and up.

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### How to make aging pets more comfortable



Checkups can help identify illnesses earlier and ensure any aches and pains are addressed immediately.

• Invest in comfort devices. Pets may need items that can accommodate aches and pains or other conditions. For example, aging pets may benefit from a high quality orthopedic pet bed. Pet strollers and raised food bowls also can make aging pets' lives a little more comfortable.

# THE **MO**N

Find these companions and many others at seattlehumane.org

Meet Henrik, an 11-year-old rat terrier mix at Seattle Humane. Henrik is a sweet and silly little guy, who enjoys treats and getting wiggly in his oversized dog bed. While he is blind, Henrik gets around very well and still enjoys going on slow walks. It takes Henrik some time to settle in new places and figure out his surroundings, but after that he is very laid back. Henrik is sensitive to certain handling and can be easily startled if people or other dogs approach too guickly, so he would do best in a home with older, dogsavvy children.



Pets are valued members of many families, and their owners typically do everything they can to ensure their furry friends live as comfortably as possible.

Care becomes even more important as pets get older. Just like people, aging pets may eat less and sleep more. They may have reduced stamina and even experience stiffness when getting up from sleep. Certain pets may experience failing eyesight, hearing loss and/or incontinence.

According to an American Pet Products Association survey, 67 percent of U.S. households have a pet and will have to cope with that pet becoming a senior at some point. Senior animals might need a little extra help as they age, particularly with regard to comfort. These tips can help.

• Visit the vet more often. Senior pets may need to see the vet more frequently than they used to. Pets typically visit the vet every year. Senior pets may require two visits per year. Speak with a veterinarian about how often your aging pet should come in for checkups.

• Address mobility issues. Aging pets may need help getting around. Non-skid carpet runners in high-traffic areas can help pets walk around securely. Steps or ramps can make it easier to get on or off beds or in and out of vehicles.

• Install doggie doors. Senior pets may need to relieve themselves more frequently. A doggy door can allow for faster access to the outdoors. Similarly, a litter box with a lower opening makes it easier for aging cats to use the litter box.

• Ensure ample protection against the elements. Aging pets may feel the weather more than younger pets. They may need sweaters and coats or booties to protect their paws from the snow and ice. Cooling or heating mats may improve comfort indoors.

• Purchase animal diapers. Some senior pets may not be able to control themselves. Diapers and absorbent pads can keep them dry and prevent soiling around the house.

• Help the animal lose weight. Pets should maintain a healthy body weight, which can relieve pressure on joints and reduce risk for certain illnesses, including difficulty breathing and skin irritations. Speak with a veterinarian about the right foods and types of exercise for your pet to keep its weight in check.

Aging pets need extra patience and care. Pet owners can improve comfort and accessibility for their senior pets. PE21B433



### Meet Bagheera,

an 8-year-old domestic shorthair cat. Bagheera is a big and cuddly cat who enjoys playing and hanging out near windows. Bagheera is very sweet and loving, but has received little interest due to being



diabetic. He also has neuropathy, which causes him to walk a little lower to the floor. While he does need extra care, Bagheera is also very independent. Due to his medical history, Bagheera is part of the Home Free and Fosterto-Adopt programs.

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# Des Moines Police focus on stopping crime along Pacific Highway South

#### **By STEVE HUNTER** *shunter@soundpublishing.com*

The Des Moines Police Department has increased patrols and services along Pacific Highway South in an effort to stop the high amount of crime along the street.

A fatal shooting in November 2021 at a bus stop in Kent just south of the Kent Des Moines Road and Pacific Highway South intersection brought more attention to an area that has been crime infested for the last few years.

Des Moines had a triple killing in September 2021 when fights and a shooting broke out in the parking lot of the La Familia Sports Pub and Lounge, 22855 Pacific Highway S.

"The Des Moines Police

Department has taken a leadership role to address crime, disorder and quality of life issues along Pacific Highway South," said Des Moines Police Chief Ken Thomas in a Jan. 20 statement. "Keep in mind that we want to provide a solution to these issues that we sustain for the long-term. This will take time but we are committed to doing it right."

Since the start of the year, Des Moines Police expanded its special investigations unit to address homeless and mental health outreach as well as violent crime along the highway, Thomas said. The unit includes a detective sergeant, two street crime detectives, one code enforcement officer and a Getting People Services team that includes one civilian community service officer and two civilian crisis response specialists.

The department has hired a community service officer and plans to hire two crisis response specialists. The unit will focus on outreach and enforcement.

"So far this month, we have reached out to 12 people with homeless needs and five people with mental health needs," said Thomas, a former Kent Police chief.

The code enforcement officer will work with businesses and property owners.

"We are also addressing hotels/motels for violations of Des Moines Municipal Code and quality of life issues," Thomas said. "We are specifically working with two of these businesses with high rates of violations. There are several derelict properties, including a former car wash, which have turned into homeless camps and areas to dump trash. We are currently working with our legal department to enforce Municipal Code and force these property owners to clean up and secure these properties."

Thomas said so far this month they have contacted 24 owners. They have contacted and warned 28 people for trespassing and 36 for pedestrian violations.

The street crime detectives will focus on human trafficking, firearm violations, drug crimes and other violent crime. "We have already established working relationships with ATF, FBI and DEA, as well as the Federal Way, Kent and Tukwila Police departments to assist us in conducting these operations," Thomas said.

So far, detectives have filed four felony cases, participated in two operations and seized 100 fentanyl pills. An extreme risk protection order was also served where they took possession of 15 firearms. They also assisted in two vehicle/pedestrian collisions, one being fatal. They helped with investigations concerning the shooting of a 14 year old boy and the shooting of a dog. They are looking for a suspect with a \$50,000 arrest warrant for

commercial sexual abuse of a minor.

The patrol division has spent 66 emphasis hours in January along Pacific Highway and taken 49 case reports. Since the start of the year, they have made five arrests, referred 13 people to homeless and mental health resources, issued 23 warnings, made 35 suspicious vehicle contacts, made 23 traffic stops, recovered 11 stolen vehicles and responded to 18 unwanted persons calls.

"We have additional plans to further partner and enhance our services and enforcement along Pacific Highway South," Thomas said. "We are committed to making this area a place where people feel safe to live and work."



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	ry care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of		NEY ALSO APPEARS. This summons is pub-	under ORS 419B.918 to appear by other means	eral open space tracts, two critical area tracts and a stormwater tract.	Building Code and Inter- national Fire Code.	the deadline:	person who filed this at the ad- dress below, and to any
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Apartments for Rent King County	6230	Legal Notices	rects that this summons be published once each week for three consecu-	PETITIONER'S ATTOR- NEY	Area Delineation (RECR-2214468) and a	SE, Kent, WA 98042,	) Follow these steps:	your original with the court
KENT	64	-	publications in all, in a		Conceptual Mitigation (RECR-2214469) has been submitted with the	comcast.net Applicants/Agents: Ja-	any other documents that were filed at court	clerk at this address: Superior Court Clerk, King County
			general circulation in King County, Washing- ton	nev General	above SEPA (BPSW-2214465) and	mie Waltier and Jordan Todhunter of Harbour Homes, LLC, 400 N.	with this Those documents ex-	401 4th Ave. N, Room 2C
26404 104th Ave SE Kent, WA 98030		If you are a current or former employee of Car-	Date of first publication: January 28, 2022 Date of last publication:		Plat (RPP3-2214456). All existing structures on the properties would be	34th St., Ste 300, Seat- tle, WA 98103 jwaltier@	ty is asking for. a	It is a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may
		lisle Interconnect Tech- nologies including leased workers or those	February 11, 2022 NOTICE	January, 2022. Issued by:	demolished. ZONING:	jtodhunter@ harbourhomes.com; 206-315-8130	GDN M 301, Objection	
Section 8 accept-	Looking for my mother's sister,	working under a tempo- rary contract located at	READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY IF YOU DO NOT AP-		PROJECT LOCATION:	#946959 1/28/22	sponse	01/25/2022 Desmond Kolke, WSBA
ed. Income Limits Apply.	Contact Michael Sain mesain036@gmail.com	7911 S 188tth ST STE 100 Kent WA 98032 who were laid off or will be	PEAR PERSONALLY BEFORE THE COURT OR DO NOT APPEAR	# 947375		· · · ·	The Washington State Courts' website:	I agree to accept legal
		laid off due to lack of work starting 09/15/2020 you may be eligible for	AT ANY SUBSEQUENT	1/28/22, 2/4/22, 2/11/22			www.courts.wa.gov/forms	papers for this case at: 1 2 0 1 P a c i f i c Ave., # 600
		services through the Trade Adjustment Assis- tance (TAA) program	may proceed in your ab- sence without further no-		PERMIT APPLICATION DATE: January 5,	-	<u>help.org</u> , or The Superior Court Clerk's office or county	Tacoma WA 98402 #947456
Get the ball rolling Call 800-388-2527 today		such as training and tui- tion assistance, addition- al weekly allowances	tice and TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS to the above-		2022 <u>DATE OF NOTICE OF</u> <u>COMPLETENESS:</u> Janu-	· ·	law library (for a fee).	2/18/22, 2/25/22, 3/4/44
		(once Unemployment In- surance has been ex-	named child either on the date specified in this summons or on a future		ary 5, 2022 <u>STUDIES SUBMITTED</u> WITH APPLICATON:	The above Court has ap-	Service [	Directory
	jobs	hausted) and other pro- gram services. Don't delay, there are	date and may make such orders and take such action as author-		Preliminary Civil Plans and Technical Informa-	pointed Clay A. Nelson as Personal Representa- tive of Decedent's es-		
	Employment	important enrollment deadlines associated with this program. Find	ized by law. <u>RIGHTS AND</u>	that the Board of Com- missioners of Covington Water District (CWD) will	October 25, 2021 and both from D.R. Strong	tate. Any person having a claim against the De-		
real estate	General	your local office at Work- sourceWA.com or call 425-861-3704 to con-	RIGHT TO BE REPRE-	conduct a public hearing held at the District on the	Kirkland, WA; a Topo- graphic Survey dated	claim: (a) Before the time when the claim	Home Services	Home Services
rentals >	.	nect with a TAA Case Manager who can help	SENTED BY AN AT- TORNEY IN THIS MAT- TER. If you are current-	8th day of February, 2022 at the hour of 4:30 p.m.	Surveyor Joanne M. Swanson of Kirkland.	applicable statute of limi- tations, and (b) In the	Handyperson	Landscape Services
Commercial Rentals Office/Commercial	IN YOUR AREA	you.	ly represented by an at- torney, CONTACT YOUB ATTORNEY IM-	of the hearing will be to consid- er public comment on	WA; a Geotech Report, dated May 7, 2021 from GeoResources of Fife	manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the	- Interior / Exterior	-
	Call Today	#947454 1/28/22, 2/4/22, 2/11/22, 2/18/22	MEDIATELY UPON RE- CEIVING THIS NOTICE.	petitions received for an-	WA; a Traffic Impact Analysis dated Septem-	claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving	Painting and Home Repairs	ALL LANDSCAPING Fence repair & new
1-2 Person office(s) \$450 a month		Classifieds - We've got you covered - 1-800-388-2527	you in this matter.	vice area, but outside the District's boundary:	of Kirkland, WA and a Tree Retention Plan and	the address below a copy of the claim. The	Build Wood Decks and Fences Patio Covers	fence installation, Blackberry Removal, Gutter & Roof Cleaning
In Quiet Senior Building 26404 104th Ave SE	Sr Finance Mgr at Provi- dence Health & Servic- es-WA, FT, Renton, WA.	District Board Resolution	please retain one as	1) Station by Vintage lo- cated at 28020 Coving- ton Way SE Parcel	October 25, 2021 from Creative Landscape So-	claim must be presented by the later of: (a) Thirty (30) days after I served	#PUGETSC038KA	Retaining wall AND MUCH MORE. Check us out Online
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announcements	commuting distance to Providence facility in AK, WA, OR, CA, & TX.		FORD TO HIRE AN AT- TORNEY and you meet the state's financial	and viewing the agenda, to voice their concur- rence or concern of the	Comments must be in	is effective for claims against both the Dece-	Home Services Landscape Services	
umounomonto	REQS: MS acctg, econ, or related; 5 yrs exp as fin. analyst, accountant,	· · · · · · ·	guidelines, you are enti- tled to have an attorney appointed for you at	District's Annexation of the above described land.	writing and received by	dent's probate and non-		Home Services Tree/Shrub Care
Announcements	or related; or BS + 8yrs exp in same. Reqs advi-	-	state expense. TO RE- QUEST APPOINTMENT	Dated the 28th of Janu- ary, 2022. Tal Weberg, Secretary	at 220 4th Ave. S., Kent WA 98032. For gues-	4055 Lake Washington Blvd NE, Suite 230	Special Spring	
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# What in the world is Wordle? It's an online game C-R-A-Z-E

Solving the daily fiveletter brain teaser in six tries is the latest social media obsession.

BY ANDREA BROWN abrown@soundpublishing.com

This five-letter word game might make you want to say a few four-letter words.

Solving the daily brain teaser Wordle in six tries is the latest internet C-R-A-Z-E. What's up with that?

Wordle was created by a British guy named Wardle to wobble your mind.

It attracts many people who don't play word games (like me) due to FOMO (fear of missing out).

Google "Wordle" and there are millions of results for a word that not long ago few knew existed. The noun has been verbed: "Have you 'Wordled' today?" Memes and GIFs have blown up on social media. So have game board hacks. Over the weekend, "Saturday Night Live" did a sketch with Donald Trump playing Wordle. Jimmy Fallon did it first.

So, yes, if you aren't Wordle-ing, you really are missing out.

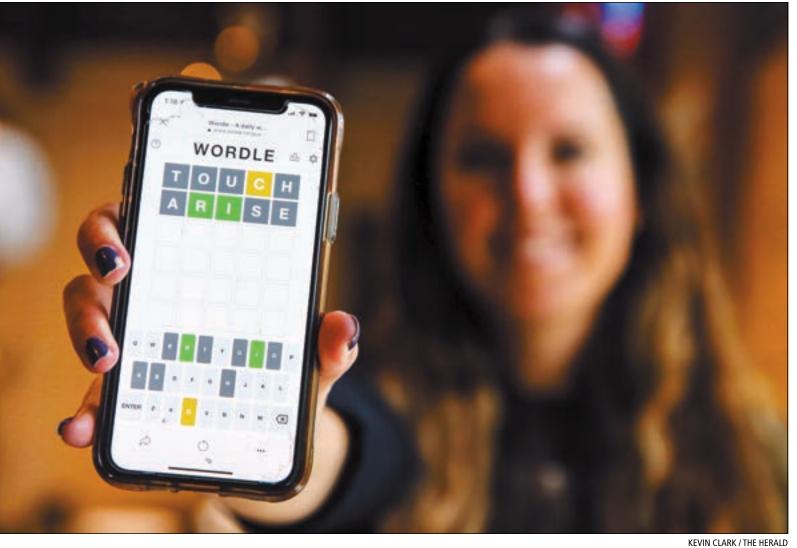
Software developer Josh Wardle made the game last October as a gift for his partner, who loves guessing games. The word game mimics the British TV game show "Lingo."

Wordle started small in the U.K. and went viral this month. Maybe because it's January. Last year, a Bernie Sanders meme got us through the doldrums of January.

It's also a nice distraction from another five-letter word, COVID.

Christa Meyer, 41, a Mountlake Terrace home health physical therapist, often solves the puzzle in her car on breaks between seeing patients.

Like many of us, Meyer learned of Wordle when



Christa Meyer, 41, a home health physical therapist, plays Wordle daily at her Mountlake Terrace home or on her lunch break between patients in her car.

green, yellow and gray emoji squares started showing up in her Facebook feed.

"I was like, 'What is that diagram?" Meyer said. "And then I looked up what the heck is Wordle. And it was a word game and I was, 'Oh, fun, I love those kinds.' And I liked that it is only one per day so there is no risk of falling into the depths of lack of productivity."

Her husband also started playing. They don't Wordle together.

She said it reminds her of Mastermind and Boggle.

Unlike Boggle, there is no time limit. You can worry-

dle over the word for hours, if vou wish.

The game is user-friendly.

Go to Wardle's website, powerlanguage.co.uk/ wordle, and the game pops up with no cost, signup or ads.

There is no app for Wardle's Wordle. It is only on the browser, but you can play it on your phone.

Don't be fooled by fakes. Many people (like me) have mistakenly downloaded the app "Wordle!" which was created five years ago and has a different game format than Wordle. Knockoffs jumped onto the craze: Wordlets, Wordie, Wordus and Lewdle, a dirty version.

Oh, my word! In Wordle, everyone gets the same word. It's one word a day. Miss a day and there's

After

no going back. Start with a blank grid.

In the top line, make a fiveletter word. Hit Enter and the letter squares change color.

Green indicates the letter is in the word in the right spot.

Yellow shows it's in the word but not in that spot. Gray means the letter is

not in the word. (Hint: Type in starter

words that knock out common letters. "Adieu" is packed with vowels. Others swear by "stare" and "tears.") The popup keyboard shows which letters have been used to help plan the

next move. Solve the word in four guesses and a "Splendid" banner makes you feel good about yourself. On the last try you get a "Phew."

There's an option to share so you can brag to the world how Wordle worldly you are. For example, three lines of colored squares symbolizes nailing it in three tries. Impressive.

A countdown shows how long it is until the next game. (Wait, what? I have to wait 15 hours and 5 minutes and 12 seconds to do it again?)

Words are basic: Solar. Proxy. Point.

The Wordle word "Favor" caused an uproar among Brits. Those across the pond spell it "favour." Sorry, chap. Too many letters.

Letters can be used twice, such as last week's "Robot."

"A tricky one today ... took me a while!" warned a post by a Facebook friend.

It took her three tries that day. Took me six.

People commiserate on social media about how addicting, frustrating and wonderful Wordle is.

"Definitely what this January needed," a post reads.

Wordle has brought unity to many pandemic-weary souls.

"This has been the only collective joy we've experienced in 2 years," reads a Twitter post.

Not everyone loves it: "Wordle? 'Word dull' is more like it," said another.





Before

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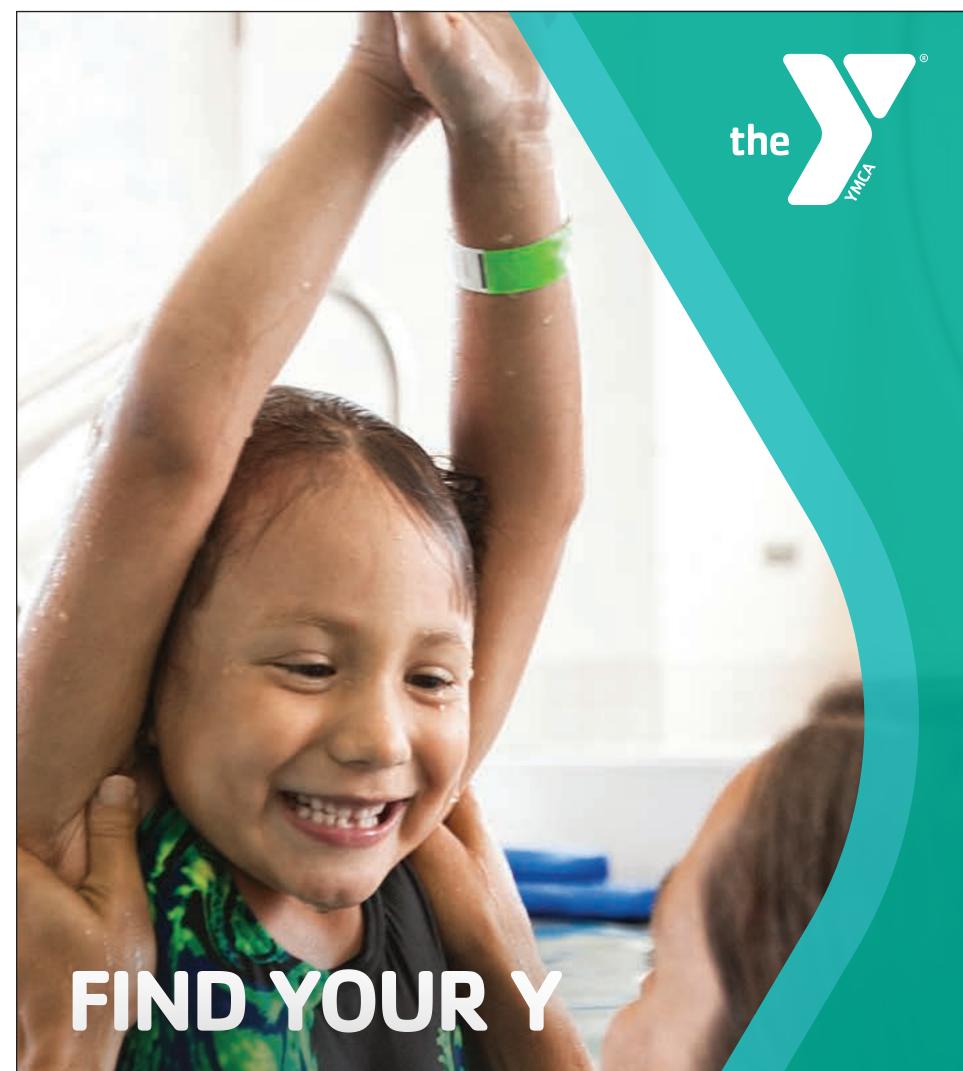
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\*ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 1/31/2022, Available on NEW orders only. Other Restrictions May Apply. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Visit Pacificbath.com for complete details. OR#213202 | WA#PACIFBC810JJ | NV#0086030 | AZ#334398



\*Does not include cost of material. Expires 1/31/22. All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 gift card. No purchase is necessary. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one gift card per household. LeafGuard procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or have a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a valid photo ID, understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of LeafGuard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a LeafGuard in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former LeafGuard customers. Promotion may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that LeafGuard may substitute a gift card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card and terms and conditions (https://www.darden.com/giftcards/terms-and-conditions) of such gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class US Mail within 21 days of receipt of promotion form provided at consultation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden Restaurants and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer ends 1/31/2022. LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Seattle in Washington under license number LEAFGHI821RC.



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