



Tyler Allen's shoes and a bubble pop toy were found about 100 feet away from where his body and backpack were located along 11th Avenue SW in Federal Way on Sept. 18.

FEDERAL WAY POLICE PHOTO

## Federal Way man recovering after hit and run

29-year-old Tyler Allen was struck, dragged by a vehicle in September; no suspects have been found.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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Tyler Reece Allen was about a mile away from his Federal Way home in the early morning hours of Sept. 18. It was raining heavily and an overgrown bush blocked the sidewalk in front of him. The last thing he remembers is stepping into the roadway to walk around the bush.

Then, the 29-year-old Federal Way man was hit by an unknown driver, dragged approximately 60 feet and left in the roadway.

Police concluded that he stepped into the street to avoid the large bush shortly before 1 a.m. near the 32200 block of 11th Avenue SW. He was struck by a car and the driver fled the scene.

"The bushes were very large, and due to the rain, would have also been very wet, making a natural barrier the average person would attempt to avoid," police reports state.

Just after 1 a.m., a person leaving their house to go to the store saw a man laying face down in the roadway and called 911.

When police arrived on scene, they found Tyler Allen unconscious with multiple injuries. He was bleeding from the head and

had his clothing and property scattered, according to police reports. His shoes were found about 100 feet away from him in the roadway.

Nearby, police found several broken vehicle parts in the roadway that matched a Lincoln sedan. Police do not yet have any suspects or leads on who struck Tyler Allen, said Federal Way Police Cmdr. Casey Jones.

There were no witnesses. Debris found at the scene was researched, and officers found one piece could have come from one of two different types of Lincoln vehicles between 2009 and 2013, Jones said.

The officers followed up with a computer search on both of those types of vehicles, but nothing was located to help police identify the driver or exact car, he added.

Limited Ring camera footage from a nearby home showed a headlight bounce reflecting off of a tree in the resident's front yard, then a few seconds later, a small black sedan drives down the street.

That night, Allen was transferred to Harborview Medical Center with life-threatening injuries and put into a medically-induced coma. As of Oct. 25, Allen's injuries include a cheek fracture, two broken legs, a broken elbow, broken ribs, a collapsed lung and several internal injuries. He had to have his spleen and gallbladder removed, and will have surgery on his intestines in the coming months.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISHA WEBB

Tyler Allen remains at Harborview Medical Center to recover.

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## Council approves 13 more police officers

Chief: It takes about 14 months from a person's hiring date to their first day on the streets.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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The Federal Way City Council on Oct. 19 unanimously approved authorizing more officers to the police department, despite already having several existing vacancies on the force.

The department was previously authorized for 137 officers. With the addition of the 13 newly approved officer positions, Federal Way's force is now authorized for 150 officers.

"We just need more police presence right now to make people feel safe," said Police Chief Andy Hwang during the Oct. 19 meeting.

This ratio is 1.49 officers per 1,000 residents, based on last year's population of 101,030. However with the 13 added positions, the city's force still has open positions waiting to be filled.

"We are currently down five officers, plus the 13 newly approved positions," said Steve McNey, communications director for the city on Oct. 26. "We have hired quite a few officers recently and have four more lateral officers going through background now."

As of Oct. 26, the City of Federal Way has 132 filled officer positions for a ratio of about 1.32 officers per 1,000 residents.

During the meeting, Hwang said it takes about 14 months from a person's hiring date to their first day on the streets as a trained officer. Hwang estimates the city will be able to fill the 13 new positions in about a year.

The department's hiring pace has accelerated, he said, along with increased diversity among candidates with more Federal Way residents, women and people of color applying.

"I think we are long overdue to increase our pro-act unit to have more of an impact to address crime," Hwang said.

Pro-act is part of the Special Investigations Unit, responsible for gang suppression, highway/

## King County welcomes nearly 130 Afghan refugees to FW

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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King County Executive Dow Constantine recently welcomed nearly 130 Afghan refugees in Federal Way as they relocated in the United States.

"It's an honor to welcome these new residents to King County, and we are here to help them resettle," Constantine said. "Day in and day out, we seek to be a welcoming community where every person can thrive, and this is another opportunity for our

work to match our ideals."

In mid-October, Constantine visited with several families at the former Extended Stay America hotel, which was purchased by King County in July to be utilized for the Health Through Housing program for individuals experiencing homelessness. The former hotel was purchased for \$23.3 million.

During the visit, Constantine spoke to a father who arrived with his wife and five children, and another individual who is a former member of the Special

Forces in Afghanistan.

The refugees discussed both the difficulty of the sudden transition they are experiencing and the excitement of starting a new life here in the United States.

The father told Constantine he looked forward to finding a permanent home so his children could be enrolled in a local school and begin their lives in King County.

The former hotel is being repurposed as short-term housing, working with partners at the International Rescue Committee

and World Relief, according to the county.

In September, King County announced a \$500,000 investment to support and temporarily house refugees in the area.

The county will utilize \$250,000 from the Office of Equity and Social Justice's language access program to provide language supports such as translation, interpretation, and more.

Another \$250,000 from the Department of Community and Human Services will be used to provide one-time grants to

community-based organizations who are supporting Afghan resettlement efforts, the Mirror previously reported.

The county plans to prepare for a January launch of the Health Through Housing program in Federal Way. The hotel has 101 available rooms.



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HOMETOWN HERO

# Longtime MSC volunteer celebrates 100th birthday

BY OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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Longtime Federal Way Food Bank volunteer Hank Lazzar has a lot to celebrate — 100 reasons, in fact.

Lazzar turned 100 on Oct. 12. At a surprise birthday party hosted at the Multi-Service Center (MSC), co-volunteers-turned-friends and family members celebrated the centenarian on Oct. 26.

“A complete surprise,” he said of his party.

“I just keep thinking ‘A hundred? Boy, that’s something,’” said Lazzar, the Mirror’s Hometown Hero for the month of October. “Turning 100 is just another day, really. But I’m glad I made it.”

Lazzar volunteered as a driver for the food bank for nearly 20 years, picking up



OLIVIA SULLIVAN/THE MIRROR

Hank Lazzar holds his 100th birthday cake.

food hauls from local grocery stores and making deliveries to families and individuals in the community. His official start date with the MSC was March 6, 2002.

“The thousands upon thousands of people you

affected in your time here is just tremendous,” said Dan Lancaster, director of the food bank, to Lazzar. “You helped a lot of people and I know we’ll never forget it.”

Growing up in Sunnydale — previously located between

where Burien and Des Moines are now — Lazzar’s childhood home is now covered by the third runway of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Lazzar, a 2nd class petty officer, served in the U.S. Navy. He spent time in the Philippines, and though he wasn’t counting, he served for three years, four months and 21 days.

When he returned, he worked for Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in California. He got tired of the blue skies, he said, and the family returned to the Seattle area. He continued working for Firestone, then took on a new gig as a milkman for several dairy companies.

After a few cycles back and forth between California and Washington, the family settled in the Pacific Northwest.

Today, the family tree is still growing: Lazzar has four kids, four grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

After more than 35 years in the dairy industry, he then took a job with The Boeing Company for five years until his retirement. In his newfound downtime, he turned to volunteering.

He drove people to appointments for the Federal Way Senior Center, then drove buses for the Des Moines Senior Center.

After a few years, he began his first shift at the Multi-Service Center.

“We just have fun,” he said, adding that the camaraderie among the coworkers, MSC staff, and the people on his routes, are the greatest joy. Almost every Friday

afternoon, Lazzar and his fellow MSC drivers can be found catching up over lunch at Scoreboard Pub in Federal Way.

Over the years, there’s been a cut vehicle gas line, a stolen truck, snowy days and plenty of smiles. Small connections built by daily routines and dedicated commitment.

People say Lazzar’s optimism and activity have given him a long life.

“[I admire] his dedication ... he loves us all,” said volunteer Saul Saldana, 84, who has been with MSC for 14 years and worked with Lazzar as a helper.

Lazzar is witty and straightforward, quick to smile and crack a joke. As he ate a piece of his birthday cake, he looked around the room with a smile.

“I’m glad to be here.”

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## Allen

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“I remember walking home,” said Allen on an Oct. 26 phone call, speaking from his hospital bed at Harborview. “Then I remember waking up in the hospital a week later.”

After a month-long stay in the ICU, he faces a long road of recovery. His mother said he’ll likely go to a skilled nursing facility, then into a rehabilitation facility.

“He’s got an awesome attitude, for everything that’s

happened to him,” Sabrina Allen said. “I’ve been trying to convince him he wasn’t at fault ... It was a freak accident.”

About 15 minutes prior to the 911 call, a neighbor told police that an unknown man — who matched Allen’s description — knocked on his door, asked for a specific address, then left.

“It’s going in the right direction,” Tyler Allen said of his healing. “I’m happy to be alive ... [and] thankful this isn’t going to be forever.”

In the months prior to his accident, Tyler Allen got a new job with American

Building Supply in Auburn. He said his life was taking a turn for the better.

Now, the family is waiting for new information from the police and the public about who struck Tyler Allen in September.

“They should be ashamed of themselves for leaving me to die like that,” he said of the unknown driver who hit him. “The least they could’ve done is call 911, but they didn’t even do that.”

If you have any information related to the Sept. 18 hit-and-run, contact the Federal Way Police at 253-835-2121.

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