



# FEDERAL WAY MIRROR



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## Boy, 13, found dead in Federal Way park is identified

Avril Brown Jr. was just a few days away from his 14th birthday, a family friend says.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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The identity of a 13-year-old boy who was found dead in a Federal Way park on Nov. 3 has been identified by Shoreline Public Schools.

The victim is Avril Brown Jr. (A.J.), an eighth-grade student at

Einstein Middle School in Shoreline, according to the school district.

"Our entire school community is deeply saddened by the loss of A.J. and the heartbreak his family and friends are experiencing. We join them in this grief and heartbreak," said Einstein Middle School Principal Nyla Fritz in a letter to families.

A GoFundMe page created by a close family friend for A.J. states he was just a few days away from his 14th birthday. The financial goal has been met to help A.J.'s

mother with funeral costs.

"It's hard to believe this happened, A.J. touched the hearts of so many and he will be deeply missed," the page states. "He was way too young and had so much to look forward to, so much potential."

Several neighbors reported hearing gunfire around 3:35 a.m. Nov. 3 and officers responded to the area for an illegal discharge, said Cmdr. Raymond Bunk of FWPD, but there were no reports that anyone was shot.

A total of seven officers

responded to the scene minutes later and assisted with checking the area between 20th Avenue South and S. 375th Street.

"As two officers were arriving, dispatch advised a white sedan was chasing a group of people on foot," Bunk said. "Officers saw a car matching that description leaving the neighborhood as they were arriving. The officers quickly turned around and attempted to locate that vehicle without success."

Officers drove through several streets and cul-de-sacs looking

for any signs of a shooting, he said. One caller reported the suspect's vehicle was possibly associated with the neighborhood, so officers checked all of the white cars in the area, none of which appeared to be involved in the shooting, he said.

In the initial calls, there were no reports of activity in the park, therefore officers did not search the park.

At about 7:30 a.m. Nov. 3, police responded to the 37200 block of

See A.J., Page 6

## Finding love and magic in Camelot's courtyard

Couple rehearses first dance for their wedding at local elementary school they both attended.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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Darcy Borg was staying late to finish up plans in her Camelot Elementary School classroom on Sept. 29. The sun was just starting to cast a golden glow when she heard music flowing from the school's courtyard.

"I was working on my computer and I hear just this beautiful music, orchestra music, coming from close by," said Borg, who is in her 35th year of teaching at Camelot.

She wandered into the courtyard, peeked around the corner and saw two young people dancing. The couple stopped when they saw her and told her they were rehearsing for their first dance at their Nov. 13 wedding.

"The young man came closer and said, 'hello, do you know who I am?'" she said. "I was trying to think back and thought, that smile and that twinkle in his eye looked so familiar."

The man in the courtyard was David Podyuchenko, 21, and his fiancée Karolina Nad, 18, both former students at Camelot Elementary. Podyuchenko was in Borg's fifth-grade class and his mother, Nadia, also used to work at the school.

Podyuchenko and Nad grew up about a one-minute walk away from one another, and Podyuchenko is good friends with Nad's brother. The couple knew each other for years prior and attended the same school, but it wasn't until May of this year that they fell in love, he said.

He joined Nad's family on a camping trip to the mountains — he was going dirt-biking with her brother — and the rest, he said, was left up to God's timing.

"I never expected myself to get married to her ... I never really searched for a wife or a girlfriend," he said. "I just gave it up to God and when it's His timing, it will be. That's exactly what happened."

A few weeks after the camping trip, Podyuchenko said he knew he wanted to marry her.

The couple's first dance is to a violin instrumental of "I See the



David Podyuchenko and his fiancée Karolina Nad.

Light" from the movie "Tangled." The soft notes drifted into Borg's classroom that September day when they rehearsed.

"I'm not really a dancer, but she really wanted the slow dance type of thing," Podyuchenko said. "So I said yes."

Often, Podyuchenko said, the couple would practice at Camelot in the evenings because they live close by and the school has plenty of space and offers an escape from the rain.

In that same courtyard about 10 years ago, Podyuchenko

See LOVE, Page 6



Karolina Nad and David Podyuchenko.

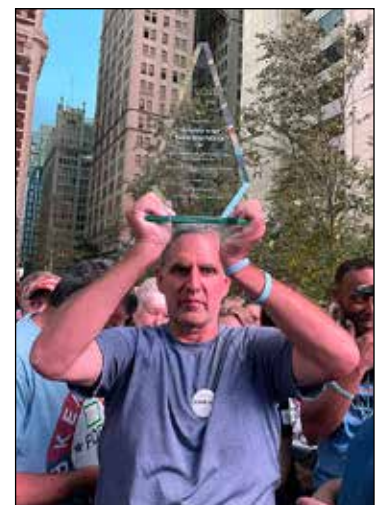


PHOTO VIA PROTZMAN'S NEGATIVE48 TELEGRAM CHANNEL

Michael Brian Protzman holds a trophy on Nov. 1.

## FW business owner leads QAnon gathering in Dallas

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN  
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A Federal Way business owner and QAnon influencer led dozens of QAnon supporters to Dallas on Nov. 2 in hopes of witnessing the reappearance of John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Michael Brian Protzman, also known as Negative48 in various online communities, owns Federal Way-based Eclipse Demolition. The company has been operating for 14 years and went into administration last year, according to Vice News.

Protzman did not return the Mirror's request for comment via email and the company's phone voicemail box is full as of Nov. 5.

The 58-year-old's Negative48 Telegram channel has garnered over 100,000 members and he "relies on an abstruse version of gematria, or numerology, to promote the idea that he is in direct contact with the Kennedy family," Rolling Stone reported. Protzman is said to believe the Kennedy family are descendants of Jesus Christ and projected they would reappear on Nov. 2.

The believers flocked to Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, where

See QANON, Page 6



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# QAnon

From Page 1

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. In 1999, JFK Jr. died at age 38 in a plane crash that also killed his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren.

Many QAnon supporters

believe JFK Jr. spent the last two decades in hiding and would reappear to be reinstated as former President Donald Trump's vice president, according to various reports.

Some members of the Tuesday crowd wore "Trump/JFK Jr. 2024" shirts and "Make America Great Again" hats, according to photos on social media.

On Nov. 1, Protzman posted

a photo of himself to his Telegram channel holding a trophy inscribed with: "The Gematria General: God communicates in numbers and Trump does too." He also uses his social media platform to spread antisemitic content, according to Vice.

Social media videos of Protzman the night before and at the rally show him talking almost incoherently, in a mix of

words and numbers as supporters nearby nod in agreement.

To no one's surprise other than believers waiting in the plaza, JFK Jr. did not show up to the Dallas rally on Nov. 2. The crowd recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 12:29 p.m., the time President JFK was killed on Nov. 22, 1963, then slowly dismantled over the next few hours.

"Frankly, I'm kind of shocked

at how many people turned out for this," Jared Holt, a resident fellow researching domestic extremism at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, told The Dallas Morning News. Holt added that "[i]f they're willing to show up to the Grassy Knoll thinking JFK Jr. is coming back, it scares me to think of what happens when they get real power."

# Livingston

From Page 5

**Keith:** Doctor, those sound like tough numbers, but what do they really mean?

**Doc:** Well, just understand that half of your city's household incomes are below \$67,300 and a family making less than \$72,000 in King County is considered low income. This means many of your residents are financially stressed and if they have children, they need help. Just know that many of your city's families and residents are experiencing food, rent, income, child care, transportation, health care and job insecurity.

**Keith:** Is there a quick fix for any of those challenges?

**Doc:** No, but Federal Way needs to figure out if it can do a global reset and become focused on providing cost-friendly family services and improving job opportunities. Your city can't be what it was, and now that it is what it is, it will be difficult to alter your entrenched community mindset.

Consider that for years, your city did not consistently pass school bond/levy efforts, and the consequences are that people who valued education left and many who may have wanted to locate here for business or to raise a family stayed away. Tote Maritime Alaska moving their headquarters to Tacoma due to an uptick in crime and homelessness near their office is an example of the challenge facing Federal Way.

Understand that crime, drugs, increasing homelessness and several years of politically-charged anger and frustration

have led to your spike in crime. It is not just your city, but your city's response must not be solely the typical knee-jerk of needing more police. Lowering crime for the long haul requires more intervention services, treatment facilities, youth recreation programs and school system support to undo years of neglect and bad choices.

On a statewide basis, the laws lean toward being punitive for any perpetrator, but for crime to become less of an issue, your efforts need to shift toward early education, family support, latchkey programs, troubled youth intervention, behavioral management and rehabilitation. Otherwise, your state and city will keep people trapped in cycles of crime and recidivism at a much higher cost to us all.

**Keith:** Well, Doc, thank you for those observations. Do you have any closing thoughts about our future?

**Doc:** Yes. Federal Way can create a great future for itself, but it has to figure out what it wants to be as a city and evolve from being the white privilege suburb it once was. It has to value diversity, child care and education and ensure that all students are succeeding at a high level. Then your focus becomes infrastructure — physical as well as cultural, the arts, establishing unique gathering places and embracing values that elevate people and community. Businesses will come and people can grow into prosperity when the right resources are present. I'll check back in a few years — good luck!

*Keith Livingston is a longtime Federal Way resident and community observer. He can be reached at keithlivingstondesign@gmail.com.*

# A.J.

From Page 1

20th Avenue South after a Federal Way resident reported finding a body in the park. Police canvassed

the site and launched a homicide investigation when they found A.J.'s body. Federal Way Police said the boy died from gunshot wounds to the head.

Detectives from Federal Way's Criminal

Investigations Section (CIS) are conducting the investigation. Anyone with information about this incident should contact the Federal Way Police Department at 253-835-2121.

# Love

From Page 1

helped build the school's community garden. He recalls being a less-than-perfect student who frequently got into trouble.

But, Borg recalls his compassionate heart.

"He was one of what I called the 'Guardians of the Garden,'" she said, adding that Podyuchenko always took pride in filling the plant beds, watering and protecting the garden.

She's convinced there

is a bit of magic in the Camelot courtyard.

"It brings tears to my eyes because of all the places they could choose to be and here they are, dancing these beautiful dances to such beautiful music in this magical place," Borg said.



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