

KENT REPORTER



Former T-Bird shines for the Islanders Page 6

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Insurance rates up after officer's death

Premiums and the deductible for workers comp coverage are now higher.

BY STEVE HUNTER
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City worker compensation insurance rates were hiked 17 percent this year and the deductible raised by \$100,000 after large claims because of the on-duty death of Kent Police

Officer Diego Moreno and an injury to another officer during the same July incident.

Chris Hills, city Human Resources risk manager, updated the City Council's Operations Committee on Jan. 15 about Kent's insurance rates.

"The tragedy had an effect on

our comp program," Hills told the committee.

Moreno, 35, an eight-year veteran on the force, was killed July 22 when, after laying out a strip of spikes to slow a fleeing pickup, he was inadvertently struck by a pursuing Kent Police SUV driven by Officer Mark Williams.

Emiliano Garcia, 16, the driver of the pickup, has been charged as an adult with second-degree felony murder, allegedly causing the death of Moreno, by leading police on the dangerous, high-speed chase after shots were fired

See **RATES**, Page 2

Blazing a trail for dogs

Longtime trainer devotes lifetime to sport of agility dogs, earning spot in hall of fame

BY MARK KLAAS

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Furry, energetic Ketch was immediately put to the test on a brisk midday morning.

The brown cocker spaniel waited for the signal to navigate a tricky obstacle course sprinkled with ramps, jumps, tunnels and weave polls.

Quick on her toes, Cathy Percy, the dog's owner and handler, followed, commanding Ketch to dart from one obstacle to another. The dog responded, swiftly completing a practice run at one end of a large, covered outdoor arena.

Observing was Sandra Katzen, an Auburn woman who has been training and judging agility dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes for 30 years, the last 18 at her outdoor Vortex Agility and Dog Training center on Kent's East Hill.

Katzen, whom her peers have described as a pioneer in the sport, was pleased with the progress Percy had made with her two cocker spaniels, Ketch, and Kleo, the latter a national champion.

"I don't push people to compete, but the majority of my students do," Katzen said. "I like watching people have fun with their dogs."

As Percy explains, Katzen is one of the best at her craft, a



Sandra Katzen talks to Pixi, 12, one of her border collies who occasional competes, during a pause in morning training last week at the Vortex Agility and Dog Training center on Kent's East Hill. Katzen, who has trained, competed and served as a judge in the sport of agility dogs for 30 years, recently was inducted into the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) Hall of Fame. MARK KLAAS, Kent Reporter

maker of many agility champion canines.

"She challenges us, which is good," Percy said. "She uses positive training methods, which we appreciate. She's been great to work with over the last 18 years and has helped us achieve our goals."

The Kent-Auburn area is home to many training grounds for agility and non-competitive dogs, but few have the background of Katzen, 68, whose contributions to the sport have spanned many roles - from competitor and teacher, to club founder, board member and judge. She has

represented the sport as a teacher or judge throughout the world, serving in Australia, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Finland, and most of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Recognized for her efforts,

See **DOGS**, Page 7

Officers receive 4.5 percent pay hike

BY STEVE HUNTER

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Kent Police officers are getting a 4.5 percent pay increase this year as part of a new three-year contract reached with the city of Kent.

The City Council approved the labor agreements Jan. 15 with the Kent Police Officers Association for 134 officers and sergeants as well as 10 assistant chiefs and commanders. The latter three positions are receiving pay hikes of 6 percent this year.

"Overall, the negotiations went very, very well," said Marty Fisher, city Human Resources director, in a Tuesday email. "The city of Kent places a high priority on public safety and there was a strong spirit of mutual respect and collaboration from the first session we held back in August. Individual and mutual interests were presented and discussed thoroughly in each bargaining session and both sides listened actively and presented productive alternatives to get to agreement on the final contract."

All positions will receive wage increases in 2020 and 2021

See **PAY**, Page 2

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Pay

From Page 1

between 1 and 4.25 percent based on the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Consumer Price Index. The contract runs from Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2021.

Officers still in the police academy will receive \$68,520 a year in 2019. That base pay increases each year until officers in their fifth year will earn \$89,208 annually, according to city documents. Assistant chiefs will receive \$156,180 a year, commanders \$132,348 and sergeants \$107,136 a year.

It will cost the city about \$1.9 million over the three years for the changes to the agreement from the 2017 to 2019 contract. Under the previous contract, officers and sergeants received a 3.6 percent wage increase the first year followed by jumps of 3 percent in each of the next two years.

"I'm pleased with the new contract because it is a practical demonstration of the respect we have for our police officers and the high value we place on the service and professionalism they provide every day to keep Kent safe," Fisher said.

Under the new contract,

Kent Police annual salaries

Assistant chief:
\$156,180

Commanders:
\$132,348

Sergeants: \$107,136

Officer (by fifth year): \$89,208

Officer (in academy): \$68,520

Note: Additional annual pay hikes based on experience, unit assignment and education

officers will receive a boost in longevity pay to better help retain high performers in the department and to be more in line with comparable cities, according to city documents. Comparable jurisdictions used to help determine pay and benefits included Auburn, Bellevue, Everett, Federal Way, Kirkland, Renton and Vancouver, Wash.

"From the start, the goal set by Mayor (Dana) Ralph and the City Council was to ensure that the Kent Police Department was in the top third among our comparable cities in total compensation," Fisher said.

Rates

From Page 1

outside a nearby bar. Garcia is awaiting trial, although a date has yet to be set.

The city's annual premium for 2019 jumped to \$80,184 from \$68,674, Hills said. The city's self-insured retention (similar to a deductible) increased to \$600,000 per loss from \$500,000.

"They are asking us to take on more of the risk," Hills said about St. Louis-based Safety National, the company that provides the city's excess worker comp insurance.

Council President Bill Boyce asked Hills about the increases.

"Do they always raise the rate when we have an adverse event?" Boyce said. "Is that typical of an insurance company?"

Hills offered an explanation.

"This is the first time we've had an on-duty (officer) death," Hills said. "Rates will fluctuate a little bit. They (Safety National) are not finished paying all of the loss that they will pay for in this case. ... We have been with them a long time and are a good partner with them. Insurance companies are not in business

to lose money so they are trying to get some of that premium back."

The city has paid \$1.1 million to the state Department of Labor & Industries to fund Moreno's pension, which goes to his widow. The city pays the claim (from its worker comp fund) and Safety National then provides reimbursement (of the amount more than the \$500,000 deductible), once the claim is closed.

The claim remains open because Officer Williams is part of the same case and his claim has yet to close. So far, the city has paid \$96,750 to Williams for medical costs and time loss compensation. That claim could go as high as \$300,000, Hills said. Williams, an 18-year veteran, suffered a severely broken leg that required lengthy surgery after his SUV collided with vehicles in the left turn lane near the intersection of West Meeker Street and Kent Des Moines Road, according to court documents filed against Garcia.

"While the city will cover the costs of Officer Williams' claim until closure, the entire amount will be reimbursed as both elements of this tragic incident are considered an 'occurrence' which I negotiated with the carrier," Hills said in an email. "This would not be the case if

each were considered a separate claim."

A separate claim in the Williams case would have required the city to pay all of the costs.

Boyce struggled with the rate hikes by the insurance carrier.

"You have years with them - and you think one event - then all of a sudden - bam," he said.

Hills explained in an email that Safety National has insured Kent for 22 years.

"They have consistently been the lowest cost provider of excess workers compensation insurance for the city of Kent," he said. "That was the case for the 2019 renewal as well."

Hills negotiated the same rate for 2020 as for 2019.

"I negotiated a flat rate so there is no increase in 2020, assuming no adverse incidents between now and when we renew next year," Hills said.

As far as the \$12,000 jump in the annual premium, Hills said that is still a decent rate.

"It's not really substantial, especially when you consider the liability," he said.

The city made one other large worker comp payment in the last six years, a cost of \$1.76 million after firefighter Ernie Rideout, 57, died in 2012 of multiple myeloma cancer, which affects the

bone marrow and white blood cells. Because Rideout's cancer was determined to have been contracted due to his profession as a firefighter, it was considered death in the line of duty, according to the Kent Fire Department. Rideout worked 32 years for the department.

The city covered \$500,000 in the Rideout case. Safety National raised the annual premium about 14 percent to \$50,025 in 2013 because of the \$1.2 million payout it made.

"When you add up the couple of losses we've had, we are probably pretty even with them at this point," Hills told the committee about the insurance hikes. "They do want to maintain a relationship with us."

Councilman Dennis Higgins asked Hills whether the city or insurance company might get money to cover the worker comp costs from the prosecution of Garcia, who fled in his father's pickup and is charged with second-degree murder of Moreno.

"It's a painful subject, but there is a person in the criminal justice system to be prosecuted," Higgins asked. "Will he be liable for the costs?"

Safety National will pursue recovery costs in the case against Garcia, Hills said.

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City to issue bonds to finish corridor

\$6.6 million is needed to complete the South 224th/228th project.

BY STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

Kent city leaders plan to issue bonds to fund the final \$6.6 million needed to complete the South 224th/228th Street corridor project.

Details remain to be worked out, but city staff received approval from the City Council's Public Works Committee on Monday to write an ordinance to issue bonds for the final phase of

the work. The full council will consider the measure later this year.

"I feel comfortable that we need to finish this project and maintain the grants we've received, and the most prudent thing to do is to look at debt financing to finish the project," said Councilman Dennis Higgins at the Public Works Committee meeting.

The committee also approved a plan to use city business and occupation (B&O) taxes to pay for the annual debt service on the bonds. City staff will return for approval about whether to repay the bonds over 10

years, 15 years or another length.

"We've done a lot of internal financing lately, so we propose to go out and do bonds," said Barbara Lopez, city Finance deputy director, in her report to the committee. "We haven't done that for new things in a really long time."

The city needs to complete the final phase of the South 228th street overpass to cross the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and phase 2 of the extension to the east up 88th Avenue South and South 218th Street to 94th Place South beyond the new South

224th Street bridge over Highway 167.

It will cost an estimated \$40.4 million for the Union Pacific grade separation and \$14.9 million for phase 2 of the South 224th extension, according to city documents.

If the city doesn't come up with the funds, it could lose some of the federal or state grants for the project, which cover most of the costs.

"The project has been going on for quite some time," Councilwoman Toni Troutner said. "We have been able to get grant money, we can't afford to lose that."

When the entire South 228th/224th corridor is complete, the cost is estimated to be \$184 million, according to city staff. That cost includes the earlier extension of Veterans Drive up the West Hill (\$34.2 million) and the BNSF grade separation (\$19.7 million).

The bridge over Highway 167 should be finished by the end of next summer, but then crews need to extend South 224th up to Garrison Creek. The South 228th Street overpass over the Union Pacific tracks could be done by late 2020.

City Public Works Director Tim LaPorte told the

committee that the city issued bonds over a decade ago to complete the South 277th Street corridor that connected the Valley to the East Hill.

Kent also issued bonds of \$5.8 million in 2002 to help buy property along Naden Avenue for a new aquatic center before plans for that facility were scrapped. With a new YMCA opening this fall on the East Hill, the city now hopes to sell that property to developers for a hotel and potential mixed-use project. The city still owes about \$1.8 million in bond payments, which it plans to pay off when the land sells.

Hamada to run for Kent School Board

BY REPORTER STAFF

Leslie Hamada, who has an extensive background in community service, is running for the Kent School Board.

Hamada, of Covington, announced her campaign in a Monday news release. She is running for Position No. 3, held by Board Vice President Debbie Straus, who was first elected in 2007. Straus defeated Hamada in the 2011 election but ran unopposed in 2015.

Kent School District's Board of Directors have designated geographic areas, but are elected by all voters in the district and represent the district as a whole. Each board member serves a four-year term. The terms for Ross Hardy, Position No. 1, and Karen DeBruler, Position No. 2, also expire this year.

Candidates officially file May 13-17 with King County Elections. The primary is



Leslie Hamada.
COURTESY PHOTO, Michaela Jackson Portraits

Aug. 6 (if there are more than two candidates for the seat). The general election is Nov. 5. So far, Hamada is the only school board candidate

who has filed with the state Public Disclosure Commission and announced her campaign.

"As a mother and grandmother, I know how important public schools are, they are the backbone of our community," Hamada said in her release. "I want our schools to provide challenging and appropriate education to all students, regardless of race, language, ability or economics. In order to do that we need to invest in our teachers, principals

and staff so that they have the tools and skills needed to teach in the diverse, public school classroom.

"We must start by fully dismantling the budget of the school district and rebuilding the budget to more equitably fund our schools, our dynamic programs and support the front line employees in our district. I plan to spend this year listening to the students, families, educators and stakeholders across our community to build a list of objectives and initiatives that will best serve our kids."

Hamada retired in 2011 after 32 years in sales, marketing and public relation jobs and has since focused on volunteering in the community.

For the past 10 years she has directed the Emergency Assistance program for the Kent United Methodist Church, helping lower income neighbors during times of crisis.

Armed robbers lead Kent Police on pursuit that ends in a crash, shot fired

BY REPORTER STAFF

Kent Police chased down and arrested a 19-year-old Tukwila man in an armed robbery.

An officer fired a shot at a suspect, but no one was hit.

Kent officers were dispatched around 2 a.m. Jan. 23 to an armed robbery in progress at the ARCO gas station at 1809 W. Meeker St. Two handgun-armed males, wearing masks, robbed the clerk of money and merchandise, according to a Kent Police news release.

A witness reported that the suspects got into a red sedan to leave the area westbound on West Meeker Street.

A Kent officer located a red sedan leaving the area at a high rate of speed with a driver and passenger, matching the description of the robbery suspects. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but the suspects accelerated and a pursuit ensued. The chase ended when the suspects drove into a residential neighborhood and crashed into a tree near Military Road South and South 296th Street in

Federal Way, police said.

The suspects began to flee on foot and, during this time, the officer fired one shot at one of the suspects. The suspect was not hit, but immediately stopped and surrendered. The other suspect continued to run away, police said.

Responding officers were able to take the Tukwila man into custody without further incident. He was arrested for investigation of first-degree robbery and eluding, said Kent Police spokesman Jarod Kasner in an email.

Other responding officers, including Federal Way officers, set up a perimeter and conducted a K-9 track for the second observed suspect, but were unsuccessful in locating him.

The 21-year veteran Kent officer was not injured and has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard protocol, police said.

Police, having obtained a video of the robbery from the gas station, are hoping someone may be able to provide information as to the identity of the suspects. Detectives are also

investigating the possible connection to other recent robberies in the area and surrounding jurisdictions.

"The video from the gas station clearly shows that robbery suspects in this incident had little regard for the lives of the store clerk and any potential bystanders as they brazenly pointed their guns to intimidate and threaten," said Kent Police Chief Rafael Padilla. "I'm relieved that no one was injured or killed in this incident and that our officer took the necessary action to get these dangerous criminals into custody."

Padilla has enlisted the assistance of the Valley Investigation Team to conduct an investigation.

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In Information Age, public libraries matter more than ever

Occasionally, someone unfamiliar with the King County Library System will say to me, "Why do we need libraries when we have the internet?"

I actually love that question because there are so many compelling answers.

Libraries, as repositories of knowledge, have been around for about 5,000 years, dating back to ancient Middle Eastern civilizations that began to preserve important records and texts. The first public libraries appeared in Athens, Greece around 500 BC.

It is true that libraries have a long history, but that hardly makes them outdated. To the contrary, public libraries are more relevant than ever in an Information Age, where the internet and social media have made the quest for knowledge increasingly confusing and complex, and where barriers to access still exist.

Public libraries are places that are free and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, religions, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. Public libraries

level the playing field, providing equal access to information and creating equal opportunities to learn and grow. And access is not limited to physical buildings. KCLS provides outreach services to senior centers, homeless shelters, detention facilities and other underserved populations that cannot get to a library.

Libraries play a critical role in building community by providing spaces for people to gather and interact. In 2018, KCLS welcomed 10 million visitors and nearly 700,000 program attendees. Children made new friends during Story Times, non-native speakers practiced English at Talk Time sessions, Teen Library Advisory Board members developed programs for fellow teens, adults discussed current events with authors and local experts, and parents traded tips in caregiving classes. KCLS also provided assistance to patrons with real-life challenges, including individuals applying for jobs, navigating Social Security and Medicare, managing debt, seeking health care or searching for housing.

Through it all, libraries continue to offer books, music, movies, databases and other materials and resources to meet the demand of our patrons' wide-ranging interests. KCLS circulated 21.7 million items in 2018, including 4.9 million downloadable eBooks and audiobooks through Rakuten OverDrive – more than any other library in the United States.

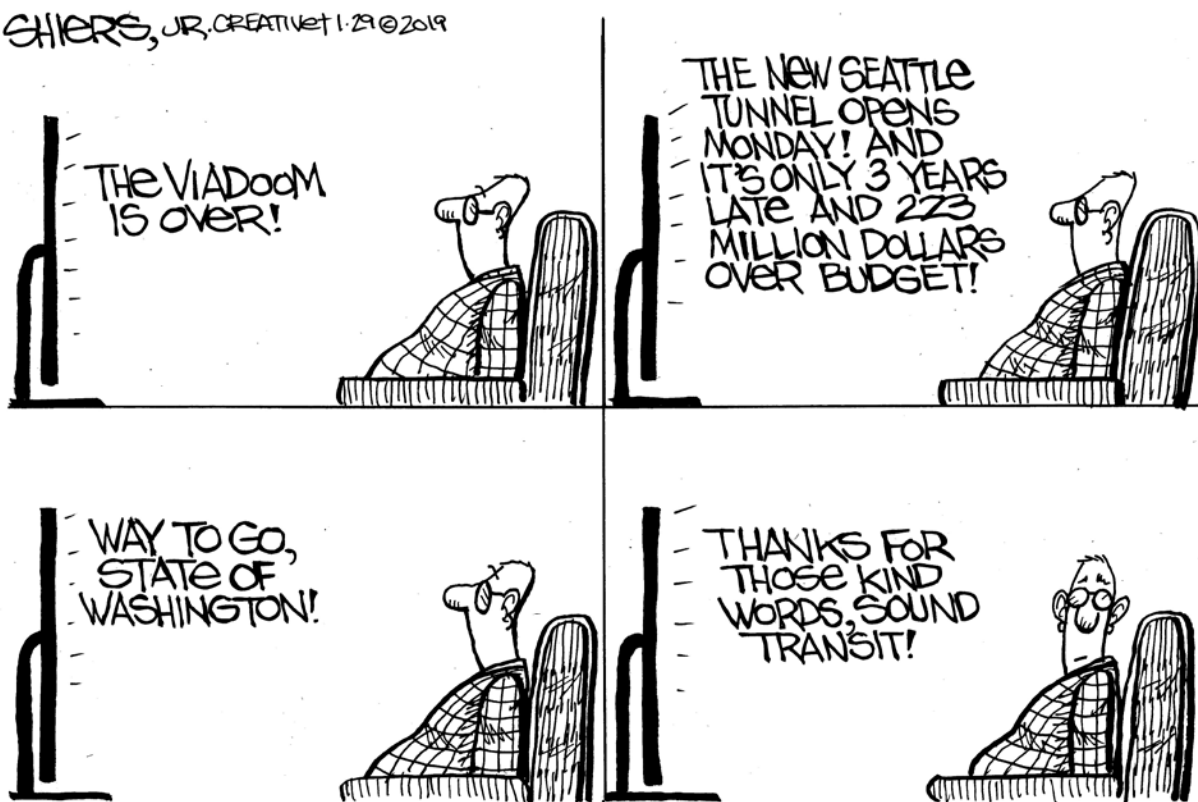
So if you are still thinking that libraries are no longer relevant, check out all there is to discover at your local library. As we say at KCLS, the choices will surprise you.

Lisa Rosenblum is director of the King County Library System.



LISA ROSENBLUM FROM THE SHELF

SHIERS, JR., CREATIVE 1:29 © 2019



For the good of all, leaders need to act like adults

"Only by pride comes contention" (Proverbs 13:10).

Been reading the media/watching the news recently? I have. From the federal government shutdown standoff to the clashes of demonstrators at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., it all comes down to human pride demanding its own way. No one listens to anyone else.

Welcome to America in 2019. All of these conflicts have their roots in pride.

Last week, demonstrators of multiple colors, religions and political views met by happenstance near the Lincoln Memorial to protest injustice and found themselves actors for a few minutes in a series of viral videos. Five Black Hebrew Israelite men hurled vulgar racial insults at white Catholic parochial students from Kentucky, some wearing MAGA hats. The students had come to attend a pro-life rally. Both groups either yelled at each other or threw racial slurs and mocked the Native Americans gathered to protest the injustice done to them

and their ancestors. These actions came as a result of human pride in one form or another.

Since the beginning of human history, you can see example after example of the powerful oppressing the poor and weak. The powerful thought only about what was good for themselves.

Centuries ago, if someone questioned the monarch's right to rule, the king would usually quash the protesters, citing the divine right of kings to rule.

In our time we see President Donald Trump, hemmed in by his promise to his base to build a wall, rational or not. He shut down the government and thus came into conflict with the newly elected Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. The speaker disinvented the president from giving the State of the Union address at the House of Representatives.

The president retaliated by telling Pelosi and her team that they couldn't use a military jet to go on a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan. He outed the trip, which would have put Pelosi and her colleagues and aides at risk of being



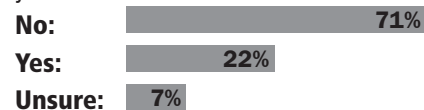
RICH ELFERS IN FOCUS

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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Previous poll result: Are you in support of new state legislation to give Washington daylight saving time all year?



attacked. Time will tell how Pelosi and the Democrats will respond in the game of high stakes tit for tat.

Meanwhile, 800,000 federal employees were required to work for no pay as bills pile up and desperation spreads.

Pride makes all of us victims of our own fears and lusts. Rather than admit we are all human and prone to error, we double down and find others to blame for our problems.

We are all guilty of the inability to see our own faults but keenly aware of the failings of others. Rather than treating others as we would like to be treated, we turn others into objects, casting insults and scorn on them.

Ironically, while we are quick to criticize, we are slow to realize that what we give to others usually

comes back to us. The most critical are also too thin-skinned to cope well with what they have given others coming back in kind.

This is America in 2019. Reason has been replaced by fear. We need leaders who can step up and act like adults. We need positive role models to the rest of the nation, who will not return evil for evil but act with patience and restraint in dealing with those who have been caught by their own pride. The only antidote to pride is humility and the realization that we are really more alike than we realize. We all are related to each other in the end.

Richard Elfers is an adjunct professor at Green River College and a columnist for Reporter newspapers. Reach him at editor@courierherald.com.

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Bakery closes after 30 years



A customer leaves with items Thursday, Jan. 24 from the Franz Bakery Outlet, 23009 Military Road S., in Kent that will close Feb. 1 after more than 30 years in town. MARK KLAAS, Kent Reporter

Customers visited the Franz Bakery Outlet on Kent's West Hill for the final days this week. The business officially closes Friday, Feb. 1, after more than 30 years in town.

The outlet, 23009 Military Road S., is closing after Poulso RV recently bought the property that Portland-based Franz leases. The RV dealership, next door to the outlet, hopes to remain in the area with the additional property when the state Department of Transportation constructs a tunnel under Interstate 5 to connect Veterans Drive with State Route 509.

The highway project could start in 2020 with a projected completion date of 2025 or 2026, according to state DOT officials.

After the Kent location closes, Franz customers can visit the Tukwila outlet, 17500 W. Valley Highway, which is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

A Franz spokeswoman confirmed the outlet closure Jan. 10 in a Kent Reporter article.

POLICE BLOTTER

By STEVE HUNTER
shunter@soundpublishing.com

A Kent mother called 911 after her adult son put a gun to his head during a dispute at a home in the 5100 block of South 234th Street.

When officers arrived at the home at about 2:38 a.m. Jan. 18, the son had put the gun down, left the house and drove off in a car, according to the police report.

The mother told police that her son had dealt with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for years and sometimes he snaps, loses control and breaks things in the house.

A dispute started on this night after the mother told her son he needed to move out. The son became angry and punched a glass kitchen cabinet, breaking the glass and cutting his hand. As the argument continued, he grabbed a gun and put it to his head.

Officers searched the neighborhood and found the man driving a vehicle. Officers arrested the man for investigation of malicious mischief and took him into custody without incident. The man said he didn't want to talk to police about the incident.

The mother said she didn't want to press charges, but wanted to find help for her son.

Man obstructs officer: An officer, responding to a fight at the 76 station on West Meeker Street, saw a vehicle running and parked sideways in the back parking lot at Big Lots, 1301 W. Meeker St., at

about 2:17 a.m. Jan. 19. Everyone had fled the fight, so the officer thought the vehicle might be related to that call, according to the police report. Police found out the female driver of the car had a no-contact order against a man that she feared might be in the area. The officer then saw a man walking and ducking between nearby vehicles.

When the officer shone his flashlight at the man, the man sprinted away. The man appeared to match the description of the no-contact order. Other officers joined the search for the man and found and detained him at the nearby 7-Eleven store on West Meeker Street. The man refused to give officers his name, so an officer got out a mobile fingerprinting scanner. When the officer tried to scan the man's fingerprints, he balled up his fists and pushed back against the officers holding him.

After a brief scuffle, police were able to control the man and identified him with the mobile scanner. The man had warrants out of Kent for vehicle trespass, possession of drug paraphernalia and failing to appear in court. He was not the man in the no-contract order.

Police arrested the man for investigation of obstructing an officer, the warrants and possession of drug paraphernalia. A search of the man by officers turned up a plastic straw with burn marks. The officer noted in the report the straw is known as a "tooter" and often used to smoke meth or heroin.

Woman lies about name: Officers arrested a woman for investigation of making a

false statement and a warrant for criminal trespass and harassment after responding at about 9:21 p.m. on Jan. 21 to the Denny's restaurant, 1246 Central Ave. N.

A restaurant employee called 911 because a woman appeared sick and wouldn't answer questions from the police report.

An officer arrived at the restaurant and saw the woman standing near a vehicle. The officer noted the restaurant is in a high crime area known for drug deals, stolen cars and prostitution (at nearby hotels).

The woman appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol as she was uncoordinated and slurred her speech. She gave police her name and birth date, but the officer had doubts about whether she was telling the truth. The officer used a mobile fingerprint scanner to identify the woman and discovered she had a

warrant out of Federal Way for criminal trespass and harassment.

The woman told police she knew it was a crime to lie to police about her name. But she said she lied because of her warrants and because she didn't want to go to jail.

Couple passed out in car at hotel: An officer on random patrol saw a Honda Prelude with no rear license plate parked at about 2:54 a.m. Jan. 18 at the Red Lion Inn and Suites, 25100 74th Ave. S.

When the officer approached the car, he saw a man and a woman passed out in the front seats, according to the police report.

Police knocked on the vehicle's window to wake up the two. Officers arrested the man for a Pierce County warrant for driving with a suspended license. Police arrested the woman for a Puyallup warrant for theft. She was also cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.



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Barzal shines in NHL All-Star Game

BY REPORTER STAFF

Mathew Barzal continues to make a bigger and bigger impact as well as earn more and more respect in the NHL.

Barzal, the second-year center for the New York Islanders and former star of the Kent-based Seattle Thunderbirds junior hockey team, had two goals and four assists to help the Metropolitan Division win the 2019 Honda NHL All-Star Game on Saturday in San Jose.

The 21-year-old from British Columbia played with Pittsburgh Penguins stars Sidney Crosby and Kris Letang in the two 20-minute games and three-on-three format.

"I was literally laughing on the ice because it was almost too easy," said Barzal, according to NHL.com, about playing with Crosby. "He was just always open, and you just hand it off to him when you're in trouble."

Crosby was named the game's most valuable player. He had four goals and four assists in the victories over the Atlantic Division (7-4) in the



Mathew Barzal, New York Islanders. COURTESY PHOTO, NHL.com

opening game and Central Division (10-5) in the title game.

Barzal was one of four finalists for the MVP award. Barzal also had the adjacent stall to Crosby in the dressing room.

"Got a chance to skate with him a little bit this summer, so that was just surreal," said Barzal, according to the New York Post. "Come in here, he's such a nice guy and such a good guy

for me to learn from. So it's really cool for me."

Crosby and Letang are impressed with Barzal's play.

"Three-on-three, I mean, I don't know if there's anyone better at holding on to the puck," said Crosby, according to NHL.com. "I think watching him out there with the best, I don't see anyone that beats him in that category."

T-Birds derail Blazers, stay in wild-card picture

FOR THE REPORTER

Matthew Wedman, Sean Richards and Henrik Rybinski each had three points to lead the Seattle Thunderbirds to a 5-2 Western Hockey League win over the Kamloops Blazers in front of 4,590 fans at accesso ShoWare Center on Sunday.

The T-Birds moved one point ahead of the Blazers for the second wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Wedman had two goals and an assist, Richards had a goal and two assists, and Rybinski had three assists.

Seattle goalie Roddy Ross made 24 saves and improved his record to 5-1-0-1.

Seattle (18-22-5-1) jumped out to a 2-0 lead with two goals in the first

seven minutes of the game.

Noah Philp scored on his wrist shot at 2:17 for his 19th goal of the season. Wedman found the back of the net at 7:26 on a power play.

Tyrel Bauer scored his first career goal to put the T-Birds up 3-1 at 2:53 of the second period.

Wedman extended the lead to 4-1 at 8:07 of the second.

Richards made it a 5-2 lead at 14:33 of the third period.

Seattle outshot Kamloops 12-9 in the third period and 38-26 in the game.

Seattle plays the Everett Silvertips in a home-and-home series on Friday and Saturday. The teams are at the ShoWare Center on Friday at 7:35 p.m. and then head to Everett on Saturday.

Kentlake High: Van Guilder, Selestine

Kentlake High School's Ally Van Guilder, dance team, was selected as the Kent Reporter's Female Athlete of the Week for Feb. 1.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

A: English.

Q: What other activities do you participate in?

A: Outside of school and dance, I love hanging out with my friends.

Q: Person who has helped you succeed the most?

A: The one person who has helped me succeed the most is my dad.

Q: Do you have a pre- or post-game tradition? What is it?

A: I have a few handshakes with some teammates we have to do before we perform.

Q: Song you currently can't get

enough of?

A: "Crush Culture" by Conan Gray

From the Sideline

"Ally Van Guilder, a sophomore and second-year member of the Kentlake Falcon Flames Dance Team, underwent intense scoliosis surgery in July 2018. Although she could not practice, she would still show up every day to practice supporting and encouraging her teammates. In December, we got the great news that Ally was 100 percent cleared to return to dance. We are so happy she is able to dance with her teammates on the floor. With her hard work, positivity, determination and her love and passion for dance and her teammates, it doesn't look like she missed a day. She is so graceful and beautiful on and off the floor. She is the perfect example of if you want it, you do what you have to get it."

The Athlete of the Week is sponsored by the Kent Reporter.



Kentlake High School's Tuombe Selestine, wrestling, was selected as the Kent Reporter's Male Athlete of the Week for Feb. 1.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

A: Math – I have always loved math.

Q: What other activities do you participate in?

A: Playing soccer, playing video games and hanging out with my youth group.

Q: Person who has helped you succeed the most?

A: My father – he has always instilled hard work and reminded me to always be humble.

Q: Do you have a pre- or post-game tradition? What is it?

A: I pray before any event because God is everything to me.

Q: Song you currently can't get

A: "Flip The Switch" by Quavo featuring Drake

From the Sideline

"Tuombe has been an outstanding student athlete while at Kentlake. He has been a multi-sport athlete who maintains over a 3.3 GPA. Last year, Tuombe had to battle through injuries and surgery but has bounced back to amass a 23-5 record this year and is undefeated in league. Tuombe went 5-0 this past week while winning the South Kitsap Invite.



Stars sign pair

The Tacoma Stars have signed a pair of veteran players to bolster their roster.

The Kent-based team added Jonathan Greenfield, an international player and Major Arena Soccer League veteran, earlier this week, and later signed goalie Feiras de Santana, a Brazil native.

As per team and league policies, terms of the agreements were not disclosed.

Greenfield, a South Africa native, began his U.S. pro career indoors with the first of two stints with the Milwaukee Wave.

Greenfield, a member

of the United States beach soccer team, also had indoor stops with the Detroit Ignition, Cedar Rapids Rampage, and Baltimore Blast. He captured a NISL Title in 2009 as a member of the Blast. He has 71 career indoor goals to his credit.

Sanaldo began his indoor career with the Kansas City Comets in 2003. He finished his first season 6-2 and was named to the MISL All-Rookie Team.

Sanaldo also lists stops with the Baltimore Blast, California Cougars, Wichita Wings and Detroit Ignition on his indoor soccer resume. As a member of the Ignition, Sanaldo captured a MISL Championship title.



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Dogs

From Page 1

Katzen was recently inducted into the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) Hall of Fame. Katzen specializes in teaching the fundamentals of dog agility, but she also has been active in sheepdog trailing and competed in obedience and disk dog competitions.

USDAA President Ken Tatsch described Katzen as “a trail blazer whose accomplishments ... have contributed to the sport and the organization’s development and growth, and are deemed to have lasting, historical significance, either regionally or nationally in scope.

“Sandra is a great role model as competitor, event organizer, judge, volunteer and leader, while contributing selflessly for 30 years in support of USDAA,” Tatsch said. “Her contributions have greatly impacted the development of the sport of dog agility in the United States and North America.”

The award surprised and humbled Katzen.

“It was quite an honor,” she said. “I love what I do.”

Katzen, who was born and raised in Palo Alto, Calif., before coming to the Pacific Northwest – has studied and worked with



With Sandra Katzen observing, Cathy Percy instructs Ketch, her cocker spaniel, to clear the next obstacle during training at the Vortex Agility and Dog Training arena on Kent’s East Hill. MARK KLAAS, Kent Reporter

animals most of her life. She earned a degree in animal science, with a minor in biology, at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo.

Looking for a change, Katzen moved to Bellingham 40 years ago before settling in Seattle and eventually Auburn.

Katzen discovered agility dog training 30 years ago when she was attending a seminar with her Australian Shepherd, Kodi, who became her first agility dog and a national champion. Intrigued, Katzen soon joined a group to form the Rainier Agility Team while she was working for the University of Washington in diabetes and endocrinology research.

“When we started, no one knew what they were doing, but we just started teaching

classes to the best of our ability from the seminars that we had taken,” Katzen said of agility dog training.

Katzen was a quick study and soon helped launch other USDAA clubs in the region. She became a USDAA judge in 1992 and since then has hosted clinics for future generations of judges.

In 2000, a veterinary hospital asked Katzen to build a dog training program that including agility instruction. She did, briefly working there before deciding to establish her own training school, Vortex Agility, in 2001. She’s been teaching students and their dogs ever since.

Katzen brings a gentle approach to her work, adjusting to the capabilities and personalities of

handlers and their dogs. Positive reinforcement during difficult training stretches is one of her keys to success. To stay current, she attends seminars to grasp the latest techniques in the evolving sport.

“You can be frustrated ... but I really try hard not to show (it) because (the dog will) think it’s them,” she said. “We’re not curing cancer, we’re having fun with our dogs, so it should be about having some fun, and that’s how I approach it.”

Each dog, each handler is different, Katzen said, making the sport challenging and the rewards great.

When she isn’t teaching, Katzen competes locally and nationally with her border collies.

What she enjoys most about agility is “the bond you develop with the dogs and the fun you both have in the sport, as well as the incredible friendships with folks from all over the world.”

She continues to have fun.

“(Agility) makes such a strong bond between the human and the dog because they’re having fun together,” Katzen said. “I teach a lot of ground skills that don’t have much to do with the equipment. But once they start doing the equipment, I enjoy just seeing almost the wonder on the handlers’ faces when their dogs do something. (They’re like), ‘I didn’t even think he could do that.’ And they can, and they do. ... It builds confidence in the dog, it builds confidence in the people.”



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Consider garden cutback, cleanup, pare down

The beginning of February starts the gardening season. Once you see daffodils pushing up from the ground, you know you have survived another winter, so it is time to celebrate spring and begin the garden cutback, cleanup and pare down.

Four ways to celebrate spring now:

1. Cut some forsythia branches and place them in a vase of water indoors. The warmth of the house will force the bright yellow blooms to emerge weeks before they open out of doors. You may also be able to force early blooms from

cherry and plum trees – but no branches are as easy to force as forsythia.

2. Snip off hellebore blooms and float them in a bowl of water. What, you have no hellebore plants? You may have missed the memo that was issued to



MARIANNE BINETTI
THE COMPLEAT HOME GARDENER

all homeowners in the state of Washington: Hellebore plants are now mandatory if you live in Western Washington. They love rainy climate, they are drought resistant in summer and they bloom in January, February, March and beyond.

They are also deer and slug resistant and need only partial shade and some organic matter in the soil to thrive. Hellebore blossoms will improve the quality of life for every citizen that must endure the many gray days we have here in Western Washington. Do not argue with the law, and do not Google the law as I did make it up, but really there should be a law.

3. Buy a pair of new garden gloves, sharpen your pruners and conquer your cabin fever with a pruning session. You can cut back your roses now or wait until March but don't wait to cut back any

ornamental grasses or old hellebore leaves. While you're out there cutting back, raking up and stomping on slugs you'll be getting exercise, breathing fresh air and noticing more signs of spring. Winter doldrums banished.

4. Go online and buy your tickets to the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival on Feb. 20-24 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. You get a discount before Feb. 7, so go to gardenshow.com and order spring now.

How to cut back hellebore foliage:

The one nice thing you should do for your hellebores is to snip off the green leaves when the plants start to bloom. This is quite easy as the pointy evergreen leaves are attached to long thick stems that emerge near the base of the hellebore plant. Just kneel down – an old tarp works as a great kneeling pad – and aim your hand pruners or scissors right where the stems emerge from the ground. You can remove mutable leaf stems with just one cut.

Warning: The new flowering shoots are also emerging from the center of the plant. Cut only the leaf stems, not the flower stems. If you slip up and accidentally cut off a

You may have missed the memo that was issued to all homeowners in the state of Washington: Hellebore plants are now mandatory if you live in Western Washington. They love rainy climate, they are drought resistant in summer and they bloom in January, February, March and beyond.

stem that holds up a flower cluster, bring the cut stem indoors for a bud vase.

I have a lot of hellebores, so I toss the cut leaves onto a tarp as I cut so it will be easy to drag them off to the compost pile. Removing the leaves in early spring not only allows a better view of the beautiful blooms but helps to prevent the black mold that grows on old leaves. Don't worry, new leaves will emerge on your hellebore plants soon – and they will be less likely to catch a leaf blight.

How to cut back ornamental grasses:

You can use a sickle, chain saw or saws, if you don't have a hedge trimmer but don't wait. Early spring is the best time to cut back the dead brown foliage of miscanthus, switch grass (*panicum virgatum*) and other clumping grasses that turn brown in winter. The

reason to cut back now is to avoid cutting into the new green growth that will be emerging next month.

No need to prune grasses that do not go dormant such as black mondo grass and blue fescue. No need to use any tools on Japanese forest grass – just wait until mid-spring when the foliage is so rotted that you can grab the brown blades, and, with a slight tug, they all come off to reveal the fresh new blades of grass from below.

Marianne Binetti has a degree in horticulture from Washington State University and is the author of "Easy Answers for Great Gardens" and several other books. For book requests or answers to gardening questions, write to her at: P.O. Box 872, Enumclaw, 98022. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a personal reply. For more gardening information, she can be reached at her website, binettigarden.com.

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Melvin F. Rugg, DDS



Melvin Frederick Rugg, "Dr Mel", a respected Dentist and long-time resident of Kent, died peacefully in his sleep on December 13, 2018 at the age of 86, due to complications from a fall. He also battled cancer and heart disease for many years.

Melvin was born in Auburn, WA on November 10, 1932 to Dr Roy and Mildred Rugg. He grew up in Kent, WA and graduated from the last graduating class of the old Kent-Meridian High School, in 1950, before the school moved up the hill to its current location in 1951. A mutual friend introduced him to his beloved future wife, Judith Olson, at a dance in the late 40's. They were married in 1953 and celebrated their 64th Anniversary shortly before Judith passed in January 2017.

Melvin graduated from the University of Washington Dental School in 1956. After graduation, he joined the Navy as a Dentist and was posted to San Diego, CA, taking his family with him. After his discharge, he moved the family back to Kent, WA and joined his father Roy Rugg and uncle Porter Rugg in their Dental practice located in downtown Kent. Melvin built a new office building on the East Hill of Kent in the late 60's and moved his dental practice there. He retired in 2002 after 46 years of Dentistry.

Melvin was an active member of the Kent Kiwanis Club for more than 55 years. He was a life member of the American and Washington State Dental Associations and a respected member of the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators, in Dentistry. He enjoyed skiing, fishing, boating, working on various household projects and putting around in the garden of his Auburn & Gig Harbor properties. He was happiest when helping others, a loving, caring, gentle soul, always a gentleman with a wonderful dry sense of humor. A devoted servant of God, his humble, compassionate and generous nature touched many lives. He will be greatly missed by his loved ones, friends and all who knew him.

Melvin's greatest joy was his family. He cherished his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his sister Bernice Stencil and husband Chet; SIL – Clarin Blessing Olsen and husband Wayne; daughter Elizabeth Cooper and husband Geoffrey; son James Rugg and wife Kipling; 3 grandchildren, Caroline Weatherford and husband Trey, Meredith Zapffe and husband Davis and Thomas Rugg and wife Celina; 6 great-grandchildren, Scarlett, Savannah, Juliette, Haisten, Lavender and Henry; and niece Karen Stencil.

A memorial in Dr Mel's honor will be held at Kent Covenant Church, 12010 SE 240th St, Kent, WA, on Saturday March 9 at 1:00pm. Reception to follow.

Remembrances, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choosing, please do not send flowers.

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...Continued from previous page

Legal Notices

I. GAVINA CHINYE-REZE IHUNNAH, once known and addressed as GAVINA CHINYEREZE IK-WUEGBU, now wish to be known and addressed as GAVINA CHINYEREZE IHUNNAH. All former documents remain valid. # 842660 2/1/19

CITY OF KENT PUBLIC NOTICE MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Pursuant to KCC 11.03, Environmental Policy, the City of Kent has issued a threshold determination for the following:
Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) for: OBERON SUBDIVISION ENV-2018-9, KIVA# RPSW-2183188. The applicant proposes to subdivide a 4.87 acre parcel into 29 single family residential lots, a combined storm drainage/recreation tract, two open space tracts, and three private access tracts. The existing residence, tennis court and accessory buildings will be removed. Access to the new development is proposed from public street connections at the intersection of South 202nd Street and 96th Avenue South, serving 23 lots, and at the south end of 98th Avenue South, serving six lots. A pedestrian access is also proposed at the eastern end of the private access tract serving lots 8-11 connecting to the six lots on 98th Avenue South. There are no known wetlands or streams on or near the site.
CONDITIONS/MITIGATING MEASURES: The following note shall be placed on the grading plans for the Oberon development:

The contractor shall perform a reconnaissance of the site prior to clearing and grubbing to locate any Tansy Ragwort present. Where present, these weeds (including the roots) shall be dug out, placed in plastic bags, and hauled offsite separate from other on-site soil and ground strippings to be disposed of at the nearest King County Solid Waste Transfer Station. Care shall be taken to avoid the spread or loss of seeds during the excavation and disposal operations.

The property is located at 20120 96th Avenue South and is identified by King County parcel number 0622059135. The property is zoned SR-6, single family residential. Comments are due for the above project by 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 15, 2019, to City of Kent Planning Services. For more information, contact Kent Planning Services at 220 Fourth Avenue S., Kent, WA 98032, Telephone: (253) 856-5454. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the City for more information. For TDD relay service, call 1-800-833-6388 or the City of Kent at (253) 856-5725. Dated: Friday, February 1, 2019 #842755

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY In Re The Estate of: HENRY J. FRANGELO, Deceased.

No. 18-4-06252-4 KNT PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11-40-030)
The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any

otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of First Publication: February 1, 2019 Personal Representative: Karen Frangelo Attorney for the Personal Representative: Anthony V. Alfieri, Esq. Address for Mailing or Service: 13220 NE 80th St Redmond, WA 98052 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County Superior 18-4-06252-4 KNT # 842455 2/1/19, 2/8/19, 2/15/19

Kent City Council NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the Transit Operations and Maintenance Facilities Interim Zoning Ordinance
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kent City Council will hold a public hearing on the Transit Operations and Maintenance Facilities Interim Zoning Ordinance at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, in the Council

Chambers at Kent City Hall, 220 4th Avenue South, Kent. All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to speak. The Transit Operations and Maintenance Facilities Interim Zoning Ordinance was adopted by the Kent City Council on January 15, 2019. Pursuant to state law, a public hearing regarding the ordinance is required within 60 days of its adoption. Members of the public may also submit written comments at the meeting, or in person or in advance by regular U.S. Mail to the City Clerk's Office, 220 Fourth Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032, or by electronic mail to cityclerk@kent-wa.gov. Any written comments sent in advance must be received no later than 4 p.m. on February 5, 2019, in order to be considered. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the City Clerk's Office in advance at 253-856-5725. For TDD relay service, call the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at 7-1-1. Kimberly A. Komoto City Clerk 253-856-5725 #841938 1/25/19, 2/1/19

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND Proposed Determination of Nonsignificance

An Environmental Checklist application was filed with City of Kent Planning Services. The City of Kent expects to issue a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for the proposal; therefore, the **Optional DNS Process is being used**. This may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposal. The proposal may include mitigation measures under applicable codes, and the

project review process may incorporate or require mitigation measures regardless of whether an EIS is prepared. A copy of the subsequent threshold determination for the specific proposal may be obtained upon request. Following is a description of the application and the process for review. The application and listed studies may be reviewed at the offices of Kent Planning Services, 400 W. Gowe Street, Kent, Washington.

APPLICATION NAME/NUMBER: BLUE ORIGIN PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS N.V.-2019-4, KIVA #RPSA-2190264
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to pave a gravel area located behind and west of an existing warehouse building for construction of 94 parking spaces with related stormwater and flood storage improvements. Environmental impacts from construction of the existing improvements were evaluated by the City in 1974 via Environmental Worksheet number 48, which resulted in a Determination of Nonsignificance by the City's SEPA Responsible Official. The project site is located at 21218 76th Avenue South, is identified as parcel number 1222049084, and is zoned M3 Limited Industrial.

OTHER PERMITS AND PLANS WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED: Civil Construction, Flood Zone Permit
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: February 1, 2019 - February 14, 2019

All persons may comment on this application. Comments must be in writing and received in Kent Planning Services by **4:30 P.M., Friday, February 14, 2019**, at 220 4th Avenue South, Kent WA 98032. For questions regarding this project, please contact Jason Garnham, AICP Senior Planner, at jgarnham@kentwa.gov or 253-856-5439. Published in the Kent Reporter Friday, February 1, 2019 #843128



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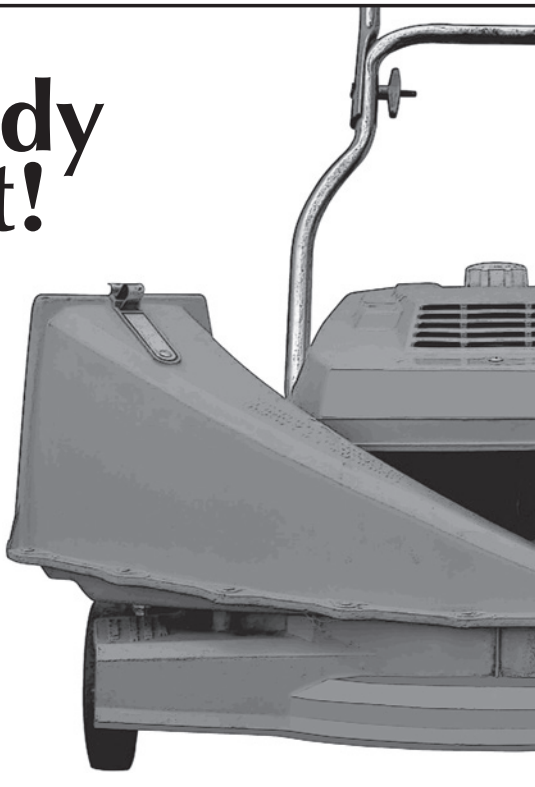
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