

**Events & Announcements**

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

**Festival Sundiata**

Four little Northwest Tap Connection students watch the older kids perform on the Armory Stage during Festival Sundiata, Black Arts Fest 2017 at the Seattle Center. The annual two-day event featured a wide variety of entertainment, workshops and food.

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Scammers contacted the consumer by phone and claimed that somebody wanted to buy the consumer's land. The scammers claimed to work with "Resort Closing Inc" and that Resort Closing Inc would close the sale.

The scammers told the consumer to wire money to individuals in Largo and Lakeland, Florida repeatedly. Over several months the consumer wired money to the scammers more than seventy times. In total, the consumer wired more than \$30,000.

There is no evidence that the land sale was real or that the individuals involved in the scam actually worked with an escrow agent. The consumer has not recovered his money.

"Resort Closing Inc" should not be confused with Resort Closings, Inc., an escrow company licensed in Montana, or Resort Closing Network LLC, a company registered with the Florida Secretary of State.

Escrow agents offering services related to the purchase and sale of property in Washington State must be licensed by DFI. To verify an escrow agent's license, visit [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov) and click "Verify a License."

In Washington State, escrow services may also be performed by several other types of businesses. These include:

- Insurance companies registered with the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.
- Attorneys licensed to practice law in Washington State.
- State and federally chartered banks and credit unions.
- Real estate brokers licensed by the Washington State Department of Licensing (provided they do not charge a fee for escrow services).

Resort Closing Inc is not licensed by DFI or otherwise authorized to perform escrow services in Washington State.

Washington State residents only: If you suspect illegal or fraudulent activity involving a financial product or service, please contact the Department at 1-877-RING-DFI (746-4334), or at [www.dfi.wa.gov](http://www.dfi.wa.gov).

If you feel you have been the victim of a scam please contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357) or online at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov); or contact the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (855) 411-CFPB (2372) or online at [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov). You may also wish to contact the Office of the Attorney general at [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov).

If you feel you have been the victim of a scam involving the internet please contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center online at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

**County Council Appoints Javier Valdez to State House**

The Metropolitan King County Council this week

approved the appointment of Javier Valdez to the vacancy created in the Washington state House of Representatives with the resignation of Jessyn Farrell. Valdez will serve as a Representative in the state's 46th Legislative District and complete Farrell's term, which runs through 2018.

Valdez will represent a Legislative District that includes parts of Council districts represented by Dembowski, Gossett and Kohl-Welles.

Javier Valdez was the first member of his family to obtain a college degree, graduating from the University of Washington and receiving his Masters from New York's Baruch College. An employee of the city of Seattle for over 20 years, Valdez has directed Seattle City Light's Woman and Minority Business (WMBE) Program and is currently advising Seattle Mayor Murray on WMBE issues.

Pursuant to the State Constitution, the Council must choose from a list of three names submitted by the state central committee of the same political party as the legislator whose office is vacant. The King County Democratic Party submitted three names, identifying Valdez as the preferred candidate of the 46th District Precinct Committee Officers for the House seat, listing Melissa Taylor and Nigel Herbig as second and third choices.

All three of the candidates were interviewed today by the members at a special meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole.

Valdez was sworn in by King County Superior Court Judge Dean Lum and will begin representing the 46th District immediately as the State Legislature continues its special session in Olympia.

**Seattle Releases Employee Gender Identity Guidelines**

This week the Seattle Department of Human Resources released "Guidance on Gender Identity in the Workplace," a new resource for City departments on gender identity and transitioning employees. This guidance sets forth the City's expectations to support transitioning, gender-diverse and transgender City employees. It also provides a roadmap to help departments better serve employees who transition while on the job.

In March 2016, Mayor Murray signed an Executive Order outlining clear steps to ensure that City facilities continue to be safe and welcoming places for all residents and employees, including transgender and gender-diverse people. The Executive Order instructed the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) to work with community-based organizations to develop uniform guidance and trainings for City staff on providing safe and inclusive spaces for residents. It also directed SOCR to collaborate with the Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR) to develop best practices for creating gender inclusive work environments at the City. The City will supplement this guidance with training on gender identity for City

**Community Calendar 2017**

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**Seattle Metro****THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

**FESTIVAL OF SAIL 2017:** Join us on the shores of the Puget Sound for Festival of Sail. It's a rare chance to catch a glimpse, step aboard and even set sail on some of the grandest ships. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Thea Foss Waterway, 1804 Dock St., Tacoma.

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - 18**

**BERRY DAIRY DAYS:** Berry Dairy Days is a celebration of the local agriculture and dairy industry that has shaped Burlington & the Skagit Valley for many years. You will be treated to the traditional Strawberry Shortcake, local foods, kids' activities & fireworks, live music, parade and tons of fun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday, Burlington Visitors Center, 520 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

**AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ODYSSEY WITH NORTHWEST TAP CONNECTION:** Northwest Tap Connection returns to the History Museum, An African American Odyssey, interprets the economic, social, political. Artistic and racial imprints that have cultivated the Black experience in American Culture. This is included with your general admission, or if you are only wanting to view the exhibit itself you may pay \$5 at the door. 2 p.m. Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma.

**OLD TOWN HISTORY WALK - TACOMA'S 1ST WORKING WATERFRONT:** Learn about the businesses, events and people who gave Tacoma the name "Lumber Capitol of America" as well as those who helped establish Tacoma Maritime Trades. FREE to enjoy: 11 a.m. - noon, Job Carr Cabn Museum, 2350 N. 30th St., Tacoma.

**FREMONT SOLSTICE FAIR:** The 46th annual Fremont Solstice Fair is a community celebration. The Fremont Fair includes performances by local bands, arts and crafts, shopping, food and much more. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fremont Neighborhood, First Ave. to Stoneway & 34th St. to 45th St.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

**FATHER'S DAY:** Bring your dad to the museum day. Bring your dad to the museum for free and enjoy all the fun that will be taking place on Father's Day. Free. Noon - 5 p.m., Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**

**AUBURN'S KIDS DAY:** The perfect day for any child. Live entertainment, inflatable rides, mini golf, arts & crafts and much more! Free for all to come and have fun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Les Gove Park, 910 9th St. SE., Auburn.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

**BLACK ARTS LOVE SUMMER MIXER AND MARKETPLACE!** Join us for a free and fun Community event celebrating African American arts and culture. Event will feature over 25 artists and businesses, live performances, DJ, Paint party for kids, interactive activities, good food and community fun! Noon - 5 p.m. Franklin High School, 3013 S. Mount Baker Blvd.

employees, supervisors, and managers beginning in 2018.

Guidance on Gender Identity in the Workplace is available to City departments and employees through SDHR and is available to the public at [www.seattle.gov/civilrights/gender-justice-project/what-we-do](http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/gender-justice-project/what-we-do).

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