

Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Net Neutrality

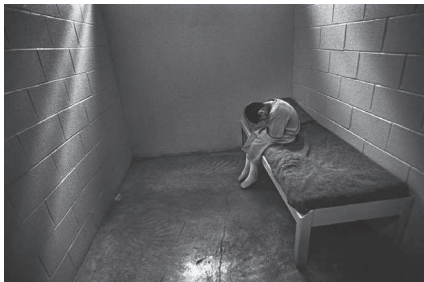
Several hundred people gathered outside a Verizon store in downtown Seattle Dec. 9 to protest the plan by the FCC to vote to end Net Neutrality Dec. 14. Similar protests were held around the United States.

Seattle News Briefs

Council Bans Solitary Confinement for Youth in Detention

The Metropolitan King County Council today voted to ban solitary confinement for minors in detention. The legislation also requires the County to provide incarcerated youth with adequate educational resources, and the use of detention practices suited for youth and their brain development, regardless of the location where the young person is detained.

Most youth detained by the County are held at the King County Juvenile Detention Center in Seattle. Some young people who have been charged as adults are housed at the Maleng Regional Justice Center or, occasionally, at the King County Correctional Facility. Those youth are separated from the adult population at these facilities, but solitary confinement/isolation has also been used for these young offenders where it is not at the Youth Services Center.



The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has noted that even short periods of isolation often have serious long-term mental health impacts on juveniles, and research shows that solitary confinement does not reduce behavioral incidents and may increase aggressive or violent behavior by youth.

The legislation adopted unanimously by the Council seeks to implement reforms while ensuring the safety of King County staff working in the detention facilities and the safety of other detainees. It will end the use of solitary confinement/isolation as county policy, reducing its use to instances where, because of safety, security or another reason, a less restrictive option is not available. The legislation also calls for strict monitoring of those youth placed in solitary confinement/isolation and requests the Executive engage an independent monitor to report on the implementation of the requirements.

The legislation recognizes that engagement and access to tools that can reduce recidivism are vital. It also calls for the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention to take into consideration the developmental needs of young people in detention and take steps to ensure they have access to education and therapeutic programs that will set them up for success when they leave the detention facility.

People's Academy for Community Engagement now accepting applications

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods is accepting applications to the People's Academy for Community Engagement (PACE), its civic leadership development program for the next wave of community leaders. The winter quarter begins February 24 and runs through March 24.

During the five-week program, 25-30 emerging leaders (18 years and up) will learn hands-on strategies for community building, accessing government, and inclusive engagement from experts in the field. PACE has a strong focus on Seattle's community and neighborhood organizations and the city of Seattle's governmental structure and processes.

Winter quarter will be held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. Topics include: Approaches to Leadership, Accessing City Government, Community Organizing, Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement, Public Speaking, Conflict Resolution, and more.

Tuition for the five-week program is \$100. Tuition assistance is available. To apply, visit seattle.gov/PACE. Applications for all quarters are accepted on a rolling basis. The application deadline for the upcoming winter quarter is Monday, February 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Given the popularity of the program, PACE is offered three times a year: winter, spring and fall. For more information, visit our webpage and for questions, email PACE@seattle.gov.

EPA Announces Funding for Puget Sound Protection, Conservation & Recovery

The Northwest office of the Environmental Protection Agency announced today that through its National Estuary Program it is providing \$25.2 million in grant funds to state, local and tribal Puget Sound recovery and conservation efforts.

Among the efforts funded in whole or in part with National Estuary Program funds announced today are:

- The restoration of an additional 5,000 acres of key Orca and salmon habitat;
- The re-opening of about 4,000 acres of shellfish beds in Puget Sound; and
- Improvement of biological condition from fair to good for at least 30 streams.

EPA distributes its National Estuary Program funds to Washington's Department of Ecology, Department of Health, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Commerce, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Washington State University's Stormwater Center, the Puget Sound Partnership, and the University of Washington's Puget Sound Institute.

These agencies then fund projects that meet the goals of both the National Estuary Program and the Puget Sound Action Agenda which is developed by the Puget Sound Partnership, the state agency charged with leading the state's collective efforts to restore and protect Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Institute conducts and funds scientific research that

Community Calendar 2017

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

MOVIE NIGHT: Join us for a screening of the new hit "Wonder Woman." We will provide the popcorn. Free. Parkland/Spanaway Library, 13718 Pacific Hwy. S., Tacoma.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

PIONEER SQUARE HOLIDAY HOOKY HOUR: Come play hooky with us, get your shopping list crossed off, and enjoy a delicious bite to eat. Participating businesses around Pioneer Square will be offering great promotions, fun prizes and festive activities all day. Pioneer Square Seattle, 117 S. Washington St.

FRIDAY - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 - 16

HOLIDAY SALE - DRESS FOR SUCCESS SEATTLE: Stop by Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and grab those last-minute holiday purchases. Dress for Success Seattle, 1118 5th Ave.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

FUN WITH FROSTY: Frosty the Snowman at Country Village. Meet Frosty and his friends. Enjoy a magic show, participate in fun games and activities, make a winter craft project. This is a free event for children of all ages. Noon - 5 p.m., Country Village Shops, 23718 Bothell Everett Highway, Bothell.

MONDAY - SATURDAY, DEC. 18 - 23

30TH ANNUAL ISSAQUAHREINDEER FESTIVAL: Come by the greatest holiday festival in the Northwest. Enjoy the festive sights and sounds of the holiday season with family and friends. Come meet Santa and reindeer team. Free festival. Cougar Mountain Zoo, 19525 SE 54th St., Issaquah.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

CASCADIAN HOLIDAY POP-UP: A holiday gift pop-up with local crafts, books and collectables. Free. Noon - 7 p.m. Horizon Books, 1423 10th Ave.

informs decision-making.

Since 2006 Congress has appropriated \$212 million in National Estuary Program funds that EPA has used to help restore over 49,752 acres of habitat (64 square miles), and to protect over 140,000 acres of shellfish beds. Other success stories over the last decade include:

- A net increase of approximately 5,000 acres of safe, harvestable shellfish beds restored;
- Removal of 1,006 creosote treated pilings in Northern Hood Canal and Chambers Creek to protect spawning herring populations and reduce embryo mortality. NEP's cumulative investment of approximately \$967,000 for all removals (and monitoring) in these two areas, inspired the state legislature to appropriate \$2.5 million in 2014 for other removals; and
- Re-opening 1.5 miles of Coho spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Skagit River by the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. The projects helped restore natural watershed processes critical to flood management.

In addition to providing grant funds, through the National Estuary Program and other programs, EPA experts provide their scientific expertise to local, state, tribal, industry, and NGOs on strategy development, and are typically involved in scientific research and restoration projects throughout the watershed.

Encompassing 8 million acres of rivers, bays, beaches and shorelines, the Puget Sound watershed serves as an economic and cultural hub for the region's more than 4.7 million people, including 19 federally recognized tribes.

Learn more about EPA's work to protect Puget Sound: www.epa.gov/puget-sound

Find more information and project photos at: www.pugetsoundinnovationstories.blog

More information about EPA's National Estuary Program: www.epa.gov/nep