

Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Black Lives Matter High Five

Dozens of teachers, parents, and community members lined up to greet students arriving at Leschi Elementary School on Feb. 9 with high fives and positive affirmations. Friday was the last day of Black Lives Matter Week of Action and the event was a way to end the week on a high note.

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Misdemeanor Marijuana Cases

Former U.S. Attorney and Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and City Attorney Pete Holmes announced that the City of Seattle will move to vacate misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions prosecuted by the City before marijuana was legalized in Washington. Passed in 2012, I-502 legalized the possession and recreational use of marijuana for adults ages 21 years or older. The Seattle City Attorney’s Office will be asking Seattle’s municipal court to vacate convictions and dismiss charges for misdemeanor marijuana possession prosecuted by the City of Seattle.

Marijuana possession arrests in Washington rose sharply in the 25 year period from 4,000 in 1986 to 11,000 in 2010, totaling 240,000 arrests according to the Drug Policy Alliance. In King County, there were 65,483 arrests for possession of small amounts of marijuana. In Washington State, African Americans were arrested at 2.9 times the rate of whites. Latinos and Native Americans were arrested at 1.6 times the rate of whites.

Minor marijuana possession has been the lowest enforcement priority for the Seattle Police Department since Seattle voters passed Initiative 75 in 2003; however, the City continued to charge for possession until City Attorney Holmes took office in 2010.

Beginning December 6, 2012, it was not a violation of state law for adults over 21 years old to possess up to an ounce of marijuana, sixteen ounces of marijuana-infused product in solid form, seventy-two ounces of marijuana-infused product in liquid form, or seven grams of marijuana concentrate. Consistent with I-502, the new policy will affect individuals who had been convicted of offenses for conduct that is now legal under state law. A motion will be made for all those found to eligible, which will not require any action by individuals.

EPA Awards University of Washington Nearly \$3 Million to Further Study Air Pollution & Cardiovascular Disease Link

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the University of Washington a \$2,996,426 grant to help fund the “Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis and Air Pollution – Next Stage (MESA Air Next)” project, building on more than a decade of research that looks at the connection between inhaled small particle pollution and increased risks of stroke, heart attacks and other cardiovascular disease.

Over the past 14 years, EPA has invested \$33 million and leveraged over another \$70 million from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The MESA Air Next research is reducing import-

ant areas of uncertainty that remain regarding the effects of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and other criteria pollutants on cardiovascular health, over time. A better understanding of effects allows decision makers and practicing clinicians to make more informed health-related recommendations to both the general public and groups of people that may be at higher risk (e.g. elderly, diabetics). With a clearer understanding of the uncertainty of these estimates, public health authorities can make more informed resource allocation decisions based on robust science and accurate measurements.

Dr. Kaufman’s UW co-investigators on the new MESA Air Next grant are Dr. Elizabeth (Lianne) Shepard, assistant chair and professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and professor of biostatistics; Dr. Paul Sampson, research professor emeritus of statistics; Dr. Adam Szpiro, associate professor of biostatistics; and Dr. Richard Kronmal, professor of biostatistics and statistics.

This award builds on previous multi-agency investments and resources, therefore avoiding many of the start-up costs usually associated with this type of research, such as establishing a new study cohort and infrastructure to make initial and follow-up measurements, and the development of a data management system. By incorporating these unique resources in MESA Air Next, this research can make great strides in understanding one of the most serious, yet preventable, health risks we face in modern society.

For more about the MESA Air Next study and University of Washington’s Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences: <http://deohs.washington.edu/mesaa-ir/home>

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Community Calendar 2018

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Hardesty and executive leadership will provide updates and current and future initiatives. This is an opportunity to connect with Portland NAACP’s work in advancing racial justice in the community. Noon – 2 p.m., Lloyd Center, North of Ice Skating, former Deb’s retail store space.

BLACK HISTORY UNITY GALA AND COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE: World Stage Theater hosts the annual unity gala featuring keynote speaker Jemele Hill, co-host of ESPN SC6. Visit the best vendors and organizations in the community marketplace. 7 p.m., SEI, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND READING FAIR AND FAMILY STEM DAY: Kappa Delta Pi and the University of Portland Education and Outreach Center will be hosting this free event. Each child will receive one free book upon attendance as well as a day full of discovery in different kinds of fields. Free, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., University of Portland, Chiles Center, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

Seattle Metro

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

LEARN ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND: The Neighborhood Matching Fund, a program of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, is hosting a workshop for those interested in applying to the fund. This is for neighborhoods and community groups that are interested. 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m., Mont Lake Community Center, 1618 Calhoun St.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

SOUND OFF 2018 –SEMINALS ROUND 2: MoPop’s premier 21 and under battle of the bands supports the local music scene by giving artists of all backgrounds the opportunity to showcase original music. The winning band from each semifinal will progress to the Finals on Saturday March 3. Admission is \$9 members, \$10 students with ID, \$14 general admission. 8 p.m., Museum of Pop Culture, 325 5th Ave. N.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

FREE DAY AT THE RENTON HISTORY MUSEUM: There’s always something happening at the Renton History Museum. The museum offers changing exhibits, programs, publications and events to share Renton’s stories, past and present. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S., Renton.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FAMILY – FRIENDLY LEARNING EXHIBIT: Visitors will receive a firsthand look at the Reggio Emilia approach to education which provides visibility to the values of its experience. 5 p.m. – 9 p.m., One Convention Place, 701 Pike St. Floor 9.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

MORNING TREATS AND TWEETS: Join naturalist Ed Dominguez for a casual birding experience aimed at beginning and intermediate birders. We start off by filling our cups with hot tea or coffee and a donut. Cost is \$7 ages 8 and older. 10 a.m. – noon, Seward Park Audubon Center, 5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S.



Voter Education Fund
Improving voter access in underserved communities

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will award a total of \$460,000 in grants to community-based organizations to provide either an ongoing campaign or a series of targeted events focused on voter engagement.

Apply today! Application period closes on March 5, 2018.

Visit our website for more information
kingcounty.gov/elections/voter-education-fund

