

Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Spirit of Africa Festival

A vendor sells his wares at the African Market Place during the 2018 Spirit of Africa Festival May 12 in the Seattle Center Armory. The annual festival celebrates African art, music and dance, and featured the Market Place and a Fashion Show.

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with insight on what it is to be a broadcaster working in community arts.

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Seattle News Briefs

Seattle OKs Taxing Companies Like Amazon to Aid the Homeless

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle's largest businesses such as Amazon and Starbucks will have to pay a new tax to help fund homeless services and affordable housing under a measure approved by city leaders.

The City Council unanimously passed a compromise plan Monday that taxes businesses making at least \$20 million in gross revenues about \$275 per full-time worker each year — lower than the \$500 per worker initially proposed. The so-called "head tax" would raise roughly \$48 million a year to build new affordable housing units and provide emergency homeless services.

The debate over who should pay to solve a city housing crisis exacerbated by Seattle's rapid economic growth comes after weeks of tense exchanges, raucous meetings and a threat by Amazon, the city's largest employer, to stop construction planning on a 17-story building near its hometown headquarters.

Amazon, Starbucks and business groups sharply criticized the council's decision after Monday's vote. They called it a tax on jobs and questioned whether city officials were spending current resources effectively. One state Republican lawmaker said he would seek legislation next year to make clear that a city tax on employees, wages or hours is illegal.

Worker and church groups and others praised the tax as a step toward building badly needed affordable housing in an affluent city where the income gap continues to widen and lower-income workers are being priced out.

Seattle LGBTQ Commission to Screen 'Pinkwashing Exposed'

The Seattle LGBTQ Commission, Seattle Queers Against Israeli Apartheid, City Councilmember Kshama Sawant, the Seattle Disability Commission

and interfaith community leaders to learn about and process the intricacies of Israeli-Palestinian relations and pinkwashing.

"Pinkwashing Exposed" is an hour-long documentary on anti-pinkwashing and Palestine solidarity activism in Seattle edited by Amy Mahardy and directed by Dean Spade. "Pinkwashing" is a term activists have coined for when countries promote themselves as "gay friendly" to divert attention from terrible human rights violations; this film examines Israel's practices in this context.

In 2012, an Israeli Consulate funded speaking tour about LGBT issues traveled the West Coast. Activists in many cities, including Seattle, raised concerns that the tour was pinkwashing propaganda. "Pinkwashing Exposed" is the story of the controversy that emerged in Seattle when the LGBTQ Commission scheduled an event with the tour and later cancelled it after hearing concerns from Palestinian and Jewish queer constituents. To view the trailer please visit <https://pinkwashingexposed.net/2015/05/05/watch-the-trailer-for-pinkwashing-exposed-seattle-fights-back/>.

"Lacking a full understanding of pinkwashing and Israeli apartheid, the Seattle LGBTQ Commission became entangled with events that perpetuate pinkwashing in both 2012 and 2017," reads a press release from the Seattle LGBTQ Commission promoting the upcoming screening. "In an effort to repair harm previously caused by our Commission, stand in solidarity with individuals throughout the world who face oppression, and educate more people about these important topics, we invite you to attend our film screening."

The screening takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. May 24 in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at Seattle City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave.

The event will include slam poetry by a Youth Speaks performer and a panel discussion. Snacks will also be served.

RSVP: On the Facebook Event at "Seattle LGBTQ Commission Pinkwashing Exposed Film Screening" and Panel Discussion or email erika.pablo@seattle.gov.

King County Council Approves Prepaid Postage Ballots



Screenshot from the trailer for 'Pinkwashing Exposed'

Community Calendar 2018

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FRIDAY, MAY 18

SPRING MUSEUM FUN DAY: International Museum Day was established in 1977 by the International Council of Museums. Celebrate your love for your local museum by visiting, donating, learning or volunteering. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Children's Museum of Tacoma, 1501 Pacific Ave, Tacoma.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

PETPALOOZA: The event features an animal-related entertainment stage, fly dog and agility demos, pony rides, Mud Bay's Northwest Pet Contest, more than 150 vendors and much more. Petpalooza is a free event for pet lovers and a special day for your four-legged family member or other furry friends. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Game Farm Park, 3030 R. St. SE., Auburn.

RAY EVANS MEMORIAL FISHING EVENT: For \$5 children ages 5 – 14 enjoy a day of fishing on American Lake. Children get to keep the fishing pole they will use. Poles, bait, and bags for your fish are all provided also enjoy a host of other activities. Only children can fish. Adults only assist and children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., American Lake Park, 9222 Veterans Dr. SW, Lakewood.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY, MAY 19 – 20

THE 48TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY STREET FAIR: Mark your calendars for delicious food, amazing arts and crafts and lively tunes. A neighborhood tradition celebrating peace, culture and community for 47 years. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday, Seattle University District.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

JL'S TOUCH A TRUCK: This family centric event offers children hands-on opportunities to explore working trucks of all types. Individual tickets are available for \$5. "Family Pack" tickets that allow admission for five (5) individuals are available for \$20 each. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand Point Way, NE.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

TAMKFEST NW: Seventh Annual Tankfest Northwest Event, Bring the family out to enjoy tanks, military vehicles and artillery weapons as they cruise just feet from you. Enjoy dozens of activities, movies, video games and so much more at the action packed day. All available with paid admission. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Flying Heritage & Combat Museum, 3407 109th St SW, Everett.

No Stamp? No Problem! The Metropolitan King County Council today approved legislation allowing the Department of Elections to send voters postage paid envelopes to return their ballots in this year's primary and general elections.

Washington became a vote-by-mail state in 2011. While the Council and King County Elections worked to increase the number of ballot drop boxes available to voters throughout the county, approximately half of the ballots received are still sent by mail. Prior to today's action all voters were personally required to place postage on their ballot.

In prior elections, when a voter forgot to place on stamp on a ballot, some post offices would send the ballot to King County regardless, but would charge the county \$1.70—more than three times the current postage rate. Other post offices would not forward the ballot at all.

The measure is widely expected to increase voter access and participation. Elections conducted a pilot project this winter, sending 65,000 voters in Shoreline and Maple Valley prepaid return envelopes. The percentage of total ballots returned by mail during the pilot was 74-percent. This was a vast increase compared to 43-percent participation in the 2016 General Election.

The legislation now allows election officials to send prepaid return envelopes to all voters, but with the US Postal Service charging King County a rate of 50 cents for those returned by mail. Wise and county election officials estimate a 10 percent increase in the number of ballots returned by mail rather than drop boxes with prepaid postage.

The legislation passed Council with a 7-2 vote. In support of the measure were Councilmembers Upthegrove, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Balducci, Gossett, McDermott and von Reichbauer. Councilmembers Dunn and Lambert voted in opposition.