

# Seattle bans plastic straws, utensils at restaurants, bars

By PHUONG LE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Looking for a plastic straw to sip your soda? It's no longer allowed in Seattle bars and restaurants.

Neither are plastic utensils in the latest push to reduce waste and prevent marine plastic pollution. Businesses that sell food or drinks won't be allowed to offer the plastic items under a rule that went into effect Sunday.

Seattle is believed to be the first major U.S. city to ban single-use plastic straws and utensils in food service, according to Seattle Public Utilities. The eco-conscious city has been an environmental leader in the U.S., working to aggressively curb the amount of trash that goes into landfills by requiring more options that can be recycled or composted.

The city's 5,000 restaurants — including Seattle-based Starbucks outlets — will now have to use reusable or compostable utensils, straws and cocktail picks, though the city is encouraging businesses to consider not providing straws altogether or switch to paper rather than compostable plastic straws.

"Plastic pollution is surpassing crisis levels in the world's oceans, and I'm proud Seattle is leading the way and setting an example for the nation by enacting a plastic straw ban," Seattle Public Utilities General Manager Mami Hara said in a statement last month.

Proposals to ban plastic straws are being considered in other cities, including New York and San Francisco.

California's Legislature is considering statewide restrictions, but not an outright ban, on single-use plastic straws.

It would block restaurants from providing straws as a default but would still allow a customer to request one. It's passed the state Assembly and now awaits action in the Senate.



Paper straws sit at the bar of Duke Moscrip, owner of Duke's Restaurants, at his restaurant in Seattle. Businesses that sell food or drinks won't be allowed to offer the plastic items under a rule that went into effect Sunday, July 1.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Theresa May announced in April a plan to ban the sale of plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. She called plastic waste "one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world."

Smaller cities in California, including Malibu and San Luis Obispo, have restricted the use of plastic straws. San Luis Obispo requires single-use straws only be provided in restaurants, bars and cafes when customers ask for them. City officials said most customers will say "no" if asked if they want a straw.

Business groups have opposed the idea in Hawaii, where legislation to ban plastic straws died this year, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported Sunday, with the Hawaii Restaurant Association and Hawaii Food Industry Association testifying against the measure.

Seattle's ban is part of a 2008 ordinance that requires restaurants and

other food-service businesses to find recyclable or compostable alternatives to disposable containers, cups, straws, utensils and other products.

Businesses had time to work toward complying with the ban, said Jillian Henze, a spokeswoman for the Seattle Restaurant Alliance, an industry trade group.

"We've almost had a year to seek out products to protect the environment and give customers a good experience (with alternatives)," she said.

The city had allowed exemptions for some products until alternatives could be found. With multiple manufacturers offering alternatives, the city let the exemption for plastic utensils and straws run out over the weekend.

Environmental advocates have been pushing for restaurants and other businesses to ditch single-use straws, saying they can't be recycled and end up in the ocean, polluting the water

and harming sea life.

A "Strawless in Seattle" campaign last fall by the Lonely Whale involving more than 100 businesses voluntarily helped remove 2.3 million single-use plastic straws.

Supporters say it will take more than banning plastic straws to curb ocean pollution but that ditching them is a good first step and a way to start a conversation about waste and ocean conservation.

Seattle urged businesses to use up their existing inventory of plastic utensils and straws before Sunday. Those who weren't able to use up their supply have been told to work with the city on a compliance schedule.

Businesses that don't comply may face a fine of up to \$250, but city officials say they will work with businesses to make the changes.

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento contributed to this report.

# 3-year-old who was stabbed at her own birthday party dies

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A 3-year-old Idaho girl who was stabbed at her own birthday party died Monday, two days after a man invaded the celebration and attacked nine people with a knife, authorities said.

Timmy Kinner is accused of stabbing a group of children and the adults who tried to protect them at the party at an apartment complex that is home to many refugee families.

Word of the child's death came at Kinner's first court appearance, where Ada County Magistrate Judge Russell Comstock told him that he was charged with first-degree murder and other felonies in connection with the Saturday night attack.

Comstock told Kinner he was "an extreme danger to the community" and ordered him held without bond.

Kinner is American, and the victims are members of refugee families from Syria, Iraq and Ethiopia. Boise Police Chief William Bones said the evidence does not suggest the attack was a hate crime.

The suspect had recently

stayed at the apartment complex but was asked to leave Friday over bad behavior, Bones said.

The 30-year-old appeared in court through closed-circuit video, a common practice for first appearances in Idaho.

Wearing a tattered off-white sweatshirt with his arms shackled to his waist, Kinner told the judge he didn't understand the charges or proceedings. He also said he wanted to represent himself.

The judge ordered that he be appointed a public defender anyway.

"I can't explain the charges any more clearly than I just did," he told Kinner.

Three of the stabbing victims were adults, the others children: the 3-year-old girl who died, two 4-year-olds, a 6-year-old, an 8-year-old and a 12-year-old.

If convicted, Kinner could be eligible for execution under Idaho law. Ada County Prosecutor Jan Bennetts said her office has not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty, saying those "high-level decisions" are made only after all the facts are in.

## BRIEFLY

### Review finds Hanford nuclear waste tanks at risk of leaking

RICHLAND (AP) — An evaluation of nuclear waste storage tanks at the Hanford site in eastern Washington state indicates more of the newest tanks could be at risk of developing leaks.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports tank farm contractor Washington River Protection Solutions compared the chemistry of the waste inside the site's oldest double-shell tank to the newer tanks.

According to the Washington Department of Ecology, the evaluation findings suggest building more tanks to hold the 56 million gallons of waste may be required.

U.S. Department of Energy officials say the findings do not mean the tanks are leaking or will leak, but steps are

being taken to prevent deterioration.

The oldest double-shell tank was taken out of service after waste leaked in between the two shells.

### Warm Springs wildfire forces evacuations

WARM SPRINGS (AP) — Authorities have ordered people in about 50 homes to evacuate because of a wildfire in Warm Springs.

KTVZ-TV reports a smoldering fire near the former Warm Springs wood mill sparked a fire in high winds Monday afternoon that also shut down Highway 26 near the Deschutes River in both directions. It wasn't immediately known how much land had burned.

Warm Springs tribal assistant fire management officer William Wilson says the fire jumped the highway and was moving toward a neighborhood on the reservation where the evacuation notices were issued.

# Veteran killed by Portland State University campus police had concealed gun permit

PORTLAND (AP) — A Navy veteran who was fatally shot by Portland State University campus police during a fight outside a bar had a permit to carry a concealed handgun, a news organization reported Monday.

Sgt. Brent Laizure, a spokesman for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, told Oregon Public Broadcasting that Jason Erik Washington had a valid concealed carry permit.

Washington, 45, who is black, was shot to death by campus police outside a bar in downtown Portland late Friday. The Portland Police Bureau is investigating the shooting.

Witness Keyaira Smith told several news outlets that Washington was trying to break up a fight and a gun holstered on his hip fell out. He went to pick it up and was shot after someone yelled, "Gun!" Smith said. She had not responded to a request for an interview from The Associated Press.

A video clip shot by a bystander and obtained by KOIN-TV shows a black object in the pocket of a shorts-wearing man who is trying to break up a fight.



Police officers stand at the scene of an earlier shooting outside The Cheerful Tortoise bar in Portland. A black man who was fatally shot by Portland State University campus police during a fight outside the bar had a permit to carry a concealed handgun.

The man falls to the ground after pulling another man off his friend as they exchange blows.

The camera jerks away from the action shortly after the fall and doesn't show the shooting.

Washington was a Navy veteran who had worked at the U.S. Postal Service since 1998, OPB reported. He was married and had three children and one grandchild.

was crazy about them," said David Norton, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 82. Norton knew Washington for seven years.

"He was a big personality. He always had a lot to say. He kind of had a larger-than-life personality. He was always very animated and exuberant. And if you ever worked with the guy or knew the guy, you would never forget him."

Norton said Washington was with co-workers the day he was shot.

PSU students protested over the weekend over the university's decision to arm its campus police. The university's board of trustees voted in 2015 arm its police force over objections from students.

"He loved those kids, he

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