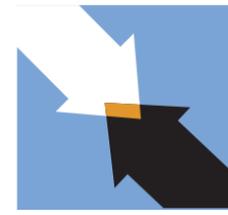


\$2 CASH or **VENMO**



REAL CHANGE



MARCH 25 - 31, 2020 ■ VOLUME 27 NUMBER 13 ■ REALCHANGENEWS.ORG

YOUR VENDOR BUYS THIS PAPER FOR 60¢ AND KEEPS ALL THE PROCEEDS. PLEASE PURCHASE FROM VENDORS WITH LAVENDER 2020 BADGES.

REAL CHANGE SHELTERS IN PLACE

How to support your vendor in a COVID-19 world

- 1) Donate to the Vendor Relief Fund at bit.ly/Vendor-Relief
- 2) Support your favorite vendor on Venmo
- 3) Read Real Change online at realchangenews.org

DETAILS ON PAGE 2



PURCHASING REAL CHANGE WITH THE VENMO APP

When you use Venmo to buy an edition of Real Change from a vendor, the money will be deposited directly into the vendor's account. The vendor can pick up the money the next day.

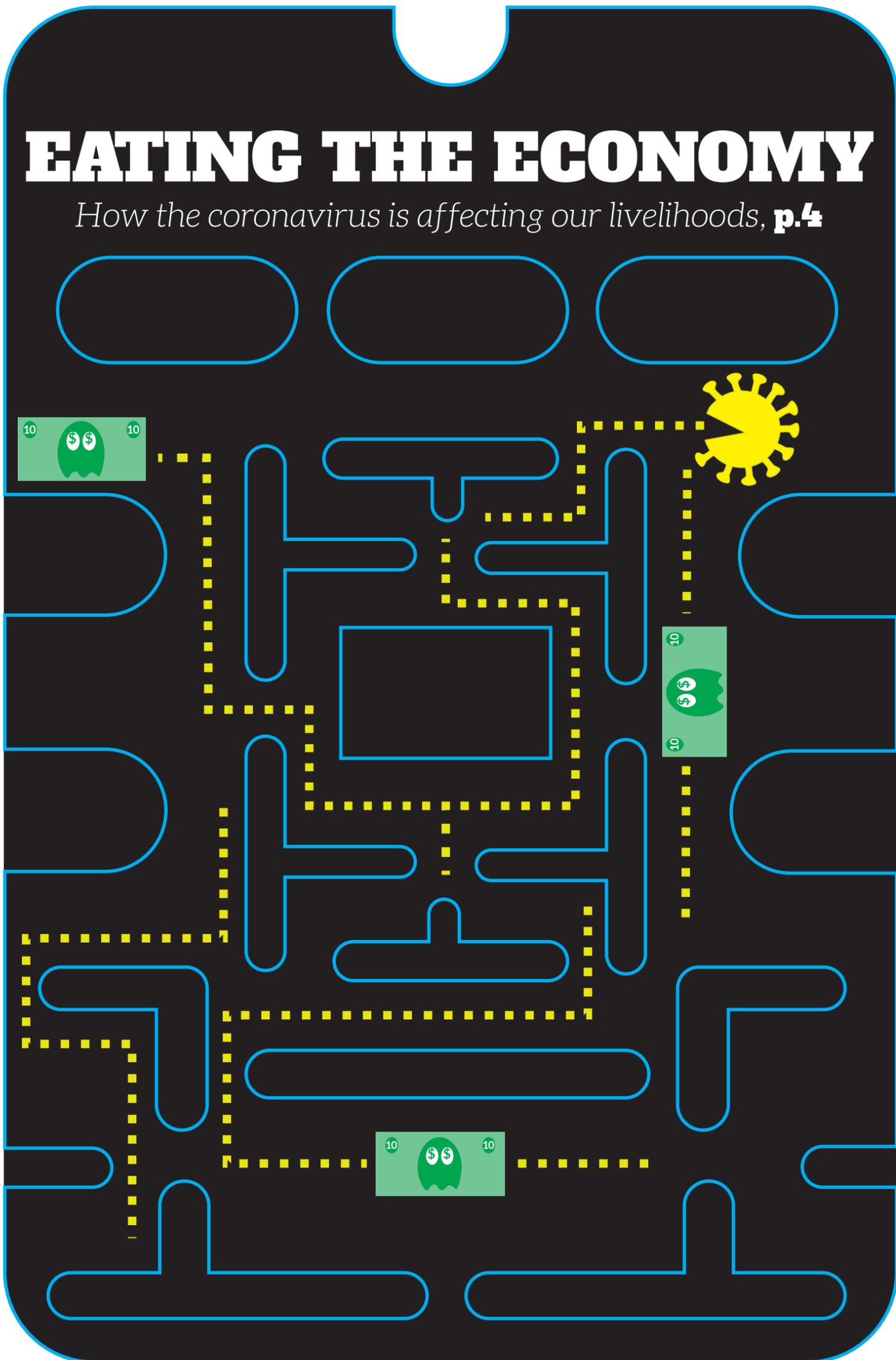
HOW TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT

- ▶ Download the free Venmo app to your smartphone.
- ▶ Create an account, which requires an email address or Facebook account.
- ▶ Set up your payment method, which can be a bank account or a credit card. (A 3 percent fee is added to credit card transactions)
- ▶ When you buy a paper from a vendor on the street, click the icon in the upper right with a dollar sign on it.
- ▶ Enter "Real Change" or "@Real-Change"
- ▶ Click on the Real Change icon.
- ▶ Enter the price of the paper, plus a tip. Tips are encouraged.
- ▶ Type the vendor's name and badge number in the box that says, "What's it for?"
- ▶ Hit "pay."



EATING THE ECONOMY

How the coronavirus is affecting our livelihoods, p.4



WHERE ARE THE FUNDS?: The coronavirus is shutting down nonprofit fundraising events | **p.3**

NECESSARY STEPS: A Japanese dance troupe steps forward and showcases life on the streets | **p.6**

BOOK REVIEW: 'Reclaiming the Reservation,' shows how a 1978 court decision impeded justice | **p.8**

Real Change exists to provide opportunity and a voice for low-income and homeless people while taking action for economic, social and racial justice.

Real Change offices
219 First Ave. S., Suite 220
Seattle, WA 98104
206.441.3247, www.realchangenews.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Yolanda Altamirano, Malou Chávez, Shelly Cohen, Anitra L. Freeman, Matthew Hayashi, Hannah Hunthausen, Pamela Kliment, Jim Lauinger (President), Maria Elena Ramirez, Teresa Reeves, Mary Riski, Chukundi Salisbury

EDITORIAL STAFF

Staff Reporter Ashley Archibald
Editor Lee Nacozy
Art Director Jon Williams

REAL CHANGE STAFF

Circulation Specialist Wes Browning
Organizer Evelyn Chow
Volunteer Manager Katie Comboy
Managing Director Shelley Dooley
Founding Director Timothy Harris
Field Organizer Neal Lampi
Vendor Program Manager Rebecca Marriott
Lead Organizer Tiffani McCoy
Vendor Case Manager Ainsley Meyer
Office Manager Ari Shirazi
Development Director Camilla Walter

VOLUNTEERS

Editorial Committee Susan Storer Clark, Laura Ditsch, Willie Jones, James Jenkins, Dagmar Matheny, Paige Owens, Tiron Rowe

Contributing Writers Rabbi Olivier BenHaim, Hanna Brooks Olsen, Wes Browning, John Helmerie, Michelle Galluzzo, Dave Gamrath, Kelly Knickerbocker, Joe Martin, Patrick "Mac" McIntyre, Jill Mullins, Oscar Rosales Castaneda, Susan Storer Clark, Megan Wildhood, Mike Wold

Photographers and Artists Alex Bergstrom, Matthew S. Browning, Sam Day, Natalie Dupille, Jeffrey Few, Valerie Franc, Susan Fried, Seth Goodkind, Derek Gundy, Lisa Hagen Glynn, Lara Kaminoif, Ted Mase, Dave Parish, Joseph Romain, Wes Sauer, Katie Wheeler

Copy Editors Pamela Bradburn, Mason Duke, Merry Nye, Morgan Wegner

Real Change Volunteers Yolanda Altamirano, Cathie Andersen, Carla Blaschka, Maridee Bonadea, Pamela Bradburn, Chris Burnside, Cathy Clemens, Jim Freier, Candace Gallerani, Michelle Galluzzo, Anne Jaworski, Carlo Jones, Kevin Jones, Ron Kaplan, Jesse Kleinman, Pamela Kliment, Daniel Kramer, Joe Martin, Dagmar Matheny, John Maynard, Patrick McIntyre, Juan Montes, Carl Nakajima, Eileen Nicol, Deb Otto, Maria Elena Ramirez, Merri Jo Seil, Lawrence Soriano, Susan Storer Clark, Jeremy Tarpey, Moriah Vazquez, Jed Walsh, Mike Wold

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Real Change is a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers.

REAL CHANGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@RealChangeNews



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have something to say? Real Change accepts letters to the editor. Send them to editor@realchangenews.org or visit realchangenews.org and click "Write the Editor."



ON THE COVER

As we're all taking shelter from the coronavirus, the economic effects are devastating. Nonprofits are missing out on fund raising opportunities (page 3), while markets plunge causing governments to scramble (page 4). Illustration by Jon Williams.

Real Change shelters in place

Many people have asked me if, in this time of nearly unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, Real Change and our vendors are going to be OK.

While there is a whole lot I don't know, the answer to the former is easy. Yes. Our organization will be fine. As one vendor said to me last week, "We're not just strong. We're Real Change strong!"

Our grassroots support is more than 25 years deep. Our staff is committed and our community is here to stay.

And our vendors are resilient. Over the coming weeks and months, we will all face serious challenges. As surreal as the past few weeks have been, the worst is yet to come. We will all be tested.

We are called to act as a community. To value and protect each other. We are interconnected, and the actions that each of us takes affects us all.

This week, Real Change was faced with one of the hardest decisions we've ever made. As a newspaper and a survival organization, Real Change is considered an essential service. From our reporters to our distributors to our frontline staff, we would be within the law if we continued to operate as before.

But, that would not be right. The window that exists to slow the spread of COVID-19 exists right now, and each of us must do our part.

And while we recognize that our vendors depend on street sales to meet

their daily needs, we also know that this comes at great risk. We feel a deep responsibility to both our vendors and our community to keep everyone as safe as possible.

This is why, beginning March 25, when the shelter-in-place order from Governor Jay Inslee goes into full effect, we will cease sales of the paper until that order is withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Real Change will continue to publish. Our organizing to defend and empower the most vulnerable will go forward. And, most importantly, we will continue to support our vendors. We invite you to help. Here's how.

Donate to the Vendor Relief Fund

We asked our readers to support our vendors during this crisis and you responded. In less than a week, the Vendor Relief Fund at bit.ly/VendorRelief is close to meeting our initial \$50,000 goal. We encourage you to continue with that support.

In the past three days we have already handed out nearly \$25,000 in gift and cash cards to help our vendors survive.

We know that this doesn't make up for all their missed income, and that it doesn't replace the friendship and community that they all value so much.

But it lets them know that they are loved, and that this community supports them in their time of need. We cannot thank you enough for that.

VENMO YOUR VENDOR

You can support your vendor through Venmo by going to our account @Real-Change and entering your vendors name and badge number in the notes field. If you don't see your vendor here, the list at tinyurl.com/venmoven-dor is being updated as vendors opt in. You may also call 206-441-3247 x221 for assistance.

PIONEER SQUARE

Isaac, Second and Columbia 14140
Charles Weltch, Zeitgeist Coffee
Second and Jackson 12578
Michael Lacker, Starbucks First and Yesler
West Seattle 14397
Cherie Wisner, California and Alaska
. 10806

WEST SEATTLE

Larry Elmore, Admiral Safeway . . 1851
Adrian Ayтч, Junction Safeway . 9439
D. Nichols, West Seattle Target . . 10542

DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Tiron Rowe, Third and Spring . . . 14311
Kari Caywood, Fifth and Columbia 13252
Addis Michael, Third and Union. 10169
Lisa Sawyer, Opus Bank, Fouth and Union
. 12531
Lee Ware, Third and Pine 12826

BALLARD

Crystal Hayes, Ballard Trader Joes or Elliott Bay Bookstore. 13921
Donald Morehead, Ballard Market
Freemont 9859
Sabina Lopez, Fremont Starbucks 11690

ROOSEVELT

Meg Terhar, Whole Foods Roosevelt 12060

GREENWOOD

John Birgen Greenwood Post Office 9032
Susan Russell, Ken's Market 12348

WALLINGFORD

David Falk, QFC Walingford 14252

QUEEN ANNE

Walter Kozbiel, Starbucks Upper Queen Anne 9295

NO LOCATION SPECIFIED

Daryl Manassa 14282
Cornell Beniton 14432
Wahoo 14371
Avery Nelson 11493
Wilma Hash 13081
Mariann 14445
Ronald Spearhead 12400
Nina Gibson. 14010
Bia Safer 11588
Harlan 11324
Tracie Mohakern 13728
Micah Goyette 14443
John Nelson 3219
Daniel Despain 111104
Merlyn 9370
Roy Fighting Bear 14398

CAPITOL HILL

Crystal Hayes, Ballard Trader Joes or Elliott Bay Books. 13921
James Walsh, Elliott Bay Books . . 14092
James Jenkins, QFC Pike and Broadway 13986
Ron Woolms, QFC 15th 13908
Matt Dunn, 17th and Madison, Trader Joe's 14345
Phillip Minnis, Walgreens 500 Republican 8938
Susan McRoy, Central Co-Op, East Madison 6713

Support your vendors through Venmo

You can still support your vendor, even if you don't see them for a little while. Venmo lets you buy the paper without cash, and, in times of pandemic, allows you support your vendor whenever you feel like it.

Make your payment to @Real-Change and note the name and badge number of the vendor you want to support. If you don't know their name or badge number, the listing on this page might help, and further assistance is available by contacting us. And, finally ...

Read Real Change online at realchangenews.org

Our remarkable news team might be all socially distanced and working from home, but that doesn't mean nothing's happening. Every week, a full new issue of the paper will continue to publish.

You can read the articles online or download a PDF of the whole issue. If you'd like us to send you a print copy, just ask. We're happy to mail you the paper until we're back on the street.

Real Change's work to elevate the voices of homeless and low-income people and to take action on economic, social and racial justice will continue as well. Look to our website and social media on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to see how you can help.

We will be back to being visible soon. In the meanwhile, let's all take care of each other. Thank you for being there. ■ — Timothy Harris

MADISON PARK

Cliff Tymony, Bert's Red Apple . . . 9685

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

David T, University Bookstore . . . 11394
Ian Anderson, 50th and Brooklyn. 14453
Dawn C, Metropolitan Market near University Village 13757
Jewel, 47th and University NE at Red Light Vintage. 12713
Greg Cumming, Trader Joe's. 9906

OTHELLO

Vernon Cornier, Safeway on Ranier. 12884

RANIER

Daniel Long, Ranier QFC 12740

ISSAQUAH

Darrell Wrenn, PCC Issaquah . . 13604,

KIRKLAND

Shark, Kirkland PCC 13097

BOTHELL

Shelly C, Bothell Canyon PCC . . . 12385

SOUTH LAKE UNION

Willie Jones, Denny and Stewart . . 9719

BELLTOWN

Marko McLemore, CVS Second and Lenora 14456
Michael Henderson, Denny and Aurora 10175

LAKE CITY

Dawn C, Lake City Post Office . . . 13757

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Tax Amazon campaign gains steam

Proponents filed an initiative to tax large businesses on March 19 amid a coronavirus outbreak that threatens the city's finances.

The "Tax Amazon" initiative is structured the same as another effort pushed forward at the City Council-level by councilmembers Kshama Sawant and Tammy Morales. Both are expected to raise at least \$300 million per year by levying a 0.7 percent tax on payroll for the largest 3 percent of businesses in Seattle. Nonprofits, cooperatives and small businesses would be excluded.

That money would go primarily toward social housing to alleviate Seattle's affordable housing crunch. Approximately 25 percent would be directed toward making existing homes environmentally friendly.

The push comes as the city grinds to a halt in the face of the coronavirus, an extremely contagious disease. State and local officials banned large gatherings in March and encouraged workers to work from home if possible, causing a major drop in business revenues and subsequent taxes.

Coronavirus scammers

The state attorney general and law enforcement officers warn Washingtonians against scammers seeking to take advantage of people trying to stay educated and help their neighbors during an unprecedented health crisis.

King County Sheriff's community engagement specialists posted updates on social media site Nextdoor warning people against fraudulent coronavirus maps and tracking apps loaded with malware and ransomware meant to steal personal information and extort money from people.

The map appears to be a mockup of a legitimate map put out by Johns Hopkins University.

"These are just two examples of how seemingly helpful resources can be used to compromise your personal information and data," wrote Pierre La Rose, a community engagement specialist, in a post.

La Rose recommended using known websites, like cdc.gov, and exercising caution when looking for information about the coronavirus.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Secretary of State Kim Wyman also sent out notices telling people to be careful when giving money to organizations.

"In this unprecedented situation, many of us are searching for ways to help," Ferguson said. "Unfortunately, scammers look for ways to prey on Washingtonians' goodwill."

Ferguson encouraged people to alert him to potentially fraudulent solicitations.

There are straightforward steps to protect yourself against a scammer. Be suspicious of high-pressure requests that demand a commitment in the moment.

Legitimate charities are registered with the Secretary of State at www.sos.wa.gov/ charities. There, you can see financial records and tax status. You can also call the Charities Program at (800) 322-4483. ■

— Ashley Archibald



Photo by Jon Williams

Emergency Food Network Chief Executive Officer Michelle Douglas

Fundraising season is fading into the distance

By **ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Staff Reporter

Michelle Douglas had a plan.

Douglas is the chief executive officer of the Emergency Food Network (EFN), a Pierce County nonprofit. She met with her team Tuesday, March 10, to discuss their options. Their Recognition Breakfast, a fundraiser and celebration, was set for Thursday, just two days later.

Washington Nonprofits, an organization that advocates for charitable organizations, had held a webinar the day before informing groups of the risks. Douglas took notes frantically, knowing EFN would soon have a choice to make: cancel the breakfast now or chance it.

EFN decided to go forward with the breakfast. That evening, Douglas got a text from a friend.

"He said the governor is going to shut down events over 250 in the morning, and here's a link to the Seattle Times article," Douglas said.

On March 11, Gov. Jay Inslee stood with King, Pierce and Snohomish county officials and declared an end to gatherings of more than 250 people in an attempt to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The move shut down sporting events and artistic performances, sending a cascade of corollary businesses spinning as their customer bases dried up.

It also meant cancellations of fundraisers critical to the region's nonprofit community, delivering a financial blow at the very moment a deadly virus would force them to go into overdrive.

In the nonprofit world, there are two main fundraising seasons: the spring and the fall. People tend to vacation during the summer and spend disposable cash during winter holidays, making spring and fall the time to ask for support.

The coronavirus' rapid spread meant that many nonprofits throughout the re-

gion had to cancel events.

"It's a big challenge," said Laura Pierce, executive director of Washington Nonprofits. "I've been hearing from a lot of nonprofits. This is fundraising high season."

EFN has several fundraisers each year raising roughly \$750,000 in total, Douglas said. The Recognition Breakfast often raises \$50,000. That might seem small in comparison to EFN's overall budget, but the organization, like so many nonprofits, runs lean.

"There isn't that kind of flex in our budget," Douglas said. "There isn't in any nonprofit."

The impact of the coronavirus on the region has been extreme. In the weeks that followed, all schools shuttered as did restaurants — except for takeout — and other gathering places. That escalated on March 23 when Inslee announced a "stay at home" order, demanding that most Washingtonians stay indoors.

The sudden loss of customers caused many businesses to shut their doors, laying off workers in the process. Douglas' brother, restaurateur Tom Douglas, laid off hundreds of people when he closed most of his locations for at least two months.

The result is a deluge of people who need access to a social safety net that's largely outsourced to nonprofits, locally and throughout the United States, without commensurate resources to make it stable. As much as 18 percent of working adults either lost their jobs or lost hours because of the impact of coronavirus according to a recent poll. That's a massive addition of need to an already strained system.

When recommendations for social distancing became mandatory in mid-March, it forced some nonprofits to get creative.

Solid Ground, a nonprofit housing provider, was set to hold its 20th Annual Community Luncheon at a downtown

hotel March 24. The event brings in unrestricted funds that allow the organization to extend its services past what government contracts provide.

To prepare for the event, the group paired young people who live in the Sand Point apartment complex with James Beard award-winning Chef Edouardo Jordan to devise a menu consisting of meatballs and a broccoli salad; the chef invented the latter based on the young people's preferences, while the meatballs represented the commonalities between cultures — nearly every culture has a meatball.

That plan quickly went pear-shaped, said Mike Buchman, the spokesperson for Solid Ground.

"We had a unique Chef Jordan meal that would have to be prepped by the [hotel] folks, but were his recipes," Buchman said. "How do we deliver that without showing up?"

Solid Ground pivoted, turning the single lunch into a week of online events featuring videos and interactive features that kicked off on March 24, as planned.

Keeping the event in the spring meant not having to compete with people in the fall when groups with canceled events might try again, Buchman said.

"The competition is going to be worse than normal," Buchman said.

Whether or not fall will be an option has yet to be seen. A report from the White House anticipates widespread shortages and suggests the United States may be living with the pandemic for 18 months, according to The New York Times.

That's a long time for underfunded agencies supporting thousands of Americans to hold out. Public officials have to start thinking about the operational strain on these organizations, Pierce said.

"We need to help nonprofits figure out what to do — now," Pierce said. ■



Photo by Ashley Archibald

Grant Anniskett waits at the Millionaire Club Charity to see if he can get work for the day. The organization saw a large number of its jobs evaporate overnight when the county and state banned gatherings of more than 250 people, shutting down the stadiums where many Millionaire Club participants work.

Efforts from near and D.C. to save the crashing economy

By **ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Staff Reporter

Social distancing to impede the coronavirus has severely impacted the local and national economies, prompting government officials in Washington and Washington, D.C., to ameliorate the economic pain.

Restrictions on where and how Washingtonians can travel, work and spend money have increased as the severity of the coronavirus spread became clearer. Gov. Jay Inslee formally ordered Washingtonians to stay at home on March 23. Before that, many businesses that require close contact like barbers and nail salons were ordered to close, and restaurants could offer only takeout orders and delivery.

The totality of the restrictions means many businesses are shuttered, workers are laid off and the ability to spend money — the lifeblood of the local economy — has been largely shut off.

The impacts will be drastic, hitting every corner of Washington's economy, predicts a new report issued by the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Business Health Trust. And the problems don't stop if Washington, alone, defeats the virus.

"Washington's close international linkages and position as a global hub for trade and commerce further exposes our economy to the negative impacts of this unprecedented event," the report reads.

in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties are likely to be affected, according to the report. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 961,800 workers in those counties are in industries that are at risk in the immediate and short terms.

Inslee expanded unemployment insurance to previously ineligible workers to help bridge the gaps in the social safety net. That caused a spike in unemployment insurance claims. According to weekly data released by the state, initial claims more than doubled in a week: from 6,616 in the week ending March 7 to 14,240 the following week.

However, contract workers and those who work in the gig economy — think Airbnb managers, Uber drivers and Rover dog walkers — do not receive government support when their work dwindles. Rides dropped by half in one week, according to the Seattle Rideshare Drivers Association.

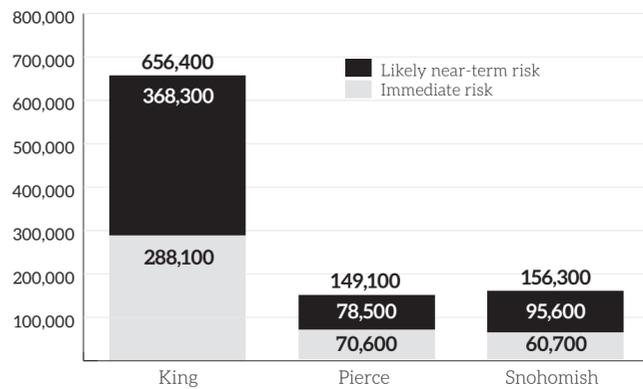
The impact on those households could be dire, and there are a lot of them. While statistics on informal work are in short supply, as much as 9 percent of Washington's workforce participates in independent contract work.

The Millionaire Club Charity (MCC) and its workers are feeling the effects.

The organization readies homeless and low-income people for the workforce, some doing day labor, some in restaurants cleaning dishes, but most in Seattle's sports stadiums.

MCC has seen between 50 and 70

Workers in at-risk industries, King, Snohomish and Pierce counties through Q3 2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020; Boston Consulting Corp., 2020; Community Attributes Inc., 2020

Occupations and wages of workers in immediate risk industries, King, Pierce and Snohomish counties

Occupation	Est. jobs	Wage
Retail salespersons	48,900	\$15.37
Food preparation and serving workers, with fast food	39,300	\$12.95
Waiters and waitresses	32,500	\$14.59
Cashiers	23,200	\$14.02
Cooks restaurant	20,100	\$16.76
First-line supervisors of food preparation and serving workers	11,100	\$19.97
First-line supervisors of retail sales workers	9,500	\$23.46
Stock clerks and order fillers	8,600	\$16.92
Bartenders	7,700	\$17.43
Dishwashers	7,300	\$13.50
Subtotal	208,200	
Other occupations	211,200	
All immediately at-risk industries	419,400	

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020; Boston Consulting Group, 2020; Community Attributes nc., 2020

ECONOMY Continued on Page 11



Photo courtesy of Hout-Suli-A Janelle Schuyler

Hout-Suli-A Janelle Schuyler stands near a dam on the Skagit River.

'The life-giving Skagit has been purposely dewatered by the city of Seattle, and why?'

Dear Mayor Jenny Durkan and City Councilmembers:

I am writing to share my feelings with you and ask questions regarding the three hydroelectric dams owned and operated by the city of Seattle on our scared Skagit River. The Skagit River (if you don't already know) is named after my people, who have lived, fished, hunted and practiced our traditional way of life here in the central Washington river valley since time immemorial.

Although I am young, I have been very blessed to learn from my father, a tribal elder, about the rich history of our people but also, woefully, about the harm Seattle has put on our people. I carry knowledge of what the city has done here and an understanding of what has been imposed on the Upper Skagit people and our salmon. I want you to know this brings me great pain and sorrow every day.

A century ago, Seattle officials came to our sacred river without our people's permission and began building the first of these three dams. This action by the city immediately brought unprecedented devastation and destruction to the then-pristine Skagit. It harmed my people, the salmon and our very culture. Conversely, the building of these dams brought extraordinary wealth, growth and long-lasting prosperity to the city of Seattle. The destruction of the Skagit sent cheap power through miles of transmission lines south to the city, spurring economic growth and the building of infrastructure, which was the foundation of Seattle becoming one of the greatest cities in the American West.

Today, your staff can continue to claim that the Skagit dams have little or no impact to the tribe and salmon. This is the type of attitude we have come to expect from other environmentally harmful industries, like the Dakota Pipeline proponent; coincidentally, this city adamantly opposed that project. I applauded the city of Seattle and some of its councilmembers for supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the attack on their culture and precious natural resources.

The facts of what is happening on the Skagit that have been continually ignored in Seattle are irrefutable by most — except by those employed in the interest of

SKAGIT RIVER DAMS



money-making machines of destruction.

The building of these dams disturbed the resting places of our ancestors, destroyed or damaged important cultural sites and desecrated the Upper Skagit sacred village of Da'aylib and renamed it Newhalem. The dams diminished our salmon runs by cutting off salmon passage and by excluding miles and miles of former habitat, and have actually impacted the entire Skagit watershed. One hundred years later, the dams continue to kill fish each and every day, as the dams operate constantly. If these examples aren't enough to convince you the city has marred the very life of my people, I don't expect you to understand the hurt I experience knowing the life-giving Skagit has been purposely dewatered by the city of Seattle, and why?

I am asking you, the leaders of this city that has inflicted a century of continual harm on my people and all the creatures relying on a healthy and productive Skagit, to do the right thing and help us. This city has a long history of supporting the rights of the Native American tribes of Washington, and now is the time to walk the talk and protect our rights — which your city is violating. What would the city's name-sake have to say if he were here today and knew what the city has done in the past and continues to do to my people?

Although much irreparable harm has already been done, I am convinced it's not too late to save the Skagit. The recent Elwha dam removal proves that there is a chance if you take action now.

Take action by removing these mechanisms of destruction and allowing salmon back into their historical spawning areas. I also request that no representative of Seattle ever refer to the dammed river as your "battery" ever again.

Over the course of their lifetimes,

the Seattle dams have brought your city wealth and prosperity by taking so much from Skagit, while disproportionately and shamefully returning so little.

I very much hope you take this request seriously and consider all options for saving the sacred Skagit River. I ask this for my people. I ask this for the salmon. I ask this for the orca. I ask this for the Skagit. ■

Respectfully,
Hout-Suli-A Janelle Schuyler

CHALLENGING MISCONCEPTIONS

Speakers share personal stories that give the audience a glimpse into the reality of living in poverty. They deconstruct the line between the "us" and "them" and provide unique wisdom into systemic issues of poverty.



Request a speaker: tinyurl.com/HomelessSpeakersBureau or call 206.441.3247



Women Rising Boldly
2020 YWCA INSPIRE LUNCHEONS

~~ICANCELLED!~~



Valerie Jarrett
May 14

Seattle

Tickets at ywcaworks.org/luncheons

For over a decade, Japanese dance troupe has showcased life on the streets



Photo by Kazuhiro Yokozeki

From right: Masato Yokouchi, Yuki Aoki, Matsumi Koiso, Director Wataru Miura, Tokuchika Nishi, Koji Yamashita.

THIS DANCE IS NOT A FLASH MOB



Film stills courtesy of © Tokyo Video Center



Film stills courtesy of © Tokyo Video Center

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The 'H' in the group's name stands for human, hope and homeless. 'Sokerissa' is derived from 'sore ikei,' meaning 'to step forward.'

By **MIE NAKAMURA** | *The Big Issue Japan*

Newcomer H Sokerissa came together in 2007 for the love of dance. The renowned group is comprised of people who have worked as professional choreographers and dancers and people with varied strong connections to the artform. The troupe's members also have a shared experience: Each dancer in Newcomer H Sokerissa is either currently or formerly homeless. Some of its members are vendors for the street newspaper Big Issue Japan.

The group stages performances on busy city streets, inspiring big effects for those who pass by — who often stop, mesmerized, without looking away.

A new documentary, "The Dancing Homeless," depicts the group's performances and day-to-day activities and will be released this month in Japan. The documentary is the first feature by director Wataru Miura, who filmed Newcomer H Sokerissa for the past 18 months.

"I came across Sokerissa online by chance," Miura said. "I learned that its members were current and former homeless individuals, so at first I assumed it was

some kind of social rehabilitation program. But when I watched a video of them dancing, and I was really blown away."

When it was time to film, Sokerissa head Yuki Aoki requested that Miura show the group's members "as they are."

"It would be possible, if that was his intention, to show Sokerissa's members as heroes overcoming life on the streets," Aoki explained. "But we aren't heroes or good guys. I wanted to avoid it becoming that kind of film."

"That sort of treatment might be welcomed on TV," Miura added, "but I didn't want to show homeless individuals as

"I wanted to portray the members as fellow humans living through the same moment in time. Their life experiences are expressed through their dance, and I saw them change even during the time I spent filming."

— Wataru Miura, documentary filmmaker

pitiable or as victims cut off from society."

Sokerissa's members have various reasons for living on the streets: Matsumi Koiso, 70, a former Big Issue Japan vendor, says he has been running away all his life; Shuichiro Hirakawa, 49, left home at 15; Masato Yokouchi, 56, another former vendor, became ill and lost his job.

The group's only rule is not to harm others.

Despite the circumstance that members sometimes suddenly stop showing up to dance practice, Aoki has always prioritized a culture of "come as you are." Some people are charmed by the group's dancing and are keen to show their support, but occasionally others are critical, saying things like, "If you can dance, then get a job and pay taxes."

"Although some members speak about their past in the film, I didn't want those

stories to influence how viewers see their dancing, so I just stuck to the facts as much as possible," Miura said. "I also interviewed some of the group's supporters, but I didn't want their comments to feel like the film's stance on its subject, so I left those clips on the cutting room floor. I want viewers to make up their own minds about Sokerissa."

Yokouchi, one of the dancers, said he appreciates the film's detached and unbiased style. Earlier in his life, Aoki was involved in more glamorous work as a choreographer for music videos and commercials. But he developed an interest in what he calls "bodies on the streets" — people who cannot take life for granted — after witnessing the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City.

"Right before my eyes, 9/11 uncovered

people's hidden depths: their hatred, their anger, their fear, their pain," Aoki explained. "Many judge other people and things by only their appearance; that used to be my stance towards dance too. In such a society, I feel the importance of genuine, natural and raw dialogue through movement. The expressions made by 'bodies on the streets' are essential in our current era."

Miura shadowed Sokerissa for roughly a year and a half and even shared a room with members of the group in Osaka's Kamagasaki neighborhood. Gradually, those who had originally been more reserved in interviews started to open up.

"There's a scene with me towards the end of the film where I get pretty emotional; I was surprised at myself. It's that Miura's fault, I thought!" said a laughing

Tokuchika Nishi, 40, a Sokerissa member and Big Issue vendor who lives in Tokyo.

"I wanted to portray the members as fellow humans living through the same moment in time," Miura said. "Their life experiences are expressed through their dance, and I saw them change even during the time I spent filming."

Miura's desire to first and foremost capture the group's dancing is evident in his documentary. A performance by Sokerissa fills the film's last 13 minutes — and it's the crowning moment of a film that is certainly worth seeing for yourself. ■

Watch the trailer: <https://thedancing-homeless.com> (Japanese only); translated from Japanese by Annelise Giseburt; courtesy of The Big Issue Japan/INSP.ngo

BOOK REVIEW: 'Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty Suppressed and Renewed'

By Alexandra Harmon | 2019 | University of Washington | Paperback | 424 pages | \$35



TWO FACETS OF TRIBAL JUSTICE

In 1978, the Supreme Court ruled that Native tribes cannot enforce laws on white people on reservations

Review by **MIKE WOLD**
Contributing Writer

In August 1973, Suquamish tribal police were called to break up a fight during the annual Chief Seattle Days on the reservation on the Kitsap peninsula; one of the combatants slugged a deputy, so the tribal police arrested him. A local lawyer challenged the authority of the tribe to arrest a non-Indian on the reservation, which is only a ferry ride and a short drive from Seattle. In 1978, the case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled, in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, that the tribe only had the power to police its own members on the reservation.

It wasn't as if there was an alternative for keeping order at the festival — in fact, the Kitsap County sheriff had specifically declined to send a deputy to the celebration. But, in a ruling that harked back to the late 19th century, when it would have been unthinkable to give Native Americans the power to arrest white people, William Rehnquist used a selective reading of legal history to declare that Congress had never intended to give tribes the ability to police non-Indians on their reservations, even in the absence of other effective law enforcement.

"Reclaiming the Reservation" by University of Washington professor Alexandra Harmon, uses the *Oliphant* decision as a frame for reviewing the contradictory legal history of white/Indian relations on reservations. As a legal history, it may be tough going for the general reader, but it illuminates unresolved issues in the relationship between the United States and the indigenous peoples of this land.

Reservations were usually set up to separate and isolate tribes from white settlers, but that changed by the end of the 19th century, when the federal government started pursuing a policy of privatizing the formerly communal reservations and selling much of them off to non-Indians.

This meant that tribes were faced with maintaining order and preserving natural resources in the face of challenges from non-Indian property owners and visitors. Immigrants usually accept that they have to abide by the laws of their host country, but whites on Indian reservations assumed that tribal regulations didn't apply to them. It didn't help that tribal governments themselves were mostly in disarray until the middle of the 20th century; the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) effectively controlled what happened on reservations.

With the New Deal and the War on Poverty, the federal government started encouraging Indian self-governance. Even then, the laws were often ambiguous, but Indians remembered they had once been self-governing nations and, in the absence of effective law enforcement and land-use regulation, proactively started enacting ordinances to protect forests, fisheries, coastlines and, eventually, to address criminal activity. Given funding and legal help, they made a point of formalizing their governing structures so that they would be consistent with other local governments in the U.S.

One leader in this area was the Quinault tribe, north of Aberdeen. The tribe faced constant challenges from non-Indian fishermen, loggers and developers, who took advantage of the absence of state law enforcement to clear-cut and overfish in ways that would not have been allowed outside the reservation boundaries. The Quinaults proactively enacted regulations on fishing, logging and building to protect their large and remote reservation on the Washington coast.

The *Oliphant* decision only addressed arrests for criminal charges. Subsequent

court decisions still allow tribes to have civil and regulatory control of their reservations. Tribes have worked to find other paths to effectively enforce the rule of law on the reservation; many tribes partner with local governments to allow them to arrest non-Indians and turn them over to county authorities.

Harmon points out, though, that the court cases that decide how tribes can govern their reservations are all based on legal reasoning in U.S. courts — that is, they look at the issues through the eyes of federal authorities and only rarely at how these issues look from the Indian side. A crucial question that has never been resolved is whether tribes, which were considered "sovereign" nations at the beginning of the colonization of the U.S., still retain aspects of that sovereignty.

As Harmon puts it, "Opponents of tribal sovereignty ... argued that the US Constitution ... guaranteed and required legal equality or uniformity for Indians and non-Indians, thus precluding rights for Indians that non-Indians did not enjoy ... the United States is a federation of sovereign states. Americans have accepted and generally cherished the states' power to make and enforce separate laws ... and apply them to people who cannot vote there. However ... Indian tribes' claim of comparable sovereign power was an impediment to the settler colonial project."

Many Americans recognize that Indian tribes were unfairly dispossessed by the U.S. and white settlement. However, most still have difficulty understanding why present-day tribes expect to exercise control over the territories and resources that were guaranteed to them as the dispossession took place. But there was no time limit on the agreements they signed. The challenge facing tribes like the Suquamish and the Quinaults is as much a political as a legal one. They have to find a way to convince local, state and federal governments to respect their governments and their authority in their own lands. ■

THE MIDDLE GROUND | By Sam Day



We would have endless energy if we learned to harness stupidity

Every morning, I try to think of the worst thing that might happen by the end of the day. Lately, it almost always happens.

As I've said here often, my principal hobby in life is the amateur study of stupidology, a science I personally invented. I've been making great progress.

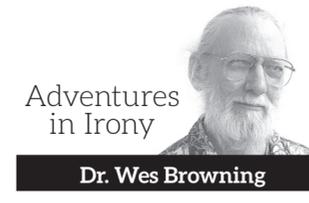
One of the stupidest ideas, even in good times, is the notion that homeless people should all try to get into shelters because authorities say it will be good for them. When authorities say something is good for someone, it usually turns out what they mean is it will be good for the authorities.

It would be great for politicians if homeless people were in shelters and out of sight, 24/7.

How stupid is that? Well, let's think about it. Do shelters keep people out of sight 24/7? No. Are there enough shelter beds in King County to bed the roughly 6,000 outdoor sleepers currently not in shelters? No. There are probably only 300 empty beds any given night, and they are hard to find, scattered across the system.

And what about the idea that overnighting in a shelter is good for you? Again, even in the best of times, it's a dubious proposition. Who wants tuberculosis?

Now, we have a shelter-in-place order from the Washington governor. As usual, I ask the question: What is the worst that can happen in this scenario? The key in doing applied stupidology is to look at a scenario and use your own experience at being stupid to spot the stupidest thing that people could pos-



Adventures in Irony

Dr. Wes Browning

sibly come up with.

I quickly see that the stupidity will arise by the most stupid interpretation of "shelter-in-place" possible as it applies to homeless people. For a homeless person to be in compliance with a shelter-in-place order would entail that person being in a shelter. It's right there in the expression "shelter-in-place," in the very first word, right? No shelter means no sheltering. So, a violation occurs.

If people interpret such an order that way, the only thing that could happen that could satisfy them is for 12,000 homeless people to be crammed two to every available mat in shelters only meant to hold 6,000. In the middle of a viral pandemic.

Or, the police round up people who won't go to shelters and use them to stuff King County jail to overflowing. In a viral pandemic.

Either way, the result would exactly oppose the intended result of a shelter-in-place order: It would result in a big increase in the spread of the new coronavirus, instead of helping reduce it.

Meanwhile, it looks like most of us adults will get checks for somewhere between \$1,000 and \$2,000. The current word is children will only get \$500 each, because, come on, they don't vote.



Notes from El Noroeste

Oscar Rosales

Brutal anti-immigrant COVID-19 response

This U.S. presidential administration has proven to be as equally criminally negligent as it is incompetent. There is really no way to sugarcoat it. Tactful language could not articulate the dire straits in which many marginalized communities find themselves.

In a crass, racist display, the administration foolishly clings to the same xenophobic policies it had in place prior to our current emergency.

The COVID-19 response at the federal level has been underwhelming and, I would argue, harmful to communities of color, poor folks and, especially, undocumented community members. This is disheartening in a public health emergency.

As a recent Mother Jones article noted, undocumented people fear the increased threat of deportation if they seek medical care. The Trump administration's "Public Charge" rule complicates an already tense environment. Besides making medical care riskier, the rule also creates food insecurity for many families who would likely qualify for aid. This will have an especially deleterious impact on children and seniors who are unable to work and rely on these public resources for their daily nutritional needs.

Likewise, the closing of federal offices impacts the lives of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients who are in the process of renewing paperwork. The absence of a plan to extend deadlines amid a global pandemic leaves many in danger of having paperwork lapse, making them vulnerable to detention and deportation. The twisted irony with closures is that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), immigrant detention centers and most immigration courts are operating unabated.

Locally, both the American Civil Liberties Union and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project sued ICE on behalf of immigrants detained at the Northwest Detention Center over high risk of illness or death if a COVID-19 infection proliferates. Fear is real as ProPublica reported that "ICE has repeatedly struggled to contain communicable diseases that can spread in ways similar to the coronavirus." Also, an infection will likely mass disseminate as immigration courts resist a recent order to cease operations. They remain open as personnel are forced to meet removal quotas.

As of this past week, only essential service providers are asked to attend work per usual. Many who fall within this category are farm workers. A recent story on NPR illustrated this dilemma when interviewing food industry professionals about farm workers. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, undocumented workers account for roughly 50 percent of the farm labor workforce. Deportation and detention will have a serious effect on our food supply, which will prove catastrophic.

We are living in extraordinary times. A sure way to meet needs is to cease all ICE operations, provide medicine for all and increase social safety nets. We got this, so let's do this. ■

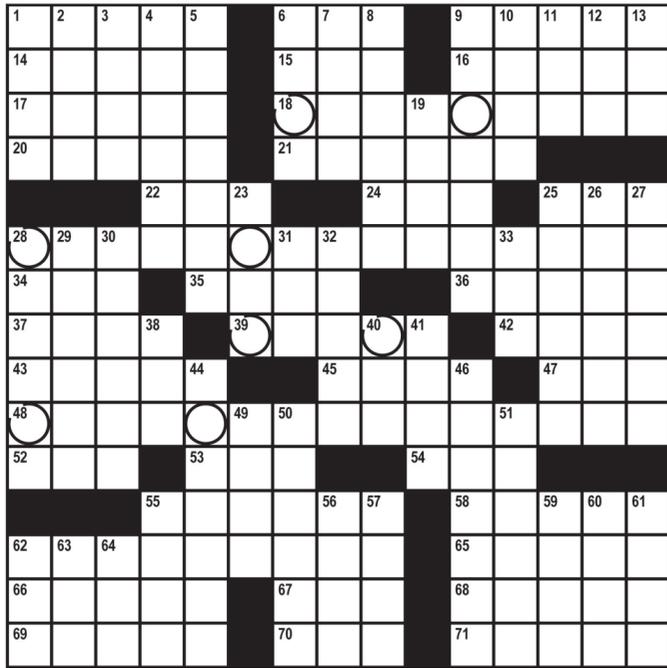
Sound off to Dr. Wes:
drwes@realchangenews.org

See help in Spanish: kingcounty.gov/depts/health/languages/spanish.aspx



Photos by Jon Williams

Top, a carved bird stands in front of the Suquamish Longhouse. Above, a U.S. flag flies above the Suquamish flag.



Enunciate!

Puzzle by Patrick "Mac" McIntyre

ACROSS

- 1 Involuntary muscle contraction
- 6 Dollop
- 9 ___ mundi (tropical member of raccoon family)
- 14 All-electric car company behind the Cybertruck
- 15 I love (Lat.)
- 16 Western shoot-'em-up, in old movie lingo
- 17 Astrological ram
- 18 Bid that precedes "Sold!" (2 wds.) (4,5)
- 20 Rapper ___ Shakur
- 21 Declares legally and officially invalid, as a marriage
- 22 Hit with a taser, say
- 24 Author Levin who wrote "Rosemary's Baby"
- 25 Not worth a ___ (somewhat dated saying that refers to an old French coin)
- 28 Mary Harris ["Mother"] Jones, Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, for three (2 wds.) (5,10)
- 34 ___-Locka, Fla. (Miami suburb)
- 35 Medicinal plant
- 36 Robert De Niro 1998 spy thriller
- 37 Surrender
- 39 Reveal, as something that you'd been keeping secret (2 wds.) (3,2)
- 42 Between ports
- 43 Recipe amt. (2 wds.) (1,4)
- 45 Like a tightrope more so than a slackline
- 47 The "E" in SASE (Abbr.)
- 48 What coulda, woulda or shoulda been (2 wds.)
- 52 The only identical letters that come from mailmen?
- 53 Pot leaves?
- 54 Observe visually
- 55 Lady Liberty or "Christ the Redeemer"
- 58 Hindu mystic in a turban
- 62 The skill of distinct pronunciation and articulation ... or a phonetic hint to 18-, 28-, 39- and 48-Across?
- 65 Post office gizmo
- 66 Chocolate substitute
- 67 Grp. with Cardinals, Eagles, Falcons and Seahawks - but not Ravens
- 68 Ancient marketplace
- 69 "The Country Girl" playwright
- 70 Hole maker
- 71 Neighbor of Oman and Saudi Arabia

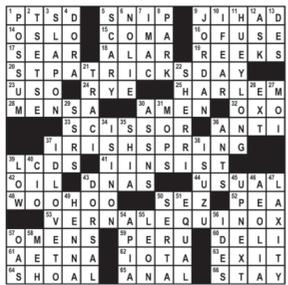
DOWN

- 1 ASAP in an OR
- 2 Land of llamas and Lima
- 3 Take ___ at a time (nurse)
- 4 Creepazoid
- 5 Eyelash thickener
- 6 Elegant gathering
- 7 Arabian Peninsula land
- 8 ___ and Herzegovina
- 9 Highly sought-after commodity during heat waves (2 wds.) (4,3)
- 10 Klutzes
- 11 Ltrs. on a federal gov't. raider's jacket, maybe (Abbr.)
- 12 Golf bag item
- 13 Like some verbs (Abbr.)
- 19 Zig or zag
- 23 Vote predictor
- 25 Martial arts teacher
- 26 "Murder on the ___ Express"
- 27 Kennedy, Carter and Bush, Sr. all served in it (2 wds.) (2,4) (incls. abbr.)
- 28 Where it's at
- 29 Tarzan's realm (POMADE anagram)
- 30 Awesomely tough
- 31 Future fish
- 32 Arrive at (2 wds.) (3,2)
- 33 Suffix with proto-
- 38 Not an exact fig. (Abbr.)
- 40 Paddle
- 41 ___ and bolts
- 44 Places for recreational hydrotherapy (2 wds.) (3,4)
- 46 Taco ___
- 49 Kind of moss used for fuel
- 50 Metal coating
- 51 Enya's musical genre (2 wds.) (3,3)
- 55 Haggis-eating nae sayer
- 56 UDub alternative (3 wds.) (1,2,1) (incls. abbrs.)
- 57 Bottom-of-letter abbr.
- 59 Elemental bit
- 60 Nothing more than
- 61 Farsi-speaking land
- 62 Environmentalist's prefix
- 63 Young fellow
- 64 Bauxite, e.g.

SOLUTION

In the Middle of the Greens
March 18 Issue

Solutions to this week's puzzle will appear in the next issue.



Donate an old car to
REAL CHANGE
1.877.537.5277
realchangenews.org/index.php/site/giving

Streaming to keep you sane

Almost all King County events are canceled, so we're listing podcast and streaming options for optimal social distancing

Podcasts: Available widely on podcast platforms

'History of the '90s'

Curiouscast, hour long episodes
Given these unprecedented times, we thought this podcast would offer some calming insight on a decade that felt much simpler, the '90s. Let me start right off the bat by telling you, the '90s were absolutely wild. What I remembered as a cute obsession with Beanie Babies was actually anything but — people were running heists, scams and doing jail time over those cute little animal-shaped beanbags. Every episode of this podcast explores a critical cultural moment in the '90s that is incredibly fascinating. From pop culture episodes focused on the TV show "Friends" to political moments like the release of Nelson Mandela, you'll definitely see the decade in a new light. Get ready for your nostalgia to take some turns as you hear the in-depth history of moments we seem to remember differently after all this time.

'Hidden Brain'

NPR, 20-60-minute episodes
Why do we do the things we do? This radio show asks this about almost every life scenario. Ever had a job you're not passionate about? Ever been really bothered by a spoiler to our favorite TV show? Ever laughed at something that wasn't even funny? "Hidden Brain" has an episode that goes into each of these questions. Every episode, host Shankar Vedantam interviews

scientists, researchers and experts in their field to find answers. Through this, we also discover so much more about how humans work. You're bound to learn at least one new thing in every episode. Plus, you'll have some really good dinner party conversation topics for when all this (very important and necessary) social distancing is done.

'You Must Remember This'

Karina Longworth and Stitcher, 30-60-minute episodes

The depths of Hollywood are explored, and exposed, in this thoroughly researched and extremely interesting podcast. Longworth dives deep into fascinating historical themes in multiple miniseries. Each episode offers new perspectives and details on the story of Hollywood with societal context. "You Must Remember This" is about the foundations of pop culture. From Charles Manson's atrocities to Howard Hughes' many loves, you may feel absolutely hooked. This podcast is as captivating as any feature film.

TV: Available to Hulu paid or unpaid users and Netflix paid users

'Broad City'

Hulu comedy, 5 seasons
Is there anything purer than watching best friends be best friends? At a time where plenty of us are feeling lonely and isolated, "Broad City" offers comic relief through the adventures of two 20-something best friends in New York City. The episodes are about 20 minutes long, so they're quick and

easy to watch. The lighthearted mood is perfect for days like these. Maybe when you're done, you'll feel inspired to video call your bestie or a long lost friend and share a laugh we could all use.

'Babylon Berlin'

Netflix drama, 3 seasons

OK, this is a German show, which means there are subtitles. Are you still with me? I hope so, because "Babylon Berlin" is excellent. Taking place in 1920s Berlin, the show completely transports you to a different era. The story is part cop thriller, part mystery, but all interesting. From the set design to the story lines, the whole show is incredibly on point in setting the mood and atmosphere for that strangely influential time and place. "Babylon Berlin" is a window into something many of us have never thought of — but once you're there, it's hard to look away. If you're looking for a fresh show to add to your mix, this is definitely it. And hey, maybe you can pick up some German while you're at it!

'Schitt's Creek'

Netflix comedy, 6 seasons

What happens when an out-of-touch, wealthy family loses their fortune and has to move to a motel in a small town? Very funny things is the answer. This is a Canadian TV show — from some true comedic geniuses who neighbor us — so the humor has a unique twist that makes it funnier than you could imagine. Through these multiple seasons, many of us have grown to love the

family, small town and bumps along the way. The characters often straddle the line of over-the-top and personable, keeping them ridiculous and relatable, all at the same time. "Schitt's Creek" is a great family-friendly show as well. So, feel free to watch alone or with the whole family.

'The Handmaid's Tale'

Hulu drama, 3 seasons

Sometimes when you're in a bad situation, it's comforting to see one that's worse — gives you some perspective, you know? That is why we're recommending "The Handmaid's Tale" for your bingeing pleasure (and frightened displeasure) while you're cooped up. Based on the bestselling, classic novel by Margaret Atwood, the story takes place in a dystopian American future, where women's rights completely cease to exist. The show has flashbacks to then and now and follows the characters as they navigate their new positions in this horrifying society. If you're a fan of the book, the TV show has taken different turns, so there remains an air of mystery. The show will have you on the edge of your seat, a good way to get that heart rate going!

Compiled by Michelle Galluzzo. Got something we should know about? Email it to calendar@realchangenews.org. The deadline for calendar submissions is nine days prior to the date of publication.

VENDOR PROFILE | Mike Hall

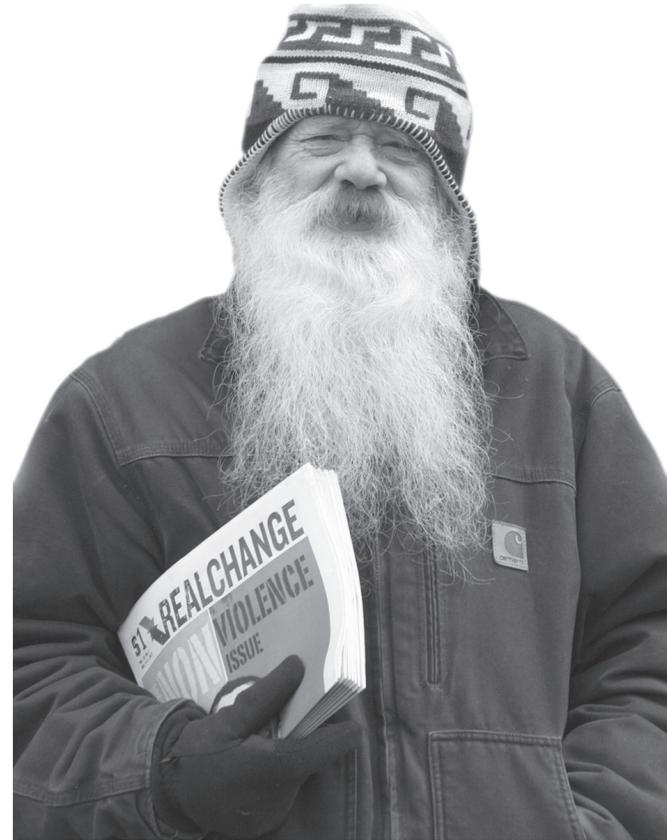


Photo by Jon Williams

By MIKE WOLD
Contributing Writer

Have you ever noticed the big, free-standing clock on First Avenue near the Real Change office? Mike Hall keeps that clock running by winding it once weekly. He's been doing that for years, and, along with his long white beard, it's earned him the nickname "Father Time."

Mike started selling at the corner of First and Main Street almost 18 years ago, when Real Change was in Belltown and Mike was one of three vendors regularly working in Pioneer Square. He lives in a van in SODO. "People in Pioneer Square bought me that van 14 years ago. I had another van — had a carburetor fire. Remember Megan Mary's flower shop? She put a little grease board out — 'Our friend Mike lost his van due to fire.' In five days, that woman collected over \$2,200 and handed it to me."

Mike worked in lumber mills before he sold Real Change. "I got about 25 years of forklift experience, ripsaw experience, molding machine experience. I had my very first job when I was going to Asa Mercer Junior High. I used to pump gas, wash windshields and check oil."

"My mother — I can remember her getting canned meats and all that from the Agriculture [Department], powdered milk. I remember her running an extension cord to the neighbor's for electricity. She worked off of Fourth and Lander — Louie's Pancake House. We'd sit in a booth while she worked. I got so sick of pancakes."

The family ended up moving to Ab-

erden, Washington, when Mike was old enough to work. He got a job in construction remodeling houses, but realized he could make more money driving the truck that delivered supplies to the crews and continued on that path. "When I got into the lumber mills, I learned the forklift driver runs the mill. You got to keep those saws in wood." That started him on his career. But gradually, the mills started replacing permanent workers with temps.

"They didn't have to pay the medical benefits and they would work them 90 days and lay them off and bring in somebody else. Labor is a dying art."

"I was born and raised in Seattle, so I came back to Seattle." For years, he sold Real Change in front of Elliott Bay Book Company. Then Elliott Bay and nearby Megan Mary's moved to Capitol Hill. Now, "there is nothing but architects, lawyers and CPAs," Mike remarked.

"It's hard to sell to anybody down here that's got their nose in the damn smart phone. I've picked up a few [customers] coming here from places where there's street papers. They come up, say, 'This is the same thing?'"

"I say, 'Basically, with different problems.'" Mike reads the paper, although he said "sometimes I've got to read Tim's articles three or four times just to understand what he's trying to say — he's so philoso-full."

"People come up to me and say, 'What's the good news, Mike?'"

"I say, 'Well, for one thing, this is not a 'good news' paper. It's not good news. It's for social justice, homeless problems. And not just homeless problems, but everybody's damn problems.'" ■

ECONOMY Continued from Page 4

percent of its jobs disappear overnight, leaving many people waiting without work, said Christine Rylko, director of operations at MCC.

"We had six events this month: the Dragons, soccer and MLB," Rylko said. Those workers do food prep, concessions and cleaning.

The organization lets workers in at 6:30 a.m., when they sign up for work upstairs. A few patrons gathered on the bottom floor, staggering their chairs to avoid transmission of the virus.

James Nance was waiting upstairs to see if he would be called for a job. Nance has a non-violent felony on his record that's prevented him from getting full-time employment elsewhere, despite the fact that he's been out of prison for more than two years.

Nance has an apartment, but he's afraid he'll lose it. There hasn't been work at MCC for him for weeks as jobs evaporated. Nance spoke to Real Change before Mayor Jenny Durkan declared a moratorium on rent-based evictions, but he wasn't comforted by the possibility because rent would still accrue.

He was already making plans to sell his belongings so he would have cash in his pocket if he became homeless once again. That money would be crucial to ensure that he didn't find himself in desperate straits, he said.

"I'm not going back to prison," Nance said.

Durkan put a moratorium on rent-based evictions for residential tenants, small businesses and nonprofits as concerns about the virus mounted. She also approved \$2.5 million in small business assistance, and \$5 million to help low-income people buy food.

Inslee and the legislature approved \$200 million from the state's rainy-day fund to assist communities and extend unemployment insurance. President Donald Trump ordered a federal emergency declaration on March 13, a move that allows states more flexible use of Medicaid funds, the health care program for low-income people.

The federal government needs to move more aggressively to help states cope with the emergency and shore up the national economy, which has been in freefall, said

"Unless the president and congress take very strong, sizeable and effective action, we face the prospect of an economic downturn that could be deeper and more serious than the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009."

— Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a progressive thinktank based in Washington, D.C.

"Unless the president and congress take very strong, sizeable and effective action, we face the prospect of an economic downturn that could be deeper and more serious than the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009," Greenstein said.

The current crisis is fundamentally different than the Great Recession, which was caused by a collapse in the global banking system. Back then, many consumers could still purchase items regularly. That isn't the case here, Greenstein said.

"Today, in contrast, everybody can be effected," he said. "The downturn is expected to last for months and the damage will be very substantial."

The federal government could take steps to increase its share of Medicaid payments, freeing up money for states to use for other areas of the response, Greenstein said. It should also work to increase food benefits and unemployment insurance, which gets money into the hands of people who need it most and provides the most effective boost to the economy.

Even as it battles the coronavirus, the Trump administration had not slowed preexisting efforts to end food benefits for 700,000 people as of March 20. ■

CHALLENGING MISCONCEPTIONS

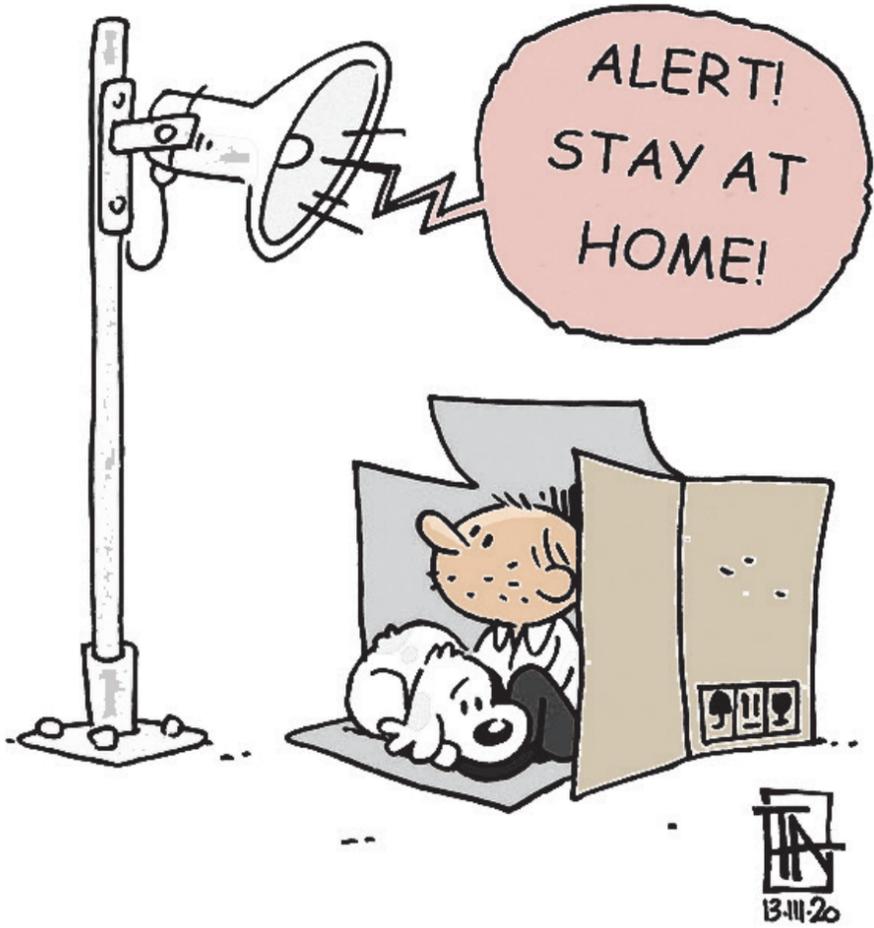
Speakers share personal stories that give the audience a glimpse into the reality of living in poverty. They deconstruct the line between the "us" and "them" and provide unique wisdom into systemic issues of poverty.



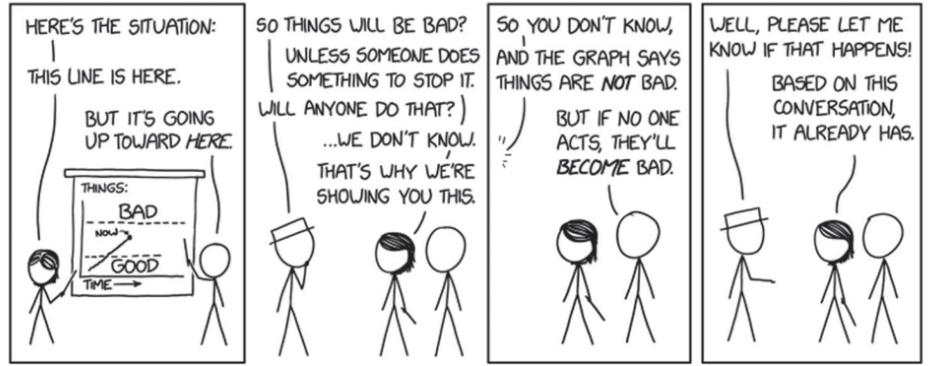
Request a speaker: tinyurl.com/HomelessSpeakersBureau or call 206.441.3247



From Greek street paper Shedia



xkcd.com



HOW TO PAY



When you buy a paper from a vendor on the street, click the icon in the upper right with a dollar sign on it.

Enter "Real Change" or "@Real-Change"

Click on the Real Change icon.

Enter \$2 for the paper, tips are welcome.

Type the vendor's name and badge number in the box that says, "What's it for?"

Hit "pay."



INDEPENDENT EYEWEAR FOR INDEPENDENT MINDS.

THE ONE AND ONLY, SINCE 1996.



THE UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH MONASTERY

is a proud supporter of



WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE

Pres. Chaplain - George Freeman