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Kitsap Sun

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021 | KITSAPSUN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

'Ready to take on the world'

Community remembers drowning victim

Jeff Graham Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORT ORCHARD — Seventeen orange lanterns sailed gently into the waters of Sinclair Inlet, one for each year Will Huck spent on this earth. The number of people the Port Or-

chard teenager touched along the way was much greater in number as evidenced by the outpouring of 400 family, friends and community members who mourned Huck during a vigil Tuesday night at Whisky Gulch CoffeePub, the Bay Street restaurant owned by Will's father, Chuck.



Huck

Huck drowned Monday afternoon in Horse-shoe Lake. Working this summer at Whisky Gulch, Huck met up with friends and fellow restaurant employees on Monday as a way to find relief during the recent heatwave. South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Division Chief

Jon Gudmundsen said crews were called for a missing person at the lake at about 3:15 p.m. Firefighters found that bystanders had pulled Huck from the lake and were performing CPR. Huck was transported to a hospital in Tacoma but did not survive.

Huck graduated from Vashon Island

See **DROWNING**, Page 2A

Leave holiday displays to the professionals



Employee Jason Goetz, right, hands purchases to Skyler Mullins from behind the counter after helping Mullins and his son Liam, 3, pick out fireworks at Pyro Dave's Fireworks Stand in Bremerton on Tuesday. Fire officials are urging extreme caution for those using personal fireworks on the Fourth of July, as the region recovers from a stretch of record-breaking high temperatures. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

As restrictions fall, business owners cautiously optimistic

Nathan Pilling Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fifteen months after the first COVID-19 restrictions went into place in Washington state, limitations on a variety of business and life activities fell away on Wednesday as the state reopened.

Most government-imposed pandemic restrictions were lifted, meaning restaurants, bars, gyms, retail stores and religious worship spaces are now allowed to resume operations at full indoor capacity – up from the most recent limit of 50%.

"We are open big time in the state of Washington," Gov. Jay Inslee told a group gathered at Wright Park in Tacoma, the first stop of several scheduled visits celebrating the reopening.

As the restrictions were lifted, business owners in Kitsap County were ready for a turn toward pre-pandemic life and expressed optimism at their prospects, but also acknowledged that the world has changed during the pandemic.

Will Grant owns the restaurants That's A Some Pizza on Bainbridge Island and Sourdough Willy's, a pizzeria that he opened in Kingston during the pandemic. The latter restaurant recently opened its dining space for the first time and will now have that whole space open, Grant said.

But as the state reopened Wednesday, Grant won-

See **BUSINESS**, Page 6A

Officials urge a Fourth sans fireworks

Jessie Darland Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Fourth of July holiday weekend comes on the heels of a record-setting heatwave, and fire officials in Kitsap County are asking people to avoid personal fireworks this year.

Only one city in Kitsap County has a permanent ban on fireworks. Bainbridge Island City Council banned fireworks in 2019, but this will be the first In-

dependence Day that ban will be in effect. Small devices like toy caps, toy smoke devices, party poppers and glow worms are still allowed, while sparklers, Roman candles, aerial shell kits, cone foundations and firecrackers fall under the ban.

Other cities and unincorporated Kitsap County allow fireworks to be shot off on the Fourth of July: in Port Orchard, Bremerton and unincorporated Kitsap

See **FIREWORKS**, Page 5A

USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier to arrive in Puget Sound July 20

Josh Farley Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

BREMERTON — Residents will get their first chance to catch a glimpse of the warship they call the "Big Stick" July 20, the Navy confirmed Tuesday.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt, one of the country's 11 aircraft carriers, is headed to Bremerton for a

lengthy overhaul at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The 1,100-foot-long ship will depart San Diego for its new homeport on July 16, Naval Air Forces announced.

The move means around 3,000 sailors and a total of about 1,000 families are currently relocating to the

See **CARRIER**, Page 5A

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USA TODAY

Condo toll grows: Four more bodies recovered; possible inclement weather moving in may hinder search. 3A

'It's an echo from history'

State lawmaker wears Star of David in protest of COVID-19 vaccine regulations. 2A

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Fireworks

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County, personal fireworks can be shot off from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

In Poulsbo, city code allows for fireworks from June 28 to July 5, with hours varying each day.

In 2019, anticipating a hot, dry summer, Kitsap County commissioners in May adopted a ban encompassing five categories of fireworks whose paths were seen unpredictable and hard to control, a danger during dry weather.

Kitsap County Fire Marshal David Lynam said the hot, dry weather came unexpectedly, and now it's too late for the process to enact such a ban to take place.

"This heatwave snuck up on us before there's any ability to do that," Lynam said. "And now there's just not time. So it is what it is."

"We always tell people, leave fireworks to the professionals, and this year we really mean it," Lynam said. "There are plenty of avenues to celebrate safely. There are plenty of other alternatives that they can do that aren't going to put your property at risk, your neighbor's property at risk, and you aren't going to become a nuisance to your neighbors with your fireworks."

Mason County has restricted the discharging of fireworks to only the hours of 6 p.m. to midnight on Sunday.

In a letter from the Kitsap County Fire Chiefs Association, members urged alternatives such as glow sticks, silly string and noisemakers, going on to say that "an internet search reveals scores of additional fun ideas" for celebrating the Fourth safely.

"In 2020, fireworks were the cause of 360 fires and 237 injuries in Washington state," the letter said. "While escaped controlled fires are the leading cause of wildland fires year-round, fireworks are to blame for the majority of these incidents around the Fourth of July."

This year in Kitsap County, there are 34 licensed stands selling fireworks, according to the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office.

Few public displays in Kitsap

Those looking for big public displays have few choices this year, as many of the usual events were canceled as a result of the pandemic.

Not taking place this year is Poulsbo's traditional Third of July show. VikingFest organizers say the show will return in 2022. Bremerton's Bridge Blast was also canceled for 2021.

Kingston will still have its Independence Day celebration at Mike Wallace Park on Sunday. Fireworks will go off at dusk, which is typically just before 10 p.m. Kingston's Main Street Parade will take place from noon until 1 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. there will be a music festival at Mike Wallace Park until the fireworks begin.

Fathoms of Fun in Port Orchard will hold its annual fireworks show at Sinclair Inlet — on July 10. Typically the show is held on July 4.

Port Orchard Mayor Rob Putaansuu said that when organizers got word from the state that restrictions would be lifted allowing such events, Fathoms of Fun reached out to its normal fireworks vendor and the company was already committed to another show. So organizers decided on the 10th instead.

But, he reminded residents that shooting off fireworks is not allowed past July 4.

"While the city understands having this show is exciting and will bring people down to the waterfront, this is a reminder that the use of fireworks (other than by the professionals as part of a permitted professional display) is prohibited per Port Orchard Municipal Code 5.60.50 and this prohibition will be enforced by



Faith Tomlinson stocks the shelves inside the fireworks stand located in the parking lot of Crossroads Neighborhood Church off of Old Military Road in Bremerton on Tuesday. Proceeds of sales from the stand help fund youth groups at the church. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN



With her arms full of boxes of fireworks, Myckenzie Toler helps stock the shelves in the fireworks stand at Crossroads Neighborhood Church off of Old Military Road in Bremerton on Tuesday. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

the Port Orchard Police Department."

Burn bans

Kitsap County has been under a Phase 1 burn ban since June 26. The ban prohibits outdoor burning except for recreational or cooking fires in approved devices and locations. According to the fire marshal, the ban could be elevated to Phase 2 if conditions continue to deteriorate.

It's typical for a burn ban to go into effect in mid-July, Lynam said. Now it's happening in late June, a testament to how warm and dry the conditions have become.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam tribe instituted a burn ban on June 28, with certain exceptions for small beach fires at Point Julia and clam bake and smokehouse fires. Fireworks will only be allowed in designated areas from July 3 to July 5 between 9 p.m. and midnight. They may only be discharged at Point Julia from the middle of the road to the water side west of the covered area.

"After 11:59 p.m. on July 5th, fireworks remain illegal as long as the burn ban is in effect," according to a press release from the tribe.

The Suquamish Tribe also imposed an immediate burn restriction, preventing fires except for small contained recreational fires at least 25 feet from any structures and cooking fires.

Putaansuu said the bottom line when it comes to making the decision to light off fireworks this year is pretty simple.

"We're asking everybody to be safe," he said. "We've had some pretty dry weather and we need to be safe and sane."

Local news editor Kimberly Rubenstein and reporter Nathan Pilling contributed to this report.



The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) operates in the Philippine Sea May 21, 2020, following an extended visit to Guam in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Roosevelt is coming to Bremerton July 20. SEAMAN APPRENTICE KAYLIANNA GENIER, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

Carrier

Continued from Page 1A

Pacific Northwest, where the ship will go into the West Coast's largest and only carrier-capable dry dock at the shipyard for upgrades and preservation work.

The families and sailors are coming at a time when housing is in short supply on the Kitsap Peninsula. But the ship's commanding officer, Capt. Eric J. Anzuze, expressed confidence in his crew's abilities to find places to live in and around Bremerton in an interview earlier this month with the Kitsap Sun.

"Our sailors are extremely resourceful. They'll power through," he said.

The carrier will be joining the USS Nimitz, another of the Nimitz-class of largest warships ever built, in Bremerton. The Nimitz is also getting work done in the shipyard, though it is not in a dry dock.

Work on the Theodore Roosevelt includes making the carrier capable of launching and landing the F-35C Joint Striker Fighter, upgrades to the ship's defenses, guns and IT network, and preservation of the ship's hull, rudder, anchor, and onboard housing. The Roosevelt's crew endured back-to-back deployments over the past year and a half, the first of which included an outbreak of COVID-19 on board the ship that made international headlines.

Josh Farley is a reporter covering the military and health care for the Kitsap Sun. He can be reached at 360-792-9227, josh.farley@kitsapsun.com or on Twitter at @joshfarley.

Dozens of deaths may be tied to historic Northwest heat wave

Jim Morris and Nicholas K. Geranios
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The grim toll of the historic heat wave that scorched the Pacific Northwest became more apparent Wednesday as authorities in Canada, Washington state and Oregon said they were investigating dozens of deaths likely caused by temperatures that soared well above 100 degrees.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, police said they had responded to more than 65 sudden deaths since the heat wave began Friday. Authorities in Washington and Oregon were investigating about a dozen deaths.

"Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it," Vancouver police Sgt. Steve Addison said in a statement.

The heat wave was caused by what meteorologists described as a dome of high pressure over the Northwest and worsened by human-caused climate change, which is making such extreme weather events more likely and more intense. Seattle, Portland and many other cities shattered all-time heat records, with temperatures in some places reaching above 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

Amid the dangerous heat and drought that are gripping the American West, crews were closely monitoring wildfires that can explode in the intense weather.

While the temperatures had cooled considerably in western Washington, Oregon and British Columbia by Wednesday, the interior regions were still sweating through triple-digit temperatures as the weather system moved east.

The government's Environment Canada agency issued heat warnings Wednesday for southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Heat warnings also were in place for parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

In Alberta, "a prolonged, dangerous, and historic heat wave will persist through this week," Environment Canada said in a release.

The very high temperatures or humidity conditions also were expected to pose an elevated risk of heatstroke or heat exhaustion.

British Columbia's chief coroner, Lisa Lapointe, said her office would normally receive about 130 death reports over a four-day period. At least 233 deaths were reported from Friday to Monday afternoon, she said, adding that coroners are determining whether the record-breaking heat played a role. Like Seattle, many homes in Vancouver don't have air conditioning.

The King County medical examiner's office, which covers an area that includes Seattle, said two people died of hyperthermia, meaning their bodies had become dangerously overheated.

In neighboring Snohomish County, three men — ages 51, 75 and 77 — died after experiencing heatstroke in their homes, the medical examiner's office told the Daily Herald in Everett, Washington, on Tuesday.

Officials in Bremerton, Washington, said heat may have contributed to four deaths in that Puget Sound city.

The death of a worker at an Oregon plant nursery last weekend was heat related, employee safety agency Oregon OSHA said Tuesday.

The man was from Guatemala and had apparently arrived in the United States only a few months ago, said Andres Pablo Lucas, owner of Brother Farm Labor Contractor that sent the man and other workers to the nursery.

The man, whose name was not released, died amid sweltering temperatures Saturday at Ernst Nursery and Farms, a wholesale supplier in St. Paul, 20 miles north of the capital of Salem.

Speaking in Spanish, Pablo Lucas said that when workers gathered shortly after noon Saturday, they noticed someone was missing. They began searching and found his body. Pablo Lucas said he didn't remember the man's name.

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