

GOOD BUY

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BUSINESS > A14



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019

The Seattle Times

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Sawant narrows gap with Orion in Seattle District 3 council seat race

By DANIEL BEEKMAN
Seattle Times staff reporter

Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant gained a lot of ground in her District 3 race based on additional votes tallied Thursday, and is threatening to catch challenger Egan Orion.

The socialist incumbent is still trailing business-backed Orion, but her share is now 48.6%, up from 45.6% Tuesday and 45.8% Wednesday. More progressive candidates, such as Sawant, tend



to surge in Seattle elections as later votes are counted.

Andrew Lewis, meanwhile, moved past opponent Jim Pugel in their District 7 contest, dealing a blow to the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's attempt to remake the council. Chamber-endorsed candidates are now lead-

ing in only three of the city's seven races, and one of those is Orion.

Sawant is 739 votes behind Orion, an advocate for small businesses and the LGBTQ — lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning — community. She took 59.3% of votes added Thursday.

There are at least 12,662 ballots that have yet to be counted in District 3, according to King County Elections ballot-return statistics.

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Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Sawant's challenger in District 3, Egan Orion



Saturday is the end of free trips in the tunnel

By MIKE LINDBLOM
Seattle Times staff reporter

Motorists have driven the Highway 99 tunnel for free since February. That changes on Saturday, when the 2-mile tube under downtown becomes the nation's 334th toll road.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) waited to impose tolls until after the Alaskan Way Viaduct demolition was finished. That allows lanes along the waterfront to reopen first, helping absorb a predicted 35% of motorists who might choose surface streets rather than pay a tunnel toll.

Also, a new toll-billing contractor was late producing reliable software.

The Saturday start date was scheduled before the Sounders FC battled their way into a home championship match Sunday, so soccer fans will be among the first to pay the toll during traffic congestion.

About 60,000 people have received free Good to Go passes in a promotion that ended last week, and the state is spending \$4.4 million on a marketing campaign about the tunnel tolls. At this point, motorists must buy passes for \$5. Passes ordered online take five business days to arrive by mail, so orders made Friday are too late for the weekend toll startup.

Here are some frequently asked reader questions:

Q: What's the toll cost?

See > TUNNEL, A13

On Lake Union, it's pilots vs. paddleboarders in the latest round of a long-running conflict



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES, 2017

A Kenmore Air float plane heads to its South Lake Union dock as paddleboarders cruise by. Kenmore Air says it wants better regulation of seaplane-landing areas by the Harbor Patrol, but other commercial and recreational users of the lake are wary of the company's plan.

By PAUL ROBERTS
Seattle Times business reporter

Lake Union community group is raising the alarm over what it says are plans for a permanent, 3,000-foot-long seaplane-landing zone down the center of Lake Union that would be off-limits to boaters and other users.

But Kenmore Air, which operates regular flights from the lake to Vancouver, B.C., the San Juans and elsewhere, says its proposal for changes on Lake Union has been mischaracterized and that it simply wants help with the growing fleet of paddleboarders and other recreational users who create a major safety hazard for seaplane pilots each summer.

The controversy, the latest in a long-running debate over commercial uses of the increasingly crowded body of water, was

No-paddle zone?

Critics say Kenmore Air wants to exclude boaters from a 3,000-foot long landing zone, but Kenmore says that idea is "off the table."



Sources: Esri, Kenmore Air, savelakeunion.com

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES



sparked after the disclosure of a letter by Kenmore Air president Todd Banks to the Seattle Police Department's Harbor Patrol, which polices Lake Union.

In the Aug. 14 letter, Banks complained about "recreational boaters and paddleboarders" and others who stray into the 3,000-foot long, 400-foot wide zone in the center of the lake that is used for takeoffs and landings.

The zone is identified by five navigation buoys that flash yellow lights when seaplanes are taking off or landing.

But Kenmore Air officials say the buoys are so routinely ignored by recreational users that the company has had to cancel dozens of flights during busy summer weekends.

In the letter, Banks asked the city to fund more Harbor Patrol

See > KENMORE, A6

'Dueling dinosaurs' locked in court fight over ownership

By AMY BETH HANSON
The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — The discovery of two fossilized dinosaur skeletons intertwined in what looks like a final death match make a Montana ranching couple rich beyond their dreams. Or they may have to share the wealth.

It comes down to how the state Supreme Court answers a seemingly simple question: Are fossils minerals? The Montana justices heard arguments Thursday but did not rule right away.

The outcome is key to a dispute over ownership of the "dueling dinosaurs," worth more than

\$5 million, and distribution of millions of dollars in proceeds from the sale of other fossils unearthed from clay and sandstone in a fossil-rich area of central Montana.

While someone can own what's on top of a piece of land, others can own material like oil, gas and coal that's found below the surface. In property sales, an owner can keep some or all of those below-surface mineral rights.

Mary Ann and Lige Murray own the surface rights and one-third of the mineral rights on the ranch near the town of Jordan, while brothers Jerry and Robert Severson

See > FOSSILS, A6



SETH WENIG / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2013

One-half of the pair wrestling in "dueling dinosaurs," one of the most spectacular fossils ever found. The giant animals were believed to have died in what is now Montana 66 million years ago.

Trump admits misconduct, ordered to pay \$2 million to charities

By ALAN FEUER
The New York Times

A New York state judge ordered President Donald Trump to pay \$2 million in damages to nonprofit groups after the president admitted misusing money raised by the Donald J. Trump Foundation to promote his presidential bid, pay off business debts and purchase a portrait of himself for one of his hotels.

The damage award brought an end to a protracted legal battle over the foundation, whose giving patterns and management became a flashpoint during Trump's run for office in 2016. New York's attorney general had filed suit last year accusing Trump and his family of using the foundation as an extension of his businesses and his presidential campaign.

The settlement, finalized last month and announced Wednesday in the judge's order, included a detailed admission of misconduct that is rare for the president. Previously, he had insisted the charity was run properly and the suit was a partisan sham.

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