

This week: The shutdown really hits home

Crosscut <email@send.crosscut.com>

Sat 1/19/2019 9:04 AM

To:Roth, Cambria <Cambria.roth@crosscut.com>;

[View this email as a web page](#)

Crosscut.

Jan 19, 2019

This week in shutdown news



Here's a round-up of some ways the government shutdown is impacting Washington state.

Food banks prepare for the worst. As the federal shutdown approaches the one-month mark, food banks across the state are either already seeing an uptick in clients or bracing themselves for bigger crowds. Some of food banks' new visitors are federal workers not getting paid, others are food stamp recipients who are worried their benefits will soon be disrupted. ([Crosscut](#))

Immigration cases statewide are being backlogged. Matt Adams, legal director of Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, told KNKX that the closure of the U.S. government's immigration court in downtown Seattle means greater uncertainty for people facing deportation or seeking asylum. As of Friday, 470 immigration hearings in Washington state have been canceled. ([KNKX](#))

Federal court employees and jurors won't get paid. The U.S. District Court of Western Washington has enough funding to pay its employees through the end of next week. But if the government doesn't reopen by then, they'll join the hundreds of thousands of other federal employees not being paid. Oh, and that applies to jurors too, who will still have to report but won't get a stipend. —[D.K.](#)

Strains on hundreds of Native American tribes. The Seattle Indian Health Board told ABC News on Jan. 12 that it plans to cut services if the shutdown continues more than a week or two. It looks like it will, so Crosscut will be following this story. ([ABC News](#))

About 2,000 workers are affected at Sea-Tac Airport. Many are having to look into unemployment benefits, applying for low-interest loans and using food banks. ([Seattle Times](#))

Earthquake monitoring sidelined. Five engineers at Puget Sound Seismic Network were furloughed so while the organization continues to track earthquake activity, repairs on their sensors, research on earthquakes and public education is on hold. ([KUOW](#))

Ski areas, national parks and nearby towns are losing business.

Hurricane Ridge Ski Area, which is located entirely in Olympic National Park, has been "100 percent closed" and has lost its entire season so far. Small towns near Mount Rainier National Park are hurting badly as business slows during the shutdown. Not to mention, the toll it's taking on parks themselves, with garbage and snow piling up. ([Seattle Times](#), [Tacoma News Tribune](#), [WTA](#))

Consent decree on hold. The City of Seattle is at a crucial point in its agreement with the Department of Justice to overhaul the Seattle Police Department. City officials are waiting to hear what a federal judge says about a recently approved contract with the department's largest union. But the hearing they crave can't happen until the government reopens and DOJ lawyers can return to work. —[D.K.](#)

Local reimbursements for Section 8 housing vouchers could soon be in peril. They will continue through February, but what happens after that is anybody's guess. ([Crosscut](#))

-Cambria Roth and Lilly Fowler

More stories

The \$500M question: What do housing advocates think of Microsoft's plan

by Josh Cohen

The tech giant is offering a historic half billion for housing construction, mostly through loans...[Read more](#)

Seattle mayor green lights \$285M downtown streetcar

by David Kroman

Despite the increased price tag, Durkan says the streetcar is key to the future of downtown...[Read more](#)

Advertisement



This week in Olympia news

WA Legislature poised to go big on affordable housing

by Josh Cohen

Voters across the state want to see solutions. Lawmakers have at least a dozen...[Read more](#)

Could WA politicians force Trump's hand on tax returns?

by Hallie Golden

Lawmakers may consider legislation requiring presidential candidates to show their tax returns...[Read more](#)

Legislature looks to bring broadband to rural 'black holes'

by John Stang

The proposed state broadband office would facilitate internet connectivity in communities across Washington state...[Read more](#)

Do you like this newsletter? You can get Crosscut headlines in your inbox daily!

[Sign up here!](#)

This week in arts & culture



As memory fades, an artist emerges

by Matt M. McKnight

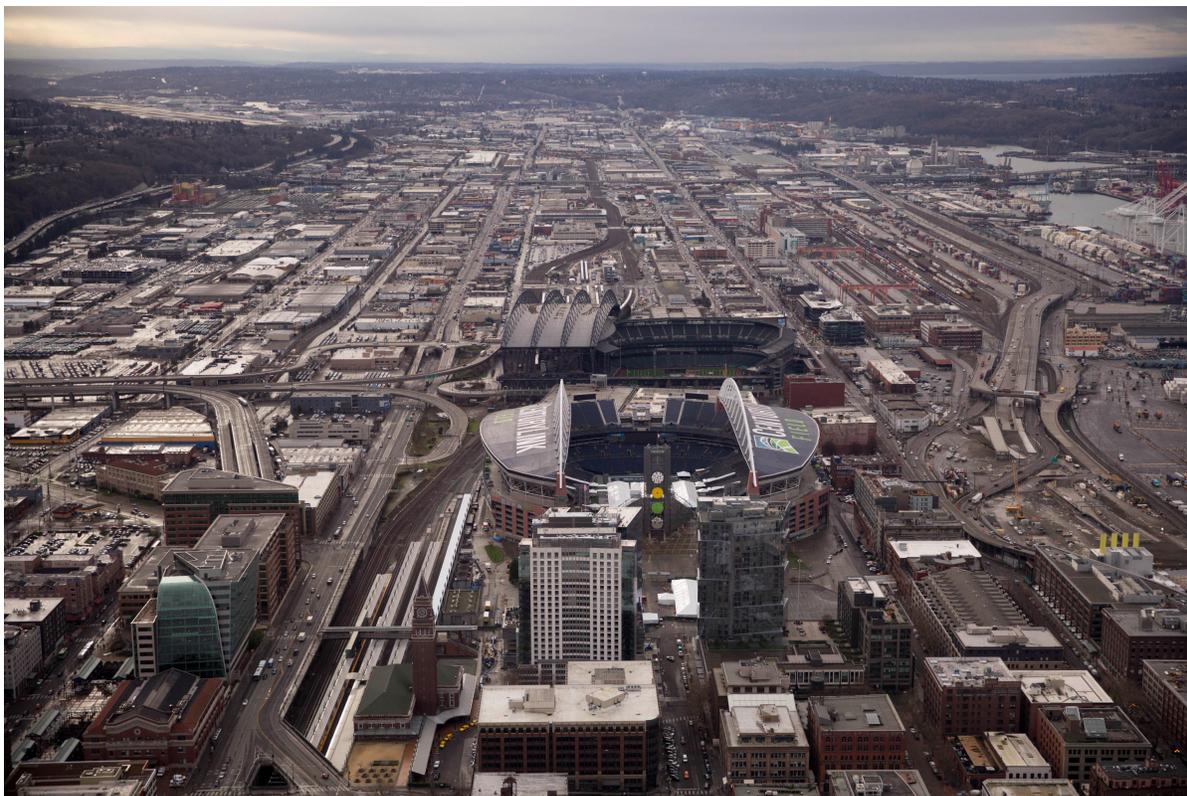
The artwork of seven artists living with dementia is on display at Seattle City Hall...[Read more](#)

The adventures of Mark Twain in Seattle

by Knute Berger, Stephen Hegg

Watch: The story of the famed American writer's only visit to the Pacific Northwest...[Read more](#)

This week in the environment



How polluted is your neighborhood? This new tool will tell you

by Manola Secaira

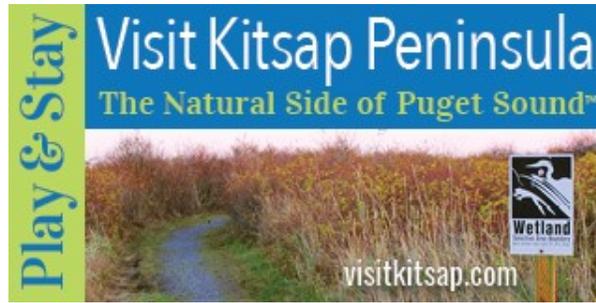
Areas of the Yakima Valley and South Seattle rank high in environmental hazards, according to UW's new mapping tool...[Read more](#)

Poll: Washington voters want environmental action

by Manola Secaira

In a new poll, the environment earned its highest marks in Washington since 2001. Green groups are hoping the Legislature is listening...[Read more](#)

Advertisement



This week in opinions



Lake City, where Seattle's gritty side lives on

by Thomas Kohnstamm

In the changing city, there is still one spot up north that has that old time feel...[Read more](#)

Why Jay Inslee's agenda could crush his 2020 hopes

by John Carlson

The tax-happy Washington governor should think twice if he wants to be elected president...[Read more](#)



[Donate](#) | [Update Subscriptions](#)

Crosscut | 401 Mercer St | Seattle | WA | 98109

editor@crosscut.com | 800.937.5287

©2018 Cascade Public Media | [Privacy Policy](#)

*Donations made to Cascade Public Media are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Cascade Public Media, which includes KCTS 9, Crosscut.com, and Spark Public, is registered under RCW 19.09. You may contact the Washington Secretary of State at 800.332.4483 or visit sos.wa.gov/charities for more information.
