Seattle looks for ways to save remaining mobile-home parks

DOWN TO TWO | The City Council has scheduled a vote Monday to impose an emergency, one-year moratorium on all mobile-home park redevelopment.

City Council eyes Seattle’s last remaining mobile-home parks

Seattle may enact the strongest protection of all city’s remaining mobile-home parks, starting with a 2019 emergency moratorium. Both parks are tucked between Aurora Avenue North and Haller Lake, the city’s last remaining mobile-home parks, starting with the city to replace the 76-year-old Haller Lake with town houses.

Residents at Halcyon Mobile Home Park are fighting to protect their community from redevelopment. At center, Lewis Hjorten, a retired commercial fisherman, stands with his neighbors.

by Daniel Beckman

L e s w i e Hj ort en w as going to celebrate his 60th birthday last Tuesday with a visit to his neighbors at Halcyon Mobile Home Park.

But things intervened. Instead, Hjorten and his friends blocked Seattle City Hall, where they sought to save their modest but affordable community.

Hjorten had shucked the North Seattle neighborhood in July, when residents learned their park had been put up for sale and, just one month later, when a real-estate developer submitted a preliminary plan with the city to replace the 76-year-old park with about 300 condo homes.

Leaving the 7.5-acre park and its 80 seniors and 150 homes only.

Some other cities, including Spokane and Portland, have created special mobile-home zones to prevent displacement.

City Council eyes Seattle’s last remaining mobile-home parks

Seattle may enact the strongest protection of all city’s remaining mobile-home parks, starting with a 2019 emergency moratorium. Both parks are located off Aurora Avenue North, near Interlake.

Schultz readies run for president

independent run

Former Starbucks chief to make final decision after national book tour

by Ken Lambert

Former Starbucks chairman and CEO Howard Schultz is preparing to mount an independent campaign for president, he announced Sunday.

Schultz, an insurance agent on the CBS News program “60 Minutes,” said he learned Friday that “people have not forgotten the American dream” and vowed to fight for political, economic and social change.

The 66-year-old Democrat and Republican “nonvoter” is trying to reach 25% of U.S. voters, which is necessary to make the ballot in half the states.

In a phone interview Sunday evening with The Seattle Times, Schultz said he attached both parties for engaging in “vicious politics,” saying it’s time for a change.

He acknowledged the difficulty of making it to the ballot in 50 states, and he said he’s looking forward to a possible third-party showing that’s working for them... the current version is a flail in a void of ideas where only one man has ever even considered it.

Schultz plans to rezone the country in a bold move as part of a book tour before deciding whether to actually launch his campaign in 2020.

He’s on the second page from Washington to Montana considering a run for president, but Schultz says, “I don’t know where we would be without it.”

Outlook for income-tax refunds cloudy after shutdown, revisions

by John Fisken

Millions of Americans have come to count on receiving a check from the IRS in the spring. This year’s tax-filing season opened Sunday, a month late because of the government shutdown that lasted more than three weeks.

The remaining government shutdown coincided with one of the Internal Revenue Service’s busiest times, and while 40,000 employees were still furloughed, the agency’s website was open and people could file their returns.

But the IRS had to wait until the beginning of February to invoice 180 million individual income-tax returns, double the standard delivery date, and the agency eliminated or capped many personal service options and call times for tax-exempt organizations.

All this led the overworked IRS to file a lawsuit in federal court over the current amount to withhold in advance from workers’ paychecks.

Future federal workers will return to their jobs Monday, and IRS officials expect to return to work at 70% capacity, tax-exempt organization officials said.

The Treasury Department has given indications it will need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues.

The Treasury Department gave some indications it may need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues. IRS agencies have already lost nearly 20,000 employees.

Trump’s promised hiring surge to secure border is losing ground

by John Fisken

WASHINGTON — Two months after President Trump signed an executive order to ramp up hiring for a border wall, only a handful of workers have been added to an already understaffed Border Patrol.

A Border Patrol job posting in one of a half-dozen states where immigration agents are hiding in the backyard of a Home in Rome, Texas, near the Rio Grande, in August.

by John Fisken

Millions of Americans have come to count on receiving a check from the IRS in the spring. This year’s tax-filing season opened Sunday, a month late because of the government shutdown that lasted more than three weeks.

The remaining government shutdown coincided with one of the Internal Revenue Service’s busiest times, and while 40,000 employees were still furloughed, the agency’s website was open and people could file their returns.

But the IRS had to wait until the beginning of February to invoice 180 million individual income-tax returns, double the standard delivery date, and the agency eliminated or capped many personal service options and call times for tax-exempt organizations.

All this led the overworked IRS to file a lawsuit in federal court over the current amount to withhold in advance from workers’ paychecks.

Future federal workers will return to their jobs Monday, and IRS officials expect to return to work at 70% capacity, tax-exempt organization officials said.

The Treasury Department has given indications it will need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues.

The Treasury Department gave some indications it may need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues. IRS agencies have already lost nearly 20,000 employees.

Trump’s promised hiring surge to secure border is losing ground

by John Fisken

WASHINGTON — Two months after President Trump signed an executive order to ramp up hiring for a border wall, only a handful of workers have been added to an already understaffed Border Patrol.

A Border Patrol job posting in one of a half-dozen states where immigration agents are hiding in the backyard of a Home in Rome, Texas, near the Rio Grande, in August.

by John Fisken

Millions of Americans have come to count on receiving a check from the IRS in the spring. This year’s tax-filing season opened Sunday, a month late because of the government shutdown that lasted more than three weeks.

The remaining government shutdown coincided with one of the Internal Revenue Service’s busiest times, and while 40,000 employees were still furloughed, the agency’s website was open and people could file their returns.

But the IRS had to wait until the beginning of February to invoice 180 million individual income-tax returns, double the standard delivery date, and the agency eliminated or capped many personal service options and call times for tax-exempt organizations.

All this led the overworked IRS to file a lawsuit in federal court over the current amount to withhold in advance from workers’ paychecks.

Future federal workers will return to their jobs Monday, and IRS officials expect to return to work at 70% capacity, tax-exempt organization officials said.

The Treasury Department has given indications it will need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues.

The Treasury Department gave some indications it may need more than 30,000 IRS employees to help tax payers process refund checks and handle other tax issues. IRS agencies have already lost nearly 20,000 employees.