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# Tribune

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See the Tribune's  
Guide to the  
Evergreen State Fair  
inside this issue!

**Aug. 24-29 & Aug. 31-Sept. 4**

## Pickleball's rise came fast with a 'pwhap!'



Doug Ramsay photo

David Greenlaw of Monroe reaches down to return the ball over the net while participating in a pickleball session at the Monroe YMCA on Friday, Aug. 11. The game can be played both indoors and outdoors.

By **NATHAN WHALEN**  
contributing writer

When the Mukilteo Everett Pickleball Club formed in 2020, it had 11 members. Since then, membership in the group has ballooned to about 340 people and is an example of how the sport has grown in Snohomish County.

"It takes a few minutes to learn and a lifetime to really get it," said Nancy Purcell, president of the Mukilteo Everett Pickleball Club. She added that members range in age from 8 to 82 and people enjoy the social aspect of the sport. "People are hungry for it."

The club plays Mondays at Evergreen Middle School from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at Forest Park from noon to dusk (noon to 2 p.m. is for beginners.).

Pickleball courts can be found in Everett at Garfield Park, Legion Park and Lowell Park in Everett. Purcell said she would like to see a court at Walter E. Hall Park. "Our community is so hungry for courts."

Pickleball courts are being added to parks throughout the county.

In Monroe, work is underway to increase the number of pickleball courts from two to five at Lake Tye Park and add two new pickleball courts at Sky River Park, said Mike Farrell, the city's parks and recreation director. He said these should be finished in the fall.

In Snohomish, Pilchuck Park, which has pickleball courts, is currently closed for a larger construction project. City

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## City's navigator here to help on social needs

By **ALLISON UNGREN**  
contributing writer

SNOHOMISH — Velvet Franz is the city's new community navigator.

What is Franz's job as the community navigator? Franz describes it as the "point person" in the city that deals with human health and human services.

"So on one hand, it's looking at programs and figuring out what the city can do, just kind of that higher level, you know, planning piece. And then at the time, it's working directly with clients and finding resources and connecting people with those resources," said Franz.

In her six months of being the community navigator, Franz has organized and helped plan community building events. One was National Night Out, the annual community-building campaign that looks to promote community ties with the police department.

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## Public STD clinic to open later this year

Statewide, health officials want to reduce levels of STDs circulating

The county's health department plans to begin operating a public clinic for sexually transmitted diseases as soon as this fall.

The clinic to test and treat these would be at 3020 Rucker Ave. in Everett.

It could reverse the level of STDs circulating in the community.

It should shorten the turnaround time that elapses from when someone tests positive to when sexual partners get notified.

"If we can get people in, we can get a test done that day and interrupt that chain of transmission," county health officer Dr. James Lewis said.

While STD rates in Snohomish County are holding steady during 2023, the caseloads are much higher than pre-pandemic levels. The state of STDs leaves Dr. Lewis neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

The department already refers people to a

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