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Kitsap Sun

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library on March 17. A portion of the library is currently closed due to aging infrastructure, and KRL has started a process to eventually tear down and rebuild a new facility on the site on the east side of Bremerton. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

Bremerton's aging KRL branch could be rebuilt

Options might include YMCA as a project partner

Peiyu Lin
Kitsap Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

BREMERTON – Kitsap Regional Library is planning to demolish its aging Sylvan Way branch building. What could come next, and when, is still undecided, but the library is exploring options that include a collaboration with the YMCA that could add a new facility for that organization as well.

Right now, a portion of the branch is closed to patrons and will not reopen. The branch was closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 19, 2026, to repair a sewer line, following several closures throughout last year due to ongoing plumbing issues, the library said.

"The concrete foundation within the closed space was opened to repair the library's main sewer line, and after careful review, the decision was made not to rebuild that portion of the building," KRL announced on its website. "With the Sylvan Way building coming closer to the end of its useful life, rebuilding part of it would not be a responsible use of public funds."

The building remains useable, but several limitations make it unsuitable for continued investment or renovation to modern library standards, KRL's Director of Strategy and Communications Jeannine Allen said.

For example, there is an electrical system that cannot be expanded due to existing design and infrastructure limitations. An HVAC system no longer adequately supports the building's current

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'Our new normal'

WA confronts another year of drought

Aspen Ford
WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

Washington's Department of Ecology announced a statewide drought emergency Wednesday, marking the fourth consecutive year that part or all of the state has been in a drought.

"We declare drought when water supply drops below 75% of normal," said Casey Sixkiller, director of Ecology. "This year, every watershed in our state has met that threshold."

Snowpack in the mountains is at about half of normal.

The emergency declaration follows an above average wet winter where precipitation levels were 104% of what is considered normal. But warmer temperatures limited snowpack growth. Snow turned into rain or melted.

"Last year's drought was mostly due to low precipitation," said Karin Bumbaco, deputy state climatologist for the Washington State Climate Office. "This year's drought is exactly what we expect to see more of in the future."

"Statewide, the water year average temperature ranks as the third warmest since records began in 1895," Bumbaco added.

Mountain snowpack acts as a natural reservoir for the state. When it's low, rivers run low, farmers face water shortages and fish habitat suffers.

"Across our state, water supplies were built around snowpack," said Sixkiller. "After four years, we're now seeing that this is no longer a reliable resource."

And, the forecast doesn't look much

See DROUGHT, Page 2A

U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Tehran vowed not to desert its allies.

A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the "REAL AGREEMENT" was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response.

He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not address the strikes in Lebanon in the post.

"If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the "Shootin' Starts," bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he wrote.

Meanwhile, strikes on Lebanon, which borders Israel came on April 8, a day after United States and Iranian

See IRAN, Page 2A

People in New York City march April 8 during a demonstration against the war with Iran. ADAM GRAY/REUTERS

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