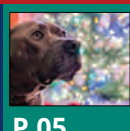


# LYNNWOOD

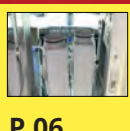
# TIMES



**HUNDRED SUPPORT SANTA AND THE LYNNWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
P.03



**PAWS ON PETS DURING THE HOLIDAYS: DO'S AND DON'TS**  
P.05



**BOEING USING THERMAL DISINFECTION TO KILL COVID-19**  
P.06

*Real News* ⚡  
*Real Impact*

## Brighten up your Christmas with this LED Lynnwood Lights show

## Inslee announces authorization of Moderna vaccine



The Lynnwood Lights show takes place every evening at 5 p.m. from now until January 1. Photo by Ryan McGhie.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

Olympia, Wash., December 20, 2020 – Gov. Jay Inslee announced the authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

Last night, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup completed its review of the federal process and has concluded the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is safe and efficacious for use in the Western States. According to the Workgroup, the Moderna vaccine is the second COVID-19 vaccine for use in the Western States.

The Workgroup provided its confirmation to the Governors of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Shipments of the 183,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine are expected to arrive by the end of December 2020. The announcement comes after the FDA and CDC granted their initial authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

According the Food and Drug Administration's press release that the Moderna vaccine, like its Pfizer BioNTech counterpart, is intended to trigger an immune response in the body to defend against the virus.

"The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine contains messenger RNA (mRNA), which is genetic material. The vaccine contains a small piece of the SARS-

*Continued* **PAGE 06** >>

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

Ryan McGhie, a five-year resident from Lynnwood is putting on his third annual LED Christmas light show. A real estate agent for Keller Williams Bothell, McGhie lives with his wife Angela and one-year-old son. He is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area and attended college in Hawaii where he met his wife.

McGhie shared with the Lynnwood Times that his goal is, "to create a bright moment in a really dark year."

He does most of the light set up himself but will sometimes require assistance from his little Christmas elves – his wife and dad.

For Christmas this year, McGhie handed out gifts with a QR code to the Lynnwood Lights website for his clients. However, all are welcome to come by and enjoy the free show. Attendees can tune in to FM 103.1 to listen to music along with the show.

The Lynnwood Lights show takes place every evening at 5 p.m. from

now until January 1. Showtimes are every 30 minutes and lasts about 18 minutes. The light show ends at 9 p.m., Sun. – Thur., 9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat.

The show takes place at 1409 172nd Pl SW, Lynnwood, just behind Alderwood Middle School. There is ample parking, but please be considerate of neighbors, do not block any driveways, and turn off headlights while viewing.

For more information visit [www.lynnwoodlights.com](http://www.lynnwoodlights.com).

## 2020 Chanukah drive through celebration gave light to Lynnwood

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

On Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, Chabad of Snohomish County hosted their ninth annual Chanukah Drive Through celebration at Lynnwood City Hall. The event featured live music, an LED performer, a five-foot ice Menorah by Cascade Crystal Ice Sculptures, Chanukah doughnuts and treats, and professional photo opportunities.

From their cars, attendees were able to meet Judah Maccabee, who was handing out doughnuts and goodie bags to the kids. Judah Maccabee was a leader in the Maccabean Revolt who fought for Judean independence, recorded in the Books of Maccabees.

It was a challenge for Chabad of Snohomish County to come up with a way for families to celebrate the COVID safe community-oriented event but with some creative teamwork, their members were able to find a way to create a dynamic event that had something for the whole family, all while following social distance mandates. This year, families were given Menorah kits to light at home.

this is needed today more than ever, and we hope that this event will lift peoples' spirits and serve as a reminder that in this beautiful world which G-d created, there is light, love and purpose, not only at the end of the tunnel, but here and now," said Rabbi Berel Paltiel of Chabad of Snohomish County.

"I have often shared with our community to, 'remember to wash your hands and in whose hands you're in.' The Maccabees faced incredible odds and had to, 'wash their hands,' by going to battle and doing all they could to help themselves. Yet, they were confident of victory and saw miracles because they knew that ultimately, they were in G-d's hands and that things would be okay. The Hanukkah flame we kindle in our homes reminds us that just like the Maccabees, we are not alone. There will be light!"

Paltiel also wanted to give a special thank you to all of the event's sponsors as well as the City of Lynnwood, especially to its Events and Outreach Coordinator, Misty Burke, for helping with the organization of the event.

Five-foot ice Menorah at Lynnwood City Hall on December 13, 2020. Photo courtesy of Rabbi Berel Paltiel.



"With the incredible challenges of the last 10 months,

# Inslee proposes \$3.5 billion Capital Gains tax for 2021–2023 budget



Governor Jay Inslee. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor.

By OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- The next biennium remains more than \$3.3 billion below where it was before the pandemic hit.
- A new 9% tax to capital gains earnings above \$25,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for joint filers. A new capital gains tax on the sale of stocks, bonds and other assets. Exemptions are provided for sole proprietor businesses, retirement accounts, homes, farms and forestry.
- A new “covered lives assessment” fee to be paid by health insurers,

*Medicaid managed care organizations, limited health services contractors and third-party administrators.*

Gov. Inslee announced the details of his 2021–2023 biennial budget proposal Thursday, which included significant funding for public health, economic supports for workers and businesses, and other services that Washingtonians need to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19.

“We must invest in the relief, recovery and resilience of Washington. We cannot cut the things that we need most during a pandemic,” Inslee said during a press conference Thursday. “In my proposed operating, capital and transportation budgets, I am investing in the people of our state.”

Inslee’s budget proposals would:

- Continue an aggressive response to the ongoing pandemic and build more capacity for tackling future public health crises.
- Rebuild the state’s economy and continue efforts to support households, students, workers and businesses impacted by the pandemic.
- Address racial and economic inequity.

- Protect previous investments in areas such as education, childcare and early learning, climate action, behavioral health reform, combating homelessness and access to health care.

## Economic supports for workers and businesses

Inslee stressed the need to rebuild the state’s economy and continue efforts to support households, students, workers and businesses impacted by the pandemic. This includes additional protections for workers and funding for the state Labor and Industries to investigate issues at businesses and agricultural work sites.

The governor’s budget also includes funding to shore up the state’s unemployment system, which was put under enormous strain due to staggering job losses, especially during the first months of the pandemic.

Inslee is proposing legislation that would ease unemployment insurance rate increases on businesses and increase minimum weekly benefit amounts for unemployed workers. The proposal increases staffing in the division of occupational safety and health, a critical resource for workers and employers to understand safety

protocols on the job and ensure timely response.

Additional protections proposed include significant new funding for rent and foreclosure assistance, and other measures to keep people from homelessness.

## Public health funding

Inslee laid out policy proposals that build more capacity for tackling future public health crises, including \$397 million for the state’s public health system. The programs include investments in data infrastructure for public health for sharing information that turns data into actionable information for decisions and policymaking throughout the state.

Also included in the budget are resources for personal protective equipment, testing supplies and lab costs, contact tracing, and our public health lab and epidemiology work. It will fund planning for rapid response to disease outbreaks and other disasters that require strong relationships between city, county and state emergency management departments.

Sen. June Robinson supports the

Continued PAGE 08 >>

# New guidelines for in-person learning among K-12 students in WA

By OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## School Health and Safety Toolkit

Gov. Jay Inslee and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal today announced an update in the metrics used to inform local school district decisions for in-person learning. They also announced \$3 million from set aside funds to be distributed to implement health and safety protocols.

Related to safety in schools, the governor will issue an accompanying proclamation requiring schools by law to implement health and safety measures, and mandates staff involvement in health and safety related decisions.

“I have sought the opinions of state and local education administrators, as well as educators, staff, parents and school boards. And today, we are providing them more clarity and confidence in getting students back in the classroom,” Inslee said during a press conference Wednesday. “Many people’s lives revolve around a regular school schedule and, apart from the academics, schools provide social supports that advance healthy childhood development.”

The update to in-person instruction guidance comes after recent data showed limited COVID-19 transmission in school environments when state health and safety protocols are implemented.

National experts from MIT, Brown University and Harvard, along with experts in Washington have shown a dramatic drop in risk of infection transmission when safety measures are in place, such as masking, physical distancing, and increased ventilation and environmental cleaning.

Dr. Danielle Zerr, medical director of infection prevention and chief of pediatric infectious diseases for Seattle Children’s Hospital, said that while data is still being collected on susceptibility of school-aged children, there is a lack of evidence that schools are a significant source of transmission.

“We have learned critical lessons from schools that have already opened about how to support teachers and school personnel,” Zerr said. “Though nothing is without risk, kids can be brought

back to school in person safely through careful preparation and thoughtful sequencing appropriate to disease burden in the community, age of the students and other considerations.”

The Department of Health suggests three categories for re-introducing in-person learning:

For schools in counties where COVID-19 cases are “low” (less than 50 residents per 100,000), in-person learning should be made available for all students.

In counties where COVID-19 cases are “moderate” (between 50 and 350 residents per 100,000), in-person learning should be phased in, starting with elementary students not already attending in person and middle school students, followed by high school students.

Finally, in counties where COVID-19 cases are “high” (over 350,000 per

100,000 residents), it’s recommended that schools should only offer in-person instruction for elementary and high-need students in small groups of 15 students or fewer.

Each school must have an operational safety committee responsible for a COVID-19 prevention plan. These plans must include a designated COVID-19 supervisor, training off all staff on COVID-19 prevention, and adequate supply and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment, including respiratory protection.

The Department of Labor & Industries will designate a single point of contact to serve as a liaison for school workplace safety and concerns to ensure confidence in the community that schools are adhering to safety protocols.

Continued PAGE 08 >>

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

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## 83.5% of survey respondents in Lynnwood prioritize need for a social worker over a diversity coordinator



Lynnwood City Council members in the council chambers at city hall. Pictured left to right: Ian Cotton, Ruth Ross, Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Christine Frizzell, George Hurst, Shannon Sessions and Jim Smith.

By **NOEL PAI-YOUNG and MARIO LOTMORE**

At the December 14, 2020 Lynnwood City Council meeting, Mayor Nicola Smith opened up with a statement reminding community members of the importance to defeat COVID-19.

“It can be easy to let our guard down, but we can’t give up yet. Right now COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in Snohomish County and across Washington State and the United States... placing a great stress on our healthcare system... Please continue to wear face masks... limit your social gatherings,” said Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith.

It was an evening of recognition. For displaying excellence especially in their support of the community, The

Lynnwood City Council presented Jared Bond with the Employee Award, Bruce Lawson a Citizen Award, and Chef Dane Catering of Lynnwood with the Business Award.

The Washington State Department of Transportation agreed to pay \$698,213 of the estimated \$28 million toward to the repaving of 196th St. SW.

Multiple ordinances were passed including one to amend the fee schedule and another to omit references to a Fire Department from the Lynnwood Civil Service Commission. All ordinances presented were passed unanimously. The Director of Economic Development, David Kleitsch, was then confirmed as Lynnwood’s first Development and Business Services Department Director.

Councilwoman Ruth Ross gave a statement regarding support for the Race and Social Justice Coordinator position being filled as soon as possible in 2021. Councilman George Hurst mentioned that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission has not brought forward a written proposal to the council to clarify what the position entails. Councilwoman Shannon Sessions agreed that she would like to see details in writing early next year.

Councilman Smith cautioned the expense of creating a new position at this time when so many residents are suffering financial hardships because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilwoman Dr. Altamirano-Crosby added that from a 200-person survey of residents she conducted, 83.5% showed preference for a social worker over a Race and Social Justice Coordinator.

After some back and forth from several councilmembers, Councilman Ian Cotton reminded councilmembers of their duty to perform due diligence.

In a statement to the Lynnwood Times, Dr. Altamirano-Crosby provided insight into her position of supporting a social worker to address the current human service needs of the community.

“We must be accountable at all times and the pressing needs that our communities experience,” wrote Dr. Altamirano-Crosby. “In line with this principle, the recent decision to halt the hire of a Diversity and Inclusion Director/Social Justice Coordinator for the City of Lynnwood, must be understood not as

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

## HOLIDAY DUI PATROLS



Snohomish County, Wash., December 18, 2020 – Tonight, the Snohomish County DUI & Target Zero Task Force is participating in a tri-county holiday DUI patrol. This will include Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

There will be dozens of officers on the roads patrolling from varying agencies focused on DUI patrols. Sheriff Fortney, Bureau Chief Huri, Bureau Chief Kane, Captain Robertson and Lieutenant Lewis are working patrol tonight in south county.

What can you do to keep you and your family safe this holiday season?

- Have a plan before you start drinking
- Encourage family members to have a plan – or #StepIn if you think someone is DUI
- Actively let people in your social circle know that you can be called for a safe and sober ride
- The only safe driver is a completely sober driver – NOT the “least intoxicated” person
- Call 911 to report DUI drivers

## Hundreds came out to meet Santa and support law enforcement

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

Hundreds of Lynnwood residents lined the streets in the rain and cold to see Santa as he joined the Lynnwood Police Department (LPD) for its Operation: North Pole Patrol on Friday, December 18.

“They [LPD] are great,” said Vicki Frasher, a 10-year resident of Lynnwood when asked for her thoughts of the event. “Everybody needs extra cheer this time of year and especially this year. I am thankful for everything we have. I hear about all the families struggling; we have our own struggles but nothing we can’t overcome.”

Operation: North Pole Patrol was inspired from a similar concept from the Everett Fire Department. Joanna Smalls, Public Affairs and Communications Manager for the Lynnwood Police Department, got buy-in from Police Chief Jim Davis, made arrangements with Santa – a.k.a. Commander Wes Deppa – and asked officers to volunteer to be part of the procession around the city.

“I proposed we do something similar... especially since the majority of all community events have been cancelled this year due to COVID, including the popular Shop with a Cop,” Smalls wrote in a statement to the Lynnwood Times.



Santa in route on Operation: North Pole Patrol. Photo courtesy of the Lynnwood Police Department.

“The idea was to keep the event safe by wearing masks and having Santa stay in the car. We asked for people to spread out at the parks and to simply come outside their homes and flag us down if our route passed by their house.”

The route consisted of 10 designated parks where Santa provided bags filled with goodies for kids.

- 19321 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98037, USA
- North Lynnwood Park, 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Spruce Park, 36th Avenue West,

- Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Meadowdale Neighborhood Park, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Meadowdale Playfields, 66th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Lyndale Park Picnic Shelter, 72nd Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Daleway Park, 64th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- South Lynnwood Park, 61st Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- Scriber Lake Park, 198th Street Southwest, Lynnwood, WA, USA
- 19330 52nd Ave W, Lynnwood, WA

98036, USA

Becky, a Lynnwood resident who recently moved from Seattle shared, “[This is a] great way to spread Christmas cheer on such as unusual year. I think it is a really nice way on giving some positive vibes for everyone that is having a harder time this year.”

In addition to Christmas cheer, Operation: North Pole Patrol yielded two truckloads or nearly 800 pounds of food for the Lynnwood Food Bank which was dropped off Saturday morning.

“We were so excited that so many people braved the weather to participate and opened their pantries so generously,” said Smalls. “We definitely hope to make this an annual thing!”

Smalls would like to thank the Lynnwood community for its “overwhelming” support.

“We honestly weren’t sure what to expect because we had never done anything like this before and the weather wasn’t ideal for an outdoor event. But it was incredible!

“The officers had a fantastic time interacting – from a distance – with the kids and reminding the community that their police department truly values them and is here FOR them, not against them.”



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# Lynnwood K9 unit spreads holiday joy



By **ERIN FREEMAN**

The Lynnwood Police Department (LPD) held a meet and greet with its K9 unit on Saturday, December 12, raising funds for its German shepherd squad at the Alderwood Mall between Claim Jumpers and Anthony's Seafood Grill restaurants.

The drive-thru event hosted by the police department attracted many walk-up mall-goers interested in watching the dogs participate in discipline training and take socially distant selfies with the K9's.

K9 officer Earl accompanied by Officer Warren Creek, K9 officer Chase with Sergeant Jake Shorthill, and K9 officer Rico with handler Officer Sam Zacharia were in attendance.

For a suggested donation of \$15 to greet one officer and \$25 for two, attendees received stocking a "stuffie" of their favorite K-9 pooch to take home.

LPD spokesperson Joanna Small

told the Lynnwood Times that the event was well-received, with more interest than anticipated. She thanked the community for its generosity as donations were far more than what was asked.

"We're pretty surprised at how many people came through," she said. It's overwhelming how generous people have been.

The event raised more than \$4,000 which will be used to purchase gear and equipment for the K-9 unit, such as ballistic vests. Under normal circumstances, the LPD usually fundraises for its K9 unit at community events held throughout the year, one being the Fair on 44th; however, this year it was canceled due to the coronavirus. Still wanting to provide the community with an opportunity to meet its K9 officers, LPD decided that a drive-thru and stocking stuffie event would be an alternative opportunity.

Stuffed animal plushies have been available at past fundraising events for

years, but this was the first time they were handed out during the holidays.

"We had to abide by a lot of restrictions to make sure the event is COVID safe, and so it was a little more difficult to do... people love to see the dogs and seem excited about it," Small said.

Mother-daughter duo June and Ursula Stuart, animal lovers living in Mukilteo, were in attendance to support the police department.

"We came out to support them," said Stuart. It's very important, especially in these times, to make sure the police department and the canines are supported. We're animal lovers, and that's why."

Kelly Landon, Founder of Back the Blue Snohomish County, came with her two young sons grasping the stocking stuffers. She says they attended to support their local law enforcement.

"I follow everything police wise. I think that they're amazing and that they deserve a lot more credit than they're getting right now," she said. "The canines also get forgotten about so it's a great time to get out, spend time with family, and support the cause."

If you would like a stuffie of your favorite K-9 officer, please contact Sgt. Shorthill to coordinate a COVID-safe pickup by emailing [jshorthill@lynnwoodwa.gov](mailto:jshorthill@lynnwoodwa.gov).

To make a financial contribution, send checks to the Lynnwood Police Department, 19321 44th Ave 98036, attention: Sgt. Shorthill, payable to Lynnwood Police Canine Unit.

## Happy Retirement to Sonja Springer!



By **City of Lynnwood**

Lynnwood, Wash., December 17, 2020 – The City of Lynnwood said goodbye to Finance Director Sonja Springer. She will now enjoy retirement after serving Lynnwood for five years.

Springer has 37 years in municipal government finance working for the City of Seattle, Seattle City Light, and the City of Mountlake Terrace.

Under Springer's tenure, Lynnwood received clean financial audits, awards for the precision of our financial reports and awards for our adopted biennial budgets.



Potential applicants for deputy positions must first apply through Snohomish County Human Resources and Employment, then schedule a test with Public Safety Testing or the National Testing Network.

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# PAWS on pets during the holidays: the do's and don'ts

By ERIN FREEMAN

Amidst the holiday season, people are searching for the perfect gifts for their loved ones. The comfort and happiness a pet provides may seem like an excellent choice, especially in a pandemic inducing isolation for many, yet animal shelters are discouraging people from surprising others with pets.

While a new pet can be a wonderful addition to a family, animal shelter Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Lynnwood warns they shouldn't be given as a gift for the holidays.

Director of Marketing and Communications for PAWS, Laura Follis, says adopting an animal should be considered a lifelong commitment and needs thorough consideration.

"It's always best to involve all of the pet parent(s) to be in the adoption process," said Follis. "A family can do this together as a post-holiday project. The idea of adopting an animal companion can be delivered as a gift but the actual process of adoption deserves more careful consideration and preparation."

If you're interested in adopting a pet from PAWS, you can visit PAWS.org to review the available dogs and cats. They are open during special holiday hours, with appointments required to meet animals.

The animal shelter is asking pet owners to be mindful of potential holiday hazards, such as being aware of the toxicity of some holiday

plants, the consequences of poorly secured Christmas trees and breakable ornaments, and extra electrical cords needed for lights and decorations.

For a full list of holiday hazards, visit [www.paws.org/resources/holiday-hazards/](http://www.paws.org/resources/holiday-hazards/).

PAWS is also celebrating community members existing animal companions this holiday season through its partnership with the Santa PAWS: A Holiday Photo Contest presented by Animal Medical Center of Seattle.

"All of us at PAWS wish you well during these challenging times. Now more than ever, our furry companions are bringing joy and happiness to our lives," said Follis. "PAWS is honored to celebrate our shared love of animals with you this holiday season."

To support more cats and dogs find loving homes in the community, the organizations are encouraging a \$10 suggested donation with each submission. As of December 14, 52 families have entered, raising almost \$500 to go towards helping animals in need at PAWS.

Entries have a chance to win a special gift basket from the local nutritional pet store Mud Bay. Animal Medical Center of Seattle will judge the submissions, choosing winning photos for the Overall Best Dog, Overall Best Cat, and Dog and Cat BFFs.

"We can't wait to see all the cats and dogs uniquely expressing their holiday spirit," said Follis.

Submit a holiday-themed photo of



This community pet is in the holiday spirit! Photo courtesy of PAWS.

your dog or cat by December 31, 2020. 8, 2021  
Winners will be announced on January

# The coronavirus won't stop local children's holiday gift program



Holly House volunteer Mia sorts through donated stuffies, a gift that Executive Director Pam Martinez says may be the "only thing our children have to hang on to when times get tough." Photo courtesy of Holly House.

By ERIN FREEMAN

Heather has been organizing donated books for days, with 700 new American Girl books in the queue waiting to be sorted and become Christmas gifts for Lynnwood's children in need.

Volunteers at Holly House, a holiday gift program for Edmonds School District (ESD) children in low-income households, are working tirelessly to ensure they can meet demand this holiday season amid the coronavirus

pandemic.

Every year Holly House is faced with the huge task of gathering new hats, scarves, socks, underwear, pajamas, books, toiletries, blankets, stuffed animals, and toys to provide as gifts.

"Our children are cold, often going to school without socks and underwear," says Holly House's website. "No child should have to live in those kinds of situations. Every child should have warm pajamas, a toothbrush, socks, underwear, and toys."

Pam Martinez, Executive Director of Holly House, says that the gifts children receive from them during the holidays are necessities, whether it be keeping them warm or providing learning development opportunities.

"So many of our children are two and three years behind," said Martinez. "Owning new, beautiful books helps encourage them to keep reading."

Holly House established itself in 2006 as a grassroots operation at a local food bank serving 260 children. It now serves an average of 2,200 children throughout 16 ESD schools. Yet, with looming hardship this year due to the

impacts of COVID-19, more families in the community are in need of assistance this holiday season.

"We are working hard to meet the needs of our children as more and more of these families turn to Holly House for help and support," said Holly House in a statement on its website.

Martinez says she and her organization are immensely thankful for all the generous people within the community who have donated gifts for the children they serve.

"The many children we serve – children who are often sad, lonely and feeling hopeless as their families battle homelessness, isolation, fear, joblessness....you bring great hope in an otherwise, often bleak world."

Donations can be dropped off at Sparta's Pizza & Pasta House in Lynnwood. A gift and necessity donation list can be found at [hollyhouseforkids.org/donate-gifts---necessities](http://hollyhouseforkids.org/donate-gifts---necessities).

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## Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett receives first doses of vaccine

By **SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT**

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. — Nearly a year after the first case of COVID-19 in the United States was confirmed in a Snohomish County man, a glimmer of hope has finally arrived. Providence Regional Medical Center Everett (PRMCE) received 3,900 doses of the new Pfizer vaccine on Thursday.

“This is good news for our community, our county and our entire country. We can now see the light at the end of these darkest days of the pandemic,” said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. “This first round of vaccines will protect those on the frontlines of COVID patient care and individuals most at risk. Though we must remain vigilant as vaccine production ramps up, vaccination gives us all hope for the New Year.”

Starting tomorrow, these vaccines will be administered to Providence caregivers who are at the highest risk of contracting the virus, and will be equitably distributed based on work location and role. Five caregivers were given the vaccine this morning as part of a practice run.

“Providence caregivers have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic longer than anyone in the country,” said Dr. Jay Cook, Chief Medical Officer at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett. “The arrival of this vaccine is great news for our caregivers and our communities, and is the first step in the long recovery process from this pandemic. We couldn’t be more excited to provide this vaccine to those on the frontlines.”



Photo courtesy of Providence Regional Medical Center Everett.

Photos courtesy of Providence Regional Medical Center Everett can be viewed or downloaded at <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/XsNcQTq6Mc>. Film footage and interview clips will be available through that link later this afternoon.

This shipment was the first of many expected in Snohomish County in the coming days and weeks. The Washington State Department of Health has indicated that they expect additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to be shipped by the end of December. An additional 183,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine are also expected by the end of December, assuming the FDA approves the emergency use authorization. Regular weekly shipments of both vaccines should begin in January.

“Not only is it coming at a critical time for our healthcare system, but it’s something positive for the community

to look forward to and a relief for us here at the Health District,” said Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District. “This is an incredible milestone, but we still have miles to go. Please keep up the mask wearing, avoiding gatherings with non-household members, and staying at least six feet apart. Vaccinated or not, we must all keep our guard up until vaccine coverage is high and COVID rates are down.”

The first group in Snohomish County eligible for the vaccine—known as Phase 1a—includes 15,000-16,000 high-risk workers in health care settings, high-risk first responders, and employees at long-term care and similar adult care settings. In addition to those employees, there are approximately 10,000-12,000 residents living in the long-term or adult care facilities that are eligible to receive the vaccine.

While most of those people will

receive their vaccines through their employer or facility, the Health District is finalizing a voucher program for employees of smaller agencies to be vaccinated by a participating partner. Those details will be available by the end of December.

There is still work to be done, and more information is coming in daily. People can sign up for the Snohomish County COVID-19 Briefing to receive twice-weekly emails. The Health District has also launched [www.snohd.org/covidvaccine](http://www.snohd.org/covidvaccine) to provide a landing spot for reliable information on the COVID vaccines. Current resources include:

- COVID-19 vaccine FAQs
- How mRNA vaccines work
- Information for healthcare providers
- Interim plan for COVID-19 vaccine for Snohomish County

Starting next week, the Health District will provide information on the number of vaccines received in the county during the previous week. Staff are looking at options on how to share data with the public about vaccines being administered. However, this is a complex process that is spread across the healthcare and public health systems and will take some time to build.

DOH will soon launch a tool that allows someone to know what phase they’re in. Please monitor [www.CovidVaccineWA.org](http://www.CovidVaccineWA.org) for updates on their distribution and prioritization guidelines for the next phases of the vaccine in the coming weeks.

## Boeing using thermal disinfection to successfully kill COVID-19



Thermal Disinfectant Device. Photo courtesy of The Boeing Company.

By **The Boeing Company**

SEATTLE, Dec. 15, 2020 — Boeing and the University of Arizona put an age-old technique, thermal disinfection, to use in the fight against COVID-19. Researchers validated that applying heat to surfaces, especially on hard-to-clean flight deck equipment, effectively eliminates SARS-CoV-2.

Results indicate that the virus can be destroyed by more than 99.99% after three hours exposure to temperatures of 50 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) and will still effectively kill more than 99.9% of the virus at 40-degree Celsius temperatures (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

“Passenger and crew safety are our top priorities — that extends from the cabin to the flight deck,” said Michael Delaney, who leads Boeing’s Confident Travel Initiative (CTI) efforts. “Thermal disinfection could deliver another valuable tool to destroy COVID-19 on sensitive and difficult-to-reach components that protect pilots.”

Boeing completed the testing as part of its CTI effort to support customers and enhance the safety and well-being of passengers and crews during the COVID-19 pandemic. This testing was conducted in a protected laboratory environment at the university using flight

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

from page 1 **MODERNA VACCINE**

CoV-2 virus’s mRNA that instructs cells in the body to make the virus’s distinctive “spike” protein. After a person receives this vaccine, their body produces copies of the spike protein, which does not cause disease, but triggers the immune system to learn to react defensively, producing an immune response against SARS-CoV-2.”

The Western States Workgroup is comprised of vaccine experts from Washington, California, Oregon and Nevada. On October 27, Western States experts joined California’s Scientific Safety Review Workgroup to form the Western States Workgroup. The Workgroup has been meeting to review the data and analysis to ensure the safety and efficacy of both the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines federally authorized.

In April, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and Nevada joined in a Western States Pact which shared a vision for fighting COVID-19 and reopening their economies. Western State leaders in May urged congressional leaders to approve \$1 trillion in COVID-19 relief for states and local governments.

The Pfizer vaccine was authorized last week and is already being administered throughout Washington state. Providence Regional Medical Center Everett (PRMCE) received 3,900 doses of the new Pfizer vaccine

on Thursday.

“I’m pleased that the Western States Workgroup gave their unanimous recommendation to the Moderna vaccine today and encourages immediate use of the vaccine in our states,” Inslee said. “Having two vaccines to combat COVID-19 will help us begin to recover from this destructive pandemic.

“While disease activity remains high and our ICUs remain near capacity, we are hopeful that the introduction of another COVID vaccine will get us much closer to defeating this virus. Stepping up vaccinations for health care workers and our highest risk populations will help save the lives. We must continue to be vigilant and keep up wearing masks, physically distancing and not having gatherings, especially during the upcoming holidays.

“We still need to be extremely vigilant in taking care of each other until the vaccine is widely available, which will still be several months from now,” Inslee said. “We must continue masking, physical distancing and not gathering with friends and family, especially during this holiday season. Our disease activity remains high, and we must work together to keep each other safe.”



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from page 3 **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

a decision against the very urgent and pressing matter of social justice but in its favor of it.

“The position in discussion was originally conceived in 2018 with the intent to hire someone that advocated for diversity and inclusion by working at the administrative level with different directorships within the city.

“It is clear after this summer and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement that such a position is antiquated. The demands coming out of our social realities demand that we re-imagine such position to serve our communities in meaningful, on-the-ground initiatives and not only at the administrative level.

“More importantly however, the current economic challenges caused by the pandemic may point out to first dedicate our efforts to make sure our communities can access whatever resources our city can offer to alleviate their situations. For this reason and using my training as a social scientist, I decided to consult our communities to assess what position they considered more urgent”

Dr. Altamirano-Crosby conducted a random survey that received 200 responses from families, business owners and students in the Lynnwood area to understand what Lynnwood residents think should be a priority. The survey question asked was:

During this time, with the COVID-19 crisis present, do you believe that the City of Lynnwood should hire:

- Social Worker and Community Outreach
- Race and Social Equity Coordinator/Advisor of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Other.

Out of a random sample of 200 responses, 167 (or 83.5%) advocated for a Social Worker, 18 (or 9%) considered neither one, 12 (or 6%) selected Diversity and Inclusion/Social Justice coordinator and three chose other.

The racial breakdown of survey respondents was: 60% White, 20% His-

panic/Latino, 7% Asian, 5% Slavic, 5% African American and 3% Other. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the racial breakdown of Lynnwood is as follows: 59.2% White, 18% Asian, 13.7% Hispanic, 8% African American, and 1.1% other.

Some of the survey comments are below:

- “I heard they have a diversity committee, what have they done?”
- Social Worker because we need more social support in Lynnwood and help the community more.
- It is incredible that they are considering hiring someone at this crucial and uncertain time.
- I believe we need both, but to have a director or advisor of diversity we first need to establish community services.
- The diversity, equity and inclusion committee should make an annual plan of its activities, for example, reach out to our community and city employees through focus groups, surveys, identify community leaders and collaborate with them, but most importantly build truthful relationship that are crucial to promote the mission of the committee.”

Dr. Altamirano-Crosby concluded that the survey was an eye-opener for her. It conveyed that Lynnwood residents would like to see more engagement from the current Diversity, Equity & Inclusion commission to continue fostering Lynnwood’s welcoming city status. Because of the current human service needs of the community, respondents from the survey prioritized the need for a social worker to that of a diversity administrator.

“These results make clear to me that our scarce resources at the city should focus on hiring a social worker that can help our communities access services,” wrote Dr. Altamirano-Crosby. “Also, that the Diversity and Inclusion position, while also a priority, must be re-designed to meet the social demands of 2020.

“As a Latina, I considered both pressing and important issues; my actions as a city council member are unequivocally congruent with these needs and the well-being of our communities.”

# Gimme a Break!

## One big leap for Oregonians!

By **DIO ALEXANDER**



The rivalry between Washington and Oregon is deep. Be it the Huskies eating the Ducks for lunch or arguing which progressivism is more progressive, I wouldn’t put it past us Washingtonians to try and legalize recreational cocaine statewide next year just to outdo our southern neighbors.

Oregon voted on Election Day to decriminalize petty possession of ALL illegal drugs, including heroin, meth, and cocaine. This leaves how federal agencies will enforce existing drug laws up in the air. One thing is clear, though: The Beaver State is soon to become a favorite destination for twilight partiers, west coast elites, and political movers and shakers.

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 bans those drugs as high potential for abuse. However, congressional acts didn’t stop Washingtonians from flipping the bird to the feds and voting to pass I-692 in 1998, which legalized medical marijuana use. That paved the way for I-502 passing in 2012, legalizing recreational use.

If you think logical inconsistencies abound in US drug laws and how they relate to Washington, you wouldn’t be wrong. Despite Mary Jane’s legalization statewide, Lynnwood residents have been unable to purchase the Devil’s Lettuce within city limits for the past six years.

In Lynnwood, everybody CAN get stoned...they just can’t buy their reefer within city limits. That’s because Lynnwood has moratoriums on marijuana sales, although the city council is currently deliberating on revising those moratoriums.

A 2014 six-month ordinance rolled into a 2015 ordinance prohibiting the retail sale, production, and processing of marijuana and marijuana-infused products, as well as medical marijuana collective gardens.

Although 2019 zoning regulations were amended to prohibit these activities within the Lynnwood City Center, 16 cannabis retailers are within six miles of Lynnwood City Hall.

It really doesn’t make sense. Either prohibit marijuana use and sale within city limits altogether or permit both use and sale within city limits.

Seattle became the first major city in the US to ban plastic straws in July 2018. How about that Portland? The ban’s intent was to promote more environmentally conscious options to plastic, like paper straws.

But are paper straws better for snorting cocaine? One would have to consult their street pharmacist on corners of Highway 99 to provide an objective assessment, as there are no legal cocaine retailers for comment in Washington state.

All things considered, Washington drug laws are confusing and if Washington goes the way of Oregon, 2021 could be quite the interesting year, indeed.

## Mail Call: Send holiday cards to Gold Star Families this year

To pay tribute to fallen military service members, a Lynnwood resident is asking for community support in sending holiday messages to gold star mothers and families.

recommends touching on the sacrifices the families’ children made and the appreciation of service they have for their sons and daughters.

A towering Christmas tree will soon stand outside of Patrick Crosby’s home on 208th Street Southwest, displaying the photographs of fallen service members who died during military service. He hopes the community will join him in sending holiday cards to the families of those memorialized.

“Or whatever is in their hearts,” he added.

Crosby will be receiving cards all through December 2020, to be sealed and displayed alongside the tree. Cards will then be scanned and sent off to the gold star families just after the beginning of the New Year.

For those unsure of what message to include within their card, Crosby

Participants can mail their cards to 6406 208th St. SW, Lynnwood WA, 98036.

**2020 HOLIDAY DASH**  
Presented by  
**EDMONDS POLICE FOUNDATION & SUPPORT 7**

- ❄️ Join us for our 5k Virtual Holiday Dash launching on **November 28**
- ❄️ Register online for \$20 per person and receive your "running bib" in the mail
- ❄️ Participate on Nov. 28 or plan another day before 2020 ends

**Register now through the end of the year at [www.Support7.org](http://www.Support7.org) today!**

from page 2 **K-12 INSTRUCTION****Additional funding for health and safety**

The governor also announced \$3 million from set aside funds that he will direct to OSPI to support health and safety work in Washington schools. This money will help fund third-party safety audits and support the staff in districts in need for more financial support in meeting safety requirements.

Superintendent Reykdal said this funding is much needed to get students back into schools safely and that this

move toward in-person learning will help students succeed.

“Our state has some of the most stringent health and safety protocols for schools in the nation, and those are working to limit the spread of the virus in our schools,” Reykdal said. “Most students do best in the traditional in-person school environment with their peers and educators. With the science and data showing us we can do this safely, I am confident we should begin moving more of our students back to the physical classroom.”

**School testing**

The Department of Health also released guidance Wednesday to expand access to testing for K-12 schools as in-person learning begins to be phased-in. The guidance will help local school and health leaders determine who, how and when to test or screen their students and staff in the K-12 school environment.

Twelve Washington school districts are already participating in a School Testing Pilot, with several others planning to join and start in-person in January.

“Our teachers and school administrators have done a phenomenal job navigating

unprecedented challenges,” Inslee said. “This updated guidance provides a framework and will help schools plan and prepare so that when the metrics reach the appropriate level, they’re able to resume in-person instruction quickly and safely.”

Read the full in-person guidance at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/DecisionTree-K12schools.pdf>

Read the full testing guidance at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-113-K12SchoolTesting.pdf>

from page 2 **BUDGET**

proposal and joined Inslee for Thursday’s press conference.

“As a public health professional, I’ve seen the challenges with the public health system firsthand throughout the COVID pandemic,” Robinson said. “Now is the time to reimagine the structures of our public health system and infuse the system with a much needed stable funding source.”

As the pandemic has raged across the state, disparities in local health jurisdictions have emerged.

“I believe health districts can be more effective when addressing the needs of multiple adjoining counties and focusing on the best public health outcomes for their communities,” Inslee said. “Therefore, I am putting forward legislation that creates a regional, coordinated approach to local public health through comprehensive public health districts. Combining services across counties in regionalized health districts will lead to a more efficient delivery of services.”

Rep. Marcus Riccelli said that strengthening public health districts is key to ensuring care for all Washingtonians.

“Our current public health system isn’t working for everyone. Rural and underserved communities need help, and we’ve seen what happens when politics is put over public health in a pandemic,” Riccelli said. “It’s time for us to recognize that diseases don’t care where you live or what county you are in. By creating stronger public health districts focused on accountability and effectiveness, this bill will help make sure that our public health system is serving everyone in Washington state.”

**Education and child care**

The pandemic caused major disruptions for families all across the state. The governor’s budget focuses on equitable student supports, including new funding to provide broadband connections for families who cannot afford internet services.

Following unprecedented investments in education over the previous four years, Inslee’s budget proposal makes major new investments aimed at expanding learning opportunities and increasing equitable support for students to get back on track.

Education funding includes \$400 million to improve educational outcomes for all students and to

address learning loss and educational opportunity gaps. The governor also proposed increasing staffing levels for counselors in elementary schools to help students who may be falling behind academically and need trusted adults.

As childcare providers have also been hard hit by the pandemic, Inslee approved using nearly \$191 million in federal CARES Act funding to support childcare businesses and help low-income families afford childcare this spring — and his 2021–23 budget continues those efforts.

**Food assistance and job skills**  
More than 2 million adults and children in Washington — one in three Washingtonians — have lacked access to adequate food supplies during the pandemic.

The governor proposes \$31 million to:

Expand the capacity of the state Emergency Food Assistance Program. Provide grants to food banks and school districts for purchasing fresh products directly from Washington farms. Distribute vouchers for low-income families to purchase fruits and vegetables.

Inslee also proposes growing the state’s Job Skills Program, specifically for technology training for businesses and workers displaced by the pandemic. Funding is included for the Career Connect learning program that connects more students to high-demand careers and paid learning opportunities.

**Revenue**

While the budget picture has improved since spring, the state still faces significant fiscal challenges.

In addition to dipping into reserves, Inslee’s budget relies on savings in a number of areas. But the state needs additional revenue to continue and strengthen the state’s pandemic

response and recovery effort, while also protecting previous investments in other state services.

As in previous budgets, the governor proposes a new capital gains tax on the sale of stocks, bonds and other assets (See p. 63 in link). This would not apply to sole proprietor businesses, retirement accounts, homes, farms and forestry. Earned income from salaries and wages are not capital gains, and would not be taxed at all.

The proposed tax change — which will not go into effect until the second year of the 2021–23 biennium — would raise more than \$3.5 billion over the next four years.

With the tax geared to very large capital gains, only a tiny fraction of the state’s wealthiest taxpayers would be affected.

Creating jobs with the capital budget

“We must create jobs and stimulate economic growth throughout the state. Therefore, I am proposing a large capital budget,” Inslee said. “One way to do that is tap future bond capacity now to help stimulate the economy and retain construction jobs. I am proposing we start work on projects earlier than projected. This will support an estimate 36,000 jobs per year statewide over the biennium.”

To help address the state’s homelessness crisis, which has been compounded by the pandemic, the budget includes nearly \$400 million to build more affordable housing units and preserve the state’s existing housing stock.

The budget sends \$150 million to the state’s Public Works Assistance Program, which provides low- or no-interest loans that local governments can use to repair everything from bridges and roads to water and sewer systems.

The capital budget also includes money

for school projects; funds to expand broadband access for underserved homes and businesses; money to fund design work and site demolition for a new 350-bed forensic psychiatric hospital at Western State Hospital; and funds to design and construct a new 120-bed nursing facility to care for clients with intellectual and physical disabilities.

**Transportation budget**

In the proposed transportation budget, the state will make major progress toward meeting a federal court injunction to remove culverts that block habitat for migrating salmon and steelhead. The budget provides \$724 million that will help the department design 136 barrier-removal projects and construct an additional 114 projects.

The transportation budget also includes \$400 million for preservation work on the state’s transportation infrastructure, and continues efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing in clean transportation.

“My focus is on helping our state recover from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic,” Inslee said. “I also want to continue to make investments in all the programs that people need to help them through these times. This is not the time for budget cuts — this is a time for investing in Washington.”

from page 6 **BOEING**

deck parts and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, this fall.

“We’re basically cooking the virus,” said Dr. Charles Gerba, University of Arizona microbiologist and infectious disease expert. “Thermal disinfection is one of the oldest ways to kill disease-causing micro-organisms. It’s used by microbiologists in our laboratory every day.”

The flight deck is one of the most challenging areas to sanitize using traditional chemical disinfectants. In areas with sensitive electronic equipment, heat has the ability to disinfect without adverse effects from cleaners. The flight deck is designed to withstand temperatures up to 160 degrees Fahrenheit (about 70 degrees Celsius), which makes thermal disinfection a safe, practical and effective sanitization method.

As air travel is fundamentally disrupted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Boeing and the University of Arizona continue to test recommended cleaning methods in a lab against SARS-CoV-2 and other similar viruses to further validate their efficacy.