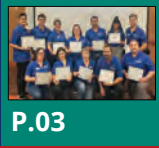


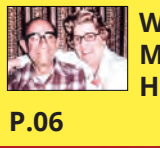
LYNNWOOD TIMES



in Washington to re-criminalize drug possession
P.02



Team R.E.A.L. moving Lynnwood closer to being an inclusive city
P.03



Women's History Month Spotlight: Hazel Miller
P.06

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Snohomish County Sheriff moving “full steam ahead” following failed recall efforts



Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney addressing a crowd of hundreds at the Back the Blue rally in Everett on July 17, 2020. Lynnwood Times photo by Mario Lotmore.

By ERIN FREEMAN

The most recent recall petition against Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney is officially over, with the campaign not receiving enough support from county residents before its six-month deadline to put the measure before voters.

To qualify for the ballot, petitioners would have needed to collect approximately 45,000 signatures by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 9.

The Committee to Recall Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney, the group behind the latest attempt to remove the elected official, requested Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell grant the campaign an additional 90 days to collect petition signatures, citing challenges related to direct contact with others during the coronavirus pandemic.

On February 22, Fell denied the request, asserting he lacks the authority only Governor Jay Inslee holds, due

to and during the pandemic. Two weeks later, the group contacted the Governor’s Office on March 3, who did not immediately respond to their request.

On March 8, Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Jennifer R. Langbehn rejected a request from petitioners to obtain a court order compelling Fell to execute the duty to grant additional time to gather

Continued PAGE 11 >>

City of Lake Stevens in legal fight with Sewer District

By ERIN FREEMAN

The Lake Stevens Sewer District is pushing back against the city of Lake Stevens for a one-sided decision to absorb district operations twelve years earlier than planned.

On March 9, the Snohomish County Superior Court granted a motion put forward by the district, preventing the city’s integration of sewer services until court review is completed.

The Lake Stevens City Council unan-

imously passed an ordinance allowing for a takeover of the district during its December 8 public meeting. The ordinance was discussed before passage in an executive session due to the potential threat of litigation by the district, stated the city of Lake Stevens.

In 2005, the city and the district entered into an agreement that created a unified sewer system. It reads that, except under certain limited conditions, the district would be “solely responsible” for operating the Unified System until 2033 or such an earlier or later date to

which the city and district might mutually agree.

According to the court documents, the city began driving discussions in 2017 about accelerating the date to transferring the combined sewer system to the city. Discussions continued, but the city and district never reached an agreement on accelerating the date of transfer.

In the last week of January, when the

Continued PAGE 12 >>

Unions and school districts respond to emergency proclamation mandating in-person learning

By MARIO LOTMORE

On March 12, Governor Jay Inslee declared children’s mental health an emergency and said he will issue a proclamation that will prohibit any K-12 schools from refusing to offer on-campus in-person instruction.

That proclamation was signed by the governor on March 16 and stated that school districts must provide students the opportunity for both remote instruction and in-person learning which would mandate teachers return to the classroom.

This comes one year since the governor and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal closed school buildings statewide in response to the pandemic.

Under the proclamation, schools will be allowed to stagger the reintroduction of students to campus.

By April 5, all students in grades kindergarten through six must have the opportunity to engage in a hybrid model of instruction; and by April 19, all other K-12 students must be provided a hybrid model of instruction.

Also by April 19, all school districts must meet at least 30% of average weekly instructional hours as on-campus, in-person instruction for all K-12 students. In addition, under no circumstances may a student be offered less than two days (which may be two partial days) of on-campus, in-person instruction per week.

Governor Inslee further instructed all school districts to exceed the 30% minimum instructional hours, and must reach the school’s maximum capacity and maximum frequency of on-campus, in-person instruction that the school can provide, when all health and safety recommendations are applied, as soon as possible.

“We have asked enough of our stu-

Continued PAGE 09 >>



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Marysville first city in Washington to re-criminalize drug possession

By MARIO LOTMORE

On February 25, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in the case of State v. Blake, No. 96873-0, that RCW 69.50.4013(1) – the statute that criminalized the possession of a controlled substance without a prescription – exceeds the state’s police power and violates the due process clauses of the state and federal constitutions.

The 5-4 decision by the Justices concluded that for decades Washington state legislators were aware that the statute did not include “an intent requirement” and hence also violated the requirement for uniform interpretation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act among the states.

Therefore, the entire statute was ruled to be unconstitutional. When a statute is declared by the courts to be unconstitutional, it is void. Consequently, police cannot arrest for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and such possession cannot be prosecuted.

Every case that involved drug possession – direct and indirect convictions related to simple possession – must be reexamined. Washington was the only state in the Union in which prosecutors did not need to prove intent for drug possession.

Because there is no state statute currently prohibiting the possession of a controlled substance within Washington, the City of Marysville chose to re-criminalize the act. Article XI, section 11 of the state constitution authorizes a city to “make and enforce within its limits all such local police,



L-R: Councilmembers Michael Stevens, Jeffrey Vaughan and Tom King, Council President Kamille Norton, Mayor Jon Nehring, Councilmembers Kelly Richards, Stephen Muller and Mark James. Source: City of Marysville.

sanitary and other regulations as are not in conflict with general laws.”

On Monday, March 8, the Marysville City Council unanimously adopted a new ordinance amending city’s municipal code to include intent, making it a gross misdemeanor to possess controlled substances without a prescription.

Mayor Jon Nehring praised the Council’s action approving the ordinance.

“I commend the City Council for its swift action to address this vacuum and provide the necessary tools for our officers,” said Mayor Nehring. “In Marysville we lead with compassion when it comes to cases involving substance abuse. It is critical to also have consequences available for our police officers and court to hold people accountable for their criminal actions against a community member or

business.”

Including the word “knowingly” to the section of the municipal code re-criminalizes drug possession within the city limits of Marysville. The new section – 6.27.030 – now reads:

“(1) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess a controlled substance or to possess a controlled substance with intent to use it, unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by chapter 69.50 RCW.”

If convicted, a person would face up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Marysville Police Chief Erik Scairpon applauded the swift action by the

Council, stating that it is a means to convince substance abusers seek treatment.

“I appreciate as the Police Chief that our elected officials and the community of Marysville are committed to ensuring our police officers have the tools to address substance abuse and help guide people towards treatment and rehabilitation.”

Since its inception, the city’s embedded social worker program has assisted over 100 people in becoming sober and helped provide housing for over 211 people.

Because the court found the entire statute unconstitutional, replacing it would mean passing an entirely new law that could not be applied retroactively.

Senate Bill 5468, which would make it unlawful for any person to “knowingly” possess a controlled substance has stalled in the Law & Justice committee chaired by Senator Jamie Pedersen (Seattle-D). The legislative session is scheduled to end in April.

The bipartisan bill is sponsored by Senators Mullet, Hobbs, Braun, Brown, Hawkins, Holy, King, Muzzall, Padden, Rivers, Salomon, Schoesler, Short, Wagoner, Warnick, and Wilson, L.

Lewis County may be the next municipality to re-criminalize drug possession as county commissioners are currently drafting an ordinance. Unlike a city ordinance, a county ordinance would make possession a felony. A public hearing is scheduled for March 30.

Statewide Phase 3 of recovery plan set for March 22

By ERIN FREEMAN

Gov. Jay Inslee announced that Healthy Washington: Roadmap to Recovery will be transitioning from a regional approach to a county-by-county evaluation process. The governor also announced a new third phase of the Roadmap and a return for in-person spectators for professional and high school sports.

Effective March 22, the entire state will enter Phase 3.

“Because of the progress we’ve made by decreasing our case rates and hospitalizations, as well as our tremendous efforts to get more people vaccinated, our reopening plan is once again based on counties, not regions,” Inslee said during a press conference last Thurs-

day. “We are excited to take this step and we will keep evaluating our progress, and the impacts of these changes, to determine how and when we reopen further.”

Additionally, the governor announced that starting Wednesday, March 17, everyone in Phase 1B, Tier 2 will be eligible for their COVID vaccine. This includes workers in agriculture, food processing, grocery stores, public transit, firefighters and law enforcement, among others. Phase 1B, Tier 2 also includes people over the age of 16 who are pregnant or have a disability that puts them at high-risk.

Metrics

Under the updated plan, counties will be individually evaluated every three

weeks. The evaluations will occur on Mondays with any possible changes taking effect Friday, with the first evaluation scheduled for April 12.

In addition to being individually evaluated, large and small counties will have different sets of criteria. If any county fails one or more of the metrics below, that county will move down one Phase in the Healthy Washington plan.

For large counties to remain in Phase 3, defined as counties with more than 50,000 residents, they must keep a 14-

Continued PAGE 07 >>

In a press release by the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, it calls on the Legislature to act and make improvements to those who need help.

“It is now up to the Legislature to decide what efforts will be made to respond to the decision and to combat substance use disorder, including simple possession, use, and the victimization and criminal behavior that can be associated with supporting addiction.”

If SB 5468 dies in the Legislature this session and possession remains legal statewide, it could result in a patchwork of varied drug laws throughout the state.

LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Team R.E.A.L. moving Lynnwood closer to being an inclusive city

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

Lynnwood, Wash., March 15, 2021 – BDS Planning and Urban Design (BDS), a Seattle based firm, was awarded a contract to conduct a Community Equity Analysis that will identify opportunities of inequity within Lynnwood’s policies, programs and services.

At the request of the city’s Government Alliance on Race and Equity team, Team R.E.A.L., the assessment aims to provide an understanding to the level of inclusion – safety, livability, and welcomeness – experienced by Lynnwood’s diverse communities.

Evan Chinn, Human Resources Director for the city of Lynnwood and one of the Project Managers for the Community Equity Analysis effort, shared with the Lynnwood Times that to implement racially equitable policies, there needs to be some baseline information of how all residents feel about the city and its services.

“We requested the survey because of Team REAL’s vision and to better serve our community,” said Chinn. “This is in line with the City’s 2018-2022 strategic priority to: Be a safe, welcoming, and livable city.”

Chinn added, “We know that outcomes are not equitable for all people across the city.”

According to the contract, BDS will partner with local community groups to poll 300 residents between spring and summer of this year. Each respondent will be given a \$15 incentive to participate. Translation services will be available for those participants who need it.

Only those residents, including city employees, who live within the Lynnwood City limits can participate in the survey.

Focus groups will then be used to gather a more in-depth understanding from



Back Row L-R: Information Technology Director Will Cena, Environmental Engineering Technician Cameron Coronado, Police Management Analyst Connie Avalos-Galer, Budget Supervisor Janella Lewis, Buyer Stan Hernandez, Executive Assistant Leah Jensen, Human Resources Director Evan Chinn. Front Row L-R: Events and Outreach Coordinator Misty Burke, Planning Manager Ashley Winchell, Senior Center Supervisor Mary-Anne Grafton, Streets Maintenance Worker Adrian Farias, and Police Commander Wes Deppa. Source: City of Lynnwood.

those respondents who feel Lynnwood is not inclusive. From its findings, Chinn and BDS will development a strategy that will be presented to Lynnwood’s City Council by late June or July.

BDS Project Manager Ishmael Nunez stated in an email to the Lynnwood Times, “Focus groups provide the opportunity to dig deeper into emerging themes and gather an additional layer of information not captured by the surveys through dynamic and facilitated conversations.”

Incorporated in 2015, BDS Planning and Urban Design specializes in community development services, specifically in inclusion, consensus facilitation, organizational development, and place management.

Some of its clients have included: King County, City of Tacoma, Port of Seattle, and the City of Seattle.

“BDS has a knack for finding common ground between voices that are not typically allied. We help clients work through conflicts and build strong coalitions, often among unlikely partners,

around contentious public decisions and policy initiatives,” states its website.

Continued **PAGE 04** >>

Lynnwood doing its part to save salmon populations



Source: City of Lynnwood.

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

Several species of salmon are on the

brink of extinction throughout the Pacific Northwest, with at least 10 federally endangered species, including



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Coho salmon raised locally.

Findings in the State of Salmon in Watersheds report, produced biannually by Washington State’s Recreation and Conservation Office, have classified 10 to 14 species of salmon in the northwest as threatened or endangered, with five of those species in crisis.

According to the report, thousands of Washingtonians have been working to increase salmon populations. The city of Lynnwood’s Fish Hatchery and Environmental Education Center is one of these committed communities.

Raising 30,000 Coho salmon each year, Fish Hatchery and Environmental Education Center Stormwater Engineering Technician Cameron Cornado says that their small salmon pool isn’t likely to be making much impact on the overall health of the salmon populations, but they find value in educating youth about how small,

everyday actions add up to big effects on local ecosystems.

“Coho are not doing well, just like all of our other salmon species,” Cornado said. “We’re teaching kids from a young age about the importance of caring for their environment...so these salmon they release have the opportunity to live and thrive.”

In 2016, the city of Lynnwood began raising and releasing salmon after purchasing a piece of land on Hall Lake in 2015. A longtime resident of the lake, Bruce Lawson, approached the city, explaining that he had been raising and releasing salmon into the lake for the past 30 years, working with local schools to integrate interactive activities to promote education about salmon and their ecosystems. He suggested they partner together.

Continued **PAGE 07** >>



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New CEO at the helm of the region's economic engine



Garry Clark. Source: Garry Clark.

By ERIN FREEMAN

A local catalyst for economic vitality, Economic Alliance Snohomish County's (EASC) new president and CEO, Garry Clark, started his role last month, effective as of February 16.

Clark has been involved in economic development for nearly 20 years, spending the last three years as the president and CEO of the Greater Fremont Development Council (GFDC) in Fremont, Nebraska. Before joining GFDC, he spent over a year as the opportunity fund manager at the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and nearly six years as the Economic Development Director for Cuming County Economic Development in Nebraska.

While in Fremont, Clark was awarded the Midland Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award for his rural workforce housing efforts.

"I am extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity to lead the EASC effort," Clark said in a statement. "I have seen firsthand the energy of the community and the very engaged and active leadership. While I have enjoyed my time in Nebraska, there are some exciting things taking place in Snohomish County, and I can't wait to join the effort."

Seeking out the next step in his career, Clark sought out a role providing him with an opportunity to lead in a county with a preexisting vibrant opportunity for economic growth.

The EASC timeline for its nationwide search for its next president and CEO aligned with Clark's goal, who says the opening was too great to pass up. He has replaced Chris Mefford, interim president and CEO for the past six months.

"It just seemed like a match made in

heaven for me," he said.

Clark is also the author of "Unlikely Viking: From D.C. Projects to Rural Nebraska," a memoir on his upbringing and discovering the way to doing his part to make a difference in the world. His childhood had a tremendous influence on his passion for economic development, he said, as it paved the way for him to have a direct impact on communities he grew up in.

"I grew up in public housing in the Washington D.C. projects and then I was homeless several times as a kid, so for me growing up in these rough communities, I always wondered why it was rough and why there weren't opportunities for people," Clark said.

During his time with EASC, Clark hopes their efforts will strengthen diversity in the workforce and leadership within the community, and he is excited about the region's robust opportunity to do so.

"That's going to sustain Snohomish County for its future," he said.

EASC's economic efforts are rooted in being a regional economic engine, developing stronger communities, increasing job creation, expanding educational opportunities, and improving infrastructure. Clark says he looks forward to leading these key considerations of community.

"I just look forward to learning and growing with the community, specifically... all the small corners of the county," he said. "I'm just so eager to learn more in the rural and urban areas."

from page 3 TEAM R.E.A.L.

Critics point to the contract's overall \$40,000 cost of which \$30,050 is allocated to conduct the survey and subsequent focus groups. Click here to view the BDS contract.

"This survey is considered a best practice by proponents of social justice and equity," said Chinn. "It is a way to understand how we better connect with and serve our community and gauge the sentiment around equity and inclusion of our residents from many different communities as they live, work and play in Lynnwood."

Lynnwood is not unique in its effort to building an inclusive city. In 2012 Renton adopted into its mission statement and business plan a commitment to being an inclusive city. In 2017, Mayor Denis Law proclaimed Renton to be an inclusive city.

What is Team R.E.A.L.

Team R.E.A.L. (Racial Equity Action Lynnwood) was formed in 2019 and consists of twelve Lynnwood employees on a volunteer basis who, according to the city's website, were trained in "building skills and strategies for the implementation of equitable government practices."

Below are some of Team R.E.A.L.'s accomplishments in just two years since its inception:

- **Employee Training:** Team R.E.A.L. has conducted several workshops on the Role of Gov-

- ernment in Moving Racial Equity Forward. This training has been offered to all City Council Members, City Leadership & Directors, Supervisors, and is now being offered to all staff members and volunteer Board and Commission members.
- **COVID Response:** Team R.E.A.L. members participated in the committee to develop the CARES Act Funding Community Assistance program and helped select the Communities of Color Coalition as the city's non-profit agency to distribute rental assistance grants of \$250,000 to our community members in need.
- **Outreach on Housing Action Plan:** A Team R.E.A.L. member was part of the Housing Action Plan team that conducted extensive outreach in English, Spanish and Korean.
- **Police Department:** The Lynnwood Police Department is now inviting a Team R.E.A.L. member to participate in the department's Command Oral Board interviews for new officers, and LPD now invites a member of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission to participate in promotion assessments.
- **Rain Gardens:** The City's Rain Garden program was evaluated through a Racial Equity toolkit. As a result, staff will focus on community engagement and program sites in South Lynnwood's schools, businesses, and with families.
- **PSA Video:** Team R.E.A.L. members participated in the creation of a video message of support to our Asian American community mem-

- bers in response to a rise in anti-Asian crime. The PSA video was created in collaboration with HR, Executive Office and Lynnwood Police Department.
- **Hiring:** Human Resources is working on an inclusive hiring project which will be piloted with Team R.E.A.L. Additionally, leadership team members and supervisors have received Unconscious Bias Training.
- **Performance Evaluations:** Human Resources' new employee evaluation tool features integrated Racial Equity competencies. This new evaluation system was launched early this year.

Lynnwood Public Affairs Officer Julie Moore shared with the Lynnwood Times, the importance of partnering with the community to add perspectives that consider intersections that come along with race to improve outcomes for all.

"We are responsible for taking care of all the people in our community... So how do we figure out who's not being served? Who's being underserved? How do we make sure they're receiving what they want and need from the city government?"

Moore added, "We are changing our systems and institutions, so all residents of Lynnwood have equal opportunities to thrive... As we consider different outcomes based on race, it also looks at and aims for better outcomes by taking into consideration gender,

WAGRO provides local seniors access to lifesaving COVID vaccine



Source: Daniela Altamirano-Crosby.

By **NOEL PAI-YOUNG**

Lynnwood, Wash., March 8, 2021 – WAGRO Foundation President Daniela Altamirano-Crosby as well as her mother, City Councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, lead efforts to help seniors get vaccinated.

The organization partnered with Lynnwood Food Bank (LFB) volunteer Paula Lapham who design a new carpooling model that organized appointment sign ups and drivers for the residents of Kingsbury Homes retirement community to get vaccinated.

Lapham is a seven-year volunteer and plays a role in addressing senior food shortages through food deliveries. After inquiring why some LFB volunteers stopped coming in, Lapham sprang into action and turned to her co-

volunteer, Julieta, to devise a solution.

“We made health a priority,” said Daniela, when addressing the foundation’s focus. “Health is just imperative right now especially with the diverse population and seniors who are affected by this.”

The three spearheaded efforts to assist the residents struggling to sign up or find transportation.

“They were on computers and I was on the phone,” said Lapham when describing the collaboration between the Altamirano-Crosbys and herself. “Their fingers fly like magic.”

Edward Ragsdale, one of the drivers, shared, “I wanted to make it easy for seniors older than I am,” when asked why he volunteered.

Ragsdale, who works in maintenance for the parks department, said he would also be getting the vaccine.

“I’m quarantining pretty strictly... I managed not getting it [C OVID-19] so far so I’m glad I can go get the shot for the boost,” stated Ragsdale.

Virginia Owen told the Lynnwood Times she had mixed feelings on the vaccine but is pleased that it was “a one-shot deal.” The Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires a single dose.

“I’m concerned with the long-term effects... I’d feel better if there was more testing on it.”

The group of about 30 headed to the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce site located at the Arlington Airport.

“They wouldn’t let anyone out of their cars. Very strict. Lot of cops,” stated Lapham, recalling her experience of the site to the Lynnwood Times.

Julieta shared that they are willing to do more similar arrangements to help those wanting vaccines as this was a first of its kind for WAGRO.

If you or anyone need help finding access to vaccines, call WAGRO at 206-657-6211 or email wagrofoundation@gmail.com.

from page 4 **TEAM R.E.A.L.**

age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, disability, immigration status, etc.”

Next Steps

Currently, BDS and Team R.E.A.L. are finalizing the survey questions along with its outreach strategies. The results of the survey will help shape the work scope for the proposed Race and Social Justice Coordinator position that is currently on hold by the city council.

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Women's History Month Spotlight: Hazel Miller

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

With a love for Seattle and more specifically Edmonds, Hazel Miller left a generous gift to the South Snohomish County community after her passing, a legacy that will resonate for decades to come.

As a young woman, Miller, originally from Williston, North Dakota, moved to Seattle where she met, fell in love with, and married Morris Miller. Together, they ran a family business called Seattle Quilt Manufacturing Company, makers of the famous “comfy” sleeping bag.

“They were pioneers in making outdoor wear in the ‘60s and ‘70s in Pioneer Square,” Investment Banker and friend Alan Lawrence said. “As a business owner, she was frugal but generous.”

After many years of success, they sold the business to Olin Corporation, a conglomerate of sporting and other industrial holdings. The couple then moved to Edmonds where they spent the remainder of their lives. Miller, who was born in 1917, passed away in 2009.

Lawrence met Miller when she opened an investment account with him in the 1990s. In addition to thousands of shares of Olin, she had large holdings in AT&T and Medtronic, and her brother had suggested that she invest in a few companies, which “turned out to be wonderful for her,” Lawrence said.

As time went on, the two began talking about her estate plans, and he recommended she consolidate her investments into one account. He recounts that on a summer day, she walked into her office with a grocery bag full of stock certificates that had been sitting in her bank deposit box for decades, amounting to over \$10 million in value.

“I often reflect on how trusting she was to walk up the street in Edmonds from the bank with \$10M of stock certificates in a shopping bag,” Lawrence said.

With the help of her attorney, she donated \$500K to Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center and the Seattle Children’s Hospital to support families with medical costs, as well as the Millionaires Club in Seattle after she had seen firsthand the impact they had on helping people experiencing homelessness learn skills for employment.

“Growing up in North Dakota without much money made her more appreciative of people and how important kindness is,” said Lawrence.

With an immense love for the Edmonds area, Miller created the Hazel Miller Foundation upon her death to continue as the committed community member she was.

“Hazel Miller was a wonderful person and a generous person,” Foundation Board Member and friend of 60 years Richard Ellis said.

The Hazel Miller Foundation is a community-focused nonprofit, serving residents of Snohomish County through supporting programs and projects



Hazel Miller Hall at Edmonds College in Lynnwood, WA. Source: Edmonds College.

designed for public benefit. The organization is particularly dedicated to education and youth services, poverty alleviation and hunger, civic and community services and amenities, the environment, diversity, culture, and the arts.

Through her foundation, Miller has supported students in furthering their education through a variety of scholarship opportunities and has strengthened programs in the Edmonds School District at the primary and secondary levels.

The foundation has also contributed to organizations that promote food stability and housing, youth afterschool clubs, child abuse centers, homeless teen centers, beds for kids, and foster care support.

According to the Hazel Miller Foundation, it was important to Miller that the community come together in celebration, so it supports the City of Edmonds 4th of July celebration with fireworks, Shakespeare in the Park, and the City of Edmonds Summer Concert Series.

With cultural arts important to her, it also supports local theaters, ballets, and choirs, as well as an annual grant to Edmonds Center for the Arts for educational programming. Jazz festival grants have enabled the youth to become involved in the arts, allowing them to perform to a live audience.

Diversity grants funded by the foundation allow the community to celebrate diversity as well as acknowledge and move forward with the expressed need for change.

At the Becoming Brave event hosted by the Life Every Voice Legacy and the Communities of Color Coalition, the Hazel Miller foundation received the Beloved Community award.

Its environmental grants are somewhat smaller, says the foundation, but offer paid summer positions for youth to weed and clean up community parks, enable students to explore the marine life on the Salish Sea Expedition, and promote all age levels with the Sound Stewards program through Earth Corps.

“I have always envisioned her as a

strong, independent, courageous woman who believed that her legacy was best served by helping the community she and Morris loved, rather than to a single or a few individuals or family members,” Board member Maria Montalvo said.

“It was a simple act of selflessness that will resonate in Edmonds and South Snohomish County for decades to come.”



Morris and Hazel Miller.

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Movers & Shakers: Lynnwood women of influence

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women to events in history and society throughout March every year. Within the city of Lynnwood, the influence of women had a great impact on its development and the ability to remember its rich history.

Lynn O'Beirn, the muse behind the naming of the city of Lynnwood, was an active member in local women's organizations; including the Seattle League of Women Voters where she served as president in 1937, the Seattle Woman's Century Club and the Seattle Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.) where she worked as a director.

While O'Beirn never lived in Lynnwood herself, her husband, a real estate developer, platted the original site of Lynnwood in 1937, a one square mile area on the west side of Highway 99, west of Edmonds, and east of what was once Alderwood Manor.

The O'Beirn's property was platted into 18 parcels using her name. The first parcel was sold in 1938 to establish a lumber yard, the owner using the pre-existing plat's title, naming it Lynnwood Lumber Co. A year later another lot was purchased, where the Lynnwood Cabinet Shop was built. The Lynnwood Feeders Supply followed suit, and then soon after- Lynnwood Plumbing.

Merchants of the Alderwood-Edmonds and Seattle-Everett Crossroads chose Lynnwood as the official name of "this fast-growing business district at the meeting of the Central Commercial Club Monday night," reported the Daily Herald on January 30, 1946. The City of Lynnwood then incorporated in 1959, deciding to use the familiar name adopted by local businesses.

Recognized as one of the strongest advocates in remembering and proclaiming Lynnwood's heritage, Marie Little served as the city's first official histo-



Photo of Lynn O'Beirn. Photo courtesy of the Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association.

rian, inspired by her husband being native to Alderwood Manor, which has since become part of Lynnwood.

"Marie Little is a woman with a story to tell. Several stories, in fact," wrote Aimme Macdonald in the Enterprise in 2001- a weekly newspaper that once existed in Snohomish County. "And her stories are your stories as well."

Born in the city of Everett in 1932, Little's work as a historian of Alderwood Manor and Lynnwood began when she married Warren R. Little, whose family and friends were some of the pioneers of Lynnwood. Their influence on the city soon influenced her interest in the area's history.

In 1991, she co-founded the Alderwood Manor Heritage Association, along with approximately 30 current and former residents. The city of Lynnwood, taking notice in her efforts, appointed her to its Historical Commission in 1998, where she served for a decade.

As a past president of the Alderwood Manor Heritage Association and former chair of the Lynnwood Historical Commission, Little made it her pur-

suffer from neurological damage...and then they die, which is really sad to see after they've made this journey of hundreds of miles out from the creeks and into the oceans and back."

Researchers have begun studying the effects of local urban stormwater on Coho salmon, discovering that they seem to be extra sensitive to contaminants that are found in urban stormwater run-offs, explained Cornado. And recently released research, Cornado refers to as "ground-breaking" has identified the specific pollutant producing these toxicities causing pre-spawn mortality, coming from a particular chemical- a preservative found in the dust of tires on cars.

The state of the salmon report also cites climate change and habitat degradation as properties leading salmon to "the brink of extinction." It warns that Washingtonians stand at a fork in the road, with a choice to continue current practices and gradually lose salmon or make changes, or "change course and put Washington on a path to recovery that recognizes salmon and other natural resources as vital to the state's economy, growth, and prosperity."



Marie Little receiving the Lynnwood Historian award. Photo courtesy of the Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association.

pose to preserve the histories of the community. In 2001, she told the Herald that in doing so, it contributes to a sense of place, identity, and civic pride.

Lynnwood recognized Little's achievements in the preservation of community history in December of 2009, proclaiming her as the official city historian and presenting her with a Key to

the City.

Following a year-long battle with cancer, Little passed away on February 15, 2010, at the age of 77. The main drag through Heritage Park is named after Little, officially known as "Marie Little Drive.

from page 3 **SALMON**

The hatchery has since contracted out with environmental education firm Nature Vision, going into classrooms pre-C OVID, teaching students about environmental topics involving and impacting salmon. At the end of their curriculum, students visit the Fish Hatchery and Environmental Education Center where they're given salmon to release into the lake.

"It helps give the kids a tangible connection to their local surface water," Cornado explained.

Typically, students visit the hatchery to release the salmon throughout April and May. Once released, the Cohos spend one to two years in the lake before migrating out into the ocean. Yet, the Coho salmon population has been increasingly experiencing pre-spawn mortality, with more salmon dying before they ever get the opportunity to spawn and reproduce.

"They come into these freshwater streams that are loaded with contaminants and it just totally messes them up," Cornado explained. "They

from page 2 **PHASE 3**

day average of new COVID cases at or below 200 per 100,000 residents, and a seven-day average of new hospitalizations per 100,000 at five or fewer.

Smaller counties, those with populations of 50,000 or less, must maintain a 14-day average of new cases at 30 or fewer, and a new seven-day hospitalization average at three or fewer.

If at any point the statewide ICU capacity reaches greater than 90%, all counties will move down one Phase. The Department of Health always maintains the ability to move a county forward or backward at their discretion.

"We know there is enthusiasm around opening of schools and businesses and that advancing to Phase 3 is welcome news to many Washingtonians," said Lacy Fehrenbach, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Health's COVID-19 response. "We want to keep going forward together out of the pandemic, and our success hinges upon wearing masks, washing our hands, watching our distance, keeping social circles small — and of course, getting vaccinated when it's our turn.

These are the things that will help us suppress COVID-19, which is the key to our continued forward progress towards recovery."

Phase 3

Sports guidance will change in Phase 3 to allow in-person spectators at events for the first time in a year. Spectators will be allowed to attend outdoor venues with permanent seating with capacity capped at 25%. The change affects both professional and high school sports, as well as motorsports, rodeos, and other outdoor spectator events. Social distancing and facial covering are still required.

The new phase also allows for up to 400 people maximum to attend outdoor activities, as well as events in indoor facilities — so long as 400 people does not exceed 50% capacity for the location, and physical distancing and masking protocols are enforced. Larger venue events are capped at 25% occupancy, or up to 9,000 people, whichever is less, and must follow spectator guidelines.

ESD February high school students of the month

By OSCAR HALPERT

EDMONDS HEIGHTS K-12

Samuel Lombard

Mother's Name: Anne Lombard
 Father's Name: Chris Lombard
 GPA: 3.7
 Clubs & Activities: BSA, Sea Scouts, Edmonds Heights Robotics Team #9880 and #3805, World Scout Jamboree – Troop Scribe

Honors: Edmonds College Honor Roll (All semesters), Order of the Arrow
 Awards: BSA Eagle Scout

Current Employment: BSA – FL Sea Base Key West, FL

Educational Goals: Seattle Maritime Academy

Career Goals: Maritime Diesel Engineer

Anything else we should know? I am enrolled in Diesel Mechanics at Sno-Isle Tech and Edmonds College.

Lisa Kuang

Mother's Name: Pearl Gu
 Father's Name: Wei Gang
 GPA: 3.6
 Awards: Edmonds Music Teachers Association Joan E. Brown Scholarship

Community Service: Volunteered at Providence Hospital

Current Employment: I'm not formally employed but I teach piano every week.

Educational Goals: To attend SPU in the fall.

Career Goals: Nursing

Anything else we should know? I am doing Running Start – finishing up nursing prerequisites.

EDMONDS-WOODWAY HIGH

Taylor Schindler

Mother's Name : Keri Schindler
 Father's Name: Michael Schindler
 GPA: 3.94
 Clubs & Activities: National Honors Society, outside of school: 4 dance classes, bible study, youth group, and other community service.

Athletics: High school soccer for two years. Outside of school – I played premier soccer for 13 years and was in dance



Samuel Lombard
Edmonds Heights K-12



Lisa Kuang
Edmonds Heights K-12



Taylor Schindler
Edmonds-Woodway High



Paula Laureano
Edmonds-Woodway High



Alex Cano-Jimenez
Lynnwood High



Paige Thompson
Lynnwood High



Sierra Moll
Meadowdale High



Vivian Tran
Mountlake Terrace High



Cielo Janeth Magaña Navarro
Mountlake Terrace High



Ronald Litts
Scriber Lake High



Kellie McAteer
Edmonds eLearning Academy



David Chea
Project SEARCH

for 13 years.

Honors: National Honor Society. I also took all honors and IB courses.

Community Service: VBS, Food-Bank and Toy Drive, Camp Counselor for OSPREY Camp
 Current Employment: Harbor Square Athletic Club.

Future Educational Goals: To go to college in the fall and enhance my knowledge in all fields, especially medicine.

Future Career Goals: I am going to college to become a Registered Nurse!

Anything else we should know? I don't think so. Thank you for the honor! It means a lot, especially during this year, so thank you!

Paula Laureano

Mother's Name: Paula Laureano
 Father's Name: Roberto Laureano
 GPA: 3.2
 Community Service: I volunteer at my family church.
 Current Employment: I work at American Eagle.

Educational Goals: To attend at Seattle Pacific University.

Career Goals: To become a nurse.

Anything else we should know? I will be the first person in my family to go to a university. I am fluent in Spanish and English.

LYNNWOOD HIGH

Alex Cano-Jimenez

Mother's Name: Lusina Cano
 Father's Name: Marcos Cuevas
 GPA: 3.2
 Current Employment: I work part time doing carpentry with my dad.

Educational Goals: After

finishing up High School, I'm planning on obtaining a degree in Graphic Design.

Career Goals: Graphic Designer, at a well known company.

Anything else we should know? I was able to get my life back on track after having a rough junior year with the help of my mom and my amazing teachers and counselor at LHS. The Pandemic, even though it has been challenging for me and many other people, helped me realize that I wasn't making very good choices and I had to change my attitude, my mindset, and my work ethic in order to create a better future for myself.

Paige Thompson

Mother's Name: Carol Thompson
 Father's Name: Kirk Thompson
 GPA: 4.0
 Clubs & Activities: Chamber Orchestra, Tri-M
 Athletics: Basketball

Community Service: Assisted in annual food drives and blood drives organized by Tri-M.

Educational Goals: To attend a four-year university, pursue a bachelor's degree and, later, a master's degree.

Career Goal: Business

MEADOWDALE HIGH

Sierra Moll

Mother's Name: Mil Salangad
 Father's Name: Brian Moll
 GPA: 4.0
 Clubs & Activities: Gen Z (an activism and social justice club that I co-founded in my junior year and am on the leadership team for); Hi-Q, Link Crew; Meadowdale Equity Committee;

Edmonds School District Equity Alliance for Achievement (EAACH); Taekwondo (practiced taekwondo for nine years, ages 5 to 14, and earned both my first degree black belt and second degree black belt).

ASB: Senior Senator

Athletics: I played all four years of MHS Volleyball. I was C-Team captain in ninth grade, JV captain

in tenth grade, and have been Varsity Co-Captain my senior year.

Honors: National Honor Society

Awards: Recipient of December 2019 Edmonds Rotary Club Youth Merit Award and Most Inspirational Player (2017 Volleyball Season); Most Inspirational Player (2018 Volleyball Season); Westco Athletics Honorable

Mention (2019 Volleyball Season)

Community Service: Edmonds Food Bank (weekly volunteer beginning spring of sophomore year to present, 150 hours so far); Holly House; Washington Kids in Transition; Meadowdale Middle School Study Club tutor (weekly volunteer my freshmen year).

Significant School Project: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gen Z club collaborated with The Nest (a homelessness advocacy organization) to host a donation drive to collect masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and other pandemic safety supplies to distribute to homeless community members. We received 1,898 items total, which we organized into 60 drawstring backpacks. Then, we distributed the bags to 60 people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Continued PAGE 12 >>

CONGRESSIONAL INSTITUTE | **Calling all high school students**

By OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE RICK LARSEN

Are you a creative high school student in Washington's Second Congressional District? Do you know someone who is?

Showcase your artwork in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition!

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.

To last year's winning pieces from Washington state, visit <https://www.house.gov/educators-and-students/congressional-art-competition/Washington>.

The deadline to submit a piece of art to my office is Friday, April 30, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. PDT. The winning artist will have their piece displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

For a full list of guidelines, visit <https://larsen.house.gov/helping-you/art-competition-zip.htm>.

Due to COVID-19, art submissions and completed forms may be emailed to CongressionalArt.WA02@mail.house.gov. Forms can also be mailed or delivered with the art pieces to my Everett office:

Office of Rep. Rick Larsen
 Re: Art Competition
 Wall Street Building
 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F
 Everett, WA 98201

If you would like to drop off your artwork at my office, please call 425-252-3188 to make an appointment. If you are not sure if you are a constituent of the Second District, please check here.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the 2021 Congressional Art Competition, please visit Congressman Larsen's website or call Kevin Phan in my district office at 425-252-3188.

MONEY MATTERS

Guarding against identity theft



By Paul Ellis, CIMA® | Ellis Wealth Management Group

America is enduring a data breach problem. As many workers traded in the office for remote work, data security has been a focus for the public and private sectors. Between robocalls pitching low-cost health insurance, pretending to be the I.R.S., or offering “work from home” opportunities, the pandemic has seen scammers getting more creative than they’ve ever been.

Tax time is prime time for identity

thieves. They would love to get their hands on your 1040 form, and they would also love to claim a phony refund using your personal information. You may realize you’ve been the victim of tax fraud if you can’t e-file your tax return because of a duplicate Social Security number or if you receive a notice from the I.R.S. that talks about owing taxes for a year you haven’t filed.

Just make sure when you e-file that you use a secure Internet connection. When you e-file, you aren’t putting your Social Security number, address, and income information through the mail. You aren’t leaving Form 1040 on your desk at home (or work) while you get up and get some coffee or go out for a walk. If somehow you just can’t bring yourself to e-file, then think about sending your returns via Certified Mail. Those rough drafts of your returns where you ran the numbers and checked your work? Shred them.

The I.R.S. doesn’t use unsolicited emails to request information from taxpayers. If you get an email claiming to be from the I.R.S. asking for your personal or financial information, report it to your email provider as spam.

Use secure Wi-Fi. Avoid “coffee housing” your personal information away – never risk disclosing financial information over a public Wi-Fi network. (Broadband is susceptible, too.) It takes little sophistication to do this – just a little freeware.

Sure, a public Wi-Fi network at an airport or coffee house is password-protected – but if the password is posted on a wall or readily disclosed, how protected is it? A favorite hacker trick is to sit idly at a coffee house, library, or airport and set up a Wi-Fi hotspot with a name similar to the legitimate one. Inevitably, people will fall for the ruse, log on, and get hacked.

Look for the “https” & the padlock icon when you visit a website. Not just http, https. When you see that added “s” at the start of the website address, you are looking at a website with active SSL encryption, and you want that. A padlock icon in the address bar confirms an active SSL connection. For really solid security when you browse, you could opt for a VPN (virtual private network) service which encrypts 100% of your browsing traffic.

However, be especially careful when clicking on any links that you receive from an unknown sender. Many criminals have caught up, and use sites that seem valid by using the “https” prefix. Look to see what the email is asking for (for example, demanding payment), and verify this by sending a separate email or calling the sup-

posed contact to verify the validity of the email. Look for any misspelled words or incorrect links in the email. If you’re more technically savvy, you can look at the original version of the email to see if it actually originated from somewhere else. 3

Check your credit report. You may have been the victim of identity theft or fraud, and not even realize it, until it shows up on your credit reports. Thanks to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) you are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the big three agencies: Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax. This year, because of the increased issues with identity theft and fraud during COVID-19, these three agencies are also allowing weekly credit checks from now until April 2021. Checking your credit report weekly will not affect your ability to order your free annual credit report.

Don’t talk to strangers. Broadly speaking, that is very good advice in this era of identity theft. If you get a call or email from someone you don’t recognize – it could tell you that you’ve won a prize; it could claim to be someone from the county clerk’s office, a pension fund, or a public utility – be skeptical. Financially, you could be doing yourself a great favor.

Paul Ellis, CIMA® may be reached at 425.405.7720 or paul.ellis@elliswealthmanagement.net or visit www.elliswealthmanagement.net.

from page 1 SCHOOL REOPENING

dents and families,” Inslee said during today’s press conference. “I have been motivated all year to get our students back in school; I have had many conversations with educators; I have toured schools that are back in person across the state; and I have seen the medical evidence, both for COVID transmission in schools and, very importantly, the impact of this pandemic on our children’s mental health.”

The Governor emphasized that in-person instruction must comply with DOH guidance as well as LNI requirements for employee safety as dictated by the School Employer Health and Safety Requirements.

The emergency proclamation will also direct the Department of Health and the state Health Care Authority to immediately begin work on recommendations that would detail how to support the behavioral health needs of students over the next 12 months.

School District Readiness

The spokespersons for the Lake Stevens, Marysville, and Snohomish school districts all told the Lynnwood Times that they feel their districts can meet this accelerated timeline for in-person instruction.

“Our Superintendent and leadership team will fully review the Governor’s proclamation when it becomes available; however, in the Marysville School District, we are already on par with the new mandates,” wrote Jodi Runyon, Marysville School District Director of Communications, in her response to the Lynnwood Times.

“We currently have students in grades

Pre through three receiving in-person teaching and learning in a hybrid model. Grades 4 – 5 are scheduled for March 22, and grades 6 – 12 scheduled April 14, all in a hybrid model which provides both in-person and remote teaching and learning”


Dr. Amy Beth Cook, Lake Stevens School District Superintendent, shared that its district currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Lake Stevens Education Association to facilitate an April 19th return to its Hybrid In-Person Learning Model for up to grades 12.

Dr. Cook shared that the Lake Stevens School District looks forward to a return to in-person instruction for all students.

“We know that there have been many educational, and social emotional challenges during this pandemic. I am incredibly appreciative of our employees, students, and families for their perseverance and partnership to implement our Hybrid In-Person Learning Model. It is wonderful to have our elementary students back in classrooms, and we look forward to welcoming back our secondary students very soon.”

Snohomish School District welcomed back grades 5 and 6 on March 3 to its in-person hybrid learning model. In-person learning commenced for developmental preschool and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) students on February 2; whereas, Kindergarten through grade 2 began on February 22.

Everett Public Schools, which commenced hybrid learning on January 19 for developmental Kindergarten students is currently in Stage 4a of its model. This allows for restricted op-



Washington State Republican Party

Resolution to Condemn the Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump

Whereas, we are the Party of Law and Order and are opposed to criminal violence and destruction of any kind, including the violence at the Capitol on January 6th and the violence of BLM and left-wing rioters in nearly every major city throughout the summer; and

Whereas, we support law enforcement and the prosecution of all violent crime to the fullest extent of the law; and

Whereas, the multiple serious concerns of millions of Americans regarding the 2020 election were ignored by both the offending states and Congress, creating an atmosphere of anger and distrust; and

Whereas, media and Big Tech were complicit in the suppression of our First Amendment right of free speech during the election and its aftermath, further fomenting an atmosphere of anger and distrust; and

Whereas, impeachment is a political tool wielded by Speaker Pelosi and Democrats in Congress as an attempt to hinder the political future of Donald J. Trump and further divide and polarize our nation; and

Whereas, the Article presented before the House centered around whether President Trump’s words directly incited the violence that took place at the U.S. Capitol last week; and

Whereas, the House did not perform its obligation to present evidence, but instead rushed through a process meant to be undertaken with thorough and thoughtful consideration; and

Whereas, Democrats and some Republicans, with particular disappointment in Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler and Congressman Dan Newhouse, voted to impeach President Trump just one week before the end of his term; and

Whereas, the Constitution itself states that President Trump would not be subject to impeachment conviction after leaving office under its impeachment clauses, making the decision to impeach nothing more than a political spectacle; and

Whereas, this impeachment has solved nothing other than to further divide and polarize our nation, giving more fuel to flames fanned by the Democrats, media, and Big Tech,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Washington State Republican Party (WSRP) condemns without question or exception the actions taken by the U.S. House of Representatives in the impeachment of President Donald J. Trump; and

Be it further resolved, that the WSRP is committed to countering the division and polarization of our nation by uniting behind our founding principles, refusing to bow to the hysteria and false narrative that is constantly manufactured by today’s Democrat party, mainstream media, and Big Tech, and by continuing to fight for the policies that benefit all Americans.

PAID FOR BY THE WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY
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tional in-person learning for Kindergarten through grade 3. Everett Public Schools expanded its hybrid learning model to grades 4 and 5 on March 15.

Caroline Mason, President of the Board of Directors for Everett Public Schools, shared with the Lynnwood Times that the district has been work-

ing on a plan for some time which is reflected by grades K through five currently in the hybrid learning model. She added that although it will be a challenge, the district will meet the April 19 deadline to transition grades 6 through 12 to in-person instruction.

CANNABIS AND THE COMMUNITY



BY JOSH ESTES, PACIFIC NW REGIONAL STRATEGIES, LLC
SPONSORED FEATURE

Whether or not you are a qualifying patient or customer that enjoys cannabis, there is no denying that the plant carries a stigma in many communities. This stigma, which seems to be rooted in the perception of yesteryear does not adequately depict the benefits and intrinsic value the cannabis industry can and often provides to the community.

We now have the opportunity to work towards changing this perception, not by hope, but through community engagement and partnership.

I would like to introduce you to the idea of “cannabis in the community,” and welcome you to open your mind to the possibility of becoming a partner for positive change. Cannabis businesses provide more than just tax revenue to the state, they provide intrinsic value to local communities.

With record level retail sales of cannabis during the pandemic, accompanied by the possibility of federal legalization, it is becoming more and more obvious that the industry is not going away anytime soon. This is more reason for local jurisdictions and communities across the state to continue exploring opportunities that partner with members of the cannabis industry to remove barriers and make a positive impact.

The cannabis industry is no stranger to the importance of giving back to the community.

At its Grand Re-Opening of its newest store in the city of Mukilteo on February 5th, Snohomish County retailer Kushman’s, gave away more than ten thousand dollars to local area non-profits to demonstrate its continued commitment and partnership for positive change. Among the organizations receiving donations were the Everett Foodbank, Lynnwood Foodbank, Mukilteo Foodbank, Childstrive, Housing Hope and the Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club.

In addition to these donations, a two thousand five hundred dollar sponsorship was announced for the Step Up for Racial Equity conference hosted by Leadership Snohomish County, will be held virtually this year on April 30, 2021.

Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and presented an official proclamation declaring February 5th as Kushman’s Day.

Also in attendance were: Snohomish County Council Member Megan Dunn, Lynnwood City Council Member Julietta Altamirano-Crosby (on behalf of the Lynnwood Foodbank), Everett City Council Member Liz Vogeli and representatives from the Economic Alliance Snohomish County, the Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce and The Cannabis Alliance.

Maybe an image of one or more people, people standing and road Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson cutting the ribbon at Kushman’s Grand Re-Opening on February 5, 2021. Source: City of Mukilteo. Events like the Kushman’s ribbon cutting, demonstrate just what is possible when communities and elected officials alike work together to embrace change.

The city of Mukilteo and stores like Kushman’s are not alone in their efforts to engage with the community. The Cannabis Alliance, the state’s largest democratically run cannabis trade organization, just launched a new effort and committee to expand opportunities with local governments, businesses, and the general public.

The Community Engagement Committee is comprised of cannabis industry professionals and members of the broader community. It will focus its initial outreach right here in Snohomish County.

The committee will bring you regular coverage and updates through the Lynnwood Times to showcase this important work as it moves forward.

The Community Engagement Committee meets twice each month via zoom. To learn more about the committee, visit www.thecannabisalliance.com.

from page 9 **SCHOOL REOPENING**

“We have been very proud and impressed with the great work our teachers and staff have been doing during remote learning,” said Mason. “We are thankful for all of their efforts. This work has only been successful due to our partnership with our families, and everyone’s flexibility and resilience as we move through these different circumstances.”

“The main challenge is determining how many students want to be back in the building and then ensuring schedules are balanced in a way where we can still maintain social distancing within the school buildings, as the 6-foot social distancing rule remains in effect.”

According to the Mukilteo School District’s website, first grade is scheduled to return to optional in-person learning on March 22. ECEAP, preschool, and grade 2 students are currently allowed to participate in the District’s hybrid learning model with Kindergarten tentatively scheduled for March 29.

Diane Bradford, Mukilteo School District Communications and Public Relations Director, shared a similar response as Reeves.

“We are naturally happy to have more students receive in-person learning, but there are many things to be worked out and communicated to roughly 15,000 students and their families in a short amount of time.

“District leadership is already working with the new information, sharing with staff and determining next steps. We’ll be communicating with district families as soon as possible.

“This is a coordinated response from the school board and district. It is so early in the game, but I am certain we will have more to share later.”

Edmonds School District (ESD) is currently in Stage 1 of its four-stage model – technically there are five stages as post-stage 4 is a full return to normal in-person operations. Stage 1 provides for limited Special Education programs and services in some schools with Stage 2 set to begin March 22. In-person hybrid learning for 2nd grade is scheduled to begin March 22 with 1st grade and Kindergarten scheduled for March 29 and April 12, respectively.

In a statement released March 19, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Edmonds School District Superintendent stated that the district will meet the governor’s emergency proclamation to offer in-person learning to all of our students by mid-April.

“I am pleased to inform you that the district and the Edmonds Education Association (EEA) have reached a tentative agreement on the working conditions for Stage 3 (3rd-6th grade) and Stage 4 (7th-12th grade),” wrote Dr. Balderas.

“I want to thank the EEA for their collaboration and hard work that got us to this agreement quickly and efficiently, while keeping the focus on what’s best for our kids.”

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be presented to the School Board at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 23.

Edmonds School Board President told the Lynnwood Times last week that the district will work quickly to meet the requirements of Governor Inslee’s emergency proclamation.

“I completely agree with Governor Inslee that Washington children’s mental health is in crisis, and I’m confident the Edmonds School District can rise to meet the requirements of his emergency order,” said Kilgore. “Bringing students back to school will not be a magical and immediate solution to the enduring trauma children have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, but I believe it will be an important first step.”

“Edmonds is a large district with a lot of moving parts. Nonetheless, the District will move forward to provide the best possible schooling options for all students.”

State and Local Union Responses

In response to Governor Inslee’s announcement, the Washington Education Association (WEA), the largest representative of public-school employees in Washington state, released the following statement to the Lynnwood Times:

“WEA is dedicated to protecting the safety of our students and staff. We all agree that a safe return to school buildings for those who choose is best for our students. Most districts in Washington state are already providing in-person instruction in some form, and some have been in-person for months. Only a few districts which have yet to fully implement health and safety standards are still remote.

“The governor’s announcement assumes that districts have the ability to provide safe teaching and learning. Some districts are not yet prepared to safely welcome students back to buildings. Local unions are actively bargaining with districts to ensure the return to buildings is as safe as possible.

“Shortcutting those safety processes is not in the best interest of our students, staff, or communities.

“School districts must partner with local unions and community groups– including communities of color– to ensure safety measures and robust mental health supports are in place before returning to buildings and for families that opt for remote learning.”

Dana M. Wiebe, President of the Mukilteo Education Association, in a statement to the Lynnwood Times shared that every district has unique challenges and that a blanket approach to reopening may pose risks.

“MEA has always advocated for in-person learning that is safe for staff and students, and we have worked hard to achieve that through collaborative bargaining with the District.

“Both MSD and MEA will need some time to review the regulations and implications around this executive order, including how it pertains to our current Memorandum of Agreement, as well as the difficult task of maintaining a strong secondary program now that there are some rigid constraints that have been placed upon us.

“Ironically, part of the reason that it has

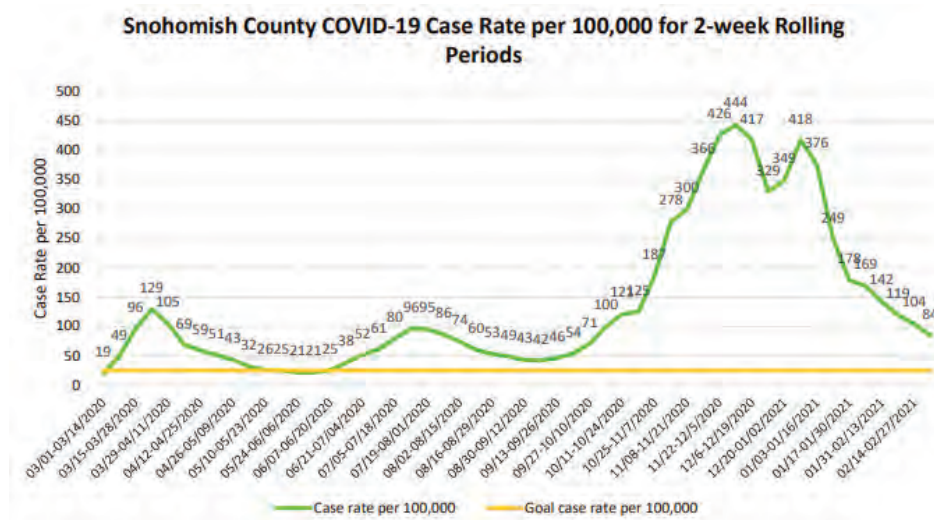
COVID cases are falling, but concern exists about potential fourth wave

BY DAVE SOMERS, SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Snohomish County, Wash., March 16, 2021 – The state’s Department of Health late last week released the latest statewide situation report on COVID-19. A key concern: a possible fourth wave infection.

“When you look at our data, there is a pattern of several waves of COVID-19 activity followed by a return to baseline level. The baseline we reached after our second wave in summer 2020 was higher than the level after our first wave. Now, following the third wave that began last fall, cases have flattened out at higher baseline level than ever before,” said Acting State Health Officer Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH.

“I’m concerned about what this means for the future and a possibility of a fourth wave of activity, along with the increases we are seeing in variants of the virus. As we continue working to accelerate vaccination so we can protect more people, it’s critical that we all



Snohomish County COVID-19 case rates per 100,000. Data source: Snohomish Health District COVID-19 database.

maintain the precautions we’ve been taking to stop the spread of the virus.”

Report findings include:

- **Case counts have increased slightly in western Washington and plateaued in eastern Washington as of late February.** Case counts are still relatively high

across the state—around the same level we were seeing last October when the third wave of disease activity was ramping up. Plateauing or increasing at these high levels is concerning.

- **Most counties have seen declines in case counts since the first week of January, but cases have flattened in several counties and are**

starting to increase again in others. Six of 39 counties had rates above 200 new cases per 100,000 people over the two-week period ending on Feb. 25. No counties had rates above 500 new cases per 100,000 people.

- **Cases are increasing among younger adults aged 20-29 and 30-39.** This has previously been an early warning sign of larger surges in the general population. Case counts in other age groups were declining, but have now flattened. As more people who are 60 and older get vaccinated, we expect to see a more rapid decline in cases in this population.
- **We are seeing sharp declines in hospital admission rates among people 70 and older, possibly because those groups are among the first to get vaccinated.** Admissions have declined at different rates depending on the age group. Overall, hospital admissions have flattened in eastern Washington

Continued PAGE 12 >>

from page 1 **FORTNEY**

signatures. According to court documents, a March 26 court case is scheduled between the two parties, as the county is now requesting reimbursement for the fees associated with the attempted writ of mandate it is calling “frivolous.”

As of March 17, there has been no report of how many signatures were collected. However, Colin McMahon, chair of the Committee to Recall Snohomish County and a public defender told Judge Langbehn that they were “well off the mark.”

Following Governor Inslee’s emergency proclamation temporarily closing churches, schools, and businesses throughout Washington State, Sheriff Fortney questioned the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order in an April 21, 2020, Facebook post, announcing his office would not be enforcing it.

While he did acknowledge the seriousness of the coronavirus in his post, he expressed concern about the shutdown’s impact on Washington’s economy and its classification of whom fits into the essential and nonessential worker categories.

Sheriff Fortney, who’s serving in his first term as sheriff, argued that it shouldn’t matter in which sector you work, and preventing some businesses from operating while allowing others to, is an infringement upon one’s constitutional rights.

“If the Coronavirus is so lethal and we have shut down our roaring economy to save lives, then it should be all or nothing,” Fortney said. “The government should not be picking winners and losers when it comes to being able to make an income for your family... if we are going to allow government contractors and pot shops to continue to make a living for their families, then it is time to open up this freedom for other small business owners who are comfortable operating in the current climate.”

Two recall efforts followed suit, the first filed in May of 2020 by Monroe resident

Lori Shavlik, arguing that the sheriff “used his position as an elected official to encourage citizens to defy the law and violate the Governor’s Emergency Proclamations.” Supporters of that campaign did not meet the December 1, 2020, deadline to submit signatures.

A second petition was filed in September 2020 by a group of four attorneys, who formed the Committee to Recall Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney. According to court documents, the group claimed the sheriff “endangered the peace and safety of the community and violated his statutory duties...by inciting the public to violate Governor Inslee’s ‘Stay Home—State Healthy’ proclamation...and...exercised discretion in a manifestly unreasonable manner by rehiring three deputy sheriffs previously discharged following investigation and findings of misconduct.”

According to the Public Disclosure Commission, the committees supporting the recall efforts received \$86,426.43 in contributions, whereas the committees opposing the recall efforts collected \$113,419.

Sheriff Fortney Interview

In an exclusive interview with the Lynnwood Times, Sheriff Fortney said there was a weight on his shoulders throughout the recall efforts but stood by his decision to present his position to residents.

“It’s not that we lived and breathed this every day, but that stuff weighs on you,” he said. “Looking back, there are consequences for talking like that; I’ve been living them for the past year, but no one was speaking for those people at the time, and I can tentatively say I’m glad that I did.”

As the first sheriff in the state to publicly announce he would not be enforcing the Governor’s emergency orders, his message went viral on social media, reaching nearly two million people. With an excess of dialogue occurring in unfamiliar territory for many, Fortney maintains that he understands why he received the pushback he did.

“There were repercussions for what I

said. It doesn’t mean that I don’t care, it doesn’t mean that I want people to get hurt- it doesn’t mean anything like that,” he said. “I understand how some people took it, and probably the main problem is that I was the first one... but I didn’t get elected to sit back and be safe.”

Sheriff Fortney said that the recall efforts are likely to be the most consequential period he’ll ever go through, the toughest part being the petitioners’ engagement in what he classifies as cancel culture.

“24 years with Snohomish County, answering tens of thousands of calls for help from people in the community, I put my life on the line more than one time for this community, and the most frustrating part is to have these people now dragging your name through the mud,” said Fortney. “We can disagree on issues, that is fair game for an elected sheriff, but that is not what the recall people want... they don’t want dialogue with you, they want you canceled and that’s what they tried to do through the recall effort.”

Over the weekend of March 6, flyers depicting a skeleton-like Fortney cartoon caricature surrounded by statements written in a bloody-like font reading, “Join Fortney’s death squad today,” “Excessive force encouraged” and “Forget your masks bring your guns” appeared throughout the cities of Snohomish and Lake Stevens. The bottom of the flyer reads #Recallfortney.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the creation or the disbursement of the flyers as of March 12.

“It’s just disgusting...we took it as [a threat],” Fortney said. “Being in law enforcement, I’ve always felt safe... well, we installed a security camera Tuesday afternoon.”

With the recall efforts now behind him, Sheriff Fortney says that he will continue to be transparent with Snohomish County residents but will be increasingly mindful in how he presents those decisions and opinions.

“It was such a negative experience, there was no good to it whatsoever, that’s why it’s just so good to have it behind us,” he said.

“It’s going to take more than a group of lawyers to get me down. They caused me a couple of stressful days, I’ll give them that, but they are not going to change the course of the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office.”

Sheriff Fortney says he and his office are currently planning a series of initiatives intended to serve the community which are set to commence in 2021.

Moving Full Steam Ahead

Fueled by a passion for youth, Fortney shared in an exclusive announcement with the Lynnwood Times that he is creating a Sheriff’s Lead the Way program, concentrated on providing at-risk youth with leadership, encouragement, and direction. Programs will run in two-month increments for one night a week and end with a career-fair and graduation ceremony. Participants will be paired with a mentor and complete a community service project.

The Sheriff’s Office will also use the program as a post-charging alternative for youth facing petty crimes.

As of March 9, a first of its kind anti-graffiti program within the Sheriff’s Office took effect. Volunteers will clean up vandalized surfaces throughout the community.

A funding proposal for a social justice initiative dubbed ‘Cops and Barbers’ is in the works as well, which aims to bring together the BIPOC community with law enforcement. The goal of the program will be to strengthen relationships between the communities through engaged conversations in a barbershop setting.

“We are full steam ahead. You can’t hide passion, you can tell I’m passionate about this stuff, you can’t fake that,” Fortney said. “I’m so excited about the upcoming stuff we have- I can’t wait.”

from page 7 **PHASE 3**

Additionally, Phase 3 will allow up to 50% occupancy or 400 people maximum, whichever is lower, for all indoor spaces. This applies to all industries and indoor activities currently allowed; restaurants, gyms and fitness centers and movie theaters, among others, may all increase their capacity.

“Some of the hardest hit businesses in Washington will be able to return to 50% capacity as we continue on the road to recovery,” Inslee said. “On March 22, we make one more step to beating this virus and rejuvenating our economy.”

from page 8 **FEBRUARY STUDENTS**

Current Employment: Virtual tutor for my younger cousin Carl, who lives in Maryland.

Educational Goals: To attend a liberal arts university on the East Coast such as Tufts University or University of Richmond. I’m excited to have an interdisciplinary education and explore a variety of academic disciplines, including but not limited to Environmental Studies, Astronomy, Political Science, Ethnic Studies, and Women/Gender/ Sexuality Studies.

Career Goals: I’d like to work in environmental justice, the intersection of social and environmental activism. I’d also like to draft protective legislation for waste prevention and overall resource conservation, starting with a mandate of commercial composting and recycling across the U.S., and hopefully one day, globally.

Rodrigo CO

Mother’s Name: Irene
Father’s Name: Juan Carlos

Education goals: To attend a technology school (Digipen) and create art.

Career Goals: To earn money as an artist and become a professional climber.

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE HIGH

Vivian Tran

Mother’s Name: Lien Tran
Father’s Name: Bao Tran
GPA: 3.8

Clubs & Activities:
Varsity Girls Tennis, Key Club, NHS, DECA, Band (Symphonic Band and Chamber Winds 9-10th Grade)

ASB: As a freshman I was Secretary of Class 2021; sophomore year, I was Vice President of class of 2021, and 11th grade, Executive Public Relations Officer.

Athletics: Girls Tennis every year.

Basketball: Freshman and Sophomore years.

Honors: Honors chemistry; Honors Algebra 2; Honors English 9 NHS

Awards: I earned several DECA awards, including third place in Regionals – Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team (2020); ninth place statewide for the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team (2020); and second place at regionals – Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team (2021).

Community Service: Worked with Food LifeLine for four months sorting, repacking, and distributing food packages to food banks around Western Washington.

from page 10 **SCHOOL REOPENING**

been difficult for us to open schools faster is the state’s ever changing guidance. This signifies yet another change we must interpret and implement.

“We have to go back through our plans and work to make sure they are compliant. We hope we will not have to implement yet another change for the students that are already in-person.

“Every district is different; just because something works well in Puyallup, or Yakima, doesn’t mean it will work in Mukilteo.”

I lifted more than 3,000 pounds of watermelons and repacked them into carts in two hours, helping save meals for over 1,050 families in the Holly House and DECA Blood Drive.

Current Employment: Shift Leader at Jamba Juice

Educational Goals: I want to attend UW of Seattle.

Career Goals: I want to become a Physician’s Assistant and attend University of Washington Seattle.

Anything else we should know? I am hoping to create another community service project for DECA and call it a hygiene drive! I also would love to volunteer more around my community. I am very thankful to be Student of the Month!

Cielo Janeth Magaña Navarro

Mother’s Name: Maria Padilla
Father’s Name: George Thomas
GPA: 3.173

Education goals: My goal is to keep on staying focused and to keep working hard to keep my grades up and stay organized.

Career Goals: I plan to be part of the medical field, then start my own business.

Anything else we should know? I kept on making sure school was important to keep doing and working hard on while taking care of my baby.

PROJECT SEARCH

David Chea

Mother’s Name: Pheara Rum
Father’s Name: Pheng Chea
Awards: I got a blue ribbon in PE for doing my best in teamwork playing sports. I also got recognized for my work.

Significant School Project: Being part of Project SEARCH helps me get to know my way around the hospital and learning new tasks.

Career Goals: I would like to help people know where they need to go and how to use the direction app on their phones.

Anything else we should know? I like to listen to music, help around the house, and spend time with my family. I play video games in my spare time. I recently passed my driver’s test and got my license. I enjoy driving to different places in town in my car.

SCRIBER LAKE HIGH

Ronald Litts

Kylee Shelton

from page 11 **COVID**

and continue to decline in western Washington.

- **COVID-19 transmission is continuing at about the same level after declines through January and February.** The best estimate of the reproductive number (how many new people each COVID-19 patient will infect) in the state on Feb. 19 was 0.96. The goal is to maintain a reproductive number well below one — meaning COVID-19 transmission is declining — for a substantial amount of time.
- **The estimated prevalence (percentage of people with active COVID-19 infections) began to plateau in early February after**

from page 1 **LAKE STEVENS**

district informed of its intent to sue, the city proposed an extension on the consolidation from March 16, 2021, to the end of the year. The district declined this offer, and a lawsuit was filed.

The district argues that the city’s actions breach its existing legal agreement, while also asserting a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act by the Lake Stevens City Council (Council), and a failure to follow proper procedures through not quickly notifying the Boundary Review Board of their actions.

Lake Stevens says that the consolidation was accelerated to save money for taxpayers and will support the city in managing growth while enhancing economic development.

“Many governments are looking for ways to be more efficient for taxpayers,” said Lake Stevens Mayor Brett Gailey. “We’re ready to provide this service, which means taxpayers will realize cost savings and benefits.”

According to the city, an independent analysis reveals that the merging of the two agencies is projected to save its taxpayers up to \$595,000 – best case scenario – in the first three years, through the elimination of duplication of services in accounting, human resources, facilities and IT departments. The consolidation will also provide more favorable prices for goods and professional services due to economies of scale, said the city.

However, Mariah Low, Interim Manager of the Lake Stevens Sewer District, says that its first priority is serving its ratepayers and accelerating the assumption date would not benefit the ratepayers.

“The district has a strong track record of managing the system well,” said Low. “Why jeopardize the system that everyone relies on? The report the city references doesn’t actually show real savings happening, and the city cannot point to their own record in managing a sewer system. Our job is to protect our ratepayers’ interests, and that’s what we are doing.”

Low says that the district uses facilities charges – fees paid by developers who need to bring new facilities online – to fund sewer system capital improvements, and the city calculates these fees differently. The district says that currently, there is no clear policy from the city on how capital improvements will be paid for and this may mean the

declines in January. High prevalence means there are a lot of people with infections who may need health care and could be spreading the virus to others. The best model-based prevalence estimate as of Feb. 19 was 0.11%.

DOH partners with the Institute for Disease Modeling, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington and the Microsoft AI for Health program to develop these reports every other week. More COVID-19 data can be found on the DOH data dashboard and in the state’s Roadmap to Recovery dashboard. For

more information visit <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

dollars ratepayers pay each month may be needed to fund new developments.

The district says it also fears system failures are likely with the accelerated consolidation, saying it cannot simply be transferred without a well-thought-out plan as agreed to take place approximately 10 years from now.

Revenue is reinvested back into the system under the district, says Low, and if the city controls the sewer utility it can use sewer revenues for other general government expenses, which often leads to higher rates.

“The Lake Stevens Sewer District has held rates steady for the last five years during a time of unprecedented growth in the service area,” stated Low.

The city maintains the consolidation of sewer utilities allows it to better manage growth and enhance economic development.

Lake Stevens is responsible for planning and development within the city limits and urban growth area, but right now the Sewer District makes decisions on whether or not to extend service, and so the two governments can have different priorities, argues the city.

Less government is also a benefit of consolidation, says Lake Stevens, as the city has councilmembers and the district has an elected Board of Sewer Commissioners, so the consolidation will eliminate salaries for sewer commissioners and save on future election costs.

If the accelerated consolidation is approved, the Lake Stevens City Council will set sewer rates annually in a public hearing. There will be no change to sewer rates in 2021 or billing services.

Although sewer rates will not change this year, the district is wary of the impact the merge will have on its customers in the city of Marysville, as its sewer area coverage bleeds over Lake Stevens city limits. The consolidation puts these clients’ services at risk, so transferring these service areas need to well be thought out, said the district.

On February 26, Superior Court Judge Janice E. Ellis prevented the city’s ordinance from taking effect until after the court issues a final ruling. Her order recognized the district’s point that the district likely has a legal right to operations as well as the city possibly exceeded its authority to consume control over territory within the city of Marysville.