

LYNNWOOD TIMES



**Lynnwood
adopts \$112M
budget**

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**I beat both
2020 and
cancer**

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**Doing it her
way to make a
difference**

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Lynnwood may soon lift ban on marijuana sales



Lynnwood city councilmembers are reviewing possible revisions to a long-standing string of moratoriums on marijuana business activity within city limits. Marijuana production and sales were first banned within Lynnwood in 2014.

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

Lynnwood city councilmembers are reviewing revisions to a long-standing string of moratoriums on marijuana business activity within city limits.

During a Thursday, November 18 work session, the councilmembers observed a presentation by Pacific Northwest Regional Strategies, a governmental affairs firm representing cannabis retailers within Snohomish County that

reached out to the city earlier this year to explore the possibility of initiating a discussion on lifting the current ban. Councilmember George Hurst invited them back, asking that they briefly discuss the topic with the council.

Addressing the council, councilmember Hurst says that they need to look at marijuana retailers as businesses who will contribute to the Lynnwood

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Sheriff's Department saves money and reduces its carbon footprint

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Department plans to introduce an electric patrol car into its fleet, signaling a move toward the reduction of the county's contribution to fossil fuels and significant savings in gasoline costs.

The county budget, adopted on November 10, sets aside \$75,000 to implement the new pilot program, adding an electric traffic enforcement vehicle to its law enforcement fleet. While electric cars are not specifically designed for police work, the purchased vehicle would be outfitted with equipment to suit the needs of the sheriff's department. The car is anticipated to cost around \$50,000 upon initial purchase, with \$15,000 set aside for flexibility to add additional features necessary to

meet departmental requirements.

While electric vehicles are more expensive upfront compared to regular patrol vehicles, the savings in gas and maintenance is 'incredible', says Snohomish County Councilman Sam Low, who put forward the proposal.

During the early stages of the budgetary process, Low began looking into the annual amount of fuel the sheriff's office fleet of vehicles used. The analysis found that law enforcement was responsible for 60% of the gas used by county departments, equating to approximately 350,000 gallons a year.

"Over ten years that's 3.5 million gallons of gas just for the sheriff's depart-



The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office South Precinct located in Mill Creek accompanied with a motorcycle officer and squad car.

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Inslee honored to be re-elected to third term



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

By ERIN FREEMAN

Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has emerged as a prospective contender

for a cabinet position with the Joe Biden Administration, leaving his gubernatorial seat vacant if accepted.

According to national news outlets, Gov. Inslee may be considered for three cabinet positions, including Secretary of the Interior, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Secretary of Energy.

Recently securing a rare third term as governor, joining President Biden's cabinet would mean he would have to leave the governor's seat in Washington. Gov. Inslee has not addressed any speculation of such but continues to comment on his commitment to serving within Washington.

"I cannot express the honor I feel to be elected to a third term as governor," said Inslee in an email to the Lynnwood Times. "The people of Washington have given my administration a unique place in history, and I will work hard for you every day, just as I have for the past eight years."

Nevertheless, if he were to leave his seat in Washington vacant, the state's Constitution states that Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck would temporarily fill the role, serving as acting governor while retaining his Lt. Gov duties. Secretary of State Kim Wyman would operate as the next in line. In November 2021, Washingtonians would elect a new governor to serve the remainder of Gov. Inslee's elected term.

Although third in line, if Wyman were to secure the gubernatorial seat, her membership of the Republican Party would switch the governor's office from blue to red for the first time since former Governor John Spellman held office from 1981 to 1985.

Elected in 2013, Gov. Inslee has focused on clean energy and climate change as governor, this platform now signaling him as a contender for the three prospective cabinet positions. Yet he says that he has much more to lead Washington in, than just those platform

points.

"We still have much to accomplish together on a number of fronts: supporting frontline workers and first responders; continuing economic growth and recovery that benefits everyone; educating and training our students; fighting climate change; and continuing the fight for diversity, equity and inclusion," said Inslee.

Gov. Inslee will be proving his budget and policy proposals for the next legislative session this December, telling the Lynnwood Times that he looks forward to getting to work with the Legislature.

"COVID-19 has put our health and our economy through a crucible," said Inslee. "We will continue to fight for Washingtonians' health and economic well-being. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to continue this crucial work."

Snohomish County allocates \$1 million towards social justice



Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

By ERIN FREEMAN

On Tuesday, November 10, the Snohomish County Council adopted a \$1.045 billion 2021 budget, with over \$1 million set aside to cultivate countywide social justice.

The five councilmembers voted 4-1 approving the budget allocations, with Councilwoman Megan Dunn dissenting, wanting funding to further support initiatives driven by the county's communities of color and the recently created Office of Social Justice.

to invest in our community through increased housing, services, and social justice reforms," said Dunn in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "I appreciated the council's collaborative process, and I was proud to champion the addition of Designated Crisis Responders, and studies on the implementation of a Veterans Treatment Court and a new tribal liaison position. However, without substantially restoring funding to the Executive's Office of Social Justice, I was not able to vote in support of the overall budget. I look forward to working with the council to improve outcomes for all people living in Snohomish County."

In June, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers announced a proposed county department- an Office of Social Justice, to develop a county culture focused on social justice through dismantling the individual, institutional, and structural racism within Snohomish County. Towards the beginning of budget allocation discussions, the council began with \$500,000 recommended for the Office of Social Justice proposals. The total amount dwindling down to the adopted \$100,000. However, next year the county council will work with the Office of Social Justice on how to distribute another \$100,000 in funds to increase equity and social justice within the county.

"I appreciate that the County Council will partially fund the Office of Social

Justice, equip deputies with body-worn cameras, and otherwise advance efforts to combat racism," said Somers in a statement to the Lynnwood Times.

"While I am disappointed that some of my requests were denied, we have strong community support for making progress. We know that more must be done, and we will continue to do everything we can to make the county justice system as fair and transparent as possible.

Nearly half of the budget the council adopted towards social justice was invested in officer-worn body cameras for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, with a price tag of \$300,000. Another \$75,000 for social justice initiatives was granted to the Sheriff's Office, as long as Sheriff Adam Fortney or his departments submit plans and associated costs to the council for consideration before an initiative can commence.

The budget now also includes an amendment proposed by Councilman Jared Mead for a \$100,000 Law Enforcement Efficiency Study, in which the county will analyze the types of calls law enforcement is responding to, intended to support new opportunities to enhance approaches to

policing.

The budget will also allocate \$273,000 of its funds to the county's crisis responder program, employing a supervisor and two mental health professionals to provide community-based crisis services and support. This increased funding expands the existing crisis responder program to the Sheriff's Department's South precinct, providing law enforcement officers with added support and alternatives in instances of crisis calls.

The council also voted that \$350,000 be put towards a data collection effort by Snohomish County Prosecutor Adam Cornell, accumulating information in regard to race, key data from courts, police agencies, prosecutors, and defense attorneys providing insight into when and where reform is necessary. The initiative intends to increase transparency and accountability, building trust within the community.

"I am proud that our budget includes important criminal justice reform initiatives, such as body cameras and countywide data collection," said Councilman Nate Nehring to the Lynnwood Times. "I believe this shows that we can be responsive to the needs

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Lynnwood City Council adopts \$112 million budget and disbands Salary Commission



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 ERIN FREEMAN

At the November 23 business meeting, the Lynnwood City Council unanimously adopted its 2021-22 biannual budget, cementing a \$112 million spending plan – a 6.4% less reduction from the 2019-20 budget.

For months prior, the city scrambled to address a \$7 million shortfall imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, with city staff tasked with cutting costs within their departments by 2.4% to offset it.

Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith took a moment to express her gratitude to the city directors and staff for the respective revisions of their departmental budgets, saying that in doing so, they contributed to the delivery of a transformative and balanced budget.

“They’ve worked hard to overcome the financial downturn minimizing COVID-19 financial impacts while preparing a budget that will allow

them to continue to move forward in a thoughtful, purposeful, and resilient way,” she said.

Councilmember George Hurst expressed his concerns with the budget before its adoption. Uneasy with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department’s significant blows to its revenue and staffing, he is concerned with the decrease in the frequency of maintenance within the city parks.

“We are being asked to pass a budget without any layoffs, with millions of dollars transferred around, and yet we’re asking the citizens of Lynnwood to have parks that are going to suffer maintenance,” said Hurst. “It just doesn’t make sense to me.”

Councilmember Hurst then put forth a motion, which passed 4-3, to provide the Parks and Recreation and Cultural Arts Department with an additional \$180,000 to provide funding for B level service for park maintenance

through the elimination of a proposed \$2 million contribution from the general fund to the economic development infrastructure fund (EDIF). This elimination additionally allows the city to budget \$283,000 for Lynnwood to have representation on the Snohomish County Drug Regional Task Force through hiring a local detective and contributing \$37,000 to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Benefit Fund.

Councilmember Hurst’s motion authorizes \$1.5 million to be transferred to the city’s Revenue Stabilization Fund, where at the end of 2021, the council will determine if additional transfers to the fund are needed to restore the funds \$6 million levels or if transfers to EDIF can resume.

Mayor Smith’s budget proposal also included the creation of an Equity and Social Justice program within the Executive Department to replace the vacant Intergovernmental Relations program. While this program would save the city \$6,000, Councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby made a motion, passing 5-2, that the city postpone the hiring of the program’s anticipated Race and Social Justice coordinator. Further research must now be conducted before the position’s hiring, evaluating what the Lynnwood community necessitates from this program and if the job title and duties thus must change.

“We have to make sure that Lynnwood as a city is ready to recognize and serve the diverse communities that are present within our city limits,” she said.

To provide relief during the pandemic to the Lynnwood community, the

Continued PAGE 04 >>

Lynnwood hosts virtual Veterans Day ceremony



An honor guard stands at attention at a pre-recorded ceremony at Lynnwood Veterans Court played on November 11, honoring those who served in the US Armed Forces.

By ERIN FREEMAN

The City of Lynnwood hosted a virtual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11, honoring and thanking all who served in the United States Armed Forces.

While the ceremony did not have the usual gathering due to the coronavirus pandemic, the city still wanted to do something special for all the veterans and families in the community to thank them for their service and remember the

ones who are no longer here today.

“Lynnwood is committed to being a veteran-supportive city,” said the city of Lynnwood in a social media post. “We appreciate our veterans and thank them for their service to our country.”

Prerecorded at Lynnwood Veterans Park, U.S. Navy Veteran Glenn Ledbetter commenced the ceremony with an assembly bugle call. Piper Kevin Auld followed, performing Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. A small group of local

veterans gathered wearing face masks to remember themselves and each other, paying tribute to all veterans.

Escorted by U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Martin Spani, Gold Star mother, Myra Rintamaki, led the laying of the wreath ceremony with U.S. Navy Veteran John Beam. They each placed a ceremonial wreath alongside a permanent memorial to veterans found within the park. The honor guard then held a firing lead by

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Edmonds suspect in 1972 murder commits suicide just hours before conviction

By ERIN FREEMAN

Edmonds, Wash. - The man accused of killing a 20-year-old woman in 1972 was found dead in his home, killing himself right before a jury convicted him of murder.

Terrence Miller, 78, on trial for the 1972 murder of 20-year-old Jody Loomis, was found dead in his home on the morning of November 9, by a family member. Snohomish County Sheriff's Department deputies responded to the scene just before 10 a.m.

Miller had committed suicide, ruled the Snohomish County Medical Examiner on Tuesday, November 10.

That Monday afternoon, about three hours after the suicide, an Everett jury determined Miller was guilty of first-degree murder for the death of Loomis after a two-week trial, according to the Snohomish County Superior Court clerk's office. The jurors were unaware of Miller's assumed death until after the delivered verdict.



20-year-old Jody Loomis, pictured circa 1972. She was found alive near Mill Creek Rd. but later died at Stevens Memorial Hospital in Edmonds.

On August 23, 1972, Loomis left her Bothell home, riding her bike towards a stable to ride her horse. That evening, a couple found her alive but disrobed and shot in the head in a heavily wooded area near what is now Mill

Creek Road, east of the intersection of Bothell-Everett Highway and 164th St. SW, the Sheriff's Office said. They transported her to Stevens Memorial Hospital in Edmonds where she was pronounced dead.

Snohomish County Sheriff's investigators sought justice for Loomis for more than 46 years, eventually catching a lead using genetic genealogy, cross-checking DNA evidence — semen found on the bottom of a hiking boot worn by Loomis at the time of the crime — with ancestry records, connecting Miller to the cold case.

Undercover detectives then silently monitored Miller until they were able to retrieve a sample of his DNA from a coffee cup he discarded in the garbage at the Tulalip Resort Casino. It came back as a match to the semen found on the boot.

Miller was then arrested on April 11, 2019, charged with first-degree premeditated murder. Posting the \$1 million bail, Miller was under house arrest in his Edmonds home before and throughout his trial. He lived about five miles from where Loomis was found.

November 17 was the last day to enjoy indoor dining before the holidays

By DIO ALEXANDER

Restaurants and bars are closed for indoor service starting 11:59pm on Tuesday, November 17. Only outdoor dining and to-go service is permitted following current guidelines. Table size is limited to five persons for outdoor dining. Retail and grocery stores are limited to 25% occupancy and common areas like food courts are closed.

All restrictions will be in effect for at least four weeks until Monday, December 14. Inslee hopes to have a decrease in cases by then so that "further restrictions would be unnecessary."

"Today, Sunday, November 15, 2020, is the most dangerous public health day in the last 100 years in our state's great history," Governor Jay Inslee said from his desk at the Governors Conference Room in Olympia.

"We have seen previously two waves of growth of this pandemic in our state. This is the third wave," Inslee said, tensely turning the page in his binder.

"We are facing a third wave that is trending to be more dangerous than any we have seen before," Inslee warned Sunday morning.

"Inaction here is not an option; we have to take bold, decisive action and we are doing that today," as Inslee announced sweeping new statewide restrictions on businesses, restaurant shutdowns and all indoor gatherings.

As of November 7, Snohomish Health District reports 11,357 COVID-19 cases since January 2020. There have been 252 deaths due to COVID-19 in Snohomish County of which 94.4% or 238 had underlying health conditions.

According to the US Census Bureau, Snohomish County has an estimated 2020 population of 822,000.

In Lynnwood, there have been a total of 1,675 COVID-19 cases since January



2020 of which 33 cases have resulted in death. Greater Lynnwood (zip codes 98036, 98037, and 98087) has an estimated 2020 population of 92,875 residents.

The following restrictions were effective 11:59pm on Monday, November 16, are part of the effort to slow Washington's COVID-19 cases which have steadily risen since November 1.

Religious services are limited to 25% occupancy or no more than 200 people, whichever is fewer. No choir, band, or ensemble performances will be allowed, except for solo performances. Congregations will not be permitted to sing and face masks are required at all times during services.

Non-family indoor social gatherings are prohibited unless participants quarantine for 14 days prior to the gathering or quarantine for seven days prior to receiving a negative COVID-19 test within two days of the scheduled gathering. Outdoor social gatherings are limited to no more than five people outside of the household.

Fitness facilities and gyms are closed for indoor operations during the four-week period. Only outdoor activities with a maximum of five people are permitted.

Other indoor businesses, such as bowling alleys and movie theaters, must

remain closed.

Schools and the court system are exempt from the new restrictions. Construction and manufacturing industries will also remain open.

Despite the broad restrictions, Inslee stated enforcement will be limited.

"You're not going to expect state troopers coming to your door if you have a big Thanksgiving dinner," Inslee said. "We do hope people who want to abide by the law will abide by the law."

Locals elected officials weighed in on the governor's restrictions.

Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith agrees with the new restrictions and encouraged residents to wear a face mask, maintain social distancing, limit social gatherings, and support local businesses via holiday shopping. Smith also said that the City will continue to press for federal funding to support those economically impacted by the pandemic.

Mayor Jennifer Gregerson of Mukilteo told the Lynnwood Times that case counts and hospitalization rates "make it clear that we need to make changes now."

"I appreciate the sacrifices that our residents and business community have already made," Gregerson said. "I hope

that all of us will continue to be kind to one another, support local businesses when we are able, and know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

On the county side, Snohomish Health District Health Officer Dr. Chris Spitters supports Inslee's actions urging Snohomish County residents to "respect the restrictions" to combat the rising tide of cases.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers sympathized with the sacrifices that residents must make during the holiday season, noting he is frustrated with the measures but that they are "necessary to push the curve back down."

"We've done it before and can do it again," Somers said.

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city council also unanimously adopted a flat property tax levy of \$4.3 million for collection — the same levy as in 2020. Yet, the 2021 levy will result in a decrease in property tax expenses for the average home by \$1.49. This renders into a levy rate of 54 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, 3 cents lower than the 2020 levy rate of 57 cents.

The city council then approved the elimination of the city's salary commission 6-1, with councilmember Ruth Ross dissenting. The disbandment follows the salary commission's October decision for a 10.5% salary increase from \$112,278 to \$124,107 for the Mayor beginning in 2021, following a letter signed by all of the elected officials, including Mayor Smith, that they did not want an increase in salary due to the financial and budget impacts of COVID-19.

Future Lynnwood City Council Business Meetings, Work Sessions and Committee Meetings can be streamed live by the public at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofLynnwood/live>.

This Thanksgiving, Edmonds-Woodway teacher and cancer survivor is thankful for life, community and love

By NOEL PAI-YOUNG

In March of 2020, Bonnie Vjarro, a Spanish teacher at Edmonds-Woodway High School, was diagnosed with Stage 2 Invasive Ductal Carcinoma cancer. Before she was able to plan on how to deal with radiation and chemotherapy during the school year, the Governor's first order for a pandemic lockdown was given.

Although the situation was beginning to become overwhelmingly complex, the lockdowns gave her the flexibility to work from home and not have to call on substitutes. In addition, since masks were being worn and extra sanitary precautions were being taken due to the pandemic, it gave her extra protection during low immunity, which became a part of the silver lining around COVID-19.

When asked if she feels stronger after this past year, Vjarro shared that it wasn't so much about being strong as it was drawing on her humility.

"I needed to humble myself instead of trying to fix things on my own, and that it's okay not to be in control of everything," Vjarro said.

Accepting help was a challenge but also a big part of what she looks back on. She is someone who is constantly serving others. Through her conduct she evidently has the sacrificial grace and discipline that comes from a teacher's

heart and loves her community through action.

This year her community had an opportunity to give back to her. Her Edmond-Woodway High School (EWHS) community came together to support her in countless ways, including a Meal Train, food and smoothie drop offs, and countless emails and letters of encouragement.

Vjarro was amazed at her colleagues' generosity, who donated funds through her Meal Train which helped pay for some of the over-the-counter medical supplies. Her students from Colores Unidos, a club she helps advise, created a personalized video to cheer her on. Members of her church also came together too.

Other acts of selflessness by friends included: making egg custard, personalized clothes shopping and gifts, furniture lugging to make a comfortable set up at home, and a spontaneous popsicle drop off that coincidentally during the period of painful mucositis, another unexpected side effect of chemotherapy.

Vjarro shared that her greatest supporter was her husband, Sam, who is the Director of Worship Arts at Montage Bible Church. From appointment chauffeur to personal assistant taking phone calls and managing emails to update those concerned, to best friend by her side at the hardest moments, he



Bonnie Vjarro, a cancer survivor, a teacher, a wife and a proud serving community member.

had her covered. or quotes that helped her during the

When asked if she had any mantras *Continued* **PAGE 08** >>

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Lynnwood artist Barbara Goodfellow Childs featured for Artists Sunday

Austin, TX - Artists Sunday, the new art-focused shopping holiday taking place the Sunday after Thanksgiving, announced its top 20 gift picks from artists and artisans across the United States. Included in the top 20 includes the work of Lynnwood artist, Barbara Goodfellow Childs.

“With more than 2,000 artists from all 50 states participating in Artists Sunday, picking a top 20 that represented diverse mediums and locations around the country was a difficult task, to say the least,” said Christopher Sherman, Artists Sunday’s founder. “But the team weathered the storm to choose the best of the best gift picks for this holiday season.”

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Barb decorates her wares to reflect the colors and textures found by the shores of Puget Sound. Most of her time is spent at the wheel, embellishing with stamps she creates herself.

The Artists Sunday movement could not come at a better time, with artists around the country reeling from the cancellation of the vast majority of in-person sales opportunities since last March. A survey from American for the Arts found the arts-and-culture sector has suffered a \$13.1 billion economic hit due to the Covid-19 crisis. Childs Pottery is just one local example, with over a 70 percent drop in sales for the year so far.

When she heard the news her work was selected, Barb said, “With the usual selling venues temporarily or permanently closed this year, I’ve had to find new ways to reach my customer base. Adding an online store to my website was a first major step. It’s an honor to have my work recognized by Artists Sunday TM as one of their national top 20 gift picks. Hopefully, it will help pottery and art lovers find my work. Their marketing campaign efforts are truly appreciated.”

“In a year of social distancing, consumers can maintain heartfelt connections with friends and loved ones this holiday season by shopping with local artists and craftspeople while supporting individual artists and boosting the local economy,” Sherman said. “From one-of-a-kind, handcrafted items to monumental performances that take our breath away, the arts are boundless in their ability to inspire and deliver unique experiences that bring people together.”

Barbara offers free personal deliveries to the Lynnwood/Edmonds area or for a flat rate of \$10 you can have her creations shipped.

Visit Barbara’s website at www.childspottery.com.

For more information about Artists Sunday, visit: <https://ArtistsSunday.com>.



Lynnwood artist Barbara Goodfellow Childs. Photo courtesy of Artists Sunday.

Doing it her way to make difference!



(L-R) Daniela Altamirano-Crosby with her mother, Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, and father Patrick Crosby.

By ERIN FREEMAN

Daniela Altamirano-Crosby spent her childhood in Guerrero, Mexico, moving to Washington State in 2009 at just ten years old. Now, as a Lynnwood local, she’s building bridges between the two communities while preparing to graduate from college this coming winter.

Going into her Freshman year of college at the University of Washington (UW), Altamirano-Crosby, 21, set out to study microbiology. The next year, she switched paths, inspired by her mother, Lynnwood councilmember Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, to pursue a double major in political science and Spanish.

“My mom always told me that

education is the one thing she can give me,” said Altamirano-Crosby. “And I honestly think education opens doors all around.”

In her final quarter at UW, Altamirano-Crosby is currently interning for Washington State Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, gaining what she describes as valuable insight into the political spectrum at the national level.

Following her graduation this December, she hopes to secure a job in policy work relating to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), before returning to graduate school in a year or two.

“I’ve always been a firm believer in equity for all,” she said. “I want to be a lawyer and help people from

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.

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.

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

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

“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.

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

the BIPOC community gain equity all around... I am interested in aiding all communities of color. I think that being bicultural aids me in having an open mind in hearing people’s voices.”

Locally, Altamirano-Crosby is already making headway towards increasing equity in the city of Lynnwood through her memberships within different city-driven and community sectors.

“Right now, my involvement is a little bit of everything,” laughed Altamirano-Crosby.

As the youngest member of the WAGRO Foundation, Altamirano-Crosby serves the local Latinx community and in Guerrero, Mexico increasing educational equity, by providing resources to at-risk and underprivileged youth and supporting families navigate school systems and equipping special needs educators and families with tools to support the

students’ needs.

On September 14, the city of Lynnwood established Chilpancingo, Guerrero as a friendship city, naming Altamirano-Crosby as the president of the Guerrero Association. Through her role, she works to cultivate a strengthened cultural awareness for the people of both cities through driving educational opportunities, international visits, exchange programs, humanitarian acts, and community events.

Through her recent appointment to the city of Lynnwood’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, she hopes to center the DEI into all aspects of Lynnwood’s to meet the city’s mission of being a welcoming city.

“I want to make Lynnwood a welcoming city, a truly welcoming one where everyone feels like they can raise their voices,” said Altamirano-Crosby. “That’s my dream.”

Edmonds Police Foundation Holiday Dash

By **DIO ALEXANDER**

It's that time of year again; that most wonderful time of the year when you can shamelessly wear your ugly holiday sweater to your loved ones' collective chagrin or go for a run, breathing in that crisp, chilly autumn air.

Actually, you can do both this year, because the Edmonds Police Foundation and Support 7's Annual 5k Holiday Dash will be Saturday, November 28.

Like previous years, the 5k is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. But this year's dash does a twist. Unlike previous years, due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions on large gatherings, this year's run will not be in-person.

Participants have until December 31st to utilize the same courses as years past or make their own route. Each is encouraged to share photos of their run along with the completed time on social media.

Participants can register online and will receive a commemorative running bib by mail.

The Edmonds Police Foundation has held the annual dash since 2015. Originally called Dash and Dine, it has since changed to Holiday Dash 5k. The EPF was founded in 1996 to support officers and create partnerships between police and community members via outreach programs and public events.

The Holiday Dash's goal is to fund "equipment and provide educational opportunities for the officers that the City of Edmonds budget could not support," the EPF told the Lynnwood Times.

The EPF praised Support 7 for being a "huge blessing" to South Snohomish County by helping those "in deep crisis."

"It is our joy and honor to include them in our annual fundraiser this year and hopefully with the support of our community we can make this event bigger and better than ever while keeping our neighbors safe," the EPF said in a statement to the Lynnwood Times.

Support 7 is a 501 (c3) non-profit that has partnered with the Southwest Snohomish County community and its fire and police agencies since 1981 to provide a 24/7 private gathering place for victims and survivors at on-scene events of crisis, according to a press release.

Like many other non-profits, Support 7 was hit hard by COVID-19 restrictions and had to look for other avenues to fundraise to support organizational goals and provide services, according to Executive Director Shannon Sessions.

This year is the first time EPF partnered with Support 7 to sponsor the Holiday Dash 5k. Sessions said that Support 7 and the EPF have worked together in the past but have never done a joint fundraiser.

The EPF reached out to Support 7 and said that they would have to change the 5k into a virtual event as other organizations have done and if Support 7 would like to be a part of it.

The answer was a resoundingly hearty yes.

"We are so grateful to the Edmonds Police Department for even thinking of us because of our needs and the critical work we do," Sessions told the Lynnwood Times.

"They've been gracious with their time and energy," Sessions said. "Now we get to be a part of it."

All proceeds from the dash go towards the Edmonds Police Foundation and Support 7.

Gimme a Break!

The Great Toilet Paper Run of 2020, *parte deux*!

By **DIO ALEXANDER**



They say the sequel is sometimes better than the original. Whether it's The Empire Strikes Back to the original Star Wars or The Dark Knight to Batman Begins, there's a lot of anecdotal evidence for this claim.

The sequel to spring's Great Toilet Paper Run of 2020 could give those films a run for their money.

On the heels of Governor Jay Inslee's new restrictions on holidays family gatherings, grocery stores experienced a steep uptick in toilet paper sales. When the coronavirus hit earlier this year, local residents made a mad dash to supermarkets, clearing store shelves of hand sanitizer, gloves, water packs, paper towels and yes, even toilet paper.

Gov. Inslee's four-week guidelines placed restrictions on indoor gatherings and limited retail stores to 25% indoor capacity. They also closed food courts so forget about eating those deli potato jocos while shopping.

Inslee encouraged residents not to hoard supplies although Washingtonians' dedication to following his new restrictions seem pretty slim.

"Buying up everything really hurts everybody," Inslee said, "and there's no necessity of it right now."

Tell that to the scores of empty shelves social media users are posting photos of on the internet.

You'd think that in an area as vast as the Puget Sound with its progressive social values that there wouldn't be a toilet paper drought since you know... sharing is caring. We're all taught from an early age that selfishly hoarding items during a shortage crisis isn't a nice thing to do.

It turns out, from the scores of pictures online that many are drowning in toilet paper, some even fiending over it like Gollum to that precious ring!

According to the new restrictions, you can't have guests over this holiday season so you might as well reserve the Thanksgiving seat of honor for a 36-pack of toilet paper. Talk about something to be thankful for!

Charmin, a major toilet paper company, said in a November 11 press release that they will continue to produce and ship their products 24/7.

"Yet, still today, consumers are purchasing at record levels."

Even in a year like 2020, consumers buying toilet paper at "record levels" (again) doesn't seem that far-fetched.

This go around, 21% of paper products like toilet paper and paper towels were out of stock during the week ending November 15 according to Information Resources Inc., a national market research firm. In a typical period, around 5% of those products are out of stock.

Local Kroger affiliates Fred Meyer and QFC allow customers to purchase a maximum of two items each of paper towels, disinfecting wipes and hand soap.

Not to mention...you guessed it...toilet paper!

Walmart CEO Doug McMillon claimed that Walmart is better prepared to handle this season's cannonball run by consumers and will not order toilet paper rationing at stores. McMillon offered words of encouragement to consumers who are stressing over if buying that eighth pack of toilet paper might be overkill.

"It feels to me like we'll work through this period of time better than we did in the first wave," McMillon said.

Especially if you stock up on toilet paper. Then everything will be ok.

Just potentially not at Wal-Mart, though. Already the corporate giant reports that, despite building up their toilet paper stock since this year's earlier run on toilet paper, they are once again reporting that stores in areas with case spikes are experiencing empty shelf syndrome.

Then again, sometimes the sequel falls flatter than 1994's Leprechaun 2. Only time will tell whether this holiday season's sequel to the spring's Great Toilet Paper Run of 2020 is akin to box-office smash Terminator 2: Judgement Day, or if this sequel peters out like Speed 2: Cruise Control.

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 today!



"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom"
--- Aristotle

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from page 1 **MARIJUANA SALES**

community, adding he would be glad to see them able to work within city limits

“Times are changing, and the cannabis industry has changed and has really grown into an everyday business,” said Hurst. “They are businesspeople... these are local owners and they wish to come into the woods and be able to be a vibrant business within our community... let’s not let the past dictate our future.”

The maximum number of marijuana licenses allowed authorization within a city is determined by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, which has set Lynnwood’s at four.

During a September 14 council meeting, Hurst mentioned that two potential cannabis licensees have been anticipating if and when they can initiate business within the city and that they should have been allowed to for the past five years.

Marijuana production and sales were first banned within Lynnwood in 2014 after a public hearing influenced the adoption of a temporary six-month ordinance. Four more six-month extensions then followed suit between 2014-15.

In June of 2015, the then-council passed an ordinance prohibiting the retail sale, production, and processing of marijuana and marijuana-infused products, as well as medical marijuana collective gardens. Four years later, in 2019, zoning regulations were amended to prohibit these activities within the Lynnwood City Center.

Councilmembers Christine Frizzell and Shannon Sessions spoke hesitantly about the possibility of reversing the moratorium, explaining that they didn’t feel as though they were presented with new information from what was introduced years ago.

“I think we need more conversation,” said Frizzell. “We just need to remember why council came to the decision that they did... and see if there really is a big reason to say yes... we’re not alone, we’re not the only ones out there that say no, we don’t want a marijuana store.”

Councilmember Ruth Ross, who was also on council during the original moratorium, said she didn’t then and still doesn’t pose opposition to marijuana retailers within the city.

“I don’t think the vast majority of people in Lynnwood care either,” she stated. “It’s not an issue to me.”

In Washington state, 30% or 82 cities — prohibit marijuana retailers. There are 16 cannabis retailers within six miles of city hall, noted Frizzell.

New marijuana retail revenue partnerships provide several key economic benefits to the local economy, said Josh Estes, a managing partner of Pacific Northwest Regional strategies.

One such economic benefit cited is the collection of tax revenue from retail sales. This revenue is collected by the state, with a portion then redistributed back to the cities and counties that do not prevent cannabis stores. The amount given back to each city and county is calculated, determined based on a

combination of population and retail sales. Then 50% is given to the city and 50% is given to the county. The annual distribution for neighboring cities with similar populations ranges from \$65,000 in Mount Vernon, \$71,000 in Edmonds, \$77,000 in Issaquah, and \$91,000 in Longview.

“I think it’s a little disingenuous to say that it’s going to bring us a lot of money when we’re not sure yet how much that would be,” said Sessions. “And then it also depends on how many stores, would decide as well.”

On October 14, the Everett City Council approved the revision of a city ordinance, limiting the number of retail marijuana shops allowed in the city. The decision added three additional cannabis stores within city limits, increasing the number of retail stores from five to eight. The Liquor and Cannabis Board set the maximum number of marijuana licenses in Everett to 10, but local governments have the authority to impose stricter limits.

Early on with their work in the city of Everett, Estes says they struggled with getting the public and the Everett City Council comfortable with understanding the impact marijuana production and retail has on a city’s crime and calls for service. In response, the Everett council approached their public safety subcommittee, and through a series of public safety meetings with the Liquor Control Board and the Everett Police Department’s crime analysis unit, they found that cannabis-related calls for service were reduced when compared to other types of 21+ establishment.

“Number one is getting the council and for over two years.

“All of us care about our environment... This is just another step in being good environmental stewards,” said Low. “There’s a huge expense around fossil fuels and if this program takes off, there could be significant savings with a lot less usage of fossil fuels.”

Low says that the county has considered implementing hybrid vehicles in the past, but the decision has always boiled down to vehicle capacity for meeting conventional police car per-

the community to understand that these stores are regular businesses and they don’t have a disproportionate effect on crime,” said Estes.

Councilmember Sessions responded saying that she has yet to see definite proof that cannabis establishments have lower burglaries across jurisdictions.

“I still haven’t seen proof that they do not bring more crime in the city,” said Sessions. “I know you mentioned that stats in Everett but that tells me that they are better than some other establishments which to me isn’t really the best answer. That’s not the answer I want to hear.”

Councilmember Ian Cotton mentioned his participation in the initiation of the moratorium, explaining it was largely in response to the unknowns associated early on with the inception of the industry inside of cities.

“I think a lot of those unknowns have become knowns and they’ve become quantifiable,” said Cotton. “I think further discussion amongst councils is necessary.

If the discussion is continued, Thursday’s presentation will be the first of several planned conversations into allowing marijuana retail into the city. Moving the conversation forward, the council will establish a draft ordinance to allow retail marijuana in city limits, not to exceed the number allocated to the city by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. A council discussion and public hearing period will commence, followed by possible council action.

from page 1 **ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

ment,” commented Low.

Other law enforcement departments throughout the county have already begun adding electric vehicles to their fleets. After purchasing and using a Tesla Model 3, Indiana’s Bargersville Police Department documented a first-year annual savings of \$6,750, noted Low.

With savings in fuel, Low anticipates that the vehicle will pay for itself with-

in two to three years. With a driving range of about 300 miles per charge, with some vehicle models lasting upwards of 500,000 miles before needing to be replaced, Low says the sheriff’s department may get more use out of an electric car compared to a gasoline vehicle.

It wasn’t just the cost savings that led the council to the car, as there are also environmental benefits. Electric vehicles have a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to their gas counterparts, said Low, who has been driving his own electric personal vehicle

for over two years.

“All of us care about our environment... This is just another step in being good environmental stewards,” said Low. “There’s a huge expense around fossil fuels and if this program takes off, there could be significant savings with a lot less usage of fossil fuels.”

Low says that the county has considered implementing hybrid vehicles in the past, but the decision has always boiled down to vehicle capacity for meeting conventional police car per-

formance and safety.

“In the last few years, we’ve seen some significant changes in the electric vehicle industry,” explained Low. “They now have electric vehicles that are comparable in safety and performance of a regular patrol vehicle.”

Once the car is purchased and operational in 2021, the sheriff’s office will report to the county council documenting the vehicle’s performance for six months. The council will then have the opportunity to examine continued investment in the pilot program.

from page 3 **VETERANS DAY**

U.S. Army Veteran Frank Martinez, with seven members performing the three-volley salute, honoring late veterans. Wednesday’s ceremony ended with echo taps performed by Ledbetter and U.S. Coast Guard Veteran Lukas Breen.

The city of Lynnwood extended its special thanks to all veterans who participated, as well as the ceremony

coordinator U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Martin Spani.

To further connect with local veterans, the city of Lynnwood posted videos to its Facebook page, spotlighting four veterans to learn about how they are doing, how they are coping throughout the pandemic, and what local veterans need. Those conversations can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/LynnwoodWA>.

Executive Somers notes that Snohomish County’s leadership, inside and outside of county government, is committed to advancing social justice throughout the community.

“We have many strong partners, both inside and outside of government, to help us with this work,” said Somers. “We want Snohomish County to be a model for social justice across the region, ensuring we serve all in our community.”

from page 5 **BONNIE VIJARRO**

hardest times of treatment, Vjarro said music and reading the Psalms. Even when her oxygen levels were low and lungs weak, she would still sing hymns and songs of praise. Singing is close to her heart as she comes from a musical family who enjoys singing together, especially during family gatherings.

Typically for Thanksgiving, the Vjarro’s look forward to a two-day celebration enjoying her mom’s apple pie and sweet potatoes, playing games with nieces and nephews, watching A Charlie Brown Christmas, playing lots of instruments, and singing with

family.

However, this Thanksgiving will look different. She will enjoy spending quarantine with her husband, mom, and her brother’s family.

Vjarro has completed the most challenging part of her treatment and is now undergoing immunotherapy every few weeks until the expected completion date of May 2021.

Bonnie Vjarro is a testament that if there’s anything that can get you through 2020 while having cancer, it’s community, songs of praise, and a thankful heart.

from page 2 **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

of the community while maintaining a balanced budget.”

The Lynnwood Times additionally reached out to Councilmembers Sam Low, Jared Mead, and Stephanie Wright for statements relating to the disbursement of funds towards social justice initiatives in the Snohomish County 2021 budget but did not receive a response.



“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom”
--- Aristotle

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