

LYNNWOOD

TIMES



**SOUND TRANSIT CEO
ON NAVIGATING
LIGHT RAIL
EXPANSION**

P.05



**MONEY MATTERS:
YOUR END OF YEAR
FINANCIAL CHECK
LIST**

P.07



**CULP AND WYMAN
BATTLE IT OUT
OVER ILLEGAL VOTE
ALLEGATIONS**

P.04

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Christmas Lights and Cocoa: Lynnwood neighbors being the change they want to be



Scott McMahan on the tractor at the first annual Vaughn's Teaching Farm and Kitchen Christmas lighting. Photo by Mario Lotmore.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

Lynnwood, Wash., December 5, 2020 – Tucked away behind The Old Spaghetti Factory, residents in this quiet wooded neighborhood gathered for the first annual Vaughn Teaching Farm and Kitchen Christmas lighting, Cocoa, Coffee, and Community food drive.

The event was hosted by 28-year Alderwood residents Eric and Rachel Vaughn.

“There is a need for community,” Rachel told the Lynnwood Times when asked why have the event. “Kids need something to do and parent need a break from the monotony of life.”

The soiree consisted of hot cocoa and marshmallows, coffee, a bonfire and most exciting a tractor for both young and old to climb. Masks were required and social distancing practiced during the event.

The Vaughns have been active

community volunteers for over 20 years by supporting the Lynnwood Food Bank, assisting burn victims, and working with kids.

“I love working with kids and teaching kids where food comes from,” said Rachel who is a local farmer. She aims to start a local farm and forest school on their Alderwood property for preschool age children.

Both Eric and Rachel are proud parents

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

5k Holiday Dash: Supporting those who protect us

By **DIO ALEXANDER**

It's finally December and that means holiday celebrations are well underway. Tradition reigns supreme this time of year. For some, tradition means putting up Christmas lights. For others, it's the lighting of the menorah. For others, it's simply being with the ones you love.

For the Edmonds Police Foundation and Support 7, tradition is hosting the Virtual 5k Holiday Dash, which started Saturday, November 28.

Usually the annual 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.

This go-around, participants have until December 31 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.

Registration is \$20 and participants can still register online through December 31 and will receive a commemorative running bib by mail.

Bonnie Oliver of Lynnwood participated with her family. Oliver's husband chartered their path and the family—decked out in their Christmas sweaters—walked the dash in about an hour.

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

Washington could see an 8% decrease in COVID-19 infections with current participation of new exposure app

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

Washington is the latest of more than a dozen states that have enlisted the assistance of coronavirus exposure apps to increase virus mitigation through contact tracing efforts. And yet, even with the technology in place, its effectiveness relies on us.

Since the Washington State Department of Health launched the smartphone app WA Notify on Monday, November 30, more than 14%, or 1.1 million, of Washingtonians have signed up for mobile alerts of individual exposure to the coronavirus within four days of it going live, announced Governor Jay Inslee.

“Secure, private, and anonymous exposure notification technology is an

important tool for Washington,” said Inslee. “We’ve deployed WA Notify in 29 languages so as many Washington residents as possible can protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities. I encourage everyone to start using WA Notify today so we can continue to work together to contain this virus.”

While the state has yet to specify an app adoption goal, health experts say that the greater the number of people who use the app, the more effective it will be in decreasing case counts, with just low levels of participation potentially saving lives.

“WA Notify complements the actions Washington residents are already taking, like wearing masks, physical distancing and keeping gatherings

small,” said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. “We’re excited to be joining the states already using this safe and secure technology and encourage all Washingtonians to join the effort.”

A team of researchers at Oxford University and Google who studied coronavirus exposure notifications in King, Pierce, and Snohomish County earlier this year estimate that if 15% of the population use the app, the region could see an 8% decrease in infections and 6% in deaths. Its effectiveness increases with further app adoption.

The app's effectiveness will potentially be most significant in notifying people who are within close proximity to strangers in public spaces, such as on public transportation, at grocery stores, and other places where an individual is



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

unable to know who the people they're interacting with have been in contact with.

WA Notify tracks exposures that have potential lead to virus infection, de-

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

Statewide COVID restrictions extended to Jan. 4



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

“What we do between now — when COVID activity is still at crisis levels — and the time when vaccines are widely available, is literally a matter of life and death,” Inslee said at a press conference Tuesday morning.

Economic supports

Washington has distributed billions of dollars in federal and state funds to help all of the state’s industries and workers impacted by this pandemic to date, \$50 million going straight to businesses through Working Washington grants.

Inslee was joined by Department of Commerce Director Lisa Brown who announced an additional \$50 million, doubling the number of Washington small businesses that will receive aid. Industries recently shut down, such as restaurants and fitness centers, as well as businesses that have been devastatingly impacted throughout the pandemic, like music and event venues, have been prioritized.

“The needs among our small businesses are profound, and speed is of the essence,” Brown said. “This additional funding allows us to double the number of small businesses we can provide aid to, but we know it’s not enough. As we battle the toughest months of this pandemic, we need Congress to step up

so we can support our businesses and workers as we continue asking them to do these hard things.”

Unemployment Insurance

In addition, Inslee also announced the state’s readiness to step in in the case of congressional failure to extend the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance funding in the CARES Act by the end of the year. Washington will be able to fill some of the funding gap for residents that aren’t eligible for regular UI, such as self-employed workers, freelancers and independent contractors.

“Whether it is through federal or state aid, if Congress fails to act by Christmas, we will step up to help workers and their families who are not covered by pre-pandemic unemployment insurance benefits,” Inslee said.

Restriction extension

The three-week extension of statewide restrictions come as the state’s healthcare system nears dangerous occupancy levels. With the effects of Thanksgiving on infection and hospital numbers still unknown, the extension will grant the state’s medical system much needed time to increase Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity before it’s

overwhelmed.

“We all hoped a fall surge would not materialize. Sadly, that was not the case and our hospital systems continue to be heavily impacted by rising cases,” said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. “It’s important we stay the course right now. We cannot let our guard down, even though it’s hard and we’re tired. We need people to mask up, stay home as much as possible and delay gatherings with anyone outside your home.”

Currently, nearly 80% of ICU beds are currently occupied, with around 1,000 residents in those units. Even in the best-case scenario, hospitals across the state would need to add surge capacity to ensure enough ICU beds to care for COVID-19 patients in the weeks and months to come. In the worst-case scenario, state ICU capacity would need to be doubled before the end of the year.

“They’re not all COVID patients taking up the ICU beds, which is very important to remember: If COVID overwhelms our medical facilities, every other person with a significant medical need will be affected, not just COVID-19 patients,” Inslee said. “We are all, quite literally, in this together.”

By OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Olympia, Wash., December 8, 2020 — Gov. Jay Inslee today announced additional economic supports for workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Inslee also announced a three-week extension of the state’s current restrictions which will now be in place until January 4, 2021.

Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self on her political rise that she never saw coming

By ERIN FREEMAN

The Washington State House Democrats have recognized southwest Snohomish County Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self as the new House Democratic Caucus Chair.

The position was vacated by former Representative Eric Pettigrew, who did not seek reelection. It is the number three leadership position after the speaker and majority leader. She is the first Latina to hold the position in Washington State.

“I am honored and humbled to serve as caucus chair to such a hardworking, talented, committed and diverse group of individuals,” she said. “We have some tough decisions ahead and people are counting on us to get through these unprecedented times. Our caucus has a responsibility to rise to the challenge and together I am certain we will do just that.”

Ortiz-Self has represented the 21st Legislative District since 2013 and has been involved in House Democratic leadership for nearly four and a half years. Before elected Caucus Chair,



Representative Ortiz-Self addressing attendees at Latino Legislative Day with the Mariachi Huenachi at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia, February 22, 2016. Source: Legislative Support Services.

she has served as the Vice Caucus Chair since 2017. In her new position, she will lead caucus meetings, while continuing to serve on the leadership team considering the priorities and policy to set the caucus agenda for the 2021 legislative session.

“I’ve been at the leadership table,

I’ve been very committed to helping our caucus be successful and want to see it continue to move forward,” she said. “When the position came open, I

felt like I had the practice, and I knew very clearly what the job entailed. I felt like I was prepared to do the job. I’m very passionate about making sure our caucus is successful.”

Ortiz-Self also serves on the House Human Services and Early Learning Committee, the Education, Transportation, and Rules committees. She is the co-chair of the state’s Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, as well as a member of the Joint Task Force on Community and Technical College Counselors.

Despite her current extensive involvement in government, a younger Ortiz-Self would’ve never have imagined herself within the political field. Yet, her longstanding passion for community volunteering and advocacy led her to the community representation she is now actively involved in.

Continued PAGE 08 >>

LYNNWOOD TIMES

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>Publisher Mario Lotmore publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>	<p>Staff Reporters Erin Freeman erin.freeman@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>
<p>Advertising Sales David Schirle sales@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>	<p>Dio Alexander editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>

LYNNWOOD TIMES
12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087
P: 425-308-8371 | Website: Lynnwoodtimes.com | Subscription: \$96/Year
(Mail Checks Payable to Lynnwood Times at above address)

Behind Lynnwood Convention Center

KBBQ

우주 코리안바베큐

www.WujuKBBQ.com

Open
11 AM - 10 PM (Mon-Sat)
Sunday - CLOSED
(425) 672-2650

Family, Friends, Group BBQ
Traditional Korean Soups, Stews
BBQ Grill Tables

Potential new Race and Social Justice coordinator in 2021, salary schedule, budget amendments, and fees



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

By **NOEL PAI-YOUNG**

A wide array of topics were discussed by the council at its December 7 work session.

Patrick Decker was introduced as a candidate for a position on the Civil Service Commission. Decker has served on the Planning Commission for six years and is actively involved in Cops and Clergy, a program that seeks to bridge the gap between the police and religious leaders in the community.

City Finance Director, Sonja Springer, reviewed budget amendments and cost of living increases in the labor unions and police bargaining agreements.

“It’s just what it is. It’s a salary schedule,” said Springer.

There was some confusion by councilmembers on allocating monies for a Race and Social Justice Coordinator.

“I thought it was pretty clear... that we wanted to hold back on the Race and Social Justice Coordinator until... we were able to get the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission to be doing

a little bit more research,” said council member Jim Smith.

Springer clarified that it was decided that the position was delayed but that the incorporation of the salary is built-in for when it is decided to fill that position.

“...in this economy... I just get the feeling that overall, this is being slipped in here and we will have zero control in the future. And we don’t even know what it’s supposed to do... We haven’t really done any research,” Smith said.

Council Vice President Shannon Sessions added that it is placed in for potential future use so that it’s ready if they do move forward with it.

“I would hope by our next meeting, we would have the minutes for (November) 23rd that would have the motions that amended the budget because then it could be a little clearer... as what we’re doing with the Race and Social Justice Coordinator position,” said council member George Hurst.

The Director of Economic Develop-

ment, David Kleitsch, addressed an ordinance regarding the Department of Development and Business Services (DBS) that has been in progress since November of this year.

Under the ordinance, the Human Services Commission will be moved out of DBS over to be under Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts. The ordinance was put in place to amend the LMC (Lynnwood Municipal Court) regarding the funding of the Economic Development Infrastructure Fund (EDIF) by changing the allocation of revenues to the EDIF.

The largest amendment for the 2020 budget was for \$1.4 million that was to pay for the Community Justice Center, followed by \$1.18 million to be allocated from the CARES Act.

They wrapped up the meeting with briefly addressing the Salary Commission when Frizzell shared that she spent time with the Lynnwood City Attorney Larson to draft up an ordinance for that in an upcoming session.

A recording of the meeting can be found on the City of Lynnwood’s website at <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/City-Council/City-Council-Meeting-Agendas/Past-City-Council-Meetings-Agendas-and-Minutes>.



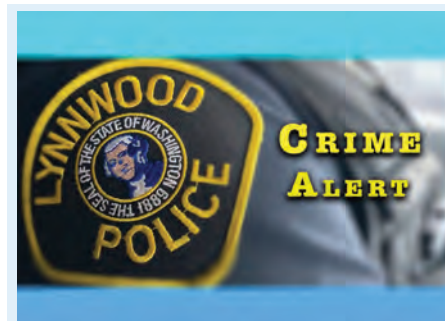
Register Now!

K - 12 After-school Enrichment & Summer Camps

Coding, Robotics, Science & EE

425-405-STEM(7836)

10100 Mukilteo Speedway www.stemtree.com/mukilteo



Around 5:30 p.m. on the night of December 1, the Lynnwood Police Department received a 911 call about a suspicious subject in a backyard in the 5300 block of 170th Place SW which is near Meadowdale High School and the same area that’s been targeted by this thief or thieves throughout the month of November.

Officers were on scene within seconds, and LPD began getting reports of the suspect hopping fences and running through backyards. Multiple K-9 tracks as well as air searches (helicopter and drone) were unfortunately unsuccessful.

The suspect broke into one home in the area before the search scared him off. We want to thank YOU, our community, for your vigilance! Your updates were key in helping officers follow the suspect’s path. Some of you also provided surveillance footage from the timeframe, but what we really need is video that may help us identify this individual.

Remember: check your cameras! Make sure your motion lights will activate! And if you believe you have information about any of these burglaries, please contact Detective Sergeant Dickinson: jdickinson@lynnwoodwa.gov or 425-754-9458.

The Lynnwood Police Department is currently assisting local residents in establishing neighborhood watch groups. For questions and/or help contact LPD’s Crime Prevention Specialists at 425-670-5639.

Mukilteo approves \$43.6M budget

By **MAYOR JENNIFER GREGERSON**

On December 7, following nine weeks of public hearings, the Mukilteo City Council adopted the final 2021 Budget in the amount of \$43,612,116.

Jennifer Gregerson
Jennifer Gregerson, Mayor of Mukilteo
“As the Budget Hearings come to a close, I am pleased that the approvals made at last night’s Council meeting hold true to the values of our shared vision for Mukilteo; a sustainable well-run city with safe, strong neighborhoods,” said Mayor Jennifer Gregerson.

The Mayor presented a budget in early October with three goals: a focus on core services, to identify all possible savings and communicate impacts to services, and to seek funding options to continue preferred levels of city services where possible.

“I am proud of the collaborative effort of our Council and city staff to reach a

conservative budget that meets the time we are in,” Gregerson said.

Highlights from the budget include significant capital projects and funding for priorities. This year will mark completion of the Safe Routes to School sidewalks and pedestrian signals for 76th Street SW and opening of the Harbour Reach Corridor Project which will connect Beverly Park Road and Harbour Pointe.


Public safety was a priority for the Mayor and Council. The Council made no cuts to the Police and Fire Department budgets during their review. The budget includes new funding for Police training that will focus on high-stress situations, retains the Victims Coordinator, Crime Prevention efforts, and the School Resource Officer.

Finally, the budget is fiscally responsible, projected to end the year with 3.2 months of operating costs remaining in reserves. It mirrors the successful 2020 Budget, which turned \$354,000 back into reserves.

CHABAD of SnoCo Invites You to Our

CHANUKAH DRIVE THROUGH

Featuring a 5-Ft Ice Menorah by Cascade Sculptures



✓ Covid Safe

✓ Menorah Kits

⚡ LED Performer

📷 Professional Photo-Op

🍩 Chanukah Doughnuts & Treats

🌟 Meet Judah Macabee

RSVP required JewishSnohomish.com/ChanukahRide

LYNNWOOD CITY HALL 19100 44TH AVE W • SUN DEC 13 • 4:30-5:30 PM

Culp campaign alleges Wyman allowed 900,000 to vote in state illegally



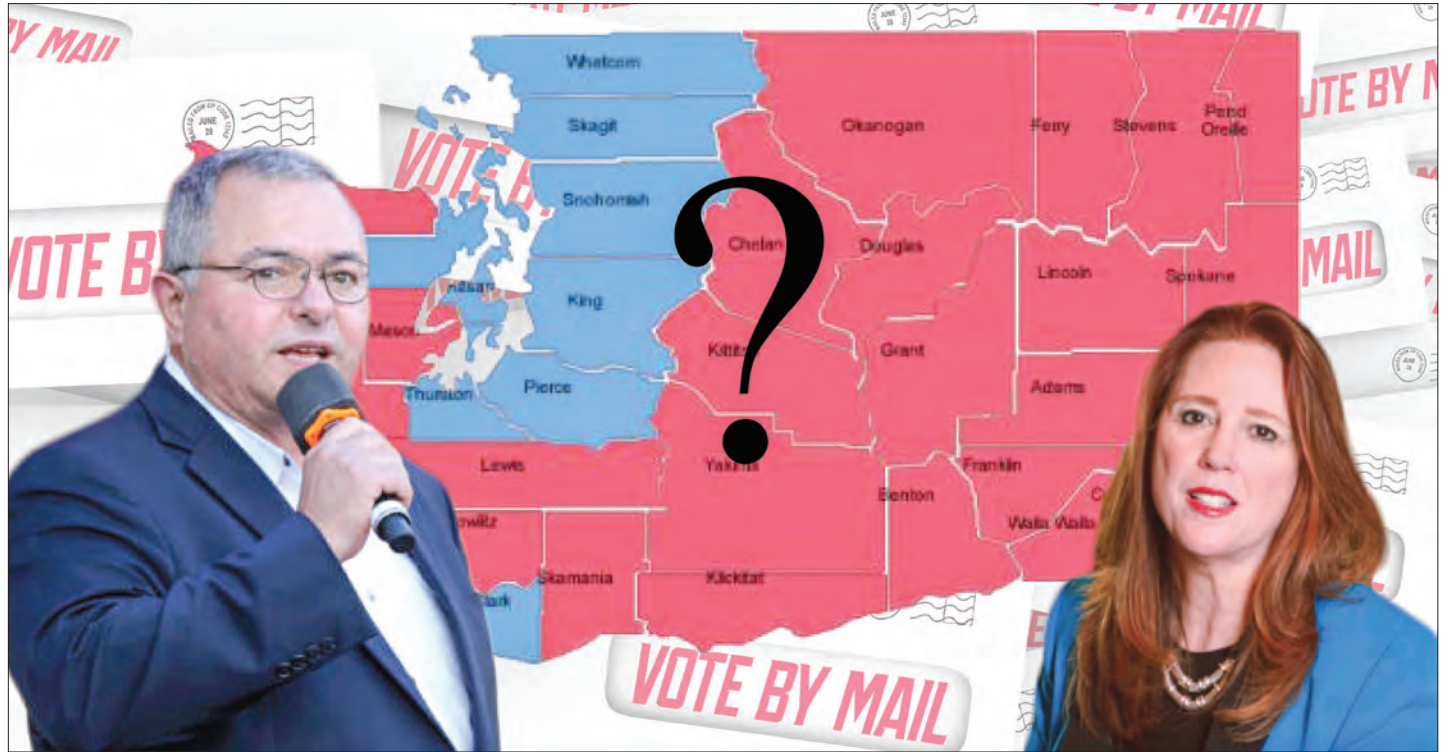
Behind the front door of a Leisure Care community, there's so much more than people would expect.

Behind every exciting experience, there's a **team of passionate experts.** And behind everything we do, there's an unsurpassed commitment to cleanliness, that keeps everyone at ease.

Because behind each Leisure Care community is nearly **50 years of experience** creating environments where seniors thrive.



6520 196th Street SW
Lynnwood • (425) 243-6431
LeisureCare.com



By **MARIO LOTMORE**

December 4, 2020 – Today in a 2 p.m. live broadcast on the Culp for Governor campaign Facebook page, Stephen Pidgeon, accompanied by Loren Culp, alleged that 886,161 votes cast in the 2020 gubernatorial election appear to be from voters not registered in the Washington state's voter registration database.

Pidgeon went on to state, that if these votes are considered illegal, Culp won the gubernatorial race.

Stephen Pidgeon is an immigration and criminal law attorney in Everett, WA. Pidgeon ran for Attorney General for the state of Washington in 2012. Pidgeon is Loren Culp's attorney and also claimed the results of the gubernatorial race were predetermined.

"When you have a candidate who doesn't campaign, who doesn't raise funds, who doesn't put out any bumper stickers or put out any yard signs and then declare himself the victor before the first vote is counted, you have an indicia that somebody knew that the numbers were prefixed," said Pidgeon.

Pidgeon shared the that the Help America Vote Act protects the integrity of elections. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) passed by the United States Congress (House 357-48 and 92-2 in the Senate) in 2002 to reform the country's voting process. It was signed into law by President George Walker Bush on October 29, 2002. The bill was a response to the voting irregularities of the 2000 U.S. presidential election.

According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, HAVA establishes mandatory minimum election standards for states.

"The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC

is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures"

According to HAVA, all new registrants must provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number with their registration application to be registered to vote. If the applicant has not been issued one of these numbers, the State must assign a unique identification number for voter registration purposes.

Pidgeon stated that Wyman has an obligation under federal law to maintain an accurate and current voter registration list. He continued to assert that voting machines are subject to federal certification and criticized the current Secretary of State, Kim Wyman, for not certifying these machines.

"There is only one group in the nation that is federally certified to do that [certified the voting machines] and that group is called Pro V&V. And they have not certified any of these machines since 2017."

According to its website, Pro V&V verifies software performance and regulatory compliance. Pro V&V certified Dominion Voting System's software Democracy Suite 5.0 in 2017. Today, the Dominion System uses a software called Smartmatic which has come under some controversy by critics stating the Dominion software can be manipulated to alter voting results.

In a statement released by Secretary of State Kim Wyman on December 4, she refuted the allegations made by Pidgeon and implied that he is

misinforming residents as there are two companies not one that are approved by the Election Assistance Commission to certify voting machines — Pro V&V, Inc. and SLI Compliance.

"Before any system can be certified for use, it must be tested by an Election Assistance Commission- accredited, independent testing authority. There are currently two laboratories that provide this testing at the federal level — Pro V&V, Inc. and SLI Compliance, a division of Gaming Laboratories International, LLC. Then, prior to use in Washington state, election systems undergo review by our independent state Election System Certification Board. All systems in use in Washington state have undergone this testing by both state and federal authorities.

"Also prior to every election, including the 2020 General Election, the Office of the Secretary of State presides over tests performed by county election offices to ensure the accuracy of the vote-counting equipment."

Wyman wanted to clarify that only Franklin county uses the Dominion Systems in the state of Washington.

"Franklin County is the only county in Washington state that uses a version of Dominion Voting Systems software and hardware. The system in use has been certified, and no issues have been identified.

"Additionally, neither the Dominion software in use in Franklin County nor any software used throughout the state relies on any technology provided by Smartmatic. In fact, Smartmatic released information last month about its supposed connection to election systems throughout the country."

Pidgeon claimed he has evidence that the 2020 gubernatorial election was overwhelmed with fraudulent ballots to offset a win for Culp's opponent, Governor Jay Inslee.

A total of 4,056,454 votes were cast in the 2020 gubernatorial election in which Governor Jay Inslee won with 56.56% of the vote. Vote breakdown: Inslee – 2,294,243, Culp – 1,749,066 and write-in – 13,145. Culp lost the

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

NWWS 80th Annual International Open Exhibition

The top three winners of the Northwest Watercolor Society (NWWS) 80th Annual International Open Exhibition are recognized as fine watercolor artists internationally and by NWWS also. The online only exhibition is currently live now through February 1, 2021 at www.nwws.org.

Internationally known juror Ron Stocke awarded first place of \$2,000 cash to Dongfeng Li for his painting, "A Breath of Fresh Air." "He paints with a brush in one hand and a foam roller in the other," Stocke said of Li, "and he builds up these lovely formed paintings. Just master class." Li was born and raised in China but moved to the U.S. in 1992 and is an associate professor of art at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

Second place of \$1,300 went to Janine Helton of St. Charles, Missouri for her painting, "Bubbly." At the virtual awards reception October 30th, Stocke said, "There's one thing about portraits I particularly look at – does the painting capture the personality and soul of that person." Stocke went on to say he didn't know the person in "Bubbly" but felt like he does now "simply by looking at Janine's painting."

Karen Mai based in Hong Kong received \$800 for her 3rd place award of "Nap at the Sawmill." "This is what watercolor is all about," Stocke said. "The values, the shapes, the lines, the



Dongfeng Li's "A Breath of Fresh Air"



Janine Helton's "Bubbly"



Karen Mai's "Nap at the Sawmill"

perspective, the composition – everything about this painting is working."

NWWS congratulates these top three winners along with 12 other winners in the exhibition. Ron Stocke had his work cut out for him to narrow 674 entries from 38 states and 12 countries, down to 75 paintings. A number of the artists who are in the exhibition are also internationally known. Check out the show and see why NWWS's 80th is truly an international exhibition.

To hear Ron Stocke's own words on why he chose each watermedia painting and to see the exhibition please go to www.nwws.org. You can also view the Exhibition on the NWWS YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAdo5zmbn0A>.

Sound Transit CEO on navigating light rail expansion during COVID-19



Snohomish County

- A** Lynnwood Link Extension – Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood
- B** Everett Link Extension
- C** Sounder parking and access in Mukilteo and Edmonds
- D** I-405 BRT – Lynnwood to Bothell

Beginning in 2024, Sound Transit is not expected to run bus's to Seattle, but rather feed buses into the Lynnwood Transit Center every 30 seconds during peak hours. Rogoff says he and his team have completed an extraordinary amount of work and expensive rebuilding in partnership with Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith, now a member of the Sound Transit board, to work to ensure the transit center has

the structure and capacity to do so.

"Sound Transit is expected to use many of its bus hours once spent crawling in traffic trying to get people Downtown Seattle will instead get people on Lynnwood Light rail, which will get them to Downtown Seattle a lot quicker than the highways allow," explained Rogoff.

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

By **ERIN FREEMAN**

CEO of regional transit provider Sound Transit Peter Rogoff held a virtual coffee chat with the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County on the morning of December 8, conversing with community members about the latest light rail project updates and COVID-19 impacts.

The Link light rail, a transit system serving the Greater Seattle Area, is undergoing the largest expansion program in North America, a soon to be 116-mile-long rapid transit network connecting Snohomish County cities to neighboring counties.

Back in April, when Governor Jay Inslee began issuing statewide executive orders related to construction services, Sound Transit had to stand down 80% of the light rail's construction activity. Using the time to formulate safety plans, they were soon able to restore almost all of it, with very little time penalties to the project.

"By the end of 2024, you will be able to take light rail through a true network that can extend from downtown Redmond, up to Lynnwood, down to Federal Way, and all the stops in between," explained Rogoff. "It will be the network that the region has needed for a very long time."

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

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

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

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

"Or whatever is in their hearts," he added.

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

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

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

Food drive aimed at keeping ESD families full and warm throughout the holidays

By ERIN FREEMAN

The Lynnwood community worked to support its local teenager population, donating necessities and gifts at a drive-thru food drive and teen clothing drive at Lynnwood City Hall.

To support vulnerable teen youth through the holiday season, the city of Lynnwood joined the Foundation for Edmonds School District: Nourishing Network and the Holly House on Friday, December 4, hosting the food and teen clothing drive.

City of Lynnwood Healthy Communities Coordinator Marielle Harrington stood outside city hall collecting donations for Nourishing Network, a program offering food and resource assistance to the Edmonds School District's (ESD) homeless youth and their families, for the fourth year in a row.

In the past, the collection has been focused on the city of Lynnwood employees, with departments competing to see which can contribute the largest sum of donations. However, due to this year's coronavirus-induced telecommuting efforts, they opened the



City of Shoreline resident Nina donates socks and homemade items. Lynnwood Times photo by Erin Freeman.

drive up to the community, additionally holding a teen clothing drive through partnering for the first year with Holly House, a program providing holiday gifts and necessities to ESD low-income students.

"I do think that people tend to be in more of a giving mindset approaching the holiday, but a lot of people are

struggling this year, so not as many people are in the same position they may have been in the past; that's okay," said Harrington. "Every little bit helps—nothing is too small."

Foundation for Edmonds School District Director of Nourishing Network Programs Thame Fuller says that the Nourishing Network has seen

a significant increase in demand from ESD families, serving more families than they ever have. They're currently serving 437 families per week through week and weekend meal kits, with an additional 300 on a monthly plan.

The demand is higher, but the generosity has been greater than ever," he said. "We are so very thankful for everyone who is working together to help out students, our families, our neighbors in need."

Nina, a city of Shoreline resident who works in the Lynnwood area, stopped by the event with a bag of socks and hand crochet beanies to be donated to ESD youth.

"I know kids always need socks and could use some of the crochet things I do," she said. "I also promoted this as an event on my Facebook page. I'm trying to get our community to help out these kids because they can't do anything about what's happening to them."

Free masks were also available for participants, an ongoing offer at events held by the city of Lynnwood throughout the pandemic.

Body found at Edmonds College identified as man missing since October



Sawyer West, 29, before his disappearance.

By ERIN FREEMAN

A body found outside an Edmonds College storage building has been identified as Sawyer West, a man

who had been missing since October.

West, 29, died by suicide, said the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

A statewide search for West commenced after he left a group home in Edmonds, last seen jogging out from the driveway on October 16. He was diagnosed and living with schizophrenia.

A maintenance worker found West's body around 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, by a building that stores maintenance equipment in the 7000 block of 196th Street SW. The Lynnwood Police Department responded to the scene.

"No amount of words or tears or pleading and prayers could explain the deep sorrow and pain my heart is in," said sister Paisley West. "My family received the news that after 35 torturous days of searching, my brother's body was found...this isn't the outcome I wanted, this isn't the story I wanted to tell."

West fought a hard battle against the mental illness, his schizophrenia conceiving auditory hallucinations, hearing voices within his mind that appeared real.

"He... succumbed to the awful voices in his head," said friend Jamae Wiederhold. "He desperately wanted to live life without those demons haunting him day in and day out, while knowing there's no way

to fully get rid of them. My heart breaks that Sawyer thought this was the only way."

West's sister says her only current peace is in knowing his hallucinations have been silenced but grieves the loss of her brother and the pain he endured through his illness. Continuing, she says West was more than her brother, but her greatest source of love; his illness her biggest source of sadness.

"Schizophrenia is the cruelest disease," she said. "For years it tried to destroy my brother, yet his kind, loving, and sweet heart never faltered...he loved loudly, and suffered silently...how brilliantly he fought, and how beautifully he showed himself to the world."

On November 22, West's family held a vigil, with plans to host a formal celebration of life in the future. A memorial is set up on the trail around the Lynnwood Golf Course on the north side behind the Cedar building of Edmonds College. The family plans to visit the vigil daily for the time being and welcomes additions to the display.

A fitness trainer and childhood friend of West, Chloe Puff, is hosting a virtual fitness fundraiser on Saturday, November 28, to support the family in hosting a memorial service for West. For more information about the workout classes offered and schedule, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/433819791347055>.

STAR*TOONZ with Dr. HORACE SCOPE

On December 17th the planet Saturn leaves the Sign of Capricorn and enters the Sign of Aquarius. This suggests a time to think less of personal or material gain. It is better spent working for the benefit of all, embracing also established scientific truths.

 ARIES: <i>Maybe I can find ways to express my own freedom of action, but for others around me also?</i>	 TAURUS: <i>Maybe a good chance to work harder at providing strong foundations for others to build upon?</i>	 GEMINI: <i>Could be a good time for me to consider communicating common truths that benefit us all?</i>	 CANCER: <i>I've always felt the need to nurture others beyond my close family. Maybe now?</i>
 LEO: <i>Sounds like a time for leaders to take the floor and lead from the front! At last, my time has come!</i>	 VIRGO: <i>I've always liked to help those I care about. Maybe I can help everyone, and not just a few?</i>	 LIBRA: <i>A time for non partisans to step up and unite? I never really liked the tribal thing myself!</i>	 SCORPIO: <i>I like to work under the radar if I can. Even beautiful flowers start their life in darkness.</i>
 SAGITTARIUS: <i>Could be a great opportunity for my restlessness to take others to new horizons?</i>	 CAPRICORN: <i>I've always worked hard all my life. Maybe it's time for others to do the work for a change?</i>	 AQUARIUS: <i>I've always respected the individuality of others. Maybe its time for others to respect mine!</i>	 PISCES: <i>I normally like to dream of better times. But maybe it's a time to work for them also?</i>

Meet your "astrological self" through a STAR*YOU video. 6-minutes long & no two are ever the same! <https://www.startoonz.com>

from page 4 **900K ILLEGAL VOTES**

election by 545,177 votes.

In his 10-minute presentation, Pidgeon shared that when analyzing the Secretary of State's database, only 3,230,733 voters that voted in the 2020 gubernatorial election were registered voters in the state of Washington – a difference of 886,161. He continued to state that the database also contained 300,000 voters that left the state, some of which voted in another state.

“Mr. Pidgeon's claim that only 3.2 million people voted in the 2020 general election is false. Nearly 4.2 million people voted in the Nov. 3 election,” said Wyman. “No evidence has been presented to suggest that 10,000 ballots were cast for deceased voters, or 300,000 people who moved out of Washington state fraudulently voted as Mr. Pidgeon alleges.”

Pidgeon, critical of Secretary of State Kim Wyman, further alleges that the Washington state's voter registration database has never been maintained when compared to that of the United States Postal Service's database. He suggests that the Secretary of State's Office compares the state's voter registration database against the USPS database.

“USPS will give them [Secretary of State's Office] back all of those addresses with a 9-digit zip code, and will verify who moved, what their change of address is, and whether that address is deliverable,” said Pidgeon. “We have a database now that is what you would call anomalous... you have a problem with 886,161 votes that don't appear to be registered voters in the state of Washington that nonetheless voted in the state of Washington.”

Wyman, defended the Secretary of State office's voter registration maintenance process.

“Voter-roll maintenance is conducted on an ongoing basis by county election officials. The Office of the Secretary of State works with county election officials, the Department of Licensing, the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections, the Office of the Administrator of the Courts, the Social Security Administration, and the

Electronic Registration Information Center to improve the accuracy of voter registration data. Each month, the Office of the Secretary of State receives a list of deceased people from the Department of Health and the Social Security Administration. These lists are compared to the voter registration list. Potential matches are flagged for research by the county elections offices and are removed if the person is found to be deceased. If evidence is found someone voted on behalf of a deceased person, county election officials forward that information to the county sheriff and prosecutor for further investigation and potential prosecution.

“County election officials work with their mailing vendors to modify the format of mailing addresses included in the voter registration database to ensure the U.S. Postal Service equipment can read and sort accurately using CASS-certified address validation software. This process ensures the ballots will be mailed to the proper address using the most efficient route, not that the addresses were invalid as claimed by the Culp campaign.

Wyman criticized Culp for his lack of evidence and not presenting his findings with county election officials.

“If Mr. Culp, his attorney, or anyone else believes they have evidence of fraud, I urge them to report their findings to their county election officials and the Secretary of State's Office. As a member of law enforcement who purports to have evidence of felonies, Mr. Culp should be duty-bound to provide that evidence to the appropriate authorities so these cases can be investigated by county sheriffs and prosecutors, and possibly the FBI.

“The Office of the Secretary of State takes allegations of voter fraud seriously. If anyone has evidence of voter fraud being committed in Washington state, I implore you to provide that evidence to your county elections official and/or the Office of the Secretary of State.”

According to the Secretary of State's website, there are 4,873,115 register voters on the state of Washington as of December 1, 2020.

MONEY MATTERS

Your Year-End Financial Checklist

By **PAUL ELLIS, CIMA®**



The end of the year can help remind us of last-minute things we need to address and the goals we want to accomplish. To that end, here are some aspects of your financial life to think about as this year leads into the next.

Keep in mind, this article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice. Make certain to contact a tax or legal professional before modifying your tax strategy. The ideas presented are not intended to provide specific advice.

Your investments. Set a goal to review your investments with your financial professional. You'll want to come away from the meeting with an understanding of your portfolio positions. Look over your portfolio positions and revisit your asset allocation. Remember, asset allocation and diversification are approaches to help manage investment risk. They do not guarantee against investment loss.

Your retirement strategy. You may want to consider contributing the maximum to your retirement accounts. It's also a good idea to review any retirement accounts you may have through your work. This is also a great time to decide on making catch-up contributions if you are eligible.

Your tax situation. It's a good idea to consider checking in with your tax or legal professional before the year ends, especially if you have questions about an expense or deduction from this year. Also, it may be a good idea to review any sales of property as well as both realized and unrealized losses and gains. Look back at last year's loss carryforwards. If you've sold securities, gather up cost-basis information. As always, bringing all this information to your financial professional is a smart move.¹

Your charitable gifting goals. Plan charitable contributions or contributions to education accounts and make any desired cash gifts to family members. The annual federal gift tax exclusion allows you to give away up to \$15,000 in 2020, meaning you can gift as much as \$15,000 to as many individuals as you like this year, tax-free. Such gifts do not count against the lifetime estate tax exemption amount, as long as they stay beneath the annual federal gift tax exclusion threshold. Besides outright gifts, you can explore creating and funding trusts on behalf of your family. The end of the year is also a good time to review any trusts you have in place. Using a trust involves a complex set of tax rules and regulations. Before moving forward with a trust, consider working with a professional who is familiar with the rules and regulations.^{1,2}

Your life insurance coverage. The end of the year is an excellent time to double-check that your policies and beneficiaries are up to date. Don't forget to review premium costs and beneficiaries and think about whether your insurance needs have changed. Several factors could impact the cost and availability of life insurance, such as age, health, and the type of insurance purchased, as well as the amount purchased. Life insurance policies have expenses, including mortality and other charges. If a policy is surrendered prematurely, you may pay surrender charges, which could have income tax implications. You should consider determining whether you are insurable before implementing a strategy involving life insurance. Finally, don't forget that any guarantees associated with a policy are dependent on the ability of the issuing insurance company to continue making claim payments.

Life events. Here are some questions to ask yourself when evaluating any large life changes in the last year: Did you happen to get married or divorced this year? Did you move or change jobs? Did you buy a home or business? Was there a new addition to your family this year? Did you receive an inheritance or a gift? All these circumstances can have a financial impact on your life as well as the way you invest and plan for retirement and wind down your career or business.

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

Citations

1. turbotax.intuit.com, October 20, 2020
2. irs.gov, September 19, 2020

2020 HOLIDAY DASH

Presented by
EDMONDS POLICE FOUNDATION & SUPPORT 7

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

Register now through the end of the year at www.Support7.org today!

from page 1 **VAUGHN FAMILY**

of a son who is currently attending Central Washington University in Ellensburg and a daughter who recently joined the Air Force.

“Our community is in need and our greater community is in need,” Rachel told the Lynnwood Times when sharing her inspiration for building the neighborhood’s Blessing Barn – a pantry of both books and food for neighbors to use. She expressed concern to the rising need of food during the holidays.

“We are big fans of think globally act locally. If everybody does their part in their neighborhood, we will do great.”

Anita and Scott McMahan were grateful to the Vaughn Family for having the event.



(L-R) Rachel Vaughn and Eric Vaughn with neighbor Anita McMahan staying warm at the bonfire. Photo by Mario Lotmore.

“They do so much for our community,” said Anita. “They always try to bring

our community together and we are thankful for that.”

from page 1 **WA NOTIFY**

efined by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention as an individual coming within six feet of another person for a total of at least 15 minutes over 24 hours.

According to the Department of Health, when two people who have activated the app are within this distance, their smartphones exchange random codes via Bluetooth. The code is completely anonymous, with no location tracking or exchange of personal information. In other words, it is completely private and doesn’t know or track who you are or where you go.

When anyone in the state tests positive for the coronavirus, public health workers will reach out to them, asking if they have activated WA Notify and if so give them a verification code. That person can then voluntarily enter the verification code into the app.

Other WA Notify users who have been near the user who tested positive and

chose to enter their code, for a significant amount of time within the previous 14 days, will receive an anonymous alert that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. They are then asked to quarantine and get tested.

The notification received has a link to information about what they can do to protect themselves and others. It does not contain information about who tested positive or where the exposure may have happened.

“People are understandably concerned these days about being tracked and having their personal information compromised,” said Associate Professor Stefano Tessaro with the UW Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering. “However, the technology behind WA Notify has been vetted by security and privacy experts across the world, and it does not collect or store any information that personally identifies its users. I plan to add WA Notify to my phone and I will encourage my friends and family to use it as well.”

The use of the app is completely voluntary; iPhone owners are able to activate exposure notifications in their settings application, and Android users are able to download the app.

Where we are now

In the past two weeks (Nov. 15 through Nov. 21), there have been 2,568 new coronavirus cases throughout Snohomish County, according to the Snohomish Health District.

The target for new COVID-19 cases is 25 or less per 100,000 residents over 14 days. According to Snohomish Health District data on the county’s COVID-19 activity between November 15 and November 21, the county is above the 25 case maximum, sitting at 300 cases per 100,000 residents. Case activity has increased since the last report released a week prior, with 278 cases.

As of December 2, between November 15 and 21, the county data on the number of administered average daily tests

“We are hardworking, God fearing, honest people that care for one another,” Scott added. When asked how he is coping with the COVID pandemic during the holiday season, Scott shared, “I am bored to tears; but out of respect for my family, my neighbors and my community, the prudent thing for me to do is to wear my mask, stay at home, until we get through this and we will get through this!”

When asked for their Christmas message to readers, The Vaughns replied, “Giving each other grace and being patient...that’s our wish.”

per 100,000 residents is unavailable, with the testing positivity rate unavailable as well. For the weeks prior (Nov. 8 through Nov. 14) 225 people on average were tested daily, with a 9.9% positivity rate. Positive test results should stay under two percent each week.

New hospitalizations per 100,000 residents per week have occurred, with a daily count of 59 hospitalized with the coronavirus per week between Nov. 15 and 21, increasing from 49 from the two weeks prior. However, the county is meeting its mark with hospitalization, sitting at 78%, below the threshold of 80% of hospital beds occupied.

Since January, Snohomish County has seen 13,910 coronavirus cases of which 268 died of COVID as of November 21. Lynnwood has a total of 2,061 cases since January 2020 resulting in 32 deaths.

from page 2 **ORTIZ-SELF**

“That’s something I’ve been involved with my whole life, and I learned from my mom about the importance of helping your community be successful,” said Ortiz-Self. “I always feel like I stumbled into this because it was never something I ascribed to do. What I’ve always ascribed to do, is use every platform I ever stumble upon to be a voice for those who don’t have one.”

Before entering politics, she began volunteering within Snohomish County on numerous boards and within several organizations. She was eventually asked to become the Commissioner of

Hispanic Affairs for former Governor Christine Gregoire’s Administration. From there, she became the Chair of the Commission for Hispanic Affairs, serving for five years.

“That took me statewide and gave me a bigger advocacy voice,” said Ortiz-Self. “The stories from our children and families that I heard locally- I was able to take to a state level and make sure that up to the governor’s office, that they were aware of these communities that don’t often have a voice.”

Ortiz-Self has always been within the public sector, identifying and working towards resolving the needs of her communities. Her background in

mental health counseling and education has helped her hear a multitude of stories of Washington families, now helping her identify gaps of service that exist.

“Despite the work experience we have, our stories from those experiences are what we bring to the table, and we relate to people based on that,” she said. This is not something I ever thought I would ever be doing but when these doors open and we walk through them, we can then turn around and open them for others. That’s what I will keep doing in this and any position... government is for the people and I want it to be for everyone.”

from page 5 **SOUND TRANSIT**

The Lynnwood Link Extension will bring the light rail into Snohomish County, serving four stations in 2024. Then the Everett Link Extension planned for 2036 will add six Snohomish County stations. Stretching 16.3 miles, it will be the longest segment that Sound Transit proposed to open all at once.

from page 1 **5k HOLIDAY DASH**

Oliver, formerly Support 7’s bookkeeper, signed up for this year’s dash.

“It was something fun to do as a family,” Oliver said.

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

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.

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

According to Sessions, Support 7 has registered 45 participants and raised approximately \$900 as of December 5. EPF President Gail Welfringer, told the Lynnwood Times that her organization has registered 30 participants and so far, raised \$2,225 of December 6.

The Holiday Dash’s goal is to fund equipment and provide educational opportunities for law enforcement officers not funded by the City of Edmonds.

To register for the Virtual 5K Holiday Dash or for more information about the event and/or both organizations go to www.edmondspolicefoundation.org or www.support7.org.