

# LYNNWOOD

# TIMES



**Parklet-Gate...  
Mukilteo  
bureaucracy  
hurting business**  
P.04



**Lynnwood  
welcomes its first  
ever Home Depot  
store**  
P.06



**Is a Kamala Harris  
presidency on the  
horizon?**  
P.02

**Real News ⚡  
Real Impact**

## These are 13 US service members killed in the Kabul airport suicide bomb attack



Top (L-R): Marine Corps Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Marine Corps Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola. Middle (L-R): Marine Corps Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, and Marine Corps Corporal Daegan W. Page. Bottom (L-R): Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, Army Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Darin T. Hoover Jr., Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, and Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

On August 26, 2021, 13 United States service members — 11 Marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Army staff sergeant — were killed in a suicide attack at Kabul’s Karzai International Airport that also claimed more than 160 Afghan lives. Another 15 U.S. service members and 143 Afghans were wounded.

Here are the heroes who died in the line of duty evacuating thousands of Americans and Afghans after the disastrous U.S. withdrawal led to a Taliban takeover.

**Navy Corpsman Maxton “Max” W. Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio:** Soviak was assigned to 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. A GoFundMe page started by family friend Jason Garza had raised more than \$54,000 as of Saturday night.

**Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, of Norco, California:** Nikoui was stationed Camp Pendleton. Steve Nikoui, Kareem’s father, is critical of the execution of the US evacuation.

“I’m really disappointed in the way that the president has handled this, even more so the way the military has handled it,” the elder Nikoui told the Daily Beast in an interview. “The commanders on the ground should have recognized this threat and addressed it.”

**Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Missouri:** Schmitz was on his first deployment and was sent to Afghanistan from Jordan.

**Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, California:** Gee, a maintenance technician with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, assisted women and girls at Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport as they fled Taliban repression.

**Marine Corps Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California:** Merola arrived in Kabul less than two weeks before he was killed in Thursday’s attack. A GoFundMe campaign has been organized to assist Merola’s family.

**Marine Corps Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez,**

**22, of Logansport, Indiana:** Indiana Rep. Jim Baird identified Sanchez in social media posts, writing that the Marine, a 2017 graduate of Logansport High School, “bravely answered the call to serve his nation.”

**Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts:** Rosario was a member of the US Marine Corps’ Female Engagement Team.

In May, she was honored by her unit, the Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, for successfully completing and submitting the Dormant Accounts Review Quarterly (DAR-Q) to HQMC in a timely manner that allows the Marine Corps to meet the Department of Defense’s goal of passing a full financial audit.

**Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Darin T. Hoover Jr., 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah:** Hoover, of Utah, had been in the Marines for 11 years. He was a former

Continued **PAGE 11** >>



**Christine Frizzell**  
for Mayor of Lynnwood



Primary Election Final Results:

**MAYOR OF LYNNWOOD**

1st Place  
**Christine Frizzell - 45%**

2nd Place  
**Jim Smith - 31%**

Christine and Jim advance to the General Election on November 2nd

Số phiếu bầu của bạn - Cảm ơn bạn đã bỏ phiếu

귀하의 투표 수 - 투표해 주셔서 감사합니다

Tu voto cuenta: gracias por votar

صوتك مهم - شكراً لك على التصويت

Ваш голос имеет значение - Спасибо за голосование

Your Vote Counts - Thank you for voting

# Is a Kamala Harris presidency on the horizon?

By **GEORGE FTIKAS, JR.**

Questions about President Joe Biden's ability to lead due to his age and health have perpetuated since his candidacy, but there are those who point to Biden's withdrawal from Afghanistan as a "demonstrable fact" of incapability.



According to the latest RealClear Politics (RCP) poll dated 8/14 to 8/26, Biden has a 47.4% approval rating and a 48.4% disapproval rating. Kamala Harris, on the other hand, has a lower approval rating at 41.3% with a disapproval rating of 49.3% RCP shows.

While it is debatable whether a Kamala Harris presidency is imminent, the Lynnwood Times wanted to take a look at presidential succession and what—if anything—could change with Harris in charge.

There have only been nine vice presidents who have succeeded the president throughout the history of the United States. The most recent example is Gerald Ford becoming president after the resignation of Richard Nixon on August 9, 1974 following his impending impeachment from the Watergate scandal. Nixon's example is also the only resignation—the other eight suc-

ceeded due to the death of the president.

Provided the individual meets the constitutional requirements to serve as president, the current line of succession for the president is:

1. Vice President, Kamala Harris
2. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi
3. President pro tempore of the Senate, Patrick Leahy
4. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken
5. Secretary of the Treasury, Janet Yellen
6. Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin
7. Attorney General, Merrick Garland
8. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland
9. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack
10. Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo
11. Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge
14. Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg
15. Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm (ineligible—naturalized citizen, not natural-born)

16. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona
17. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough
18. Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas (ineligible—naturalized citizen, not natural-born)

As for a Kamala Harris presidency, there is no clear agenda she would focus on. Harris did personally request to tackle Republican efforts at voting restriction and has essentially become the face of the Southern border migrant crisis, but this is under Biden's administration. That being said, in the past, Harris has supported measures Biden has not.

Harris was a co-sponsor for Senator Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All bill in 2017, whereas Biden has been vocal for his support of bolstering Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Harris was also a co-sponsor of the Green New Deal which called for restructuring the American economy to tackle the increasing effects of climate change. While Biden calls the Green New Deal a "crucial framework," his

*Continued* **PAGE 12** >>

# Afghanistan: An end to the United States' longest war

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – The last U.S. military plane departed Afghanistan on Monday night, officially ending the longest war in U.S. history while Taliban fighters celebrated driving out the world's most powerful military from one of the world's poorest countries.

The Taliban, who governed the country under a radical interpretation of Islamic law from 1996 to 2001, now control all of Afghanistan other than the Panjshir province where a few thousand members of Afghanistan's collapsed security forces have pledged to resist Taliban rule.

In addition to facing the challenge of governing one of the poorest and war-stricken nations in the world, the Taliban face many security barriers, more recently involving the radical Islamic State's suicide bombing at Kabul airport, which killed 169 Afghans and 13 U.S. service members, and rockets being fired at the airport on Monday, the New York Times reported. The Taliban vow that Afghanistan, under their rule, will no longer be a base for terror

attacks.

In a press conference on August 26, the president pledged that the United States would "hunt down" those responsible for the Kabul airport attacks and has asked the Pentagon to develop plans to strike back.

The U.S. and its allies infiltrated Afghanistan shortly after the September 11 terror attacks, which Al-Qaida organized under Taliban rule, driving the Taliban from power and dispersing top Al-Qaida leaders such as Osama Bin Laden to surrounding territories. The U.S. and its allies invested billions of dollars to attempt to rebuild Afghanistan after decades of war in a Western-style government. While the U.S. steered its focus to conflicts in Iraq, the Taliban regrouped in the surrounding country of Pakistan, leading to their eventual takeover earlier this month.

"I have a mixture of emotions [about the Taliban taking over Kabul]," Jared Rinehart, former Lynnwood resident and U.S. Marine Core Veteran serving in the Middle East, told the Lynnwood Times. "I wanted it to mean something,

but when this event happened, I think it confirmed that for me that there was no big purpose, and that hurts."

Rinehart clarified that he does not believe the efforts of him and his comrades were pointless, but the retreat by U.S. forces has left him wondering why they were deployed in the first place.

On April 14, 2021, President Joe Biden announced the removal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021, an extension of the Trump administration's original peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government to evacuate by May 1.

"The United States will begin its final withdrawal...on May 1 of this year," Biden said. "We'll not conduct a hasty rush to the exit. We'll do it responsibly,

deliberately, and safely."

In 2019, the Trump administration set out to start negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government and signed the peace deal on February 29, 2020.

The agreement with the Taliban was conditions-based which included not allowing members, individuals, or groups, including Al-Qaeda, to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies.

"After the announcement of guarantees for a complete withdrawal of foreign forces and timeline in the presence of international witnesses, and guarantees and the announcement of international

*Continued* **PAGE 12** >>

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<p><b>PUBLISHER</b> Mario Lotmore publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p><b>MARKETING SPECIALIST</b> Dio Boucsiequez sales@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p><b>REPORTERS</b> Kienan Briscoe kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com</p>	<p><b>Bo Brusco</b> bo.brusco@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p><b>George Ftikas Jr.</b> george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p><b>Ren Cummins</b> ren.cummins@lynnwoodtimes.com</p> <p><b>Gerti Katro</b> gerti.katro@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)



**READI SPAGHETTI**  
FAST-ITALIAN-KITCHEN

**NEW!**

Grab-a-Bucket

**\$13.00**

feeds 2-4 people

*Please present this coupon at store to receive offer. Online ordering and delivery available*





12822 Mukilteo Speedway, Lynnwood, WA  
Next to Taco Time

**425-212-9866**

Mon-Sat 10am-10pm • Sun 12pm-9:30pm

# Lynnwood's Decker and Mukilteo's Crocco advance to General Election

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.** – After a tense several of days for candidates in two local races, recounts have confirmed current Lynnwood Councilman Patrick Decker will face Naz Lashgari; whereas, Alex Crocco and Steve Schmalz will vie for Mukilteo City Council Pos. 3.

After the August 3rd Primary Election, only three votes out of 5,932 determined who will fill the second slot in the General Election for the Lynnwood City Council Position 2 race. Patrick Decker, current Lynnwood City Councilman, retained his slight lead over Don Gough, former mayor of Lynnwood.



"I am deeply grateful for the members of the Lynnwood community who voted for me and helped me win the Primary," in an email statement from Councilman

Decker to the Lynnwood Times. "This is a testament that my core issues, Public Safety, Traffic, and Growth Management are important issues which resonate deeply with my neighbors across this great city.

"It is critical that Lynnwood properly manages these challenges today, and tomorrow, to ensure Lynnwood continues to be a family friendly, prosperous, safe community for folks from all

walks of life. I certainly could not have achieved this success without the help of the great team of volunteers and advisors who have helped along this path. I owe them a great deal for their efforts.

"Folks can learn more about my vision for Lynnwood at [www.PatrickCDecker.org](http://www.PatrickCDecker.org), or on Facebook at [@ElectPatrickCDecker](https://www.facebook.com/ElectPatrickCDecker)."

Patrick Decker will face Naz Lashgari, winner of the Lynnwood City Council Pos. 2 race with 35.06% of the vote. Lashgari, former chair of Lynnwood's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, provided the following emailed statement to the Lynnwood Times:



"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people of Lynnwood who voted for me and helped me win the primary. I am grateful that the Lynnwood Community wants to see Lynnwood move forward with a new voice and perspective on the Council. I am humbled by your vote of confidence.

"As your Council member, I will be proactive in growth management, Public Safety, affordable housing, and healthcare Equity, while continuing to embrace policies that promote Lynnwood as a safe, responsible, and welcoming City.

"I assure you; that I will take your vote

of confidence and trust in me and my expertise, in Earnest and will work diligently to fulfill the community's vision for Lynnwood with outmost transparency and integrity.

"For those of you who did not vote for me in the primary, I hope that I can earn your support for the General election in November. I would be a strong advocate for Lynnwood to be a safe, livable and welcoming city."

"Thank you again for your vote."

## Mukilteo Recount Election Results

Alex Crocco, a newcomer to politics, Army veteran and management consultant will advance to face former Mukilteo City Councilman Steve Schmalz in the General Election. Seven votes gave Crocco the narrow win over Carolyn "Dode" Carlson. Dode is a beloved community leader in Mukilteo as president of the Mukilteo Seniors Association and former president of the Mukilteo Community Garden.



"I want to thank Dode for the help she provided me," Crocco told the Lynnwood Times. "This was my first run for political office and she helped me throughout the process and I am grateful for her friendship."

## \$6M ARPA uses discussed during Mukilteo CC meeting

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

**MUKILTEO, Wash.** – Mukilteo City Council revisited how to use their America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding award of almost \$6 million during the meeting on August 16.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, the city was awarded \$5,985,212, which can be used over the next few years to offer relief to residents and businesses suffering losses from the COVID-19 outbreak.

Council previously discussed this topic in the council's June 5 retreat and July 19 business meeting, but since then, City Administrator Steve Powers, along with other executives, have considered council's previous feedback and consolidated options.

The ARP funding concepts are as follows:

- **Embedded Social Worker:** Contracted with the Snohomish County Human Services Department; a total line-item cost of \$160,000.
- **Body Cameras and IT Support:** 33 cameras plus accessories with the first year funded by State Criminal Justice Reform funds; a total line-item cost of \$50,000 plus \$100,000 for a Network Engineer.
- **Expanded City Communications:** Additional outreach materials (digital/print media) with a total line-item cost of \$60,000.

- **City IT Infrastructure:** Hardware, software, website revamps, translation services, and more with a total line-item cost of \$1,120,000.
- **Rehire Rosehill Staff:** Return to pre-pandemic levels of service for Rosehill; a total line-item cost of \$61,000.
- **Community Outreach:** Funds consultant assistance to help determine resident's and businesses' needs; a total line-item cost of \$20,000.
- **Business Grants or Programs:** Various business grants/programs. Specifics will be determined after focused outreach to the business community; a total line-item cost of \$1 million.
- **Nonprofit Grant Program:** Potential support for a food bank, seniors, youth programming; a total line-item cost of \$200,000.
- **Resource COVID Navigator FTE:** Assistance to residents and businesses to access ARPA resources; a total line-item cost of \$100,000.
- **Lodging Tax Funding:** Replace lost LTA revenue: keep existing programs whole in 2022 and 2023; a total line-item cost of \$140,506 and \$400,000 to support new events.
- **Local Currency: Muk Bucks:** Fund the launch of a local tradable currency; a total line-item cost of \$25,000.
- **Direct Community Stimulus:** Fund direct assistance to community households; a total line-item cost of \$250,000.

- **Utility Assistance:** Assist residents and businesses with past-due water, sewer, and stormwater bills; a line-item item of \$110,000.


These ARPA funding concepts for Mukilteo total \$3,896,506 allocated funds, leaving \$2,088,706 unallocated for future years and programs. City staff asked council to consider authorizing some of these programs as soon as September 7.

"I'm very pleased that we've included the moneys to help those in need that are unable to pay their bills – I think that's essential because that's fundamentally what this money is initially laid out for," Council Vice President Bob Champion said about the utility assistance, a mandatory line item in his opinion.

Councilwoman Sarah Kneller also believed the utility assistance is a necessity and wished to see the funds cover more core utilities such as heating and electricity, particularly leading into winter months.


One shared belief amongst the council was involving the community to discuss how these funds would be allocated, although there was some disagreement as to how, exactly, council would ensure such community involvement.

Bob Champion shared that when he



**FAIRWINDS**  
BRIGHTON COURT


*It's More Than Retirement.  
It's Five-Star Fun.*



Your new lifelong friends are waiting.

At Fairwinds – Brighton Court, the day is always yours. With a variety of classes, activities, and social events, you can play as much or as little as you'd like. Our friendly staff plays friend-maker too, making sure all new residents find the social scene that works best for them.

*You'll feel the difference at [FairwindsBrightonCourt.com](http://FairwindsBrightonCourt.com)*

(425) 243-6431  
6520 196th Street SW  
Lynnwood, WA  
[FairwindsBrightonCourt.com](http://FairwindsBrightonCourt.com)  
A LEISURE CARE PREMIER COMMUNITY

Continued **PAGE 12** >>

# Parklet-Gate...Mukilteo bureaucracy hurting small business

By MARIO LOTMORE

**MUKILTEO, Wash.** – The City of Mukilteo is again embroiled in another outdoor dining controversy, but this time it’s Mayor Jennifer Gregerson at the center of it.

With a ten-member Planning & Community Development department, the City is unable to approve the 4-page permit to allow outdoor dining at the parklet for Ivar’s Mukilteo Landing citing it does not have a permit examiner on hand to review and approve the permit.

Parklets are spaces for people to sit and rest while taking in the activities from the street, or in Ivar’s case, the sea.

Mayor Gregerson told the Lynnwood Times that the permit for the parklet on the opposite end of the restaurant adjacent to Silver Cloud was issued because the restaurant was allowed to operate at reduced capacity. But now, the restaurant is operating at 100% indoor capacity and would need new permits for a parklet by the old ferry terminal.

In a city-wide email, Mayor Gregerson elaborated further on the matter.

“I am hopeful that we can work together to make this concept happen for next year,” she wrote in her email. “Last year, with reduced indoor seating, we were able to process a temporary use through our shoreline, land use and floodplain permitting process. This year, the situation is different. With full capacity inside, adding tables outside triggers parking needs. There are some possible paths (leasing parking across the street, for instance), it was still complicated.”

The Lynnwood Times drove around Mukilteo to observe if other restaurants currently have outdoor dining. Red Cork Bistro, often frequented by Mayor Gregerson, was the only establishment within the city limits of Mukilteo with an area for outdoor dining.

Although Tapped Mukilteo has a Mukilteo address, it is not located within the city limits of Mukilteo; it is technically located in unincorporated Snohomish County. The Lynnwood Times is unable to find any outdoor dining permits on the County’s portal for Tapped Mukilteo but is attempting to confirm if a permit from the County is required for outdoor dining.

According to the City of Mukilteo’s online permit portal, Red Cork was issued a permit on December 22, 2020, only 13 days after it applied for an outdoor dining space in front of its restaurant. The permit expired on June 22, 2021, but as you see from the picture that was taken Saturday, August 28, 2021, it is still in use.

## Mukilteo Bureaucracy and Parklet Background

Ivar’s Mukilteo Landing, located on the shores of Possession Sound overlooking the beautiful Puget Sound has been providing dining services for many years. After the relocation of the Mukilteo/Clinton ferry in December of last year, Bob Donegan, president of the local seafood restaurant, began discussions with the City and Port of

Everett at the beginning of this year to provide outdoor dining on the vacant parklet adjacent to the restaurant.

After months of discussions with both City and Port of Everett officials, and three design plans later, the Port of Everett, who owns the parklet, authorized Ivar’s to operate outdoor dining on its land. The design implemented was agreed upon by the city of Mukilteo. The City had intentions to acquire the property but that fell through.

After obtaining approval from the governor’s office, the Port of Everett decided to hold onto the parklet having Ivar’s cover the annual expense to maintain it.

On August 5, Ivar’s began its outdoor dining services in the parklet. The Mukilteo Fire Marshall who reports to Mayor Gregerson, on August 6 told Ivar’s in-person at the restaurant, that they will need flood, shoreline and land use permits, and added that the exit gate was two inches to short which Ivar’s management simply picked up and moved to comply with the requirement.

“We work with governments,” Donegan, Ivar’s President, told the Lynnwood Times. “We don’t do things outside the law or in violation of governments. We find if we go to people when we are planning stuff and get their advice before we do a design, then we are more likely to have a quicker turnaround and have more cooperation.”

Within hours the restaurant was able to obtain a lease agreement for the additional 13 parking spaces required by the city. Later it determined that the \$3,000 costs of improvement to the parklet fell below the minimum \$7,000 which exempted Ivar’s from the public hearing requirement the city was attempting to impose on the restaurant before it could use the space.

However, the Director of the city’s Planning & Community Development department, Dave Osaki, who also reports to Mayor Gregerson, told Donegan that the city is unable to process the 4-page permit because it does not have a permit examiner on hand.

According to the city’s website the department is made up of a Community Development Director, a Planning Manager, a Building Official, a Senior Planner, an Associate Planner, a GIS Coordinator, a GIS Technician, a Permit Service Coordinator and two Permit Assistants. There is a vacancy for an Assistant Planner.

Donegan informed the Lynnwood Times that as of yesterday, Mayor Gregerson has yet to return his call nor replied to his voicemail from Tuesday August 17.

“We have a good relationship,” Donegan told the Lynnwood Times. “I don’t know if she is on vacation. It is not like her to not respond to requests.”

Lisa Lefeber, CEO for Port of Everett, would like the City of Mukilteo to allow the Port to give Ivar’s the authorization to operate in non-traditional areas due to the pandemic. Currently the Port



Ivar’s Mukilteo Landing located at 700 Front St. with the vacant parklet ready for outside dining. Source: Mario Lotmore/Lynnwood Times.



Red Cork Bistro located at 11700 Mukilteo Speedway on August 28, 2021. Source: Mario Lotmore/Lynnwood Times.

Address:	Status:	Submitted: 12/9/2020	Inspections:
11700 MUKILTEO	Application	Approved: 12/21/2020	Required: 2
SPDWY #405	is finalized.	Issued: 12/22/2020	Complete: 2
MUKILTEO, WA		Closed: 12/24/2020	
98275		Expired: 6/22/2021	
Parcel			
#: 0044140000401			
Project:			
to cover the existing outdoor dining space in front of the restaurant to make a usable dining space for patrons during inclement weather			

Snapshot Red Cork Bistro’s permit from the City of Mukilteo’s online permit portal. Source: Mario Lotmore/Lynnwood.

of Everett has similar understandings with other restaurants in Everett such as Anthony’s, Blue Water Distilling, Lombardi’s, Jetty Bar & Grill to name a few.

“Ideally it would be nice if it [outdoor dining for Ivar’s] were allowed today, so the community could enjoy a little bit of waterfront dining before the weather turns,” Lefeber told the Lynnwood Times.

On Monday, Ivar’s withdrew its permit application and was told by the City that it will be refunded the permit fees of more than \$1,000. Ivar’s is currently out the landscaping expenses it invested for the property.

Donegan hopes the city can issue an administrative exemption which is within the authority of Mayor Gregerson, issue a conditional temporary approval, or request assistance from a neighboring city for a permit examiner. He shared that this not only affects Ivar’s but everyone who visits the waterfront.

“We can’t legally occupy it and the public can’t legally be there; therefore, it will have to be fenced in,” said Donegan.

**Now Enrolling for 2021-22 School Year!**  
**Preschool / Kindergarten**



**DR. JUN'S INSTITUTE OF MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

6009 168th St. S.W. Lynnwood WA 98037  
 Call 425-742-2644  
 info@drjunsmontessori.org

On October 28, 2003, a massive wave from a storm hit the waterfront causing damage to the Ivar’s Mukilteo Landing building. The storm also knocked out power throughout Mukilteo and ferry terminal operations were suspended for hours. Donegan told the Lynnwood Times that the city was “so good to work with” as he rebuilt the restaurant.

Because of that working relationship, Donegan describes as “so great,” he decided to build and open Ivar’s Chowder plant across from Mukilteo City Hall.

“Mukilteo was so easy to work with,” said Donegan. “Mukilteo is not easy to work with anymore and we don’t know what changed.”

# Hundreds of Arlington students receive school supplies thanks to VOAWW and local churches

By KIENAN BRISCOE

ARLINGTON, Wash. – The Arlington Assembly, in partnership with Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW), the Arlington School District, and Life Church 360, hosted a Back-to-School Celebration Saturday, August 14, that provided over 500 hundreds students school supplies going into the 2021 school year.

In addition to the free school supplies, including backpacks and books, and connecting the community with literacy programs and health care resources, the Arlington event provided a safe place for families and community members to enjoy a day of free entertainment and food.

“The main thing is getting families reconnected coming back out of COVID and getting supplies and resources in their hands,” Taunya Sanchez, Children’s Director for Arlington Assembly, told the Lynnwood Times.

The Back-to-School celebration first began in 2012 when Sanchez was working as a volunteer at the youth church. After receiving several calls from the Arlington School District asking to help children find backpacks, she realized there was a much bigger picture that needed addressing. Sanchez sat down with local churches, Community Health Center, and other entities, to brainstorm how they could connect families with the resources.

Arlington Assembly took a 5-year break once the Arlington School District began providing school supplies to students.

“The backpacks are the benefit, but it’s about reconnecting with the families,



Back-to-School event in Arlington. Source: Lynnwood Times/Kienan Briscoe.

making sure they have medical insurance, answering questions, and just trying to stay in touch with families that need that special touch,” Sanchez said.

Typically an event like this to provide 1,300 backpacks takes a year of planning. But with only six weeks to plan, the team was able to provide 536 backpacks to students. Sanchez, along with Caroline Neal, Site Director for the Arlington Community Resource Center, hope with more time to plan next year, they can expand the program to include haircuts, dental vans, and even mammograms.

“Our ultimate goal, at the end of the day, is we just want our families to know that their community loves them. We support them and we’re here for them,” Sanchez told the Lynnwood Times.

Working in partnership with the Arlington Assembly is Western Washington’s Volunteers of America branch, which began over one hundred years in Everett as an outpost of the Seattle-based affiliate. Initially it offered programs that centered on the Men’s Rehabilitation Center and thrift stores. By 1927, services expanded to meet the area’s growing needs, and the outpost became a separate branch of National Volunteers of America.

Between 1927 and 1978, the chapter grew to include several new programs including a Sunday school, youth programs, and Camp Volasuca, a summer camp in Sultan. In 1971 and 1974, through many local partnerships, new camp facilities were built including a large and small A-frame and bathhouse.

In 1985, the national office granted a charter to begin to operate as a Washington State nonprofit corporation.

“Our neighbors are in need, and we need to be their direct contact. Many people don’t even know who their neighbors are – that’s what we need to get back to,” Tina Mandela, Site Director with the Lake Stevens Community Resource Center, Volunteers of America, told the Lynnwood Times.

Dan Spano, the lead pastor for the Arlington Assembly, believes this event’s return is a step in the right direction to provide the community with the resources and support. After this year’s success, he told the Lynnwood Times the church, “without a doubt,” would host events in future years.

“We love the community aspect of it. Different churches are involved and different people of the community all coming together – it’s just awesome,” Pastor Spano told the Lynnwood Times.

Volunteers of America, in collaboration with Lake Stevens School District, will host a similar Back-to-School event this Saturday, August 21 from 2-4 p.m. at VOA Lake Stevens Community Resource Center on 9015 Vernon Road. The event is drive-thru only and free or reduced meals will be offered thanks to the Hungry Hearts Foundation. Participants will need to provide a valid proof of their child’s enrollment within the Lake Stevens School District.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Volunteers of America Western Washington can reach out to Tina Mandela at [tmandela@voaww.org](mailto:tmandela@voaww.org) or call 425-405-2252.

## Garden Senior Village

6425 196th St. S.W., Lynnwood

NOW LEASING AFFORDABLE ONE & TWO BEDROOMS...CALL 425-775-0881

An affordable 55+ community with all the conveniences for the Lynnwood lifestyle!

Enjoy dining, shopping, three grocery stores, salons, gyms, and more within a 10 minute walk!



## Councilmembers discuss broadband with FCC Chair

EVERETT, Wash. – This morning, Snohomish County Councilmembers Nate Nehring and Sam Low joined Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-01) for a conversation about rural broadband with Acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. The meeting, held via Zoom, included select broadband stakeholders sharing their collective goal of expanding reliable broadband access to residents and businesses across our region.

Councilmembers Nehring and Low highlighted the work of the Snohomish County Broadband Action Team (BAT), created in 2020, to bring internet access to rural parts of the County.

BAT is a collaboration of community leaders in education, healthcare, business, first responders, local government, and broadband providers who

focus on developing strategies for expanding broadband within Snohomish County.

“It was an honor to join Congresswoman DelBene and Acting FCC Chair Rosenworcel to discuss opportunities to expand internet access to rural communities in Snohomish County and throughout our region,” said Councilmember Nehring.

The meeting also highlighted the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program which helps households afford internet service. A link to providers in your area can be found here.

“I appreciate Acting FCC Chair Rosenworcel and Congresswoman DelBene for meeting with us to discuss the critical infrastructure needs in our rural

communities,” said Councilmember Low. “We need to continue to move forward on these programs to ensure our constituents are provided the access they need for work and educational opportunities.”

FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced that over five million households are enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program since its launch in mid-May of this year.

“Enrolling five million households into the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program in a little over three months is no small feat. This wouldn’t have been possible without the support of nearly 30,000 individuals and organizations who signed up as volunteer outreach partners,” said Rosenworcel. “I’m grateful for the tremendous work

the agency and our partners across the country have spearheaded over the last few months. Through our analysis and conversations with partners, we heard the need for more granular data and today’s data release provides us all new opportunities to target and engage eligible families who may qualify for EBB but haven’t yet enrolled. Information is power. We’re ready to put this new data to work.”

EBB’s goal is to provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if

# Lynnwood welcomes its first ever Home Depot store

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.** – Lynnwood’s first Home Depot department store held its grand opening today, August 26, at 184th St. SW, across from Alderwood Mall. This 108,779-square-foot store is the fourth of six Home Depots planned in 2021 and the first location to open in the area in 10 years.

The location approved by the Lynnwood City Council at its May 13, 2019 business meeting.

The store has several features the company is rolling out as part of its strategic investments to enhance the customer and associate experience. It features an optimized, more flexible checkout and customer service area, specialty showrooms with new merchandising displays and layouts, a garden center, a tool rental center, and amazing new storage areas for customers’ buy online/pickup/in-store orders, a shopping option that has more than doubled within the last couple years in volume.

Another new feature rolled out by the company, and debuting at the Lynnwood location, is a contactless board where customers can scan a QR code relating to a specific project they may be working on and remotely connect with one of Home Depot’s many providers for advice and expertise.

Managing the new location is Mill Creek resident Angela Rivera, who, for the first time in her 27 years with the company, can finally say she works in the same community as where she lives.

“When I saw this store’s big sign in the dirt, I said, ‘this is my next home.’ For a long time, I haven’t had the opportunity to work in a city I live in, so I thought this would be really personal,” Rivera told the Lynnwood Times. “Part of our culture is growing within the community and being able to offer local positions and grow wealth, not only for the associations but for the community.”

Rivera began working for Home Depot as a cashier while attending college in San Diego. She was initially attracted to the company because it was a flexible way of maintaining a job while being sensitive to her school schedule. Throughout her almost three-decade career, she has worked in the train-



Lynnwood Home Depot Grand Opening on August 26, 2021. Mario Lotmore / Lynnwood Times.

ing center, managed the location in Bellevue for 7 years, served as operations manager in South Center for 1 1/2 years, served as district operations manager for 11 stores in the district, managed West Seattle for 2 years and Redmond for 4. Now she looks forward to bringing her seasoned resume and her passion for community involvement to the city of Lynnwood.

“When I started as a cashier, at no point did I imagine I’d be running a multi-billion dollar company, but here I am, running a multi-billion dollar company,” Rivera told the Lynnwood Times.

Home Depot Lynnwood has many plans to engage in its community that are already in fruition from working with the Eagle Scouts to donating \$5,000 to the PAWS animal shelter. The location even offers classes and youth programs that teach the public DIY projects and home construction skills.

The store also offers construction projects for kids to learn the basics of hands-on craftsmanship. While these features are currently held virtually, Rivera hopes the Lynnwood location can begin offering these in-person as



Angela Rivera, store manager of the Lynnwood Home Depot. Mario Lotmore / Lynnwood Times.

soon as it is safe to do so.

“We live by values – they’re on our aprons. There are a lot of values that we live by every day – respect, doing the right thing, and taking care of our people,” Rivera told the Lynnwood Times.

Of its 200 associates, about 140 were externally hired and 63 were brought in from other locations. The hiring pro-

cess began in June with the first set of employees undergoing training at the Bothell and Everett locations to gain first-hand customer service experience as well as role-playing and vendor events to learn product knowledge from the experts themselves. Once the Lynnwood location began receiving inventory in early July, these employees began carrying out their training at their home store.

Rivera prides herself on the diversity of her team and the family-like relationship they share. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, she was presented a mug by her staff that said “Mom,” encompassing the motherly role she’s taken in creating a workplace where her team feels supported and welcomed.

“I like the sense of community. It’s like a family at this store,” Rivera said.

The staff at Home Depot’s Lynnwood location vary in gender, age, and backgrounds from retired persons wanting to get back in the workplace to people returning from the effects of the COVID outbreak. To Rivera, the diversity of her staff adequately represents the diversity of the area and city of their new home store.

“I love the diversity of the area that we

Happy Hour

1/2 Price Appetizers

3pm-6pm








For locations  
buzzinnsteakhouse.com

# Taste Edmonds returns with rocking music and tasty treats



## TASTE EDMONDS RECAP

**EDMONDS, Wash.** — Edmonds Chamber of Commerce’s Taste Twenty One festival kicked off with a blast August 20 through 22, offering three days of live music, food trucks, corn hole tournaments, and a two-acre beer garden to thousands of attendees.

After a year off due to the pandemic, the festival returned as a 21-and-up event at Frances Anderson Center Field, just one-fifth the size of Civic Park, where the festival has taken place in previous years. Construction at Civic Park brought the change in venue.

The venue change led the Chamber to drastically modify the programming, distilling the event to focus on live music, the beer and wine garden, 8-10 food trucks, and a few select major sponsors. Additional vendors could not

be featured this year.

Based on the reduced capacity and higher production costs, day-of ticket sales leaped from \$5 to \$30 this year. The ticket sales support free community events in Edmonds, events such as the 4th of July Parade, the fireworks show, Halloween trick-or-treat night, Edmonds Classic: Car and Motorcycle Show, and the tree lighting ceremony.

In addition, Taste raises thousands of dollars which is donated to local nonprofits and service clubs. On Sunday, in recognition of the less-than-ideal weather, tickets were also reduced as a “crappy weather discount” to only \$10.

On August 3, the Edmonds City Council unanimously approved The Taste Edmonds event contract for 2021,

marking the return of this widely anticipated summer outing.

Many rocking music acts took the stage, including One Love Bridge, Heart by Heart, Hair Nation, and the Beatniks on Friday; Petty Thief, Prom Date Mixtape, The Infinity Project, Washed in Black, and the Atomic Punks on Saturday; and Robbie Dee’s Tribute to Elvis, Mas Tequila, Whiplash Smile; and Nite Wave on Sunday.

While festival-goers enjoyed tributes to classic rock and the 1980s, they had the opportunity to enjoy some tasty treats from an assortment of food trucks, including Alaska Weathervane Scallop, Edmonds College, Island Creamery Concessions, Kaleenka Piroshky, Langostino Sushi Burrito, The Cheese Pit, and Thai-U-Up, paired

with a list of craft breweries and wine by local winery Proletariat in the beer and wine gardens.

The Taste was sponsored by Alaska Airlines, Columbia Distributing, Constellation Brands, The Everett Clinic Edmonds, Tulalip Resort Casino, and the following premium members:

- Windermere Edmonds WA
- DME CPA Group PC
- The Trike Stop Childcare Center & Preschool
- Fortive Corporation
- Edmonds Yacht Club
- FIS Foundation for International Services
- First Financial Northwest Bank
- Ameritrust
- Beresford Booth PLLC
- WILL CHEN, CPA, PLLC
- Rotary Club of Edmonds Day-breakers
- Coastal Community Bank
- North Sound Church
- Workhorse HQ
- Community Transit
- Maverick Gaming
- Zapora Consulting
- Sound Estate Planning
- Beck’s Tribute Center
- Harbor Square

Tracy Balmores is the winner of the Taste Twenty-One raffle for Alaska Airlines tickets!

As with the sponsors, the event could not be made possible without its humble and hard-working volunteers. For more information on volunteering for future Taste festivals or other Edmonds Chamber’s community events visit <https://edmondschamber.com/volunteer/>.

# With a mask mandate in effect, how effective is your mask?

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.** — On August 23, Proclamation 21-14.1 requiring facial coverings in an indoor setting for both vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals goes into effect throughout Washington state. Violators may be found guilty of a gross misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of 364 days in jail and/or fines up to \$5,000.

The order, announced by Governor Jay Inslee last Thursday, comes after a rise in COVID cases and hospitalizations throughout the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that people in high transmission areas should continue to wear a mask indoors to maximize protection from the Delta strain and prevent possibly spreading it to others.

Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District, told reporters in last Tuesday’s COVID-19 briefing that the Delta strain is a “game changer” for Snohomish County and that a single delta case on average will spread to 5-8 other people when compared to 2-3 people for previous strains.

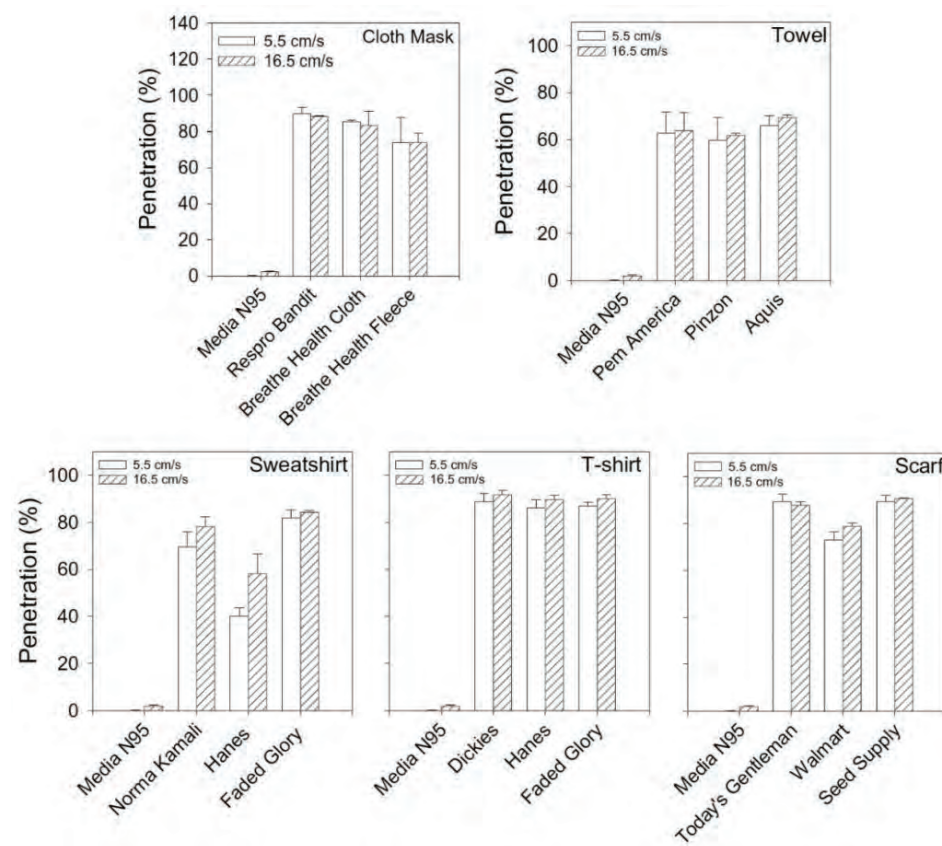
### Filtration Performance of Facial Coverings

The Lynnwood Times reached out to the Snohomish Health District to in-

quire on the effectiveness of wearing a mask. We were provided a link to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) briefing on the use of cloth masks to control the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

The CDC recommends non-valved

multi-layer cloth masks, to prevent the respiratory transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as masks act as a barrier to prevent or reduce respiratory droplets from reaching others. They further state that masks also help reduce inhalation of these droplets by the wearer.



Aerosol (NaCl polydisperse) penetration for levels of (a) cloth mask, (b) towel, (c) sweatshirt (d) T-shirt, and (e) scarves at two different face velocities compared with N95 mask. Error bars suggest a trust level of 95% [17]. Source: The Annals of Occupational Hygiene, Volume 54, Issue 7, October 2010, Pages 789-798, <https://doi.org/10.1093/annhyg/meq044>.

However, the relative filtration effectiveness of a mask varies. For example, the CDC states that multiple layers of cloth with higher thread counts have demonstrated improved performance compared to single layers of cloth with lower thread counts.

In terms of its aerosol filtration efficiency, N95 masks outperformed all surgical masks and facial cloth coverings. The study by Samy Rengasamy, Physical Scientist at the CDC, concludes that cloth masks and other fabric materials tested have a 40-90% instantaneous penetration level against aerosols following the the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) particulate respirator test protocol at 5.5 cm s<sup>-1</sup>.

### Mask Effectiveness: Size Does Matter

A nanometer is one billionth of a meter. The diameter of a SARS-CoV-2 cell is roughly 100 nanometers or 0.1 microns (one micron = one millionth of a meter). The diameter of a human hair ranges from 17 to 180 microns or 17,000 to 180,000 nanometers.

Respiratory droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, laughing, talking, or breathing have diameters ranging from 0.6 to more than 1000 microns, according to Nikolaos Stilianakis with

# Australia's authoritarian pandemic measures spark protests

By **BO JOHN BRUSCO**

As the Australian government seeks to tighten its grip on COVID-19, citizens voice their outrage. As getting fresh air and watching sunsets can land Australians an infringement fine, many are labeling the country's COVID-19 response as authoritarian. While Australia grapples with the virus amid the civil upheaval, New Zealand and France experience similar struggles.

## COVID-19 IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has seen a surge of protests these past weeks in response to the country's constrictive coronavirus measures. From Melbourne to Sydney, Australians crowded the streets with chants of freedom to demonstrate their disapproval.

Australia's strict lockdown strategy will be enforced until 70% of the population is vaccinated. In an interview last Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, "You can't live with lockdowns forever and at some point, you need to make that gear change, and that is done at 70%."

According to Rueter's recent report, 60% of the 25 million Australians are currently under lockdown. The article notes how the stay-at-home orders often last for months and have "taxed the patience of many." Citizens across the island have begun to voice their frustration.

## ANTI-LOCKDOWN PROTESTS

On Saturday, August 21, thousands of maskless protestors clashed with police in Melbourne, Australia, according to The Guardian's report. Video footage of the incident from ABC News (Australia) shows citizens crowding the streets to be met by police dressed in riot gear — some on horseback. Police used shields to press back against the crowd and doused multiple protestors with tear gas.

From The Guardian's previously mentioned report, Australian police estimate about 4,000 demonstrators gathered in Melbourne. In the aftermath, six officers were hospitalized, and police reportedly made 218 arrests. Each arrestee was fined \$5,452 for "breaching public health orders."

Another video from DW News captures some of the violent altercations between protestors and police officers in Melbourne and similar confrontations during a large protest in Sydney where 1,500 extra officers had been deployed.

The Guardian's report details police efforts to prevent large-scale protests in Sydney. "Trains were not allowed to stop at city centre stations," reads the report. "Police also issued 137 tickets after stopping around 38,000 cars approaching Sydney."

In Brisbane, ABC News (Australia) reported seven and a half thousand protestors taking to the streets, echoing the same anti-lockdown refrains.

The Guardian also reported how New South Wales Police Minister, David Elliott, expressed his disappointment with the protestors. "That small minority has again chosen to blatantly ignore the



## PROTESTS ERUPT AROUND THE GLOBE

very clear, repeated warnings of NSW police, which is disappointing, frustrating and — frankly — disgraceful," he said.

"The actions they have taken are likely to prolong the very lockdown they were protesting about."

Brad Hazzard, the Health Minister of the same state, responded to these protests saying, "There is no time now to be selfish. It's time to think of the broader community and your families. If you are actually spreading the virus," he continues, "you could be responsible for people's deaths."

## STRICT MEASURES

Stay-at-home orders have been in place for months now in Australia. In Sydney, the country's largest city with 5.3 million people, citizens have been locked down in their homes for over two months, according to a recent Reuters report.

This trend is expected to continue. The Guardian stated on August 25 that in New South Wales, the lockdowns have officially been extended until September 10, with larger cities like Sydney expecting to remain in lockdown until September's end.

There are harsh consequences for Australians who don't adhere to the country's COVID-19 rules. As Reuters reported on August 22, New South Wales police issued "940 fines in the past 24 hours for breaches of public health orders."

## SHELTER DOGS EXECUTED IN AUSTRALIA



Some of Australia's extreme COVID-19 precautions have yielded morbid conclusions. The Sydney Morning Herald covered one such example. On August 22, the Herald reported that "several impounded dogs due to be rescued by a shelter have instead been shot dead by a rural council in New South Wales

under its interpretation of COVID-19 restrictions."

The decision to execute the dogs was made by Bourke Shire Council to "prevent volunteers... from travelling [sic] to pick up the animals last week."

The council's watchdog, the Office of Local Government, made a public statement regarding the matter, saying, "OLG has been informed that the council decided to take this course of action to protect its employees and community, including vulnerable Aboriginal populations, from the risk of COVID-19 transmission."

The OLG also made it clear that they are investigating as to whether "companion animal and cruelty prevention laws had been broken," the Herald reported.

According to the Herald's source, "shelter volunteers were distressed and had COVID-safe measures in place to handle the dogs, one of which was a new mother." Animal rights activists have since spoken out against the decision. Visit [smh.com.au](http://smh.com.au) for the full story.

## SENDING POLICE AND CHOPPERS AFTER BEACH-GOING TEENAGERS

At Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, authorities arrested a group of teenagers on August 20. Their offense was continuing to gather after dark during Sydney's strict COVID-19 lockdown. Onscene Bondi, a local news organization, reported that police were called following a "positive sighting from the Police Helicopter which was conducting a proactive search of the cliffs."

When police arrived on the scene, they struggled to locate the group that the helicopter had previously spotted. Onscene Bondi details how officers had to use "thermal imaging" to identify "at least two people in the rocky area" of the beach.

As police began to move on the ground, helicopter operators demanded the group on the beach to leave rocks, but they ignored the commands and continued to evade police. Ultimately, with the help of PolAir, an Australian Aviation Support Branch whose primary functions are search and rescue and counter-terrorism operations, the group of young beachgoers were detained.

The Onscene Bondi reported that "a total of eight young males were taken into custody and some were handcuffed after initially refusing to cooperate and evade police." The boys were between the ages of 15 and 19.

Photos of the incident can be viewed at [onscenebondi.com.au](http://onscenebondi.com.au).

## NO FRESH AIR AND SUNSETS WITH AUSTRALIA'S LOCKDOWNS



Another example of how strict Australia's COVID-19 measures have become is clearly illustrated in comments made by New South Wales's Police Deputy Commissioner, Gary Worboys. According to The Canberra Times's report, during a public address on August 17, Commissioner Worboys said, "the time was over for warnings and cautions."

The news article noted how almost 18,000 police in New South Wales have begun "issuing infringement notices to people flouting tough new health orders, armed with the power to fine individuals up to \$5000."

The police response has been strict and precise due to the country's efficient contact tracing system, which enables authorities to track transmissions and infections among citizens. Commissioner Worboys gave an example of how this information can be used during his public addresses.

Worboys described a specific scenario wherein authorities arrived at a man's home and "found a person that should be there wasn't there. They made a number of inquiries, and not that long after that person returned to the front of the house in a motor vehicle."

After stating that police filed an "infringement notice" against the individual, Worboys explained that the

Continued **PAGE 10** >>



# Washington's electoral districts: Gainers and Losers

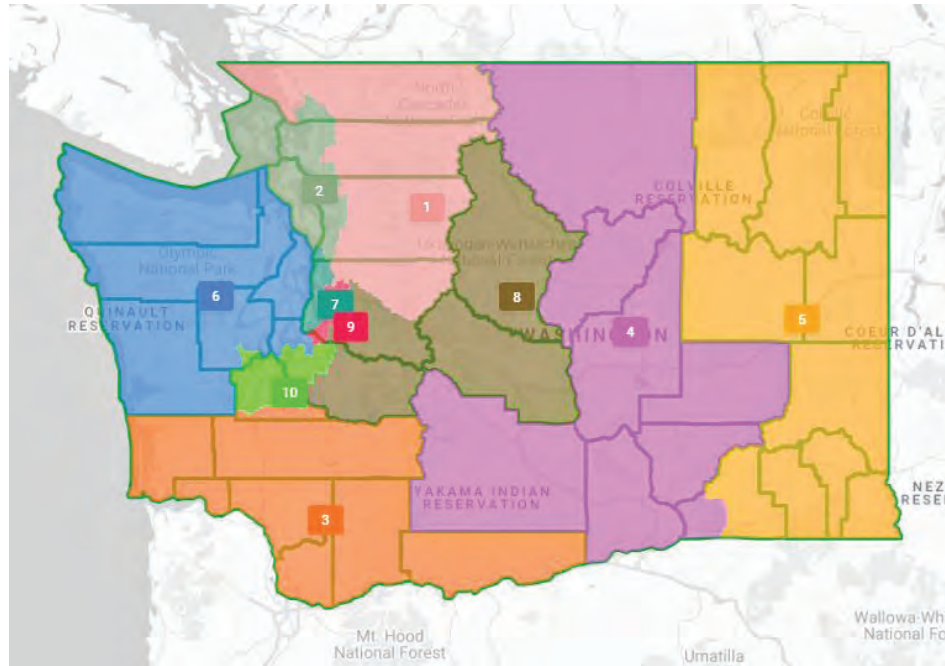
By KIENAN BRISCOE

The U.S. Census Bureau released additional 2020 Census results, August 12, that will shape the Washington State Redistricting Committee's once-in-a-decade redrawing of the state's congressional and state legislative electoral districts.

There are 10 congressional districts and 49 legislative districts in Washington State, a state of 7.6 million people according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Due to population growth, the target populations for each set of electoral districts rose from 137,236 to 157,251 legislatively and 672,454 to 770,528 congressionally since 2010, the last re-mapping of boundaries.

The congressional district that needs to grow the most, based on the census data report, is the sixth district, followed by the fifth and the fourth, respectively. The congressional districts that need to shrink the most are the seventh and the first. These results are based upon the current population of the districts in relation to a target population of 770,528 per district.

Based on a target population of 157,251, the legislative districts that need to grow the most are the 19th and the 24th, in the Olympic Peninsula, and the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 3rd in the Spokane area. Puget Sound's 43rd, the 46th, and the 48th districts are the



districts that need to shrink the most, analyzed Lisa McLean, Executive Director for the Washington State Redistricting Committee, at the business meeting on August 16.

Four days after the Census Bureau's updated report, the commission held a business meeting, August 16, to analyze the data and how it should affect the boundaries of the state's congressional and legislative mapping.

Beginning September 21, draft legislative maps will be released and on September 28, four draft congressional maps will be released, one per commissioner. These maps will be available for

public comment until November 15. The commission not only welcomes public comment on these drafts but encourages the public to use a mapping tool that communicates to the commissioners about the boundaries of certain communities of interest and comment on the existing legislative and congressional districts.

Communities of Interest are used to help stakeholders understand local interests in preserving areas within a district. A Community of Interest can be a subdivision, a city, a neighborhood, or any geographic area defined and submitted for consideration.

Although the deadline for public comments and Community of Interest submissions closes November 15, the commission has decided to keep the mapping tool accessible on its website to allow Social Studies teachers and parents to teach their children about electoral boundaries.

## Washington State Redistricting Commission

Every 10 years, after the federal government publishes updated census information, Washington redraws the boundaries of these districts to ensure they represent an equal number of residents. A bipartisan Washington State Redistricting Commission is established for this purpose, consisting of four voting members — two Democrats and two Republicans — selected by the leaders of the Democratic and Republican caucuses in the state House and Senate. A fifth nonvoting chairperson is then picked by the voting members.

The four commissioners appointed are April Sims (D), Paul Graves (R), Brady Piñero Walkinshaw (D), and Joe Fain (R), with Sarah Augustine chairing without a vote.

It is the commission's role to draw the district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create

Continued PAGE 11 >>





## Celebrate Spring Italian Style

Patio Dining, Fresh Seasonal Dishes

*Happy Hour Daily*

[lombardisitalian.com](http://lombardisitalian.com)





from page 7 **MASKS**

the Joint Research Centre, European Commission. Stilianakis considers respirable droplets as those that remain airborne for long periods of time and have a diameter of less than 10 microns; whereas inspirable droplets are larger ranging in size of 10 to 100 microns that quickly drop towards the ground.

Pre- or asymptomatic individuals exhale fine droplets or particles called aerosols (respirable droplets) and they

typically do not cough or sneeze. The CDC states that face coverings effectively block most large droplets of at least 20 microns in size. Some studies show that face coverings of multiple layers of cloth with high thread counts reduce the transmission of respirable droplets of less than 1 micron as much as 50%. However, the CDC fails to mention how frequently the effectiveness of less than 1 micron occurs in studies.

According to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) an N95

respirator is effective in protecting individuals from SARS-CoV-2. An N95 filter removes at least 95% of particles 0.3 microns or larger. If worn correctly, N95 respirators were found to have a superior filtration efficiency when compared to Dust and Mist (DM), and Dust, Fume and Mist (DFM) respirators, and noncertified surgical masks.

Understand that although the virus that causes COVID-19 is 0.1 micron in size, which is far smaller than the aerosol filtration efficiencies of either the N95 and surgical masks, and cloth face

coverings, SARS-CoV-2 usually bonds with respiratory droplets ranging from 0.6 to 100 microns in size. This is well within the aerosol filtration efficiency of an N95 mask.

Facial coverings are not perfect but according to the CDC, these are one of a combination of measures, including physical distancing, hand washing, sufficient ventilation, and the avoidance of crowds and gatherings, that can reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

from page 8 **AUTHORITARIANISM**

man had “hopped in his car and went out for some fresh air and hadn’t been anywhere else.” But for Worboys, fresh air wasn’t the point. “The point is,” he said, “that if you are going to behave like this, yesterday over 2,300 houses visited — if you’re going to behave like this — if you’re going to step outside the health orders, you will be checked on, and you will get an infringement notice. And that person will continue to be checked on and make sure that they comply.”

Another Australian authority, the Premier of Victoria Dan Andrews, shared a similar sentiment about compelling citizens to abide by the strict coronavirus measures. During a press conference, Andrews spoke about people who had decided to watch the sunset on a beach in Victoria. Of their decision, he said, “I’m sure it was a beautiful sunset, but that’s not in the spirit or in the letter of these rules.”

A video clip of Andrews’s statement was uploaded to Twitter by user @LozzaFox. An edited version of the conference can be viewed on The Guardian’s website at <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/video/2021/aug/20/victoria-covid-19-update-this-is-a-bad-day-says-dan-andrews-as-he-announces-57-new-cases-video>.

Despite the strict lockdown measures in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory, a Reuters report from August 22 states that “the country set a record with 914 infections, its highest daily figure.”

### ANALYZING AUSTRALIA’S AUTHORITARIANISM



Helen Dale is an Australian Writer and Lawyer. In December 2020, Dale published an article titled “Emulate Australia? It’s not that easy” to Standpoint Magazine. The piece’s premise recognizes how several countries, not just in the UK, look to Australia as a prime example when it comes to gun laws, immigration, electoral systems, and COVID-19 responses. But, as Dale explains, Australia’s successes are largely the result of its unique history and are not without their consequences.

Noting some of the uniqueness of its origins, Dale explains how one of Australia’s founders was not a fan of individual rights but instead emphasized state authority. “Australia’s dad is Jeremy Bentham, the bloke who described natural rights as ‘nonsense upon stilts,’” she writes. “He rejected the idea of natural or divinely given rights preceding the establishment of state authority, arguing that rights are creations of law, and without government there are none. Rights, in other words, come from states.”

Elaborating more on Australia’s apathy for individual rights, Dale explains, “To this day, the country has no Bill of Rights, and what rights do exist (usually at the state level in a federal system) are simple acts of parliament that can be repealed by a hostile government.”

Dale’s 2020 article landed her a guest spot on a recent episode of The Podcast of the Lotus Eaters’ show. The show’s host begins by saying, “Let’s talk about how Australia appears to have fallen to some kind of COVID fascism.”

Offering her insight, Dale suggests that the seemingly authoritarian COVID-19 measures are a natural extension of the country’s principles. Referring back to her article, she says, “I tried to explain that yes, Australians are often very good at running things, but it comes at a price, and the price is the country is actually very authoritarian.”

Dale then shares a line that she borrows from an Australian legal academic professor, saying, “always remember that Australians may be the descendants of convicts, but they’re also the descendants of their jailors.”

Continuing the conversation about authoritarianism and Australia, Dale claims that it is a characteristic of the country. Echoing the sentiments of her 2020 article, Dale says that Australia’s ability to maintain a stable economy during the Great Recession and now during COVID-19 is very appealing to other countries. Still, it is only able to do so because of its authoritarian approach.

“Australians have achieved this because they [have] a very odd history — because they tolerate a level of authoritarianism that you would find completely alarming,” she says. “In some respects, it’s rooted in the idea that rights don’t matter at all.”

Dale stated that Australia cares more about democracies and majorities than it does about liberty and rights. Explaining what such priorities look like in action, Dale says, “The consequences being that [Australia] can produce very efficient administrations, but that just means that you will have scenes of police dragging protestors out of cars, police dragging a woman out of her home for — a pregnant woman who

really needed to wee,” and “mounted police beating the crap out of people.”

Giving some validity to the severe threats of COVID-19 in the country, Dale notes that some of the harsh restrictions may be an effort to protect the Aborigine civilizations in Australia. “There is a real risk that this entire civilization — 40,000-year-old civilization — the ones with all the beautiful dot art that everybody wants to buy and get in the art galleries in London — could just be wiped out if COVID gets into the remote communities.”

But, as Dale explains, COVID-19 has already made its way into some of these remote communities, “and people are really worried about that. So I am not excusing the behavior — I am trying to warn people about how authoritarian Australia can be, but there is something real behind the panic, and it’s about the indigenous people.”

To watch the full podcast episode, visit The Podcast of the Lotus Eaters’ YouTube channel.

### COVID QUARANTINE BASES

Continuing their collectivism over individual liberties approach, Australia recently created a regional quarantine base. Some outlets refer to it as a quarantine “camp,” while others call it a “temporary home” for people infected with the coronavirus.

The base is located in Howard Springs, a small former mining camp in the country’s northern tip. Damien Cave, the New York Times’s bureau chief in Sydney, Australia, has stayed at this location while he awaits a negative test result.

Writing about his experience, Cave notes his inability to keep track of the days as he is seemingly suspended from his usual reality. People wearing face shields drop food off at his door before five o’clock. He calls his daughter to ask how her day at school was, to which his daughter replies that it is Saturday.

On August 20, Cave reported that, in addition to the camp in which he has resided, two more are being built near Melbourne and Brisbane — both large enough to hold 2,000 people. Cave says that “Sydney and Perth may not be far behind.”

As far as titles go, Cave says that the sites are officially being referred to as “centers for national resilience.” According to Cave, they are “an embodiment of the country’s commitment to Covid zero.”

Cave’s foretelling of more quarantine camps wasn’t far off. On August 25, ABC News (Australia) live-streamed the announcement of a new site in Toowoomba, Queensland, on You-

Tube. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk explains that new camps are necessary because the delta variant is breaching the current quarantine hotels. “So, we need regional quarantine facilities,” she says. For more information regarding quarantine hotels in Australia, visit [health.nsw.gov.au](http://health.nsw.gov.au).

John Wanger, the Non-Executive Director of Wagner construction, spoke about the new regional quarantine site in Toowoomba. In a video posted to Premier Palaszczuk’s Twitter account, Wagner says that this new camp will be modeled after the site in Howard Springs. Touting the economic benefits of constructing such a camp, Wagner says, “it’ll be a great thing for Toowoomba. It’ll be a great thing for our region, and a great thing for the Queensland and Australian economy.”

### UPHEAVAL IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Similarly strict COVID-19 measures have recently been seen in other countries, too — namely New Zealand and France. In New Zealand, for example, the entire country was shut down due to a single infection. As CNBC reported on August 17, “New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern put the nation under strict lockdown on Tuesday after one new case of the coronavirus was reported in its largest city of Auckland, the country’s first in six months.” The country reportedly planned to remain under lockdown for only three days while coastal towns where the infected person had visited will be shut down for seven days.

Unfortunately, the most recent numbers indicate how much the virus has already begun to spread despite the lockdowns. On August 26, Reuters reported that New Zealand now has over 277 cases and that “the entire country of 5 million is under stay at home orders, with schools and most workplaces closed until at least the end of the month.”

The New Zealand prime minister ordered these lockdowns over fears that the Delta variant may sweep across the country. “The lockdown is having an impact, but Delta is very tricky,” Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said at a news conference. “We do need to be incredibly vigilant.”

In France, thousands of citizens participated in anti-lockdown protests at the beginning of the month. According to the NPR’s report, August 7 marked the fourth consecutive weekend of the protests. The French government issued a notice on July 29 requiring residents to “present a health pass to access leisure and culture venues and events bringing together more than 50 people.”

To view the complete list of France’s restrictions and requirements, visit [government.fr](http://government.fr).

# DR. HORACE SCOPE: SEPTEMBER 2021

*This month could be a bit of a roller coaster in the personal and public arena, with international relationship under strain too. Towards the very end of the month, Mercury turns retrograde again too, so communications could be somewhat strained. A number of planets are behind the potential social upheavals revelations... Eris (the Warrior Goddess), Pluto, Uranus and the New Moon in Virgo. However, instead of fearing the worst for the month, this really is an opportunity for taking the high road and being at our most tolerant and optimistic this month. As one prominent astrologer, Henry Seltzer, has put it... "Do not dwell on the chaos, celebrate the birth". Venus is definitely energized by Uranus this month, meaning that all relationships could be under strain. September is definitely a time for living by the heart and not the head. Finally, try to tie down any communications, contracts and/or travel plans before the end of the month, when the Mercury retrograde factor will tend to disrupt things for a number of people.*

**ARIES:** Your fiery nature could well get the better of you this month if you don't learn to stay calm. The opposite Sign of a usually hair-trigger Aries is the balanced and diplomatic Libra. So, on the principle that opposites can balance out each other, try to be more of a Libran this month, instead of your usual spontaneous and impetuous self!

**TAURUS:** Maybe a good time to batten down the hatches, emotionally. Venus is your ruling planet, so it's electric Uranus contact this month could well bring revolution, disruption and change to your usual placid world. It might also bring an entirely new and exhilaration focus of love into your life too. But hold onto your hat as transformation is in the air.

**GEMINI:** The big thing for you could be the Mercury retrograde effect that begins around September 27th. It could well be a time when your messages get mixed, or your plans for travel and communication disrupted. Mercury is your ruling planet; so pay greater attention to all paperwork and contracts at this time too.

**CANCER:** The Moon is your ruling planet, so with the New Moon this month being in the Sign of Virgo, and touched by the revolutionary Uranus, this could be a time where you feel emotional drained or under fire. See any disruption that comes along as an opportunity for growth not criticism – although with that New moon in "Virgo", nit-picking criticism of family, friends could be a possibility.

**LEO:** When you're in the right mood "taking the high road" is something you're very capable of. So should your position be threatened this month, or should the things that upset you in this world threaten to anger you, stay calm and collected. When you do so, you could become a leader defined by calm and clear decision-making – something your higher self is good at, if exercised.

**VIRGO:** With the New Moon in your Birth Sign, electrified by the powerful and revolutionary Uranus this month, it could be that you'll feel more stressed than ever. Just remember that all this is transitory and no matter how emotional you may feel, the calm will always follow the storm – should it happen. Remember that Chamomile Tea is wonderful for both nerves and digestion!

**LIBRA:** It might be that your normally calm and measured disposition could be under threat this month. It may even be that it's nothing that you even did; just forces beyond you are rocking your world. Ever the diplomat, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to weather the storm and bring harmony to where there is disharmony around you.

**SCORPIO:** September could be the culmination of a time where you've felt somewhat challenged for a while now – either by perhaps a powerful woman, or the need for you to let your powerful feminine side out. As your essential nature is to keep all your emotions in and concealed, perhaps this month is a time to come clean and release them - preparing the ground for a better future ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Taking the high road is something you're good at. So, if life begins to look crazy around you this month, look to your higher Self for guidance. Your best way of dealing things is through activity and movement. So this could be a perfect time to physically seek our new horizons, or find a new philosophy or belief in life that helps you cope with any possible disruptions.

**CAPRICORN:** You've probably noticed that some quite powerful challenges have been building up in your life lately, threatening your normally quite normal, and hardworking state of affairs. If so, this could be the month where the transition from chaos to clarity becomes possible. Above all else, don't panic. Start to build for a new reality that you need to face soon.

**AQUARIUS:** Uranus is your ruling planet, so it's contact with the New Moon in Virgo this month should not be too much out of the ordinary for you. You're made of the stuff of individual expression above all else, even swimming against the tide. It could be that you'll be a little more emotional than normal for a while. But once the dust has settled I'm sure the new order will suit you well.

**PISCES:** The New Moon in Virgo, touched by the revolutionary Uranus, could well have an unsettling effect on you this month. Virgo is your opposite Sign of the Zodiac after all is said and done, and opposites can either attract or repel. Just be prepared for some change or disruption in your circumstances for a while, allowing your higher, more forgiving and aspirational side to come out - if you let it.

## from page 9 REDISTRICTING

districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Washingtonians.

The four voting commissioners have the power and responsibility to vote, ultimately creating and adopting a redistricting plan. Voting commissioners will make decisions that will create maps that best represent the interest of Washingtonians.

The mandate of the commission, set out in the Washington State Redistricting Act, is to accomplish state legislative and congressional districting in accordance with the Washington State Constitution. The bipartisan commission was created to listen to the public every ten years so that the district would be run by statute and by public input. The Constitution of the United States allows each state to determine its own processes for redistricting within certain bounds. Washington is one of only seven states that redistricts by commission and has since 1890.

The Committee will meet again Monday, September 20, to discuss map drafts before releasing them to the public for comment.

## from page 1 FALLEN HEROS

high school football lineman who "lit up a room" when he entered, his father told The Washington Post.

**Marine Corps Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas:** Espinoza graduated from Lyndon B. Johnson High School in Laredo and lived in Rio Bravo. Espinoza leaves behind a brother, mother and stepfather, News 4 San Antonio reported.

**Marine Corps Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyoming:** McCollum was expecting to become a father before deploying to Afghanistan in April. This was his first deployment and manning the check point when the suicide bomb went off.

**Army Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee:** Knauss recently completed Psychology Operations training and was hoping to move to Washington, DC before being deployed to Afghanistan.

**Marine Corps Corporal Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska:** Page, joined the Marines out of high school, served with the 2nd Regiment of the 1st Marine Regiment, a unit known

as "The Professionals" based at Camp Pendleton, California. He planned to go to trade school and possibly become a lineman after his enlistment ended.

**Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, California:** Lopez, whose parents work at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in Southern California, was a sheriff's Explorer for three years before joining the Marine Corps in September 2017.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. The family asked for all donations to be made to the Riverside County Deputy Sheriff Relief Foundation.

## A Botch Evacuation

After Thursday's suicide bomb attack at the Kabul airport on August 26, Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller released a now-viral video where he criticized Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David H. Berger, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley for the botch evacuation effort from Kabul.

In his video, Scheller stated that the U.S. should never have abandoned its Bagram airbase and said that "the baby boomer's turn is over."

## from page 6 HOME DEPOT

get to work in and all of the different types of associates that get to work here," Rivera said.

The location is still seeking to fill around 10 positions. Interested job seekers can apply in person by visiting the store or by visiting careers.homedepot.com.



**Register Now!**  
**K - 12 After-school Enrichment & Summer Camps**  
**Coding, Robotics, Science & EE**  
**425-405-STEM(7836)**  
10100 Mukilteo Speedway www.stemtree.com/mukilteo

The video can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/stuart.scheller/videos/561114034931173>.

A second video posted on August 29 by Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/IR7jBsR0D10>.

from page 2 **AFGHANISTAN WAR**

witnesses that Afghan soil will not be used against the security for the United States and its allies, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognized by the United States as a state and is known as the Taliban will start intra-Afghan negotiations with Afghan sides on March 10, 2020, which corresponds to Rajab 15, 1441 on the Hijiri Lunar calendar and Hoot 20, 1398 on the Hijiri Solar calendar," the agreement states.

Over the next 14 months, the plan was to begin withdrawing troops, completely leaving Afghanistan no later than May 1, 2021.

Also included in the agreement was the United States and its allies refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Afghanistan as well as intervention in its domestic affairs.

On March 25, 2021, Biden said during a press conference that the May 1 deadline to remove U.S. troops from Afghanistan will be "hard to meet" for "tactical reasons."

However, the President was not the only member of the agreement to breach contract; the Taliban also did not adhere to the conditions of their peace agreement.

According to a United Nations report on August 6, four months after Biden's announcement, since Mid-April, these groups launched more than 5,500 attacks in 31 of 34 provinces. The report also mentioned that more than 20 groups, including Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), are fighting alongside

the Taliban against the Afghan population and security forces.

Despite U.S. Intelligence speculating the Afghan government would "likely collapse," Biden was adamant a Taliban takeover was not inevitable due to the Afghan army consisting of an air force and 300,000 well-equipped soldiers against roughly 75,000 Taliban soldiers.

In June, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Afghan government could collapse as quickly as six months following the retreat of the U.S. military; however, Biden noted that the Taliban takeover "did unfold quicker than [the U.S.] anticipated," in a press conference.

The Wall Street Journal also reported that Biden's "well-equipped" Afghan soldiers often surrendered during the 5,000 plus attacks, leaving their abandoned military equipment to the Taliban.

In April, top U.S. military generals favored holding the line at 2,500 troops while negotiators pursued a peace deal. Not only did Biden ignore this advice but he later denied during an interview with Stephen Stephanopoulos that he ever received that advice.

On August 23, Representative Adam Schiff told reporters in a news conference it is "unlikely" that all U.S. troops could be evacuated by the August 31 deadline.

"Given the logistical difficulties of moving people to the airport and the limited number of workarounds, it's hard for me to see that be fully complete by the end of the month," Schiff said.

from page 3 **ELECTION**

"I would like to thank all Mukilteo voters who took part in the Primary Election. I was expecting 5,000 voters but almost 6,000 participated. I am happy to see so many residents participate in the Primary."



In a statement to the Lynnwood Times, Carlson threw her support behind Crocco. "I'm happy for him and will support him [Crocco] in the General Election," Carlson wrote in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "I thank everyone who helped me."

Steve Schmalz, the winner of the Mukilteo City Council Pos. 3 race with 38.21% of the vote, told the Lynnwood Times that he is thankful to have made

it to the General Election with the support of residents.



"I want to thank the voters for the opportunity to move on to the General election," Schmalz told the Lynnwood Times. "We will continue to move the campaign forward over the next few month months."

The Lynnwood Times confirmed with the Snohomish County Auditor's Office that both the hand recount in the Lynnwood race and the machine recount in the Mukilteo race produced the same results as the original automated machine count. According to the Washington Secretary of State's website, Snohomish County uses ClearVote software on ClearAccess machines from Clear Ballot to tally votes.

from page 2 **PRESIDENT HARRIS**

climate plan calls for transitioning to clean and renewable in ways that can boost the American economy.

Harris is in-line with most Democrats on gun control measures, reproductive rights and repealing Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, but, like Biden, has not supported calls to defund the police. Likely stemming from her background as a prosecutor and California's attorney general, she did say "reimagining how we do public safety in America" was needed.

Arguably, Harris' largest controver-

sy prior to her run for the Democratic presidential nomination and her time as vice president was in 2018: when she compared Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to the Ku Klux Klan during a Senate hearing.

This is all speculative, but a Kamala Harris presidency has the potential to be more left-leaning than Biden's.

Will it come to pass? Who can say for sure.

After the last U.S. military plane left Monday, it is speculated that between 100 and 200 American soldiers and tens of thousands of America's Afghan allies were left behind.

Gaining access to the Kabul airport, the only airport in the country escapable by military flight, was not an easy task after the Taliban surrounded the perimeter, restricting access.

C.N.N. reported that U.S. special operations groups set up a "secret gate" at the Kabul airport to help Americans with the evacuation process.

Secretary of State Lloyd Austen said in a press conference on August 18 that the U.S. did not have the capability to collect large numbers of stranded Americans outside the perimeter of the airport, relying on the peace agreement with the Taliban to ensure Americans escape. Meanwhile, British and French forces conducted operations to assist their citizens, leaving many to question why the U.S. could not have performed similar rescues.

According to a report by Politico on August 26, U.S. officials gave a list of names of American citizens, green card holders, and Afghan allies to the Taliban, which have a history of murdering Afghans collaborating with the U.S. during the conflict, to gain entry to the military-controlled outer perimeter of the city's airport, outraging lawmakers and military officials who believed they had just condemned them to "death list."

Responding to these remaining American troops left to face Taliban rule, a volunteer group of covert American military veterans has been helping hundreds of at-risk Afghan elite forces and

their families to safety in a night-time operation called "Pineapple Express," ABC News reported, rescuing over 500 Afghan special operators, assets, and enablers into the secured areas of the U.S.-controlled Hamid Karzai International airport.

The last plane leaving Kabul escorted as many as 1,500 Afghans to safety, meeting the August 31 deadline. General Frank McKenzie, head of the US Central Command, said there were no American citizens left stranded at the airport.

August 23 marked the largest day of evacuation flights, reported MSN news, with 28 U.S. military flights escorting about 10,400 people to safety.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. Government is working on ways to help the remaining 100 to 200 American citizens who were unable to get to the airport by the deadline and want out, via overland routes to Qatar.

The Taliban said they would allow all foreign nationals and Afghan citizens, with travel authorization from another country, to leave Afghanistan, according to a joint statement issued by the U.S. and more than 100 other countries on Sunday, ABC News reported.

"When I think about the innocent people out there who are just trying to live their life, my heart goes out for them, who have not only been fighting for that peace but are now at risk of becoming martyrs for that cause by the Taliban," Rinehart, U.S. Marine Core Veteran and former Lynnwood resident, told the Lynnwood Times.

from page 3 **\$6M ARPA FUNDS**

had conversations with local business owners about how they were doing, not one knew what the city was planning in regards to these relief funds. As an advocate for community involvement, he introduced the idea of gathering leaders of churches, businesses, and community outreach together to discuss and establish a plan for how these funds would be allocated.

"This money is a godsend, and we really need to put it in the hands of the people who it's meant for as quickly as possible," Champion said.

Marine added to the idea of community outreach, believing the city should mail businesses and individuals to include them in the decision-making process and ensure the funds are being spent in ways that benefit the public as best as possible.

"I just want to make sure that our dollars are going to the businesses and the individuals in the city as much as we can and not spend a bunch of money trying to spend it," Joe Marine said.

City Administrator Steve Powers, who was leading the presentation on these options to council, assured Marine that is the staff's goal as well.

Councilwoman Sarah Kneller had reservations about mailing out to the public because most of the millennial generation are paperless, and she believed the mail would go unchecked by these demographics.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Crawford also expressed reservations believing that this is not being sensitive to non-English speaking businesses who may not be able to understand what the city is offering. Councilman Louis Harris also added that many people may distrust the government and be hesitant to consider these offers in this format.

While the council debated how they would go about community outreach, they agreed that involving the community in some way before making a decision was the most appropriate option.

City Administrator Powers agreed to develop ways that would be feasibly presented at the council's September 7 meeting, asking them to be prepared to move forward with at least some of the options available.

from page 6 **BROADBAND**

they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. To learn more go to <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

For its commitment to broadband access the Snohomish County Council declared March 29 through April 2 of this year as "Broadband Access Week" in Snohomish County. In October of 2020, the Washington State Public Works Board announced nearly \$18 million in grants and loans for seven broadband construction projects in unserved communities across the state.