

NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 6, 2022 WILL FEATURE

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*Real News* ⚡  
*Real Impact*

## Stanley Warp: Remembering a World War II Hero



By KIENAN BRISCOE

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, Stanley Warp and some friends were skiing down Mount Rainier's gorgeous Paradise slopes without a worry on their minds until they heard the announcement on the radio: Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Axis.

That morning, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the United States at Naval Station Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, Hawaii, killing 2,403 Americans and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battle-ships and damaged four others. It also damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one mine-

layer. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged.

"December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy," President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously proclaimed.

The strike signaled the entry of the United States into the second World War.

At first speechless, the 18-year old men looked at each other and immediately knew what needed to be done. They refastened their skis and surfed down the rest of the mountain, enlisting in the armed forces that same day.

Warp was a Norwegian-American born on

September 15, 1923, in Tacoma, Washington, the second of three children from parents Halvor and Signa Warp. The Warps grew up on a farm outside Tacoma raising chickens and livestock, cultivating a hard work ethic that would shape the hero he would later become serving in the war. He was a good student and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1941. That same year he joined the Army Air Corps where he piloted a B-24 Liberator leading bombing missions against Axis-controlled Aircraft Carriers in the Pacific by the age of 21.

During one of these bombing missions, Stan

*Continued* **PAGE 7** >>



**On Leave Together** —Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Warp, 4002 A street, had their two sons home recently before the fighters left for assignment to points in the South Pacific. They are (left) 2nd Lt. O. Stanley Warp, pilot in the Air corps, who received his wings at Luke

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# Larsen announces run for Chair of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee



By MARIO LOTMORE

Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) announced he will run for Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the 118th Congress. Larsen, a senior member of the Committee and Chair of the Aviation Subcommittee, made the announcement in a letter to colleagues after Chair Peter DeFazio (OR-04) announced his retirement at the end of his term.

In his letter to colleagues, Larsen communicated his 20-years of service to the committee responding to members' needs, and his ability to "get things done" when in both the majority and minority party in Congress.

The letter Larsen sent to colleagues announcing his run for Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee in its entirety can be found here.

## Larsen Statement on Retirement of Transportation and Infrastructure Chair

Rep. Larsen, released the the following statement after Committee Chair DeFazio announced his retirement at the end of his term.

"It has been an honor to work with Pete DeFazio, my colleague and friend, on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the last two decades looking out for the interests of the people of Washington and Oregon. Pete has made his mark with his steadfast leadership on behalf of the safety of the traveling public and the

women and men who build, maintain and repair our nation's infrastructure, as well as in seeking to build a cleaner and greener transportation system."

## What is the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

According to its website, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction over all modes of transportation: aviation, maritime and waterborne transportation, highways, bridges, mass transit, and railroads.

The Committee also has jurisdiction over other aspects of our national infrastructure, such as clean water and waste water management, the transport of resources by pipeline, flood damage reduction, the management of federally owned real estate and public buildings, the development of economically depressed rural and urban areas, disaster preparedness and response, and hazardous materials transportation.

In addition, the Transportation Committee has broad jurisdiction over

the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, Amtrak, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others. The Committee also has jurisdiction over federal buildings, which includes the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is one of the largest committees in Congress, and includes six subcommittees:

- Aviation
- Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
- Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management
- Highways and Transit
- Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials
- Water Resources and the Environment

# Snohomish County Council votes to become a Purple Heart County

By MARIO LOTMORE

**EVERETT, Wash.** – On the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 6, the Snohomish County Council unanimously voted 5-0 to become a Purple Heart County. Snohomish County is now the third county in Washington state following Thurston and Lewis counties to officially be recognized as a Purple Heart County.

The Resolution was introduced by Snohomish County Councilman Sam Low after local Machias resident Drew James approached him with the request. It encourages residents and businesses to recognize the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending freedom.

*"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council does hereby recognize Snohomish County as a Purple Heart County and encourages residents and businesses of Snohomish County to show their appreciation for the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms, to acknowledge their courage, and to show them the honor and support they have earned."*

James is currently the State Surgeon at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Washington. He served in the Army's 10th Mountain Division, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry. Both of his grandfathers served in World War II, his father during the Vietnam era and brother after the first Iraq war.

"This recognition actually hit's home," James told the Lynnwood Times. "My grandfather who passed away was injured at the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The military has been apart of my family for generations.

"This resolution is showing everyone that the County is here for veterans. This is a long lasting commitment to show that Snohomish County will honor the sacrifices of the men of women of the Armed Forces everyday."

On Tuesday, December 7, the cities of Monroe and Snohomish passed resolutions to become Purple Heart Cities. According to purpleheart.org, the cities of Lacey, Spokane, Maple Valley, Vancouver, Rainier, Enumclaw, and Yelm have been designated as Purple Heart Cities in Washington state.

Washington state has over 69,000 activity-duty military and some 600,000 veterans of which Snohomish County is home to approximately 51,000 veterans.

The Purple Heart is awarded to military members with qualifying combat injuries or killed in combat in wartime, or while in combat against those hostile to the United States. Originally called "Badge of Military Merit" by General George Washington, it is the nation's oldest military decoration. Any soldier, sailor, airman, marine, or Coast Guardsman who sheds blood in defense of the nation automatically receives the Purple Heart.

General Washington commissioned the award on August 7, 1782 and because of this, National Purple Heart Day is designated August 7 of each year. He presented the purple-colored heart-

shaped badges to soldiers who fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Recipients of a Purple heart are entitled to military and civilian benefits including healthcare from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the post-9/11 GI Bill.

According to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, more than 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been awarded to U.S. military members.

President John F. Kennedy is the only U.S. president to have received a Purple Heart. Kennedy, who served in the Navy during World War II, injured his back when a Japanese destroyer collided with his patrol torpedo boat near the Solomon Islands.

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

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# Mayor Smith and Lynnwood City Council present Honoring Excellence Awards



The Honoring Excellence Award recipients with Mayor Nicola Smith. From left to right: Kelly Schudde, Phong Nguyen, Mayor Nicola Smith, and the Massoud brothers of Harvy's Bike Shop. Image provided by Phong Nguyen.

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.,** November 29, 2021 – During its regular Work Session, Lynnwood City Council and Mayor Nicola Smith presented three Honoring Excellence Awards. These awards recognize city employees, businesses, and community members who contribute to the health and well-being of the city.

This year's staff member recipient is Recreational Supervisor Kelly Schudde. The Business Award was given to Harvy's Bike Shop (Harvy and Hany Massoud), and Phong Nguyen of Anna's Home Furnishings was this year's community recipient.

Kelly Schudde has worked for the city for 20 years and was promoted to Recreation Supervisor for Recreation Programs in 2011. Since taking on this role, Schudde has been responsible for Preschool, Youth, Teens, and Adult classes, including Fitness, Athletics, and Family Events programming.

The city has chosen to recognize Schudde because of how quickly and effectively she adapted said programs to new pandemic guidelines. As the

Lynnwood City Council's proclamation reads, "during the COVID-19 public health crisis, Kelly quickly reimagined childcare and recreation programming. Her creative solutions allowed the City to continue to meet the needs of the community while following State-mandated guidelines."

Recognizing her professional excellence, the proclamation continues, "Kelly's commitment to providing quality health, education and recreation programs to individuals and families places her in high regard among City staff and members of the community."

This year's Honoring Excellence in Business Award was given to Harvy's Bike Shop on Highway 99. Harvey Massoud repaired bikes out of his apartment free of charge for 21 years. Since he and his brother, Hany, opened their shop in 1999, they have offered exceptional customer service while continuously giving back to their community.

Of the business-owning brothers, the City's proclamation states that "customer satisfaction is at the heart of Harvy and Hany's business practices. Each customer receives their core values of honesty, integrity, kindness,

and patience."

"Harvy and Hany give back to the community by refurbishing and donating used bikes. The refurbished bikes are raffled off to raise funds for charities such as the Nick of Time Foundation," the proclamation continued, noting their devotion to charity.

The Mayor, along with the Council, sincerely thanked the Massoud brothers for "their giving spirit and their contributions to making Lynnwood a welcoming and vibrant community."

Phong Nguyen and his family have lived in Lynnwood for over 25 years. Serving on the Police Chief's Advisory Committee, as a Citizen's Patrol board member, as a business sponsor for Lynnwood's Adopt-a-Street program, and as a member of the Corporate Advisory Council, Nguyen has made outstanding contributions to the community.

A business owner himself (owner of Anna's Home Furnishings), Nguyen also formed the Lynnwood Business Consortium. In the City's proclamation,

Continued PAGE 06 >>

## Discussion of a \$25.8 million bond issuance

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.,** December 7, 2021 - At Monday's City Council Work Session the issuance of the city's 2022 Bond Ordinance was discussed. Lynnwood's Finance Director Michelle Meyer gave a brief presentation on the topic.

"This agenda item is to just review the bond authorizing ordinance itself, and then this will be brought back to [council] next week for approval," she began.

Speaking to when the bids came in for the new Com-

munity Justice Center, Director Meyer notes that "they were about \$5 million over just because of the supply chain costs—and just the problems we were having everywhere with all projects related to the pandemic."

Meyer then recounted that "the decision was made that we could go ahead and approve the contract with the understanding that we could approve another \$5 million next year," after the city refunds an issuance from 2012.

The 2022 Bond Ordinance packet included in this Work

Session's agenda was prepared by the city's Bond council and sets the parameters for the issuance. Meyer reminded the council that the ordinance doesn't need to be approved this year but is being presented now so that council can visualize and evaluate the additional \$5 million mentioned earlier. "

So that we can show the full authority for that Community Justice project," Meyer said.

Presenting a slide of the remaining debt capacity, Meyer pointed to the 2012

issuance of 19,520,000 for the city's Recreation Center and this year's \$49,315,000 bond issued on June 24 for the Community Justice Center, with the final maturity date marked for December of 2050.

Meyer noted that the City's debt capacity is based on its assessed valuation. And as Lynnwood's valuation is projected to go up, Meyer stated that the city has about \$33 million remaining in non-voted bond capacity, which will increase to about \$35 million in 2022.

Continued PAGE 06 >>

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# Binda requests extension from PDC to address campaign fraud allegations

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD, Wash., November 28, 2021 – Lynnwood city councilman-elect Joshua Binda is requesting more time from the Washington state Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) in its investigation into alleged misuse of thousands of dollars in campaign funds.

In a November 22 email to the PDC which was sent just hours before the 14-day deadline to respond to the second compliant case filed November 8, Binda requests the PDC to provide a “filer assistant” as he is “very new to all of this and could use the help for both cases.”

“Thank you for your email and I look forward to continue working and cooperating with the PDC,” Binda wrote in the email to the PDC. “I am requesting more time as I will be making a further amendment to my PDC to make sure it is as accurately described as possible. I would love to be assigned a filer assistance specialist to continue to help me with the process as I’m very new to all of this and could use the help for both cases! Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing back from you.”

The Binda campaign sent its emailed response to the PDC less than two hours after the Lynnwood Times reached out to Binda requesting an official statement inquiring if he intends to address the two open cases for alleged violations of Washington’s campaign finance and disclosure laws (RCW 42.17A) and rules (WAC 390) against the Elect Joshua Binda campaign.

Binda failed to respond within the 14-day deadline to the first PDC case filed on November 1, 2021. In that case, two complainants allege theft or misappropriation of campaign funds for personal use (RCW 42.17A.445 and WAC 390-16-238) and concealment of expenditures (RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240).

A second case, approved by the PDC, was initiated by the Lynnwood Times after Binda failed to produce the supporting documentation of his campaign account which is required by Washington state law, during the public inspection of books of account (RCW 42.17A.235.8 and WAC 390-16-043 Section 6) that was requested by the Lynnwood Times. Binda also failed to meet with the Lynnwood Times within the required 48-hour deadline to publicly inspect financial records (RCW 42.17A.235.6.a and WAC 390-16-043 Section 4).

### Alleged misuse of campaign funds

It was reported first by the Lynnwood Times that Lynnwood City Council candidate Joshua Binda, 21, recorded almost \$4,848.19 in expenditures towards rent, towing fees, concert tickets, jewelry, laptops, airfare,



**BINDA REQUESTS MORE TIME TO ADDRESS ALLEGED CAMPAIGN FUND VIOLATIONS**

groceries, dental work, haircuts, and office furniture. In addition to these suspicious expenses, another \$4,952.12 was lumped together and recorded as “Expenses of \$50 or less.”

In a second article by the Times in the ongoing investigation into \$10,000 in suspicious campaign expenses reported by Elect Joshua Binda campaign, it was reported that no supporting documentation, receipts, nor bank statements were provided and that 19 amendments to PDC documents were made after the Lynnwood Times requested to publicly inspect the books of account for the Elect Joshua Binda campaign in accordance with Washington state law (RCW 42.17A.235).

Binda shared during the meeting with the Times that he confused his campaign debit card with his personal debit card, stating they look similar, as the reason for some non-campaign related expenses such as a plane ticket and concert tickets. He also shared with the Lynnwood Times that he gave a “campaign volunteer” access to the campaign’s debit card which the volunteer used for non-campaign related expenses.

According to the PDC campaign reporting database, Binda has contributed \$2,943.39 to his campaign, up from \$967.89 prior to the Lynnwood Times telephone interview with him on October 30. In amendments to contribution reports submitted on October 31 and November 1, Binda signed off on \$3,777.51 in increased campaign contributions not previously reported to the PDC possibly concealing campaign contributions from public disclosure in violation of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240.

Excluding Binda’s \$1,975.50 sudden contribution to his campaign between October 31 and November 1, a total of \$2,802.01 from 22 contributors in previously unreported contributions are now visible on reports and a \$1,000 contribution for an Abraha Henok on

October 8 is now missing.

According to the PDC campaign reporting database, Joshua Binda has signed off on a net reduction of \$4,572.61 impacting 16 previously recorded expenditures to his campaign after the October 30 request by the Lynnwood Times to publicly inspect the Elect Joshua Binda campaign books. Between October 31 and November 1, seven amendments to expenditure reports were submitted by Binda possibly concealing/misappropriating campaign expenditures from public disclosure in violation of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240.

In analyzing and comparing the physical C4 Summary reports to the online PDC expenditure reporting database, all of the expenditures associated with the C4 Summary report for reporting period September 1 through October 11 have been removed. Technically, the entire reporting period has been purged and replaced with an amendment for a reporting period of October 12 through October 25.

The now missing September 1 through October 11 C4 Report contained \$5,158.01 in suspicious expenditures for rent, groceries, towing, dental work, jewelry, a \$163 haircut, and included \$1,527.15 categorized as “Expenses of \$50 or less.”

For a detail breakdown of the 19 amendments to Binda’s PDC documents visit <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2021/11/07/joshua-binda-no-supporting-docs/>.

### PDC Enforcement

There are currently two open cases for alleged violations of Washington’s campaign finance and disclosure laws (RCW 42.17A) and rules (WAC 390) against the Elect Joshua Binda campaign.

The existing complaints allege theft or misappropriation of campaign funds for personal use (RCW 42.17A.445 and

WAC 390-16-238) and concealment of expenditures (RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240). Currently pending is a violation of RCW 42.17A.235.6.a for failing to publicly meet within the required 48-hour timeframe to publicly inspect campaign books, and another for not supplying the required source documents as required by Washington state law WAC 390-16-043(6). Additional violations for the concealment of contributions may be filed as early as Monday, November 8.

When asked of the enforcement process, Kim Bradford, Deputy Director of the PDC told the Lynnwood Times that within the first 10 days of a complaint, PDC staff reviews the validity of the violation claim. If there is sufficient information to support an allegation, a case is opened (posted on the website), and the respondent has 14 days to address the complaint. Staff will then review the respondent’s response and take appropriate action.

Bradford shared that most cases are resolved within 90 days administratively through a reminder, a warning or statement of understanding in which the respondent admits to a violation and pays a penalty.

However, for allegations that require an investigation, a formal investigation is initiated which may take months to resolve. The PDC has subpoena authority to obtain bank records and other source documents to aid in its investigation.

Complaints under formal investigation may lead to possible enforcement action. When and how that happens depends on the outcome of the investigation and if an investigation reveals evidence of a material violation of the laws or rules enforced by the PDC. If a stipulation or settlement is not reached, PDC staff may issue a notice of administrative charges and schedule the matter before the commission as an enforcement matter

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# International concern grows for welfare of Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai

By **GEORGE FTIKAS JR.**

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.,** December 7, 2021 – International concern for the welfare of Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai has brought some to question boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. The Biden administration announced on Monday that no U.S. government official will be attending the 2022 games, citing human rights concerns as the reason. Currently, U.S. athletes are not prevented from participating in the 2022 games.

“U.S. diplomatic or official representation would treat these games as business as usual in the face of [China’s] egregious human rights abuses and atrocities in Xinjiang, and we simply can’t do that,” White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said. “The athletes on Team USA have our full support. We will be behind them 100 percent as we cheer them on from home.”

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, was quick with criticism for the announcement, calling it “a serious affront to the 1.4 billion Chinese people.”

“I want to stress that the Winter Olympic Games is not a stage for political posturing and manipulation,” Zhao said. “U.S. politicians keep hyping a ‘diplomatic boycott’ without even being invited to the Games. This wishful thinking and pure grandstanding is aimed at political manipulation.”

While the disappearance of Peng was not mentioned by the Biden administration during this announcement, it is hard to separate the two. In November, the Biden administration was “deeply concerned” for Peng and wanted “independent, verifiable proof” of her wellbeing. The tennis star has not been seen in public since the beginning of November, following her accusation of sexual assault by a former high-ranking Chinese Communist Party official.

In a quickly deleted social media post on Weibo — what The Atlantic called “China’s censored version of Twitter” — on November 2, Peng wrote about her encounter three years ago with former vice premier Zhang Gaoli, saying, “That afternoon I didn’t agree, and I kept crying.” Peng alleges the assault took place at Zhang’s residence and that someone guarded the



door to the room. She also admitted to a consensual affair with Zhang, though she didn’t specify dates.

### Peng Shuai understood the risks of this allegation

“It doesn’t matter if I’m hitting a rock with an egg, or being a moth that flies towards the flame,” Peng said in the post. “I am telling the truth about what happened between us. With your intelligence and wits I am sure you will either deny it, or blame it on me.”

She has arguably not been heard from since. In recent years, China has had other high-profile individuals disappear, such as Zhao Wei, Fan Bingbing, and Jack Ma, only for them to resurface later with little-to-no explanation. Some see this as a warning to the citizens of China that even the rich and famous are not immune to the reach of the government.

As for Peng Shuai, International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) President Thomas Bach reportedly had a video call toward the end of November with her, saying in a statement she appeared to be “safe and well, given the difficult situation she is in.” However, questions remain about the validity of the IOC’s statement. Further complicating the issue — beyond the relationship between China and the IOC in re-

gards to the 2022 games— is a photograph of then Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and IOC President Thomas Bach.

Unconvinced by the IOC statement, the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) suspended all tournaments in China. WTA Chief Steve Simons stated he had “serious doubts” that Peng Shuai was “free, safe and not subject to intimidation.”

“In good conscience, I don’t see how I can ask our athletes to compete there,” Simons said. “If powerful people can suppress the voices of women and sweep allegations of sexual assault under the rug, then the basis on which the WTA was founded — equality for women — would suffer an immense setback. I will not and cannot let that happen to the WTA and its players.”

Not all of the tennis world is on board with the heavy financial decision to pressure China. While stars like Serena Williams, Naoki Osaka and Novak Djokovic have voiced support and concerns for Peng Shuai, the International Tennis Federation stated it “does not want to punish a billion people.”

## The vaccinated and blood donations

At the end of September 2021, The American Red Cross announced it was experiencing its most significant blood shortage since 2015. According to the organization’s press release, donor turnout reached the lowest levels of the year, decreasing about 10% since August. The American Red Cross went on to urge all who are eligible to donate to “do so now.”

“We recognize that this is a trying time for our country as we balance the new demands of returning to former routines with the ongoing pandemic,” said Chris Hrouda, president of Red Cross Biomedical Services. “[B]ut lifesaving blood donations remains essential for hospitals patients in need of emergency and medical care that can’t wait. The Red Cross is working around the clock to meet the blood needs of hospitals and patients – but we can’t do it alone.”

The press release noted how the demand for blood is beginning to outpace the supply, explaining that blood product distribution is “significantly outpacing blood donations in recent weeks.”

As President Hrouda mentioned, the pandemic seems to be deterring donations. Earlier this year, the American Red Cross made a video response to questions about COVID-19 vaccination status and donor eligibility.

Clearing up the confusion, Rodney with the American Red Cross says in the video that “if you received a COVID-19 vaccine, there’s no wait period to donate blood as long as you know the name of the manufacturer.”

For those who don’t know the name of the vaccine they received, such as Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson, Rodney says, “we’ll ask you to wait two weeks just out of precaution.”

### Vaccinated and donating convalescent plasma

In addition to blood donations, there is an increased need for convalescent plasma, which is blood plasma derived from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. In August of last year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization to allow the use of convalescent plasma to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

The FDA revised the EUA in February 2021 “to limit the authorization to the use of high titer COVID-19 convalescent plasma” — or a greater concentration of the specific antibody in the plasma — “for the treatment of hospitalized patients early in the disease course.”

While those who have received a



COVID-19 vaccine can donate blood, they cannot donate convalescent plasma, according to the Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies’ (AABB) latest updates regarding the matter. According to the FDA, this is “to ensure that COVID-19 convalescent plasma collected from donors contains sufficient antibodies directly related to their immune response to COVID-19 infection” (see item d. of page 7. of the FDA’s Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Guidance for Industry).

### Local Blood Donation Efforts

Locally, there is still a great need for blood donations. “We have declined slowly because of COVID-19. We just need to get back to those high numbers, so we need more donors to come in,” said Baylee Farr-Smith at Lynnwood Blood Works.

According to Farr-Smith, there is an additional need during this time of year due to the hazards winter often brings. “The holidays are always the greatest need just in case because accidents always happen with the winter and the snow,” she said.

“But we always need those donations because they go to local hospitals here in Washington for cancer patients, surgeries, organ transplants, etc.”

A phone operator named Anna at the Everett Blood Works echoed the same sentiment, saying that donations are always running low.

To learn more about how to donate blood at Blood Works’ Lynnwood location, call 425-412-1000, and at the Everett location, call 425-740-2909.

# Merrysville for the Holidays community event

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

**MARYSVILLE, Wash.,** December 5, 2021 – This year’s “Merrysville for the Holidays” event took place on Saturday, December 4. Even though it was a chilly and rainy evening, a warm holiday spirit could be felt as the community gathered at Comeford Park in Marysville, Washington.

Canopies covered craft and food vendors as Christmas music filled the park. Marysville School District and the Navy also had tents pitched. Notable crowd-pleasers included Kettle & Pop’s stand and Dreamy Drinks food truck.

Community members chatted around a bonfire as Christmas lights and holiday decor sparkled. And right around 6:30 pm, it seemed like the whole town turned out for the Electric Lights Parade. A portion of State Avenue was closed off to make way for Semi-trucks covered in lights, marching bands, and holiday floats.

A truck draped with Christmas lights during the 2021 Electric Lights Parade in Marysville, WA during Merrysville



for the Holidays, 2021. Photo: Bo Brusco

As spectators poured into the street, one could hardly see the sidewalk between the Marysville Taco Bell and Comeford Park.

Mayor Jon Nehring was excitedly in

attendance, too. “This event has become one of our community favorites over the years, and we are so excited to get it back going this year,” Mayor Nehring exclaimed.

“It was so fun to see such a great crowd out to kick off the Christmas season in

Marysville tonight, and we look forward to the many other fun activities planned for this month.”

Upcoming events in Marysville include “A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show” stage reading on Dec. 13 and a Holiday Variety Show on Dec. 17.

## from page 3 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

the consortium is described as “a network of business owners who partner with community stakeholders, developers, and city officials to promote successful business ownership and a sustainable and vibrant community.”

Nguyen also participates in Business Roundtable discussions with the city council, wherein city officials connect with business owners.

The Mayor and council members collectively thanked Nguyen for his community contributions. As the proclamation reads, “His love for Lynnwood is evident in his extensive involvement in the community.”

“It’s a great honor to receive this award,” Nguyen said during yesterday’s meeting. “I’ve met so many amazing people along the way.”

“I love our city, and no matter how much time, energy, or money I put into our community, Lynnwood always gives me back more than what I put into it,” he continued. “So, for me, that’s the most rewarding part.”

After Nguyen’s comments, Mayor Smith recounted how just recently, she spoke with him on the phone asking if he knew of anyone who could give her a discount on mattresses for incoming Afghan families. “And within minutes, he said, ‘I’ll do it,’” Mayor Smith recounted before thanking Nguyen and Anna’s Home Furnishing for donating 12 twin-size beds.

Council members also discussed the process for allocating the city’s ARPA funds and reviewed Mid-Biennium Budget Modifications during yesterday’s work session

## from page 3 BOND CAPACITY


“Even if we add the additional \$5 million for the Community Justice Center, that still leaves us with around \$30 million of remaining non-voter approved capacity,” she said.

This non-voter general obligation debt capacity combined with “Total General Obligation Debt Capacity for General Purposes” adds up to around \$112 million, which is the City’s total remaining debt capacity.

Meyer also shared estimations for next year’s Net Present Value (NPV). “There’s not a lot of speculation that interest rates are going to increase very much within the next six months,” she said before pointing to the estimated NPV savings of around \$2.4 million, which is an annual savings of about \$180,000 in the general funds.

According to Director Meyer, the Council’s current plan is to use those annual savings to cover the additional \$5 million needed for the Community

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Justice Center. After the presentation, Council President George Hurst clarified with Meyer that none of the bonds presented are related to the Community Recover Center (RCR) — an additional section of the CJC that will provide behavioral health services.





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# Silver Creek Family Church Christmas Tree lighting

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD, Wash., December 5, 2021 – Hundreds attended the annual Lynnwood Christmas Tree lighting at Silver Creek Family Church. Although temperatures dipped to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, prayers were answered to provide a break in the forecasted rain/snow.

Last night's holiday event featured live music, a coffee bar, food vendors, a photo booth, vendor booths, ponies, a mobile vaccine clinic and of course, a visit from Santa Clause.

The Lynnwood Times had the unique privilege to tour the event with Karina Gasperin of the Snohomish County Latino Coalition and founder of the Afrolatino Festival.

Gasperin, organized a mobile vaccine clinic for the event in partnership with Equity Partnership of Snohomish County, WAGRO Foundation, and Providence Hospitals. Lynnwood Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby assisted Gasperin in facilitating COVID-19 vaccines to over 200 residents during the Lynnwood Christmas Tree lighting event. The vaccines were administered by Bird's Eye Medical.

To support local vaccine equity efforts, Van Dinh-Kuno along with local organizations came together to form the Vaccine Equity Partnership. These organizations, with guidance from Washington State Department of Health and support from Providence NWA clinical teams, are working across the state to deliver "EQUITABLE, TRANSPARENT and DEPENDABLE

vaccinations to vulnerable community members."

Each Saturday, the team meets at Silver Creek Family Church in Lynnwood to administer vaccines to 5 to 11-year-olds. December 11th and 18th are the last two Saturdays of the year the team will be at this location.

"This site offers accommodations for a diverse community," Altamirano-Crosby told the Lynnwood Times when asked what makes this site unique from the others. "We understand and honor the cultural differences of each person."

Altamirano-Crosby shared that because of their diverse team of volunteers they can provide culturally appropriate vaccinations.

"Because of their Muslim faith, vaccines to women will only be administered to women. Also, it will only be administered in a private room. We do our best to show respect and empathy," said Altamirano-Crosby.

The Lynnwood Times ran into Lynnwood-mayor elect Christine Frizzell who was in line to get her booster shot along with her father.

"We are going to be better as a community when everybody gets the vaccine," Mayor-elect Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times when asked why is it important to get vaccinated. "Hopefully we don't have to go back into quarantine... I understand that everyone has their preferences and their reasons... think about others and think about not overwhelming our hospital system."

Lynnwood Councilwoman Shannon



Sessions attended the tree lighting ceremony with her husband.

Santa Claus arrived to light the tree thanks to the efforts of South County Fire. Hundreds of kids and kids-at-heart welcomed Santa who then led the countdown.

Other organizations and non-profits sponsoring last night's efforts were: South County Fire, Lynnwood Police Department, Lynnwood Food Bank, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Rise Up Academy.

## from page 3 WW2 HERO

and his crew of 10 encountered heavy gunfire that took out all of his aircraft's hydraulics. Maintaining calm and composed, he successfully maneuvered the damaged plane to the small island of Midway saving the lives of all of his crew members.

Based on his heroic efforts Warp was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "heroism in aerial flight against the enemy," and was the only crew member of the 10 onboard that did not receive a purple heart.

"There's nothing that gets you more focused than realizing that everyone down there is trying to kill you," Stan would later tell his children.

For the next two years, Warp and his fellow Air Corps soldiers continued their efforts to ward off enemy troops until the war came to an end in September 1945 with the allies reigning victorious.

After combat, Warp returned to Seattle where he visited his old friend and war buddy Jack Martin. Jack's younger sister, Shirley, answered the door immediately taking Stan's breath away at how she had matured into a beautiful woman from the last time they saw each other.

One year later, on June 22, 1946, they were married. He said that this was when his real life began.

"It was the beginning of a very happy 66-year marriage. He and Shirley raised three sons – Rick, Martin and Steve. Through the way he lived his life, he set a very high standard for integrity, hard work and ultimately for success on many dimensions. He was a loving husband. He and Shirley were best friends and partners throughout their marriage, sharing good times and bad", his obituary states.

Stan attended the University of Washington graduating with a degree in economics in only three years and eventually became a successful, independent real estate broker and developer, President of the Washington Association of Realtors and on the National Board of Directors. Stan was a stalwart member of the community, giving back after the success that he had for himself. He served as a member of the University Place School Board, and he taught real estate investment nationwide.

Both Stan and his wife were extremely active in their children's lives, taking them on fishing trips and teaching them the hard work ethic that had brought Stan to his successes. According to Martin Warp, Stan's middle son, he was a humble man who seldom talked about his time spent in the war. For years his sons did not even know about their father's Distinguished Flying Cross.

"I look at my dad as a war hero. He was a guy that was really humble and taught us a lot of lessons. We weaved those lessons into mostly everything

that we were doing," Martin Warp told the Lynnwood Times.

Once, when Stanley was out of town teaching real estate, his son Martin was at a crossroads in life and gave him a call. He told his father he was going to quit school and join the Navy to contribute to the efforts in the Vietnam war. Stan immediately flew home to discuss it with his son.

"One thing I remember about the [Vietnam] war was that there was a lot of animosity. In World War II it was very different. Everyone was going in who could. I went in because other guys I knew were going and I knew a guy who was killed over there. I didn't understand power politics or really understand what it was about," Martin told the Lynnwood Times.

After finishing basic training, Martin completely by happenstance, was stationed in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, the same place where it all started.

"Being stationed in Pearl Harbor really made you think. I would look out onto the Arizona memorial, where our ship sometimes tied up, and there was still small amounts of oil leaking out [from the attack]. It was a constant reminder of where it all started," Martin Warp told the Lynnwood Times. "It's really kind of interesting that we both passed through there."

Martin's journey through his father's footsteps did not stop in Pearl Harbor, however. Many of the locations he vis-

ited in the Navy were locations his father served several years before during World War II, including the Midway Islands, the same island where his father crash landed.

In 2004, many years after Stan's son Martin left the war in Vietnam and had a family of his own, the last functional B-24 bomber came to Seattle's Boeing field. Martin and his brother Stan chipped in and brought their father onboard for one, final flight in his old war plane.

"It was so great because being on that plane brought back so many memories. He would take us around and say this is where Ernie sat, this is the bomb hatch that ended the war. After that, he started to open-up to more war stories we had never heard before," Martin told the Lynnwood Times.

Stan passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 2012, 71 years after hearing the radio broadcast of Pearl Harbor on the radio. He was 89. Per his request, his remains were cremated and dispersed in the Puget Sound waters where his sons and him use to fish.

Stan left his wife Shirley, his sons Rick, Martin, and Steve, and grandchildren Erica, Lindsey, Josie, Alex and Broc. By his own words, one should "play the hand you are dealt." Stan played his extraordinarily well.

"He was a hero, a great father, taught me a lot, and supported me," Martin told the Lynnwood Times.

# What's going on around Snohomish County this holiday season?

By KIENAN BRISCOE

Snohomish County, Wash. - The Christmas tree lights have been lit at Silver Creek Family Church for the annual tree lighting ceremony but that doesn't mean the holiday festivities are over.

Keep the holiday spirit alive with the following upcoming events all over Snohomish County.

## LYNNWOOD

**Dinner with Santa at Chick-Fil-A,** 3026 196th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036

On Tuesday, December 21, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Santa Clause will be hanging out in the Lynnwood Chick-Fil-A drive-thru, smiling, waving, and bringing holiday cheer to all who are craving the chain's famous chicken sandwiches. Come say hi and, who knows, you may just get on Santa's nice list for the year!

**Holly House Holiday Toy Drive,** Those living in the Lynnwood area hoping to give back this holiday season should consider visiting Holly House's Holiday Toy Drive.

Do you want to encourage your little ones to give? Help your children sort through their books and stuffed animals to pick out "new or like-new" toys that they are not using anymore.

Holly House is a children's holiday gift program that provides gifts and necessities for low-income children in primarily the Edmonds School District, Lynnwood, during the holidays.

Drop off new toys & necessities at Holly Homes's community drop-off site at Spartas Pizza on 76th & Highway 99 or browse their Amazon wishlist.

Beginning as a grassroots operation in 2006, Holly Homes has grown to serve 2,200 low-income children in 16 schools across the Edmonds School District.

The giving does not end with toy donations, however. Holly Homes is always

looking for volunteers to fulfill their dreams of paving better lives for underprivileged children. For volunteer or donation opportunities, visit <https://www.hollyhouseforkids.org/donate-financially.html>.

**Christmas at Charisma Christian Center,** Join the Charisma Christian Center for a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m. Friends and family are welcome.

Following their 11:30 a.m. service, which includes music and caroling from the Charisma Kids Ministry and a special Christmas dance performance, they will gather for a potluck lunch and more fun, including photos with Santa, face painting, and giveaways for new visitors.

**Lynnwood Lights,** Drive through a Lynnwood neighborhood famous for its annual Christmas light shows at Lynnwood Lights.

Located at 1409 172nd Pl SW, just five minutes away from Alderwood Mall, the display takes place every evening from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. up until January 1. Shows commence every 30 minutes and last about 18 minutes each.

Attendees can even tune their radio to FM 103.1 to set a holiday-themed score to the miraculous display. This is a must-see show for the whole family.

## EVERETT

**Holiday Lights Run** (Tuesday, December 14, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.), Costco Gas Station, 10200 19th Ave SE, Everett, WA

Join in for some an athletic good time for the Holiday Lights Run in the Fir Grove neighborhood in Everett.

Every year, thousands of cars filled with wide-eyed holiday visitors make the slow drive through the brightly lit Fir Grove neighborhood in South Everett. The 20-plus year tradition of houses illuminated with ridiculous amounts of Christmas lights and front yards decorated with holiday characters is a favorite annual event for many families in December.

Sightseers donate canned food and cash to benefit the Volunteers of America Food Bank. The elaborately decorated homes are located between 100th Street SE and 104th Street SE, in the area of 21st Avenue SE. Santa's donation collection site is on 21st Avenue SE, just past the 100th Street SE entrance to Fir Grove.

Those interested are encouraged to do the following:

- bring a food donation (you will need to run or walk with your donations)
- wear light gear (a headlamp/flashlight or your favorite holiday lights)

**Everett Mall Holiday Music Series,-** Jolly on over to Everett Mall to listen to holiday jingles on December 9 and 23 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kristen Marlow will perform on December 9 and Sean Morse will perform on December 23.

The concerts are part of the Live in Everett's Everett Mall Holiday Music Series and are located at 1420 SE Everett Mall Way.

On December 17 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Everett Mall will host the EMI Holiday Party, featuring covers and originals from local artists. The price of admission is \$10 and proof of vaccination is required for entry.

Everett Mall Warm Winter Clothes Holiday Donation

While rocking out to live music at the Everett Mall, it's important to remember those who are without warm clothes as temperatures in Washington continue to drop.

Everett Mall is partnering with Volunteers of America Western Washington to host a warm clothes drive inside the mall. Anyone who is interested can bring new or gently used warm clothing to the Volunteers of America box at the indoor mall entrance.

Donations can be dropped off at the indoor front entrance near Old Navy during the following hours:

- Friday, December 10: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, December 11: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, December 12: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## EDMONDS

**Edmonds Holiday Market** (Saturday, December 11 and 18, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.), 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds, WA.

The Edmonds Holiday Market is a two-month opportunity to find the perfect, locally crafted gift, just in time for what's sure to be a wonderful holiday season. For many, the market is an annual tradition, followed by a stroll through downtown Edmonds, visiting boutiques and meeting family or friends for a meal.

Represented at the market this year is 3 Generations Jam, a family-affair business making small-batch artisan jams and syrups from local, clean, and/or certified organic fruit they purchase from area farmers they know and trust.

Vicki Nuñez-Remtulla of Cordially Sweet Candle Co. is attending with her hand-poured soy candles (all-natural, non-GMO, vegan) with a wood wick that makes a "crackling sound like a mini fireplace." Talk about creating a little holiday ambiance!

Seattle's Culture Shock Brew is bringing its whole fruit kombucha with good-for-you live cultures.

More than 60 vendors are signed up to offer everything from coffee beans and ravioli to butter toffee, mushrooms, flowers (yes, Teng's Garden is back!), Indian street food, whole fish, 88 Cues Filipino food, and Chuckanut Beef's grass-fed beef and lamb.

Edmonds, with that special hometown charm, will be putting on a show with a wonderland of lights, music, holiday wreaths and greetings on shop fronts, and rides on the Holiday Trolley with Emily the Holiday Elf on Saturdays. Eat, shop, and be merry and join other

Continued **PAGE 09** >>

# Holiday Variety Show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 7:30-9:30 PM  
\$18 • MARYSVILLE OPERA HOUSE, 1225 3RD ST

Festive show with emcee Stitch Mitchell featuring The Jewel Tones Motown Christmas melodies, Holiday Harmony Pop's jazzy-pop renditions and special intermission featuring staged holiday readings written by local children.

Beer, wine and holiday refreshments available for purchase.

Questions? Call 360-363-8400  
Register online: [www.marysvillewa.gov](http://www.marysvillewa.gov)



## Send cards to Gold Star Families



Gold Star Family Tree displayed at the home of Patrick Crosby. Lynnwood Times.

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

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

Gold Star Family Tree displayed in Lynnwood in 2019. Photo courtesy of Patrick Crosby.

For those unsure of what message to include within their card, Crosby recommends touching on the sacrifices

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

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

Crosby will be receiving cards all through December, 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.

### How to Participate

For more information about how to participate email [patrickcrosby@frontier.com](mailto:patrickcrosby@frontier.com). Participants are to mail their cards to 6406 208th St. SW, Lynnwood WA, 98036.

### from page 8 EVENTS

families on Saturdays at the market.

**Wreath Walk Edmonds** (Until December 16, 8:00 p.m.)

The second annual Wreath Walk in Edmonds continues to be displayed throughout December 16.

Last year, Art Walk Edmonds started a new tradition for downtown, the Wreath Walk Edmonds! This new tradition of hanging original, artist-designed and decorated wreaths in select

storefronts during the holiday season is back November 18 to December 16 along with an online auction for those who wish to take home one of these special wreaths.

Art Walk Edmonds has juried the wreath concepts to pick the best of the best in these one-of-a-kind wreaths. Artists thought "outside the wreath" with their designs, each portraying the artist's unique style. Learn more about the wreath's artist by reading their bio listed beside the wreath and on the Auction Page.

**It's a Wonderful Life**  
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 or 425-774-9600  
**Edmonds Driftwood Players**  
 Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. ([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

All proceeds from the Wreath Auction benefit Art Walk Edmonds, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Edmonds.

**Winter Wonderland on the Waterfront**, Join the Young Professionals to close 2021 with a festive holiday party in Edmond's own winter wonderland on the Edmonds waterfront on Tuesday, December 9, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Come discuss free enterprise, hear insights on recent supply chain disruptions, and learn how the business community is responding to vaccine mandates. Joining will be WPC

Small Business Center Director Mark Harmsworth and serial entrepreneur, Thomas Budinick.

**Winter Bazaar Holiday Sale**, On December 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Maplewood Rock and Gem Club will be hosting a Winter Bazaar Holiday Sale featuring rock, gem, jewelry, and crystal vendors selling their goods at discounted prices.

Located at 8802 196th Street SW, the holiday sale is sure to have the perfect

Continued **PAGE 16** >>

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE RADIO SHOW"**

Monday, December 13  
 6:30-8:00 pm  
 Marysville Opera House  
 1225 3rd Street  
**FREE**  
 Refreshments available for purchase.  
[www.marysvillewa.gov](http://www.marysvillewa.gov)  
 360-363-8400

# Federal judge rejects Pfizer's interchangeability and questions the existence of Comirnaty vax



## FEDERAL JUDGE REJECTS DOD'S CLAIM THAT COMIRNATY AND PFIZER-BIONTECH VAX INTERCHANGEABLE

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

Debates surrounding Pfizer's FDA approved Comirnaty vaccine continue as a Federal District Judge recently weighed in on the matter. Judge Allen Winsor of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, whom President Donald J. Trump nominated in 2018, rejected the Department of Defense's (DOD) claim that Pfizer's approved Comirnaty vaccine is interchangeable with their Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which remains authorized for emergency use (EUA).

### The significance of Judge Winsor's opinion

In an order issued Nov. 12 in *Doe et al. v. Austin*, Winsor denied the preliminary injunction requested by more than 15 service members against the Military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Despite denying the request, Winsor's opinion in the case is significant.

"[T]he DOD cannot mandate vaccines that only have an EUA," he stated. Although Pfizer's Comirnaty vaccine received FDA approval in August, the vials in circulation are still labeled for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). And as the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines remain under EUA, there is currently no approved COVID-19 vaccine available to the servicemen.

To view the order in its entirety visit <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WINSORORDER.pdf>.

### FDA official unable to prove Comirnaty "exists at all" in court

What's more, Judge Winsor noted that "the plaintiffs have shown that the DOD is requiring injections from vials not labeled 'Comirnaty.' Indeed, defense counsel could not even say whether vaccines labeled 'Comirnaty' exist at all."

Considering one of the defendants is Janet Woodcock, the Acting Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, it is striking that the defense was unable to prove the existence of the only FDA approved vaccine in the U.S.

### Medically but not legally interchangeable

Winsor also addressed the interchangeability concept that is central to the plaintiffs' argument. While sites like Reuters and Factcheck.org have covered the science behind how Pfizer's EUA vaccine is interchangeable with their FDA approved one, Winsor gave a legal opinion on the matter.

Recounting the plaintiffs' argument against interchangeability, the judge states, "If the FDA's goal were to 'retroactively license' the EUA vaccine, it had an odd way of doing so—in the same footnote describing the EUA vaccine and Comirnaty as 'interchangeable[e],' the FDA clarifies that the two products are 'legally distinct.'"

Evaluating this crucial distinction, he explained that "the FDA nowhere claims that EUA vaccine had been licensed as 'interchangeable' with Comirnaty." In that same section of the order, Winsor states that the FDA used the word interchangeable in a practical sense, not a legal one, in its approval documents for the vaccine, and that it was more of a "medical claim, rather than a regulatory claim."

All of Pfizer's vaccines, then, that don't have "Comirnaty" on the label are not FDA approved products. "As a legal matter," Winsor says, "vaccines sent before August 23—and vaccines produced after August 23 in unapproved facilities—remain 'product[s] authorized for emergency use under section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.'"

These statements strengthen the "bait and switch" arguments organizations such as Children's Health Defense and the Liberty Counsel made upon Comirnaty's approval. In sum, they claim that the FDA issued approval for a vaccine that's unavailable to citizens so that the Biden administration could enact vaccine mandates.

In mid-September, the Lynnwood Times also had questions regarding the interchangeability of Pfizer's EUA vaccine with Comirnaty—bringing attention to the "certain differences" and "legally distinct" portions in the FDA's approval letter. And although clarifica-

tions were issued from the Center for Disease Control and other reputable sources, Winsor's assertions in court warrant revisiting the subject.

### The local search for Comirnaty

While *Doe et al. v. Austin* is happening in the Northern District of Florida, the Times' staff surveyed pharmacies across Snohomish County to see if the Comirnaty vaccine is locally available.

Out of the ten pharmacies contacted from Lynnwood to Monroe, only eight had Pfizer vaccines in stock. But of those eight, none of them had a vial with "Comirnaty" on the label. Most pharmacy techs relayed how they were using the same Pfizer vaccines they've had since the beginning.

Though it is a considerably small sample size, it has been about three and a half months since the FDA licensed Pfizer's Comirnaty vaccine, and it still appears to be unavailable. (Please contact the Lynnwood Times if you have information regarding Comirnaty vaccines available in Snohomish County).

Chris Beyrer, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, did note that Comirnaty's arrival might take a while. Back in August, Beyrer explained to the Washington Post that the Pfizer vac-

cines manufactured before the FDA's approval cannot legally be branded as Comirnaty even though they're the same formulation.

"That's why there may be, for some time, EUA Pfizer doses in use before [fully approved] Comirnaty becomes more widely available," Beyrer said. "This is standard, nothing unusual, and [it] does not void an EUA."

### EAU products and the option to accept or refuse

If Pfizer's approved and EUA vaccines are only interchangeable medically but not legally, as Winsor's opinion indicates, that could impact vaccine mandates across the country. Though debates about whether or not EUA vaccines are considered "experimental" continue—more on that in a moment—American law allows citizens to refuse EUA vaccination and the consequences thereof.

According to United States Code, specifically 21 U.S. Code Sec.360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(III) regarding "Authorization for medical products for use in emergencies," a required condition of an EUA product is "the option to accept or refuse administration of the product, of the consequences, if any, of refusing administration of the product, and of the alternatives to the product that are available and of their benefits and risks."

Given this law, whether or not EUA vaccines are considered "experimental" is immaterial when it comes to one's right to refuse vaccination. Regarding the issue, on one hand, USA Today asserts that the vaccines are not experimental because they still had to undergo testing and approval. And on the other, the Children's Health Defense claims that "EUA products are considered experimental under U.S. law," citing the FDA's website.

Despite the denial of the preliminary injunction, Judge Winsor's opinion may prove to be instrumental in substantiating arguments against vaccine mandates, which many have taken to courts across the states. As the New

Continued PAGE 12 >>



*Did porch pirates make off with your package?*

Our office has received reports of several package thefts this week. If you have had a package stolen, please fill out a report online at [www.mycrimereport.us](http://www.mycrimereport.us)  
If you have video surveillance of the incident, please include that information in your report.



# County looks to Everett for hotel-turned homeless shelter

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**EVERETT, Wash.** - In response to exacerbated issues of affordability, behavioral health, and homelessness caused by the pandemic, Snohomish County is searching for an Everett hotel to convert into shelter/bridge housing following in the footsteps of neighboring jurisdictions.

At the November 24 City Council Meeting, Michael Fong of the Snohomish County Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Mary Jane “MJ” Brell Vujovic, Director for the Snohomish County Human Services Department, presented to council solutions to address these increased levels of homelessness with 150 new shelter/bridge housing beds by 2023. These new housing units and services would include expansion of Everett’s 20-unit pallet housing unit project by an additional 40 units and the purchasing of at least one hotel/motel in Snohomish County to provide yearlong shelter and services with the goal of stabilizing chronically homeless individuals.

Everett has been the chosen site for the purchase of this hotel after being found to hold 44 percent of the entire county’s homeless population, as well as providing an extensive service provider network and transit accessibility. Snohomish County has also expressed they will pursue options elsewhere dependent on the response of available partners and the scale of need.

“Our intention is to purchase this first hotel in Everett, but we do intend to pursue other options elsewhere in the county if we can find jurisdictions to partner with and there is a need. Data shows that this strategy is highly effective at moving people off the streets and onto a path to permanent housing,” Kelsey Nyland, Communications Director for the Office of Recovery and Resiliency of Snohomish County, told the Lynnwood Times.

The hotel would operate 24/7 and provide services including but not limited to meals, hygiene, storage, and staff to support a transition to permanent housing, ideally with a partner organization. The hotel would shelter 100 to 150 individuals at once, bringing in 30 to 50 percent (per the 2020 PIT count) of Everett’s unsheltered homeless population to one facility, based on a financial analysis conducted by the Human Services Department.

“The facility will be staffed by at least one partner organization who will operate the facility and administer the on-site services. Ideally, we will also have a partner organization that can provide on-site behavioral health services,” Nyland told the Lynnwood Times. “ARPA and other state and local funds will cover the entire initial cost of purchasing and operating the facility.”

Snohomish County Executives added that buying a pre-existing facility would be far less expensive than building new rooms, which would cost an initial investment of \$5 to \$10 million in ARPA dollars. Additionally, purchasing a facility instead of renting, the county stated, would be more cost-effective and a better use of taxpayer money.

Snohomish County began to consider the strategy of providing unsheltered

individuals with vouchers to hotels/motels as far back as 2017 in a report on sheltering that was delivered to the county council. The idea of purchasing a hotel/motel took shape earlier in 2021 as the county identified the scale and potential uses of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The Snohomish County Council has voted in support of this sheltering project three times:

- October 6, 2021: Vote to appropriate the first installment of ARPA dollars, which includes investments for the sheltering project
- November 8, 2021: Vote to hire a broker to support the project
- November 9, 2021: Vote to pass the 2022 budget, which includes investments for this sheltering project

At the November 8 meeting, Snohomish County Council approved Kidder Mathews as the broker to scope out a site that would have at least 125 rooms. Under the agreement, \$220,000 of ARPA funds will be used to pay Kidder Mathews and any potential future subcontractors.

Kidder Mathews is the West Coast’s largest independent commercial real estate firm and helped King County purchase three hotels under the Health Through Housing initiative earlier this year, providing up to 313 units for the chronically homeless in King County.

The vote for the agreement passed 4-1 with the only council member voting no being County Councilmember Sam Low. During the vote, Low proposed an amendment stating the county would not buy a hotel in a city without a letter of support from the Mayor or City Council in order to maintain transparency with the city of the potential site. Low’s amendment was voted down 3-2.

“I believe that buying hotels is not a core function of county government,” Low told the Lynnwood Times.

At Everett’s City Council meeting where the project was introduced, it was expressed by Councilmember Scott Murphy and Council President Brenda Stonecipher that the council had not been made aware of this project and many council members learned about the project from a local newspaper.

“I was not at all aware that this was imminently happening and would be happening in this city,” Councilmember Scott Murphy said.

Despite the lack of transparency, the council was mostly in favor of moving forward with the project, provided the county put in place a series of “guardrails” that would protect neighboring communities and offer services that would provide mental health assistance to the hotel’s residents within their limited 90-days-or-less stay.

“This hotel could be a good idea, especially if we don’t do what King County’s been doing, and I’ve heard a lot of controversy on that. If we limit it to Everett residents, I think this could work if we require treatment, assuming they need drug or mental health treatment,” Councilmember Scott Bader said

Nearly 50 percent of all homeless individuals suffer from some sort of mental illness. Through several community outreach attempts, Snohomish County found a clear theme that an increase in behavioral health services is needed to address the needs of chronically homeless individuals to prevent them from repeatedly cycling through the system.

In the last five years, Snohomish County has invested \$89 million in behavioral health services through the Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Sales tax fund. The county is investing an additional \$2.5 million in behavior health efforts using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. All of these dollars will be allocated by July 2022.

The county’s next steps with the hotel project are to identify a location and form an initial agreement with the sellers, hold community engagement with neighboring residents and businesses, publicly notify residents of the proposed purchase and sales agreement, hold a final vote on purchase and sales agreement with Snohomish County Council, and finally find service providers and begin outreach to unsheltered residents before the shelter operation begins sometime in the first quarter of 2022.

So far the county’s broker has begun touring potential facilities but has not settled on a site.

“We must meet the urgency and scale of this crisis, or we will undoubtedly see a continued steep increase in unsheltered homelessness in the coming months and years. Without action, the

problem will only get worse,” Nyland told the Lynnwood Times.

## Controversy Concerning Hotels to Homeless Shelters

Bloomberg reported the Seattle area’s roughly \$350 million to convert hotels into long-term housing for the homeless is “one of the boldest” in the country.

King County’s efforts have not been without their controversies, however. After King County paid to relocate homeless individuals from a crowded downtown Seattle shelter to a Renton Red Lion Hotel last year, a concerned Renton City Council voted into effect, 5-2, emergency legislation that would require those staying in the hotel to leave by January 2022.

“The consequences will affect people living in a Red Lion Hotel in the short term and could impact the region’s homelessness strategy long term,” Scott Greenstone, Seattle Times reporter wrote in his report last year.

The community surrounding the Seattle area has taken to public forums to share their opinions about King County’s efforts, which are largely divided.

“These ‘hotels’ just become drug dens with no oversight and increase crime in the surrounding areas,” a Reddit user posted.

“Once you put the homeless in homes, homelessness is fixed,” another Reddit

Continued **PAGE 12** >>

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# Lynnwood PD unable to pursue robbery suspect under new legislation, even after being rammed

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD, Wash.** - After robbing a Pick-n-Pull on Highway 99 on the evening of November 30, a suspect reversed into a Lynnwood Police Department patrol car, peeled forward onto the sidewalk, crossed multiple lanes of traffic, then sped off northbound on Highway 99 fleeing the scene. The Lynnwood PD officer, under newly implemented state laws and department policy, was unable to pursue.

Under HB1054, law enforcement cannot pursue unless the person has committed a violent offense, sex offense, an escape (from custody) offense, or is believed to be under the influence.

The suspect was found stealing items from the closed Pick-n-Pull which resulted in a foot pursuit with the officer. The man dropped the stolen items and managed to get into a white pickup truck that was parked at a nearby business. The officer attempted to get him to stop but he resisted.

In a video posted by the Lynnwood PD on December 1, the officer's camera footage shows the suspect in his white pickup truck with the windows slightly closed, masking a clear image of his

face. The video shows the officer, with his lights and sirens activated, calling, "Hey, pull over buddy, Lynnwood Police, pull to the right, do it now," before the suspect sped away. The Washington State Patrol later found the pickup truck abandoned in a ditch off State Route 9 in Marysville.

Although the Lynnwood PD was unable to pursue, they managed to get the license plate number and find the registered owner who informed the PD that they had lent that truck to a "family member." This disclosed family member matched the description the officer witnessed commit the crimes.

The suspect faces charges for criminal trespass, obstructing a law enforcement officer, hit and run, and attempting to elude a police vehicle. Although the Lynnwood PD has a suspect in mind, Lynnwood PD Public Affairs and Information Officer Joanna Small told the Lynnwood Times, "It's a hard case to prove, and no one has been arrested at this time."

The damage to the patrol vehicle was minor, though the suspect hit the front driver's side push bars hard enough to move the vehicle out of the way. The officer was not in the vehicle at the

time.

Since August 1 (a few days after the new legislation went into effect), the Lynnwood PD has recorded 25 hit-and-run collisions, though the PD has not recorded how many of these have been patrol vehicles. Before the new laws went into effect, the Lynnwood PD also recorded 24 between January 2021 and July 31, 2021, a longer time period, meaning fewer hit-and-runs, but to Joanna Small, this is "not a statistically significant difference."

However, the Lynnwood PD recorded 31 cases of eluding (attempting to elude, disobeying an officer, resisting arrest, and obstructing an officer) between August 1 and December 6, compared to only 19 cases January 1 through June 31.

"That's significant in my opinion, but I can't attribute that to the new laws," Small told the Lynnwood Times.

Governor Inslee signed new legislation that went into effect on July 25 and affects law enforcement and how they provide public safety services, leaving many police departments to revise their responses to crime.

HB1054 passed 54-43 at the House level and 27-22 at the Senate, signed by the governor on May 18, establishing requirements for tactics and equipment used by peace officers.

HB1310, concerning permissible uses of force by law enforcement and correctional officers, passed 55-42 at the House and 26-23 at the Senate, signed by Governor Inslee on May 18.

A day after the Lynnwood PD posted the camera footage to its Facebook page, Adam Fortney, Snohomish County Sheriff, made a follow-up post stating the following:

"The only way to save this state when it comes to public safety is for all of us to be involved. Do not allow the activists in the legislature to give this state over to the criminal element any further. This is the second case in the last three weeks of suspects ramming police cars and the police not being able to pursue them after. This is not how a civil society is supposed to run. It is time to stop the insanity."

Sheriff Fortney concluded his post by urging the public to write to their local legislatures to request "potential legislative fixes."

from page 11 **PFIZER**

York Times reported last month, 11 states sue the Biden administration

over its vaccination mandate for large companies.

Concerning the Doe et al. v. Austin

case, there will be another hearing in September 2022.

from page 11 **HOMELESSNESS**

user responded.

## The Problem of Homelessness in Snohomish County

The number of homeless individuals has steadily increased over the years. The 2020 PIT identified a total of 1,132 individuals experiencing homelessness with a significant increase of unsheltered homelessness skyrocketing from 2018 to 2020, increasing 58 percent in 2019 and another 12 percent in 2020. Among Snohomish County, Everett saw the highest population of unsheltered homeless at 300.

There are currently 646 year-round and 88 seasonal shelter beds in Snohomish County, including hotels/motels. The difference between the number of year-round shelter beds and the number of people experiencing homelessness is 486.

## Affordable Housing

Snohomish County executives reported to the Everett City Council that the county has an estimated rental vacancy rate of 1.9 percent and the supply for housing is not in keeping with the current population growth. For no households to spend more than 30 percent of income toward housing, the county would need 127,215 additional affordable housing units by 2040. Additionally, 67.1 percent of Snohomish County residents are homeowners, and 32.9 percent of county residents are renters.

In the last five years, Snohomish County contributed resources to the construction of 222 units of affordable housing and anticipates an additional 200 new units coming online within the next five years.

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# Your December 2021 horoscope

December kicks off our fantasies this month, when the mystical planet, Neptune, turns direct on the 1st of the month. So, this is a great time for some to move forward to possibly achieve those previously blocked or unrealized wishes or dreams.

On the 4th with have a Total Solar Eclipse, in Sagittarius, which offers the potential a powerful time for adventure and/or spiritual aspiration – in other words, a time for seeking out new visions or philosophies if your current ones are not working. It might also suggest a degree of escapism for some too, where the tendency will be to head for the hills if harsh realities are hard to face.

The Sign of Sagittarius is further emphasized this month, when the planet Mars enters it on the 13th – pretty much the same time as Mercury enters the businesslike and worldly ambitious Capricorn. Therefore, this could be a great opportunity for some to spread their wings and seek new horizons, yet doing it in a materially constructive way. This could of course create somewhat of a conflict between how your body wants to act and what you're your mind is saying you should do – something of a "Don't tell me what I CAN do, just tell me what I SHOULD do" kind of thing!

Adventurousness and escapism are definitely highlighted traits for this month – even long before the family migrations of Christmas Day are upon us!

Lastly, this month we are approaching the darkest days within the winter cycle. But with the arrival of the Sun in Capricorn on the 21st – marking the official Winter Solstice – there may well be much more light at the end of a long, dark tunnel before that!

## DECEMBER 2021 HOROSCOPE BY SIGN

**ARIES:** Anything that doesn't cramp your style or impede your progress is good for you I would imagine. So, maybe I hear you say... bring it on December! From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 12th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Libra on the 26th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**TAURUS:** Stability and consistency is your style. Hard work is your habit – that is, if you're motivated enough. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 15th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Scorpio on the 2nd or 28th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**GEMINI:** Time to get more serious when your ruling planet enters Capricorn – in other words, a potentially good time for making serious plans. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 16th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Sagittarius on the 3rd or 30th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**CANCER:** Cancerians are usually really busy during the family holiday season – so it would not be surprising if you wanted to head for the hills at times. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 19th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Capricorn on the 5th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**LEO:** With your ruling planet, the Sun, at it's darkest at this time of the year it must be hard for you to shine as your normally would. However, from an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 21st, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Aquarius on the 7th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**VIRGO:** With Virgos not normally being the most confident of types, Mercury entering Capricorn – another Earth Sign, like you – gives you an opportunity to put some practical plans into action, for the benefit of others. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 25th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Pisces on the 9th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**LIBRA:** Could be a challenging time, where you're maybe going to feel pulled in two directions at once. However, from an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 26th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Aries on the 11th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**SCORPIO:** The short days and long nights are a challenge for most people. However, according to your Sign type you're said to be the most comfortable with the darker side of life apparently. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 1st or 28th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Taurus on the 15th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Watch out world, there should be no stopping you this month! With the Solar Eclipse and the fiery Mars energy unleashed in your own Sign this month, you could find yourself with more ideas than you care to deal with. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 3rd or 30th it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Gemini on the 16th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**CAPRICORN:** You should be able to express yourself better once the planet Mercury enters your Sign on the 13th, so reserve this time for getting your long-term thinking straight. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 5th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Cancer on the 19th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**AQUARIUS:** Always a law unto yourself, this month should offer you even more opportunities to express your restless individuality than any other so far this year. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 7th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Leo on the 21st it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

**PISCES:** When the communicative Mercury enters your opposite Sign, Virgo, this month, you may find yourself a little more tongue-tied. Or, maybe with your ruling planet, Neptune, going direct now, it might bring on inspiration to write that book or compose that song at last. From an emotional energy point of view, when the Moon enters your sign on the 9th, it may well offer a fine opportunity for getting done what you most want to do – then, when it enters your opposite Sign of Virgo on the 24th, it could suggest the best time of all to ease off.

## DECEMBER 2021 Horoscope featured days at a glance...

- **DECEMBER 1:** The planet NEPTUNE turns DIRECT. If you've felt creatively blocked, or confused in your thinking, now's a time to unscramble the knots. A good time for increased imagination too – although focus is important right now.
- **DECEMBER 4:** TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE in SAGITTARIUS. Could be a time for greater optimism and freedom-loving pursuits. Just don't get carried away with what could seem like boundless ideas and opportunity.
- **DECEMBER 7:** MARS in SCORPIO sextile PLUTO in CAPRICORN. Now if you're a private detective or someone who loves to operate under the radar, this could be the perfect day for you. It's not a bad day to start deep psychological therapy either.
- **DECEMBER 13:** MARS enters SAGITTARIUS. A good time to encourage anything that requires action, adventure, or even truth seeking. Be cautious about going overboard however – although it's definitely a good moment to explore new horizons.
- **DECEMBER 13:** MERCURY enters CAPRICORN. A good time to think out long-term plans and material goals. Structured thinking is what's called for here, so plant mental seeds that could well blossom profitably later.
- **DECEMBER 19:** FULL MOON in GEMINI. Probably a very communicative time, reaching out to others and making social or literary plans. Or possibly a great day to launch that podcast that you're always wanted to launch!
- **DECEMBER 19:** VENUS retrograde in CAPRICORN. Possibly a challenging time for relationships – or for getting that creative flow you've been looking for. Emotional structure is important at this time – especially if exes should appear on the scene.
- **DECEMBER 21:** The SUN enters CAPRICORN – the WINTER SOLSTICE. The darkest and shortest day of the year. So, perhaps a good time for thinking out how you see next year going? In the midst of the cold, dream of warmer times – on whatever level that works for you.
- **DECEMBER 29:** JUPITER enters PISCES. Traditionally Jupiter is the planet of opportunity and Pisces can either have a mystical or otherworldly romantic influence. So, this a really good time to explore those fantasies and dreams you've always been having. They may not all come true – but it's fun imagining them that way at times!

# Op-Ed: Rehumanizing the unvaccinated

By BO JOHN BRUSCO

While debates surrounding COVID-19 vaccines continue, late-night talk shows and popular news outlets have sought to sort the general public into two different camps: the “rational” pro-vaccine side that trusts the science and the “irrational” vaccine-hesitant side that does not. However, as is the case with most issues concerning the human race, it isn’t that simple.

Bias is simply a cognitive shortcut. It is a way for the human brain to conserve energy by finding patterns and relying on those patterns to make sense of the world. However, this inherently human quality can be taken to extremes — hijacked even. A classic example is when a group of people is led to believe that a different group, or even an opposing tribe, consists entirely of morally and/or intellectually inferior people.

This phenomenon can be observed throughout human history. Our natural tendency to divide ourselves into tribes is nothing new and in many cases, tribalism has served humanity well. In the very early days, it was necessary for the survival of the species.

Today, there are instances of extreme tribalism; where tribal loyalties are so intense that ingroup biases interfere with one’s ability to reason objectively causing everything to be viewed through an “us vs them” lens.

Extreme tribalism can be dangerous. Not only can it lead to groupthink, where the majority share the same idea so they assume it’s a good one even when it’s not — but it can also lead to hatred and violence, like the racism and segregation in South African and American history, or even religious violence between Catholics and Protestants in the 17th century.

A present example is the current political polarization in America, which has increased rapidly since the Trump administration, George Floyd riots, and the onset of COVID-19. This left vs. right division is exaggerated and exploited by media corporations — from late-night talk shows to Instagram accounts — that profit off the tribal biases (and in some instances hate) of their audience.

A recent extension of this political divide is the rise of vaccinated vs. unvac-

inated rhetoric. A phrase developed in 2021 is the “Pandemic of the Unvaccinated.” Higher-ups, including U.S. President Joe Biden, have amplified this phrase across the net.

Additionally, as news corporations know that divisive and incendiary stories sell, many of them reported on a Gene Simmons’ quote which referred to unvaccinated people as “enemies.”

Whether or not it’s intentionally used to pit one side against the other, this sort of rhetoric that feeds on tribal biases is not only divisive but dehumanizing.

Vaccine-hesitant Americans have quickly been villainized as the media blames them for the ongoing pandemic — a notion that feeds tribal biases and perpetuates the us vs. them mentality. Though the science indicates that unvaccinated people are 11 times more likely to die from COVID-19, it is also true that unvaccinated people are not the sole contributors to ongoing infections.

As Dr. Eric Topolo, professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, told the Associated Press, “It is true that the unvaccinated are the biggest driver, but we mustn’t forget that the vaccinated are part of it as well, in part because of the delta variant.”

“The pandemic clearly involves *all* people, not just the unvaccinated” (emphasis added).

This is further emphasized when U.S. health officials on December 1 identified the first known Omicron variant case in the U.S. as a vaccinated traveler from South Africa.

But the media campaign to dehumanize and villainize the unvaccinated is lucrative. The viral clips of anti-vaxxers shouting absurdities in rallies and city halls, for example, make for easy laughs among certain late show audiences — as such clips confirm tribal biases in a matter of seconds.

Though airing this kind of footage is a sure-fire way to increase viewership, referring to anti-vaxxers as “maniacs” and suggesting that their behavior and beliefs represent all vaccine-hesitant people is disingenuous. Despite how mainstream media portrays them, there are individuals who are wary of getting



PHOTO SOURCE: Vaccines Do NOT Change This by MDMotivator.

vaccinated against COVID-19 who are also perfectly rational.

To assume that all who aren’t pro-vaccination share the same logic is a hasty generalization. Of course, there are likely some correlations and similarities among them (just like there are between vaccinated and unvaccinated people), but it should be obvious that not all of them adhere to conspiracy theories involving microchips and depopulation.

Something that seemingly not enough media players are talking about is the reality that unvaccinated people have valid reasons to be hesitant. None of this is to suggest that vaccines aren’t safe and effective, but it is an attempt to rehumanize those Americans who

have their rational reservations.

## The Food and Drug Administration

In the 1960s, after thousands of cases of severe birth defects were traced to a drug called thalidomide, Congress charged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the responsibility of ensuring that drugs were safe and effective before going on the market; a process requiring multiple trials to produce “substantial evidence.” (Click here to view the amendment in the National Archives Catalog.)

Today, the FDA is “responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and by ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.”

Recently, the agency has come under scrutiny for its authorization and approval of COVID-19 vaccines, with some suspicious of a rushed process. The approval of Pfizer’s vaccine, now known as Comirnaty, was the fastest vaccine approval in the FDA’s more than 100-year history. As Pfizer-BioNTech filed for licensing in early May, it took a total of four months for the FDA to approve their vaccine.

Now that the FDA has approved a vaccine, the discord between the pro and anti-vax camps has increased. Of the people who remain unvaccinated despite the approval of Comirnaty and the emergency use authorization for several other COVID-19 vaccines,

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from page 14 **REHUMANIZING**

the Washington Post chalked up their resistance to a “willingness to shift the goalposts on what might convince them” to get vaccinated — insinuating that if approval won’t convince them nothing will.

Assumptions like these oversimplify the reasons people have for not getting vaccinated. Just after the FDA granted its approval, Pew Research reported that not only is vaccination status “strongly linked with confidence in the vaccine research and development process,” but that “Americans who are not inoculated against COVID-19 express a range of concerns about the vaccines” (emphasis added) — indicating that for many, it was never solely about FDA approval.

The report lists these concerns via the following statements along with the percentage of unvaccinated Americans who say the statements describe them “very or somewhat well.”

- “There’s too much pressure on Americans to get a COVID-19 vaccine” (88%).
- “We don’t really know yet if there are serious health risks from COVID-19 vaccines” (81%).
- “Public health officials are not telling us everything they know about COVID-19 vaccines” (80%).
- “It’s hard to make sense of all the information about COVID-19 vaccines.” (70%)

The FDA’s approval helped convince many to get vaccinated, as there was a 17 percent increase of first dose vaccinations in the U.S. post-approval. But per Pew Research’s report, said approval was never going to be the end all be all for a large percentage of unvaccinated Americans.

Before writing off those who refuse to get vaccinated despite approval as “nuts,” the FDA’s track record ought to be considered. This is not to say that the FDA doesn’t serve an important purpose, nor that it isn’t an authority on matters regarding public health and safety; however, individuals disinclined to trust the agency aren’t without reason.

**Consider the FDA’s track record**

Historically, the FDA has made modifications to its processes for faster product approvals. One of the earliest examples was born out of necessity as slow approval times were compounded by the AIDS crisis.

As the agency’s responsibilities expanded, approval times for potentially life-saving drugs began to lag. A 2017 scholarly journal from Harvard recounts that “the average time it took the FDA to review a new drug application swelled from 14 months in 1963 to more than 35 months by 1979.”

When these slow approval times coincided with the AIDs crisis, protests

spurred the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) in 1992. According to the FDA, the act “authorizes FDA to collect fees from companies that produce certain human drug and biological products. Since the passage of PDUFA, user fees have played an important role in expediting the drug approval process.”

Though the kairos warranted the passing of the PDUFA, it arguably damaged the agency’s credibility because, since 1992, the FDA has been funded — at least in part — by the same pharmaceutical companies whose products the agency is charged to review and approve.

**FDA funding and Big Pharma**

The FDA is funded by the same pharmaceutical companies that it is regulating. According to its website, \$2.7 billion of the FDA’s 2019 \$5.9 budget came from industry user fees. The FDA’s site also discloses that industry user fees account for 65 percent of its “Human Drugs regulatory activities.”

In her 2018 piece, “FDA Repays Industry by Rushing Risky Drugs to Market,” ProPublica reporter Caroline Chen details how “the more that the FDA relied on industry fees to pay for drug reviews, the more it showed an inclination towards approval.”

“You don’t survive as a senior official at the FDA unless you’re pro-industry,” former FDA medical team leader Dr. Thomas Marciniak told Chen. “The FDA has to pay attention to what Congress tells them to do, and the industry will lobby to get somebody else in there if they don’t like you.”

Dr. Marciniak, who retired in 2014, also told Chen that staffers know “you don’t get promoted unless you’re pro-industry.”

Chen reinforced Dr. Marciniak’s claims with additional statements from other former FDA employees explaining how the agency incentivizes teams to quickly approve drugs. “Nobody gets congratulated for turning a drug down, but you get seriously questioned,” said a former FDA employee who requested anonymity.

Chen does a deep dive into how drug approvals are often financially motivated, uncovering several instances wherein the FDA was seemingly bought out of fulfilling its primary responsibility of “protecting the public health.”

Dr. C. Michael White, Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Connecticut, is also concerned that the FDA is shirking its duty to public health. He wrote an article for The Conversation earlier this year, asking “Why is the FDA funded in part by the companies it regulates?”

“The Food and Drug Administration has moved from an entirely taxpayer-



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er-funded entity to one increasingly funded by user fees paid by manufacturers that are being regulated,” Dr. White writes. “Today, close to 45% of its budget comes from these user fees that companies pay when they apply for approval of a medical device or drug.”

He goes on to observe that the FDA’s approval time has decreased over the decades, noting how in 1987 “it took 29 months from the time a new drug application was filed by the manufacturer for the FDA to decide whether to approve a medication in the U.S.,” and that the approval time has been cut down to only 10 months by 2018.

Dr. White also details how the FDA’s approval of standard new drug applications has recently increased “from 38% in 2005 to 61% in 2018.”

Finally, noting that “the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the FDA provide emergency use authorization for potential treatments in a matter of weeks, not months,” Dr. White explains that “[t]he infrastructure and capacity to review the available information so rapidly is due in large part to the funding from *user fees*” (emphasis added).

Acknowledging the necessity of user fees, he admits that “[s]uccesses have occurred and provided U.S. citizens with medication more quickly than before.” However, Dr. White ultimately concludes that “without careful consideration of what is being negotiated, the FDA can become weak and ineffective, unable to protect its citizens from the next thalidomide.”

**The continuing debate**

Debates surrounding cut corners and rushed processes with COVID-19 vaccines seem to be at a standstill. On one hand, there are qualified scientists like Dr. Namandje Bumpus from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine telling Reuters this year that “[t]he safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines currently in use have been rigorously tested, and the trials did not skip any steps.”

On the other hand, there are academic studies like one Yale conducted in 2017 which found that “[n]early one out of every three drugs approved by

the Food and Drug Administration have a new safety issue detected in the years after approval.”

And while the FDA plays a vital role “in ensuring the safety of medications and medical devices,” as Dr. White wrote, it is clearly not immune to error. And with such a significant responsibility to the general public, it should not be immune to questioning either.

Considering how the FDA’s change in funding has affected the agency over time, is it so unreasonable to question its motives or to be apprehensive at how quickly it granted approval to Pfizer’s vaccine? And should those who err on the side of caution be made to feel like deviants worthy of persecution?

**Pfizer’s Pattern of Misconduct**

Another reason some Americans have been slow to get vaccinated stems from the questionable reputation of Pfizer.

As Pfizer leads the way for COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. with its FDA-approved Comirnaty vaccine, its track record should be considered as well. According to goodjobsfirst.org’s violation tracker (labeled “the most comprehensive source of data on business violations of laws and regulations in the United States” by corpwatch.org) Pfizer has accrued more than \$4,660,896,333 worth of legal penalties since 2000.

The violation tracker includes a comprehensive breakdown of Pfizer’s different types of offenses as well as each penalty’s dollar amount. The corporation’s top “Primary Offense Type” is “off-label or unapproved promotion of medical products,” of which the corporation has ten offenses. The penalties for this category alone amount to \$3,373,675,000.

Pfizer also has 19 “government-contracting-related offenses” and 11 “safety-related offenses” on its track record, amounting to another \$214,983,098 in penalties.

Perhaps the biggest reason some Americans are hesitant to get vaccinated, even if it’s with the approved vaccine, is that Pfizer pled guilty to the “Larg-

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est Health Care Fraud Settlement in Its History” according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2009, the corporation had to pay “\$2.3 Billion for Fraudulent Marketing.”

In the DOJ’s press release, it states that Pfizer “has agreed to plead guilty to a felony violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act for misbranding Bextra with the intent to defraud or mislead.” Bextra was an anti-inflammatory drug that Pfizer pulled from the market back in 2005. The company committed fraud by advertising the drug for uses that were unapproved by the FDA.

“Pfizer promoted the sale of Bextra for several uses and dosages that the FDA specifically declined to approve due to safety concerns,” the press release reads. To settle the case, Pfizer had to pay “the largest criminal fine ever imposed in the United States for any matter.”

**Possible financial motives**

It should also be noted that Pfizer may be financially motivated to sell as many vaccines as they can as soon as they can. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the agency that oversees compensation programs where individuals can file claims alleging injury or death from vaccination. Currently, Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine falls under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP).

The HRSA’s website states that the program is funded by “Appropriated Funds.” The Deputy Director at the HRSA’s Office of Communications, Christy Choi, explained to The Lynnwood Times that the CICP “does not have a dedicated appropriation from Congress,” and that it is “funded by Congressional appropriation to HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] and HHS transfers funds to the CICP.”

“In FY [Fiscal Year] 2022, about \$5.8 million was transferred to the CICP,” Director Choi continued. “As the need for funding for COVID-19 related claims becomes clearer, additional funding may be requested.”

But, as The Lynnwood Times reported previously, eventually the COVID-19 vaccines will be moved from the CICP to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). As the director of the Vaccine Injury Litigation Clinic at George Washington University Renée Gentry noted, “Once it’s no longer in emergency use and it’s recommended for children, it should go into the VICP.”

And this could be a motivation for

Pfizer to quickly sell its COVID-19 vaccines in bulk; once its vaccine falls under the VICP, Pfizer will be required to pay a \$0.75 excise tax for each vaccine it sells.

As Director Choi explained in an email to The Lynnwood Times:

“The Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund provides funding for the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to compensate vaccine-related injury or death petitions for covered vaccines administered on or after October 1, 1988.

Funded by a \$0.75 excise tax on vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for routine administration to children, the excise tax is imposed on each dose (i.e., disease that is prevented) of a vaccine. Trivalent influenza vaccine for example, is taxed \$0.75 because it prevents one disease; measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, which prevents three diseases, is taxed \$2.25.

These taxes are paid by the vaccine manufacturers.”

Vaccines that fall under the VICP are “recommended for routine administration to children and/or pregnant women by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, subject to a federal excise tax, and added to the Vaccine Injury Table by the Secretary of HHS.”

While Pfizer’s intentions are not known, it is a fact that the moment their vaccine is moved to the VICP, they will begin paying \$0.75 for every dose they sell.

As of February 2021, Pfizer’s vaccines go for \$19.50 per dose. According to the company’s CFO Frank A. D’Amelio, \$19.50 is a very low price. During a Q4 2020 Pfizer Inc Earnings Call, D’Amelio said, “that’s not a normal price like we typically get for a vaccine, \$150, \$175 per dose. So pandemic pricing.”

Compared to those other prices, \$19.50 does appear low (even though it’s the most expensive compared to Moderna’s \$15 shot and J&J’s \$10 one, according to fiercepharma.com). However, as the New York Times reported in May 2021, Pfizer’s vaccine earned \$3.5 billion in revenue in only the first three months of this year.

In its July 2021 second-quarter report, Pfizer updated its first-quarter revenue assumptions for the BNT162b2 – Pfizer-BioNTech SE (BioNTech) COVID-19 – vaccine from approximately \$26 billion to \$33.5 billion. For its second-quarter revenue, Pfizer posted \$19.0 billion of which \$7.8 billion

(41%) was related to COVID vaccine sales.

Clearly, the current price per COVID-19 vaccine dose is not harming their business. And when the COVID-19 vaccines are moved to the VICP, Pfizer will be losing more than a pretty penny to the excise tax. For example, if they had to pay \$0.75 for each dose they sold in the first three months of 2021, they would have lost out on about \$13.5 million.

**Big Pharma hiring former public officials**

This potential financial motivation on behalf of Pfizer is yet another reason some may be suspicious of a rushed process. It also doesn’t help that the FDA’s commissioner from 2017 to 2019, Scott Gottlieb, is now employed as Pfizer’s Director and Chair of their Regulatory and Compliance Committee and Member of its Science and Technology Committee. This isn’t to accuse Pfizer of anything suspicious, but the optics don’t look great — especially for those who were already wary of Pfizer’s vaccine given the historical felony crime the company committed in 2009.

**Resisting divisive narratives**

Beyond the FDA and Pfizer, there are other valid reasons as to why some have reservations regarding COVID-19 vaccines. For example, Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has more or less been the face of scientific authority during the pandemic, has recently come under fire for allegedly lying to congress about “gain-of-function” research.


Again, none of this is to suggest that the FDA is a corrupt organization or that Pfizer’s Comirnaty vaccine isn’t safe and effective, nor is this anti-vaccine propaganda. All that has been presented in this composition is to depict vaccine-hesitant Americans in a more nuanced and humanizing light and to challenge the media campaign to push the vaccinated and unvaccinated into their corners.

And now, as residents in King County must show proof of vaccination to enter businesses, the media-inspired rift between vaccine statuses is spreading from social media platforms to physical spaces.

In their New York Times bestseller, “*The Coddling of the American Mind*,” Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt wrote that “Both the physical and the electronic isolation from people we disagree with allow the forces of confirmation bias, groupthink, and tribalism to push us still further apart.”

it <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4ba8a72da7f49-2021>.

**LOW PRICE**



Two burial plots near fountain, azalea garden, Floral Hills Cemetary. \$1,000 each. Tele. 425-245-7128

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in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Washington state law allows complainants to bring lawsuits in the name of the state if the PDC or Attorney General’s Office doesn’t act. If the PDC hasn’t resolved a complaint, referred the matter to the Attorney General’s Office, or opened a formal investigation and held an initial hearing within 90 days of a complaint being filed, complainants can file a 10-day notice signaling their intent to go to court.

**Swearing-in Ceremony**

The swearing-in ceremony of all newly elected Lynnwood City Council members is scheduled for December 13. The newly elected representatives will be responsible for a city budget of over \$465 million.

**LEGAL NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TO: NICHOLAS DORAN HUNDLEY, 4217 164TH STREET, APT. #C101, LYNNWOOD, WA 98087**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the children of, Cynithia Zimmerman, Charles Deherrera and Nicholas Hundley, Parents.

District Court CHIPS File No. 10-JV-20-227  
District Court PERM File No. 10-JV-21-167  
County Attorney File Number JC-20-55366

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** That a hearing will be held at the Carver County Government Center, Justice Center, 604 East Fourth Street, Chaska, Minnesota, 55318, on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, to determine the permanent placement of your children.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED:** The children and the children’s parent, guardian, or custodian have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney at the above hearing, and if they cannot afford an attorney, an attorney will/may be appointed at public expense for any and each one of them.

The Court will consider and decide the children’s need for protection or services and other disposition regarding the children including the possibility that the children may be removed from their parent and placed OR remain in permanent out of home placement and that your parental rights will be limited. Even with failure to appear in response to this notice, the hearing may still be conducted and appropriate relief granted on the petition or motion.

**IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING, A DEFAULT ORDER GRANTING PERMANENCY AS RECOMMENDED BY CARVER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MAY BE ISSUED BASED UPON ALL INFORMATION PRESENTED TO THE COURT.**

from page 9 **EVENTS**

gift that dazzles, and your business will support local artisans, collectors, and lapidary artists.

**MUKILTEO**

**Ugly Sweater and Holiday Party,** Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an Ugly Sweater Holiday Party at the Silver Cloud Inn near beautiful Lighthouse Park on Thursday, December 9, at 4:30 p.m. Appetizers and beverages will be served as well as prizes for the ugliest sweater. Come hang out with friends, old and new!

**LAKE STEVENS**

**Lochsloy Acres Christmas Tree Farm,** Nothing quite says Christmas in the Pacific Northwest like tapping into your inner lumberjack. Cut down your very own Christmas tree at Lochsloy Acres until December 13 by appointment only.

Located at 5511 SR92, those interested can saw down grands, noble firs, frasers, douglas firs, turkish, and balsam trees to decorate in their homes while cutting down on plastic trees, too. Saws, wreaths, boughs, tree stands, and other swag are also available.

To schedule an appointment, vis-