

LYNNWOOD

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Melake Shahel Father Aweke Sidelel, the Father of the Debre Bisrat Saint Gabriel and Saint Arsema Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church meeting with Lynnwood City Council President George Hurst and Vice President Jim Smith in May of 2021 to celebrate the hundred-year anniversary of their building. Source: Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD, Wash. - Ethiopian and Eritrean communities throughout Lynnwood gathered together on Friday, January 7 to celebrate Genna – Ethiopian Christmas.

As the Ethiopian calendar months are different than the states', the Ethiopian Orthodox Church considers January 7 the day of Jesus' birth and therefore the day for major religious activity.

Habesha Community Center of Lynnwood President Selam Habte explained to the Lynnwood Times the cultural differences and similarities between American and Ethiopian Christmas involved on this day.

Habesha is a term that represents Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox Christians.

Genne Traditions

To Ethiopians, Genne is a strictly religious occasion with its own unique traditions that differ greatly from American culture. Gift giving, for example, is not central to the Ethiopian Christmas

tradition. Instead, the focus is on ritual and ceremony which largely take place in or around the Ethiopian Orthodox churches.

Many Ethiopians carry out a 43-day fast leading up to Christmas day, eating just one meal a day, free from meat, dairy, or eggs. The fast begins on November 25, a day known as Tsome Nebiyat (Fast of the Prophets), and is held through January 7.

One similarity between Christmas in Ethiopia and other areas of the world is the importance of food.

The 43-day fast is broken at daybreak on January 7 with a light meal. Later in the day, a Doro Wat, a spicy stew containing meat and vegetables sometimes topped with an egg, is eaten. Injera, Ethiopian flatbreads, are used to scoop up and eat the stew.

The same dish is eaten during Ethiopia's Timkat festival, another important date on the Ethiopian calendar, accompanied by tej, an Ethiopian honey wine.

During ceremonies, many people wear a traditional item of clothing called a Netela, a white cotton garment with woven colored borders worn similarly to a shawl. As Ethiopia's traditional dress, the Netela is worn on a number of other public holidays and festive occasions.

As Genna is a very religious occasion on the Ethiopian calendar, Orthodox Christians attend mass on Christmas Eve (January 6), known in Ethiopia as the gahad of Christmas.

The church service typically begins around 6 p.m. and continues through the early hours of Christmas Day. Chanting and singing are central to these services, and many people visit several churches a night, partaking in various festivities before dawn.

One Ethiopian legend claims that when the shepherds of the Christmas story heard about the birth of Jesus, they celebrated the news by playing a spontaneous game that resembled hockey using their wooden staffs.

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By OLIVIA THIESSEN

This February, voters will decide the fate of their local school districts as they vote on education bonds and levies that provide critical funding for their schools.

Over a decade ago, the Washington Supreme Court ruled that the state was failing to fully fund education, therefore violating its constitutional duty. As a result, Washington State was fined \$100,000 a day until it was able to meet its funding requirements.

Since then, Washington has poured billions into education, but school districts are still seeking funding for critical services. Districts have resorted to local bonds and levies, which comprise large portions of their general budgets.

Local educational levies fund anywhere between 7% and 18% of a school district's general fund, despite the state "fully funding" education. For Everett and Edmonds, levies comprise roughly 15% of their general funding. For Marysville, levies comprise nearly 18% of the general funding.

These levies often fund critical staff, including school nurses, counselors, teaching assistants, technology support staff, and custodians. Levies also fund special education, extracurriculars, and elective classes and programs, such as STEM and advanced placement classes.

Multiple school districts will vote on February to renew Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) levies, as well as capital or technology levies. The funds are collected through property taxes, and each district will vote to replace existing levies, all of which expire in 2022.

Though most are replacement levies, some districts will see taxes rise as budget requirements have increased since the pandemic began in 2020. Residents of Mukilteo, Edmonds, and Everett school districts can expect to pay small increases in property taxes to replace their existing EPO levies.

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Bill to criminalize “false election” political speech introduced

By KIENAN BRISCOE

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Governor Jay Inslee’s new political speech bill, SB 5843, making it a gross misdemeanor for elected officials or candidates to “willfully lie” regarding the election process and results, underwent its first reading Thursday, January 13, at the Senate level.

Inslee first announced he would support this legislation at a virtual legislative preview hosted by the Associate Press, Thursday, January 6, the anniversary of the U.S. Capitol Breach, in which he referred to the ongoing “threats to democracy” as one of the biggest challenges in our community.

“It should not be legal in the state of Washington for elected officials or candidates for office to willfully lie about these election results in favor of democracy,” Inslee said.

During the preview, Inslee shared his personal experience when the governor’s residence was stormed by Trump supporters, some armed with assault rifles, causing him to be evacuated to a safe room.

“I feel deep in my heart what it meant when the temple of democracy was attacked,” Inslee said. “This is much more than a simple case of some violence. It is our democracy itself that was attacked and continues to be attacked.”

SB 5843 was read by request of Gov. Inslee’s office, and supported by Senators Frockt, Kuderer, Hunt, Keiser, Lovelett, Nguyen, Nobles, Salomon, and C. Wilson.

The original bill relates to public officials and candidates who knowingly make false statements and claims regarding the election process, adding a gross misdemeanor charge to chapter

29A.84, which pertains to penalties, punishable of up to 364 days in jail and up to \$5,000 in fines. An amendment to RCW 42.12.010, which pertains to office vacancies, also adds that if an elected official is convicted, under this new amendment, they immediately forfeit the elected office.

“The United States supreme court has ruled that states have the power to restrict speech that incites or produces imminent lawless action. It is the intent of the legislature to hold elected officials and those that seek to hold an elected position who have taken an oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and State of Washington accountable and to prohibit these individuals from bringing forward false claims with the purpose of casting doubt on one of our most sacred institutions,” the bill states.

The Supreme Court ruling mentioned in the bill refers to the *Brandenburg v. Ohio* case of 1969, in which Ku Klux Klan leader Clarence Brandenburg was charged with advocating violence under the State of Ohio’s criminal syndicalism statute. The court ruled that the government cannot punish inflammatory speech unless it is “directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.”

Earlier this month Inslee noted that Trump’s “big lie” and continuing “coup” is an ongoing “threat to democracy” that is “just as prevalent today as it was a year ago”, referring to the claim by former President Donald J Trump, and his supporters, that the 2020 election was stolen.

“The Democrats want to own this day of January 6th so they can stoke fears and divide America. I say, let them have it because America sees through their lies and polarizations,” President Trump released in a statement on

January 6, the day Inslee announced his support of the new legislation.

Trump added, “They want all conversation concerning the Election “Canceled.” Just look at the numbers, they speak for themselves. They are not justifiable, so the complicit media just calls it the Big Lie, when in actuality the Big Lie was the Election itself.”

Inslee called out three Republican legislators, Rep. Brad Klippert (R-Kennewick), Rep. Vicki Kraft (R-Vancouver), and Rep. Robert Sutherland (R-Monroe), who he said contributed to the ongoing insurgency by attending an organizing effort and doubting the electoral process.

“This is a cancer in our society and I believe we all need to, both parties, respond to it to speak not just against the violence but against this continuing big lie that the defeated president, and his allies, that are continuing this effort,” Inslee said.

The three-term Democratic Governor hoped that more elected leaders would call out Trump’s effort, to confront him, and to not allow their colleagues to be allied with him, expecting Republicans to “forcibly” denounce the three Washington legislators who were allegedly “part of this conspiracy.”

Kraft and Sutherland defended their attendance at the Mike Lindell-sponsored Cyber Symposium to a Seattle Times reporter as being important to their work on election-related legislation.

Even if SB 5843 passes into law, the Washington Post wrote it could be an “uphill battle” in court, as exemplified by Washington’s recent history in attempting to criminalize false political speech.

In 2007 the Washington State Supreme

Court struck down a 1999 law, in a 5-4 ruling, that prohibited political candidates from intentionally lying about their opponents.

“The notion that the government, rather than the people, may be the final arbiter of truth in political debate is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment,” Jim Johnson wrote in the majority opinion.

Hugh Spitzer, a University of Washington law professor and expert on the state Constitution, told My News Network it would be difficult to make criminal charges stick in a case against a state official or candidate for making false statements about an election.

“It’s not easy to criminally convict people based on their speech, it’s always pretty hard,” Spitzer said.

Republican State Representative Drew Stokesbary (R-Auburn) took to twitter, January 6, to share his opinions on Inslee’s support for the legislation.

“You combat bad speech with better speech, not criminal sanctions. Threatening to jail people for political speech is as dangerous to our democracy as questioning election results,” Stokesbary wrote.

In a press release published by Jay Inslee’s office, the Governor issued the following statement regarding a government’s role in interpreting the First Amendment:

“We can outlaw actions that provoke political violence and in doing so also protect our democracy. There is more that can be done by states and Congress to protect our democracy. I am open to any proposal that will protect the will of the voters and the institutions they use to decide who governs them.”

Megan Dunn and Jared Mead to lead Snohomish County Council

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., January 12, 2022 – At its Monday Administrative Session, the Snohomish County Council elected Megan Dunn as Chair and Jared Mead as Vice Chair.

“I would like to see the council focus on COVID response and recovery with robust community input on the funding decisions for the next batch of American Rescue Plan dollars,” Council

Chair Dunn told the Lynnwood Times. “The Chair acts in service to the Council and I look forward to working with my peers on issues that impact all residents, including climate change, housing affordability and opportunities for all.”

Dunn was nominated by former Chair, Councilwoman Stephanie Wright (D) of District 3. She was the only councilmember nominated as chair and elected by fellow councilmembers in-

cluding Jared Mead (D), Nate Nehring (R), and Stephanie Wright (D). Councilman Sam Low (D) was the only de-

scending vote.

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Former Lynnwood Mayor Donald Gough passes away



By BO JOHN BRUSCO

LYNNWOOD, Wash., January 4, 2022 – Former Lynnwood Mayor and civil attorney Donald Gough passed away this morning. He was 70 years of age. Gough, served on the Lynnwood City Council for eight years prior to being the City’s two-term mayor from 2006 through 2013. He was succeeded by Nicola Smith in 2014.

He led Lynnwood through the recession of 2008 and overcame a council attempt to remove him from office in 2010. Gough lost his bid to return to Lynnwood politics last year against Naz Lashgari and Patrick Decker for the Position 2 seat on the council. Decker eventually won the seat in the General Election.

“Some of my fondest memories were when Don Gough and I served on the City Council together,” Councilman Jim Smith wrote to the Lynnwood Times. “We would often call out a “Code Brown” which meant that we would meet after the meeting at Applebee’s for hot fudge sundaes...and talk politics. His heart was in serving.”

“Don Gough served this City for almost two decades as a Council Member and Mayor,” Councilman George Hurst. “He made difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions during the great recession of 2008-09 to make sure the City survived financially. He then helped create financial policies that included the creation of a substantial emergency reserve fund, and that fund helped our City through the current Covid pandemic economic crisis. We are all indebted to Don Gough for his

service to Lynnwood.”

Statement on behalf of Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell:

“On behalf of the City of Lynnwood, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of former Mayor Don Gough, who passed away on January 4, 2022, at the age of 70. Mayor Gough’s legacy will continue on in Lynnwood as a leader who helped build a strong foundation for our future growth.

“Don Gough was the sixth Mayor of the City of Lynnwood, serving from 2006-2013. Prior to that, he was on the Lynnwood City Council for ten years from 1995-2005.

“Under former Mayor Don Gough’s leadership, our City Center Plan was adopted and Lynnwood began moving forward with key infrastructure projects such as 44th Ave W Widening and the 44th Ave W Pedestrian Bridge which connected the Interurban Trail to the Lynnwood Transit Center. Early planning also began on the Lynnwood Link light rail extension, setting the stage for the infrastructure which we are seeing the benefits of today. Our state-of-the-art Traffic Management Center was constructed along with a City Hall remodel under Mayor Gough, bringing us the ability to leverage technology to keep our busy streets moving efficiently.

“Mayor Gough was instrumental in the creation of Lynnwood Moving Forward: Our Community Vision, which has become our guiding document, our foundation for making strategic and purposeful decisions about the future of our City. Another significant accomplishment of Mayor Gough was his leadership resulting in the renovation of our Lynnwood Recreation Center, which remains one of our city’s greatest assets.

“Additionally, Mayor Gough lead our City through the 2008 recession, the worst financial crisis our City has ever experienced. Through critical decision making, Lynnwood was able to keep City services functioning and get us back on a path to recovery.

“Please join me in reflecting on and celebrating the life and legacy of Don Gough.”

from page 1 **DUNN AND MEAD**

“Megan has been an incredible partner in the last year in 2021 and I could not have done it without her,” Councilwoman Wright said. “She is hard working, dedicated and just supportive and always puts the county first. She is so creative in her solutions, and she has been amazing to work with.”

Council members Dunn, Low Mead and Nehring thanked Chair Wright for her leadership.

“I would like to thank Councilmember Wright for her mentorship over the last year and her leadership as we continue to respond to the pandemic during a very challenging time in our history,”

Chair Dunn added.

Council Chair Dunn was elected Vice-Chair for the year 2021. She represents Everett, Mukilteo, and the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Dunn was elected to the Snohomish County Council in 2019 and was sworn in January of 2020.

Councilman Jared Mead was nominated by Chair Dunn and was voted unanimously by the council.

“I am supporting Jared for Vice-Chair,” Dunn told the council. “You have incredible passion and energy and I look forward to this next year.”



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Curriculum Associates recognizes two local teachers for innovative learning

NORTH BILLERICA, Mass.— Curriculum Associates has named Tanya King of Beverly Elementary in Lynnwood and Zachary Pfrimmer of Liberty Elementary School in Marysville to its 2022 class of Extraordinary Educators, an annual program that celebrates and connects exemplar K–8 teachers from around the country.

Chosen from hundreds of nominations, King and Pfrimmer are among 35 educators from 19 states selected for exhibiting best-in-class use of i-Ready®, i-Ready Classroom Mathematics, and/or Ready®, illustrating growth and achievement via formal assessments, demonstrating innovation and engagement practices for students, being evangelists for high standards and student achievement, and having taught for at least two years.

“With almost 500 years of teaching experience combined, this year’s 35 Extraordinary Educators are all innovative and dedicated classroom leaders whose impact does not go unnoticed,” said Rob Waldron, CEO of Curriculum Associates. “We commend Tanya and Zachary for their best practices in the classroom day in and day out and look forward to supporting them with unique professional learning opportunities to help further support the amazing work they do.”

This year’s class of Extraordinary Educators will have access to a network of peers from around the country to collaborate, connect, and learn from throughout the year, as well as access to professional development opportunities from Curriculum Associates. They will also be invited to participate and present at the Extraordinary Educators Leadership Summit as well as other professional learning events.

This is the third year of the Extraordinary Educators program. This year’s class joins 75 additional educators from across the country in receiving this recognition.

“Being named an Extraordinary Educator is an opportunity to collaborate with others from across the country in a concerted effort to celebrate student growth and capture snapshots of classrooms where all students are realizing their genius,” said King. “This program will provide me with an environment to connect with other educators to shift the focus of education, at a systematic level, to educating students to understand that they enter this world limitless. Limitless to be without limits, without end, no boundary—infinite. As a female and a person of color, I see the Extraordinary Educators program as an exciting first in many future opportunities to work toward the goal of reimag-

ining education to make school a place where everyone succeeds.”

“I am honored and excited to be named one of Curriculum Associates’ Extraordinary Educators for 2022,” said Pfrimmer. “In a year where we are faced with constant challenges outside the classroom, new problems to solve within our classes, and significant limitations to time and resources, I am truly grateful to be recognized for the work my colleagues and I have been doing. No successful educator works alone, and I am excited for the opportunity to be able to collaborate with

other educators who I wouldn’t normally be in contact with. These are educators who also share my passion for teaching and are willing to go out of their way to better themselves for the sake of their students.”

Today, Curriculum Associates’ programs are used in over half of the state’s school districts.

To learn more about Curriculum Associates and the 2022 Extraordinary Educators, visit CurriculumAssociates.com/Extraordinary-Educators/Classes.

Mukilteo School District changes COVID-19 policies amid a spike in cases

By DELANEY ORTEGA

MUKILTEO, Wash. – With the Mukilteo School District reducing the period of self-quarantine and isolation for those who have tested positive or been exposed to the COVID-19 virus from 10 to 5 days, families are left with questions regarding the well-being of their community.

In an announcement released last Friday by the district, new guidelines include a five-day quarantine period for anyone who tested positive as well as if one is exposed but not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. If a student can provide a confirmed medical record of having COVID-19 within the last 90 days, there is no need to quarantine again regardless of vaccination status.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), those who have been vaccinated are not required to quarantine after being exposed, however, it is asked that one monitor for any symptoms that may appear 10 days after their last contact with an infected person. The Mukilteo School District has decided it is best to continue with in-person learning with

no plans to shift to remote learning districtwide with the possibility of certain schools or even classrooms shifting to online learning for a brief time due to student and staff shortages.

The district’s decision to continue with in-person learning is aligned with the Biden Administration’s stance on the matter. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a January 5 press briefing that schools could remain open and that closing down schools wouldn’t be worth the toll on the student’s mental health.

With similar concerns about student mental health in mind, Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal in a press conference on January 7 to discuss the state of K-12 education, also felt there was no need to shut schools down during the surge of Omicron cases.

“There will not be closures ordered from this office or the governor’s office under the circumstances we’re in now,” said Reykdal.

However, the decision to continue with

from page 1 SCHOOL LEVIES & BONDS

The actual cost of these levies is measured as a dollar amount for every \$1,000 in a property’s assessed value. The levies must pass in a 50% plus one vote.

DISTRICT	EPO Levy (2023 rate / \$1,000 assessed value)	Capital/Technology Levy (2023 rate / assessed value)	2023 Total rate / \$1,000 assessed value
Mukilteo	\$1.76	\$0.61	\$2.37
Edmonds	\$1.50	N/A	\$1.50
Everett	\$2.20	\$1.18	\$3.38
Lake Stevens	\$1.92	\$0.26	\$2.18
Snohomish	\$1.80	\$0.60	\$2.40
Marysville	\$2.20	\$0.60	\$2.80
Northshore*	\$1.40	\$0.45	\$1.85
Monroe	\$1.71	N/A	\$1.71

*Northshore will also be voting on a \$425,000,000 capital projects bond which would add an additional \$1.43/\$1,000 in assessed value to residents’ total property taxes each year. The bond will need at least 60% of voter support to pass.

School districts may rely more heavily on the upcoming levies this year as enrollment numbers have decreased. With enrollment drops come budget cuts, despite budgets going up as a result of the pandemic. According to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, Washington school districts can expect a collective loss of \$500 million in state funding in the next annual budget.

In a recent press conference, however, Reykdal implored legislators to avoid slashing budgets in response to a “blip in enrollment,” one which he believes is temporary. He added that he believes further changes must be made to correct the school funding process.

“Our capital budget system is broken,” Reykdal said.

Nine districts in the region have seen more than a blip in enrollment this school year, despite massive reopening measures in 2021. Mukilteo, Edmonds, Everett, Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Marysville, Northshore, Arlington, and Monroe have seen a collective drop of roughly 7,654 students in total.

“We utilized ESSER funding last year to mitigate some of the funding challenges resulting from a decline in enrollment,” Edmonds Communications Manager Harmony Weinberg told the Lynnwood Times. “State apportionment received was approximately \$7.2 million below budget in 2020–21.”

With state funding up in the air, local levies could make or break the budgets of Washington school districts in the coming school years. Without the levies, all districts can expect cutbacks in available programs, extracurriculars, and critical staff.

Ballots will be mailed on January 20. Local residents can read more about the EPO and capital levies on their school district’s website.

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Marysville's Gala FC soccer club heading to Egypt and Mexico

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MARYSVILLE, Wash. – Marysville's own Gala FC soccer club is traveling to Egypt from February 9 to 17 to play three professional teams in the first division. One of the Egyptian teams Gala FC will face is famous soccer player Mohammad Salah's previous team before moving to Liverpool.

"This is a big deal. Even if the Sounders played them it would be a tough game for the Sounders," Daghan Kesim, founder and creator of Gala FC, told the Lynnwood Times. "We're not going up there thinking we're winning a trophy. We're going up there for the opportunities."

Many of these games will have professional scouts and agents giving the players of Gala FC the chance to demonstrate their talents in consideration for professional contracts. Last time a similar FC had an opportunity like this, two players signed a contract with Egypt, one signed with Dubai, and one signed with Spain on the pro level.

"If any of our players show potential, they can get offers just like them," Kesim told the Lynnwood Times.

After Egypt, Gala FC will then travel to Mexico this summer to play a professional team July 6 through the 9.

Daghan "Dagi" Kesim began playing soccer at an early age. He played in high school and worked his way up to a professional career in Istanbul, where he's from, before a knee surgery cut his career short. Never falling out of love with the sport he turned to coaching, playing a big part in the Washington State Referee Committee winning over 50 trophies in both Washington and Oregon.

Kesim has coached 10 years of high school soccer for five different teams, five years of college soccer, and one year as the coach of a semi-pro team. He won 'coach of the year' in 2007 while coaching at Cascade High School in Everett where he brought his team to second place twice. He is also head coach of the semi-pro Snohomish County FC Steelheads who play the Portland Blacktails Saturday, January 22.

Over the past 16 years, Kesim has coached many premier teams from which 35 of his players signed on with professional soccer teams, most notably, Matt Reinikka, who plays for a division one team as well as the Seattle Sounders.

"Training with Dagi is fun, he still has exceptional skills and he likes teaching it. I wouldn't train with any other and you can see he was a very talented player," Reinikka said.



Kesim first founded the Marysville-based Gala FC to give minority and low-income youth the opportunity to play high level sports.

"I thought there was not a lot of opportunities for minorities and low-income kids to play high level sports," Kesim told the Lynnwood Times. "Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be low-income, we just really focus on those kids so they have an opportunity to play."

Kesim helps his players find college scholarships by talking to college coaches all over the country and bringing his players to showcases where they can demonstrate their skills to college coaches.

"When you are dealing with low-income kids they are also dealing with life problems like gangs and illegal ways to make money. When you keep them busy with sports, they tend to stay away from that," Kesim told the Lynnwood Times. "A lot of these kids and their families never think they can go to college but now, with soccer, we're giving them an opportunity to have a different life."

Throughout Kesim's coaching career he has helped 300 of his players receive scholarships to elite colleges.

Gala FC began as a youth soccer team for ages five to 19 and has since grown to 10 teams, including two

female teams, and one semi-pro, the team headed to Egypt and Mexico later this year.

Gala FC is currently accepting open tryouts for their semi-pro team on Tuesdays at Tambark Creek Park in Bothell and Wednesdays at Kasch Park in Everett. For those who are interested, Kesim asks that you check in with the Gala FC ahead of time to regulate the amount of people in light of current COVID restrictions.

Upcoming opportunities to support Gala FC

The club receives most of its funding, including travel expenses, from independent donations and fundraisers. This upcoming Monday, January 17, at 13th Avenue Pub in Lynnwood, Kesim will be hosting a 21+ trivia event where all the profits (25 percent of the sales) will go toward their upcoming Egypt trip.

On January 28 Kesim will also be hosting a music concert at The Cove in Lynnwood where all of the ticket sales will go toward the Gala FC as well. They are currently searching for musical acts. Any musician interested in performing are to contact Dagi at 425-346-0469.

For more information on the Gala FC, including events and where to donate for scholarships for low-income players, visit <https://www.galafc.org>.

from page 5 MSD COVID POLICY

in-person instruction by school districts throughout the country has drawn criticism.

The Chicago Teachers' Union led a standoff against the return to in-person instruction within Chicago Public Schools. After a four-day strike, an agreement was reached to continue with in-person learning based on the rate of staff absences and students in quarantine, and an agreement to a threshold on the transmission rate of new COVID-19 infections.

On January 14, around 100 students enrolled in Seattle Public Schools stood outside of the district headquarters to demand stronger safety measures regarding a spike in COVID-19 cases.

The mother of a student currently enrolled in the Mukilteo School District, Anna Rilov, shared her opinions on the recent changes to the district's guidelines.

"As a parent of an unvaccinated child who attends school within the Mukil-

teo School District, I must say that I am happy that the quarantine days have been lessened for unvaccinated children," Rilov told the Lynnwood Times. "On the contrary, I feel that unvaccinated children will have more restrictive access to education."

A needs assessment to collect information about student thoughts, feelings, and behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic will be administered to all students in grades 6 to 12 in Washington state starting February 1, 2022. Survey results will be released in April.

The Lynnwood Times is awaiting a statement from the Mukilteo School District on questions regarding the recent changes to its COVID-19 policy and its ability to facilitate remote learning.

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Habitat for Humanity repair's Brier couple's "forever home"

BRIER, Wash, January 13, 2022 – Dee Grayson, 77, and her husband have lived in their "forever home" for 31 years – a gorgeous pink Victorian house named "Brier Rose." The Grayson family have always loved their home and community, but after suffering some tragedies, risked losing it all if it weren't for the efforts of Habitat for Humanity Snohomish County.

Grayson was struck by an uninsured driver three years ago resulting in a traumatic brain injury affecting her speech and balance. Last year, her husband woke up paralyzed due to an adverse reaction to a past surgery. Life, to say the least, became a challenge for the Grayson household.

The VA hospital, where Dee's husband was receiving treatment, determined their home in Brier needed to be refitted for ADA accessibility. The couple purchased a trailer for her husband to live in and used their funds to make it ADA accessible for him, leaving no money to complete a well needed paint job on their home's exterior.

After some research, Dee's daughter discovered the Home Repair Service program offered by Habitat for Human-

ity of Snohomish County last October. An assessment of the Dee's home, Brier Rose, led Habitat for Humanity to complete several smaller repairs, leading up to a full roof replacement that began January 10.

The initial request was to repaint Brier Rose, but upon inspection Christian Anderson, Construction Manager for Habitat for Humanity, noticed the roof was nearing the end of its life.

"The roof is the most important part of a home because it keeps everything below it dry. So, home preservation really begins with having a good roof," Anderson told the Lynnwood Times.

According to Billy Ramirez, Senior Estimator and Project Manager for Axis Roof and Gutter, the roof should have been replaced a long time ago and probably wouldn't even last another winter. To him, if it weren't for the combined efforts of Axis Roof and Gutter, GAF, and Habitat for Humanity, there could have been serious ramifications.

"There could have been a lot of secondary damage to the house," Ramirez told the Lynnwood Times. "The whole house could have been damaged, sim-

ply because of leaks and such. We're just glad we caught it when we did and hopefully, we'll finish up within the

next couple of days."

Continued **PAGE 08** >>



Brier Rose under repair by Habitat for Humanity. LT/Kienan Briscoe.

WA-GRO Foundation provides meals to hundreds of students

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

EL OCOTITO, Mexico, January 2, 2022 – The WA-GRO Foundation provided over one thousand residents (300 families) of El Ocotito in Mexico chicken dinners and gifts to commence the New Year.

Lynnwood Councilwoman and Guerrero native Julieta Altamirano-Crosby shared with the Lynnwood Times how when she was a kid, fellow Guerrero resident Roberto Callea would give a toy to each child in Ocotito during the Feast of the Three Kings on January 6. This generosity created in Altamirano-Crosby a desire to continue his legacy.

Every child at last Wednesday's event, approximately 430 school children, was also given a large bouncing ball. Altamirano-Crosby shared with the Times the importance of recognition to children.

"Recognition creates educational pathways for children," Altamirano-Crosby told the Lynnwood Times. "I was born in a little town in Guerrero. Through WA-GRO, we can create opportunities for kids in rural areas."

Demographic information was collected and a needs assessment for each student was conducted. The WA-GRO organization will use this information to begin the process of bridging the gap for basic needs to help ensure the best educational experience possible for the students.

WA-GRO has plans to purchase school supplies, provide meals, provide scholarships, and even help fund educational needs in the classroom.

"We at WA-GRO are going to work together with school, students and com-

munity to help with lunch, back packs, notebooks and art programs," Altamirano-Crosby said. "Although the government provides public education, each student has to pay \$1.50/day for lunch."

Jeanne Crevier, President of the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County, who accompanied Altamirano-Crosby on her trip to El Ocotito, expressed how this experience conveyed to her the generosity everyone should have during the holiday season.

"It was not something I have ever experienced," Crevier told the Lynnwood Times. "I have helped provide Thanksgiving dinners and Ramadan dinners in Washington. The people here were truly in need. The appreciation from the smiles on the kids' faces and to watch the kids play ball changed me. I am so proud of Julieta and WA-GRO."

Altamirano-Crosby said that she is striving to continue the generous legacy of Senor Callea in El Octito. This community building event will lay the foundation to strengthen education through WAGRO's work.

WA-GRO, founded by Julieta Altamirano-Crosby and Patrick Crosby in 2012, focuses on providing resources to people and groups in underserved communities. The name of the organization means Washington (WA) and Guerrero (GRO). Altamirano-Crosby co-founded WAGRO in order to help Latinos and Indigenous Mexican students achieve academic success.

Past outreach and partnership include: NASA WA-GRO summer camp, Day of the Dead festivities at Everett Community College, monetary support to Snohomish County families, and COVID testing.

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Upcoming vaccine mandate for truckers could stifle an already fragile supply chain

By KIENAN BRISCOE

A new vaccine mandate requiring cross-border truckers to be fully vaccinated goes into effect this Saturday, January 15 and January 22, that could potentially be a massive blow to a supply chain already crippled by the effects of the pandemic.

The Trump administration considered land-border crossings essential and allowed it to proceed regardless of individuals' vaccination status. The new vaccine mandate by the Department of Homeland Security will override this exception.

According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative Canada was the United States largest goods export market and Canada was the United States third largest supplier of goods imports in 2019. U.S. goods and services trade with Canada totaled an estimated \$718.4 billion.

U.S. trade imports from Canada totaled \$319.4 billion, 70 percent of which is transported by truck.

Beginning January 15 truckers entering Canada will be forced to show proof of vaccination, potentially causing around 30,000 cross-border truckers to shut down. A similar vaccine mandate for truckers entering the United States from Canada will go into effect January 22.

"Full vaccination," in this context, means either two doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Sinopharm or Sinovac vaccines; or one dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"70 percent of the 700 billion in trade between Canada and the U.S. is moved by truck," Mike Milliam, President of the Private Motor Truck Council of Canada (PMTC), said. "This will have a dramatic effect on supplies and services reaching their destination and getting in the hands of those who need them. One needs to look no further than the recent U.K. fuel shortage, where the military had to be brought



US/Canada land border entry points.

in to deliver fuel as a result of a lack of truck drivers. We are already seeing shortages, if these shortages reach critical levels on items such as fuel, food, blood medicine or medical supplies, we will see real, long-lasting damage."

On a regular basis about 120,000 Canadian truck drivers enter the U.S. and about 40,000 U.S. drivers enter into Canada for a total of 160,000 drivers crossing back in forth, a majority of which transport essential items like medical supplies, blood, food, and fuel.

"We understand the governments are putting these mandates in place in order to protect our health," Milliam told the Lynnwood Times. "If we start seeing shortages of medical supplies in our hospitals because we've mandated drivers to get vaccinated, how much

is that going to effect people's health? The idea may be good in one direction but I don't think we've really looked at its effects on health and safety on the other side."

A survey conducted at the end of November by the PMTC showed about 25 percent of Canadian drivers crossing into the U.S. are unvaccinated and roughly 50 percent of U.S. drivers passing into Canada are unvaccinated. Once these mandates go into effect, according to Milliam, this could potentially eliminate 25 percent of the work force.

"We've already had a shortage of driver positions before we brought in any vaccine mandates and on top of that, we've got supply chain issues to begin with. We can usually go to the

grocery store now and see at least one item that's not on the shelf but once we wipe out 25 percent of the workforce, I think it's going to become a very common case," Milliam told the Lynnwood Times.

In a recent survey conducted by Trucking HR Canada on the labor market, at the end of the third quarter of 2021, roughly 22,900 Canadian driver positions were unfulfilled and around 80,000 U.S. driver positions were unfulfilled before the vaccine requirements were announced.

The PMTC has asked the Canadian government to put an extension on the mandates, at the bare minimum, to provide drivers who might decide to get vaccinated the opportunity. In addition, they have requested giving drivers the option to regularly test but the Canadian government has not responded to their requests.

Milliam has attempted to encourage his drivers to get vaccinated, educating them on the benefits, but shared with the Lynnwood Times that he doesn't think vaccination rates will rise much higher in such a short time. To those who have decided to become vaccinated in order to keep their jobs, most won't be considered fully vaccinated by January 15, potentially missing two to four weeks of work.

The Canadian and U.S. governments first announced the vaccine mandates on November 5, 2021, to go into effect eight weeks later. In Canada and the U.S., there is a 28-day waiting period between each dose and an additional 14 days after which the government considers someone "fully vaccinated."

"If you would've gotten on the phone

In memory of Geri McBrady, 87



Geri McBrady, was born Geraldine Ann Rosholt on New Year's Day, January 1, 1934, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She lived in Seattle and Lynnwood, Washington most of her life and married Dick McBrady in 1957. As a single mother, Geri raised two sons by having faith in God and by being open to the love and blessings that surrounded her wherever she went.

She worked for many years—until age 84—as a housecleaner, enjoying her relationships with her clients, and sharing her income with her family and those in need.

Geri passed away on Christmas morning, December 25, 2021 at age 87. She was preceded in death by her brother, Jim Rosholt. She is survived by her sons, Greg McBrady (m. Katy Ellis), and Kevin McBrady, her granddaughters Anna McBrady and Qwynn McBrady, her sister, Pegi Rosholt, several dearly loved nephews and nieces, and great nephews and nieces.

Services for Geri will be held at 11:00 AM on February 11th 2022 at Chapel of the Resurrection at the Cedar Park Church in Bothell (16300 112th Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011). Masks are required.

from page 1 **ETHIOPIAN CHRISTMAS**

For this reason, on Christmas day, mainly boys and young men play a game similar to hockey with a curved wooden stick and ball called Yágenna Chewata, or genna for short.

The Habesha Community Center will be celebrating Ethiopian New Year this upcoming September 11.

Friendship City Program

On January 7, 2021, the city of Lynnwood confirmed a new Friendship City Relationship with Bole Kefle Kertema Wereda 10, a borough or sub-city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Former Mayor Nicola Smith and Council Member Julieta Altamirano-Crosby participated in a virtual Friendship City Ceremony with the Honorable Emeru Fenta Kelbeessa, Leader of Kefle Kertema, Wereda 10 and Habesha Community Center members Selam Habte,

Rahel Schwartz and Ermias Merid before signing a proclamation officially declaring the Friendship City relationship between both cities.

“My staff and I are committed to promoting diversity in our community,” stated Nicola Smith. “Three years ago, we identified a safe, welcoming, and livable city as one of our top five priorities. I am honored to join in a friendship relationship with Kefle Kertema, Wereda 10. I’m looking forward to working with the Honorable Emeru Fenta Kelbeessa, and members of the Habesha Community Center to learn how we can help support our Ethiopian neighbors in Lynnwood.”

One of the purposes of the friendship relationship is to create a more culturally integrated society. Habesha Community Center has since used this agreement to empower Habesha families in Lynnwood to be proud of their culture through several programs including a summer camp with a focus

on community building and healthy living, which took place last year.

“My goal every day is to empower families to be proud of their cultural identity and share that with the community they live in,” Selam Habte, president of the Habesha Community Center in Lynnwood and educator for the past five years, told the Lynnwood Times. “Our kids have to change hats when they go to school. They always have to be someone else that they are not. Seeing that every day in the school environment breaks my heart.”

As schools struggle to make the school environment culturally inclusive, Selam said it is the families’ and the community’s responsibility to ensure the first generation of Habesha kids know that their identity and culture is unique and something to be proud of.

In the near future, the Habesha Community Center plans to implement an exchange student program and pen-

pal relationship between cities at local high schools. After contacting several schools and receiving a positive response, they plan to implement these programs this upcoming fall.

Several Ethiopian churches and businesses in the city of Lynnwood have also used the Friendship City program to come together through events, sharing their traditions from food to art to cultural dance.

Among these traditions is the important Ethiopian coffee ceremony which brings people together in a circle to engage in the “universal language of being human.” Coffee is an important staple to Ethiopian culture, originating in the Ethiopian town of Keffa.

“Habesha culture is unique and it needs to be shared with others,” Habte told the Lynnwood Times. “If we continue to chat and find our similarities, the city of Lynnwood and Ethiopians have some stuff in common.”

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from page 6 **HABITAT**

Chris Anderson, who worked as a home inspector for many years prior to joining Habitat for Humanity, informed the Lynnwood Times that cedar shake roofs, the type of roof Brier Rose is outfitted with, typically have a life span of 25 to 30 years. Since the house was built in the early 1980's it has never underwent a single roof repair.

“At a higher level [if left unattended] bigger leaks could occur, resulting in a failure of structure with the roof. All of the materials would absorb water and start decaying very rapidly, resulting in collapse,” Anderson told the Lynnwood Times.

Habitat for Humanity gathered resources through GAF and Axis Roofing, coordinated schedules, and began the roof reconstruction with the help of many private and corporate donors who made the 10-to-15-thousand-dollar project possible at no cost to the Grayson family.

“I must be really great to go around, especially around the holidays, and give people such a gift,” Dee Grayson told the Lynnwood Times. “It took 77 years for Santa to come to my house, but what a wonderful thing.”

By providing services like home repair to families who can't afford them, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Steven Li believes these efforts contribute to families having an affordable home.

“Because everyone is at home right now and that's the shelter and safe

place for people, and given the affordable housing crises, we believe keeping people inside their homes as well as getting people into homes is just as important,” Li told the Lynnwood Times.

Li has been in the Executive Director role for nine months but with Habitat for about three years in different capacities overseeing 16-18 mixed repairs and a couple home repair projects, helping 11 families within the last 6 months, and over 20 families within the last couple of years.

The roofing project should be completed within 5 or 6 days in which Habitat will continue to assist with some minor carpentry work involving volunteer builders.

In addition to roof repair Habitat assists in several other things, from ensuring homeowners have safe access to and inside their homes, to exterior paint jobs although most paint efforts have been suspended until warmer weather.

“If the roof is ok the next stage in preserving a home is the paint,” Anderson told the Lynnwood Times. “Our dream is to help more families but that will come as we gain more resources.”

To those who are interested in volunteering their services or donating visit <https://habitatsohomish.org/>

“Habitat is proud to be one part of a greater solution that keeps families away from homelessness,” Anne Heavey, Public Relations Ace for Habitat for Humanity, said.

from page 7 **TRUCKERS**

the minute the government announced it, able to book an appointment, and everything went perfect it would have taken you at least six weeks. But we know everything doesn't always go perfect, you can't always get an appointment, truck drivers are on the road for a couple weeks at a time, so it just isn't enough time to get vaccinated,” Milliam told the Lynnwood Times.

Private Motor Truck Council of Canada (PMTC) had a call January 12 with CBSA, PHAC, and Transport Canada concerning the potential effects of the

mandate, which pertains to both Canadian and non-Canadian drivers seeking to cross into both country's borders.

“Since this policy was first raised in government circles, we have constantly communicated the environment that this mandate would create. We had hoped that both U.S. and Canadian officials would recognize the effects this rule would have on our industry's capacity levels. Unfortunately, at this point neither the Canadian nor U.S. officials have changed their position on this matter,” the PMTC wrote in a press release January 12.

In the U.S., the American Trucking Association has formally requested that the Biden Administration exempt professional truck drivers from the vaccine mandate citing that truckers spend the majority of their workday alone in the cab and outdoors.

“Throughout the pandemic, they've proven to operate safely following existing CDC and OSHA guidelines. Our data shows the infection rate of employee drivers was 8.7% – well below the national infection rate,” The American Trucking Association (ATA) stated in a news release.

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