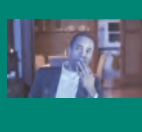


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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Lynnwood Times finds WA BLM falsely accused of lack of financial transparency



By KIENAN BRISCOE

SEATTLE, Wash. – Recently, the Washington Examiner reported that the state of Washington informed Black Lives Matter (BLM) they need to immediately cease fundraising due to lack of financial transparency. However, Black Lives Matter refers to 11 separate entities in Washington state registered with the Secretary of State's Corporations and Charities filing system, the largest of which, Black Lives Matter Alliance, currently has an active 501(c) nonprofit status and has not received closure notice by the state.

Currently Black Lives Matter Alliance represents the movement state-wide and operates as the Washington's leading BLM organization with support from King County Executives. Since founded as a statewide coalition during the legislative sessions of 2021 they have appeared in over 1,500 news stories, broadcasted to an audience of 167.5 million, and have sent over 40,000 emails to lawmakers, according to their website.

Out of the 11 registered entities using the name Black Lives Matter in Washington, not including those administratively dissolved, four are registered as nonprofits, two of which are of delinquent status, both sharing the same

address.

The letter of closure obtained by the Washington Examiner was sent to Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc., which uses an Arizona address and is not registered in the state of Washington under the Secretary of State's Corporation and Charities database.

Two entities using the name Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County, on the other hand, are currently delinquent in filing their annual report, which was due January 31, 2022. They have until May 31, 2022 to file their report before the organization will result in administration dissolution and termination of their registration, as stated in a letter sent by the state February 1, 2022.

As of February 15, 2022, Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County's website, which uses the same address as both delinquent entities is still accepting online donations.

The Lynnwood Times contacted Attorney General Bob Ferguson's Office to ask what the penalties would be if the entity continued accepting donations after closure, but the AG's office refrained from commenting stating:

"Our office has a longstanding policy

against commenting on ongoing investigations, including confirming or denying their existence, in order to protect their integrity."

The Washington Examiner reported the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation could face up to \$2,000 per donation received until the proper financial documents were filed, however, no evidence supports that the Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County entity faces similar charges.

Attorney Alanna Peterson, of Pacifica Law Group, who represents the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance clarified with the Lynnwood Times that Black Lives Matter Alliance is not affiliated with the entity Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County, nor were they aware of its existence or its status.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County to verify if, and when, they plan to file their financial report to avoid a terminated status but haven't heard back by the publication of this article.

The documents released by the Washington Secretary of State Corporations & Charities Division to BLM Seattle King and BLM Global are posted to the online article at lynnwoodtimes.com.

US core inflation jumped to 7.5% in Jan., highest since 1982

By MARIO LOTMORE

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.6 percent in January 2022 on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index (core inflation) increased 7.5 percent for January 2022 before seasonal adjustment, well above the 7.2 percent expected year-over-year inflation.

Increases in the indexes for food, electricity, and shelter were the largest contributors to the seasonally adjusted all items increase. The food index rose 0.9 percent in January following a 0.5-percent increase in December, an 80 percent increase in one month. The energy index also increased 0.9 percent over the month, with an increase in the electricity index being partially offset by declines in the gasoline index and the natural gas index.

Core inflation, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in January, the same increase as in December. This was the seventh time in the last 10 months it has increased at least 0.5 percent. Along with the index for shelter, the indexes for household furnishings and operations, used cars and trucks, medical care, and apparel were among many indexes that increased over the month.

The all items index rose 7.5 percent for the 12 months ending January, the largest 12-month increase since the period ending February 1982. The all items less food and energy index rose 6.0 percent, the largest 12-month change since the period ending August 1982. The energy index rose 27.0 percent over the last year, and the food index increased 7.0 percent.

Inflation Calculations

The CPI-U (consumer price index) is the broadest measure of consumer price inflation for goods and services published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). It measures the change

Continued **PAGE 4** >>

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Appropriate use of force for law enforcement debated

OLYMPIA, Wash. – The amount of force a police officer uses must be “proportional and reasonable,” a bill approved recently by the State Senate says. The bill also specifies officers will be allowed to engage in vehicular pursuits as long as there is “reasonable suspicion” when making a traffic stop.

The Senate voted 31-18 on Senate Bill 5919 on Feb. 9 with a handful of Republicans joining the majority Democrats. The bill cleans up language adopted last year on the use of force that many in the law enforcement community said was confusing and contradictory.

“The Sheriff’s Office...believes Senate Bill 5919 strikes the right balance of correcting mistakes and over-reactions while preserving the positive, reforming intention of last year’s laws,” said a statement from the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office.

The bill also says an officer can use physical force to:

- Protect against criminal conduct where there is probable cause to make an arrest;
- Make an investigative detention;
- Protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to the peace officer, another person or the person against whom force is being used.

In a public hearing, Lakewood Mayor Jason Whalen said last year’s legislation required police to have “probable cause” to stop a vehicle. That’s a higher standard than “reasonable suspicion,” and sometimes makes it “difficult, if not, impossible” to stop a vehicle, he said.

In this year’s bill, before using physical force, a police officer would have to use all available and appropriate de-

escalation tactics and, when safe and feasible, use less lethal alternatives prior to using any physical force.

Less lethal alternatives include, but are not limited to, verbal warnings, a taser, pepper spray, batons, and beanbag rounds.

Renton Mayor Armondo Pavone said the current law causes his officers to be hesitant instead of helpful and doubtful instead of decisive. He urged the committee to pass the bill.

Sonia Joseph, of the Washington Coalition for Police Accountability, testified against the bill saying the new language allows for more racial profiling, and she recounted how her son was killed by police in 2017.

“He was a young person of color who had expired tabs and was unarmed and killed,” she said. “Allowing the use of

physical force based on investigatory stops, which include traffic stops based on infractions like expired tabs, opens the law to racial profiling.”

Carmen Rivera, a Criminal Justice educator at Seattle University, said last year’s legislation on use of force encouraged officers to use less lethal forms of force. More time is necessary to judge the impact of the law, she said.

The bill will now advance to the House for debate.

Content Source: Juan Morfin. Lynnwood Times in partnership with the Washington State Journal. The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website operated by the WNPA Foundation.

To learn more, go to wastatejournal.org.

Janelle Cass announces run for Senate in the 21st LD

Janelle Cass announces she will be running against incumbent Marko Liias for senate in the 21st Legislative District. Janelle is a United States Air Force veteran and Edmonds business owner who serves on the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and on the Edmonds Tree Board.

Janelle is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy with a degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering. After her Air Force service, she worked for 12 years in the FAA managing millions of tax dollars for environmental protection projects. These included minimizing the impacts of airplane noise and reducing hundreds of thousands of tons of emissions.

Janelle’s expertise in creating positive outcomes by unifying diverse entities including residents, major airlines, management, unions, Tribal Nation Leaders, Dept of Ecology, and other

federal and state organizations, make her uniquely qualified to address many of the problems facing our communities and state today.

“People are upset by the bad legislation coming out of Olympia, which is putting undue burden on families and individuals. Anti-police and soft-on-crime laws coming from the majority party contribute directly to escalating crime and more drug addicts in our state,” Cass stated.

“High taxes are negatively impacting all of us. The incumbent was a prime sponsor of ST3, which has cost taxpayers billions of dollars, resulting in higher property taxes, car tabs and sales taxes. Now countless millions in excess spending is being proposed by the sitting senator for transit projects, including electric ferries. These types of ‘feel-good’ bills are cumbersome on residents and are ignoring real prob-

lems in our communities, rather than truly addressing improvement in things that matter in our everyday lives.”

Janelle Cass is a strong advocate for resolving addiction and homelessness in our county, keeping single-family residential zoning laws at the local level to maintain residents’ ability to determine the needs of their own neighborhoods, and for returning our educational system’s focus back on academic success.

Cass feels her experience will help bridge the divide between both sides of the aisle in Olympia to provide positive results for the people in the 21st LD.

Her environmental background, common sense approach and out-of-the-box problem solving will bring a fresh perspective to ongoing issues. Cass is running as a Republican candidate and has been endorsed by Senate Republican Leader John Braun.



Photo of Janelle Cass.

For more information on Janelle Cass’s platform, please visit www.Janelle-Cass.com.

State Senate votes 28-20 to ban high-capacity magazines

OLYMPIA, Wash. – In an effort to tackle gun violence and strengthen public safety, the state Senate passed legislation – SB 5078 – Feb. 9 that bans the sale of high-capacity magazines – anything over 10 rounds – but doesn’t prohibit the use of high-capacity firearms already in possession.

“High-capacity magazines make it easy for shooters to inflict maximum damage by allowing more shots to be fired

without needing to pause to reload. Because of this we see these accessories favored by mass shooters,” said Sen. Marko Liias (D-Everett), prime sponsor of the legislation.

Liias said an analysis by Boston University’s Michael Siegal showed the single best predictor of mass shooting rates is whether a state allows for the sale of high-capacity magazine weapons. He said in the past 50 years

large-capacity magazines have been used in about 75% of gun massacres with 10 or more deaths, and 100% of shootings with more than 20 deaths.

The bill was approved by the Senate on a party line vote, with all Republicans voting no.

“This is a serious bill that will jeopardize the safety of Washingtonians,” said Sen. Phil Fortunato R-Auburn. “This is not about providing safety for children. This is putting in jeopardy the lives of law-abiding citizens, especially women.”

Those opposed questioned the constitutionality of the bill.

“Constitutionally, it’s in violation of the 2nd Amendment that we all swore an oath to, and it’s a violation of the state constitution,” said Sen. Keith Wagoner, R-Sedro-Woolley. “It’s not the size of a magazine or the firearm, it’s how it’s used, and there’s a clear distinction there.”

But Democrats said if the bill makes a shooter pause to reload, it could save lives.

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Black History Month Feature: Red-Tailed Hawks Flying Club



By OLIVIA THIESSEN

MUKILTEO, Wash. – Hundreds of students have been soaring through the skies over Mukilteo with the Red-Tailed Hawks Flying Club since its founding in 2013. The club, which serves underrepresented and underserved communities in the area, has ignited a passion for aerospace in many of its young students.

The club held its first small meeting with 18 in attendance at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. “I invited a bunch of folks to church, really,” founder Jesse Hayes told the Lynnwood Times. “We talked about pilot knowledge, we talked about aviation history, we made paper airplanes. We had a great time. And I asked everybody, I said, ‘Hey, you guys, do y’all want to do it again?’ And everybody said yes.”

That night, two students became the club’s first “due-paying members.” The club has since grown to over 100 members in the last eight years and has seen over 3000 students come through its several programs, many of whom go on to pursue aerospace careers.

The flying club operates under the Black Pilots of America (BPA), *Cont. PAGE 08* >> Inc., a non-profit organization established in 1997. As the first BPA chapter in Washington, the “Red-Tailed Hawks” title is a reference to the Red Tail Tuskegee Airmen and the Seattle Seahawks football team, according to founder Jesse Hayes.

An arm of the BPA, the Red-Tailed Hawks Club follows a larger goal of empowering people of color to pursue aviation and other STEM opportunities, but their inclusive message remains – all are welcome.

“You know, this industry is one that is diverse and inclusive,” Hayes told the Lynnwood Times. “We do have an affinity for Black people. But we but we are very diverse.”

“Currently less than 2% of the pilots in America are Black, and less than 6% of the pilots in America are women,” said Hayes also said in a promotional video. “We need an avenue to provide a real opportunity for folks that are interested in aviation to get a foothold into the

aviation industry.”

And the organization does just that, starting young aviation enthusiasts on a path to success through aviation day camps and flight training programs in Boeing Field, Seattle. One of their more well-known programs is the Red-Tailed Hawks Flight Lessons for Youth (FLY), a summer training program where young cadets aged 16-21 earn 40 hours of ground school, 10-12 hours of flight training, 10 hours of earth and space sciences, and over 20 hours of personal mentoring.

For students looking for year-round programs, the organization also offers its Red-Tailed Hawks Youth Program, a STEM program that meets monthly to teach students about the aerospace industry, pilot knowledge, and aviation history.

Every year, the club also sponsors 3-5 young cadets in Mukilteo to attend the BPA national flight training program in Houston, Tex. The program, which would otherwise cost \$3800, is free for those Red-Tailed Hawks members who earn full-ride scholarships – that is, if students are willing to put in the work.

“Our kids earn their scholarships,” Hayes said. “The kids that do the work get the money. No matter what your economic status, if your kid does the work, Red-Tailed Hawks will help you out.” Hayes added with a hearty laugh that he is always looking for an opportunity to hand out a scholarship to anyone willing to receive it.

Many of the club’s young members go on to pursue aviation and STEM fields, including London Holmes, who attended the Summer Flight Academy in 2017, earning her private pilot certificate in high school. London has since entered the United States Air Force Academy, class of 2025.

The club aims to foster personal growth and exceptional achievement within its students, with a deep focus on mentoring and camaraderie. Hayes tries to keep in touch with as many of his students as he can.

“I try to stay in contact with all of them because I want to stay with them for

Cont. PAGE 05 >>

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Larsen visits Mari's Place for the Arts in Everett

EVERETT, Wash. – Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02) toured Mari's Place for the Arts to learn more about the nonprofit's programming for children of all income levels and ethnic backgrounds around 4 p.m. Monday in Everett.

Larsen met Executive Director Mary Toews and Board President and Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine. Mari's Place for the Arts is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 organization staffed by volunteers and is funded by donations, sponsorships, fundraisers, and grants.

The National Endowment for the Arts recently awarded Mari's Place a \$10,000 grant to support its Arts Summer Performance Project to help youth learn and prepare theatrical, dance, and artistic works for Everett's July Fourth Festival. Larsen said in a press release that the grant enables local youth to continue to discover their "artistic talents and to express their creativity."

"Mari's Place for the Arts enriches our communities by making the arts and cultural opportunities more accessible to students and working families in Snohomish County," Larsen said.

The Challenge America grant requires a cost share/match of \$10,000 consisting of cash and/or in-kind contributions. Mari's Place is one of 168 projects in America selected to receive \$1,680,000 in funding from the NEA's Challenge America grant program. NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers described Mari's Place as supporting the community's "creative economy" in a press release.

"Mari's Place for the Arts in Everett is among the organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts," Eilers said.

During Larsen's visit, Toews talked about the history of Mari's Place. In 2010, she sensed a feeling of hopelessness in many local BIPOC children. There weren't affordable programs offering cultural enrichment classes to children of economically depressed families struggling to meet basic needs. Toews wanted to help those kids develop and gain access to their unique abilities and talents.

She recruited volunteers who could teach children a variety of classes aimed toward these goals. To start what would later be called "Mari's Place," Toews sold all her property in Mexico. In 2011, after forming a not-for-profit organization, she asked the kids to name it. They chose "Mari's Place" because they had already been calling it that.

Mayor Marine said that the Board is financially preparing for a future when Toews—who does all her work



Pictured (L-R): Jenny Lynn, Executive Director Mary Toews, Congressman Larsen, Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine, and Adam Ballout. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

gratis—can no longer be the Director. Marine said the nonprofit is also looking ahead to when Mari's Place will no longer depend on grants and instead work with community partners they've made along the way.

"We were honored to have Congressman Larsen visit Mari's Place because it puts in perspective the great artwork done by the kids, organizational needs, and hear Mari's vision that makes this very special place a reality," Marine said. "We look forward to coordinating with Congressman Larsen's office in the future to help secure funds and grants."

Mari's Place must raise \$10,000 by March 31st to match the NEA grant. If you would like to contribute, visit marisplaceforthearts.org/donate.

Mari's Place for the Arts is located on 2321 Hoyt Ave in Everett.

from page 2 GUN MAGAZINES

"When I look into the eyes of those parents who lost their children in these types of events, there is something empty there. There's something vacant that I don't think any of us should have to experience," said Sen. David Frockt, D-Seattle.

The bill now moves to the House for hearings.

Content Source: Azeb Tuji. Lynnwood Times in partnership with the Washington State Journal. The Washington State Journal is a non-profit news website operated by the WNPA Foundation. To learn more, go to wastatejournal.org.

from page 1 INFLATION

in prices paid by consumers for goods and services. The methodologies in calculating inflation have shifted over the years – once in 1980s and the other in 1990s. These changes in calculations have depressed reported core inflation now used by BLS.

In the chart below, ShadowStats.com, offers alternatives to government economic statistics for the United States, shows SGS-Alternate CPI estimates based on the methodology which was employed prior to 1980. Many economists argue that this provides an apples-to-apples comparison to core inflation currently calculated by BLS.

According to ShadowStats.com, actual inflation based on the 1980 calculation

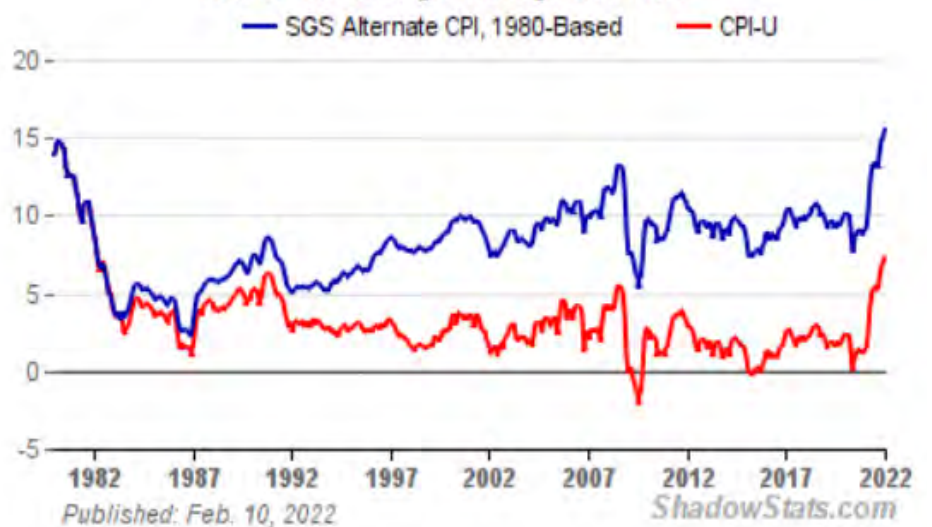
would be "15.63% [up from 15.15% in December], the steepest inflation rate since June 1947 (in 75 years)."

The Food Index

The food index increased 0.9 percent in January. The index for cereals and bakery products increased the most, rising 1.8 percent over the month. The index for other food at home increased 1.6 percent in January, while the index for dairy and related products rose 1.1 percent. The fruits and vegetables index rose 0.9 percent over the month, and the meats, poultry, fish, and eggs index increased 0.3 percent. The only grocery store group index not to increase in January was the index for nonalcoholic beverages, which was unchanged.

Continued PAGE 06 >>

Consumer Inflation - Official vs ShadowStats (1980-Based) Alternate Year to Year Change. Through Jan. 2022



Alternate "correct" inflation January 2022 courtesy of ShadowStats.com.

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Love Your New Neighbor sculpture unveiled at Convention Center

By LYNNWOOD TIMES STAFF

LYNNWOOD, Wash. – The “I Love Lynnwood” initiative had its official launch event and unveiled the “Love Your New Neighbor” sculpture at the Lynnwood Convention Center around 11 a.m Monday.

Multiple local leaders, such as Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department Head Lynn Sordel, supported the kickoff and spoke on the importance of such a launch. The “I Love Lynnwood” Facebook page bio self-describes as “a movement to support local businesses, increase tourism, and shed light on the importance of diversity and inclusiveness in our region.”

Janet Pope, Executive Director of the Lynnwood Public Facilities District and event host, said the “Love Your New Neighbor” sculpture is a “beautiful contribution” to the Lynnwood arts and cultural landscape. The LPPFD owns and is responsible for the maintenance of the Lynnwood Convention Center and the surrounding 13 acres of land.

“The LPPFD is so honored and grateful to have this beautiful piece on our property and is a bold statement of what we want our community to stand for,” Pope said.

Newly elected Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell thanked the Arts Commission and the History and Heritage Board in her remarks and gave a brief history of the initiative.

“I Love Lynnwood” grew out of a 2016 workshop called “For The Love of Lynnwood” where participants described Lynnwood as a lovable city. Mayor Smith had never thought of a city being “lovable” but only livable, as



Pictured (L-R): JBK Choi’s mother, Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Mayor Christina Frizzell, artist BK Choi, Council President George Hurst, Councilwoman Shannon Sessions, and Council VP Jim Smith. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

in providing essential services but not anything else. That all changed about 10 years ago and with the “I Love Lynnwood” project.

“The idea of creating a lovable city through public art, strong neighborhoods, and community projects...the more we come together the more that we realize how truly alike we are, not that different from the person sitting next to us,” Smith said.

In 2018, Lynnwood Convention Center General Manager Sara Blayne and City of Lynnwood staff member Fred Wong

brainstormed how to bring the “Love Lynnwood” theme into the future. It was City of Lynnwood History and Heritage Commissioner Cheri Ryan’s idea to display a sculpture as Amsterdam and many other European cities have.

Smith then introduced artist B.K. Choi who sculpted the “Love Your New Neighbor” piece now adorning the grounds of the Lynnwood Convention Center.

Choi’s family moved from Seoul to Lynnwood in 1991. His inspiration for

the “Love Your New Neighbor” sculpture came from Lynnwood’s official historian Betty Lou Gaeng, who visited from Alaska for the event. Gaeng told him about Lynnwood’s history of being settled by European immigrants, how they sojourned for a place to call home, same as his family did years later.

Choi talked about a traditional Korean handicraft called a jogakbo. “Jogak” means “piece” or a “fragment.” “Bo” is a “cloth” “for covering or wrapping.”

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

from page 3 **RED-TAIL FLYING CLUB**

life,” he said.

And the expectation of youth members is high. And just like Hayes, who appears to give his students a good dose of tough love, even brochure tells it like it is: “Excellent character, conduct and maturity are required of all students.” But that may be what makes Red-Tailed Hawks members great leaders, and what brings those members back time and time again.

The club’s focus on leadership has created a generation of exceptional young members who come back as instructors at the club. One such instructor is Spencer Brashears, whose passion for aviation began when he joined the Red-Tailed Hawks his senior year of high school.

“Red-Tailed Hawks has had a positive impact in my life in so many ways,” said Brashears. “What I value the most . . . is just the camaraderie – just being there with a bunch of other black pilots, other brothers and sisters who fly. We can talk, laugh, eat, have fun, play games, you know, talk smack about who’s the best pilot, who had the best landings. That’s what I enjoy the most – just being around my people, just being around people who are like-minded with me and share the same love and passion for aviation as I do.”

Despite now working on the East Coast, Brashears says he will fly back

for the club anytime.

The Red-Tailed Hawk Club also features its annual Future Thrust Awards, which are designed to honor exceptional leaders for their outstanding service to their community. This year, the club honored Dr. Terence H. Fontaine for his exceptional service to Houston, Tex.

Fontaine began his aviation career after enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1978. In 2014, Fontaine earned his Doctorate in Education at Texas Southern University (TSU),

where he currently serves as Director of Aviation, overseeing a Bachelor of Science program in Aviation Science Management. It is for his work at TSU that Fontaine has been awarded the Leroy Roberts Award for Propelling Education.

The club’s other awards include the Les Morris Award for Propelling Youth Programs and the Walt Braithwaite Award for Propelling Careers. All the awards are named after exceptional Black pilots who have made great contributions to the aviation industry.

The Red-Tailed Hawks have continued the vision of Black Pilots of America, providing opportunities and services to underserved and underrepresented youth at little-to-no cost. The 501(c)(3) relies on generous donors to cover the costs of their programs.

Growing quickly, the club is looking to expand its programs by adding two airplanes and additional engineers and educators to their staff. If anyone would like to contribute to the Red-Tailed Hawks’s mission, head to the club’s website: <https://redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/donate/>.

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Accused child rapist worked at multiple Lynnwood daycares

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD, Wash.— Evan Root, who was arrested for first-degree child rape and first-degree child molestation, worked in several daycares throughout the Lynnwood area with children as young as three-years-old.

Root was employed by Kindering daycare until he self-reported an ongoing CPS investigation that led to administrative leave and subsequent termination on December, 16, 2021. He worked for Kindering for less than three months.

According to Allison Morton, Chief Development Officer for Kindering, a criminal background check conducted prior to employment came back with no findings.

“We’re not aware of the serious nature of the CPS and subsequent criminal investigations until it was seen in the news,” Morton told the Lynnwood Times. “Kindering is committed to providing the highest level of care and concern for children and their families engaged in our services and stands alongside any victims of abuse.”

According to his about.me website, Root worked in the Children’s Ministry of Mill Creek Foursquare church, which operates a daycare unlicensed in the state of Washington.

The incidents leading up to Root’s arrests however took place at a residence in Bothell and no incidents similar were witnessed or reported by either Kindering or Mill Creek Foursquare Church occurring on their grounds.

Chris Manginelli, Lead Pastor at Mill Creek Foursquare Church, informed the Lynnwood Times that the church has an intensive screening process and never leaves volunteers or employees alone with the children.

Manginelli issued the following statement:

“Our hearts break when harm comes to a child. While we do not know the identity of the victim or the family, we are praying for all that are involved in this tragic situation. We have not been contacted by the authorities, nor do we anticipate we will since this matter is unrelated to the church. However, if the authorities do contact us for any reason, we intend to fully cooperate. Mill Creek Foursquare Church has been part of this community since 1992 and we make the safety of children a high priority. All of our children’s workers, whether paid or volunteer, are run through a screening process and we implement policies so that children are not alone with an adult.”

While applying for permits with Snohomish County Public Works, retail cannabis store Motorplace CUP, opening just a few hundred feet from Mill Creek Foursquare Church, were challenged by the church who issued the point that Washington State law prohibits retail cannabis stores within 1,000 feet of daycares.

However, when Snohomish County Public works requested the church provide proof of a state-issued license, Foursquare Church did not. Additionally, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis board, under their investi-



Photos of Evan A Root.

gation leading up to the approval of licensing for Motorcup, did not find evidence of a state-licensed daycare.

County code defines “daycare” as “any type of group day care programs licensed by the state of Washington for the care of children” (SCC 3091D.040).

Details of Evan Root’s Arrest

On February 10, the Sheriff’s Office Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Detectives arrested Root (21) for first-degree child rape and first-degree child molestation.

In 2019, the suspect was hired by a family via an online babysitting service to provide child care for their children multiple days per week at their residence in unincorporated Bothell. The suspect provided child care for the family for approximately four months in 2019 and then started again during the summer of 2021.

During this time, the 7-year old victim’s sibling observed inappropriate interactions between the suspect and the victim and reported it to a parent. The incident was first reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) and on January 21, 2022, CPS referred the case to law enforcement.

Sheriff’s Office Special Investigation Unit (SIU) detectives began investigating the case and learned the suspect was actively employed Kindering daycare in Lynnwood. His employment there was terminated due to the active criminal investigation.

With the assistance of Child Interview Specialists and medical providers at Dawson Place, SIU detectives conducted an investigation and developed probable cause to arrest the 21-year-old suspect for first-degree child rape and first-degree child molestation.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the 21-year-old suspect was arrested at his Lynnwood residence without incident. He was transported and booked into the Snohomish County Jail for first-degree child rape and first-degree child molestation on an inclusive \$250,000 bond. As of February 16, Root is still in registered in the Snohomish County jail and a second court hearing is scheduled for the same day.

A person is guilty of rape of a child in the first degree when the person has

sexual intercourse with another who is younger than twelve years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least twenty-four months older than the victim. Rape of a child in the first degree is a class A felony.

A person is guilty of child molestation in the first degree when the person has, or knowingly causes another person under the age of eighteen to have, sexual contact with another who is younger than twelve years old, and the perpetrator is at least thirty-six months older than the victim. Child molestation in the first degree is a class A felony.

Class A felonies, which are the most serious, are punishable by prison sentences which can include life, as well as fines of up to \$50,000.

Other potential victims

The suspect, Evan Root, was actively employed at various daycare and behavioral learning centers in Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, and Seattle. According to Root’s LinkedIn account, it lists that he also worked at the following places:

- Kids Foundation Academy, Edmonds, Lead Preschool Teacher, started Aug. 2021

- Kyo, Mountlake Terrace, Behavioral Therapist, May 2021 – Aug. 2021
- MeBe, Seattle, Behavioral Technician, Mar. 2021 – May 2021
- Autism Spectrum Therapies, Lynnwood, Behavioral Technician, Dec. 2019 – Mar 2021

If you suspect your child may have come in contact with Evan Root, please contact the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office at 425-388-3393.

from page1 INFLATION

The food at home index rose 7.4 percent over the last 12 months. All of the six major grocery store food group indexes increased over the period. By far the largest increase was that of the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs, which rose 12.2 percent over the year. The index for dairy and related products increased 3.1 percent, the smallest 12-month increase among the groups.

The Energy Index

The energy index increased 0.9 percent in January. The electricity index

Continued PAGE 07 >>

Breaking News

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ACTIVIST GROUPS RESORT TO SCHOOL SURETY BONDS

By OLIVIA THIESSEN

In an attempt to counter mask mandates at local school districts, some organizations across the nation have begun to employ a little-known approach – targeting the surety bonds of their public school officials. Two activist groups in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Bethalto, Ill., have resorted to this tactic.

Public officials – including superintendents, treasurers, and others – are required to both take an oath of office and have a surety bond. These bonds are written agreements that keep officials accountable for their oath and hold them personally and financially liable for their actions.

Some groups have attempted to leverage power through these bonds to shut down district-wide mask mandates, which some believe are a violation of state and federal statutes.

“Violet,” a single mother in Bethalto, Ill., has done exactly that. The incident began after Violet requested a mask exemption for her 16-year-old son with autism. She claims he began to struggle with anxiety issues when wearing the mask.

“I contacted the principal at the beginning of the year stating just what’s going on. They first were going to allow [a mask exemption], but teachers were masking him at school,” she said.

Despite her pleas, the school reportedly refused to exempt her son from wearing a mask, leading him to acts of self-harm.

“He started having more anxiety issues, more aggressive behavior towards himself, wanting to hurt himself, that type of thing. We ended up having to move him to a hospital to get psychiatric help,” Violet said.

The mother then took a different approach, inquiring into the surety bond of her district’s superintendent, believing the official had violated her oath of office through this incident.

The Bethalto District Superintendent Dr. Jill Griffin has a \$4 million surety bond liability per claim. That means for every claim against her bond, Griffin is personally liable for \$4 million.

Violet cited multiple alleged state, federal, and Nuremberg code violations against the Bethalto superintendent. She then drafted a letter of intent stating she would file a claim against Griffin’s surety bond unless Griffin revoked

the district-wide mask mandate. Violet gave her five days to respond. After no response, Violet filed the claim with the surety bond company on day six.

The organization that paired with Violet, Bonds for the Win, alleges that any community member can make a claim against an official if they believe the official has committed a violation.

But Superintendent Griffin says the opposite.

“A claim can only be brought forth by the school district, not an outside party. What they are claiming they are doing, isn’t even possible,” said Griffin in correspondence with the Lynnwood Times.

The Lynnwood Times accessed a letter from Liberty Mutual on behalf of the surety bond company responding to the claim made against Griffin. The letter explains that the individual who filed the claim is “not a proper claimant under the terms of the bond,” and that the company was “unable to proceed with addressing [the] claim.”

In a YouTube update, Violet alleges that state and federal funding to the school were blocked as a result of the claim and added that the district brought in volunteers after they were unable to pay their teachers. The Lynnwood Times was unable to find evidence of this.

“There has been no interruption to our payroll,” Griffin said, explaining that the district has asked for volunteers in response to teacher shortages, not funding shortages. Griffin also provided receipts that show incoming state vouchers after Violet’s claim was filed.

Scottsdale Unified School District

A school district in Scottsdale, Ariz., found itself in a similar situation after a group of ten parents each wrote a letter to their school board members expressing their intent to file claims of \$100,000 each, alleging the members would be liable for \$1 million each. The parents gave the board members five days to respond before they filed their claims.

The Scottsdale initiative was spearheaded by Miki Klann and Leigh Dundas, both of whom appear in a video taken at the board meeting. Klann is associated with Bonds for the Win and helped Violet file her claim in Illinois, as evidenced through their joint YouTube video. Klann is also associated with Our Great Awakening, an organization that promotes QAnon and pizza-

gate conspiracies among others.

Dundas, whose website describes her as a “world renowned human rights attorney,” heads the Freedom Fighter Nation, another non-profit, and spoke at the January 6 Capitol Breach. The Lynnwood Times reached out to Klann for a statement but did not receive a response.

Klann and Dundas’s accusations against the school board members include “practicing medicine without a license, child abuse, segregation and inappropriate sexual material in the school libraries.”

They demanded the resignation of one school board member, removing all masking and testing requirements, closing on-site vaccine clinics, renegotiating the allocation of ESSER funds, and removing any books in the library or curriculum that “promote pedophilia, underage sex, abortion, or any other unacceptable form of sexual influence upon our children,” according to Klann.

But according to Scottsdale Unified School District Communications Director Kristine Harrington, Arizona board members do not even have surety bonds.

“The District does not consider the document that was handed to the board a legal notice or a legally recognized document,” Harrington said. “The District has not received a notice of claim in this matter.”

So far, there is no evidence that the tactics of these organizations have led school districts to lift their mask mandates. And as evidenced by the Bethalto incident, private citizens are not proper claimants under the surety bond terms. Bonds for the Win continues to tell parents otherwise.

But because public displays at school board meetings tend to go viral, it may not matter that the claim is illegitimate if the intention of these organizations is solely to drum up views or supporters. School boards may feel pressured regardless.

It is unclear whether these organizations are intentionally or unintentionally misleading parents. Either way, they are providing a false sense of hope for parents concerned about their children and the effects of mask mandates. Many parents worry about their children with special needs, asthma, or anxiety – children who have been denied mask exemptions despite physical or mental health concerns.

For parents looking for mask mandates to end, the surety bond “loophole” falls flat – with one exception: members of the district, including fellow board members, are proper claimants. If a superintendent, board member, or other district official makes a claim against a bonded elected official, their claim may hold water.

If an official knowingly denied a mask exemption for a student with physical or mental health conditions, and that student suffered a negative reaction as a result, theoretically that official could be in violation of their oath of office.

And if a proper claimant made a legitimate claim with evidence of a violation, surety bonds could potentially be one answer. But manipulative organizations certainly aren’t the answer.

from page 6 **INFLATION**

rose sharply in January, increasing 4.2 percent. The gasoline index fell 0.8 percent in January after rising rapidly in the autumn of 2021. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices rose 0.1 percent in January.) The index for natural gas also declined in January, falling 0.5 percent after declining 0.3 percent in December.

The energy index rose 27.0 percent over the past 12 months with all major energy component indexes increasing. The gasoline index rose 40% over the last year, despite declining in January. The index for natural gas rose 23.9 percent over the last 12 months, and the index for electricity rose 10.7 percent.

from page 5 **I LOVE LYNNWOOD**

Jogakos are composed of many differently sized shapes, sizes, and colors yet balanced to fit together harmoniously as a whole greater than the sum of its parts despite the irregularities, like Lynnwood.

“My hope is that Lynnwood continues to be the kind of place that welcomes new arrivals and creates not only the physical space but also the economic, social, and emotional space for them to thrive,” Choi said.

Next up was Cheri Ryan who talked about her aunt, legendary Lynnwood historian Betty Lou Gaeng, and her history in the area. Gaeng, née Wallace, moved from Montana to Alderwood Mall and was of Hungarian and Swiss ancestry. Gaeng and her seven siblings lived on 36th Ave, then called North Trunk Road, and went to Alderwood Grade School. Ryan grew up around 13 of their cousins.

“We thought everyone lived next door to their family,” Ryan said. “Alderwood Manor never lost its heart, and it soon became Lynnwood.”

In 1997, Seattle Times reporter Stephen Clutter wrote a story on Lynnwood preserving its history while receiving an I-5 interchange on 196th St. In that article, Clutter remarked that detractors claimed Lynnwood’s problem “is that it’s a city without a heart or a history.” That statement stuck with Ryan throughout the years Ryan and took umbrage with it at the event.

“There’s a lot of rich history and a real heart to our community,” Ryan said. “We are ecstatic that the heart of Lynnwood is here [in Alderwood Manor].”

Lynnwood actor Jon Meggison lands lead role in feature film

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD, Wash., February 15, 2022 – Lynnwood-based actor Jon Meggison has only been acting for two years but has already experienced many successes in his career with no plans of slowing down.

His latest project, and first lead role in a feature film, is the upcoming horror film “A Haunting in Ravenwood,” which will be released on DVD and streaming platforms next month.

Meggison began his acting career in January 2020, working through the challenges of the pandemic, self-promoting, and quickly landing roles in films alongside big names like Eric Roberts and Steven Sorentino. Within his first year, he acted in 10 films and four commercials, winning the Best Lead Actor award for his performance in the indie film *It Takes Talent*, which also won the best drama award at the Paris Film Festival.

The actor recently just returned home to Lynnwood from filming “Amends of the Father” in Palm Beach, Florida, directed by 14-time award-winning actor Stephen Sorentino and scheduled to release later this year.

In August, Meggison will also star as Martian Manhunter in an upcoming Justice League fan film produced by Nightfall productions.

In addition to films, Jon Meggison has been featured in several commercials, including Dodson Heating and Air, Blue Flame, Little Creek Casino, and WSECU, which plays during Seattle Kraken games.

“It’s only been two years, but I’ve been blessed and able to accomplish a lot in the time that I’ve had,” Meggison said.

Although Meggison’s career has been on the rise since it began, before 2020, acting was the furthest thing from his mind. He was born in Hawaii but moved to Lynnwood when he was just four years old. To him, Lynnwood has always been home.

“I love the city of Lynnwood and growing up here as a kid shaped me to be who I am,” Meggison told the Lynnwood Times. “I feel like Lynnwood really doesn’t get enough notice for all the talented people we have here.”

Pathway to Film Success for Jon Meggison

When the country shut down at the beginning of 2020, Meggison, in an attempt to keep busy, decided he would try his luck with modeling. He reached out to the Seattle Talent agency, doing several commercial print projects for outlet stores such as Macy’s and H&M. While modeling, his agency asked him if he had any interest in acting. At first, he told them no. A few months went by and the agency kept asking, so Meggison caved and decided he would give it a shot.

“It seemed like during COVID a lot of people weren’t trying to find work. To me it was a blessing because it really gave me an opportunity to learn about the industry and how it operates,” Jon Meggison said.



Completely self-taught, Meggison began practicing monologues at home, reading acting books, and watching Youtube tutorials before eventually auditioning for his first film, “Operation Y2K,” in March 2020. He continues to look up to and study, his favorite actors – Michael B. Jordan, Denzel Washington, and Will Smith – with hopes of someday sharing the screen with them.

“I think the best way of getting good at anything is just putting yourself out there and doing the work,” Meggison said. “To this day all the jobs that I’ve done have been self-booked by putting myself out there and reaching out and self submitting.”

Since acting in “Operation Y2K,” Meggison has continued to find consistent work including the feature film *Survivor’s Choice*, alongside Eric Roberts, Julia Roberts’ brother, expected to release later this year.

Before he knew it, Meggison was signing with Los Angeles agent Shawn Brogan of The Brogan Agency, receiving auditions for television and network studio films.

A Haunting of Ravenwood

A Haunting of Ravenwood, Meggison’s first feature film as lead actor, will release to DVD Walmart and streaming platforms including Amazon Prime next month.

The film stars Eileen Dietz (“Halloween II,” “Exorcism,” “Constantine”) and tells the story of a newlywed couple staying in the house of the husband’s (Meggison) deceased wife. Soon paranormal events lead his wife (played by Chynna Rae Shurts) to believe she may be losing her mind.

Transitioning from drama and comedy to horror was challenging for Meggison, who told the Lynnwood Times it takes “a lot more preparation.” The actors stayed on set for 12 days, which helped draw him into the setting and feel of the story.

“It took me to a dark place. I lived the character of Eric for two months straight. The preparation for me was really finding the key things that we relate to. It was really understanding who Eric was,” Meggison said.

While preparing for the role, Meggison read the script multiple times, challenging himself to view the story from

each character’s perspective. Director Calvin Morie McCarthy separated him and co-star Rae Shurts whenever they were not shooting a scene to allow them to stay in their heads, remaining in character for the whole 12-day shoot.

“I’ve never been a big horror fan myself, but I really enjoyed playing Eric for that time. I’ve never done a role like that before, and I’m much more of a fan of horror and suspense films now.”

The film was produced by 7th Street Productions and distributed by Breaking Glass Pictures who were so impressed with the final cut when it premiered in January that they awarded 7th Street a new budget for an upcoming psychological thriller about sleep

paralysis, “The Conjuring,” which Meggison will also star in.

Though Meggison loves working on films, his goal within the next two years is to focus more on network television because it is more consistent work and allows more time to focus on a single character. Eventually he wants to become a household name.

“Hopefully being able to do this will shine some light on Lynnwood, the great city that we live in, and bring more opportunities for others that are chasing their dream,” Meggison said.

You can follow Jon Meggison and his acting career on his Instagram: @jonmeggoofficial.

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