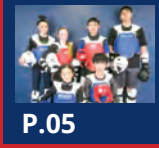


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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Red-Tailed Hawkes Flying Club wins big at national competition



At the 50th annual Operation Skyhook flying competition, held this year at Grider Field, Arkansas, that the Red-Tailed Hawkes took second place overall. Pictured (L-R) Dr. Jesse Hayes and Jaylen Palmer. Photo courtesy of Jesse Hayes.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO – While many flocked to the theaters Memorial Day weekend to see Tom Cruise’s return as Captain Pete “Maverick” Mitchell in the long-awaited Top Gun sequel, Mukilteo’s Red-Tailed Hawkes Flying Club was living it.

At the 50th annual Operation Skyhook flying competition, held this year at Grider Field, Arkansas, the Red-Tailed Hawkes took second place overall and President, and founder of the club, Jesse Hayes was awarded Top Gun – the highest individual

honor. Although the club has received numerous individual trophies in the past, this was its first time winning a team trophy.

Hayes grew up around airplanes, the son of a pilot who flew in the mid 1960’s and started the Bronze Eagle Flying Club in 1968 in Houston, Texas, a chapter of Black Pilots of America that still exists today.

When Hayes moved to Washington, he left the Bronze Eagles and started the Red Tailed Hawkes in 2013 to better reach underrepresented youth.

Operation Skyhook was started by Haye’s father, Dr. Jesse Hayes, in 1971, with his friend and fellow pilot Horace Noble flying out of a Chicago chapter of Black Pilots of America. The two wanted to form a competition to figure out which chapter was the best and held their first competition in Mississippi. Three years later it became a national competition and, except for taking the last two years off due to the pandemic, celebrated its 50th year in 2022.

“The Bronze Eagles came out on top, everyone had a great time, and everyone de-

cidated to do it again,” Hayes said.

The competition consisted of approximately 30 pilots from different chapters of Black Pilots of America competing in challenges such as spot landing (trying to land as close to a spot on a runway as possible), balloon burst (popping as many balloons with your propeller as possible), a pylon race (flying a course as fast as possible), and a flour bomb drop (dropping a bag of flour from the plane as close to a target as possible). The

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Senator John Lovick raises Juneteenth flag at County Campus



Snohomish County Councilman Jared Mead, Mukilteo Councilman Louis Harris, Ben Young of Communities of Color Coalition, and Senator John Lovick displaying a Juneteenth flag at the Snohomish County Campus on June 20, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



Pictured are the U.S., POW and the traditional Juneteenth flags at the Snohomish County War Memorial. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

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County leaders respond to public safety concerns



A view from the upper deck of the Marysville's Opera House during the Snohomish County Public Safety Town Hall on June 8, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore

By **BO JOHN BRUSCO**

MARYSVILLE – Over 100 people gathered in Marysville's Opera House for a Snohomish County Public Safety Town Hall on Wednesday, June 8. The panel, comprised of Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney, Chief Criminal Deputy Matt Baldock, and Councilmen Sam Low and Nate Nehring, answered questions ranging from staffing shortages to police reform policies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING SHORTAGE IS "A REAL PROBLEM"

When asked about the staffing shortage among law enforcement departments in the county, Sheriff Fortney acknowledged that it is "a real problem," noting that 30 deputies have left the Sheriff's department over the last six months and believes it's the natural consequences of recent years.

"When you spend two and half years demeaning one profession—that's law enforcement—on a state-wide level, that is going to have an impact on that profession. It doesn't matter to me if it's law enforcement or another profession," he said.

"People are leaving in droves [from] many of the offices in Snohomish County," he continued. According to Fortney, officers are leaving to different states where they feel supported and can financially support their families.

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS DEPUTIES REASSIGNED TO PATROL

The staffing issue is on the forefront of the community's mind as Sheriff Fortney recently announced that he would be reassigning specialty unit officers to patrol to offset attrition. One of the units most impacted by this move is the Office of Neighborhoods (OON), a team of deputies and embedded social workers who connect with the county's homeless population to break the cycle of homelessness.

Directly addressing the matter, Sheriff Fortney said, "The last thing I wanted to do was cut that out." Listing officers' safety and 9-1-1 response times as factors that led to the reassignments, he continued, "We have to answer 9-1-1 emergency calls. We have the responsibility to respond. I felt we haven't been effective enough doing that."

Fortney said he wants to be able to look back and know that he did everything he could to keep the public and his officers safe, even if it meant pulling officers away from the OON.

"I didn't want to do it," he concluded, "but I stand by my decision." Fortney confirmed that social workers can still be called upon to align individuals in need with appropriate services.

In attendance at last night's event was April Provost from Monroe, WA, whose life was changed three and half

years ago, thanks to an embedded social worker from the OON.

"My significant other and I both were in active use and homeless," she recalls, "and we were referred to one of the embedded social workers out in Monroe, and we decided that we needed to change."

Provost and her partner feared their addiction would lead to long-term incarceration or even death. Thanks to the OON, they were able to start treatment, obtain housing vouchers, and get IDS and driver's licenses.

"It gave us a start to really recreate our lives," she said. Provost is now a Peer Outreach Specialist for Ideal Option and has been helping people who struggle with addiction make the transition back into a stable life.

When she heard the OON was losing team members, Provost said she understood it the rationale behind the decision but hopes the office and keep going. "It's really sad because I think this is a really crucial time when we need these services. But at the same time, I understand that it's important that we keep our officers and communities safe, but I hope we can find a way, as a community, to keep these offices up and running."

Provost will be meeting with Sheriff's office in the near future to brainstorm ways to keep the program alive.

Sheriff Fortney was adamant about continuing those services as well. "If someone wants help in Snohomish County they can get it," he said. "If you leave with anything tonight, it should be that."

PUBLIC SAFETY, POLICE, AND POLICY

A question regarding police reform laws was addressed to the panel's two Councilmen. Nate Nehring called the vehicular pursuit law an "outstanding issue." The law (RCW 10.116.060) places several parameters on when police can engage in vehicle pursuits.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Sen. Lovick raises Juneteenth flag at County Campus from pg.1



Senator John Lovick raising a Juneteenth flag at the Snohomish County Campus on June 20, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

SNOHOMISH COUNTY – On June 20, in an historic first, the Juneteenth flag is flying at the Snohomish County Government campus. This comes just days after Governor Jay Inslee, along with members of Blacks United in Leadership and Diversity (BUILD), held the State’s official first Juneteenth flag raising ceremony on the State Capitol Campus in Olympia last Wednesday.

On June 13, the Snohomish County Council unanimously approved a proclamation recognizing June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth Independence Day in Snohomish County. Located at the county’s War Memorial, Snohomish County is now the first county within Washington state to officially fly the Juneteenth flag thanks to the efforts of County Executive Dave Somers, County Councilmen Sam Low and Jared Mead, and Washington State Senator John Lovick. Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas and wife Lara Thomas donated the traditional Juneteenth flag for today’s ceremony.

The County along with many municipalities across Washington state observed today, June 20, as a legal holiday. Others attending today’s ceremony were Lake Stevens Councilman Shawn Frederick, Mukilteo Councilman Louis Harris, Ben Young of the Communities of Color Coalition, and Karen Anderson with the Snohomish County Executive Office.

Last year, the Washington State Legislature approved HB 1016, sponsored by State Representative Melanie Morgan (D-Parkland), to establish Juneteenth as a legal state holiday. It was then signed into law by Governor Inslee on May 13, 2021, just over a month before the U.S. Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, that established June 19 as the 12th U.S. public legal holiday. The federal bill was signed into law by President Joe Biden on June 17, 2021.

Former Snohomish County Executive and now state senator John Lovick (D-Mill Creek), shared during his remarks at today’s ceremony that residents are eager to learn more about Juneteenth.

“I am learning that people want to know more about Juneteenth,” said

Lovick. “It is events like this that will help us all learn more.”

Lovick shared with the Lynnwood Times his personal connection to Juneteenth. His great great grandfather Thomas Holden was born between 1860 and 1863, years before the enslaved people in Texas were informed of General Order No. 3 by General Gordon Granger that slavery was abolished, and they were free.

“He [Holden] was born into slavery and in essence died into slavery,” Lovick said. “From the time of the Emancipation Proclamation until he died in 1965, there were still a lot of discrepancies in the United States of America.

“What I enjoyed about him was that he was able to share so many stories with us that meant so much to us. One that just breaks my heart and breaks my heart today was that he was the last born to his parents. But he had brothers and sisters that he never met. So, it’s our believe that his brothers and sisters who were born before him in 1863, were probably sold into slavery.”

Councilman Mead (D-Mill Creek) is proud for the county recognizing Juneteenth and the many contributions Black and African Americans have made to the United States.

“Being the first year that our county is officially celebrating it [Juneteenth] and doing it on the Monday we are recognizing the holiday is great,” Councilman Mead told the Lynnwood Times. “I am excited we were able to make it work. It is a monumental occasion for Snohomish County.”

Councilman Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens) added that he is also proud that the county is recognizing the horrors millions of African slaves endured and the injustices to their descendants.

“I definitely think it will be a tradition,” Councilman Low said. “I want to thank Executive Somers for allowing us to do this.”

“It is really good to see that as a nation we are now recognizing Juneteenth as a national and state holiday,” personally speaking, Mukilteo Councilman and First Vice President of the Snohomish

Continued **PAGE 11** >>



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Lynnwood's 2nd annual Juneteenth event a success



Mary Ann Grafton, Aaliyah Earvin, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, DJ Doc the Lion, Keynote speaker Garry Clark, Lynnwood Councilwoman Shirley Sutton, and Lynnwood Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby attending Friday's Juneteenth Luncheon at the Lynnwood Senior Center on June 17, 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD – To a packed room, many seniors in Lynnwood and the surrounding areas attended the City's Black Independence Day luncheon at the Lynnwood Senior Center on Friday, June 17, 2022, to commence Juneteenth celebrations.

"The liberation after years spent in slavery," Lynnwood resident Larry Burks told the Lynnwood Times in sharing what Juneteenth meant to him. "It is important that this history is not allowed to die."

Burks, a Navy veteran and retired public utilities worker, shared the subtle and passive aggressive forms of prejudice he experienced over the years.

"The discrimination varied widely. People wouldn't talk to me, people that I worked with wouldn't shake your hand. The best way to describe it is... people may help me if my car broke down, but they wouldn't invite me into their home."

He is pleased of the progress we, as a society, is making one step at a time.

"[Prejudice] is nowhere near as when I left the Navy. It is getting better... small steps."

Lynnwood Juneteenth
Prior to the start of the event, Leah Jensen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Christine Frizzell, read a Labor Acknowledgement to honor the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions were built.

"We recognize that the United States as we know it was built at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and later on, dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

"We acknowledge and remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage,

those who were beaten and lynched as a result of White Supremacy, and those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom. We are indebted to their labor and their unwilling sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the tremors that violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact and generational trauma is still felt and witnessed today."

Lynnwood Councilwoman Shirley Sutton shared with the Lynnwood Times how as a twelve-year-old girl in the 1960s watching the brutal treatment of Blacks peacefully protesting for equality defined her "Why" to push for positive change within our community.

"Anything that brings people down and tell them they are no good, that not a person that I want to be," Councilwoman Sutton said. "We have to love our community, taking care of those individuals that need it and making sure that everyone has a home and have the medical care that they need. That's where I am at today."

Keynote speaker Garry Clark, CEO of Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, opened with spoken word poetry sharing his personal story of growing up as a young man.

He then shared the history from slavery in the United States starting in 1619 Virginia to Juneteenth in June of 1865. To many attendees, it was the first time they heard that slavery continued in both Kentucky and Delaware until the ratification of the U.S. Constitution with the Thirteenth Amendment.

A proclamation or executive order is technically not a law. Although the Emancipation Proclamation in January of 1863 declared an end to slavery in the Confederate States, it did not end slavery in states that remained in the Union.

Those who contributed to Friday's event's success were Mary Ann Grafton, Misty Burke, Aaliyah Earvin, Lena Hopkins, Roug Raiford, Marielle Harrington, George McKenzie, Kay, Norma, and Sydney.

The food was catered by Ezell's Famous Chicken and dessert provided by Zuri's Donutz. Classic Soul music was played in the background by DJ Doc the Lion.

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Taekwondo athletes head to Pan American Competition



The six taekwondo athletes from Northwest Black Belt Academy heading to the championships are (L-R) Back Row: Montana Miller, Taylan Allison, Sebastian Tan, and Victor Sanchez; Front Row (L-R): Trinity Yamada and Emanuel Tan. Photo courtesy of Northwest Black Belt Academy.

By **BO JOHN BRUSCO**

LYNNWOOD – Four teenaged taekwondo athletes, fighting out of Lynnwood’s Northwest Black Belt Academy, have been selected to represent the United States at this year’s Pan American Championship. Two others from the academy will be competing for their home county, Malaysia.

The Pan American Championship is a continent-wide championship where winners from their country compete to

see who the best athlete in the continent is. This year’s competition will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, hosting athletes from all over North, Central, and South America.

Beginning June 30, through July 3, Victor Sanchez (15), Montana Miller (15), Taylan Allison (15), and Trinity Yamada (12), will put their years of martial arts experience to the test in a day-long, bracketed, elimination-style tournament to see who reigns superior. Two other athletes, Emanuel Tan and

Sebastian Tan (who also train out of the Lynnwood dojang), will be competing for their home country of Malaysia while still representing the Northwest Black Belt Academy.

Victor Sanchez always wanted to learn how to fight and became interested in taekwondo by watching Power Rangers. While he wouldn’t mind participating in the Olympics someday, to him the hard work and dedication involved with taekwondo, and what it teaches him about himself, is far more important than high-level tournaments.

He has been practicing taekwondo for about four years and is looking forward to discovering what it’s like to fight athletes from other countries in Costa Rica. When he returns from Costa Rica he will fly to Bulgaria, a month later, to compete in a world championship.

“Tae Kwan Do can be really hard sometimes, not just physical but mental,” Sanchez said. “Before I wasn’t really that confident, I wasn’t who I was today but over these couple of years taekwondo has helped me be a better person. I have good morals, discipline, respect. I really encourage people to try taekwondo, not only because you get fit, but you gain really good life skills that will help you throughout your life.”

Montana Miller grew up in a taekwondo family, her parents being athletes before she was even born. After an incident involving her sister being pursued by a “weird man,” her parents decided to enroll their children in mar-

tial arts. She eventually wants to work toward participating in the Olympics and has been practicing taekwondo for approximately eight years.

“Taekwondo is really fun, but it also builds a strong bond with your team,” Miller said. “We’re all like a family, it’s a lifestyle, it’s a great sport.”

Taylan Allison signed up for taekwondo because her parents wanted her to participate in a sport that was close to home and met before dinner. Taylan is a “baby in the sport” compared to the others but she was placed in the top tier based on her work ethic and attitude. In less than a year, she is now going to the Pan Am Championship.

Allison has been practicing taekwondo for about four years and started sparring this season. She’s looking forward to fighting in a new environment and gaining new experiences in Costa Rica.

“I really want to stick with this because I’m loving it and I want to keep gaining experiences and just fight hard because I really love what I do,” Allison said. “Tae Kwan Do isn’t just fun, it’s a discipline. If you put your mind to it, you can achieve it, and I think that’s really important in life.”

Trinity Yamada’s parents wanted her to participate in a sport that could help her protect herself. She eventually wants to work toward participating in the Olympics and other high-level tournaments. She has been practicing taekwondo for

Continued **PAGE 09 >>**



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Lynnwood High School 2022 Graduation Ceremony: A triumph after Covid challenges

Op-Ed by KIENAN BRISCOE

To watch the Lynnwood High School's Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony in its entirety, scan the QR code.



EDMONDS — On Friday, June 17, Lynnwood High School (LHS) held its graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022, which saw 323 students receive diplomas. Despite the grey skies and some students and faculty dawning ponchos, it didn't rain on the Class of 2022; a small gift after losing the bulk of their most formidable years to a global pandemic.

The first speaker of the day was Edmonds School Board Representative Gary Noble. Noble reminisced on his younger years as a quiet nerd and how he grew out of his shell, even enough to address the students and audience before him. He encouraged students to be unafraid of getting out of their comfort zones.

"Graduates, embrace your learning opportunities," he said, "especially those that expand your horizons. They will be what shapes the person you become."

Student Body Vice President Anthony Guinto, one of five valedictorians in his class, spoke after Noble. Guinto lightheartedly addressed the trial that was unique to High School students of today—the pandemic and online learning. "We made it here after two years of laying down in our beds on zoom calls, so that's pretty cool," he grinned.

Guinto encouraged his classmates

to embrace life for what it is. "Every time we look back on these four years, just remember that every decision we made has led us to the people we are today—a group of resilient, driven, and passionate individuals," he said. "I implore you to look back on this time and embrace all the mistakes, mishaps, and happy little accidents that made us who we are today."

Guinto was followed by Jenna Miller, a valedictorian who staged a student walkout for women's reproductive rights this school year. Miller explained how all of their essential high school experiences as teenagers were "disrupted by Covid," but that she felt a sense of triumph in graduating despite the fact.

Before thanking teachers and faculty for all their support, Miller addressed her class's potential to impact the world, "We collectively and individually have the power to make a change in our society," she said. "We can make a difference."

Vi Nguyen, the next valedictorian to speak, began by expressing how lacking their high school experience was during Covid. Nguyen noted how they were only able to have "three official semesters of school" and missed out on competitions and events. She did say, however, that the years "had a lot of personality to them."

For Nguyen, the big takeaway from Covid was how she and her classmates were able to rise to the occasion. "We all adjusted and adapted to three different learning environments, understanding what does and doesn't work

for us," she said, adding how the challenges made the Class of 2022 "unique in the best of ways."

Sharon 'Dubs' White delivered the Staff Speech of the evening. She recalled how the Class of 2022 spent their Freshmen year in person, Sophomore year online, Junior year half online and half in person with social distancing measures in the classroom, and Senior year in person with masks and not having full assemblies. "But," she said, "you made memories despite it all."

According to White, her fellow teachers described this year's graduates as "survivors, fighters, and oh-so-passionate." Continuing to share other teachers' words, White said, "The resilience of these young people and their empathy is inspiring. [...] If they can get through Covid high school, they can get through anything."

"You have faced many realities during this pandemic," White said, now speaking for herself. "Don't doubt yourself or be afraid to be different. Forge that path ahead. Forge the path towards the world you want to live in. Be brave enough to be your authentic self."

White was followed by Lydia Ismail, the President of LHS's Black Student Union and Student Body Activities Coordinator. Ismail recounted with gratitude the opportunities she's had to be a good influence on other classmates and underclassmen.

"I am proud to say that I am leaving a strong foundation for the black students of Lynnwood High School,"

she said. "Together, we have created a space where we can be our most authentically and unapologetically black selves!"

Continuing to speak about authenticity, Ismail said, "Thank you to everyone for being who you are, and please continue to better the world around you."

The final speaker before students received their diplomas was the ceremony's Student Speaker, Valedictorian Lydia Berhanu. Berhanu reminded her classmates to slow down and acknowledge the good things in life but added, "I don't mean to imply that we should ignore the hardships or traumas. I wouldn't want to leave here today without mentioning those who aren't here with us today. The lost class of 2022."

This "Lost Class" Berhanu referred to are all of the students who were supposed to have graduated this year but lost their lives to gun violence—"The number one leading cause of death for American children and teens."

"As soon-to-be graduates, we have now acquired the education to do something about it. To fight," Berhanu added. "As we step into the world, we can't forget about those lost but rather live on for them and shine a light on the lives lost."

Berhanu concluded her remarks by looking forward and encouraging her classmates to make a difference. "The future is in our hands," she said.

Meadowdale class of 2022 enters the next of life's chapters

By KIENAN BRISCOE

To watch the Meadowdale High School's Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony in its entirety, scan the QR code.



EDMONDS — The weather was in the favor of the 261 Meadowdale students who received their High School diplomas at Edmonds Stadium on Monday, June 20.

Distinguished guests included Superintendent Dr. Gustavo Balderas, School board members Dr. Nancy Katims, Keith Smith, and Carin Chase, Assistant Principals Deann Anguiano and Kim Dreier, and Valedictorian speech coordinator Michele Ruth Frindell.

Greg Schwab, Assistant Superintendent, took the stand to initiate the evening in Principle David Shockley's stead, who was unable to attend the ceremony. After caps were removed while the Meadowdale band, led by the direction of Robbie Rutherford, played the National Anthem, the land was

acknowledged as originally belonging to the Coast Salish tribes.

Schwab began by recognizing six staff members who would also be "graduating" this year adding up to a total of 160 years of service, cumulatively, committed to Meadowdale High School. These retiring staff members include Greg Wirtz, P.E., Cari Saint-Denis, World Language, Carol Doane, Counseling Secretary, Bob Youngken, Science, Paul Graham, Social Studies, and Beth Marriot, ASB Coordinator, Leadership, and Athletic Director.

This year Marriot was also inducted into the Washington Activities Coordinator Association (WACA) Hall of Fame.

Schwab then introduced the nine student speakers, including the eight class Valedictorians, who, one-by-one, took the stand to offer words of inspiration to their fellow classmates.

"As we graduate coaches, teachers, underclassmen, employers will all be able to tell stories about us. Whether those

stories be good or bad they will live on. Stories will teach morals, inspire others, and most importantly help grow younger generations. So, I implore you graduates, as we start to follow and create our own path be the reason that someone tells a story. Be someone that people want to tell stories about," Austen Seals, student and ASB Co-president, said.

Hazel Warner, ASB Co-President, followed Seals by sharing that the most important lesson she has learned, through her time at Meadowdale, is to have a positive impact on her community and those around you.

Sarah Reitz kicked off the eight Valedictorian speakers by sharing a quote by C.S. Lewis, reflecting on one of the most defining characteristics of the class of 2022 being its ability to accept and adapt to change. Through online school, a global pandemic, and learning how to reconnect with classmates, Reitz noted the willingness to adapt to change is what the class of 2022 will bring with them to face the future's challenges head on.

The next Valedictorian speaker, Rachel Krueger, who will be attended Western Washington University this Fall, replaced Reitz to share a few words about how it's important to have a plan in life, even when things don't go according to it.

"Things do not usually or ever go the way you envision but that is just life and that is how you grow. All you can do is accept things as they come and react to them to the best of your ability. No matter how you react is a risk and that risk will bring change, that change will help you grow. My advice for fellow graduates is if you are unsure what path you'd like to take in life have gratitude that no matter what you choose there will be change," Krueger said.

Next up was Valedictorian Ethan Wright, who began by sharing some wise words from his grandfather: "determination is better than brilliance."

"We are all here today because we were determined enough to see things to the end. To pursue

something worth our efforts. What I hope all of you take away from this high school experience is that academic intelligence alone does not guarantee success — you need grit and a dedication to your dreams. Whatever you choose to do with the next few years of your life make it count and let your passions drive you," Wright said.

Before continuing with the remaining student speakers, the combined Meadowdale Band, Choir, and Orchestra performed a heavenly rendition of *Lovely Day* by Bill Withers.

After the applause, Valedictorian Alexander Phan took the stand to continue with some student wisdom.

"Valor means to have great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. High School can be a battle with the trials and tribulations it throws our way. We've all had our struggles throughout school, whether it be stressing over an assignment or something more serious such as mental

Continued PAGE 10 >>

Daleway Park murder: A social media drug deal gone wrong



Leif Gunnar Smith appearing in court on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 for the alleged murder of Carl Bridgmon. Lynnwood Times.

Probable cause was found for Smith's arrest in Everett District Court on May 25, and bail was set for \$1 million for the charges of Assault 2 (with a weapon), Assault 1 (with a non-family gun), Robbery 1, and aggravated Murder 1.

According to a statement released by the family, Bridgmon loved to sit and have his coffee at the park several times a week. The family is distraught over this "senseless" tragedy. Bridgmon was caught in the crossfire between two groups of individuals and tragically murdered.

BELOW IS THE STATEMENT FROM CARL BRIDGMON'S FAMILY IN ITS ENTIRETY

Family of a beloved Lynnwood man, who was innocently killed during the April 5 senseless shooting at Daleway Park in Lynnwood shares about their Dad, Carl Bridgmon.

Bridgmon was tragically killed on April 5 after the vehicle he was sitting in was shot by unknown suspects who were in a confrontation with other individuals, also unknown to Bridgmon.

LYNNWOOD – New reports obtained by the Lynnwood Times show the Daleway Park shooting incident, which resulted in the death of 70-year-old Carl Bridgmon, on April 5, was the result of a drug deal gone wrong. The social media platform Snapchat was used to organize transaction.

Katie Durkits, Snapchat communications team, offered the following statement regarding Leif Smith using Snapchat to organize drug deals.

"We are investing heavily in AI and machine learning tools to proactively detect dangerous drug activity on Snapchat (including tools that help us find likely drug content, imagery, emojis, text, and other probably indicators, and work with third party intelligence experts to find illicit drug-related content across other platforms that references Snapchat, so we can find drug dealers' accounts and take swift action to shut them down."

On April 5, approximately 2:30 p.m., Lynnwood Police responded to an assault with a weapon call at Daleway Park located at 1905 64th Avenue West in Lynnwood. Callers reported two black males running westbound on 190th Street Southwest and a black sedan driving away from the scene. When officers arrived, they found 70-year-old Carl Bridgmon deceased in the driver's seat of his black Chevrolet Impala. There were several bullet holes on the driver's side and Bridgmon was bleeding from the legs. Several rifle casings were found at the scene.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner would later report the cause of death was gunshot wounds and the manner of death was homicide.

Officers contacted the two males who were seen fleeing earlier. According to the two young men, they had driven to an apartment complex to smoke marijuana when one of them saw a dealer named "Baba" post good marijuana prices to Snapchat. One of the victims told officers he had purchased marijuana from Baba twice in the past and contacted the dealer to meet at Dale-

way Park for the exchange.

Through Snapchat, Baba instructed the two males to enter the vehicle, a black sedan with tinted windows that was parked to the east of Bridgmon's vehicle. Only one of the young men entered the vehicle and sat in the front passenger seat. Upon entry of the vehicle, the potential buyer noticed another person, a white male, sitting in the backseat.

When the buyer asked to inspect the product, which was sealed in a bag that obstructed viewing its quality, Leif Smith allegedly became angry and began to punch the prospective buyer.

According to the buyer, the white male in the backseat yelled, "Where is my money?"

The buyer screamed his friend's name for help who was outside of the vehicle. His friend opened the car door and the two fled hearing loud "popping" sounds in the background. When they looked back, the white male who sat in the backseat earlier was now outside of the vehicle carrying a twelve-inch blue green rifle.

When officers questioned the victim his right jacket sleeve was torn, there was a small amount of blood at the corner of his mouth, a bruise to his right temple, scratches on his chest, and he alleged his money was gone.

His friend had a bleeding injury on his hand and an abrasion on his back.

A witness told officers that she heard the slap of running feet while parked between the northeast and southeast corners of the parking lot and saw two black males running, looking terrified. A white male, wearing white, stood outside of the driver's side of the vehicle with a rifle that looked like a "tommy gun" with a CD sized drum about two inches thick. The white male was nonchalant and calm, the witness said, and drove away in his vehicle "quickly" but not "recklessly".

Lynnwood Detective Sattarov searched Bridgmon's phone and found he had

filmed the altercation, shooting, and ultimately his own death, which allegedly corroborated the two male's story.

On April 11, Detective Sergeant Jorgensen received a Crimestoppers tip from an anonymous source identifying the driver as 21-year-old Leif Smith. The other white male in the backseat of the vehicle was identified as the shooter by the tipster. According to the tipster, the rifle used in the shooting was registered to Smith and was in the backseat of the car.

Smith was arrested on May 24, at his Marysville residence, where he lived with his family, and was transported to the Snohomish County Jail.

"Our family is in complete shock. Thank you for the community's concern for our Dad, Carl Bridgmon, he was 70-years-old and a Lynnwood resident," said the Bridgmon family.

"Our Dad loved to go to that park and sit and have his coffee several times a week," said his daughter Courtney Teno. We are devastated and would really appreciate privacy as we process this over the next few days and weeks."

Carl leaves behind two daughters, their significant others, two sisters, and many other loved ones and friends. "Carl never met a person he didn't talk to or try to make friends with," Teno said.

Jane seeks revenge at Lynnwood pregnancy clinic



Vandalism at Nex Step on May 25, 2022. Photos courtesy of Next Step Pregnancy Center.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD – On Wednesday, May 25, at approximately 2 a.m., Next Step Pregnancy Services’ ADT alarm system went off. When Executive Director Heather Vasquez and her team showed up for work later that morning, they found five of their clinic’s windows smashed and hateful graffiti painted across the front and back doors reading “if abortions aren’t safe neither are you” and “Jane’s revenge”.

“I think this was definitely politically motivated. You have the group Jane’s Revenge which is basically telling people to go out and be violent against pregnancy clinics and basically any organization that helps women with pregnancies,” Vasquez told the Lynnwood Times.

Jane’s Revenge is an American far-left group which has perpetrated and threatened domestic terror attacks in the name of defending abortion rights. The group was formed in 2022 as a response to the Supreme Court leak overturning Roe v. Wade and has committed acts of firebombing, vandalism, and arson across the country since. The name is most likely a reference to the

Jane Collective, an underground organization that helped women obtain abortions prior to the Roe v. Wade decision.

Next Step pregnancy services is just one of several targeted vandalism cases against pregnancy clinics across the nation following the SCOTUS leak on May 2.

Beginning with the firebombing of a crises pregnancy center in Madison, Wisconsin, in May 2022, the group has since targeted pregnancy centers in New York, North Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Ohio, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Iowa, and Oregon. After the Madison firebombing the organization issued a statement demanding the disbanding of anti-abortion organizations with the threat of “increasingly extreme attacks”.

However, according to Heather Vasquez, Next Step pregnancy services is not an anti-abortion clinic at all.

“It was disheartening. I feel sorry for the person because I think there is a misconception about what really goes on at places like ours,” Vasquez said. “We don’t make any choices for our

clients, if they come in and they’re not sure what to do we talk about all of their options and listen to them attentively.”

Vasquez informed the Lynnwood Times their website clearly maps out the free services they provide, which includes pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy counseling, material assistance, post-abortion support, reproductive loss, adoption information, and community assistance referrals.

“We do invite people to come take tours, and ask questions, but nobody ever comes,” Vasquez said. “I just feel there’s a lot of misinformation about what we’re really doing in here. I think they feel there is a lot more pressure or religious things going on but that isn’t happening.”

Video surveillance captured that morning revealed what appears to be a woman wearing a hooded sweatshirt and mask spray painting the front and back door of the facility. The security system indicated there were attempts at testing the doors, but the suspect was unable to enter. Although the suspect was heavily concealed, Vasquez described her as female, slender, and

around 5’2” to 5’5” in height. This was the first incident of vandalism the clinic has experienced since opening their Lynnwood location in 2010.

Vasquez, joined by Rebecca Anderson of Next Step, brought attention to the incident during the public comment section at the Lynnwood City Council meeting Monday, June 13. Anderson informed the Lynnwood Times that Mayor Christine Frizzell approached her after the meeting, deeply concerned, and asked what the city could do to help including assisting with the costs for additional security cameras.

“Lynnwood Police has been very attentive,” Vasquez said. “They’ve come by and definitely stepped up their patrols around our building, sat in our parking lot, and given us their cellphone numbers and told us to call if we see anything suspicious.”

In addition to added police presence, Next Step is installing additional security cameras this week, under the recommendation of the Lynnwood PD, to increase their angles should any further incidents arise.

from page 5 **TAEKWONDO**

about seven years. She is looking forward to international experience and competition and pushing herself.

“Tae Kwan Do is very competitive. If you’re doing taekwondo, you should love it, you shouldn’t do anything you don’t want to do. Taekwondo teaches you a lot of ways to live... respect, discipline, and it’s fun,” Trinity said.

Leading up unto the competition, these athletes participated in a series of four championships including a state, a regional (or grand prix), a national, then a final fight-off representing team USA. Their selection to participate in the Pan American competition was based on their point scores and performance at

these four competitions.

“The work ethic, the drive that these guys have is phenomenal,” Joe Whitworth, founder and coach of Northwest Black Belt Academy, told the Lynnwood Times. “The approach that we take is work hard and see where it takes you. The process is important, and the journey is important, where we end up is where we end up, but the mentality is that these guys are always going to go for gold.”

Master Joe Whitworth was born in South Korea. He lived in an orphanage until the age of 10, when he was adopted by his American, English-speaking family. When he started elementary school, as a foreigner he was taunted and bullied by other kids, so shortly af-

ter he arrived in the United States, he started learning taekwondo at a local school. Martial arts gave him the confidence he needed to assert himself.

At present, Master Joe is a 5th degree black belt and has 25 years of experience in teaching martial arts. Master Joe expects a lot from his students. He encourages his students to work hard at martial arts and in school. Students look to Master Joe for instruction on technique, for a lesson in life, for a good laugh after class, and for inspiration when times are tough.

“I never really wanted to teach Tae Kwan Do, it wasn’t a goal of mine, I knew I wanted to teach and help kids, because of what I went through, but it kinda fell in my lap,” Whitworth told

the Lynnwood Times.

Master Joe Whitworth (center) with his students at Pan Am Texas. For those interested in watching the Pan American tournament, you can see the live stream of the event at patu.org

A GoFundMe account has also been set up by the dojang to help support their athlete’s travel expenses and tournament fees. To donate visit <http://go-fund.me/04bbf162>.

“These guys work so hard, they’re working about six days a week averaging about two hours a day. They are dedicated kids, they get good grades, they’re just good human beings,” Master Joe said.



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Local Eats Spotlight: Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls



Jhef and Katrina Romero. LT | Bo John Brusco.

LYNNWOOD – Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls is a family-owned, hidden gem of a grub spot in Lynnwood that serves tasty Filipino-inspired sandwiches you’d be hard-pressed to find anywhere else. Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls is located at 18009 Hwy 99 C, Lynnwood, WA 98037.

Having only been open for about 10 months, Lasa has quickly become a local favorite. “Thank you so much for your support,” says Lasa owner and chef Jhef Romero, 31. “You guys have received [Lasa] really well and we really appreciate the support, and we’re excited to keep giving you guys more!”

SERVING FRESH FILIPINO FLAVORS ON QUALITY SANDWICHES

As is the case with most hidden gems, Lasa’s shop isn’t very big, but its food packs an incredible amount of flavor, and according to Lasa’s owner, bold flavors define Filipino cuisine.

“The Filipino flavors are just bold [and] in your face—crunchy, strong, fresh, pickled,” says Jhef. “There’s a lot of pickled crunchiness, saltiness, sweetness, so when you’re in the Philippines eating, everything is fresh. It’s freshly picked off the tree a minute ago, or pulled out of the water a minute ago. So I want the flavors to feel like that; just real fresh, bold, strong, delicious.”

The idea to open a Filipino sandwich shop came to Jhef and his family when they spotted a huge line coming out of Katz Deli in Montreal, Canada, during a vacation in 2017. “So we stood in line one day and got in,” Jhef recalls.

“And it was good—it was really good, and we thought, ‘man, if people are going crazy over something like this, what could we do with it, you know?’” Jhef says that experience planted the seed that would eventually lead to him and his wife, Katrina Romero, opening Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls in June 2021.

For Jhef, sandwiches are also a genius way to make Filipino food more approachable for people who’ve never tried it before. “The flavors, what we serve here [is] what we had at home growing up. So it’s what our parents, all of our parents and aunties at family parties [served]; all the flavors that we know and love,” he says.

“But here at Lasa, it’s on a platform that’s more general that people can accept or just be more open to: sandwiches. Everybody loves sandwiches. They might not know Filipino food or ever had it, might not ever heard of it, right? But you know what a sandwich is, so this is somewhere you can come, have a sandwich, really enjoy it, and find out that’s Filipino food—that’s Filipino flavor.”

LASA’S TASTY “PEARLS”

The “pearls” portion of Lasa refers to their tasty beverages served with edible tapioca pearls, which are gummy and chewy in texture. Lasa’s pearl concoctions are not only delicious, refreshing, and fun, but they’re truly visual spectacles.

Most of the drinks are seasonal, though the best crowd-pleasers are available year-round. The idea to serve the pearls alongside sandwiches just made sense for Jhef, who wanted something that captured the fresh fruit flavors of the Philippines to complement the spicy and salty sandwiches. “The fresh fruit drinks on a hot day with a heavy sandwich, it all ties together really well,” he says.

“IT’S ALWAYS BEEN FOOD”

Jhef grew up in the kitchen and comes from a family of cooks. “My youngest, earliest memories were running around the kitchen back in islands, in Saipan,” he says. “My family owned a restaurant there throughout the years. [...] So being around it, it’s just what it always was.”

Growing up in the Philippines, family and food were always center stage for Jhef. “Having big parties in the Philippines, the festivals always just gravitated around the biggest spread of food,” he says.

“Food has always been the showcase. It’s always been what you can give to someone. It’s always what you remember. It’s the first thing you’re asked if you come to a Philipino house, ‘have you ate?’ Food is just the center point of everything tied to that family—togetherness, everything. It’s always been food.”

Roughly 15 years after Jhef and his family moved to Lynnwood, WA, from the Mariana Islands, they opened up another restaurant in Shoreline called “Family Time Restaurant: Filipino Specialty Cuisine.”

After Family Time Restaurant closed in 2012, Jhef continued working in kitchens around the Seattle area at restaurants like Barrio and Meet the Moon, and even graduated from Cordon Bleu in 2011.

When asked what’s the one skill or attribute needed to be a successful chef, Jhef said “being able to adapt” without hesitation. “You can follow the recipe but it’s not going to be the same as it was yesterday. The flame and ingredients could be different, so adapting is number one. You have got to feel the food too.”

A FAMILY EFFORT

Running Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls is a family effort for Jhef and his wife Katrina, who have a

one-year-old at home. While Jhef primarily helms the kitchen and runs the daily operations, Katrina co-leads the drink side of things with Jhef’s cousin, Francene Romero.

Even the business and accounting roles are occupied by Jhef’s sister I.J. Romero. Jhef says I.J., “cranks all the numbers and everything on the backside.” Jhef is delighted to get to run a restaurant as a family again and says it “was always one of the main goals.”

One crew member at Lasa who isn’t family is Jhef’s long-time friend and fellow cook, Brandon Bachiller. “We spent years and years working together around Seattle, and finally got [Brandon] back in here to do something together. We always had that in the plans,” Jhef says.

THE FOOD

Purple Paradise



The Purple Paradise is more or less a creamy ube milk-shake-esque drink with tapioca “pearls,” it is divine. It was intended to be a seasonal fall/winter beverage, but Jhef and Katrina say that since it’s been so well received, they’re going to keep on the menu year round, and that is the best news for customers. I couldn’t stop sipping on the Purple Paradise between takes—it’s sweet, creamy, and everything you’d want in a dessert-like beverage.

The Boracay Breeze

This one’s for the citrus fans. The Boracay Breeze is the perfect spring/summer drink. With freshly squeezed calamansi, a sort of orange-lemon hybrid fruit, the Boracay Breeze is extremely refreshing—and yes, it pairs nicely with Lasa’s sandwiches.

Halo-Halo (Mix-Mix)

According to Jhef, Halo-Halo is a national dessert of the Philippines, and for good reason. It has a lot going for it and is both a spectacle to behold and a delight to devour. If you like ice cream, it’s got ice cream. If you like coconut, it’s got plenty of that. If you like leche flan, jackfruit, and Stick-O’s, it has all of that too. If you really want a treat that is both affordable and decadent, the Halo-Halo delivers.

Lechon Kawali Roll



The Lechon Kawali Roll is a perfectly crispy pork belly sandwich. Even before the pork makes it to the fryer, it’s been boiled and seasoned for hours. The tender love and care given to this sandwich really comes through in its flavor. The pork’s delicious and sticky teriyaki glaze is complimented by a spicy chili garnish, and I will absolutely be returning for this sub.

from page 1 **RED-TAIL HAWKES**

competition awards points according to how well the pilots complete each individual challenge.

Flying with Hayes was first-time competitor, 18-year-old Jaylen Palmer, who just received his commercial pilot's license a few months ago and was the first ever recipient of RTH's \$10,000 scholarship to go toward ratings and licensing. The scholarship is named after Hayes's father making the weekend that much more memorable. Dr. Hayes was also inducted into the Black Pilot's of America Hall of Fame this year.

"It was largely, and absolutely, because of Jaylen's strong performance. He had a strong individual performance and consistency across all of the events," Hayes told the Lynnwood Times.

Palmer first met Hayes in 2015 at a career fair in Portland, Oregon. Hayes invited Palmer up for a flight in Washington and, although Palmer's interest in aviation stemmed from growing up near an airport and playing flight simulators as a kid, it was this moment when his dream of becoming a pilot was born.

"Having an opportunity flying with Jesse Hayes again was pretty fun. I think the last time I flew with him was when

I was in middle school," Palmer said. "I'll always remember my first flight up and the memories I create flying with Mr. Hayes – that's probably the best thing about my aviation career."

Palmer joined the Red-Tailed Hawkes Flying Club, a Northwest chapter of Black Pilots of America presenting unrepresented youths the opportunity to become pilots, at the age of 10. Each month he would travel up to Washington, from Oregon, and learn aviation history, aeronautics, and navigation until securing his private pilot's license at the age of 17 and his commercial pilot's license at the age of 18. Palmer hopes to enroll in the Air Force Academy this year and eventually either retire as a commercial pilot or start his own business helping Black youths become pilots. In the United States less than 2% of airplane pilots are Black, according to zippia.

"I just want to create opportunities for other people," Palmer said.

Jaylen's first flight alone was in August of 2020. He informed the Lynnwood Times he was not nervous at all, given all the training he had received previously. In addition, he had been reading the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical knowledge for about four years before beginning flight training and felt confident in his knowledge and abilities.

"It was a good opportunity to represent Red Tailed Hawks and the pilots they produce," Palmer said. "I feel like second place was a good baseline to set but I'm trying to get first place next year."

Red Tailed Hawks meet all over the Seattle area, from Boeing field to SeaTac airport to the Naval Air Station in Whidbey Island.

To learn more about the club visit <https://redtailedhawksflyingclub.org/>

ABOUT BLACK PILOTS OF AMERICA

Black Pilots of America, Inc. (BPA, Inc) is a non-profit flying organization established in 1997.

Members include men, women, and youth aviation enthusiasts from all walks of life and various backgrounds and experiences and chapters are located throughout the country. All interested potential new members are invited to contact a chapter official for additional information about joining the chapter.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us to ask the candidates on your behalf. Email your issues in a form of a question to editorial@lynnwood-times.com or call 425-308-8371.

from page 7 **VOLUNTEERING**

health...Don't let yourselves put metaphorical smokes down making you only see the negative aspects of life, if you focus on the bad times we'll never be able to appreciate the good ones," Pham shared.

Valedictorian Tina Nguyen followed Pham by sharing some of the risks she took, over her High School years, which included signing up for STEM classes. She encouraged her fellow graduates to taking similar risks before playfully taking a selfie of herself on the podium.

"The world we live in can be difficult and the paths we take may be scary but when you look forward to the possibilities it turns out to be beautiful. As we move to the next chapter of our lives I hope everyone knows that perfection is not possible without challenging yourselves to improve. Don't let the question of what if loom over you and plague your mind," Nguyen said.

Rachel Lee, Valedictorian, followed Nguyen to share her experience growing up as the youngest child, constantly living in the shadow of successes from her brother.

"During this long year there was a period of time when I grew closer to my classmates. That happiness I felt with them for those couple of weeks was greater than the happiness I felt spending four years on my GPA. My grades won't last forever but the happiness I feel with those I care about will. I encourage us all to make time for what makes us happy, and I wish us all happiness for the future," Lee said.

Sydney Wright, the final Valedictorian speaker, closed out the student speeches by sharing some quotes from Meadowdale staff when asked what they would tell their 18-year-old selves when they considered their futures. She ended by urging others to not be afraid to seek guidance because "help is always there for those who ask."

Following the student speakers, each graduate of 2022 was called one-by-one to accept their diplomas, shake hands with staff, and take a professional photo. Once every student was awarded their diploma, Hazel Warner returned to the podium and instructed her fellow graduates to move their tassels to the left side of their cap.

On the count of three, the students moved their tassels, threw their caps in the air, and the stands erupted in applause.

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from page 3 **JUNETEENTH FLAG**

County NAACP, Louis Harris said during today's ceremony. "I just hope all the folks that are enjoying their day off are taking the time to remember the fights that have taken us to get to this day and the bright future we all have for each other going forward."

Over the Juneteenth weekend, Senator Lovick attended a few events and spoke on the phone with his mother to reflect upon the sacrifices made by so many for the fight of equality.

"Celebrating by remembering the great great things that people did and the shoulders we stood on, not just my mom but like Congressman John Lewis who had to really fight these battles that allow us to celebrate a day like this," Lovick said.

"Juneteenth is a time of celebration, but it is also a great time to remember the shoulders that we all stood on to get where we are today."

Excerpt from "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou:

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the
tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and
fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously
clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the
slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.

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from page 2 PUBLIC SAFETY

“It’s very difficult for police officers to pursue criminals,” said Councilmen Nehring after citing instances in the county of criminals breaking into stores only to drive by police officers knowing they wouldn’t be pursued. “It is a big problem.”

Nehring said he’d like to see changes to the law and mentioned how Senate Bill 5919, which would revise the vehicular pursuit law, was never brought to a vote last session. “It’d be a good start for us if we could see that bill pass next session,” he added.

Councilman Sam Low spoke about issues that have resulted from the Blake Decision, a piece of legislation that essentially decriminalized simple drug possession charges. “Not everybody that does drugs are criminals,” Low began, “but the state changing the laws to basically make it okay for people to do drugs, and our deputies and police officers now can’t encourage them to get treatment and get help, it’s

made it very difficult.”

Low later added that he and other leaders are reaching out to the governor to hold a special session to resolve the Blake Decision issues, saying, “we can’t let another session in Olympia go by without getting this fixed.”

PROSECUTOR’S PANDEMIC PRACTICES SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL

When COVID-19 came to Snohomish County, the Prosecutor’s Office relax its position regarding pre-trial detention of non-violent offenders to minimize the jail population and thereby control the virus’s spread.

“We focused our efforts on designating jail cells to offenders who posed a threat in the community,” Chief Criminal Deputy Matt Baldock explained. “The trade-off is that there were a lot of people who would have otherwise been in jail awaiting trial on [non-violent] offenses that were no longer in jail.”

Baldock was able to confirm there gradual return to normalcy is underway, and that the Prosecutor’s Office is beginning to jailing certain non-violent offenders who either have repeat offenses or are not showing up for their court dates.

Sheriff Fortney later commented that, as a result of these and other COVID-19 preventive practices, the Snohomish County Jail didn’t have a single Covid outbreak.

THE COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND PUBLIC SAFETY

Panelists frequently acknowledged the excellent turnout for the night’s event, with so many residents showing up that there were no open seats on the Opera House’s first floor. After the event, Councilman Low told the Lynnwood Times, “I was encouraged by the turnout. It’s clear that the community cares about public safety. It’s clear that they’re paying attention.”

from page 10 LASA SANDWICHES

Lumpia Sub



This Lumpia meatball sub is a complete departure

from your standard Italian-style meatball sammie—so much so that it wouldn’t do any good to try to compare them. The Lumpia Sub has a completely different flavor profile. (Side note: The Lumpia recipe was created by Katrina’s grandma, and Jhef and his crew spun it into sandwich form). One thing I thought was really clever about this sub was how they lined the interior with big lettuce leaves, preventing juices from making the bread soggy. The Lumpia Sub is a delicious, hardy sandwich and you’ll have a hard time finding anything like it elsewhere.

Pressed Adobo

The Pressed Adobo sandwich is similar to a Cubano, so if you’re a fan, I’d highly recommend giving the Pressed Adobo a try. It’s is made with juicy pork, melted swiss cheese, spicy sili pipino (Filipino pickles), and one of my favorite ingredients at Lasa:

atsara. Atsara is pickled green papaya that’s got this tangy-spicy quality that I can’t get enough of. I could see this being a “go-to” item for many customers.

RATING: “BEST OF BOTH WORLDS”

If I had to give Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls a rating, I’d give themt the “Best of Both Worlds” award because they exemplary Filipino flavors on quality sub sandwiches—not to mention the sandwiches are just as good as the drinks!

For more information on Lasa Sandwiches and Pearls, visit their website at Lasasandwiches.com, or follow them on Instagram @lasa_sandwichesandpearls.



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