

Should victims of social media suppression by elected officials, sue those elected officials for punitive damages?

Yes: 81.43% (57 votes)   
No: 18.57% (13 votes) 

## Executive Somers visits Japan to form investment opportunities for County



Executive Dave Somers visiting Chofu Aerospace Center in Tokyo, Japan. The Shinkansen. Photo courtesy of Dave Somers.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

JAPAN—Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers and Neepaporn “A” Boungjaktha, Executive Director

of Economic Development for Snohomish County, traveled to Japan last month to meet with government officials and businesses to form relationships and future investment opportuni-

ties in both Japan as well as the county.

The trip was part of the International

Continued PAGE 10 >>

## Foundation for Edmonds School District teams up with Lynnwood PD for charity

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Police Department is partnering with the Edmonds School District for a Books and Snacks Drive on Monday, December 12, collecting books and food from several drop off sites around the city for Nourishing Network and the Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County.

The Foundation is always looking for easy open, easy access, foods. The top items they are currently looking for are food items like pasta, chips, granola bars, raisins, fruit bars, fruit cups, and peanut butter.

The Foundation for Edmonds School District has been working with the city of Lynnwood for the last nine years partnering in efforts that include the Summer Meals Program, the Celebrate Schools 5k event, and food drives for the Nourishing Network to name a few.

Additionally the EDS Foundation has held a relationship with the Lynnwood Police Department in a number of ways through their joint efforts to helping their community’s homeless and food insecure families as well as hosting events including Cop and Clergy and National Night Out.

The Snacks and Book Drive, specifically, is a fairly new program that originated from Lynnwood PD Deputy Chief Cole Langdon, Thame Fuller, Nourishing Network Program Director, and Marielle Harrington, Healthy Communities Coordinator for the City of Lynnwood, banding together to form food drives around the city in behalf of the ESD Foundation and its Nourishing Network program. The upcoming Holiday drive, in partnership with the Lynnwood PD, however, was orchestrated by Crime Prevention Volunteer Coordinator Nic Li.

The Nourishing Network program was founded in 2013 at the request, and in partnership, with the Edmonds School District in order to “fill in the gaps where there are gaps in student resources,” Deborah Brandi, Executive Director for the Foundation of Edmonds School District, told the Lynnwood Times.

“About nine years ago the Edmonds School District came to the Foundation and asked if we would be a partner in developing a systemic solution to

Continued PAGE 11 >>

## Snohomish County Council condemns antisemitism

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—The Snohomish County Council signed a proclamation, Thursday, December 1, condemning antisemitism and reaffirming Snohomish County’s commitment to non discrimination and human rights.

Snohomish County is one of the most diverse counties and Washington and the County Council believes its local Jewish community is an important part of the county’s fabric, with individuals and families at Temple Beth Or and Chabad Jewish Center of Snohomish County contributing to the community in countless ways.

ti-Defamation League, in 2018, reports of antisemitic incidents were up 60% in Washington State from the previous year. In Seattle, reports of hate crimes and incidents were up nearly 400% from 2012 to 2018.

Snohomish County supports the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism which defines it as prejudice or hatred of Jews. The county has found that this definition has proven to be a useful tool for government and law enforcement agencies in the United States as they work to identify contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and both respond direct

Continued PAGE 08 >>

According to the An-



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
Snohomish County, Washington

**PROCLAMATION CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM AND REAFFIRMING SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO NONDISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

*WHEREAS*, Snohomish County is one of the most diverse counties in Washington, and our local Jewish community is an important part of the County’s fabric, with individuals and families at Temple Beth Or and Chabad Jewish Center of Snohomish County contributing to our community in countless ways; and

*WHEREAS*, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum defines antisemitism as prejudice or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust, the state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, is history’s most extreme example of antisemitism; and

*WHEREAS*, According to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the specific hatred of Jews preceded the modern era and the coming of the term antisemitism. Among the most common manifestations of antisemitism throughout history were pogroms, violent riots launched against Jews and frequently encouraged by government authorities; and

*WHEREAS*, According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2018, reports of antisemitic incidents were up 60% in Washington state from the previous year. And, in Seattle, reports of hate crimes and incidents were up nearly 400% from 2012 to 2018; and

*WHEREAS*, Antisemitism is found across the ideological spectrum. Particularly alarming is the extent to which expressions of antisemitism move from the political fringe into the mainstream as a result of license to perpetrate this hatred with impunity; and

*WHEREAS*, Snohomish County supports the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA’s) working definition of antisemitism, which helps protect all people in Snohomish County from acts of hate and bigotry; and

*WHEREAS*, The IHRA working definition has proven to be an essential tool for government and law enforcement agencies in the United States as they work to identify contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and both respond directly to it and provide training and education about it.

*WHEREAS*, Hate and bias are not acceptable in any form in our community. The Snohomish County Charter declares a commitment to nondiscrimination and the promotion of human rights that reflects our diverse community and our commitment to mutual respect and shared opportunity to live, work, and thrive together; and

*WHEREAS*, Snohomish County respects the infinite value of every human being; and

*WHEREAS*, Any victims of antisemitism in Snohomish County are urged to report any incidents – as hate crimes or bias-related events – so that local law enforcement can respond, track such incidents, and bring perpetrators to justice;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVE SOMERS, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby proclaim** Snohomish County’s condemnation of antisemitism, as defined by the IHRA, as supporters and allies of our Jewish community. Snohomish County strongly stands against hate, bias or violence based on identity and remains committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and human rights expressed in the Snohomish County Charter.

SIGNED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2022.



Dave Somers  
County Executive

# FTX: The collapse of a crypto empire



Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder of the collapsed crypto exchange FTX, speaks via a video feed from the Bahamas during at The New York Times' DealBook Summit 2022 on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in New York.

By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

**BAHAMAS**—Once valued at over \$30 billion as one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges globally, FTX collapsed virtually overnight and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the US and Chapter last month. This has left up to a million customers, creditors, and investors facing losses in the billions of dollars after the crypto exchange imploded during a massive rush of users withdrawing from FTX.

“On an average day, we have tens of millions of dollars of net in/outflows. Things were mostly average until this weekend, a few days ago,” FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried wrote in a message to staff. “In the last 72 hours, we’ve had roughly \$6b of net withdrawals from FTX.”

FTX did not have the liquid assets to pay out all of these withdrawals, causing them to freeze attempts to do so.

Bankman-Fried attempted to ease client fears in a now-deleted Tweet:

“A competitor is trying to go after us

with false rumors,” Bankman-Fried tweeted. “FTX is fine. Assets are fine.”

The competitor Bankman-Fried referred to is Binance: the largest crypto exchange in the world. Crypto exchanges — which work similarly to traditional stock trading platforms — allow users to buy and sell cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin or Ether.

After a Coindesk article brought attention to FTX’s financials, Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao tweeted that Binance would “liquidate any remaining FTT.” FTX Token, referred to as FTT, is a cryptocurrency created by Bankman-Fried and his fellow FTX co-founders. Once valued as high as \$80 per token, FTT had dropped to around \$23 at the time of Zhao’s tweet. Binance’s move to sell off hundreds of millions of dollars worth of FTT tanked the value and escalated to the \$6 billion in withdrawals previously mentioned.

During this bank run, Bankman-Fried attempted to gain additional emergency funding from investors, even from his competitor, Binance. These attempts fell through, resulting in Bank-

man-Fried resigning as CEO and FTX filing for bankruptcy.

The Coindesk article brought to light the “unusually close” relationship between FTX and Bankman-Fried’s trading company, Alameda Research. Of Alameda’s \$14.6 billion in assets, \$3.66 billion was in FTT — so roughly a quarter of Alameda’s assets were tied up in their own tanking cryptocurrency.

Not only that, but it was revealed that Bankman-Fried had secretly transferred \$10 billion in customer deposits into FTX over to Alameda and that at least \$1 billion of those funds were missing.

Bankruptcy filings exposed \$4.1 billion in loans from Alameda to FTX executives. Bankman-Fried accounted for \$3.3 billion of these loans: \$1 billion being a personal loan, with another \$2.3 billion going to Paper Bird Inc. — also owned by Bankman-Fried. FTX Director of Engineering, Nishad Singh, received a loan of \$543 million and co-CEO of FTX’s Digital Markets subsidiary, Ryan Salame, received \$55 million.

The remainder of the loan money is suspected to have gone into “political donations and personal investments.” According to Forbes:

Bankman-Fried contributed \$40 million to Democrats during the 2022 midterms. This made him the second largest disclosed donor to Democratic causes. Conversely, Salame contributed \$23.9 million to mostly Republicans. Singh spent \$7.4 million on “mostly left-leaning super PACs.”

The current CEO of FTX is John Ray III — who oversaw Enron’s bankruptcy and has over 40 years of legal and restructuring experience. Ray did not downplay the situation at FTX.

“Never in my career have I seen such

a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy financial information as occurred here,” Ray wrote in a filed declaration with the United States Bankruptcy Court for Delaware. “In the Bahamas, I understand that corporate funds of the FTX Group were used to purchase homes and other personal items for employees and advisors. I understand that there does not appear to be documentation for certain of these transactions as loans, and that certain real estate was recorded in the personal name of these employees and advisors on the records of the Bahamas.”

Bankman-Fried was once seen as a wonderkid of crypto, with industry praise for him aging poorly. That being said, not all have ruled Bankman-Fried out, with investor Kevin O’Leary stating he would back him again. Forbes did a lengthy feature in 2021 while Fortune highlighted him as recently as August, stating he’s “been called the next Warren Buffett.” Though to be fair to Fortune, their headline did continue with “His counterintuitive investment strategy will either build him an empire—or end in disaster.”

And what a disaster it is.

FTX’s collapse is just another black mark on a bad year for crypto — which has plummeted from its industry peak value of \$3 trillion. Recently, crypto exchange AAX and cryptocurrency lender BlockFi announced a suspension in withdrawals. Another crypto lender, Genesis, announced a halt in redemptions and new loans. And earlier this year, crypto lenders Celsius Network and Voyager Digital filed for bankruptcy.

Crypto has long been called a digital Wild West, but it is difficult to say whether this past year is an example of extreme volatility or the slow death of a failed idea.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SEND LETTERS TO

Lynnwood Times, 12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087 or email [editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com](mailto:editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com).

### LETTERS POLICY

The Lynnwood Times welcomes letters to the editor of no more than 400 words. Letters will be printed as promptly as possible, as space allows.

To be considered for publication, letters must include a *first* and *last name*, *address* and *phone number* for verification purposes. We also reserve the right to edit letters as necessary for brevity, grammar and decorum.

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# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library expands in WA, receives \$100M from Bezos

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**—Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton received the \$100 million Courage and Civility Award from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, last month, to be used on whatever charity she sees fit.

“[Parton] embodies these ideals so thoroughly, she gives with her heart, what she’s done for kids, literacy, and so many other things is just incredible,” Jeff Bezos said at the ceremony.

Parton is known for giving back to her community, specifically as it relates to strengthening literacy and education. She founded the Imagination Library in 1994, a book gifting program that mails books to children regardless of their economic status, and recently expanded to more zip codes around Washington.

“I was so excited when Washington expanded my Imagination Library a couple months ago, and now I’m over the moon to learn that we’re opening the program to all children in the state – it’s just amazing,” Dolly Parton said in a statement issued to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Parton’s Imagination Library has distributed nearly 200 million books to children across five countries and, just last month, received the Library of Congress’ \$150k David. M. Rubenstein Prize.

Parton also donated \$1 million to Vanderbilt Medical Center, during the COVID-19 outbreak, to aid in their

vaccination research, established the Dollywood Foundation in 1988, and established the Dolly Parton Scholarship which provides \$15,000 toward college tuition.

Bezos began distributing the Courage and Civility Award 2021 to recipients Van Jones, writer, political commentator, and lawyer, and chef José Andrés. The \$100 million attached to the award have a ten-year window to be distributed to non-profit organizations.

Parton has not disclosed how she plans to distribute the funds, whether to her own organizations, others, or a mixture of both, but she assured the crowd Saturday that she “will do [her] best to do good things with this money.”

The Imagination Library was founded with the intention of mailing free, high quality books to children, five and younger, regardless of income status. Originally books were just delivered to homes within Sevier County, Tennessee – where Parton is originally from – but the program was such a success Parton expanded it in 2000 reaching one million mailed books by 2003. In 2006 the program expanded to Canada, then to the United Kingdom a year later, Australia by 2013, and Ireland by 2019.

With the recent Washington State expansion there are now 43 Imagination Library affiliates in the state with four in Snohomish County. The county’s affiliates are the Arlington Education

Continued PAGE 12 >>



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# Lynnwood Police Officers honored with Letter of Commendation



Seven of the 10 Lynnwood Police Officers who received a Letter of Commendation on November 1, 2022, for actions or performance above their normal duties. Source: Lynnwood Police Department.

## By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Ten Lynnwood Police Department Officers received a Letter of Commendation, November 1, for action or performance above their normal duties.

Sgt. Chris Breault told the Lynnwood Times the Letter of Commendation was a system the Department used to offer but has since fizzled out. Chief Jim Nelson, at the awards ceremony noted that it is a recognition serve he wants to revitalize moving forward. The selection process involves a panel of people who review certain actions brought to the command staff, determining whether the actions are deemed above-and-beyond an officer's expected duties.

Officers were first sent an email notifying them they would be recognized for their actions at an award ceremony held in Lynnwood Council Chambers Tuesday, November 1, where they were then brought up in front of other Department Officers to be recognized with a quick introduction and explanation as to why they were being honored.

Sgt. Breault, one of the awardees, was one of the supervisors who responded to a domestic violence call where a male had thrown a television out of the window and his significant other had locked herself inside of their bathroom to avoid assault. In his team, responding to the call, were Sergeant Jacob Shorthill, Officer Tyler Gaskin, Officer A.J. Burke, Officer Charles

Thayer, Officer Curtis Kojima, and Officer Robert Nichols who were also awarded the Letter of Commendation.

The male in this case barricaded her inside the bathroom with various furniture and began pouring a flammable substance around, demonstrating he had intention of igniting the apartment complex on fire with this significant other trapped inside. The Lynnwood PD responded to the call, at an apartment on the 3600 block of 196th Street, across from the Lynnwood Convention Center, and successfully deescalated the situation upon breaching the door. The male suspect was taken into custody, without incident, Sgt. Breault said.

“When we went into the apartment everything was kind of wet and there

was this weird chemical odor. You could tell something had been sprayed all around and there was a lighter on the counter. It was clear that what the female had said on the 911 was lining up,” Sgt. Breault told the Lynnwood Times.

Sgt. Breault and his team removed all of the furniture and convinced the female to exit the bathroom to make sure she was unharmed and safe.

“Unfortunately, these calls are frequent in every jurisdiction,” Sgt. Breault said. “[They’re] one of the most dangerous calls we go to for the mere fact that we don’t know what we’re walking into, the information that we’ve been provided can vary wildly. We’re walking into someone’s home and often times emotions are high and substances have some sort of play. They’re very chaotic.”

To Sgt. Breault, as supervisor, a lot runs through his head when responding to calls like these ensuring his team is safe. He told the Lynnwood Times he was thoroughly impressed with what his team was able to do, remaining calm and coming up with a clear, concise plan, and taking action without question to ensure no one was harmed.

“That apartment complex was very large so if you would have had a fire in that unit you now have a whole other element to deal with,” Sgt. Breault said. “We go to a lot of these types of calls, so we look at it as just doing what we do but it was nice to be appreciated especially recognized by your peers that we work alongside with. To be provided with an award is truly gratifying.”

# Paine Field employees gain esteemed AAAE certifications



Joshua Marcy, Deputy Airport Director - Operations, Snohomish County Airport/Paine Field, holding his Accredited Airport Executive plaque from the American Association of Airport Executives. Source: Paine Field Airport.

## By KIENAN BRISCOE

**EVERETT**—Three Paine Field Airport employees have received esteemed certifications from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) within recent months including Joshua Marcy, Deputy Director, who earned his Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) - one of the AAAE's highest, and most difficult, certifications to acquire. The airport now has 18 employees who have received certifications and designations from the AAAE.

“Our leadership team are really encouraging all of

our staff to obtain these certifications,” Kristin Banfield, Public Information Specialist for Paine Field, told the Lynnwood Times. “Our operations team has a goal to have all of operations specialists certified. It gives our operations team a broader understanding of not what just they do as operations, but how all of those parts and pieces at the airport really fit together.”

The AAAE is the world's largest professional organization for airport executives, representing thousands of airport management personnel at public use commercial and general aviation airports. Founded in 1928,

the AAAE's members represent nearly 875 airports and authorities as well as hundreds of companies and organizations that support them - including Boeing. The AAAE represents its members in Washington, D.C., delivering a wide range of industry services and professional development opportunities including training, meetings and conferences, and a highly respected accreditation program.

Within this program, there are four main certification opportunities which begin with the Airport Certified Employee (ACE), designed to establish a general knowledge base for airport professionals through a variety of fields including airfield lighting maintenance, airport operations, finance, security, communications center operations, law enforcement, credentialing, safety management systems, and Planning and Environmental Compliance.

Paine Field's certified ACE include Acting Operations Superintendent Brad Widrig, Fire Chief Joshua Cole, Operations Specialist Paul Anderson, Operations Specialist Nicholas Calhoun, Operations Specialist Lou Ramos.

The AAAE also offers a two- low Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Professional Designation Program designed to enhance the knowledge and career ambitions of Aircraft Rescue Fighters regardless of rank. These designation programs, known as the Airport Master Firefighter (A.M.F.) and Airport Fire Officer (A.F.O.), are programs structured to provide ARFF personnel with an enhanced knowledge of ARFF operations as well as airport operations and administration. Fire Chief Joshua Cole is the airport's only certified AMF.

From there is the Certified Member (CM) program that signifies an employee has a diverse knowledge of

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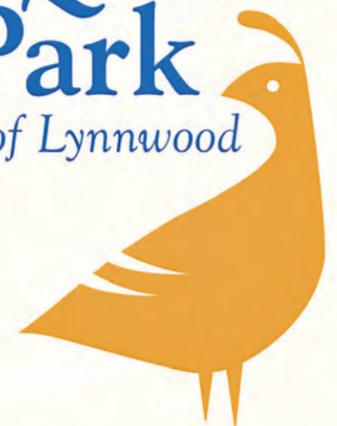
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# Upcoming holiday events in your city

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**—Keep the holiday spirit alive with the Lynnwood Times’ list of upcoming events throughout Snohomish County.

## ARLINGTON

The City of Arlington, in partnership with rink operator Blue Line Sports and Entertainment, opened an outdoor community ice rink at Legion Park in downtown Arlington on November 18.

The real ice pop-up rink is located at the parking lot north of Legion Park on Olympic Avenue and is set to run daily through Jan. 9, 2023. Tickets are available to purchase online, prices are \$12 for kids and \$15 for adults.

In addition to the ice rink, Legion Park will be full of holiday lights and the carousel will run through December 11, Monday to Saturday from noon to 7 p.m., Sundays from noon to 6 p.m., and operate sensory friendly (with no music) on Sundays, from 11 a.m. to noon.

The City of Arlington will also be holding wagon rides sponsored by the Downtown Arlington Business Association (DABA) and Andrew’s Hay, on December 10 and December 17, from noon to 4 p.m.

On December 10, Arlington Adventist will be performing Songs and Cider in the Park from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by Voices of the Village from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Legion Park.

Byrnes Performing Arts will be performing an AHS Christmas show, also on December 10, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the Arlington Runners Club will be holding their Hot Cocoa Run that morning beginning at 9 a.m.

The Arlington Festival of the Nativities will be returning this year on December 9 through December 11, featuring hundreds of nativity displays from around the globe, music, live nativity, and activities for kids. The festival will run from 4-9 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

## EVERETT

The Everett Mall will be holding their Holiday Music Series featuring Sean Morse on December 8 and 22 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Sean Morse has been performing in the Seattle area since relocating from Denver in 2011. He is a regular contributor to the Bushwick Book Club Seattle and loves taking inspiration from literature in his songwriting.

With a focus on the exploration of the internal lives of his characters, Sean delivers dynamism through stunning vocals and driving guitar, blending folk, blues, and jazz textures to serve the moment. Sean is no stranger to stages from house concerts and dance halls. And if the time is right, he may just make up a song or two on the spot.

## LYNNWOOD

At Alderwood Mall, children will have the opportunity to tell St. Nick what they want for Christmas and take photos with him every day until Christmas Eve. Pet Night and those requiring a sensory-friendly environment with Santa is also available. Reservations are encouraged but walk-up visits are available as space permits. For more information, click here.

A giant Menorah will be lit up on Sunday, December 18, at Lynnwood City Hall to symbolize a universal message of religious freedom and

tolerance. The Menorah lighting is part of the worldwide Hanukkah tradition and Lynnwood’s is one of more than 15,000 large public menorahs sponsored by Chabad in more than 100 countries. Come join the celebration beginning at 4 p.m., featuring delicious Holiday treats, face painting, personal Menorah kits, and a Hanukkah musical performance by the Klez Katz Klezmer band.

Vaughn’s Teaching Farm and Kitchen’s annual Christmas Lights and Cocoa event is back and bigger than ever this year, adding a train ride for kids, a handmade donut machine, a farm-to-table general store and doubling their lights from last year.

Pay the neighborhood farm a visit on December 10 through 11 to witness an impressive display of inflatable barn animals, Christmas lights, and drop off money and food donations for the Lynnwood Food Bank. At this 3-acre farm, located right off Lynnwood’s bustling Alderwood area, you can say hi to chickens, rabbits, ducks, and goats and learn where your food comes from. While you’re at it don’t miss your opportunity to enjoy some delicious homemade caramels and toasty hot chocolate while walking the enchanted forest.

## MARYSVILLE

The Marysville Historical Society will also be holding a holiday craft fair Saturday, December 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their building on 6805 Armar Road for an additional opportunity to shop for unique gifts and the next day, December 11, Vendors of Sno Co will be holding their own holiday craft fair at Kellogg Marsh Grange from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair will feature more than 30 local businesses selling homemade, handcrafted arts and crafts along with

mouth-watering food.

## MUKILTEO

On Sunday, December 19, at 4:30 p.m., don’t miss Santa Claus as he cruises through your neighborhood waving from a fire engine and collecting food items for the Mukilteo Food Bank. Santa will start in the Harbour Pointe and Possession Sound areas, then move through Midtown, Goat Trail, and end the evening in Old Town. The city asks viewers to stay, safely, off the street and on sidewalks as he “cruises” by.

Also from December 12 through 19, participating homes and businesses will be adorning the city with lights as part of Let’s Glow Mukilteo. Viewers can then cast their votes for their favorite light display on the Chamber’s Facebook page. To view a complete listing of participating homes and businesses, or to register your address to participate, visit the Chamber’s website.

## SNOHOMISH

Come grab breakfast with Santa on December 17 at the Feather Ballroom, as part of Snohomish Winterfest. Other festivities in Winterfest include a Gingerbread party on Friday, December 9, with a Winter Party at Thomas Family Farm that evening, an ice sculpting contest on Saturday, December 10 with a Sippin n’ Shoppin wine walk that evening, a Historical Holiday Walking Tour on Sunday, December 11, and holiday lights, window displays contests, and more every weekend of December.

For a complete list of activities, locations, times, and more information in general visit [www.historicdowntownsnohomish.org/winterfest](http://www.historicdowntownsnohomish.org/winterfest)



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# The holiday spirit is alive and well in Mill Creek



Mill Creek's annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony followed the Mill Creek Town Center Santa Parade and featured Mayor Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, Voices Northwest Chorus, Mill Creek Youth Advisory Board, Cascade Junior Cheer and Santa! | City of Mill Creek

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**MILL CREEK**—Approximately one thousand people gathered in the chilly snow-covered streets of Mill Creek last Saturday, December 3, to witness the City's first Santa Parade and holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony since 2019.

The Santa Parade, hosted by the Mill Creek Town Center, kicked off the evening marching down Main Street from LA Fitness to City Hall. Santa Claus and his Elves led the parade, march-

ing with community organizations including Cub Scout Chapters, Grizzlies Cheerleaders, Kiwanis, South County Fire, several local schools and their marching bands, and even Velociraptor dinosaurs.

After the parade the crowd gathered in front of Mill Creek City Hall to drink coffee and cocoa, eat cookies, listen to carols of famed Holiday favorites, take a photo with Santa, and listen to a few words by Mayor Brian Holtzclaw before the giant tree was ignited for the

very first time this year.

"It's amazing to have the crowds back after years off from COVID," Martin Yanamoto, Deputy City Manager for the City of Mill Creek, told the Lynnwood Times. "As the years go on the events keep getting better and better."

The Mill Creek Youth Advisory Board, an assembly of volunteers from local school in the area, acted as Santa's elves for the evening, costumes and all, handing out Starbucks coffee, co-

coa, and treats.

Even aside from taking years off from the pandemic Mill Creek's Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa Parade have both been a longstanding, annual, tradition for the city. The Festival of Trees, on the other hand, made its debut this year adding a fun, new, twist to Holidays in Mill Creek. Anyone passing through Mill Creek City Center until January 2 can see elaborate white vinyl

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

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# Public invited to Menorah lighting ceremony to symbolize religious freedom and tolerance

By RABBI BEREL PALTIEL

**LYNNWOOD**—It is important to highlight and celebrate light and freedom in a world so often plagued with tragedy and hate. Chabad Jewish Center of Snohomish County therefore invites you to celebrate the Festival of Lights with the 11th annual Menorah Lighting and Celebration, celebrating the light and joy of our shared freedoms and the immeasurable value of every human being.

The Lynnwood public Menorah Lighting Celebration will take place at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 18, at the Lynnwood City Hall 19100 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036. The event will feature the kindling of the giant nine-foot Menorah, delicious Holiday treats, face painting, personal Menorah kits, and a Hanukkah musical performance by the Seattle based Klez Katz Klezmer band. Remarks will be shared by Rabbi Berel Paltiel of the Chabad Jewish Center of Snohomish County, as well as by local officials.

“The menorah serves as a symbol of our community’s dedication to preserve and encourage the rights of every human being, including the liberty of all its citizens to worship G d freely, openly, and with pride. This is true especially in America, a nation that was founded upon and vigorously protects the right of every person to practice his or her faith free from restraint and persecution,” said Rabbi Paltiel.

The Menorah lighting is part of the worldwide Hanukkah campaign, an initiative launched by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, in 1973. The campaign highlights and encourages the central theme of the holiday — publicizing the story of the Hanukkah miracle.

“The message of Hanukkah is the message of light,” added Rabbi Paltiel. “The nature of light is that it is always victorious over darkness. A small amount of light dispels a lot of darkness. Another act of goodness and kindness, another act of light, can make all the difference.”

Lynnwood’s menorah is one of more than 15,000 large public menorahs sponsored by Chabad in more than 100 countries around the world, including in front of landmarks such as the White House and the Eiffel Tower, helping children and adults of all walks of life discover and enjoy the holiday message

from page 4 **PAINE FIELD**

the primary functions of how an airport operates and can provide the opportunity to progress up the ranks in a close knit community. To become a C.M., a member must successfully complete a 180-question, multiple-choice examination on a variety of topics including Finance and Administration, planning, Construction & Environmental, Airport Operations, Security & Maintenance, and Communications & Community Relations.

Paine Field’s Certified Members include Director Arif Ghouse, Deputy Director Joshua Marcy, Acting Operations Superintendent Brad Widgrig, Operations Supervisor Christian Galicia, Operations Specialist Paul Anderson, Operations Specialist William Hagerty, Operations Specialist Lou Ramos, Environmental & Wildlife Program Manager Andrew Rardin, Administrative Assistant Christy Cheever, Business Manager Nickolis Landgraff, Maintenance Supervisor II Robert Greer.

Finally, at the top of the certifications, lies the Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) program, granted by the AAAE since 1954 to those who have demonstrated their ability to handle the responsibilities of airport management. To obtain the AAE designation, a candidate must successfully pass a 180-question, multiple-choice examination, a management research paper, case study, proctored essay examination, or proof of an advanced degree (at least a Master’s degree from an accredited university), and a final interview

with a panel of A.A.E.s. There are only about 500 AAE’s in the entire country.

Paine Field’s Deputy Director, Joshua Marcy, is the airport’s only certified AAE member who completed his certification last September. Marcy informed the Lynnwood Times studying for the certification was intensive, working closely with a mentor for three months who would drill him weekly on modules and questions to prepare him for the final test. After studying and working with a mentor for three months, and studying over 600 pages of material, Marcy met with a board of directors who conducted a three hour-long interview. After the interview Marcy was asked to step outside for a few minutes while the board discussed their decision. He was then invited back into the room, handed a plaque and was told congratulations - he was certified.

“My first, initial, response was I’m glad that’s over,” Marcy told the Lynnwood Times. “My second thought was wow this is going to be really great for my career...It brought me a great sense of accomplishment.”

Marcy grew up working in the field of aviation, from working as a janitor in a maintenance hanger at the age of 15, to climbing the ranks to Deputy Director at Paine Field in 2021. Since taking the title he always had his eye on the AAE program believing if he was going to be active Deputy Director, he should have the credentials to go with it. Before entering the ranks at Paine Field he worked at SeaTac Airport, The difference between working at the two

airports, he said, was “chaos level.”

If you include his Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree, and Certified Member designation, Marcy has been effectively studying for his AAE for the last ten years. On top of the obvious knowledge benefits, these certifications can also open many doors for airport employees in terms of career growth, not just with Paine Field but at any airport. The next step in Marcy’s career is to become an Airport Director,

“I don’t like to use the term stepping-stone because my goal isn’t to use this place to move up but at the same time I want to contribute to my airport and make it a better place before I leave so that the next generation of airport leaders are in a good position,” Marcy said.

from page 1 **ANTISEMITISM**

ly to it and provide training and education about it.

The county believes that hatred and bias are not acceptable in any form in its communities and so the Snohomish County Charter has declared a commitment to nondiscrimination and the promotion of human rights that reflect the county’s diverse community and its commitment to mutual respect and shared opportunity to live, work, and thrive together.

The county also urges victims of discrimination to report any incidents so that local law enforcement can respond, track such incidents, and bring perpetrators to justice.

from page 7 **MILL CREEK**

trees and snow flurries as well as decorated store fronts. In addition to these displays, hiding in the storefronts, are four woodland creatures that, if found, can be scanned via QR code and submitted for a chance to win prizes.

This idea comes from Jody Hawkins, Communications and Marketing for the City of Mill Creek, who wanted to bring Holiday cheer back to the Mill Creek Town Square. Hawkins worked tirelessly with the Town Center Association to form a holiday committee, including Kiwanis Club of Mill Creek and the City’s Art and Beatification Board to add vinyl decorated storefronts to business in Mill Creek’s town square.

“One of the things we looked at, as a committee, was what could help bring traffic back to town center for the holidays,” Hawkins told the Lynnwood Times. “We had this idea for the festival of the trees, installing vinyl Christmas trees with the help of Key Club and the Youth Advisory Board. We just thought it would be really cool for the community to feel that volunteer energy.”

There’s Olive the Owl, Betula the Bunny, Sal the Squirrel, and Rata the Reindeer, all named after different types of trees Hawkins explained. For example, Betula is in the Betulaceae family and is commonly known as a birch tree.

# Congress passes legislation to avert national rail strike



**REP. RICK LARSEN**  
(D) Washington

Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02) addressing Congress on November 30, 2022, in favor of both the increase in pay and sick time for rail workers. Snapshot from House of Representatives video of railway vote.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— The Senate passed legislation forcing a tentative rail labor agreement that averted a national rail strike December 1. The bill passed with a vote of 80 to 15, and now goes to President Joe Biden for signature.

Railway employees will receive an increase of paid time off (PTO) and aid sick leave for longer-term illnesses. However, the Senate axed adding seven days of paid sick leave to the agreement.

“The Senate acted with leadership and urgency with today’s vote to avert an economically devastating rail work stoppage,” said AAR President and CEO Ian Jefferies. “As we close out this long, challenging process, none of the parties achieved everything they advocated for. The product of these agreements is a compromise by nature, but the result is one of substantial gains for rail employees. More broadly, all rail stakeholders and the economy writ large now have certainty about the path forward.”

According to the Association of American Railroads, the contracts now in place will:

- Provide a 24 percent wage increase during the five-year period from 2020 through 2024, including an immediate payout on average of \$16,000 upon ratification.
- Include \$5,000 in performance bonuses, with total average annual pay and benefits reaching \$160,000 by the end of the contract period.
- Maintain some of the best health-care plans in the nation.
- Provide an additional paid personal leave day per year.
- Continue to provide multiple options for time off and, for those employees who operate trains, the agreements include enhanced abilities to schedule time off and local agreements to be finalized

after ratification of the national agreement will further enhance quality of life and the predictability of schedules.

The House passed bipartisan legislation Joint Resolution 100, 290-137, to help avert a looming freight rail strike the White House believes can paralyze the U.S. economy. The House also passed a paid sick leave amendment, 221-207, that would provide seven days of additional paid sick leave for rail workers. It’s now up to the Senate to decide if both of these measures be-

come law.

“Rail workers keep supply chains and our economy moving. Congress must act to prevent a work stoppage and address the woefully inadequate sick leave provisions in the railway labor Tentative Agreement,” Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) said to the House Wednesday.

Union freight railway workers announced their intention to strike this July frustrated by intolerable working conditions caused by understaffing and

not receiving a single pay raise in three years despite several railroads reporting record earnings. A strike would bring 30% of the nation’s freight to a halt worsening an economy already hit hard by years of supply chain issues.

The prospect of a strike that could cost the U.S. economy \$2 billion every day. A railway strike would also mean a complete closure of Solid Waste transfer stations and drop boxes here in Snohomish County because no refuse could be moved to landfills. This would impact the weekly curbside pick-up of garbage, recycle and green waste for households and businesses.

President Joe Biden intervened in the 20-hour-long negotiations with unions back in September, presenting a tentative agreement between freight railway companies and their workers which included voluntary assigned days off and one additional paid day off, guaranteed time away for medical visits, no disruption to healthcare plans, an immediate wage increase, and an annual lump sum bonus of \$5,000. Four of the twelve rail unions, representing more than 125,000 employees, approved their agreement but all twelve must ratify their contract to avoid strike.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division union announced on October 10, that its members rejected the tentative national agreement reached with the Class I freight railroads renewing the possibility of a nationwide railway strike that would bring rail freight to a halt.

“I fully support the right of rail workers to negotiate for better pay, benefits, and working conditions. For too long, rail-

*Continued* **PAGE 12 >>**

	<b>Non-Operating Crafts &amp; Operating Craft Yard Jobs</b>	<b>Operating Craft Road Jobs</b>
<b>Paid Vacation</b>	• Average 15 days, Max 25 days	• Average 15 days, Max 25 days
<b>Paid Personal Leave</b>	• Up to 4 personal leave days, depending on seniority (includes new day under TA)	• Up to 12 personal leave days, depending on seniority (includes new day under TA)
<b>Paid Holidays</b>	• 11 paid holidays	• N/A (receive more paid personal days in lieu of holidays)
<b>Sick Leave</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees can "mark off" — or temporarily remove themselves from the list of available employees — at any time for illness if they maintain reasonable overall availability</li> <li>• Employees are eligible for leave under FMLA (no attendance policy implications)</li> <li>• TCU and ATDA negotiated for paid sick leave, which varies by craft, carrier, and seniority, instead of Supplemental Sickness Benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees can "mark off" at any time for illness if they maintain reasonable overall availability</li> <li>• Employees are eligible for leave under FMLA (no attendance policy implications)</li> <li>• Operating craft receive time off for three scheduled medical visits (new under TA)</li> </ul>
<b>Longer-Term Sickness Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All employees receive statutory Railroad Unemployment insurance Act benefit beginning after 7 days of absence and continuing for up to 26 weeks (60% income replacement subject to daily caps)</li> <li>• Non-operating employees (except TCU and ATDA) receive Supplement Sickness Benefits beginning after 4 days of absence and continuing for up to 52 weeks (~70% income replacement)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All employees receive statutory Railroad Unemployment insurance Act benefit beginning after 7 days of absence and continuing for up to 26 weeks (60% income replacement subject to daily caps)</li> </ul>

# South Carolina set to lead 2024 Democrat Primary Calendar

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Democratic National Committee voted to approve a drastic change to the 2024 presidential nominating calendar on Friday, December 2, which would make South Carolina the first state to hold a primary. If approved by the rest of the DNC membership, South Carolina's primary would be held February 3, followed by Nevada and New Hampshire on February 6, Georgia on February 13, and Michigan on February 27.

The proposal, at the committee level, passed overwhelmingly with only members from Iowa and New Hampshire opposing. Before its ouster, Iowa has led the lineup since 1972 while New Hampshire has held the first primary in the process since 1920.

After the vote former DNC Chairs Donna Brazile, Howard Dean, Tim Kaine, Terry McAuliffe, Tom Perez, Ed Rendell, and Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement explaining their decision:

"As former chairs of the Democratic National Committee, we commend President Biden and the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for their in-

credibly thorough and diligent work to develop a presidential nominating calendar that will strengthen our party and reflect our values.

"This new calendar does what is long overdue: it expands the number of voices in the early window process and elevates communities that traditionally had to wait. It also puts our party in a better position to compete in the general election so we can elect Democrats up-and-down the ticket in every race from city council to president of the United States. We urge the full DNC to ratify this decision early next year."

The day before the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee met, President Biden set a letter to the committee to lay out the groundwork he believed should steer the decision-making process. In the letter he explained the early primary process has adversely affected people of color for decades because candidates of color have historically had to drop out, or were marginalized, by poor performance in small states before voters of color have had the opportunity to vote.

"For decades, Black voters in particular have been the backbone of the Democratic Party but have been pushed to

the back of the early primary process. We rely on these voters in elections but have not recognized their importance in our nominating calendar. It is time to stop taking these voters for granted, and time to give them a louder and earlier voice in the process," the President wrote in the letter.

The full DNC membership will vote on whether to finalize the new calendar at a meeting Feb. 2-4 in Philadelphia. If approved, it will apply only to the 2024 cycle.

Although he has not launched a 2024 presidential bid, DNC committee members said they largely viewed his direction on the primary calendar as a sign he plans to run. When the President ran for presidency in 2020, he lost the first three primaries; South Carolina was his first win.

## WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

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## from page 1 JAPAN TRIP

Leadership Mission, formerly called the International Study Mission, created by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle. The Alliance began taking these trips annually back in 1993 until the pandemic put a standstill on international travel after the team's last trip to Ireland in 2019.

As both countries began opening up from the pandemic, trade started opening up, and foreign investments began opening up, the Regional Leadership team at Snohomish County thought Japan would be a great place to visit this year, given its longstanding trade relationship to the region, to discuss future trade, business, and investment opportunities.

"We thought it would be a great place to look, specifically at how we can learn from Japan on specific things that we are interested in," Neepaporn "A" Boungjaktha, Executive Director of Economic Development for Snohomish County, told the Lynnwood Times. "So along with the trade, along with new opportunities for new business, we were also looking at Japan as a benchmark for how we can do things better and move forward into the future."

Just some of these ideas include taking a look at hydrogen fuel as a sustainable fuel source, high-speed rail, and disaster preparedness.

The city of Kobe, a sister-city to Seattle, experienced a massive earthquake on January 17, 1995 - called the Great Hanshin Earthquake - which measured a maximum intensity of 7 on the JMA Seismic Intensity Scale. Kobe was one of the cities the county's team visited to discuss how it responded to that disaster and bounced back economically. What they learned was it really took a community effort, Boungjaktha said; helping small businesses, helping residents, and having the government be one of the many "cogs" that help things get back on track.

"It really resonated with Executive Somers and I because of our own recent natural disaster, the Bolt Creek Fire," Boungjaktha said. "We really explored how to prepare smaller communities to be able to recover and go back towards resiliency and building back to a thriving community."

Somers and his team also rode the Shinkansen, a network of high-speed railway lines in Japan sometimes referred to as "bullet trains", to catch a glimpse of what could be if high-speed rail existed along the west coast of the United States. Introduced in 1964, the Shinkansen network now expands over 1,700 miles of rail with trains reaching maximum speeds of 200 miles per hour, 176 miles of tracks with "Mini-Shinkansen" trains reaching maximum speeds of 80 miles per hour, and 6.5 miles of spur lines with Shinkansen services.

Granted Japanese government operates differently than U.S. government, it still allowed the county to witness the potential of mobility as it relates to efficiency and sustainability.

One of the highlights of Somers' trip was being invited into the engineer's cabin of a Shinkansen, a rare opportunity, to see the control panels first-hand while the vessel was traveling at high speed.

In addition to learning from the Japanese on these subjects, the trip also provided the county an opportunity to share some of the innovations and business ventures Snohomish County has been working on including fusion and renewable energy, aviation and aerospace, the Port of Everett and other deepwater ports as a distribution logistics network, so Japanese businesses could consider our region as a potential market to expand to beyond their borders.

While both Snohomish County and Japan are similar in that both rest on the Pacific Rim, Japan also shares a re-

lationship with the county in that they are both working on sustainable fuel.

The next step for the county, Boungjaktha's team, and Executive Somers' team, is figuring out how to leverage on this shared interest to bring more investments, and creating more jobs in our area.

Aside from the economic benefits, Boungjaktha told the Lynnwood Times relationships with other countries, like Japan, are important and visits like these are paramount to maintaining these relationships.

"You don't know who you don't know. When we take these trips it tells people overseas that we're open to business, that we are more than welcome to have them visit Snohomish County as a tourist," Boungjaktha said. "My hopes and dreams, as someone who works for the people of Snohomish County, is to potentially convert these visitors into people who consider bringing a business to Snohomish County - that's considered investment, and bringing their family here - that's considered expanding our workforce. The more that we can get our name out there, the more we can be visible and identifiable in this larger economy."

Although the bulk of the trip was primarily businesses, from waking up at 7

a.m. to attending four to five meetings a day until 6 or 7 p.m. at night, there was a small window of opportunity to experience tourist attractions. One of Boungjaktha's favorite memories she shared was stopping at a small tempura house in Tokyo after visiting a shrine.

"It was such a great dinner and it was relaxing but it was such an experience to sit on the floor for almost two hours eating and enjoying this very Japanese-style dinner next to this beautiful temple," Boungjaktha said.

The trip spanned from November 12 through November 18 through the cities of Tokyo, Kobe, and Nagoya. Throughout the week the team met with the Japanese Embassy for updates on the Japanese economic, political, and cultural climate, the Yamanashi Maglev Center and Japanese JR to discuss high-speed rail, the Tokyo Hydrogen Fueling Station to discuss hydrogen fuel, the Chofu Aerospace center to discuss the aviation industry, Mayor Hisamoto of Kobe to discuss crises management, Kobe Miomed Industry Cluster and other businesses, the Construction Bureau, and attended a Seattle-Kobe Sister City welcome ceremony.

Sponsors of the trip include Microsoft, Amazon, Boeing, Puget Sound Energy, Alaska Airlines, and Japan Airlines.

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# The Twitter Files: The suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop

By KIENAN BRISCOE



To read the Twitter Files in its entirety scan the QR code to the left to visit the coverage on LynnwoodTimes.com

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., December 4, 2022**—Matt Taibbi, under the blessing of Twitter CEO Elon Musk, released a plethora of emails involving Twitter employees suppressing the October 2020 article by the New York Post regarding then-Vice President Joe Biden’s son’s, Hunter Biden, abandoned laptop containing tens of thousands of emails alleging corrupt business dealings between the pair in Ukraine and China.

President Donald J Trump’s campaign tried to turn the bombshell reveal into an October surprise but the story failed to gain widespread traction due to social media platforms Twitter and Facebook suppressing the story agreeing with Obama/Biden-backed intelligence officials claims of it being a “Russian Disinformation” campaign.

Twitter CEO Elon Musk took to the platform on Friday to announce the truth behind the Hunter Biden story suppression by Twitter to be published on the social media site at 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

In October, 2020, the New York Post released a story titled Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad that revealed President Biden’s son, Hunter Biden, introduced the then-Vice President to a top advisor—Vadym Pozharskyi—at the Ukrainian energy firm Burisma, less than a year before VP Joe Biden urged government officials in Ukraine to fire Ukrainian Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin who was investigating the company. Hunter Biden was serving on the Board of Burisma during the investigation making \$50,000 per month.

The Biden campaign denied that the then-vice president had any meeting with Pozharskyi. During the 2020 campaign, Biden denied speaking with his son Hunter Biden about his business dealings at least eight times and in the First Presidential Debate on September 29, 2020, asserted that he and Hunter “never discussed” Hunter’s business dealings. Yet, the emails obtained by the New York Post tells a different story.

Twitter suppressed the circulation of this story, preventing sharing—both tweets and direct messaging—and flagging it as going against Twitter’s “hacking policy.”

Since Musk’s \$44 billion takeover of the social media platform, he has been teasing citizens that he would reveal what took place beneath the curtains in an effort to transform his newly acquired Twitter into an arena that protects the First Amendment and free speech.

Around the time Musk tweeted the live feed would air; he followed up with a tweet saying “we’re double checking some facts” and would start live tweeting in 40 minutes.

About two hours after the live twitter feed was promised to air, Musk tweeted a link to author Matt Taibbi’s Twitter account who began the reveal.

According to New York Magazine, Taibbi is “one of the most celebrated investigative journalists of his generation” and wrote for the Rolling Stone where he won a National Magazine Award. No longer affiliated with the Rolling Stone, Taibbi’s Substack newsletter, TK News, has more than 30,000 paying subscribers.

When it comes to politics, Taibbi is a “run-of-the-mill, old-school ACLU liberal,” who admires Bernie Sanders, according to the New York Magazine.

Below is Taibbi’s abridged account of The Twitter Files. To read the Twitter Files in its entirety scan the QR code at the beginning of this article to visit our coverage on LynnwoodTimes.com

“On October 14, 2020, the New York Post published BIDEN SECRET EMAILS, an expose based on the contents of Hunter Biden’s abandoned laptop:

“Twitter took extraordinary steps to suppress the story, removing links and posting warnings that it may be “unsafe.” They even blocked its transmission via direct message, a tool hitherto reserved for extreme cases, e.g. child pornography.

“White House spokeswoman Kaleigh McEnany was locked out of her account for tweeting about the story, prompting a furious letter from Trump campaign staffer Mike Hahn, who seethed: ‘At least pretend to care for the next 20 days.’

“This led public policy executive Caroline Strom to send out a polite WTF query. Several employees noted that there was tension between the comms/policy teams, who had little/less control over moderation, and the safety/trust teams:

“Strom’s note returned the answer that the laptop story had been removed for

violation of the company’s ‘hacked materials’ policy: Distribution of hacked material policy (archive.org)

“There are multiple instances in the files of Dorsey intervening to question suspensions and other moderation actions, for accounts across the political spectrum.

“The problem with the ‘hacked materials’ ruling, several sources said, was that this normally required an official law enforcement finding of a hack. But such a finding never appears throughout what one executive describes as a ‘whirlwind’ 24-hour, company-wide mess.

Taibbi concludes this installment of what he calls the “Twitter Files” with the subsequent tweet, “much more to come, including answers to questions about issues like shadow-banning, boosting, follower count, the fate of various individual accounts, and more.” He added that the issues are not limited to the political right.

After Taibbi’s last Twitter File tweet Elon Musk tweeted to “tune in for Episode 2 of the Twitter Files tomorrow”. Musk since then has tweeted that the next revelation will be released in the a few days.

from page 1 **SNACKS & BOOKS DRIVE**

feed our homeless kids, and our food insecure kids, and we said absolutely because we recognized that if kids are hungry they can’t be ready to learn and that’s their top job,” Brandi said.

Brandi has held her role as Executive Director at the Foundation since 2012, coming from a background in business and finance. After returning to school, obtaining certification in Non-Profit Management and Executive Leadership from the University of Washington, she sat on the Executive Board of Leadership Snohomish County of six years before tossing her hat in the ring for Executive Director at the Foundation. Since joining she helped increase revenues from \$40,000 with one program to over a million dollar foundation with 21 pro-

grams.

“I love the work that we do. I love the impact that we’re having with students and families,” Brandi said. “We’re really changing people’s lives and we’re able to do that through our generous community leading the work that we’re doing and knowing that when they’re making a donation to the Foundation it’s changing lives.”

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Nourishing Network volunteer Teri Minaker to get a “day in the life” of what it means to donate your time to the program’s cause. Minaker was drawn to the work she does believing that “no child deserves to go hungry”, a belief that drives her commitment to her role, packaging and sometimes delivering meal kits to kids. Minaker, and other volunteers like her, pack about 150

meals every Tuesday evening but that number will double after the New Year she said. Minaker loves packing meals but she also loves working at some of the various Pop-Up Pantries located at various schools in the district. Her favorite thing about volunteering her time is witnessing the impact the program has on children and their families first-hand.

“For so many people it’s so hard to make ends meet in this economy,” Minaker told the Lynnwood Times. “Everyone is just so grateful for the services provided by Nourishing Network.”

The Nourishing Network has been busy with their commitment to serving food insecure children through providing Holiday meals, summer meals, weekend meals, and hosting Pop-Up

Pantries each month. Just last year they succeeded in providing over 87,000 pounds of food to children and their families investing almost \$617,000 in food. Some of its top funding partners that helped make this generous effort possible include Verdant Health Commission, the Hazel Miller Foundation, Safeco Foundation, Whitehorse Foundation, Fred Meyer/Kroger Foundation, and Puget Sound Energy Foundation.

Those interested in donating to the upcoming Snacks and Food Holiday Drive can drop off food and books to the Lynnwood Police Department from now until Monday, December 12. In addition to the upcoming Books and Snack Drive, the EDS Foundation will be distributing Holiday meals on December 23 to ensure none of their families go hungry this Holiday season.

# Elon Musk Ventures: Neuralink, Telsa Smartphone and Starlink



By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

SpaceX received approval to launch 7,500 Starlink satellites by the Federal Communications Commission on December 1st. The FCC only partially approved SpaceX's application, as the company aims to launch 30,000 "Gen2" Starlink satellites into low Earth orbit.

"Our action will allow SpaceX to begin deployment of Gen2 Starlink, which will bring next generation satellite broadband to Americans nationwide, including those living and working in areas traditionally unserved or underserved by terrestrial systems," the FCC wrote.

This approval by the FCC is vital for the recently announced partnership between SpaceX and T-Mobile back in August. Dubbed "Coverage Above

& Beyond," the two companies aim to utilize Starlink's Gen2 satellites with T-Mobile's mid-band spectrum — which roughly equates to their 3G network.

"Note, connectivity will be 2 to 4 Mbps per cell zone, so will work great for texting & voice calls, but not high bandwidth," SpaceX CEO Elon Musk wrote on Twitter.

As Musk indicates, these speeds are primarily only useful for texting and voice calls, but has the potential to eliminate mobile dead zones in "over half a million square miles of the U.S."

"The important thing about this is that it means there are no dead zones anywhere in the world for your cell phone," Musk said. "We're incredibly excited to do this with T-Mobile."

A spokesperson for T-Mobile also clarified on this matter with The Washington Post.

"We're not claiming to cover rural America with this," the T-Mobile spokesman said. "This partnership is about going beyond the limitations of cellular networks and the wireless industry today to eliminate mobile dead zones which are often a result of land-use restrictions, terrain limits and America's sheer vastness."

According to the announcement, "the vast majority of smartphones already on T-Mobile's network will be compatible with the new service using the device's existing radio. No extra equipment to buy. It just works."

The feature, according to T-Mobile CEO Mike Sievert, will be included on the company's "most popular" wireless plans.

There are concerns about an oversaturation of satellites, however. NASA has warned about the dangers of space junk "to all space vehicles, including to the International Space Station and other spacecraft with humans aboard, such as SpaceX's Crew Dragon."

Just last October, the ISS had to use thrusters to avoid debris from Russian space junk and in February, 40 Starlink satellites were destroyed by a geomagnetic storm and burned up in the atmosphere.

"The deorbiting satellites pose zero collision risk with other satellites and by design demise upon atmospheric reentry — meaning no orbital debris is created and no satellite parts hit the ground," SpaceX wrote in an update.

On the topic of cell phones and Musk, the Twitter CEO recently claimed that

from page 09 **RAILROAD**

roads have had the upper hand," Representative Suzan DelBene (WA-01) said Wednesday. "A national railroad strike would be devastating to working families and our economy. I voted today to enact the tentative agreement reached by union leaders and the railroads to provide workers with a raise and improved benefits while averting significant harm to our economy."

Apple was threatening to remove Twitter from their App Store.

This was cleared up a couple days later, with Musk tweeting that the "misunderstanding" had been "resolved."

The controversy — if it can be called that — did bring up an interesting sentiment that Musk replied to: making his own smartphone.

Rumors have been circulating since early 2021 about a Tesla smartphone, often referred to as the model Pi or Pi phone. Tesla and Musk have been notably quiet on the subject, but that hasn't stopped enthusiasts from speculating on the features. Some seem likely, such as satellite internet, vehicle control features on Tesla models, and even astrophotography — powerful cameras aided by AI to photograph the night sky. Other speculations are arguably a bit more farfetched: solar charging, crypto mining, communication with settlers on Mars, and Neuralink support to name a few.

Neuralink is another one of Musk's ventures — implants that would allow the human brain to connect to a computer. Neuralink is seeking government approval to begin testing on human subjects. The company tested the implants on monkeys at the University of California, Davis Primate Center (UC Davis) earlier this year.

Neuralink highlighted a monkey playing the computer game "Pong" in April with the implant, but were forced to respond to accusations of animal cruelty after a US non-profit sent a letter to the US Department of Agriculture. Neuralink did confirm that monkeys had died during testing, but maintained no animal cruelty occurred and that "all novel medical devices and treatments must be tested in animals before they can be ethically trialed in humans."

Another industry besides cell phone manufacturers that Musk may be entering is video hosting. Twitter currently only allows video files of up to 512MB and requires longer videos to be trimmed down to 2 minutes and 20 seconds. A currently unverified source, "Wong," has stated that Twitter Blue will increase these limits to 2GB and 2 hours — leaving some to question if Musk intends to go up against the juggernaut that is YouTube.

Twitter Blue Labs — an early access testing program — does list longer video uploads among its features at 10 minutes long, but may see a significant boost to that time if "Wong" is correct.

Regardless of speculation on what industry Musk is entering next, his most recent venture, Twitter, is attempting to woo back companies after losing half of its top advertisers in the weeks after he took over. Advertising accounts for roughly 90% of Twitter's revenue, leaving the social media company little choice but to incentivize brands to return.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Twitter's new plan is to match advertiser spending with a "100% value add" for those that spend between \$500,000-\$1 million until the end of the year. Basically a "buy one, get one free" for ad space on Twitter.

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Foundation, Lake Stevens Education Foundation, Monroe Public Schools Foundation, and the Stanwood-Camano Rotary.

Families who are interested in benefiting from receiving free books under the Imagination Library's service can fill out an eligibility form through these affiliates. Also, those who are interested in expanding the existing affiliate programs can do so by contacting the Regional Director.

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when community partners inspire and spark a love of reading," Katie Leone, Marketing and Communications Manager for Sno-Isle Libraries, told the Lynnwood Times.

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