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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Volunteers of America awarded \$3 million grant for Lynnwood Neighborhood Center



Congressman Rick Larsen (center) joined by Edmonds School District Family Resource Advocates at Trinity Lutheran Church on Monday to highlight the \$3 million in federal funding he secured for the 40,000-sqft Lynnwood Neighborhood Center. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

LYNNWOOD—Representative Rick Larsen joined by the executive team of Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW) along with Edmonds School District Family Resource Advocates, the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center Steering Committee, and community members gathered at Lutheran Trinity Church to celebrate a \$3 million grant secured for the much anticipated Lynnwood Neighbor-

hood Center on Monday.

Rep. Larsen discussed the \$3 million grant he secured with the passage of the omnibus spending package bringing VOAWW a monumental step closer to constructing the new facility that will provide early learning and youth programs, health services, job training, and other community services.

Larsen shared that this was one of only 15 projects approved of the 95 submitted

for grant funding. When asked what made the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center stand out, he shared it was the overall community support and pre-planning.

“The vast number of partners in both the nonprofit, in the faith community, and private donors. It make it easier to show others that this project has great support and the planning that has gone in ahead of time; and therefore, a little bit of federal money can go a long

a way to make the local dollars go farther,” Larsen said.

As of 2023, the project has received a total of \$17.5 million in funding from private organizations and government grants, including Rep. Larsen’s \$3 million earmark. However, even though the project’s original budget was \$20 million, it now requires an additional \$12 million to complete. VOAWW told the Lynnwood Times that cost

Continued **PAGE 12 >>**

Marysville schools levy passing in early returns

By **DOUG BUELL**

MARYSVILLE—Results from the February special election are making it look like third time’s a charm for the Marysville replacement levy.

With first ballot returns of 7,835 votes counted at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, 53.02%, or 4,144 – voted “yes” for the levy against 49.98% - or 3,672 no votes (46.98%).

Superintendent Zach Robbins, approaching his one-year anniversary as the top schools chief, was elated with the results, and grateful to Marysville and Tulalip voters for supporting the Educational Programs and Operations levy.

“The passage of this measure means so much to our students, our schools, our district, and the overall Marysville and Tulalip community,” Robbins said. “It also sends a strong message that we are moving forward together to support all of the community’s children.”

Our local levy dollars stay in our schools and district, providing educational experiences for students beyond the state definition of basic education, he said.

Mayor Nehring said he is encouraged and thankful to the community for the results of last night’s levy election.

“A strong and successful School Dis-

Continued **PAGE 12 >>**

Lynnwood Public Facilities District is renamed The District

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Public Facilities District has changed its name to The District to signify the beginning of the forward momentum of growth and development for the future. The District will work together with their tenants, team members, local community, and guests of Lynnwood to make a collective impact for the LOVE of Lynnwood!

The District will be doubling the size of the previous Lynnwood Convention Center now known as the Lynnwood Event Center. The master construction plan is designed to create this beautiful Event Cen-

ter with staging to host concerts, dog shows, comedy shows and much more!

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“Love, Equally” public exhibit celebrating marriage equality in Washington state

By GEORGE FTIKAS

OLYMPIA—The opening ceremony for “Love, Equally” packed the State Reception Room of the Legislative Building in Olympia on Valentine’s Day. The event occurred on the 14th to simultaneously celebrate the 10th anniversary of marriage equality in Washington state.

Something highlighted by “Love, Equally” is the recency of marriage equality. This is prominently displayed by the giant timeline within the exhibit: “Washington’s Journey to Marriage Equality.” As recently as 2006, Washingtonians could be discriminated against based on their “sexual orientation” or “gender identity” for “jobs, housing, lending and insurance.”

“Love, Equally” was put together by Legacy Washington and not only features the new public exhibit, but a new book, “Love, Equally: The Journey to Marriage Equality,” and a mix of videos, interviews and more. The exhibit itself is open to the public and its hours should, according to the Secretary of State staff, coincide with their office hours.

“Our Legacy Washington books capture moments in history through people who lived them,” Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said at the ceremony. “If only we could tell every story and mention every person who helped advance marriage equality.”

Speakers at the event included not only Hobbs, but Governor Jay Inslee, former Governor Christine Gregoire, State Archivist Heather Hirotaka, Washington Speaker of the House Laurie Jinkins, State Senator Jamie Pedersen, Executive Director of Washington State LGBTQ Commission Manny Santiago, and author and historian Stephanie Coontz.

“I think the fact that you can be who you are and love who you will is one of the most beautiful things about the state of Washington,” Inslee said. “I am glad to have lived at a time where we made so much progress in the human condition.”

Inslee touched on a consistent theme from the speakers and the exhibit itself — the gradual, persistent effort of individuals fighting for what they believe



“Love, Equally” exhibit at the State Reception Room of the Legislative Building in Olympia on Valentine’s Day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of marriage equality in Washington state. Lynnwood Times | George Ftikas.

is right — and referred to the words of Martin Luther King Jr. — “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

“The fight didn’t start that year. The fight started three decades before,” Gregoire said. “Decades of bills that were introduced. Decades of pieces of legislation that had been fought for. Decades where lawsuits had been brought in front of the Supreme Court. All of which was not a failure, but a step forward to that very day in which we did sign the bill.”

Highlighting the progress of LGBTQ+ rights, Pedersen spoke of working in the state legislature years ago and being told he would “turn into a pillar of salt.”

“It’s so hard to remember — at this point when marriage equality seems like such a part of the world that we take for granted — that it was not something we could take for granted,” Pedersen said. “That it took the dedicated effort and work of a lot of peo-

ple... to make sure that’s where we came out as a state.”

According to Secretary of State and Washington State Archivist staff members, “Love, Equally” will remain in the capitol for at least a full year. They intend for the exhibit to travel statewide afterwards to various museums such as the Karshner Museum and Center for Culture & Arts in Puyallup. They hope

and encourage each museum to add to the exhibit to highlight local stories.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?
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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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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.

Public drug use in Lynnwood now a misdemeanor

By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood City Council passed two of the ordinances requested by the police department during their business meeting on Monday, February 13th. Both of the ordinances passed with six votes in favor and Councilmember Josh Binda abstaining.

The first of these measures makes the use of dangerous drugs in public a misdemeanor.

As the Lynnwood Times reported on, law enforcement have reported difficulty effectively policing drug use in public in wake of the Washington State Supreme Court Blake decision, *State v. Blake*, in 2021 and the subsequent passing of ESB 5476 by the state legislature. This state law requires police to refer those suspected of drug use to

diversion services on the first two interactions with police before a custodial arrest can be made.

According to Lynnwood Chief of Police Jim Nelson, a “hole” in the law resulted in police being unable to stop those suspected of using or possessing drugs in public. The individual could simply refuse to give their name to police and walk away with the alleged drugs still in their possession.

At last week’s city work session, Nelson insisted the ordinance would be “another tool for us to divert people from the criminal justice system into the resources that they so desperately need and may be unwilling to seek themselves” and “not an attempt to fill our jails.”

While he agreed in terms of public safety, Binda expressed concerns over how

this ordinance would impact “people of all demographics” and was hesitant to vote on it with no data. Councilmember George Hurst suggested having the police department report to the council in 6 months to provide data on arrests made through the ordinance.

Kent and Marysville both passed similar ordinances, with many other cities considering the issue.

The other police measure passed revises Lynnwood’s municipal code regarding automated traffic safety cameras (LMC 11.18). The ordinance restructures the fines based on the Revised Code of Washington and adds a \$25 traffic safety fee to every traffic camera violation. The intention is for this fee to help offset traffic-related staffing costs for the police department.

“I recognize a concern that members

of the community have that this is an opportunity for the city to generate revenue,” Councilmember Patrick Decker said. “Again, based on data that we’ve received, as I recall it’s approximately 75% of the individuals who face these fines are from outside of our community. And yet, it is our community taxpayers that pay for our police department and are bearing the financial burden... The \$25 administration fee helps offset the burden to Lynnwood taxpayers by shifting those costs to the individuals who are causing that increase in cost for our Lynnwood taxpayers.”

The council also passed an ordinance to begin the 7-year process for Lynnwood to leave the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission, giving the city the ability to control its own waste and recycling contracts. Councilmember Jim Smith was the only vote against the measure.

Lawmakers tackle new gun laws to mitigate gun violence

By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

OLYMPIA—With the start of Washington’s 2023 Legislative Session on January 9, lawmakers are considering new firearm restriction laws in an effort to combat gun violence.

Of these proposed bills, HB-1240 would ban the sale of military-style assault weapons, HB-1144 would enhance the requirements for firearm purchases and transfers, and SB-5078 would hold gun manufacturers liable to ensure firearms don’t end up in the hands of gun traffickers or straw purchasers.

This set of bills, like most gun restriction laws in past history, has divided political aisles with Republican lawmakers believing the bills would impact gun manufacturing businesses while failing to mitigate gun violence—with most gun-related crimes being committed by illegally possessed firearms. Democrat lawmakers are taking the stance that stronger gun laws reduce gun violence and access to assault rifles make it easier for perpetrators to engage in mass shootings.

The ban of military-style assault weapons is backed by Attorney General Bob Ferguson, along with Governor Jay Inslee, in his sixth attempt since 2017—following the 2016 mass shooting at a Mukilteo house party when the shooter used a military-style assault rifle and a high-capacity magazine.

Ferguson was successful in passing a bill, SB- 5078, that restricted the sale of high-capacity magazines last legislative session. That bill was signed into

law by the Governor last March. Ferguson was also successful in passing a bill banning the manufacturing and possession of ghost guns which passed the legislation in 2019.

Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo) supported the bill saying “high-capacity magazines make it easy for shooters to inflict maximum damage by allowing more shots to be fired without needing to pause to reload. Because of this we see these accessories favored by mass shooters.”

Republicans had a different take.

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

David Yamane, Sociology Professor at Lake Forest University, who has spent the last 10 years studying gun culture in America, found that 98.85% of guns and 99.21% of gun owners are not involved in fatal, non-fatal injuries, or victimizations involving guns annually.

Brett Bass, Program Manager of Front Front Suicide Prevention, Bellevue Gun Club instructor and U.S. Marine Corps veteran, believes there is a good chance all of the bills will pass this session, based on Democrats’ recent voting history, but will fail to survive constitutional scrutiny.

“The assault weapons ban is almost certainly, imminently, doomed judi-

cially because there’s nothing in the text, of either the Washington State text, or the constitution, to support the idea that this is a legitimate action from the state and I don’t believe you can find meaningful historical, or traditional, precedent for broad prohibitions on the most commonly owned types of firearms,” said Bass.

Democrats in favor of the assault-rifle ban argue that the increase in cases, in which assault rifles were being used for mass shootings, is one of the support-

ing reasons for the bill, but Bass argues mass shooters typically use whatever is the most popular firearm at the time.

As it stands handguns are the most used firearm in mass shooting cases, from 1982 to 2003, by far, according to Statistica.

Gun manufacturers more than doubled their revenue from assault rifle sales, from 2019 to 2021, from \$108 million

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Millenia Ministries, ending homelessness one woman, and one child, at a time



Founder and Executive Director Leilani Miller (center, yellow blazer) with her staff and volunteers of Millenia Ministries. Photo courtesy of Leilani Miller.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Nineteen years ago, Leilani Miller, Founder and Executive Director at Millenia Ministries, followed a “Voice from God” that said Snohomish County, Washington, needed her services. At the time, she was helping homeless pregnant women find housing in California. On a whim, she packed up her life and left her sunny, hometown state for the Pacific Northwest where she founded Millenia Ministries serving nearly 3,000 clients since.

“I really did feel like this this is where I needed to be—in Washington State,” said Miller. “I really felt strongly that He had something He wanted me to do here and He wanted me to leave everything I had known in L.A.—my children, my grandchildren, my furniture, my house, my ministry. I left everything to come here.”

Millenia Ministries’ mission statement is to “end homelessness by providing housing instability advocacy, crisis, transition, and permanent supportive housing. Also, address and prevent food insufficiency barriers in our communities. To provide compassionate services as a source of dignity and hope.”

Shortly after the Columbine shooting, which strongly impacted Miller to want to help struggling families, she began her community activism in the Los Angeles area where she was awarded multiple congressional awards for her services.

“It really was looking at the state of our country, and our world, and seeing children suffer...and in order to help the children, you have to help the parents,” said Miller.

In addition to being a reverend at a California church, she started a television show called “Youth on Track” highlighting some of the positive impact youths were having on their community, started her own private business teaching children respect in the L.A. School District, and began working with a shelter in California that took homeless pregnant women off the streets to provide them a safe place to give birth, learn parenting skills, and stabilize their lives so they could provide a stable environment for their children.

Miller began to feel she needed to take her efforts to Washington State in 2006, actualizing a dream of hers to open her own house for homeless women and their children, under her own certified nonprofit 501(c)(3). Within the first eight years of founding that nonprofit—Millenia Ministries—that dream expanded to a total of eight houses, from Marysville to Mountlake Terrace, serving over 500 women.

Although Miller left everything she had built and knew in Los Angeles, when she located to the Everett area she said, “everything opened up that showed me I was called to be here.” When her organization opened their first house, it was completely full, just by word-of-mouth. She also met her now-husband of 18 years and found her first house, somewhat serendipitously, when a real estate agent reached out to her.

Since Millenia Ministries first began, 163 of their clients have found permanent housing through its services, according to its website. By partnering with YWCA, many women who graduate Miller’s program can also receive Section 8, through the YWCA’s program, which allows them even more stability after leaving.

Millenia Ministries also has a contract with the Everett School District to help them identify homeless and at-risk of being homeless youths through the McKenny Bento program. With the District’s relationship with the Everett Housing Authority, Millenia Ministries was able to assist approximately 60 families find permanent housing within the last year through this partnership.

While women are staying at one of Millenia Ministries’ houses, Miller insists that they do not work. They instead focus on raising their children and are encouraged to pursue a college degree so they can be set up for success upon leaving.

Around 2012, Miller noticed many women experiencing homelessness were also experiencing food insecurity. She began collecting food, through donations and sponsoring churches, to provide groceries to 50 families (having received 50 Thanksgiving turkeys as donation initially). Several years later, Millenia Ministries has provided 34,512 meals to food insecure families, seniors, veterans, and disabled people, many delivered straight to a family’s homes through one of the organization’s several mobile feeding programs.

The unhoused can also visit the organization’s food pantry, Isaiah’s Pantry, to pick out the food they want from a variety of fresh produce, fruits, and meats.

For years, Millenia Ministries operated entirely with the help of volunteers. That changed when the pandemic swept the globe at the beginning of 2020. Now, Miller has a full-time staff of nine, including herself. Up until 2021, when the nonprofit started receiving grants, its sole funding

source was from private donors and the support of local churches. Millenia Ministries has grown their corporate sponsorships to include the Everett School District, Mukilteo Presbyterian Church, Words of His Grace Church, Mazda of Everett, and Molina Cares.

“We’ve had women whose parents sold them for drugs when they were young, women who had been caught up in sexual traffic rings, survivors of domestic violence, and many of these women now work at our worship house doing the same thing that we did for them,” said Miller.

Millenia Ministries stands for the empowerment of BIPOC individuals, single parent families, immigrants, seniors, and others by promoting the right to an equitable and equal belonging in society. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, or gender identity, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, their website states.

In the coming years, Miller aspires to expand her services by adding additional houses to further reach more women in need.

“I believe that everyone has a right to justice and the pursuit of happiness and kids need that equal playing field to have those same things in their lives,” said Miller. “Kids deserve the opportunity of a stable life and [to do that] you have to teach the moms what peace in their lives, as opposed to chaos, looks like.”

You can learn more about Millenia Ministries, and donate to its cause, by visiting milleniainministries.org

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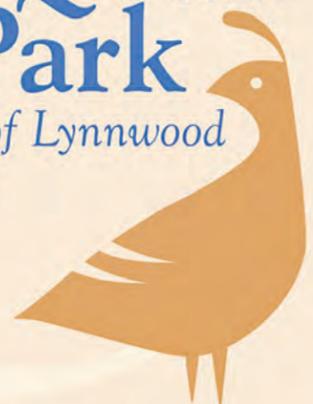
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Brilliant Senior Living

Using the arts to “restore” hope and provide a voice

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SEATTLE—Art is something that has always resonated with Debra Kendrick, Founder of Restoration of the Arts, a value-based nonprofit focused on youth through art-based programs.

When Kendrick entered middle school at Rainier Temple, she began to cultivate her love for the performing arts by enrolling in her school’s theater program. During one of these productions, Kendra—also an avid poet—was asked if she could write a poem to be featured in the program. She said, “absolutely.” Word quickly spread and before she knew it, her poem was being read on the radio by a local DJ.

“That’s probably around the time I realized I had something going on,” said Kendrick.

Throughout high school, Kendrick’s success in poetry led her to focus more on the written word, while still pursuing the visual arts in various art classes. During her sophomore year, she was notified, by her art instructor, that she had won second place in an art competition she didn’t even realize she had entered. The painting was an abstract piece Kendrick still has to this day.

“It made me realize that I had something on the inside,” said Kendrick. “It was like second nature; it was enjoyable, and it was a great expression for me.”

Kendrick began to write plays after high school while attending English courses at Bellevue College. Her works were inspired by those of Langston Hughes, Lorraine Hansberry, and Zora Neale Hurston. She quickly gained a reputation as a prolific playwright in the Seattle area and was constantly approached by churches, organizations, and schools to perform her works in their facilities. One of Kendrick’s best-known plays is *The Sound of My Voice*, about racial tension surrounding the Rodney King verdict.

While working as a theater production coordinator—her first job—Kendrick began listening to the children with whom she was working, concerning several issues they had experienced with racial profiling. Those experiences shaped what became *Remix*, the *Sound of My Voice* updated with current events and personal experiences. These two plays have been performed at several venues throughout Seattle including the Seattle Art Museum.

“It really developed in the church because the church is a great place to be able to be seated and for people to see what you do,” said Kendrick. “That’s when it was seeded in me to start an organization.”



Debra Kendrick (center, black coat), Founder of Restoration of the Arts, with her performance team. Photo by Debra Kendrick.

Restoration of the Arts was founded in 2009, named after a book written by Kendrick’s mother about the biblical history of the arts. While Kendrick was attending a meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, an intoxicated homeless man entered the building. Kendrick allowed him to come in and watch the dance rehearsal she was leading thinking, “well, this is a place of restoring and healing.” The man sat down and watched the dancers perform their choreography then began to cry. Afterwards, Kendrick met with him and found him resources he needed to address his issues.

“Right then and there was the start of Restoration of the Arts,” said Kendrick. “Every time we restore something we restore it back to its original purpose. That, to me, was the ‘ah-ha’ moment of ‘ah, that’s what this is all about.’”

When Kendrick says “art” she means “art as a means to reach people,” to give an artist a voice they may never had had, and to use art as one of the various ways to restore hope in the artist or the audience, she explained.

At Restoration of the Arts, children and young adults, aged 15 to 20, can volunteer to learn performing arts, twice a week, for six to eight weeks concluding with a performance of a play in a rotating venue. At the beginning of the course, Kendrick opens the floor to conversation to gather the student’s ideas and challenge their creativity. She gives them the voice they need to express what is going on in their personal lives. Kendrick then takes her student’s ideas and, with that information, begins to write the scripts for the course’s end

performance.

“The end goal is not to create Halle Berrys or Denzel Washingtons - although they can if they choose - but that they open up, and are empowered, enlightened, educated, and affirmed at the end of it,” said Kendrick.

An example of students’ success in this goal, Kendrick continued, is once, at the end of her program, a couple of girls approached Kendrick to tell her they gained the confidence to audition for a project for which they had been nervous to audition. They said it was because of Kendrick’s program that helped them feel like they mattered.

The organization’s next big project will be April 10th through the 14th, called

Masterpiece, featuring a younger cast than usual of eight to 10-year-olds.

“I’ve realized we have to start younger,” said Kendrick who has been searching for a venue to perform this project since December but has not yet finalized anything.

Admission prices for Restoration of the Arts productions range from \$15 to \$20, the proceeds of which help pay for the price of the production. To keep up-to-date with their schedule, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/restorationofthearts>

To learn more about Restoration of the Arts, visit <https://www.restorationofthearts.org>

YMCA of Snohomish County Celebrates Lifeguard Academy

By LYNNWOOD TIMES STAFF



Graduates of first-ever YMCA of Snohomish County's Lifeguard Academy on Saturday, February 4 at the Everett Family YMCA Photo courtesy of YMCA.

EVERETT—the first graduating class of the YMCA of Snohomish County's Lifeguard Academy celebrated their accomplishments on Saturday, February 4 at the

Everett Family YMCA. Seven students completed the comprehensive youth development program equipped with critical skills they can add to their resumes.

"We're incredibly proud of our graduates," said Thomas Wunderlich, YMCA of Snohomish County's Association Director of Aquatics Advancement. "Watching them learn and grow throughout the program as they mastered water skills and developed confidence was very rewarding. They are ready for their first lifeguard role."

Lifeguard Academy, designed for teens ages 15+, teaches lifeguard skills, as well as necessary leadership and communication skills to help them succeed both personally and professionally. The 10-week program meets three times a week and combines classroom and pool work.

"Every participant showed up to each session ready to work hard and learn," said Riley Simpson, Everett Family YMCA Aquatics Coordinator. "They really worked together and supported each other as they overcame challenges in and out of the water."

Graduates hold a nationally-recognized American Red Cross lifeguard certification, including CPR and first aid certifications. They also possess essential skills to assist in their job search.

"Through career-centered learning, participants learned how to communicate and interact with potential employers, created a cover letter and resume, and developed a professional social media profile," said Kim Gaffney, YMCA of Snohomish County's Executive Director Youth Leadership. "These skills will benefit them not only on their job search, but also in academics and other things they may pursue."

Lifeguard Academy plans to eventually expand the program to all six YMCA locations, bringing this valuable opportunity to more teens in Snohomish County.

"Teaching lifeguard skills and empowering teens benefits the entire community," said Simpson. "I'm so proud of these graduates and hope someday soon I can call them colleagues."

Snohomish County jail's IN2WORK program holds second graduation



Sheriff Adam Fortney with graduate Benjamin Christilaw.

EVERETT—The Snohomish County Jail's IN2WORK program held its second graduation ceremony on Friday, January 27, to congratulate the second class of inmate students on passing their exam and becoming certified.

In 2022, the Snohomish County Jail started a new program, IN2WORK, focused on reducing recidivism and preparing inmates for a successful post-incarceration journey to offer second chances to inmates.

IN2WORK is a program sponsored by Aramark that allows inmates to enroll in a kitchen and food safety certification program.

The course is taught by the jail's on-site Aramark food team and individuals accepted into the program have the opportunity to complete all the necessary training and education requirements prior to their release.

Once students complete the kitchen and food safety course requirements,

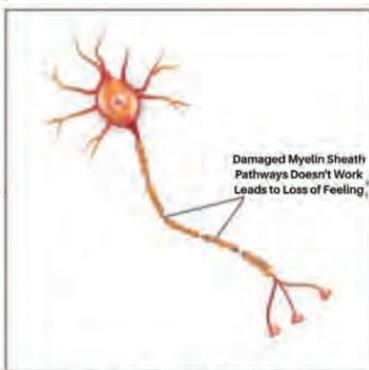
they take a final test and earn a ServSafe certificate from the National Restaurant Association.

"We are very excited to participate in this groundbreaking inmate education program," said Sheriff Adam Fortney. "Aramark's training gives inmates an opportunity to learn new skills and provides them with the necessary tools to open new doors to a successful career post-release. We

Continued PAGE 12 >>

NUMBNESS? TINGLING? PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?

The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your neuropathy is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms like Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and are primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of harmful side effects.



UNHEALTHY NERVE CELL

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems.

This damage is commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow. As you can see in Figure 2, as the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased, they shrivel up. This prevents the nerves from getting the needed nutrients to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to "die" they cause you to have balance problems, pain, numbness, tingling, burning, and many additional symptoms.

Three Factors to Effectively Treat Neuropathy:

- 1.) Underlying Cause?
- 2.) Amount of nerve damage sustained?
- 3.) How much treatment is required?

Three goals of treatment at Starting Point:

- 1.) Increase Blood Flow
- 2.) Stimulate fiber nerves
- 3.) Decrease brain-based pain

The main problem is that your doctor has told you to just live with the symptoms or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. However, there is hope for reducing your neuropathy symptoms!

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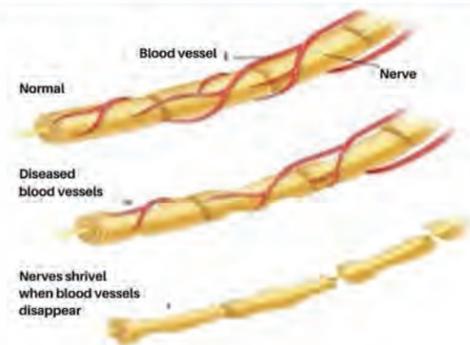


Figure 2: When these very small blood vessels become diseased they begin to shrivel up and the nerves begin to degenerate.

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Edmonds School Board selects Dr. Rebecca Miner as superintendent

By **EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

LYNNWOOD—The Edmonds School District Board of Directors selected Dr. Rebecca Miner as the district’s permanent superintendent, pending successful contract negotiations, during a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023.

Dr. Miner was selected by the School Board last spring to be the interim superintendent for the 2022-23 school year.

“The Board feels strongly Dr. Miner is the right fit to guide our district through our strategic plan,” said School Board President Dr. Nancy Katims. “Throughout the superintendent search process, we have listened to our community and they have expressed a high degree of confidence in Dr. Miner and her leadership.”

Dr. Miner was one of two finalists along with Dr. Concie Pedroza who is the Associate Superintendent for the Seattle Public Schools. Each candidate spent the last two days meeting with students, families, staff and community members.

The school board would like to thank everyone

who participated in the process of selecting our new superintendent over the past several months.

MORE ABOUT DR. REBECCA MINER

Prior to becoming interim superintendent for the Edmonds School District, Dr. Miner spent seven years as Superintendent in the Shoreline School District and three years as Superintendent for the White Pass School District. She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Washington State University, a master’s from Willamette University and a Bachelor’s of Arts from Lake Forest College, Illinois. Dr. Miner has served as a public educator for thirty years in roles that include classroom teacher, associate principal, special services director, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

Dr. Miner believes that effective school district leaders hold themselves to a high standard, show integrity and practice accountability for student-centered systems in which adults have opportunities for professional growth as they support their students and student growth. She is experienced in using data to work collaboratively with staff, students, and families toward making improvements for students.



Edmonds School District Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Miner meeting with students and staff at Woodway Center (preschool and kindergarten campus) on June 9, 2022. Source: Edmonds School District.

Director unexpectedly resigns at Mukilteo School Board meeting

By **MUKILTEO SCHOOL DISTRICT**

MUKILTEO—After serving more than 11 years on the Mukilteo School District Board of Directors, Michael Simmons announced his resignation during the board’s February 13 meeting.

Director Michael Simmons shared in his resignation letter, “The time commitment of a board member is without question a key piece of serving, and I have always been all-in ... However, as I wind toward the next phase of my professional working

career, and with serious consideration of other personal matters, I am unable to continue at the pace that I feel is warranted to be an effective school board member.”

Simmons plans to continue as a director until the board finds a replacement, but not later than Monday, March 27. His term ends November 23, 2023, so his replacement would also be up for re-election this coming November.

Interested candidates for the school board position which represents District #1 should submit their resume

and letter of interest to schoolboard@mukilteo.wednet.edu by 3 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2023.

To become a board member, the candidate must be a United States citizen and a qualified voter resident in the school district and appropriate director district, as described in Board Procedure 1113-P.

Please see the board website for more information about the process and timeline - <https://www.mukilteoschools.org/Page/16440>



Michael Simmons, Mukilteo School Board Director

Maverick’s Gia Powell breaks two school records



LYNNWOOD—Maverick’s Basketball Player Gia Powell set two new Meadowdale High School records on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, to secure the team’s District 1 playoff win against the Monroe Bearcats. Powell, made nine 3-pointers breaking Lilly Williams record of eight from 2018-19; and she scored an incredible 41 points during the game.

Arlington Councilwoman Jan Schuette selected as Community Transit board chair for 2023

By **COMMUNITY TRANSIT**



Jan Schuette, Community Transit Board Chair

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—Arlington City Council Member Jan Schuette was selected by her peers this week to serve as chair of the Community Transit Board of Directors for 2023. A former Stanwood High School principal, Schuette was elected to the Arlington City Council in 2013 and has served on the Community Transit board since 2016.

Snohomish City Council Member Tom Merrill was selected as board vice chair and Stanwood Mayor Sid Roberts was selected as secretary. Snohomish County Council Member Megan Dunn was recently named as an alternate to the CT board by the county.

Former Community Transit board chair and Lake Stevens City Council Member Kim Daughtry was selected as PSRC policy board representative. Schuette was named PRSC alternate representative.

The Community Transit board is comprised of nine elected officials from Snohomish County and the cities within the transit agency’s service district, as well as a labor representative selected by the agency’s bargaining units.

Community Transit Board members include:

- Arlington City Council Member Jan Schuette, chair
- Snohomish City Council Member Tom Merrill, vice chair
- Stanwood Mayor Sid Roberts, secretary
- Labor Representative Lance Norton
- Lake Stevens City Council Mem-

ber Kim Daughtry

- Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell
- Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring
- Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine
- Snohomish County Council Chair Jared Mead
- Snohomish County Council Member Strom Peterson

Community Transit Board Alternates include:

- Brier City Council Member Mike Gallagher
- Bothell Mayor Mason Thompson
- Edmonds City Council Member Susan Paine
- Mountlake Terrace Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright
- Snohomish County Council Member Megan Dunn

Community Transit is responsible for providing bus and paratransit service, vanpool and alternative commute options in Snohomish County.

The agency is building a network of Swiftbus rapid transit lines with the Swift Blue Line along Highway 99, Swift Green Line between Canyon Park/Bothell and Boeing/Paine Field, and Swift Orange Line coming to Mill Creek and Lynnwood in 2024.

The first 40 days: An exclusive interview with County Prosecutor Jason Cummings

By KIENAN BRISCOE



Snohomish County Prosecutor Jason Cummings

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—Snohomish County Prosecutor, Jason Cummings, was elected to public office last November as the county's top, leading, attorney. To discuss his first 40 days in office and check in on the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office in general, the Lynnwood Times sat down with Cummings to discuss his role's challenges, achievements, and get an update to the court's backlog of cases.

Cummings was elected to Snohomish County Prosecutor last November. With approximately 25 years of experience at the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office, Jason Cummings has served as Chief Civil Deputy for the last 14 years. In addition to running the Civil Division, and its team of 35 attorneys and staff, he managed the Office's \$30 million budget and has served on the leadership teams of the last three elected prosecuting attorneys.

In 2009, Cummings was appointed acting Prosecuting Attorney by the Snohomish County Council to manage operations until Prosecutor Mark Roe was formally appointed later that year.

Cummings served as lead on the Data Collection Initiative that begun earlier last year to evaluate performance metrics with the goal of better understanding racial and ethnic disparities in Snohomish County.

Jason lives in Edmonds with his wife of 25 years, Kim, along with their son and daughter. Raised in Edmonds, Cummings graduated from Edmonds-Woodway High School and the University of Washington before earning his Law Degree at the Seattle University School of Law 1996. He serves or has served on the Imagine Children's Board, the Edmonds Lion Club, as a youth sports coach, and as a school board and committee member.

LT: How are things going now that you're a few months into your County Prosecuting Attorney position? Any unexpected challenges?

Jason Cummings: I don't know if there's been anything unexpected. There's been lots of great successes, folks working hard in the office and doing good things. We've had a lot of positions that the council was fortunate enough to support with the budget that we're working hard on getting filled.

The biggest frustration is the tough hiring market, particularly in the public sector. I've talked with colleagues in other counties, other elected prosecutors, and they're experiencing the same thing, in that we're all fighting hard to attract the same limited pool of candidates but we're gradually getting some of these spots filled which has been great.

LT: What about accomplishments, anything you're particularly proud of?

Jason Cummings: Forty days is a pretty short turnaround but the biggest accomplishments, I think, is reaching out and working with folks in the office to find out what I can do to help them be successful. I

really feel like a lot of the feedback I've been getting has been good, positive, feedback. We have great people who really enjoy what they're doing.

Being elected is sort of like being part coach, part cheerleader, part Radar O'Reilly from M*A*S*H trying to help make sure they get the resources they need to get their job done.

LT: You've previously worked in King County and Kitsap County, how does Snohomish County compare to other counties in how it operates?

JC: I think every county operates a little differently, it just depends on their size and location. I started out my career in King County, as a contract Deputy Prosecutor in the District Court Unit, so I was there very briefly before getting, what I call, my first real job out in Kitsap because it paid benefits and was a full-time, permanent, gig.

After a few years in Kitsap I was able to lateral over to Snohomish County. It's a little like Goldilocks and the Three Bears: one county's too big, one county's too small, and one county's just right – I feel that way about Snohomish County. We're not so big that there's a disconnect between folks in the law and justice community, but we're big enough to have a good, diverse, pool of colleagues throughout the county, whether it be the Sheriff's Office and the courts – you name it. That's what I really like about Snohomish County.

LT: Speaking of Snohomish County being that "perfect" size; according to Census Data, Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing counties in Washington State at a rate of approximately 20% since 2010 and its only projected to continue growing. How is the Prosecutor's Office preparing for this projected growth?

JC: We're really trying to use the resources we have in terms of our databases to be able to bring information to the front and make informed decisions based on trends and data. One of the first things we've done is sit down with our office manager and asked to look at development reports to see where case flows are in terms of backlogs versus getting charged versus where we're seeing sticking points, so we can be more nimble in anticipating those areas based on the data that we have. We have to be continually ready to perform and evolve. As we grow as a county unfortunately it's inevitable that we're going to see our workload volume increase and I know that's been a constant struggle.

I was just down in Olympia for Law Day, which is a day where elected prosecutors and Police Chiefs from across the state come to the capital to meet with

our representatives to talk about important issues. Our Police Chiefs were really advocating for more resources for law enforcement in terms of the ability to be able to hire, retain, and pay good wages to attract good law enforcement officers in this area. The same goes for the prosecutor's office. We really have to be advocates to make sure we have the appropriate resources that we can continue to grow and handle as our county grows.

It is great to be in Snohomish County, a place where a lot of people want to be. It's great and exciting news to hear Boeing is moving the 737 line up to the Everett facility, that's going to add additional jobs and I think that's outstanding. As a result, as we see job growth we know more people are going to come but as a whole, as a county, and that's one of the reasons the Growth Management Act directs us in this way, we really need to be forward thinking and planning for that growth to provide them these necessary services.

LT: When I spoke to former County Prosecutor, Adam Cornell, last year he mentioned the courts were experiencing a tremendous backlog in cases due to courts being closed during COVID. With the addition of two new judges what is the current status of that backlog and what is the updated estimate for getting caught up?

JC: I've used this analogy before that we're not a speed boat on Lake Stevens, we're more like one of the aircraft carriers coming into the Navy port here in Everett. We're not going to turn things around on a dime, but we are starting to make progress. Having those additional judges is going to help free up some resources. It was awesome that the second week of January we had seven jury trials going out, which was a huge number, so we're getting lots of trials out the door – we're continuing to work on that area.

As we work on filling some of the new positions and vacant positions we have in our office, that's going to help us apply those resources. We had a concerted effort towards the end of last year to push out some of the backlog in the District Court area to bring forth some of these cases we really needed to get charged. We got a lot of DUI's in that timeframe.

Is there a magic number when we say we've completely turned that corner? We're not there yet but once we're fully staffed, I think we can have a much better estimate in how we can push cases through in an appropriate manner.

LT: What sort of priority scale are you using to determine which cases to prosecute before others?

Continued PAGE 11 >>



Snohomish County Prosecutor Jason Cummings (right) with Police Chiefs around Washington state and Sheriff Adam Fortney at Law and Justice Day in Olympia in February 2023.

US State Department issues “Do Not Travel Advisory” to Russia as Western tensions rise

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. State Department on Monday, February 13, 2023, issued a Level 4: Do Not Travel Advisory for U.S. citizens to leave Russia immediately “due to the unpredictable consequences of the unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian military forces.”

The Advisory warns of the risk of wrongful detention by Russian government security officials and the compulsory enlisting of dual citizens into the Russian armed services.

“Russia may refuse to acknowledge dual nationals’ U.S. citizenship, deny their access to U.S. consular assistance, subject them to mobilization, prevent their departure from Russia, and/or conscript them,” the advisory states.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced today, just prior to his meeting with Defense Ministers in Brussels, that Russian President Vladimir Putin is preparing for “new offensives” against Ukraine.

“We see no signs that President Putin is preparing for peace,” Stoltenberg said. “What we see is the opposite, he is preparing for more war, for new offensives and new attacks.”

He stressed the importance of NATO Allies to provide more support to Ukraine.

“The urgent need now is to deliver

what has always been promised, to deliver the armored vehicles, the infantry fighting vehicles, the German Marders, the US Bradleys, and of course, also, the main battle tanks, the Leopards, and the other battle tanks that have been pledged,” Stoltenberg said.

The Atlantic Council recently reported that Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov shared that Russia has amassed up to 500,000 troops along Ukraine’s borders for what he calls a new offensive before the February 24 one-year mark of the Russian “special military operation.”

On the morning of February 24, 2022, Russian President Putin announced a “special military operation” seeking the alleged “demilitarization” and “denazification” of Ukraine. Explosions were reported in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, and the Donbas region shortly after the announcement.

The United Nations General Assembly passed ES-11/1 on March 2, 2022, condemning the military operation by Russian forces. International sanctions and a humanitarian crisis soon followed.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately 8 million Ukrainians have fled Ukraine into neighboring European countries as of February 2023, with Snohomish County providing a refuge to hundreds escaping the war.

Monday’s travel advisory warns U.S.

citizens in Russia that because “routine or emergency services to U.S. citizens in Russia is severely limited” they should make “independent arrangements as soon as possible” to depart.

The recent travel advisory for U.S. citizens to leave Russia immediately also comes five days after Pulitzer Prize-winning U.S. reporter, Seymour Hersh, claimed on his Substack account, that U.S. President Joe Biden ordered a joint CIA and U.S. Navy operation to plant explosives that destroyed the Nord Stream gas pipelines on September 26, 2022—which if true, would be an act of war. The report also alleges that the Norwegian Air Force dropped a buoy three months after the explosives were planted, and with “a sophisticated sonar signal,” ignited the explosives.

The apparent sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines last year added to Europe’s increasing energy crisis as it headed into winter.

Forbes reported at the time of the explosion that former Polish Defense Minister, Radek Sikorski, blames the United States for sabotaging the two pipelines. Back in February during a joint news conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, President Joe Biden told reporters, “If Russia invades, that means tanks or troops crossing the border of Ukraine again, then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.”

When asked how, the president says with a smirk, “I promise you, we will

be able do that.”

Last Thursday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters, “Our assumption was that the US and several NATO allies were involved in this disgusting crime,” Bloomberg reports and the Financial Times reported that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called for “an open international investigation” and for those responsible to be punished.

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council called Hersh’s investigative report “utterly false and complete fiction,” the Financial Times reported last Wednesday.

Immediately after the explosion of Nord Stream, separate investigations were launched by Denmark, Germany, and Sweden. The Swedish Security Service announced they have found evidence of “gross sabotage,” according to the Maritime Executive.

“In the crime scene investigations carried out on site in the Baltic Sea, the extensive damage to the gas pipelines resulting from detonations has been thoroughly documented. Several seizures have been made, including foreign items,” the Swedish Security Service wrote in its November 18, 2022, statement.

Both Sweden and Denmark have concluded that the pipelines were sabotaged but have not announced who might be responsible.

US Space Force launches unarmed Minuteman III ICBM

By MARIO LOTMORE

VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif., February 11, 2023—The United States Space Force confirmed Friday the launch of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) as a demonstration that “the United States’ nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter twenty-first century threats and reassure our allies.”

Thursday’s launch of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile at 11:01 p.m. Pacific Time from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California was carried out by airmen of the Air Force Global Strike Command’s 91st Missile Wing of Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. The ICBM was equipped with a test reentry vehicle.

“A test launch displays the heart of our deterrence mission on the world’s

stage, assuring our nation and its allies that our weapons are capable and our Airmen are ready and willing to defend peace across the globe at a moment’s notice,” said Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, Air Force Global Strike Command commander.

According to the announcement by the U.S. Space Force, the ICBM’s reentry vehicle traveled approximately 4,200 miles to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands demonstrating the accuracy and reliability of the weapon system.

“This launch showcases the redundancy and reliability of our strategic deterrence systems while sending a visible message of assurance to allies,” said Col. Christopher Cruise, 377th Test and Evaluation Group commander.

Occurring just days after F-22 fighter jets from Langley Air Force Base shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon

off the coast of South Carolina last Saturday, the announcement claims the Minuteman III ICBM test launch was “routine” and “not the result of current world events.”

“This test launch is a culmination of months of preparation and collaboration across multiple Air Forces agencies,” said Maj. Martin Escarzaga, task force commander. “The Airmen who perform this mission of strategic deterrence are the best our nation has to offer. They work 365 days a year to maintain, support, operate, and secure this vital component of our nuclear triad.”

North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency on Thursday reported the largest display of the country’s ICBMs rolling through the central square of Pyongyang during a military parade on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

According to Associated Press, the military parade displayed the newest hardware in North Korea’s growing nuclear arsenal, including launchers to possibly accommodate solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles that can be launched more quickly than liquid-fueled missiles.

Air Force Global Strike Command overseas the nation’s three intercontinental ballistic missile wings, the Air Force’s entire bomber force, to include B-52, B-1 and B-2 wings, the Long Range Strike Bomber program, Air Force Nuclear Command, Control and Communications systems, and operational and maintenance support to organizations within the nuclear enterprise.

The LG-35A Sentinel will replace the Minuteman III ICBMs and is scheduled to be fully operational by the mid-2030s.

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from page 9 **CUMMINGS**

JC: First and foremost, you have to look at statute of limitations so you don't lose out on cases based on age. So, case age is always going to be an aspect. As an office we're always going to prioritize violent crime, crimes against children, sex crimes, DUI's - those are always going to be our priority cases that will take precedence against cases that aren't involving people.

In other words, there's person crimes and property crimes and we're always going to prioritize those person crimes. However, we've already put in place in our non-violent charging unit ways to identify cases from prolific affecters or unlawful possession of firearm cases and we're going to continue to put priority on those areas.

We want to make sure that we're focused on those that are the most work for the full system. I've been very excited about some of the work that we've done in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, with the Executive Office, Human Services, Public Works, and other departments on the 128th Street corridor. We've really made it a priority to look from I-5 to Airport Road and 99 to really take all of our resources

to improve a hard-hit community. One of the capstones is we had a massive cleanup down there and that's been neat to see, but we have to make sure that it's sustainable so this neighborhood can enjoy the success that we've had in the short term, long term.

LT: Is there any particular legislation this session you've been following? Any your hoping will pass, hoping doesn't pass?

JC: Well SB-5440 was the one bill that I testified on, where we expressed concerns, and that was an effort by the state to shift competency restoration onto local government and counties. I was particularly concerned because we already have tremendous resource constraints on our mental health services here in the county already. It's certainly a state obligation and it's bound to be a state obligation by courts as the state continues to face sanctions and contempt matters for not having addressed that. So, I was very concerned and I'm hopeful the legislature will not move on that.

I'm constantly looking at the different Blake rules that are being introduced. That is one of the number one priority the legislation needs to deal with this

year because the temporary fix they did expires this summer. That temporary fix, frankly, isn't working. We have greater substance disorder issues on our streets that are combined and co-occurring with homelessness and mental health issues.

At the end of the day, we've taken a tool away from law enforcement and from community service providers to be able to reach folks and get them into alternatives. I also think the legislature is going to need to put together the dollars needed for public safety, treatment programs, and bed spaces in our communities to get these folks into, so that they can deal with the root cause of their addiction.

LT: What are your priorities for the coming days and next steps?

JC: We want to be focused on our backlogs, so we'll continue to do that. You're not going to turn it around in 40 days but those have been important conversations and it continues to be a priority.

In addition, it's working on filling the vacant positions that we have. We have some good people who are starting, and I look forward to getting them into the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and but we still have a handful of positions to fill and we're going to work hard on getting those filled.

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from page 3 **GUN VIOLENCE**

to \$253 million, CBS News reported. Rising crime (including the increase in mass shootings) and personal safety are at the top of the list for reasons why people decide to purchase a first-time firearm, the Manhattan Institute found.

“The source of the problem is the failure of the government to protect us. So common sense dictates that we do what is necessary to protect ourselves. Frankly, it’s foolish to believe that the best response to people who commit crimes with guns is launching a holy war against people who respect gun laws,” Jason Riley, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute wrote.

Riley continued that lower levels of gun possession don’t always necessarily translate into lower levels of violent crime. “Using the example of gun ownership rates in Switzerland and Austria, for example, are significantly higher than in Germany, even though the Swiss and the Austrians have lower murder rates than the Germans”, he said.

Since the National Firearms Act of 1934, most of the United States’ firearm reform acts have regulated, but not outright banned, the use of firearms except for the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which expired in 2004. In a study conducted by Mark Gius, at Quinnipiac University, it was found that this 10-year ban had no significant impact on murder rates in the country and further found states with stricter gun laws actually had higher gun-relat-

ed murders.

The city of Seattle saw a 23% increase in shooting deaths last year, compared to the same time frame the year prior, with 38 shooting related deaths, most of which took place in the Chinatown/International District and Bitterlake neighborhoods, KOMO News reported last week.

Although the Washington Association of Sheriff’s and Police Chiefs is still finalizing their data report for 2022, they recorded a decrease in overall murders in Snohomish County in 2021 with 15 overall murders in 2021 compared to 12 in 2020. Snohomish County saw 680 firearm related crimes in 2021, according to WASPC data. This was one of the lowest weapon brackets with “personal items” being the highest.

Approximately 810 Washingtonians are killed by guns a year, which is a rate of about 10.5 per 100,000 people. Someone is killed by a gun roughly every 12 hours in Washington State, according to the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, although 74% of these deaths are suicides.

Still, gun violence remains a topic of contention throughout the nation where at least 39 mass shooting have occurred since the beginning of this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive—most recently in California, Iowa, and Washington leaving a total of 24 dead. Three separate shootings in California attributed to 19 of these deaths, a state known for having some of the strictest gun laws, with a mass

from page 3 **SCHOOL LEVY**

district plays an essential role in a strong and successful community,” Nehring said. “With new leadership at the District, I appreciate that the community is willing to move forward with approving necessary resources for them to continue to push forward with improvements.”

The replacement levy represents one of the district’s most significant school funding measures since the 1970s.

The levy failed twice in 2022, causing budget cuts across two school year cycles. A third “no” vote would leave the district facing “impossible choices” with the loss of about a sixth of its budget.

Robbins called it the most critical levy in the Marysville and Tulalip community.

With passage, the levy would raise about \$108 million over four years, including \$25 million in 2024, peaking at \$28.9 million in 2027.

The proposed levy is about \$1.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and 68 cents per thousand less than the expiring state Educational Programs and Operations measure.

Residents now are paying \$2.35 per \$1,000 assessed property value. On a \$500,000 home, that would amount to \$1,175. With the new rate in place of \$1.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, that amount would drop to \$835, for a saving of about \$340 a year, school finance official said.

The levy helps pay for staff and supplies not fully funded by state or federal dollars. In Marysville that includes:

15 custodians, grounds or maintenance employees;

- 6 security officers
- 16 health services employees; and
- 27 counselors or social emotional support staff.

It also funds other daily operational needs, like transportation and curriculum; the Marysville-Pilchuck High School pool accessible to the public; and all of school athletics.

The levy got strong political support in recent months, and valiant efforts by the Best Schools Marysville citizens committee kept the levy in the minds of residents and businesses.

Cindy Gobel, chairwoman of the pro-levy Best Schools Marysville political action committee, said supporters spoke with various groups and individuals to spread the message.

“Our goal is to get the levy passed, and we’re here to say please vote ‘yes,’” Gobel said. “This levy is important to Marysville.”

School levies need a simple majority to pass. Last year’s similar levies in Marysville garnered 40.7% approval in February and 45.8% approval in April.

District officials thanked the Best Schools Marysville group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to achieve this positive outcome.

Arlington’s Transportation benefit District was overwhelmingly renewed by voters with a super majority of 69%. Voters also overwhelmingly approved two additional commissioners to the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue.

shooting in Half Moon Bay taking place at the end of last month. The incident left seven dead and one injured. It was the state’s second mass shooting in just three days.

In response, President Joe Biden re-introduced a federal Assault Weapon Ban and legislation that would raise the minimum purchase age for assault weapons to 21—the first major gun reform law in decades.

“Jill and I are praying for those killed and injured in the latest tragic shooting in Half Moon Bay, California. For the second time in recent days, California communities are mourning the loss of loved ones in a senseless act of gun violence,” Biden said.

from page 7 **IN2WORK**

are hopeful that this program will lessen the likelihood of re-offending and give our inmates the ability to transition directly into the workforce. While some in our community may find themselves in our facility, I am committed to providing them a different path for their future if they choose to do so. I hope to see each of them very successful out in the community and never residing in our facility again.”

“It has been an honor to work alongside our partners with Aramark as we launch this new program inside our jail,” said Major Alonzo Downing. “It would not have been possible without our incredible kitchen managers and their commitment and dedication to serving our inmate population.”

The Snohomish County Jail’s first group of IN2WORK students completed their training and the ServSafe test at the end of July 2022.

Upon release, many of the individuals who receive their certificate through Aramark’s program are later hired to work for the Aramark Corporation.

“You’ve done the hardest part and made the decision to invest in your future by graduating from the IN2WORK program. You should be proud to count yourself among a unique group of individuals that have made it to this point,” said Aramark to graduates. “We are proud of you, and this journey is only beginning.”

from page 1 **VOAWW**

escalations have been the top funding challenge.

“While project scope has remained constant, supply chain challenges plus the cost of labor and goods has led to the project’s rising cost,” Tim Lorene, Project Manager for the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center said.

Key contributors to the project have been Rick Steves, the State of Washington, Snohomish County, and the City of Lynnwood. Last year, then-County Councilwoman Stephanie Wright presented VOAWW a check for \$1 million on behalf of the Snohomish County Council. The City of Lynnwood pledged \$1 million of ARPA funds towards the project the same year.

The Neighborhood Center received a jump start with a \$3 million gift from television personality and local philanthropist Rick Steves and \$2.2 million in funding from the state’s capital bud-

get in 2018 thanks to District 32 Rep. Ruth Kagi (1999 to 2019) and Rep. Cindy Ryu.

VOAWW reached out to Edmonds School District Family Resource Advocates for an equity lens, as in what to include when designing a resource center. The team is comprised of 18 people and are in 20 schools in the area.

Family Resource Advocates suggested having preschool programs and a variety of resources, in addition to placing multiple languages on the building’s facade so diverse families feel welcomed.

“I look forward to seeing a drop-in service and have a safe space for kids to hangout and be kids,” Dr. Sally Guzmán Reyes, a Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, said.

The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is a 40,000 square-foot Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility on approximately two acres of land located at Trinity Lutheran Church near 196th St and HWY 99. Plans call for the site to be leased to the Snohomish County offices of Volunteers of America for \$1 per year for the next 50 years as part of the social service hub envisioned on the property.

The over 40 attendees at Monday’s event is a testament to both the need and purpose for the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center. Dr. Steve Woodard, Vice President of Community Engagement for VOAWW, told the Lynnwood Times.

“The representation that is here right now is a solid reminder of the families that are going to be served,” Dr. Woodard said. “We can never forget that the families that aren’t here right now are the ones we are trying our best to serve. It is our duty—honor bound if you will—to bring this [project] to completion.”

The new space will be anchored with a new Boys & Girls Club and provide an integrated facility with multiple nonprofits working to engage the community and support low-income families through the complex struggles they may experience. The building will include gathering spaces, training facilities, and event space, an Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) classroom, and behavioral, medical, and dental services.

The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center fully aligns with the VOAWW’s mission “to serve people and communities in need and create opportunities for people to experience the joy of serving others.”

This community commitment would not be possible without VOAWW’s ongoing partnerships with Trinity Lutheran Church, Center for Human Services, Medical Team International, Boys & Girls Clubs, Korean Community Service Center, and Latino Educational Training Institute.

Other elected officials attending the event were Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Mountlake Terrace Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright, Lynnwood Councilwoman Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Edmonds Councilwoman Vivian Olson, and Rep. Ruth Kagi. Snohomish County Council President Jared Mead wanted to attend but was in Washington D.C. on council business.