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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

World's first-ever Sustainable Aviation Fuel Research and Development Center to be built at Paine Field



Community leaders announcing the establishment of the world-leading Sustainable Aviation Fuel Research and Development Center at Paine Field on March 28, 2023. (L-R) 1. Dale Smith, Regional Director, SAF Procurement & Policy Strategies, Boeing, Scott Kennedy, State and Local Government Affairs Manager, Alaska Airlines, Brian Surratt, President and CEO, Greater Seattle Partners, Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo), Washington State Legislature, Emily Wittman, President & CEO, Aerospace Futures Alliance, Garry Clark, President & CEO, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, Diane Kamionka, Executive Director, Northwest Innovation Resource Center, Dr. Josh Heyne, Director, WSU Bioproducts, Sciences, and Engineering Lab, Lynnette Muenzberg, Board Chair, Aerospace Futures Alliance, Dr. Paul Pitre, Chancellor, Washington State University - Everett, Sandra Haynes, Chancellor, Washington State University - Tri-Cities, and Executive Dave Somers, Snohomish County Government. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Washington State has long since been a leader in the aerospace industry with over 1,300 aerospace-related companies employing more than 136,000 people. But now the state is leading the industry's next

chapter in cleaner and greener aircraft fuel by establishing the world's first Research and Development Center for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) at Snohomish County-owned Paine Field.

"Snohomish County is defined by our beautiful and abundant

natural resources – protecting them is central to our way of life. We are also the global heart of cutting-edge commercial aerospace manufacturing, which has been an important economic driver of the county for over 50 years," said Executive Somers during a press conference Tuesday. "With

our history and resources, Snohomish County is the ideal place for businesses to invest in trailblazing climate change solutions. This R&D Center for Sustainable Aviation Fuels is a foundational component of our long-term commitment to generate new jobs in environmentally sustainable sec-

tors and help decarbonize aviation."

According to the U.S. Environmental Agency, the U.S. Transportation Sector accounts for 27% of all Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in 2020

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Mukilteo Robotics Club headed to world championship competition



Members of Team Modulo of the Mukilteo Robotics Club who are heading to Dallas, Texas, to vie for the World Championship title at VEX Robotics Competition in April. SOURCE: Emily Chu.

By KIENAN BRISCOE & EMILY CHU

MUKILTEO, March 21—Mukilteo Robotics is a club that burst into the competitive scene last season, achieving multiple tournament victories and sent two out of four teams to state championships last year. Now, one of these teams is headed to compete for the World Championship title in April!

"We are very proud of these students who have worked hard and pursued their passion for robotics," Mukilteo School District Superintendent Alison Brynson told the Lynnwood Times. "Thanks to a wonderful community effort, they are getting to experience a world-class exciting and com-

petitive learning opportunity."

On April 25 through May 4, the students of Team Modulo are headed to Dallas, Texas, for the VEX Robotics Competition—the largest, and fastest growing, robotics program in the world with more than 20,000 teams from 50 countries playing in over 1,700 competitions worldwide.

"It is a great joy to see the team accomplish getting a qualification to Worlds at States. The expression on their faces was memorable," said Pete Stiles, Coach of Mukilteo Robotics. "This is something we will remember for a long time."

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Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Larsen visits Snohomish County businesses

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, March 15, 2023—Local businesses shared with Ranking Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02), how federal pandemic relief funds helped retain or save jobs and drive economic growth.

Tuesday's visit began with a tour of Columbia Distributing's warehouse in Everett, that employs 250 people at the facility. The company distributes beverages to area retailers, restaurants and bars. Columbia Distributing commits to help fight human trafficking through the National Wholesalers Association's (NBWA) Distributors Against Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative.

Larsen then toured Bridgeways, a manufacturing Employment Social Enterprise (ESE) that connects adults living with mental illness to employment, housing, and other essential services. Bridgeways was awarded more than \$2.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds, including \$175,310 through the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program (AMJP). The American Rescue Plan included bipartisan language Larsen championed that established the AMJP, which saved 3,154 aviation manufacturing jobs in Washington state and 30,034 jobs nationwide.

At Orion Industries, Jerry Chase, President and CEO, and Kathy Powers, Vice President of Services, shared their gratitude to Larsen for receiving more than \$8 million in federal pandemic relief funds, including \$947,200 through the AMJP.

If a person is struggling to find a job, Orion Industries will provide specialized support in addition to workforce



Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) meeting at Orion Industries on March 14, 2023. (L-R) Jerry Chase, Orion Technologies President & CEO, Emily Wittman, President & CEO of Aerospace Futures Alliance, and Kathy Powers, Orion Technologies Vice President of Services. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



ATS Executive Board Chair Matt Yerbic, Director of Technical Training, Seth Jacobsen, CEO Paul Dolan, Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02), and CFO Gabe Dolec at ATS in Everett on March 14, 2023, during Larsen's tour of Snohomish County businesses. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

training in aerospace manufacturing. Last year, Orion Industries served 260 people; pre-pandemic, that number was over 500.

"We got cut in half during the pandemic," Chase told the Lynnwood Times. "Revenue, people and we still needed the [pandemic relief] money."

This ESE located in Mukilteo is unique in that it specifically employees and trains those with developmental disabilities, overcoming trauma, or those living in recovery.

"Whether you put whatever label on you, if you are struggling to find a job you can walk through the front door,

we have lots of different programs," Powers told the Lynnwood Times. "To me it is someone who has struggled to find their pathway at work.... Usually there is something interfering, so it is our job to help figure that out, navigate through, and help you find your pathway."

Larsen ended his tour with a visit at Aviation Technical Services (ATS) where he met with its CEO, Paul Dolan, Board Chair, Matt Yerbic, CFO, Gabe Dolec, and Director of Technical Training, Seth Jacobsen.

They discussed how a nearly \$460,000 Aviation Workforce Development Maintenance Technical Workers grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provided approximately 90 people employment (one third of its Everett workforce) through its aviation apprenticeship program.

This program supports new Apprentice Technicians through their first 18 months, at which time they have the option to become an FAA certificated repairman or mechanic.

ATS also partners with Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center and with various A&P schools in the area.

"A high school diploma, a driver's license...and a willingness to learn," Jacobsen told the Lynnwood Times when asked what ATS looks for in a successful apprentice.

Between site visits, Larsen grabbed a bite to eat and was the keynote speaker at the Rotary Club of Everett's weekly meeting, where he shared how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is providing jobs and opportunities for Everett and Snohomish County.

Restore the police pursuit law so no family has to go through what mine did



RESTORE THE POLICE PURSUIT LAW SO NO FAMILY HAS TO GO THROUGH WHAT MINE DID

LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY AMBER GOLDADE

Amber Goldade lives in Pierce County with her husband and seven children and has never been involved in legislative affairs before the death of her child. Senate Bill 5352 concerning police pursuits narrowly passed the Senate with a vote of 26-23 on March 8. The bill now heads to the House's Community Safety, Justice and Reentry Committee for discussion without a public hearing.

Below is Goldade's letter-to-the-editor advocating for legislators to restore police pursuits in Washington state: There are some laws that make it harder for good law enforcement officers to

do their jobs well. Like the law here in our state that makes it illegal for police to pursue criminals driving away from the scene of the crime. When the police aren't allowed to work to prevent violent crime, we end up with more crime and more innocent victims.

The legislators who passed that no-pursuit law in 2021 have never had to count on the police to solve the murder of their child. My family and I have. I'm incredibly grateful for their hard work and dedication, and equally frustrated that some legislators are still standing by the law that got my daughter killed.

My 12-year-old daughter, Immaculee,

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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P: 425-931-1374 | Website: Lynnwoodtimes.com | Subscription: \$72/Year
(Mail Checks Payable to Lynnwood Times at above address)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

Calls for Binda to resign, Council echoes residents' concerns

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD, March 28—Resident after resident approached the podium at Monday's city council meeting requesting that Councilmember Josh Binda resign following sexually suggestive pictures of him discovered on his political Instagram account, cmjoshbinda, to promote his "Love Conquers All" tour to middle and high school students.

"Is sexual marketing to inspire kids as a city councilman acceptable to this chamber?" eight-year Lynnwood resident Diodato Boucsiequez asked during public comments at Monday's business meeting.

He added, "It is evident that this and other documented behavior by this councilmember neither represent the best of this chamber nor of our city. I call on Councilmember Joshua Binda to resign and for this council to take immediate action."

Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby was unable to attend the Business Meeting as she was officially representing Lynnwood at the National League of the Cities in Washington, D.C.

Binda, who considers himself a "transformative leader" of his generation, was found guilty in January of two separate PDC violations—using thousands of dollars of campaign funds for personal use and for filing a post-election report 280 days late—for which a \$1,000 fine was imposed. He is currently under an ethics investigation by the City of Lynnwood for recording a promotional video for his "Love Conquers All" Tour at the city council chambers and for which he received compensation for several public speaking events at local schools totaling approximately \$14,000, according to the Everett Herald.

During the meeting it was revealed that Councilman Binda's building access has been revoked, and his city council email is currently suspended for failing to complete required training earlier this year.

"I think it is important for you [the public] to know that currently, Councilman Binda, doesn't have access to the building because he had a security violation and also, he doesn't have access to his city email; also because of a security violation," Council President Shannon Session said. "Both of these can be resolved with the training he needs to take which was offered to him and the rest of the council which the rest of the council did; the only person who didn't on both of those things is Councilmember Binda."

With a heavy heart, Sessions shared that the city isn't taking the actions, or lack thereof, by Councilman Binda lightly and that he has ignored their attempts and that of members of the community to work with him.

"It is important to state that this council's leadership, the last council's leadership, the mayor, the mayor's office, and many other mentors in the community have tried to teach him, to advise him, to warn him, and all of those



Snapshot of the controversial posting from Lynnwood City Councilman Joshua Binda's political campaign Instagram account on March 21, 2023, for which residents are requesting him to resign.



Snapshot of the second controversial posting in question from Lynnwood City Councilman Joshua Binda political campaign Instagram account on March 21, 2023, for which residents are requesting him to resign. This picture is now no longer in the post which may constitute a violation of the Public Records Act.

things have gone ignored," Council President Sessions disclosed to the public.

All councilmembers echoed the concerns of roughly a half a dozen residents of whom wore "Resign Binda Now!" t-shirts.

"Even though it is really hard, I have to agree with everybody, I have to agree," distinguished NAACP award recipient and Councilwoman Shirley Sutton

said. "My mom didn't teach me this, and I know she is rolling over in her grave."

Councilman Binda denied that he directed anyone to tattoo their body with his name and for his defense said, "it's a generational thing" that is being "misinterpreted."

"I fully am a positive role model to youth and continue doing work being a positive role model," Binda said. "I

think it is easy to sexualize something that was not meant to be sexual at all... So, if anyone misinterpreted or took it in that way that is a complete misinterpretation of anything I am doing or would do at all."

The original post on Sunday, March 19, shows three pictures—one of 23-year-old Councilman Binda shirtless in a what residents are calling a "sexually

Lynnwood residents tour Acadia's opioid treatment center

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Acadia Healthcare's Lynnwood Comprehensive Treatment Center on 196th Street in Lynnwood hosted an open house to the public at 3 p.m. on Monday, February 20, in which residents left feeling more knowledgeable and comfortable with the opioid treatment center's daily operations.

No audio or video recording allowed, only still pictures. Nicole Smith-Mathews, Director of Washington Sites for Acadia Healthcare conducted the facility tour and was joined by Dan Hymus, Regional Vice President, and Medical Director Dr. Gregory Parada. The center is open Mon-Fri 5-11:30 a.m., Saturday 6:30-11:30 a.m. and closed Sunday.

At Acadia's Alderwood opioid treatment program, all patients are voluntarily admitted—none are court-ordered. According to Director Smith-Mathews, the center sees 140-180 patients a day but has a maximum capacity of 340 patients. The max at the 5 a.m. time slot, one of their busiest, is 10-15 patients.

When a patient enters the facility, s/he must check-in with their unique ID number. Upon checking in, a green or yellow light on the screen signifies that a patient is cleared to see a nurse, while a blue light indicates a potential billing issue that would require speaking with a receptionist prior to treatment.

The Alderwood staff consists of four counselors, a clinical supervisor (overseeing the reception area), three nurses, two receptionists, one doctor, and one physician's assistant.

During the tour, Smith-Mathews showed that there is a check-in area

and four dispensary booths with a glass window separating the nurse from the patient. A typical transaction takes about 1-2 minutes from check-in to methadone treatment. A single day's dose is one pill.

Patients are prescribed the methadone and can only receive prescriptions at Acadia by the clinic's doctor. The center accepts Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and some self-pay. Potential patients are interviewed by an Acadia medical professional to prescribe the best treatment path for them.

To prevent patients selling or otherwise distributing the drug prescription, many diversion policies are in place. For instance, they make patients take the treatment while in the window and talk with them afterwards.

Also, only patients who have met a stringent set of criteria are authorized to take home more than a single day's dose and are subject to random audits. For these patients, they are to come into the clinic within a 24-hour notice and present their medication, bottles, medication level. Specialists check that the medication is taken correctly and same-day random urine analyses are completed.

All of Acadia's clinics have resource binders complete with community resources for wellbeing. All patients are required to do counseling, with individual sessions lasting anywhere from 16 minutes to an hour.

One core community concern about the center is its proximity to the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club and the Alderwood Little League field.

Regional Vice President Hymus says the center meets with the Boys and Girls Club frequently and is paying for

the Club's upgraded security system. The center's two-man security team checks in with the club daily to address security concerns. At a Public Safety Forum hosted by Council Councilman Strom Peterson on March 4, it was shared by law enforcement that there have been no calls nor incidents to the facility.

"Patients either go home, to work or about their day", Hymus said.

Acadia provided security checks on the grounds regularly for loiterers. One guard stays inside, the other patrols the grounds. Smith-Mathews says that she reads their security reports at the beginning of and at the end of the day.

It's a high bar to get into the Center's program and requires much dedication from patients. Hymus said each plan is individualized for the patient.

"Some have to come in and dose daily," Hymus said. "It can be very successful for them if they work hard at it."

Hymus, a 17-year mental health professional, noted that patients that are on the program from 2-3 years have the highest chance of success, with an 80% rate. Patients require a stable dose and when they have that, then they can focus on changing the rest of their life. From changing friends to where they live, it takes time to develop a healthy support system to change one's life.

Some patients are on the program from 6 months to 15 years. Every patient is different; some have been on opiates for 15-20 years and abuse over time has had such an effect on their body that they may have to stay on it for life, Hymus shared.

Hymus shared that Acadia actively tries to avoid placing their opioid treatment

clinics around schools, residential areas, and daycares but are limited to the available real estate. Lynnwood City Councilwoman Shannon Sessions noted that the problem lies with the Washington State Department of Health and that legislation would have to change.

Medical Director Dr. Parada, a 15-year addiction specialist, shared that Acadia mostly uses methadone, but a handful of patients use suboxone, naltrexone, and vivitrol.

A patient's first day is a three-five-hour long process because they must meet with a medical provider to conduct a full medical evaluation, a nurse's assessment, a full counseling assessment conducted by a chemical dependency professional to determine which is the best treatment for their addiction.

For the first two weeks, patients meet with nurses every day ensuring that they're not on too much or too little treatment and meet with a counselor regularly.

Dr. Parada said that the doses patients receive are low amounts of methadone that don't cause a high or euphoric effects, so patients can go out and enjoy life with their family. He said the factors to determine what dosage a patient needs when they first come in are symptom suppression, function, and ensuring that they are at a dosage level that prevents them from using again.

"I have a lot of patients who tell me pretty much every day that this has changed their life," Dr. Parada said. "They've tried other programs and detox but they didn't work; then they come here and it works for them."

Lynnwood Elks donate to Support 7 to assist trauma victims

By SUPPORT 7 PRESS RELEASE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood Elks Lodge #2171 recently donated \$4,000 to Support 7 allowing the non-profit to continue serving South Snohomish County communities in crisis, and first responders, in-person, on-the-scene during an emergency.

Since 1981, Support 7 has been serving the South Snohomish County community and its fire and police agencies by providing a private gathering place for victims and survivors at on-scene events. A compassionate team of highly trained volunteers provides support to victims and survivors of trauma and crisis in their darkest moments 24/7/365.

Support 7 is made up of specially trained volunteers who each year serve hundreds of local families in their darkest moments. This team responds alongside local police and fire first responders to local events such as fires, natural disasters, search and rescue operations, death by suicide, homicide and other crimes. They devote hundreds of hours to assist our first responders to care more effectively for a victim's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs at times of significant incidents of trauma. Support 7 is a 501(c)(3)



Some of the Support 7 Volunteers gather around three Elks' members as they recently came to a Support 7 Team training to donate a check to the 501c3 Non-Profit. SOURCE: Support 7.

non-profit organization and operates solely by the financial gifts of generous individuals, businesses, churches, and private organizations. The Support 7 team is most grateful for all those who provide continued support to this essential non-profit organization.

The Support 7 Emergency Response Vehicle on scene at an emergency incident in South Snohomish County.

SOURCE: Support 7.

If you would like to contribute to this heart mission, donations to "Support 7" can be sent to PO Box 2604 Lynnwood, WA 98036, or online at www.support7.org or to PayPal, email bookkeepericm@gmail.com for details.

You may follow them at "Support 7" on Facebook and Instagram.



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Lynnwood City Council Chambers host Ms. Bromley's fifth grade class from Hazelwood Elementary School



Barbara Bromley's fifth-grade class from Hazelwood Elementary at Lynnwood City Hall for a "show and tell" on Friday, March 24, 2023. Lynnwood City Government.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Council Chambers had a blast hosting Barbara Bromley's fifth-grade class from Hazelwood Elementary Friday, March 24, presenting a "show and tell" about the work of several City departments including the Municipal Court, City Council, Development Business Services, Public Works, and the Lynnwood Police Department.

The class also picked and sketched a portrait of the City's City Council members and Mayor Christine Frizzell that are still on display outside council chambers at City Hall.

"Ms. Bromley is teaching her class about civics and I've been to her classroom and talked about what it takes to be a Mayor, they actually had their own election and they had a number of speeches and later elected their Mayor," Mayor Frizzell addressed during her comments section in Monday's City Council meeting. "It was just great to have them here."

Also in attendance were Council President Shannon Sessions and Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby.



Legislation requiring a Statement of Student Rights advances

By ALEXANDRIA OSBORNE, WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

OLYMPIA—Public schools must adopt a "Statement of Student Rights," that includes freedom of speech and religion, the right to assemble, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness under proposed legislation that has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Engrossed House Bill 1478, sponsored by Rep. Joe Timmons, D-Bellingham, passed the Washington State House on March 2 with a 61-35 vote.

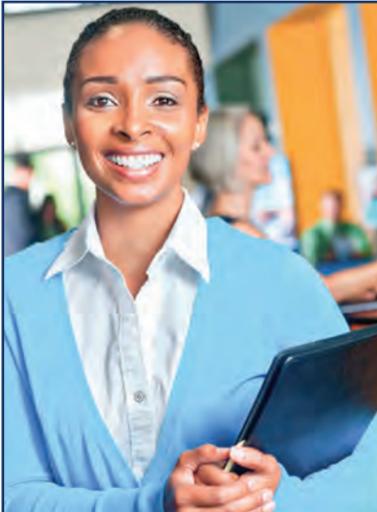
"By having a consolidated statement of student rights that are available to students and by having that statement incorporated into civics education in K-12 schools, my hope is that this will create lifelong learners in our democracy," Timmons said. The statement would provide examples

of student rights from federal and state constitutions and statutes but is not intended to be a comprehensive description of student rights and the way they are obtained.

Every school district would be required to develop educational and promotional materials that would incorporate the statement, with a link to the statement on school websites, social media platforms and other communication forms used by students.

The materials would also be required to be incorporated into the education curriculum in a mandatory half credit civics course.

Timmons said he is passionate about civics education and found that passion and the importance of it in schools when he worked at Western Washington University for the Monroe Institute for Civic Education.



LYNNWOOD REGIONAL

JOB FAIR

April 11 - 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Lynnwood Event Center

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LynnwoodJobs.Eventbrite.com



FREE TO ATTEND







Lynnwood Times' Women's History Month Tribute

By **GEORGE FTIKAS, JR.**

Unemployment hit a 54-year low of 3.4% in January, with the job market recovering from the pandemic. Women have actually outpaced men in joining the workforce for four months straight, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The pandemic particularly impacted female-dominated fields, as U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that the number of women in the workforce dropped to 56.2% in 2020 — the lowest percentage since 1987. While many women are returning to these fields in this post-pandemic era, especially with the expansion of remote work, many are looking for a change of pace.

In honor of Women's History Month, the Lynnwood Times wanted to highlight women working in a few "blue-collar" fields traditionally associated with men.

Hanna, Defenbaugh, Sapp, Arnett, and Smith may humbly downplay their role in normalizing their careers for women, but they are undoubtedly doing so. It is arguably just as important to tear down gender stereotypes at all levels, as it is to "break the glass ceiling" for seats of power in government and company boards.

Something highlighted by all of these women is the importance of personal fulfillment in their respective careers. A mindset that, regardless of gender, is important to foster.

SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE (SRFR)

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue celebrates our female firefighters this month. We have many hard-working female firefighters on our team. They go above and beyond and are leaders in our organization. This leadership is exemplified in day-to-day responses and in the positions they hold. One is a Medical Services Officer. Four are Firefighter/Paramedics, and one is on the Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue Honor Guard. We are also excited to have four female firefighter recruits in our current fire academy! We appreciate all that these women do to serve our communities and look forward to welcoming more females into the fire service in the future!

Jessica Hanna has been a firefighter with SRFR for 7 years.

"The opportunities in emergency services are endless," Hanna said. "Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue will train you in structural firefighting at the academy, wildland firefighting, as a rescue swimmer, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, paramedic school — you name it. It's an amazing organization that allows you to learn and grow."

Hanna wanted to be a firefighter since kindergarten, after North Bend firefighters came to her school with a trailer designed to teach children how to escape a fire. When it was her turn, she was fascinated with the "fake" smoke and stayed inside, watching it until one of the firefighters came to find her.

Hanna is now also an instructor at the



Firefighter Jessica Hanna hiking with her dog, Siren.

Everett Community College's Fire Science program, the Fire Academy in North Bend, and Camp Blaze — an organization that recruits women into emergency services. Participants at Camp Blaze range in age from 14-18 and spend 10 days learning the fundamentals of firefighting.

"The culture of the fire service is changing. Women are proving their physical abilities through programs like Crossfit and weight training," Hanna said. "It's also important to have women responding to calls because we can relate better to female patients in difficult situations."

Lisa Defenbaugh is a lieutenant with SRFR and has worked in fire service for 22 years.



Lieutenant Lisa Defenbaugh (left) discussing what to do in a heart emergency.

"I chose this field for multiple reasons," Defenbaugh said. "I enjoy taking care of people and being on a team that offers a physical challenge and adventure. I also like never knowing what my day will look like, so this prevents me from ever getting bored."

Defenbaugh's motivations for entering the field are still what she enjoys about fire rescue.

"There are multiple areas of the job I love, and most of them are the exact

same reason that I chose the field," Defenbaugh said. "The best and most unexpected aspect along the way has been how much better you can make someone's day."

Defenbaugh also had words for other women thinking about a career in emergency rescue.

"If you think this job is for you, don't let anyone stop you. There has never been a better time for a female to become a firefighter," Defenbaugh said.

LYNNWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Lynnwood Police Department has over 100 employees and is a full-service law enforcement agency. Its mission is "to provide proactive, competent, effective public safety services to all persons, with the highest regard for human dignity through efficient and professional law enforcement and crime prevention practices."

Jacqueline Arnett is a detective with Lynnwood PD. She has spent 15 years as an officer — 12 years as a persons crimes/sex crimes detective.



Detective Arnett speaking to a Spanish class.

"I wanted to help people and was attracted to a career with many different job assignment opportunities within one department," Arnett said. "I love working with my victims. Supporting them through the reporting processes,

referring them to our community partners for additional resources, and cheering them on as they move forward and heal."

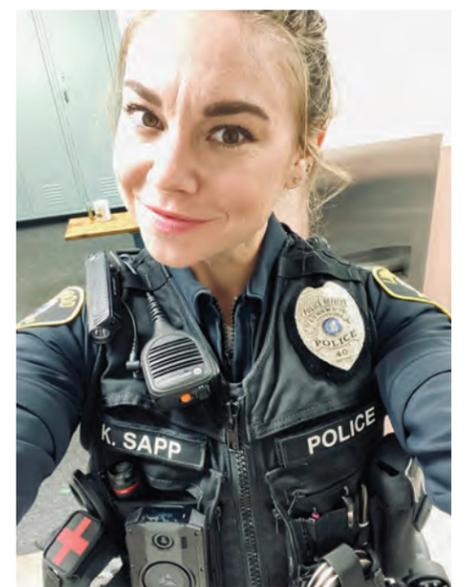
Arnett embarrassingly admitted that her decision to enter law enforcement was influenced by "Law & Order: SVU" in a Lynnwood PD YouTube video.

"I don't want other people to rely on that — that that's the inspiration for this, because it's like the worst thing you can watch to get any realistic view on law enforcement," Arnett said in the video. "This is not an easy career. Your victims will not always love you. Your suspects are not going to love you or appreciate what you're doing. The public may not always appreciate it — certain members of it — but you have to remember that's a small voice, even though it's the loudest voice. If you are going to make a career out of this, if you're going to do this kind of work for 30-something years, it has to be a calling."

Despite the challenges, Arnett highlights the ability to help others as a detective.

"This is a great job for women who want to have a tangible, positive impact on the lives of other women," Arnett said.

Kéleigh Sapp has been a police officer with Lynnwood PD since September 2022.



Police Officer Kéleigh Sapp.

"A few of my favorite parts of being a police officer is being able to use my skills to help others, especially victims of violent crimes, and provide resources for people seeking a better, healthier life," Sapp said. "As a police officer, we have the honor and duty to provide services for the people we interact with on a daily basis. Being a cop is definitely not an easy job or for the faint of heart, but it's a privilege [not] many would understand. I love that two days are never the same and I work with some of the most amazing individuals who inspire me to be a better cop every day!"

Sapp was a midwife for 5 years and stated her reasons for entering law enforcement were similar to being a midwife.

"I value being a person in my community who people can trust and feel safe around," Sapp said. "I have always been drawn towards jobs that are centered around having

compassion, maintaining patience, advocating for what's right and seeking justice for victims. I knew it would be a job I could continue to grow in and challenge myself with new opportunities."

When asked about advice she would give women considering law enforcement as a career, Sapp replied:

"To be honest, I've never looked at myself as a female officer. I've only seen myself as a police officer with the ability and capacity to do the same work as my male partners," Sapp said. "That said, there are so many opportunities I come across on a daily basis — whether working with victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, women who are homeless or need feminine hygiene products — where I can make a huge difference in someone's life because I am a female officer."

"At times, it is a challenge to garner the same command presence and respect when dealing with certain individuals, but you have to maintain your integrity, raise your voice and own your space. The other day I had a mom approach me with her young daughter and tell me her daughter had never seen a female police officer until then and how special that was for her. That far outweighs any challenge I might encounter as a female officer!"

Lynnwood Police Department is looking for a diverse range of applicants:

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in your community while being part of a profession with integrity and purpose? Lynnwood

Police Department is looking to hire Custody and Police Officers. Come join the team as the department is preparing to open a brand-new facility designed to be the model in criminal justice rehabilitation.

To qualify for hire you must be a US citizen, have a high school diploma and be at least 20 and-a-half years old. Competitive salaries and signing bonuses for both new and lateral officers are offered. Bonuses range from 5K-25K depending on experience and great benefits are offered as well.

Candidates can apply here; <https://www.publicsafetytesting.com/departments/lynnwood-2/confinement-officer-2>.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT (PUD)

Snohomish County PUD (SnoPD) is a municipal corporation of the state of Washington that provides electric and/or water utility service. Headquartered in Everett, SnoPUD serves approximately 367,000 customers making it the second largest publicly owned utility in the Pacific Northwest and the 12th largest in the nation. The Jackson Hydro Project, Woods Creek Hydro Project, Youngs Creek Hydro Project, Calligan Hydro Project, and Hancock Hydro Project generate 132 megawatts (MW) of electricity per year providing cheap and clean energy to Snohomish County.

Kim Smith is a PUD Meterman with Snohomish PUD.

"The variety of tasks, plus mental and physical challenges make this the ideal career," Smith said. "All the trades

are members of the I.B.E.W. and — whether male or female — receive equal pay. That is important to me."

Smith started as a customer service representative (CSR) with PUD in 2000.

"One of the functions of a field CSR is to go out and disconnect/reconnect meters," Smith said. "I enjoyed the independence and physicality of the job, so when apprenticeships opened up for Metermen, I applied."

Smith began her apprenticeship in 2006 and had to complete over 6000 hours of training. Three years later, she took her journeymen test and passed in 2009.

"Before working at the district, I hadn't given much thought to electricity

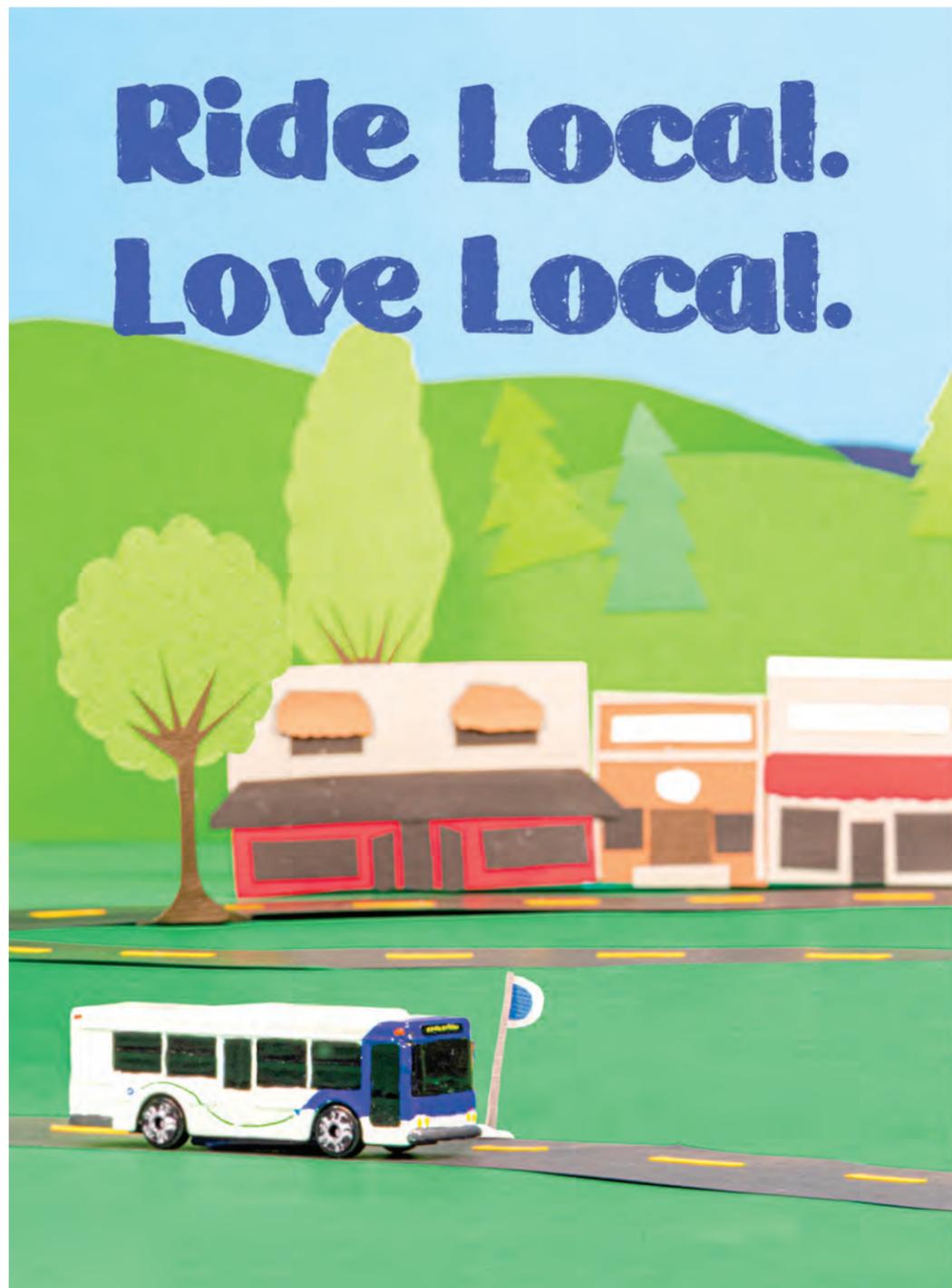
or how it worked. During my stint as a field CSR, I became intrigued with electric meters and electricity in general," Smith said. "It's fascinating! Measuring electricity accurately is vital to our customers and the District, and I'm so grateful to do it."

Smith also had advice for any women considering work in public utilities.

"If they have a passion for all things electricity, and a strong desire to succeed, then by all means, go for it! It's not for the faint of heart. It requires a lot of mental toughness and it's a big commitment. It becomes almost the sole focus in your life for 3+ years. It's probably the biggest and most important thing I've accomplished in my life, and have no regrets!" Smith said.



Kim Smith of Snohomish County PUD.



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Public invited to the annual Spring Clean event at Heritage Park



Volunteers will spruce up Interurban Car No.55, the Wickers Building grounds, the Humble House and Superintendent's Cottage. There will be opportunities to help with weeding, barking and hauling with additional volunteer opportunities cleaning windows, floors and mopping and dusting.

Help us make this historic site shine on April 5, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Heritage Park, 19921 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, 98036. All materials will be provided.

To register to volunteer please complete the Heritage Park Spring Clean Volunteer Form by visiting: <https://bit.ly/3lSh92F/>

Cops for Inclusion Event

This free event is on Saturday, April 15th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is designed exclusively for children and families with children on the Autism Spectrum. We know that often people with ASD utilize 911 and emergency services, and we want to make you and your loved ones feel safe around police officers before you see us in the event of an emergency. Our goal is to host an event that allows us to interact with you in a sensory-inclusive environment while having fun and getting to know each other.

How it will work: we will set up different stations for your families to rotate through. Inside, you'll learn about pedestrian safety, fingerprinting, our police robot, and what's on our vests. Outside, you'll meet our K9 Officer and his partner (from a distance), see what's inside our patrol vehicles, and watch our drone in action. You will register for an hour block of time, and your time at each station will be approximately ten minutes. Your child will be given a goody bag at the event's start and will collect items at each station to take home at the end of the day.

There will also be several informational tables for parents! A SNO911 dispatcher with two children on the Autism Spectrum will be providing information and helping interested families sign-up for Smart911. A Lynnwood patrol officer will be available to answer questions about our response to your calls for service.

We are working with licensed behavioral health professionals to create an environment where your family feels safe and welcome.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3G4ibzr>

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Free Rec Swim after the event for Participants

Some of the fun and interactive activities will include boating safety, river safety, CPR, victim recognition & simple rescue techniques, cold water safety, and more.

LYNNWOOD WASHINGTON
A great deal more

Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby advocates for Lynnwood in Washington, D.C.



Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) with Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby in Washington, D.C. City of Lynnwood.

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby attended the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C. this week officially representing the City of Lynnwood. While there, she had the opportunity to have advocacy meetings with Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02), as well as staff members from Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington). Dr. Altamirano-Crosby was joined by Lynnwood's federal lobbyist, Summit Strategies, during these meetings.

Vice President Dr. Altamirano-Crosby will brief the council on the details of her trip during the April 10, 2023, Work Session meeting.

An exclusive interview with freshman Rep Sam Low

By KIENAN BRISCOE

OLYMPIA—The 39th Legislative District Representative Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens) is having a productive legislative session his freshman year with sponsoring seven bills, and co-sponsoring more than 40, all while serving on the Snohomish County Council and sitting on four House committees.

Representative Low was emcee at the Boys & Girls Clubs' 2023 State Youth of the Year breakfast at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, March 22.

Despite a busy schedule, Low hasn't missed a vote on the Snohomish County Council nor in Olympia this year. The workload is more than manageable, he told the Lynnwood Times in an interview last week, believing he was ready for the state legislature on day one.

Out of Representative Low's seven bills, four have already passed the House. One of these, HR-4618, a resolution bill honoring individuals with Turner Syndrome—a chromosomal condition that alters development in women.

In each of his bills, the co-sponsor is a Democrat except the bill dealing with organ transport vehicles (HB-1271) because he wanted to include seatmate Rep. Carolyn Eslick as a co-sponsor. This bill overwhelmingly passed the House on March 3 with 95 yeas, no nays, and 3 excused. It is not in the Senate Rules Committee.

Being a Republican in a Democrat-led House and gaining bipartisan support on a number of his bills, comes down to building trust and cooperation across the aisle, Low added.

"It takes a lot of work and cooperation to get a bill across the finish line – it truly does," said Low. "It takes a lot of work to even get bills heard in committee."

Other bills of Low that have passed the House and now in the Senate are: HB1031, which makes it easier to be honored with a medal of valor and is co-sponsored by Rep. Cindy Ryu of Lynnwood, HB-1504 and ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient recess time and is co-sponsored by Rep. Emily Alvarado of West Seattle.

One of Low's bills, HB-1096—dealing with amateur sports officials—was



Rep. Sam Low during the floor debate on House Bill 1271 that would allow organ transport vehicles to use red lights and sirens like other emergency vehicles when transporting a time-sensitive, life-saving organ.

unable to receive a hearing despite it gaining broad bipartisan support which Rep. Low told the Lynnwood Times, "Is just the nature of legislation sometimes."

Another bill, HB-1442, defining synthetic media in campaigns for elective office, passed out of committee but did not gain a hearing in the House since a companion bill in the Senate was chosen that became the model, with it being amended to include some of Low's bill's language.

"This is one that's going to be on the rise now that technology is getting so good and we're not going to be able to tell the difference between a real recording of somebody and an artificial intelligence

recording of somebody" said Low. "People are going to be able to do that in campaigns, with synthetic media, and make opponents say things they really didn't say."

In addition to the bills that Rep. Low was the primary sponsor, he co-sponsored 43 others including HB-1668, concerning restitution for surviving minor children of deceased victims of vehicular homicide, which he worked extensively with Rep. Brandy Donaghy of Snohomish; and HB-1352, authorizing tribal investment in county investment pools, in which he co-sponsored with Rep. Chris Stearns of Auburn.

While Low contrast that choosing a

single bill as his favorite is similar to choosing a favorite child, if he had to pick one, it would be HB-1271 regarding organ transport because it will "save lives."

The bills Low has co-sponsored range from transportation to veteran's rights and education to public safety. All of which he shared are "big issues" in the 39th Legislative District. While transportation deals with mostly projects and budgeting, public safety comes down to policy that, in turn, protects the people, he said.

"Transportation and Public Safety are my big issues but that doesn't mean I can't work on a wide variety of other things too," said Low.

Having served on both the Lake Stevens City Council, and the Snohomish County Council, for several years, Low felt more than prepared to take upon his newly elected House seat. The biggest difference, he said, is having to secure more votes to put policy in place.

"At the state level you have to get the majority of the house, and then you have to get the majority of the Senate, and then get the Governor to agree with you," Representative Sam Low told the Lynnwood Times. So, you basically, you gotta learn to count to 76 to get it all passed."

While Low still sits on the Snohomish County Council he said the two positions "mesh really well together," in terms of scheduling, never missing a vote on either the state or county level.

A typical day for Representative Low, down in Olympia, begins with meetings beginning at 8 a.m.; however, he typically arrives at the office well before then to address emails and reply to constituents. He sits on the House Transportation Committee as assistant Ranking Member, Housing Committee, State Government and Tribal Relations, and the Rules Committee.

Sam Low and his wife, Mariah, live in Lake Stevens and have five adult children – Meghan, Caleb, Mercedes, Seth, and Vaden. He is also active with both Skagit County and Snohomish County communities in the Boys & Girls Club and also with the Lake Stevens Rotary Club where he served as President in 2016 and 2017.

from page 1 **PAINE FIELD**

of which aircraft is 8% of this sector. Since the 1950s, today's aircraft are over 80% more fuel efficient consuming an average of 3.5 liters per passenger per 100 km with the Boeing 787 consuming less than 3 liters per 100 passenger km.

SAF's are a biofuel with similar properties and safety requirements as conventional jet fuel used in aircraft but with a smaller carbon footprint. These certified "Jet-A1" fuels are made by blending conventional kerosene (fossil-based) with renewable hydrocarbon. Currently, SAFs are used as a "drop-in" replacement to conventional petroleum-based jet fuel that when combined called a blend. The mini-

mal acceptance blend is 10% SAF top a high of 50%. The goal is a certified 100% replacement blend of SAF to conventional jet fuel.

A huge benefit to SAFs than alternative green aviation solutions such as electric and hydrogen powered aircraft fleets is the minimal disruption to implement into existing infrastructure. It is cost beneficial to ensure that manufacturers do not have to redesign engines nor aircraft, and that fuel suppliers and airports do not have to build new fuel delivery systems.

The R&D Center is made possible through a partnership with Washington State University (WSU) and will be the world's first-ever SAF repository of its type for advancing sustainable aviation

fuel technologies and serve the global needs for reference samples to support research, the county says. The Center will also be the only facility to collect, sample, and distribute SAF at a scale needed for widespread use in the largest aircrafts.

The announcement came at a press conference held in front of Paine Field's Propellor Airports building Tuesday, March 28, featuring Snohomish County Executive Dave Sommers, Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo), who also chairs the State Senate Transportation Committee, Director of the WSU Bioproducts, Sciences, and Engineering Lab Dr. Josh Heyne, and Aerospace Futures Alliance (AFA) President and Chief Executive Officer Emily Wittman as speakers.

Following the presser, WSU Graduate student Harrison Yang then demonstrated how SAF is significantly "greener" than conventional jet fuel through a series of tests showing the degree of carbon buildup on beakers.

Snohomish County's Paine Field Airport, a major hub of aviation and aerospace in the region, supports over 158,000 jobs and generates nearly \$60 billion annually for the economy, Executive Sommers said Tuesday. However, the continued success of commercial aviation depends on addressing the industry's carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change he added.

Continued **PAGE 10 >>**

Bipartisan support at Senate committee for rail safety

By GEORGE FTIKAS, JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At Marysville's Beef Jerky Experience, located on the Tulalip Indian Reservation, there's something for every carnivore whether they're well-seasoned in the beef jerky world or newly tapped in, from different textures, to different flavors, to even exotic, hard-to-come by meats.

Norfolk Southern Railway CEO Alan Shaw testified in front of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on rail safety after derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The March 22 hearing not only focused on East Palestine, but on rail safety in general.

"These derailments have occurred during a concerning trend. That is, we can't have railroads adopt operating models focused on just cutting costs to achieve higher profits and then have higher accident rates," Committee Chair Maria Cantwell said at the hearing. "We need to invest in the modernization of equipment that will provide the safety we need."

Cantwell attributed this trend to cuts made by the rail industry.

"From 2017 to 2021, railroads cut their workforce by 22% and reduced investment in the network by 24%. And at the same time, accident rates increased by 14%," Cantwell said.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Jennifer Homendy spoke critically of the derailment.

"The bottom line is there are no accidents," Homendy said. "This derailment, as all accidents we investigate, was 100% preventable."

After being questioned by Senator Amy Klobuchar, Shaw stated he supported "many provisions" of the bipartisan Railway Safety Act of 2023, but would not fully endorse the bill. Some measures in the bill — sponsored by both senators from Ohio, Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown and Republican Senator J.D. Vance — would increase



Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) questioning a panelist at the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation regarding the major derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, on March 22, 2023.

safety requirements for trains carrying hazardous materials, increase fines for violations, require two-person crews, increase the frequency of inspections and ensure rail companies support emergency response organizations.

"I think everyone here is concerned about enhancing safety standards to minimize the risk of derailments and I think there is bipartisan interest in moving rail safety legislation. I think we're going to be successful in doing that," Senator Ted Cruz said.

The hearing occurred not even a week after two BNSF derailments in Washington and western Arizona on the 16th.

"This hearing is not only about the East Palestine derailment," Cantwell said. "Less than a week ago, a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed in my home state of Washington, on the

Swinomish Reservation in Skagit County, spilling 5000 gallons of diesel near the Padilla Bay waterfront, a very sensitive aquatic ecosystem. These are important issues for all of America and we look forward to working in a bipartisan basis on this problem."

According to information from Cantwell's team, roughly 44 million tons of hazardous materials are transported by rail in Washington each year. On top of this, over 75% of fire departments in the state are partially or entirely volunteer run, with only 14% having specialized hazardous materials teams — something the Rail Safety Act aims to address.

The East Palestine derailment brought some to criticize the Trump administration for rolling back Obama-era regulations that would have required electronically controlled pneumatic (ECP) brakes on all "high

hazard" trains. Opinions differ on the ECP brakes themselves, but many industry experts consider the brakes superior to the older compressed air brakes commonly used.

A Washington Post Fact Checker report disagrees, concluding the regulations likely would not have prevented the derailment in East Palestine. The largest factor of this conclusion came from an opinion from NTSB Chair Homendy, who wrote on Twitter that the East Palestine train was a "mixed freight train" and not a "high hazard flammable train," meaning it would have been excluded from the Obama-era regulations.

Some have argued that if the regulations had gone into effect, the rail industry may have widely adopted the change in braking systems. This, however, is all speculation, but should be taken into account for any future regulation.

from page 9 **PAINE FIELD**

In Snohomish County, aviation is estimated to have accounted for 5% of Snohomish County's total community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, which represents a 23% increase from 2015 levels, according to the county.

Paine Field was determined to be the ideal location for the upcoming SAF R&D Center due to its proximity to the production of medium and long-haul aircraft—planes that seat at least 100 passengers and fly at least 150 minutes. These aircraft make up 73% of carbon emissions in commercial aviation.

The facility will conclude its preliminary designs this year, rolling out operations in a temporary facility by the end of April, and commence construction sometime in 2024. Start-up funding comes from a Senator Marko Liias-backed \$6.5 million proviso proposed in the upcoming State Senate Transportation Budget, which officially publishes tomorrow morning.

The county has been working with Sen. Liias on this project since late last fall,

Snohomish County Councilwoman Stephanie Wright told the Lynnwood Times, and the county is currently in the works of pursuing additional funding from the federal government.

"The promise of sustainable aviation fuel is not just to create great jobs and sustainability for our aerospace sector into the future but it's also to ensure that the neighbors of facilities like this can breathe clean air while we continue to operate our economy," said Sen. Liias.

Last year Sen. Liias led the effort in passing the State's \$16 billion Move Ahead Washington Transportation package premised on decarbonizing Washington's transportation sector while growing the economy. That package included funding for sustainable aviation which aligns with the R&D's objectives.

Rep. Brandy Donaghy is sponsoring the proviso at the House level and County Executive's Office have been also working with U.S. Representatives Rick Larsen, who is the Ranking Member on the House Transportation



WSU Graduate student Harrison Yang showing the carbon intensity between traditional fossil-based jet fuel (left) and a 50% blend SAF (right) during a demonstration on March 28, 2023. The beaker on the left with traditional fossil-based jet fuel has more soot or carbon residue when burned than the SAF blend. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

and Infrastructure Committee, and U.S. Senators Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell for federal backing.

"I'm excited about the opportunity for Snohomish County to step forward as a leader in sustainable aviation fuel

development, with an eye towards a healthier future for all," said Rep. Brandy Donaghy in a prepared statement.

Continued **PAGE 11** >>

from page 3 **BINDA**

suggestive” pose, the other with the words, “Tattoo my name so I know its real,” and the third picture of a copy of his Josh Binda Speaks LLC business license. As of the date of our original article on March 21, his post had 665 likes.

In what may constitute a violation of the Public Records Act, the picture with the words, “Tattoo my name so I know its real,” has been removed from Councilman Binda’s original post. Councilman Binda as not responded to the Lynnwood Times’ request inquiring why this picture within his original post was removed sometime between March 21 and March 28.

Therefore, Councilman Binda lied to the public and his fellow councilmembers on Monday stating he did not tell youth to tattoo his name on their body.

“I sought office on the city council in order to help bring positive change to the community,” Councilman Patrick Decker said. “We cannot bring positive change to the community without the community’s support. We can’t really have broad community support unless

we have proper dignity and decorum for the office we hold.”

Councilman George Hurst agreed with Councilman Decker that, “as far as a council we do need to present ourselves in a certain manner.”

“I do believe councilman Binda has good intentions,” Councilman Hurst said. “In his heart he wants to affect the generation in middle and high school... I know that Councilman Binda’s intent is to be transformational but I think he needs to know that some of the things he does is not just generational, it is in fact defeating.”

Lynnwood resident Elizabeth Lunsford supports Councilman Binda’s approach to reach out and inspire youth.

“The problem isn’t with our skin, it is with those perceptions who fetishize and sexualize our body,” she said. “Our bodies are beautiful. Black Bodies are beautiful. And it is a shame to villainized and sexualize a young man who is inspiring our youth to have love conquer all.

Councilman Binda, who did not attend the meeting in person, was in Washing-

ton, D.C., for the National League of the Cities conference. It was disclosed during the meeting by council that Binda took it upon himself to attend the meeting without approval from the council.

In other council business, four of seven applicants were selected to be interviewed on April 17 to fill the vacancy left by Shawn Walker on the Public Facilities District (PFD), now called The District. The four finalist are: Vivian Dong, Nick Coelho, Angelina Armstrong, and Teresa Bitner.

from page 10 **PAINE FIELD**

With the R&D Center for SAF, the County and its partners hope to change the industrial landscape by leading the world in the development, distribution, and adoption of new technologies to reduce the economy’s dependence on carbon-based fuels. It plans to achieve this goal by testing SAF samples, investigating SAF production methods and its impacts on human health and the environment, and testing SAF samples large scale (by the thousands of gallons) needed to ensure safety and bring new fuels and products to the market.

As it stands SAF fuel costs two to ten times more (depending on waste-based sources or synthetic fuels using carbon capture) than conventional jet fuel, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This is largely due to smaller production runs and outdated technology. Josh Heyne, Director of the WSU Bioproducts, Sciences, and Engineering Lab, told the Lynnwood Times who was convinced that with newer technologies and increasing economies of scale SAF would become a more competitive option.

The Center at Paine Field will host a “bank” of SAF samples from commercial and experimental production methods from around the world. In effect the county says the repository will “do for SAF development what seed banks do for agricultural research.”

What we’re really hoping is to become a place where we can train new workers in this technology in both testing and using these fuels,” said County Executive Somers. “It’s kind of a seed for future jobs. We know the industry has to move to sustainable fuels and that can all happen here. So, this center will be a generator for future workers.”

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from page 1 **MUKILTEO ROBOTICS**

The competition will involve pitting together robots, both built and programmed by the students, in a gaming event called Spin Up—which involves launching flying disks into a goal while manipulating field elements in a fast-paced and exciting match.

“Modulo is a well-integrated team with good technical skills that has great spirit and enjoys what they are doing,” said Stiles. “The team is very focused on making yet another better version of their robot. They have the technical knowledge and just need to manage the integration of the physical robot and the software they have written.”

Stiles has been coaching High School Robotics for six years. Each week 24 Mukilteo high schoolers met in an unsuspecting place—Electroimpact, a machine manufacturer in Mukilteo that specializes in aerospace automation—to develop their creative skills on homemade robots.

What began as a fun project to do with both his son and his son’s friends, eventually evolved into hosting a club that meets at Electroimpact each Thursday and Saturday evening.

Stiles attempts to have a hands-off approach with his students, whenever possible, creating a fine balance between letting the team run on their own while providing guidance when needed. This includes managing their time, writing schedules, and learning the value of time management for extensive practice.

The two high schools that comprise Mukilteo Robotics, Mariner High School and Kamiak High School, simply didn’t have the capacity to host a robotics club that could support a competitive schedule, Stiles told the Lynnwood Times. Mariner High School retired its robotics program three years ago and Kamiak’s existing robotics program met only one hour a week.

Competitor and Club President, Mariner High School Senior Sean Clough, found the space at Electroimpact in an effort to secure funding for the club in 2021. While door knocking with a handful of informational fliers he stumbled upon the company. Peter Zieve, Founder and CEO of Electroimpact, not only agreed to sponsor the club with an initial \$3,000 donation, but provided the office space for students to meet and practice.

Since then, Electroimpact has donated \$70,000 to local robotics clubs within the last year, with its most recent donation going to Mukilteo Robotics in the amount of \$5,000.

“That kid [Clough] is amazing; that kid is going to go far,” Peter Zieve, CEO of Electroimpact, told the Lynnwood Times referring to Clough.

Clough’s interest in robots stemmed from an interest in Lego robotics in

elementary school. He joined the robotics club at Mariner High School but when it was forced to shut down, he took the initiative to start his own club, as at the time, the closest competitive robotics teams were in Lake Stevens and Redmond, respectively.

In addition to Clough, six other Mukilteo School District students make up Team Modulo including: Long, Wanhao, Oliver, Vincent, Derek, and Scott (last names redacted). Each team is carefully selected by students of similar age so that they can form relationships that they can build on in the future, Stiles informed the Lynnwood Times.

Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine shared with the Lynnwood Times his appreciation to both Clough and Stiles for their dedication to STEM and finding a way to keep youth engaged in career paths of the future.

“Mukilteo Robotics is opening doors of possibilities for students of both Kamiak and Mariner in STEM fields,” Marine said. “I am proud for these students who will represent the best of our community in Dallas.”

Even with the generous donations of Electroimpact, a consistent challenge Coach Stiles has witnessed over the years is securing funding to keep the activity free for students. A trip to the world championships, for example, runs approximately \$10,500 per team, half of which the club has secured through donations. The club is continuing to utilize social media as an outreach tool to secure the remaining funds for World Championship this April.

“We need to figure out how to keep our organization funded so that money is not an issue and at the right size so we are effective for the interested students,” said Stiles. “I hope students walk away with better insight and skills in areas that can help them make a better future for themselves and others. If they also learn the value of volunteering to help other people, that would be an added benefit.”

Success for Stiles is exposing students to STEM concepts and letting them explore their interests all while integrating different types of personalities. Having students spend hours together while not staring at phones or computers along with winning matches and/or competitions is all an added bonus, he said.

from page 2 **PURSUIITS**

was walking home one day when she and her friend Kathleen were struck by a stolen landscaping truck. Immaculee died instantly and Kathleen was left for dead but survived. The man who hit them should have been in jail for previous offenses but had been allowed to drive off multiple times in just a span of a few weeks because of this law. The police had him, but they had to let him go.

Supporters of the no-pursuit law say it was passed in the name of “safety.” Some supporters still say that there is no data saying the law is unsafe, so we do not need to restore the ability of police to help catch dangerous criminals. When they say that, they are ignoring Immaculee and Kathleen, the two children who were recently killed in Sunnyside by a driver who could have been stopped, and every other person killed or injured because the police weren’t allowed to stop a criminal. They are saying those people don’t even count as data. Opponents of restoring police pursuit are ignoring everything that doesn’t support what they want.

The truth is that there is data, but it shows that the no-pursuit law has made Washington less safe. The data they used to pass this law have been debunked but the law still hasn’t been changed. I wish people would just look beyond party lines to see and hear us as people. I know it takes bravery, but that’s how you keep people safe.

Doing the right thing matters. Public safety matters. But some Washington lawmakers are still in favor of laws that protect the criminals and not our children, businesses or law-abiding citizens. They need to start prioritizing public safety and stop being scared. to do the right thing. If they really want to support our most vulnerable citizens, then they need to vote for laws that help keep streets safe so that children, pedestrians, and small business owners can have the full protection of the law. They need to know they can call the police and the perpetrators will be pursued.

Unfortunately, that’s not how it works in our state. Two years ago, a bad law was passed which makes it almost impossible for police to pursue dangerous criminals. Not surprisingly, auto thefts and hit-and-run accidents are skyrocketing.

Who does this no-pursuit law really

benefit? Not the hard-working police officers who put their lives on the line every day. Not law-abiding citizens who trust that legislators are making laws that will allow our community to flourish. Maybe it benefits legislators who live in safe areas and can vote based on what’s fashionable. It definitely benefits criminals who know that all they have to do when they’re caught is drive away.

And they do know. Criminals have been known to call 911 to report that they’re being pursued to make sure the police let them go. They know they have a free pass.

It feels like everyone who is standing by this law, everyone who wants to make it impossible for the police to stop criminals before something terrible happens, is prioritizing criminals over my daughter. It’s just not right.

Immaculee was a victim of this terrible law, and the new/current version of the bill in the state legislature wouldn’t protect her, either. That version has passed the Senate and is now being considered by the House, but it won’t prevent future tragedies. We need to reinstate the original version of SB 5352/ HB 1363, nothing less.

Safety is on the line, so we don’t have time to waste. How many lives will be lost if only this half-measure is passed? How many other families will never be whole again?

Her death clearly should have been – and could have been – prevented. My family – including my husband and my daughter’s seven siblings – suffered horrendously, and we will suffer until my dying day because the police were not able to pursue a known criminal, caught with stolen property, and place him in jail where he wouldn’t be a danger to the community.

I’m trying to protect others if I can. This isn’t about politics; this is about the lives of Washingtonians. Let’s make sure no other family has to go through what we did. Protect your family and community by calling your legislator today and demanding they restore vehicular pursuit and the original form of SB 5352/1363 that had bi-partisan support. Make your voice heard so we can prevent another family from having to endure a tragedy as mine did.

Sincerely,
Amber Goldade

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