



Foursquare Church struggles with disclosing alleged sexual abuse cases



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## Local student represents Washington state at YMCA National Advocacy Days in DC

## FBI Director: COVID-19 “most likely” originated in Wuhan lab



Mill Creek Family YMCA Youth and Government student, Clyde Carter III in Washington, D.C. for YMCA National Advocacy Days from February 12-15, 2023 SOURCE: Clyde Carter III

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON D.C.—FBI Director, Christopher Wray, told FOX News that the COVID-19 pandemic “most likely” originated from a Wuhan lab during an interview Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

“The FBI has, for quite some time now, assessed that the origins of the [COVID-19] pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan,” said Wray. “Here you’re talking about a potential leak from a Chinese Government-controlled lab that killed millions of Americans and that’s precisely what that capability was designed for.”

The reveal came just days after the U.S. Department of Energy concluded “with low confidence” a Wuhan laboratory leak was the cause of the outbreak, according to a classified intelligence report recently presented to the White House and congress, CNN reported.

According to the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, who first reported on the Department’s findings Sunday, the decision was based on new intelligence although the details of that intelligence has not been revealed.

During the interview with FBI Director Wray conducted by FOX News Reporter Bret Baier, the two also discussed rising violent crime in the nation, school board investigations, the Hunter Biden laptop, and China’s alleged spying efforts on the United States.

When Lynnwood Times reporters asked Governor Inslee about the Chi-

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By KIENAN BRISCOE

MILL CREEK—Mill Creek Family YMCA Youth and Government student, Clyde Carter III, recently returned from a four-day trip to

Washington D.C. where he met with elected officials and discussed issues important to the Y through a youth lens.

The Youth Advocate Pro-

gram is a 4-month program run by Y-USA which culminates at YMCA National Advocacy Days. Leading up to the conference, Carter collaborated with other YMCAs and crafted an advoca-

cy plan that he has begun to share with peers.

This program creates opportunities for high school students to gain practical, re-

## Officer Dan Rocha to be honored in Washington, DC

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) honored fallen Everett Police Officer Dan Rocha, 41, during a full House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee hearing on Tuesday, February 28.

“Officer Dan Rocha was dedicated to keeping Everett safe,” said Larsen, the lead Democrat on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. “On the day he passed, he was doing the job he loved – serving and protecting his community. I know the women and men of the Everett Police Department will continue to carry on Officer Rocha’s legacy by upholding the Department’s commitment to service, integrity, pro-

fessionalism and honor.”

Committee members unanimously approved a bipartisan resolution to authorize the use of U.S. Capitol grounds for the 42nd annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service in May. The service, which is hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police, will honor federal, state and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives while performing their duties in 2022.

Rocha is one of four police officers from Washington state who were killed in the line of duty in 2022.

Officer Rocha was shot and killed, March 25, follow-

Continued PAGE 12 >>



Everett Police Officer Dan Rocha. Photo courtesy of the Everett Police Department.

# Lynnwood Times goes to Olympia to discuss key issues

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**OLYMPIA**—Lynnwood Times journalists traveled to the state capitol, Olympia, on February 16, to meet with lawmakers, elected officials, and Governor Jay Inslee himself during a visit to the Governor’s Mansion. The day was brought, in part, by the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington, Washington Newspaper Publishers Association (WNPA), and the Washington State Association of Broadcasters (WSAB).

Conversation topics included: new legislation being considered this session, transportation, homelessness and housing, budget, education, crime, government transparency, and the importance of journalism in upholding democracy.

Beginning at the ABC Conference Room, Rowland Thompson of the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington briefed a room of select journalists throughout the state on new legislation being considered this 2023 session.

Of the roughly 57 bills discussed, four would directly affect a journalist’s ability to do their job effectively, the WSAB said—HB1533, SB5644, HB1335, and SB5643. Although each bill deals with separate issues, if passed, these would restrict media’s access to public information and subsequently restrict the ability to provide accurate information while reporting news stories, according to WSAB.

Following the legislative report, journalists were then invited to a four-hour roundtable discussion with several lawmakers including House Speaker Rep. Laurie Jenkins, Senate Majority Leader Sen. Andy Billig, House Republican Leader JT Wilcox, and Senate Republican Leader Sen. John Braun.

Speaker Jenkins shared that addressing an aging workforce is a key issue the Democrat Caucus will be addressing as baby boomers retire.

“The next generation cannot fill the spots baby boomers leave,” said Jenkins. “So, we have to think about workforce in much more creative and aggressive ways than we have ever done before.”

Senator Marko Liias attended on behalf of the Transportation Committee to discuss the increase in traffic fatalities and his Move Ahead Washington package. Lynnwood Times reporters asked Liias to share why he vouched for a reduction in statewide Blood Alcohol standards (to .05% – the lowest

in the nation) ahead of Washington State Patrol staffing levels increase to pre-COVID levels.

“The data shows that a driver drives impaired about 80 times before they’re caught so we know that enforcement is not what’s stopping people from driving drunk, it’s the standards we set as a society,” Sen. Liias told the Lynnwood Times. “The .05 limit is the most popular across the world, most countries are at .05 including most of Western Europe; the National Transportation Safety Board has recommended it since 2012—I think this is part of a National movement to bring that standard back to where the rest of the world is.”

While lunches were distributed, State Elected Officials entered the conversation including Attorney General Bob Ferguson, State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler, Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal.

With enrollment down 4 percent in the state, Reykdal shared that this is going to equate to approximately \$400 million a year that will not be coming to schools from the state budget. He shared that K through second grade is a third of the enrollment impacts and he wanted to be very clear that there are no “missing children” in Washington state as some media outlets have alleged.

“This state, for reasons I can never fathom, does not have a compulsory education law until age eight,” said Reykdal. “So, one of the headlines that troubles me is ‘missing children.’ I genuinely don’t believe there are no missing children as a result of the pandemic... What is happening here is that your K-2’s, your 13,000 kids here, their families never had to tell us that they were starting their child in private school or home school environment; so, they were never in the system... No one needs to tell public schools in the state of Washington that five-year-olds, six-year-old, or seven-year-olds that they are not attending school.”

He then shared that after the next five years, Washington will see a dramatic reduction in high school graduation class sizes due to declining birth rates which may result in schools and school districts merging.

“If I were to add up K through 5, you would see a hundred thousand fewer students than in grade six through 12,” said Reykdal.

Lynnwood Times reporters asked Attorney General Ferguson about his assault rifle prohibition and if he would consider stricter requirements to obtaining a weapon instead of an outright ban.

“My responsibility as Attorney General, but also as a father, is to do what I can to protect folks in our state,” said Ferguson. “For me banning the sale of the those high-capacity magazines and those assault weapons is consistent with the second amendment and will improve the chances of the safety of our kids and community members across the state...the sale of these weapons should be stopped.”

Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck and Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste then concluded the roundtable discussion before journalists attended a wine and cheese reception hosted by Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez at a residence on Columbia Street.

Heck’s top priorities are civil engagement in political discourse, strengthening relations with British Columbia, and economic growth.

“Housing is the number one barrier to economic growth in our state,” said Heck. “We are actively engaged in promoting any and all policies to be adopted that will enable us to increase the supply of housing.”

Chief Batiste shared the struggle with

WSP to retain troopers and the challenges of covering parts of the state due to the rising cost of living.

“Brave journalists of integrity, including journalists of color have been reporting on the justice system and racial injustice in this nation for generations,” said Chief Justice Gonzalez at the reception. “And the reporting you have done has led to scrutiny and change and improvement. You help us be informed so we can advocate for ourselves, and other, and we’re eternally grateful for that.”

The long, but enriching, day culminated at the Governor’s Mansion for a soirée with Washington State Governor Jay Inslee and his wife Trudi.

“I want to thank you for your individual efforts on behalf of democracy,” the Governor said to the room. “You are as much warriors of democracy as I am or any other elected official and your ability to create a common sense of facts and a place of arguments and forums is so pivotal.”

The Governor then proceeded to discuss the state’s housing crisis along with its mental health and substance abuse programs. Lynnwood Times reporters asked the Governor how the Blake laws being considered this session would relate to getting people off

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## LYNNWOOD TIMES

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>PUBLISHER</b> Mario Lotmore publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com	<b>REPORTERS</b> <b>Doug Buell</b> doug.buell@lynnwoodtimes.com <b>George Ftikas Jr.</b> george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com <b>Olivia Thiessen</b> olivia.thiessen@lynnwoodtimes.com
<b>MARKETING SPECIALIST</b> Michele Mitsuchi-Stork sales@lynnwoodtimes.com	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORTER</b> <b>Kienan Briscoe</b> kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com	

**LYNNWOOD TIMES**

12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 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.

# Lynnwood approves ARPA funds to tackle graffiti

By **GEORGE FTIKAS**

**LYNNWOOD**—The Lynnwood City Council approved several uses of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during their business meeting on February 27.

The largest of these was a \$388,432 request for ARPA funds made by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department for efforts to combat graffiti and passed in a 6-0 vote by the council. Councilmember Joshua Binda was not present.

“Last week, [we] provided you an extensive presentation on the issues we are facing in our parks. I think nothing has really changed since last Monday — we’ve been tagged even more this week. It’s very unprecedented,” Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department Director Lynn Sordel said to the council. “We believe the proposal we’ve submitted to you using ARPA money is a sound approach. It would allow us to provide badly needed help for a very overworked team.”

The parks department requested funds to hire two limited-term, full-time employees (FTE) and for the subsequent supplies needed. The two employees would primarily focus on responding to and removing graffiti within 24 hours in Lynnwood.

According to both the parks department and Lynnwood Police, quickly removing graffiti tends to lower the amount of tagging overall.

“The longer it takes us to get going on this, the more entrenched those gangs and entities are going to be and the harder it will be to root it out of our community,” Councilmember Patrick Decker said. “We don’t have any time to waste on this. We can’t wait two weeks, three weeks, a month or two months to figure out where the fundings come from.”

Councilmember George Hurst moved to amend the motion to utilize money from the general fund instead of utilizing ARPA funds. According to Hurst, recent sales tax revenue for Lynnwood exceeded financial forecasts — with 2021-2022 sales tax revenue doing so by \$895,000 and January 2023 by \$650,000.

“And so, I do believe the general fund can support the park’s request of \$388,432 for the two FTE positions and that those funds are available now. There will be no delay,” Hurst said. “We have about a million dollars plus in ARPA funds before we make a decision tonight and I really do believe these should be used for community needs and not hiring city FTEs.”

Hurst went on to suggest that the council instead consider other requests, such as the Northwest Veterans Museum discussed last meeting, Homage Senior Services, the Human Services Commission’s ask of \$327,520 for a school-based mental health program, and a family housing academy. Councilman Hurst’s wife, Pam Hurst, serves on the Human Services Commission.

The amendment failed in a 1-5 vote with other council members highlighting that the park’s request fits within ARPA guidelines. Those against the amendment also pointed to the need to utilize the remaining temporary ARPA funds before they expire and that the added positions are for a limited-time program. Should the city evaluate that the program is still needed after two years, then city funds can be allocated as such.

The aforementioned request from the veterans museum was amended to include other Heritage Park entities — the Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association and the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society — and was approved by the council in a 6-0 vote. Each entity was allocated \$2,500 from ARPA funds for pandemic-related relief.

The next phase of the Lynnwood Wastewater Treatment Plant was also discussed during the meeting: the bid

to construct temporary systems to deal with sludge while construction continues. This would not only include storage of sludge meant to be hauled away, but the transfer and odor control systems as well.

The Public Works Department presented the need to proceed to this phase during the council meeting on February 8 as the incinerator system currently dealing with sludge is failing, causing sludge to build up at the plant.

The \$2.1 million contract to McClure and Sons, Inc of Mill Creek passed as a unanimous consent agenda item during the meeting. The bid of \$1,929,643.73 includes a \$192,964.27 contingency for the project.

To report any issue with a park, visit <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Community/Play-Lynnwood/Parks-Trails-and-Open-Space/Report-a-Problem-in-a-Park>



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# Foursquare Church continues to struggle with disclosing alleged sexual abuse cases

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**MILL CREEK**—As Foursquare Church enters its centennial year of operation, it aims to crack down on its longstanding, systemic, history of sexual abuse through newly adopted Safeguarding policies. However, some still believe it continues to turn a blind eye to years of sexual abuse in the past by refusing to publicly address the issue, according to one of its members.

## GRACE INVESTIGATIONS AND THE HEIDI COOPER STORY

Foursquare Church is an Evangelical Pentecostal Christian denomination with 8.8 million members across 67,000 churches. It was founded by preacher, and media celebrity, Aimee Semple McPherson in 1923.

In March, 2019, Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment (GRACE) received a complaint from Heidi Cooper, a lifelong member of the Foursquare Church and a credentialed Foursquare Pastor, on behavioral misconduct by Mike Larkin, former President of Pacific College-Ignite — a Foursquare College.

Prior to joining a Southern Californian Foursquare Church in 1986, Larkin was a police officer. In 1991 he became an Executive Pastor, which he served for five years before joining the church's global mission teams with Foursquare Missions International. In 2000, Larkin was promoted to the position of Director of Missions and in 2008 became the President of Life Pacific College-Ignite (LPC-Ignite), an extension campus of Life Pacific University. In 2011, Life Pacific University relocated the LPC-Ignite campus to a satellite location in Christiansburg, Virginia. At this time, Larkin and his wife relocated to Virginia from California to continue his presidency before resigning in December of 2019.

When Larkin “resigned,” he was offered a severance of \$99,000 from church funds, half of which was not approved by the Board of Directors. The president of Foursquare at the time, Glenn Buriss Jr., who pushed for the unusually high severance amount, according to Cooper, was on his last term and left before the Board realized what had been done. The Board never corrected the severance payment and declined to comment on the decision when confronted by Brian Butler, a Florida pastor, and many others at a meeting last June.

Additionally, Foursquare published an article praising Larkin for all of his accomplishments. That article has since been removed, Cooper said.

Cooper resigned from her position in June of 2019 as a regular speaker at LPC-Ignite, a reported aftereffect of Larkin's illicit behavior towards her and, as later investigations found by GRACE, multiple others.

GRACE entered an Engagement Agreement with Foursquare Church on March 17, 2020, a year after being contacted by Cooper, and conducted 28 witness/victim interviews. Because the investigation was not a judicial proceeding, GRACE could not subpoena witnesses nor documents; all interviews were voluntary.

Prior to 2018, GRACE conducted approximately two to four investigations a year, Pete Singer, Executive Director at GRACE told the Lynnwood Times. By 2019, GRACE was conducting about 20 sexual abuse investigations a year, although Singer was unable to say how many of those have been directly related to Foursquare.

According to the GRACE investigation report obtained by the Lynnwood Times, Cooper's experiences with Larkin spanned approximately three years. Larkin would repeatedly message her sexually inappropriate things on Facebook Messenger. Larkin allegedly also told her to delete the messages because “someone could take it wrong.”

When GRACE requested a transcript of these Facebook messages, it was discovered that Larkin had deleted them.

Cooper originally told counselors Paul Kuzma, Foursquare Pastoral Counselor CSR East, and Ted Roberts, Pure Desire Ministries, of the sexual Facebook messages Larkin sent between December of 2018 and March of 2019. The counselors confronted Larkin about the allegations, via a Zoom call, in March, 2019, to which he denied any inappropriate behavior.

Cooper was then told to write a letter to Larkin on the impact of his behavior and read it to him in person.

“This was very traumatizing and I broke down crying the minute I saw Mike [Larkin],” said Cooper.

Later that month, Larkin admitted to making inappropriate statements to Cooper but still denied inappropriate intent; this was also expressed through a letter he wrote to Cooper who still felt Larkin was not taking ownership by denying any sexual intent. Larkin was advised to seek counseling, but no other action ensued.

On June 13, 2019, Cooper wrote a letter to Tammy Dunahoo, Vice President of Foursquare, revealing what Larkin had done and explained why she was no longer traveling with LPC-Ignite. She was told the issue would be addressed immediately and provided screenshots of Larkin and her conversations as proof.

Larkin was approached for the first time by then-President of Foursquare Church, Glenn Burris Jr., in November of 2019, during which time he became

very defensive by attacking Cooper's credibility, Dunahoo later told Cooper.

GRACE found merit in Cooper's allegations and ultimately held Foursquare accountable for “creating and reinforcing cultural values that protect the vulnerable,” adding that Foursquare “lacks adequate misconduct policies and procedures” and it could “benefit from more education on misconduct and trauma-informed practices.”

When Cooper met with the board of directors on April 15, 2021, two members admitted they knew about Larkin's abuse for years yet did not come forward. Cooper asked that the board come public with Larkin's history of abuse and was told there would be a public statement issued by July 1, 2021.

After months of requesting Foursquare to release the public statement it promised, on March 31, 2022, the board notified Cooper that a public statement was “no longer appropriate...making public statements about leadership conduct is not how Foursquare disciplines its ministers...publicly making a statement about specific people or situations is not the way forward for Foursquare.”

## MORE VICTIMS OF MIKE LARKIN

Cooper was not the only victim of abuse by Larkin, according to the GRACE investigation.

Another victim, who asked to remain anonymous fearing retaliation from

Larkin, told the Lynnwood Times that Larkin allegedly had a reputation for staring at women's breasts and talking “a lot” about sex and masturbation during class when at Life Pacific College-Ignite.

She attempted to express how these comments made her feel uncomfortable to Tim Clark, the Dean of Students at the time, but never received a response. From then, she alleges, the “tides turned, and Larkin became very manipulative,” making fun of her weight, saying she would be “prettier” if she dyed her hair blonde, and in one extreme example, forcibly grabbed her face and yelled at her for speaking out against comments he made about her sister's weight.

The victim continued to bring these issues to Clark, and Dr. Michael Salmeier, Academic Dean, but they allegedly defended Larkin.

“‘Mike was God's anointed’, he [Salmeier] would always say,” the victim told the Lynnwood Times.

Larkin would often meet with female students alone and ask them about their sexual history, number of sexual partners, and sexual orientation investigations indicate. He would also frequently comment on female students' appearance calling them “hot”, “gorgeous”, and make comments such as “you can see why I hired her” when referring to female staff's appearance.

Continued PAGE 09 >>

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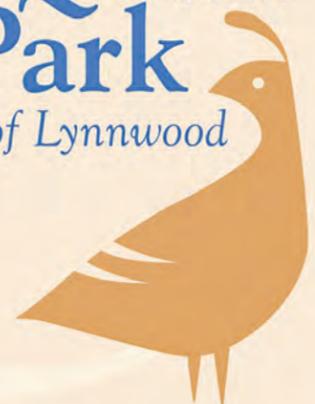
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# The faithful came out in full-force at Sound Transit forum as West Alderwood route threatens church

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**EVERETT**—Hundreds of churchgoers packed into Cascade High School on February 15 to voice concerns on Sound Transit’s West Alderwood section proposal extending light rail directly in the path of their church—jeopardizing the century-old institution.

Since 1920, Alderwood Community Church, located at 3403 Alderwood Mall Boulevard in Lynnwood, has offered its community a place of non-denominational worship within the bustling heart of municipality’s City Center vision.

The church has known for years the Everett Link Extension would run adjacent to its facility, through Lynnwood on its expansion towards Everett, but recently discovered two weeks ago that a new proposed alignment would run directly over their property. The church confirmed the impact of the new route by Sound Transit.

“It was shocking,” Wyatt Martin, Lead Pastor for Alderwood Community Church told the Lynnwood Times. “Really being at the heart of Lynnwood is key to our identity as a church. When we think of where we are and why the Lord has us here, serving the communities right around us, it’s so essential to being there.”

The church has been looking forward to the Everett Link Extension in Lynnwood



Wyatt Martin, Lead Pastor for Alderwood Community Church, speaking with community members prior to the Everett Link Extension forum on February 15, 2023, at Cascade High School. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

for years, Martin said, as a way to bring more people to their church, Compassion Center (a separate three-story building), and several feeding programs, but to think that might not happen now due to having to close or relocate, is “devastating.”

“One of the things we’ve talked about,

as a church, is recognizing this is in God’s hands and we trust him,” said Martin. “We care more about the people of Lynnwood, we care about our people, and the name of Jesus than we do any building, so we’re not going to do anything to discredit the name of Jesus to try and fight this, but we really care about our church and we think God has

us here for a reason. We want to stay, and we want to stay for decades to come.”

Martin said the church doesn’t know what their next steps would be if Sound Transit moves forward with their

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from page 6 **ALDERWOOD**

proposed designs, but plans to continue having conversations with the public transportation agency expressing how much their congregation cares about their place of worship.

Sound Transit scheduled a public forum at Cascade High School on Wednesday to gather input from community members and share updates on upcoming projects, which Alderwood Community Church thought would be an excellent opportunity to show up and voice their concerns.

Before the 5:30 p.m. forum, hundreds of churchgoers tail-gated outside in bright blue shirts, playing yard games and handing out slices of pizza. Although the attendance was difficult to measure, Pastor Martin guessed it was “somewhere between 600 to 700 people.

“We showed up with 500 shirts and we’ve already passed all of them out,” said Martin.

When the school opened its doors to start the forum, the crowds of people moved from the parking lot, packing themselves inside the school’s cafeteria where Sound Transit representatives

held information booths and invited public discourse.

“We’re not at a stage where we’re talking about having to move the church or take property or anything like that,” John Gallagher, Media Relations for Sound Transit told the Lynnwood Times. “We are still in the very earliest stages to determine where the alignments going to go.”

Currently there are three proposed alignments—ALD B, ALD D, and ALD F—for the West Alderwood future light rail track, all three of which touch on the church property somehow. Gallagher informed the Times Sound Transit has begun conversations with the church to discuss how they can mitigate the impact but are still “years away” and a “number of things can happen between then and now.”

“We’re going to look at ways we can mitigate potential impacts to the church,” said Gallagher.

The church is situated in a way that there are several confining factors, Gallagher explained, including a substation and a few Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) off-ramps. Sound Transit are currently in discussion with WSDOT about rerouting the off-

ramps as well.

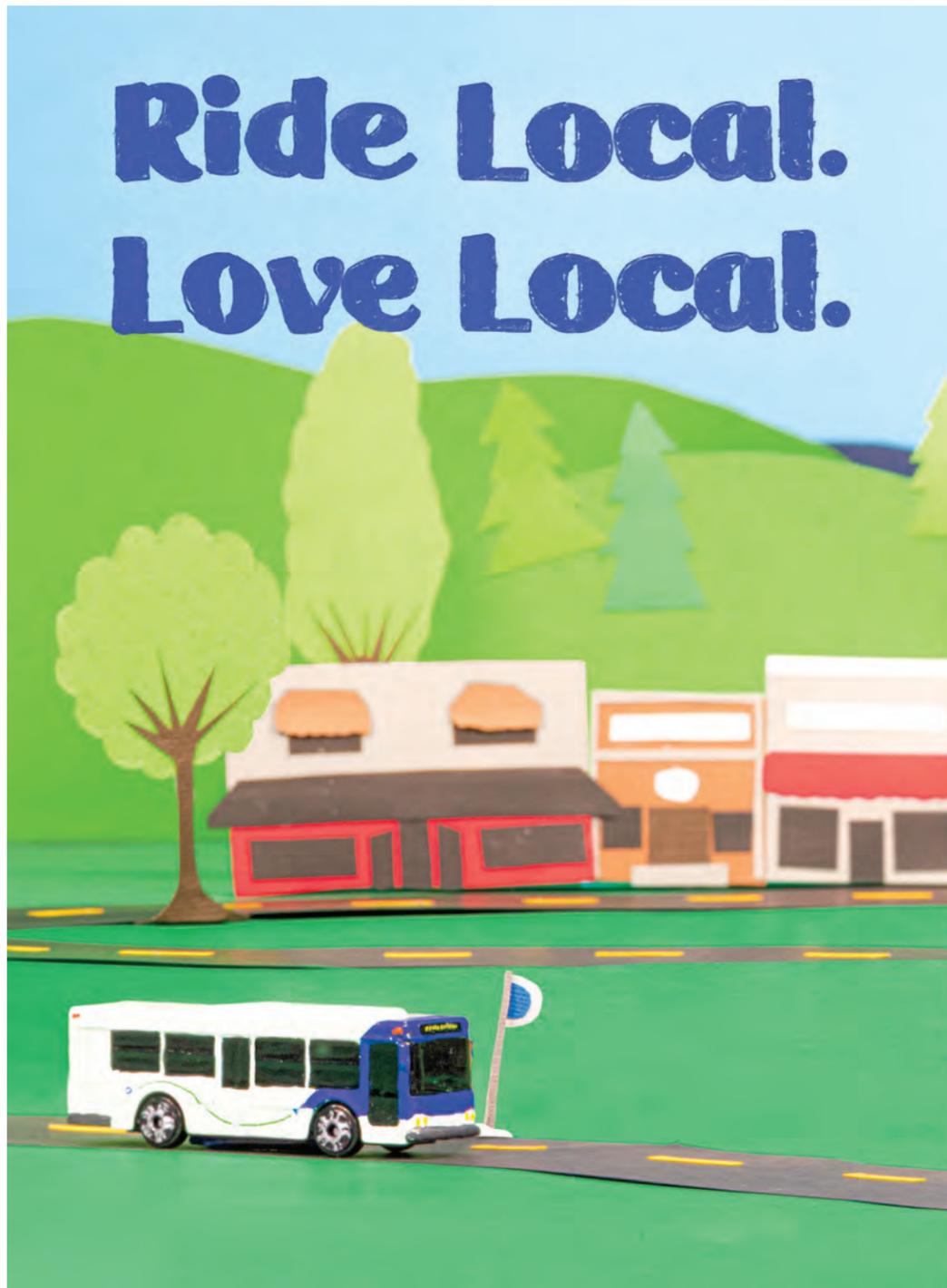
If Sound Transit did move forward with an alignment that runs over the Alderwood Community Church, they would work with the property owners to negotiate relocation options and compensation, Gallagher added.

“We’ve done this with other businesses, and other churches as well,” said Gallagher. “It’s really part of the process. We’re only about one or two percent in the design process though, but we really want to be transparent from the very beginning as opposed to coming to the people when we’re much further along.”

As part of the Everett Link Extension

(EVLE), Sound Transit will be bringing service through the southwest urban unincorporated area of Snohomish County. This includes two light rail stations at the Ash Way and Mariner areas. A third provisional station is proposed at SR99/Airport Road that is dependent on funding. Snohomish County has been planning on for the extension of light rail over the past several years.

The Everett Link Extension will add 16 miles of light rail and six new stations connecting Snohomish County residents to the regional light rail network traveling through the communities of Lynnwood, unincorporated Snohomish County and Everett.



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# Nothing Bundt Cakes serving high quality old-fashioned treats

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Dozens celebrated the grand opening of Nothing Bundt Cakes located in the Lynnwood Crossroads shopping center at 196th St and HWY 99 on Friday, February 24, 2023.

“I’m so excited to have them here,” Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell shared with the Lynnwood Times. “I can’t tell you how many times I peeped in their window to see when they are going to open.”

The small town feel and sense of community attracted Nothing Bundt Cakes to Lynnwood.

“Lynnwood was like one of those places that we didn’t feel it was too crowded of a city... a smaller town feel to it where you are able to get to know other people,” co-owner Rajendra “Raj” Suvarna said.

“We are a business-friendly city,” Frizzell added. “I like to tell people that Lynnwood actually represents 5% of the population of Snohomish County, but we provide over 20% of the sales tax for Snohomish County. We love businesses big and small, and I have a special heart for small businesses.”

What made this grand opening unique is that Nothing Bundt Cakes donated 20 percent of Friday’s proceeds to the Project Girl Mentoring Program, a local non-profit offering mentorship, counseling, and life-skill coaching for young women of color.



Co-founders Sushmi “Sushmi” Chander (left) and Rajendra “Raj” Suvarna (right) serving a customer at Nothing Bundt Cakes of Lynnwood during the grand opening on February 24, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore

“We met Olympia and we saw her place, we saw the work she was doing... it was something that we felt close to in terms of the work that they were doing, mentoring youngsters,” Raj a former doctor told the Lynnwood Times.

Olympia Edwards, Founder and CEO of Project Girl, shared that owners Raj’s and Sushmi “Sushmi” Chander’s generous contribution and outreach is a testament to the meaning of “community.”

“It means our community is supporting each other,” Edwards said. “This event

goes straight back to the employees that work for Project Girl and it goes back to their families.”

Linda Jones, President and CEO of the Lynnwood Chamber of Commerce, is not only very “excited” to have a Nothing Bundt Cakes in Lynnwood but is proud of their integration into the community to support other businesses.

“They have shown a huge commitment to the community from the very first time I heard they were moving in,” Linda said. “They’ve become very involved with the Chamber of Commerce and...we’re really excited

to be able to support them on this wonderful day.”

Mayor Frizzell told the Lynnwood Times that any gluten free cake is on the menu. Edwards on the other hand shared that lemon and red velvet cakes are her favorite.

“It’s so yummy and they’re so soft,” Edwards said. “I’m trying so hard today not to eat a couple of them, but I’m definitely taking a 12-pack home today.”

Continued PAGE 12 >>

## NEUROPATHY BREAKTHROUGH

Bothell resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, “my feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life.” Then she met Dr. Heintze and her team at Starting Point.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. “How can you live for the next 30 years when you don’t even want to get out of bed to do simple things?”

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. “The way that I would describe it, it’s equivalent to walking on glass.” Dawn hadn’t worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would ‘touch’ her feet.

**Unfortunately Dawn’s story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.**

If you’re unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis you’re not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You’re struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to ‘just live with the pain’ and you’re taking medications that aren’t working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, six months ago Dawn read an article about Dr. Heintze and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Dr. Heintze, founder of Starting Point Acupuncture & Wellness in Bothell, is using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

“Now when I go to bed at night I don’t have those shooting pains. I don’t have that burning sensation. I don’t have pain coming up my legs,” Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Dr. Heintze’s treatments.

“I can wear socks and shoes again!”  
“It’s life altering. As far as I’m concerned Dr. Heintze saved my life!”

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from page 4 **FOUR SQUARE**

The GRACE investigations found that Larkin's behavioral misconduct was not always sexual in nature, describing his behavior as "bullying, intimidation, control, and manipulation."

Just a few examples of Larkin's physical and emotional abuse include ridiculing staff of their performance while threatening to significantly reduce their compensation, threatening staff members' job security without apparent cause, berating students for considering leaving the LPC-Ignite program, persuading students to not talk to their parents on the phone, enlisting students to bring him information about their peers then using that information to pressure students (stating he received the information from the Holy Spirit), and making comments such as "oh well, guess you're pro-life now" after a staff member's wife had a miscarriage.

Larkin also described the "sins" of students, told to him in confidence, to the entire student body, cursed and yelled at students who approached him about problems with Ignite, threatened physical assault and hurt student's future opportunities, and took out loans on behalf of students without their consent.

**GOING PUBLIC**

Heidi Cooper went public with the investigation's findings in May of 2022, telling her story on Hagar's Voice, a podcast that deals with victims of clergy abuse. This caused an uproar at Foursquare's annual convention in Orlando when brought up in public comment —thousands attended the event. Throughout the convention, Foursquare leadership never mentioned Larkin by name, nor acknowledge any abuse had ever happened, according to Cooper. They also refused to address Larkin's \$99,000 severance pay half of which was not approved by the board of directors.

"They panicked...All they basically did is run around and confuse people," Cooper told the Lynnwood Times. "They were avoiding the questions."

At that meeting, the convention body passed a motion, during an open session, recommending the board empower a Safeguarding Team to operate without board or staff interference. The motion passed overwhelmingly; yet, just one month later, the 11 member team was notified that their work would be paused.

In July of 2022, Foursquare announced a new Healthy Culture Board Taskforce to "assess and address necessary structures for leadership health and accountability, as well as victim care and support". This taskforce is led by an internal Board of Foursquare members.

When hearing of Heidi Cooper's story, Justin Ruple, a Foursquare Pastor in California, published an open letter in June of 2022 to Foursquare with a petition calling for accountability within the church. That petition as of February 27, 2023, has garnered over 600 signatures.

The purpose of the petition, Ruple told the Lynnwood Times, is a full disclosure of the investigation results conducted by GRACE, the release of a public statement fully disclosing misconduct, and to hold Foursquare accountable for its failures to respond appropriately in a manner that safeguards other victims from further abuse.

"Foursquare leadership has never publicly disclosed this Mike Larkin situation," said Ruple. "Victims should never be burdened with the responsibility of disclosure. The fact that Heidi went first, after multiple attempts of asking Foursquare to and being told they would, that breaks my heart because that's cost Heidi something."

**OTHER INCIDENTS OF ABUSE IN FOURSQUARE CHURCHES**

One witness in the GRACE report also told investigators, "[Foursquare] pastors are allowed to do whatever they want and do it in the name of God."

"It seems obvious that there are issues in the church and the power dynamic and structure is unhealthy," said Mel [last name redacted], whose brother was sexually abused at a Foursquare Church in Yakima when they were both children. "It's really time to change it."

Her brother's abuse occurred from the age of four to eight by the pastor's son, according to Mel. When her parents confronted the pastor about her brother's sexual abuse, no action was taken.

Since going public with her story of abuse, Heidi Cooper told the Lynnwood Times that "at least 50" others have contacted her with similar stories within Foursquare churches across the county, with some occurring this year.

In Beaverton, Oregon, during the 1990's, a then-teenaged boy named Matt Davis alleges he was sexually molested at a Foursquare Church by Raymond Martin Johnson, a former doctor and Foursquare member at the time.

In 1971 Johnson was placed on probation by the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners after admitting to having sex with a 14-year-old boy. That probation lasted six years. Johnson was also asked to resign from the Boy Scouts of America in 1983 after he allegedly acknowledged to a Scout official he had inappropriate conduct with an underage boy, the Beaverton Valley Record reported.

Despite disclosing this to Foursquare leadership, per the requirements set forth by the Board of Medical Examiners, Johnson was still brought on as a volunteer and was allowed to host Foursquare youth events at his house, although not permitted to officially volunteer as a Youth Pastor or attend youth events on church grounds.

He would frequently have "lots of young men live with him, pool parties, bible studies, and camping trips," Davis told the Lynnwood Times.

"They knew he was a pedophile and they still encouraged him to work with youth," said Davis.

In 2003, Beaverton Foursquare received a new Senior Pastor, Randy Remington, who relocated from Everett's New Life Center after nine years as Senior Pastor. At that time, Davis decided to share with new leadership his abuse.

"He basically had me in his office, and we talked about what happened to me, and then he wished me luck and I went on my way," said Davis.

About 45 minutes after leaving Remington's office, Davis received a call from Remington informing him that another victim of sexual abuse at the church was filing a lawsuit but that it had nothing to do with Johnson.

"That was pretty much a lie," said Davis.

Remington is now the current President of the denomination and has been since 2020.

After years of working through his trauma, Davis filed a lawsuit against Johnson in the Multnomah County Circuit Court in May of 2012, through Portland Attorney Kelly Clark—best known for winning a lawsuit against the Boy Scouts of America in 2010. Davis asked for \$1 million in damages for "severe debilitating physical, mental and emotional injury, including pain and suffering and permanent psychological damage."

Davis' lawsuit, like many lawsuits filed against Foursquare Church relating to abuse, was settled outside of court so the documents have not been made public.

In October of 2022, Barry Buzza, a former President of the Foursquare Church in Canada, was also sued for sexual abuse by a former Foursquare member. The lawsuit contended that the denomination failed to investigate properly and treated the abuse as a consensual affair.

In 2007, two men and a woman filed a lawsuit against Foursquare pastor Darrell Roberts and his twin sons, David and Jonathan Roberts, alleging that Robert's sons had sexually abused them when they were all children, the Oregonian reported.

That same year a 32-year-old woman, Mary Ellen Wright, also came forward claiming she was sexually abused at a Foursquare church in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Kristi Kernall Philips, former Foursquare Church secretary, informed the Lynnwood Times that child pornography was found in Raymond "Marty" Johnson's library during his time with Foursquare. He was known to be "overly physical" with the boys in the church's youth group, the Lynnwood Times was told.

When a colleague of hers took these concerns to leadership, they informed her they would not look into it, shamed her for the suggestion, then proceeded

to make false accusations about her in an attempt to "assassinate her character," Philips said.

Philips continued she suspects Foursquare's "theology of forgiveness" and "redemption" attracts sexual predators because they know they can get "all these second chances."

"Leadership and church members believe that God can change anybody so that has to include a child molester or pedophile, and if it doesn't include them, then that shatters pretty much all of our belief that God can do these miraculous things," said Philips. "I also think that money can be a real motive."

Johnson was known to be wealthy, Philips added, and alleges he would sometimes offer to pay for minister's children's orthodontic surgeries and college tuitions.

Another former Beaverton Foursquare member, who asked to remain anonymous, substantiated Philip's point that Johnson was a key "financial contributor" to the church. She added that she was instrumental in implementing a background check and screening process at Foursquare, following Johnson's allegations and reputation. She shared that before policies to screen members or reporting sexual abuse existed at a Foursquare at this time, the church would often onboard volunteers regardless of what came up during a background check.

In one instance, Sam Nunez, who was arrested for ties to sex trafficking in Portland in 2017, got a job at New Life Foursquare Church in Frederick, Maryland working with children despite his background. Nunez, like Remington, also came from Everett.

**MILL CREEK FOURSQUARE PASTOR COMMENT**

When the Lynnwood Times reached out to Mill Creek Foursquare Church regarding Evan Root, a former Mill Creek Foursquare volunteer charged with first degree rape of a child and first degree child molestation last year, Chris Manginelli, Lead Pastor, stated the church has an intensive screening process and never leaves volunteers or employees alone with the children.

"Mill Creek Foursquare Church has been part of this community since 1992 and we make the safety of children a high priority. All of our children's workers, whether paid or volunteer, are run through a screening process and we implement policies so that children are not alone with an adult," said Manginelli.

On July 25, 2022, the Foursquare board of directors announced a new intake process for reports and complaints related to leadership abuse in an attempt to take the church's history in a new direction. Included in this new practice is providing counseling to Foursquare pastors, oversight of internal email exchanges, and placing emphasis on its Safeguarding Team, which Heidi Cooper suggested with the help of Vice President Dunahoo.

*Continued* **PAGE 12 >>**

# Downtown Lynnwood is getting a new entertainment district

By MARIO LOTMORE

**LYNNWOOD**—Big things are coming for the Lynnwood Event Center and surrounding 13-acres of land, as the Public Facilities District (PFD), now called The District, aims to redevelop the downtown core as a live, work, play, entertainment destination for the region.

The Master Plan in its current form would include a parking garage, 300 units of residential housing, a hotel, an Event Plaza, a convention center, and an event center, as well as multiple spaces for retail space from 194th Street Southwest to 196th Street Southwest along 36th Avenue West.

The primary goal is to double the size of the Convention Center (now rebranded as the Event Center) to bring in larger trade shows, be an interstate venue with entertainment acts (including music concerts and comedy shows) and offer an experience where people can stay and enjoy shops, restaurants, beer gardens, and wine bars.

The District also hopes to add green spaces and “pocket parks” to the mix to allow indoor/outdoor concerts and beer



Janet Pope, Executive Director of The District with Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell in front of the “I Love Lynnwood” sculpture. SOURCE: The District.

gardens. The space could also be used for private events like weddings, with the Event Center being able to seat around 1,200 and the outdoor space an additional 1,000 people.

The Lynnwood Event Center is owned by the Public Facilities District, now called The District, and not the City of Lynnwood. The Lynnwood PFD was founded in 1998, around the same time as the controlled demolition of the Seattle Kingdome to make room

for Century Link Field (now Lumen Field).

At that time, Public Facilities Districts were allowed to form, all over the state, to use the newly introduced hotel/motel tax and sales tax funds to build public assets. The city of Lynnwood had been in discussion of building an Arts Center for some time as did the City of Edmonds. The City of Edmonds formed a PFD and built the Edmonds Center for the Arts while the Lynnwood

PFD built the Lynnwood Convention Center—the first PFD in the state to take advantage of this program.

“We were very fortunate to find this piece of land that has room for the Convention Center and the thirteen acres around it, which were always going to be land banked for future things that would bring more into the Public Facilities District,” Janet Pope, Executive Director of The District, told the Lynnwood Times. “We’ve been exploring this our whole existence, trying to decide how big to go.”

Pope added that the main purpose is to create more of an economic impact for the city of Lynnwood. While the Lynnwood Event Center needs to be profitable, she said, the economic impact returns multiple times more by the groups it brings in.

Since beginning her role at Lynnwood PFD in 2020, Pope immediately engaged in community discussion on what residents would like to see done with the 13-acres surrounding the Convention Center. The public shared it would like more green spaces and

*Continued* **PAGE 11** >>

from page 1 **YMCA**

al-world experience advocating for policy solutions that help address critical social issues in the Y’s three areas of focus: youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

In addition to his youth advocate role, Carter is also currently serving as Lieutenant Governor for the 76th Youth Legislature, a youth and government program for Washington students to learn parliamentary procedure, write legislation, and better understand their power as citizens in a democratic society. He plans to run for Governor next year.

“Clyde absolutely loves Youth and Government and his commitment to the program keeps it growing and thriving at the Mill Creek Y,” said Ethan Harrington, YMCA Youth Development Coordinator. “He’s been a consistent presence for many years.”

Carter also represents the state of Washington at the YMCA Conference for National Affairs (CONA) and is active at the Mill Creek Family YMCA. He has attended camp and participated in multiple programs and now works as a summer camp aide.

“Clyde is very thoughtful and wise beyond his years,” said Harrington. “He is always willing to teach newer delegates a thing or two about bill writing, debating, or chairing a committee. He really does it all. His leadership skills will shine at YMCA National Advocacy Days.”

Carter, 17, has been with Youths in Government for four years now, joining when he was in the 8th grade. He learned about the Youth Advocacy program through the Youths in Government’s press page and thought it would be an excellent opportunity to visit the Nation’s capitol and advocate for issues that are important to the Y.

“I first saw that acceptance had been sent out because I followed a lot of people who also applied, and I saw them talking about being accepted so I thought, man I should really check my email and I saw that I was accepted through there,” Carter told the Lynnwood Times. “I was pretty pumped for it.”

The program sent out two students from each state, Carter being selected as just one of the two youths from Washington. In total there were approximately 70 students who attended.

“Everyone there was super interesting and super passionate about a range of issues,” said Carter. “There

were a lot of students there who had done work with their local communities for things like the hearing impaired or learning English for immigrants.”

This was the first time Carter had ever visited D.C., who was immediately struck by how flat the landscape was compared to his native city of Seattle. Another first impression was how the architecture of buildings transitioned from contemporary to federal and Palladian.

“You’d be like oh, that’s the Department of Veteran Affairs and then right across the street there’d be, like, a sandwich shop,” said Carter.

Carter’s flight arrived around 5 p.m., eastern time, at which point the rest of the evening was checking-in to his hotel, receiving his room key and lanyard, and grabbing dinner. The day after was what he called a “training day” — getting oriented with the trip while visiting the White House, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. He also had the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress.

The next few days Carter attended several meeting, and drop-in meetings, on Capitol Hill discussing civic education, social responsibility, child care and early learning under youth development, and healthy living and prevention of chronic diseases.

While there were specific takeaways that struck Carter in all of the areas discussed, what stood out is how little civic education is funded compared to STEM learning. Each year the federal government spends roughly \$50 per student on STEM education while a mere 5 cents per student on civic education, NPR reported this year.

“STEM is important of course, but civic education is how people get involved in the government, it’s how they learn how our political system works,” said Carter.

Currently two bills are being proposed to address this issue, Carter said, one of which was co-sponsored by Washington State Representative Derek Kilmore (6-CD) under the Building Civic Bridges Act. Carter also supported the Civic Secures Democracy Act during his visit.

Another one of Carter’s biggest takeaways, under the prevention of chronic diseases category, is learning there will be an expected wave of preventable chronic diseases unless action is taken immediately. These include cardiometabolic disease, the American Heart Association said in a news release last year, as a re-

sult of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

“The visual that was given is that it’s essentially like an oncoming tsunami,” said Carter. “I believe it’s something like six or seven hundred percent increase in chronic diseases among youth.”

Carter’s group was essentially supporting the “maximum amount of funding possible” to support CDC programs that would go toward preventing issued such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, he said.

Carter was also presented a new outlook on the pandemic he hadn’t thought about before—youth development, specifically child care and early learning.

“You have a lot of families where parents had to stop working in order to take care of kids at home, so coming out of the pandemic there aren’t a lot of child care opportunities within certain areas of the country,” said Carter. “Because of that it’s slowing the economy down because people are having difficulty getting back in to work, not only because there are issues with jobs but because there needs to be someone on-hand to take care of their children.”

During his trip, he was not able to meet with any members of Congress since the House was not in session and the Senate was in the process of voting. At one point, he just missed Senator Maria Cantwell as she was just leaving her office.

Carter has a passion for history. While watching a historical documentary in the sixth grade a quote really stuck with him that said “the politics of today is the history of tomorrow,” launching him into his longstanding interest in politics.

“Politics is really interesting to me because, as part of our government system, a requirement of the citizen is to participate within our government or otherwise the system itself doesn’t work,” said Carter. “You can’t be a representative democracy if there is no representation.”

Carter is a high school student at Shoreline Christian School. When he is not actively involved in Mill Creek YMCA and youth politics he enjoys riding his bike, hanging out with friends, and playing video games.

He plans to apply to Columbia University, in New York, to study Astronomy but added if he ends up being “bitten by the politic bug” he would switch his area of study to Political Science.

from page 10 **THE DISTRICT**

entertainment—concerts, comedy shows, dog shows, trade shows, top notch food and beverage options.

“We are aiming to expand our economic impact of the Convention Center,” said Pope. “Are people really coming here [to Lynnwood] spending multiple nights in a hotel somewhere and going to restaurants and doing those type of things? No, not yet – so we need to go on a little bigger scale...A lot of people use Lynnwood as a jumping off point, but we want people to stay and enjoy Lynnwood too.”

With Paine Field expanding, this is also an excellent opportunity to have people flying internationally to enjoy these amenities, Pope said.

“When I tell people [at conferences] we have 13-acres next to a Convention Center downtown, with light rail expanding, and an airport expanding, they say ‘you don’t even know how rare that is to find,’ so we feel very fortunate to have the space and we’re excited about what we’re going to build,” said Pope.

The District is currently in its design

phase with this year focused on acquiring permits and securing funding while also looking for private hotel/housing partners. The District will also be exploring grants and fundraising opportunities to secure the hundreds of millions of dollars needed for its bold vision.

The project will be a Public/Private partnership which has both the benefits of completing projects quicker while being flexible. Additionally, since The District is a municipality, it has the ability to issue bonds that can be used to fund the expansion, similar to how the original Lynnwood Convention Center was built in 2005.

Jones Lang LaSelle International has been picked as the commercial real estate agency and has worked closely with The District on the Master Plan design. LMN Architects, which most recently finished completion on the Seattle Convention Center expansion and FREIHEIT, are the chosen architectural firms.

The project timeline will be highly dependent on securing permits and funds, according to Pope, with the best-case scenario of construction starting in late 2024 with a completion

date by the 2026 World Cup to allow an overflow option for people traveling to the city of Seattle.

The current tenants of the existing retail spaces in the area have been notified of the proposed redevelopment, Pope said. The District is currently seeking retailers matching its specific vision which would include, primarily, food and beverage with the possibly of putt-putt golf, bowling, and a cat cafe.

“We don’t want to replicate the mall because we already have an amazing mall and we don’t want to have your Tiffany’s and your Gucci stores,” said Pope. “A lot of it will be your restaurants, your coffee shops, your ice

cream stores, [and] your bakeries.”

Pope added that The District has also been in communication with Community Transit in adding a “loop” to the City’s Zip ride share route which would allow transportation options to/from the District to the surrounding Alderwood area.

The District is working closely with the City of Lynnwood on this project, which aligns with its City Center vision. The City of Lynnwood is currently in the process of developing a plan to make way for the expected growth of its two future light rail stations at City Center and West Alderwood.

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from page 1 **COVID-19**

nese spying attempts during a visit to the Governor's Mansion two weeks ago, he stated the first balloon is believed to be the Chinese Government attempting to gathering intel, according to a debriefing he had with President Joe Biden. The other balloons were believed to be weather instruments blown off course, the Inslee said.

The FBI currently has over 2,000 pending investigations on the Chinese Government on these alleged spying attempts, Brett Baier said after his interview with FBI Director Wray on Tuesday.

A report on the origins of COVID-19, released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence last year, states: "one IC and the National Intelligence Council assesses with moderate confidence that the first human infection with SARS-CoV-2 most likely was the result of a laboratory-associated incident."

### **THE WUHAN LAB COVID-19 "CONSPIRACY" THEORY: A BRIEF HISTORY**

While the pandemic was unfolding back in 2020, many were understandably interested in the origins of COVID-19. Conspiracy theorists—or so they were called at the time—claimed that the virus leaked from the Wuhan Lab of Virology. In response, many fact-checkers and news outlets set out to "debunk" the theory.

In April 2020, for example, Vox published an article titled "Why these scientists still doubt the coronavirus leaked from a Chinese Lab." That same month, NPR ran a headline reading, "Virus Researchers Cast Doubt On Theory Of Coronavirus Lab Accident." The next month, another headline, this time from Vanity Fair, stated that discussions of the virus originating from the Wuhan Lab were "Basically Over."

The "professional fact-checkers" took an even stronger stance, profusely claiming that the Lab Leak scenario was not just unlikely, but a conspiracy. Factcheck.org called it a "Bogus" and "Baseless" conspiracy theory at the beginning of 2020. Around that same time, Snopes said the lab leak theory was a conspiracy that "plagued attempts to keep people informed during the pandemic." And PolitiFact claimed it was a "debunked" conspiracy theory.

Near the heart of this debunking effort was a joint statement from 27 scientists published in The Lancet in February 2020. "The rapid, open, and transparent sharing of data on this outbreak is now being threatened by rumors and misinformation around its origins," the statement read. "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."

Ostensibly, the matter was resolved. Multiple news outlets with varying levels of credibility, publications from the "professional fact-checkers," and a joint statement from over 20 experts in a reputable scientific journal all projected the same truth: COVID-19 did not originate in a lab, and suggestions to the contrary are conspiracies.

Looking back, it is disappointing how so many professionals potentially gotten it wrong.

While jumping to conclusions is arguably irresponsible in the realms of science and journalism, allegedly manipulating the scientific community to preserve one's self-interest is especially heinous. Such self-interest came to light in June 2021, when The Lancet published a conflict-of-interest addendum regarding their February 2020 report mentioned earlier and its organizer.

The February report condemning the Wuhan Lab origins of COVID-19 was co-signed and led by Dr. Peter Daszak, who is the president of a New York-based non-profit organization called EcoHealth Alliance, and had financial ties to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

As was revealed in The Lancet's addendum, Daszak facilitated funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the Wuhan Lab. "[Peter Daszak's] remuneration is paid solely in the form of a salary from EcoHealth Alliance," the addendum states. "EcoHealth Alliance's work in China," including at the WIV, "was previously funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the United States Agency for International Development."

The report also called into question the methods employed by the World Health Organization (WHO) during the first phase of its investigation into COVID's origin. Not only did the WHO permit Daszak to be a member of the examining team, but it also greenlit an operation that didn't even consider the possibility of a lab leak.

Such details were noted in another joint statement signed by 26 scientists in March 2021, which called for a "Full and Unrestricted International Forensic Investigation into the Origins of COVID-19."

Half of the WHO's investigation team were "Chinese citizens whose scientific independence may be limited, that international members of the joint team had to rely on information the Chinese authorities chose to share with them," and that any of the team's reports must have been approved by the "Chinese and international members of the joint team."

On May 14, 2021, eighteen other scientists wrote a statement in the journal Science, making a case for why a formal investigation into the lab leak theory should be conducted. They claimed that "greater clarity about the origins of this pandemic is necessary and feasible to achieve."

"We must take hypotheses about both natural and laboratory spillovers seriously until we have sufficient data," the scientists insisted, referring to the potential for a lab leak as a hypothesis instead of a conspiracy.

Even three of the scientists who signed their names to The Lancet's statement mentioned earlier changed their minds, according to the Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

One of those scientists, Bernard Roizman, a University of Chicago virologist, told the Journal, "I'm convinced that what happened is that the virus was brought to a lab, they started to work with it...and some sloppy individual brought it out," he said. "They can't admit they did something so stupid."

It should also be noted that many of the aforementioned media organizations have since offered corrections on the matter. PolitiFact, for instance, stated in May of 2021 that their fact-checking piece was based on sources that "included researchers who asserted the SARS-CoV-2 virus could not have been manipulated." An assertion that they acknowledged "is now more widely disputed."

May 2021 also brought a new report from the WSJ about how U.S. intelligence revealed that three scientists at the WIV were hospitalized in fall 2019, "with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness."

All of this led up to President Biden issuing statement that same month, wherein he asked the "Intelligence Community to redouble their efforts" of their investigation into COVID-19's origins.

Following the WSJ's report and Biden's statement, Facebook announced that it would no longer censor posts suggesting the virus may have been manufactured.

In a matter of months, the media-declared "truth" was flipped on its head: Conspiracy theorists were now just people with a logical hypothesis.

What's more, in August 2021, The House of Foreign Affairs Committee's Republican-led Minority Staff published its report on the virus's origins, which stated that "the preponderance of evidence suggests SARS-CoV-2 was accidentally released from a Wuhan Institute of Virology laboratory sometime prior to September 12, 2019."

from page 1 **ROCHA**

ing gunfire in a Starbucks parking lot across the street from the Everett Community College campus.

According to an eyewitness, gunshots were heard at around 2:15pm. The witness then saw a uniformed officer on the ground in the parking lot of the Starbucks as the gunman sped away, running over Richa's body.

After a two-and-a-half-mile vehicle pursuit, the suspect was arrested, Richard James Rotter, 50, who was taken into custody at 35th and Rucker in Everett. Rotter was on probation and had outstanding warrants at the time of his arrest as well as a long criminal history dating back to 2004.

Officer Rocha is survived by his wife, Kelli; his two young sons, Thomas and Harrison; and a large extended family.

In November of last year, the City of Stanwood designated two streets in Officer Rocha's memory. His wife, Kelli, worked with the City's Adopt-A-Street Litter Control Program to honor him and the ultimate sacrifice he made protecting and serving the citizens of Everett.

The two streets in Stanwood dedicated to the memory of Officer Rocha are:

- At the corner of 270th St NW & 271st St NW, next to the Stanwood Café, and
- On 102nd Ave NW facing north, just north of Stanwood Elementary School.

In December, Tunnel to Towers Foun-

from page 9 **FOURSQUARE**

While some former and current Foursquare members believe this to be "smoke and mirrors," others like Justin Ruple believe it to be a step in the right direction. He added that Foursquare won't entirely be absolved of its systemic issues until it publicly discloses its investigation reports and takes accountability for its cases of abuse in the past.

"The denomination is not full of abusers that are covering up abuse so that it can continue," said Ruple. "I believe Foursquare genuinely doesn't want to see abuse happen, they genuinely want to deal with it, but there is a fear of disclosing it. That fear is it will do irreparable harm to all of the good that we're doing as an organization."

As of the date of this publication, Foursquare has not publicly addressed Larkin or Johnson's behavior, offered apologies to their victims, nor publicly released the findings of the GRACE investigation reports.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Foursquare's press contact asking if the denomination has any plans to go public with this information, and how it will handle victim's of sexual abuse coming forward in the future, but is still waiting to hear back.

from page 10 **BUNDT CAKES**

Raj and Sushmi were first introduced to Nothing Bundt Cakes as Las Vegas medical professionals in 2004. The bakery was next to the hospital and became a favorite spot. The two made the career change during COVID when they heard of a franchise opportunity in Snohomish County.

"It's one of those brands that actually connects to people you know," Raj said. "The way we market, we go door-to-door and meet people. It's just like an old-fashioned brand."

Nothing Bundt Cakes is located at 19620 Highway 99, Suite 110 and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is the 8th bakery in the Seattle-Tacoma area with the closest in nearby Mill Creek. The luscious cakes are baked in-house and are made with the finest ingredients, including real eggs, butter and cream cheese, in 40 unique designs and 10 delicious flavors.

from page 2 **OLYMPIA**

the streets, to which Inslee replied he was in favor of the Blake laws in order to "give a little nudge" to people who need it but favored the charges for simple possession of controlled substances being a Gross Misdemeanor.

### **WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?**

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate Email [editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com](mailto:editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com).

ation paid off the mortgage of the Stanwood home of Officer Rocha as part of its 4th annual Season of Hope. During its Administrative Session on April 11, 2022, the Snohomish County Council unanimously passed a resolution honoring the life and service of Everett Police Officer Dan Rocha.