



Halt of abortion pill Mifepristone except in WA and 16 other states **P10**



New Early childhood education comes to Lynnwood **P7**



WA West African Center hosts annual Sukuri Ndogu **P6**

Real News Real Impact

## \$15M property turned homeless village, future site of UPS distribution center



Pictures of the future 20-acre site of a UPS Distribution Center coming to Lynnwood located at the 1800 Block of HWY 99. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Last week Aaron, his friend Steve, and dog “Boo Boo” returned to an abandoned plot of land in central Lynnwood to pick up their remaining belongings. Although the two had called the parcel, located on

the 1800 block of HWY 99, home for over a year, they didn’t have much - a tent, a couple of backpacks, and a Target shopping cart full of belongings - but the trek to Mountlake Terrace, where they are planning to relocate, would still prove to be a long journey.

A couple of days earlier, officers with the Lynnwood Police Department’s Community Health and Safety section notified Aaron, and the land’s, roughly, 20 or 30 other inhabitants that they would need to leave at request of the property owner. United Parcel Service (UPS)

acquired the, almost, 11 acres of land spread across five parcels to make way for an upcoming distribution center. The details of that center, UPS said, could not be discussed as they are still in their early planning stag-

Continued **PAGE 09** >>

## Assault weapons ban passes WA Senate, heads back to House

By MARIO LOTMORE

**OLYMPIA**—The Senate passed sweeping legislation on Saturday afternoon, April 8, classifying 61 firearms as “assault weapons” to be banned within Washington state. The bill now heads back to the House for a vote on three Senate-proposed amendments, before it is sent to Governor Jay Inslee to be signed into law.

House Bill 1240, passed 27-21 in the Senate with no Republican support. The Senator from Port Angeles, Kevin Van De Wege, was the sole Democrat to vote against the bill with fellow Democratic Senator Tina Nobles of Fircrest excusing herself from the vote.

“These bills always bring me back to the tragedy in Mukilteo in 2016,” Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo) released in a statement on Twitter shortly after the bill’s passage in the Senate on Saturday. “Assault weapons were never intended for civilian ownership, I’m glad they won’t be sold here anymore. Grateful to my seatmate Rep. Strom Peterson for his incredible leadership on this.”

The Washington State House of Representatives passed the original bill with a 55-42 vote, on Wednesday, March 8.

If the bill receives final passage on a second House vote, Washington state will join nine other states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New

Continued **PAGE 12** >>

## Kamiak students join nationwide walkout to protest gun violence



Finley Gonzales (speaking) with fellow Kamiak High School students (L-R) Harper Center, Sabrina Coran, and Koudoye Wane protesting against gun violence in schools on April 5, 2023. SOURCE: Emily Chu.

By EMILY CHU

**MUKILTEO**—Hundreds of Kamiak High School students joined thousands throughout Washington State who walked out of school on April 5, to protest against gun violence. The walk-out, organized by student-run group Kamiak Demands Action, took place at noon local time and lasted for approximately 30 minutes. The statewide protest was part of a national movement to make school a safer place for all.

“School is supposed to be a safe environment,” said Koudoye, a speaker at the Kamiak High School walk-out. “[A place] where students get to learn and grow up to become the best version of themselves, not

a place where they fear for their lives.”

The protests were sparked by the rising amount of school shootings in the country, with the most recent incident taking the lives of three nine-year-olds and three adults in a Christian elementary school in Nashville.

“Thoughts and prayers will do nothing if we are dead,” states Finley Gonzales, the organizer of Kamiak’s walkout. “We need to stop sitting around, waiting for someone to fix it, while more people die. We should be leaving the school in cars, not body bags.”

Continued **PAGE 12** >>

# Executive Dave Somers delivers a message of economic vigor

By KIENAN BRISCOE

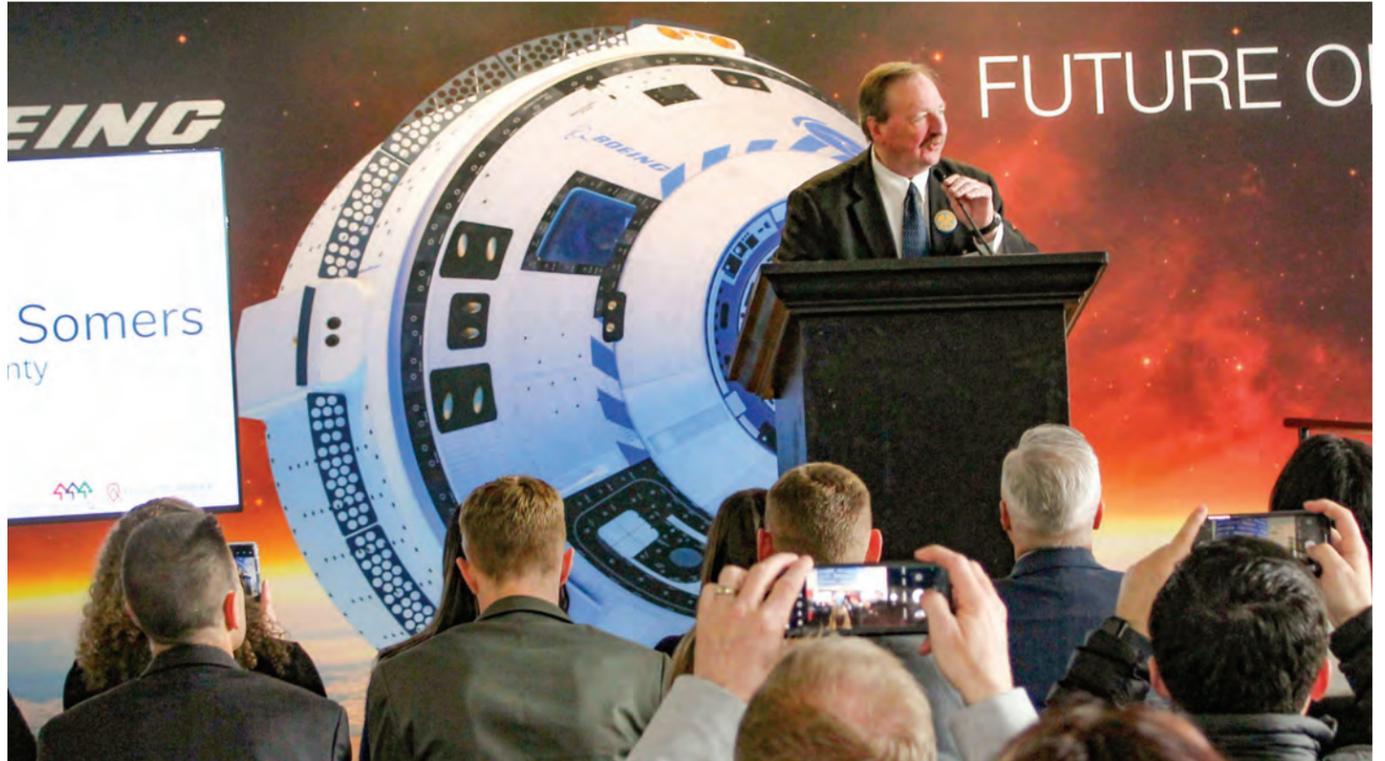
**MUKILTEO**—Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers delivered the State of the County address at Boeing’s Future of Flight Tuesday, April 11—the first in-person State of the County in three years—discussing public safety, the drug epidemic, housing, economic development, transportation, and disaster preparedness.

Following an introduction by Garry Clark, President and CEO of Snohomish County Economic Alliance, and a few words by Rich White, Government Affairs for Boeing, Somers presented a brief video centered on the theme of renewal, using the analogy that ecological disruption can often lead to new habitats, as an example what the county’s “concentrated effort can accomplish when partnered with others.”

At the top of the county’s list of priorities is public safety, with over 75% of its general funds allocated to law and justice agencies. Last week the county successfully advocated for the state legislature to grant Snohomish County a ninth District Court Judge—the first expansion of the court in 25 years. This addition, Somers added, will increase the speed in which new and queued cases are processed.

Executive Somers also signed a partnership agreement with the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office in February with three goals in mind: to move people suffering from addiction, homelessness, and crisis to a better future, to continue to support social workers in the Snohomish County Outreach Team (SCOUT), and to allow the county’s social workers to work collaboratively with the Sheriff’s Office’s Office of Neighborhoods program.

“It’s through collaboration between law enforcement and our social work-



Executive Dave Somers delivering his annual State of the County address at Boeing’s Future of Flight on April 11, 2023. Photo courtesy of Snohomish County Government.

ers that we’re making progress in reducing crime, getting more people into treatment, and building a healthier and safer community,” said Somers.

To support SCOUT and the Office of Neighborhoods, over the last several years Snohomish County has built the infrastructure it needs to get people into housing and enrolled in services such as the Diversion Center, the Carnegie Resource Center, as well as working toward building housing capacity.

“Like you I’m frustrated by crimes that seem to pervade parts of our region and country, that’s why I’ve supported efforts to make sure law enforcement have the tools to do their job and social services are empowered to help people,” said Somers.

County Deputies are now being encouraged to wear body cameras, some-

thing Somers has advocated for many years which allows levels of transparency for both law enforcement and the community members they serve, he said.

Also, along the lines of public safety, Somers thanked Prosecuting Attorney Jason Cummings for his countywide integrated data collection initiative to gather information on those involved in the justice system so that it can be made available to the public.

This initiative is an effort toward ensuring the county’s justice center is more equitable, but along similar lines, Somers also stated he is also working on ensuring county government is more representative of the community it serves. One of the ways the county has been working on this is implementing the Office of Social Justice a few

years ago, which is focused on diversifying county government while preserving historically marginalized communities.

Shifting gears to some of the challenges the county has faced over the last few years, Somers noted that 276 people died of an overdose in Snohomish County in 2022, according to preliminary data. Of those, 207 were opioid-related—an increase of 20% since 2020.

“These were sons, daughters, sisters, husbands, wives, and grandchildren beloved by their community, and in my case: my brother,” said Somers. “That’s 276 families who are hurting.”

In 2017 Somers created the Snohom-

*Continued* **PAGE 06 >>**

## Attacking 2A doesn’t address core causes of society’s violence and lawlessness

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY SEN. KEITH WAGONER**



Sen. Keith Wagoner

On the Saturday before Easter, the state Senate’s majority Democrats passed what they call an “assault weapons ban.” In reality, the bill targets several of the most pop-

ular sporting and self-defense firearms in the country, including most modern sporting rifles and even some shotguns used for hunting and competition shooting.

My Republican colleagues and I debated the measure for nearly three hours, using the amendment process to try to point out the fallacies of their arguments and mitigate some of the damage the bill would do to the rights of Washingtonians and small business owners who work as legal firearms dealers.

As it turned out, I was the only one able to get an amendment accepted – one to support our military members and allow them to keep their firearms when they are ordered to move to Washington.

The proponents of this bill and I agree on one thing and one thing only. We are in a crisis in Washington. But it is a crisis of general lawlessness across our communities, one exacerbated by bad legislative decisions over the past several legislative sessions.

We have seen soft-on-crime policies, releasing criminals from incarceration; vilification of our law enforcement officers; toleration of life-destroying drug proliferation and use; failure to

address mental health adequately; and poor decisions during the COVID lockdowns resulting in learning loss and depression among our youth. We need to focus on addressing the root causes leading to chaos and violence, not vilify firearm ownership.

Our nation has always had a history of gun ownership, and the Second Amendment to the U.S. constitution enshrines our naturally endowed right to defend ourselves and our families. But what we have not always seen – what is new to the moment – is the devastating loss of life we have witnessed due to crime, suicide, mass shootings and senseless violence.

*Continued* **PAGE 05 >>**

# LYNNWOOD TIMES

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## 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.

# Lynnwood Judge Bouffiou announces candidacy to retain seat



Judge Valerie Bouffiou

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Lynnwood Municipal Court Presiding Judge, Valerie Bouffiou, has announced her bid for full-time Judge position for the City of Lynnwood. Judge Bouffiou has been the City’s Presiding Judge since 2021, at that time bringing her 18 years of judicial and litigation experience serving as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and Administrative Law Judge.

“I am looking forward to running for the elected position of Lynnwood’s Municipal Court Judge, and I am proud to already have the support of nearly all of the Lynnwood City Councilmembers, the Lynnwood Police Department, former Mayor Nicola Smith, fellow judges, attorneys, and members of our community,” said Judge Bouffiou.

Judge Bouffiou’s work as a Judge Pro Tem for eight years, serving 16 courts in Snohomish and King Counties, initially brought her to the Lynnwood Municipal Court – by then Mayor Nicola Smith’s appointment and unanimous council decision – but since then caseloads have been steadily climbing.

At the time of her appointment, the Municipal Court’s total filed cases grew from 32,527 in 2020 to 42,479 in 2021. By 2022, case filing totaled 49,683. Based on early filing numbers, 2023 case filing will exceed 50,000, the court informed the Lynnwood Times.

By Judge Bouffiou’s recommendation, The Lynnwood City Council unanimously approved an ordinance, on March 27, to create a full-time elected judge for the city based on these increasing caseloads and the hours required to process them all. By Washington State law, once judicial hours reach or exceed 35 hours per week, a judge is required as an elected full-time position. The City’s courts have since reached that point.

“At my request, the city acted at the earliest opportunity to ensure we are complying with all legal requirements,” said Judge Bouffiou. “Since my appointment to the bench in 2021, I have committed myself to ensuring justice is served fairly and efficiently in our community,” said Judge Bouffiou. “I believe in compassion with boundaries, holding individuals accountable while also addressing the underlying issues that lead to criminal behavior. Whether a person appears before

me for a crime or a traffic infraction, I strive to treat every individual who enters my courtroom with dignity and respect.”

### About the Municipal Court

The Lynnwood Municipal Court is the judicial branch of the City of Lynnwood.

The mission of the Municipal Court is to contribute to the quality of life in our community by fairly and impartially administering justice in a manner that preserves both the dignity and rights of the defendant as well as the residents of Lynnwood. The Lynnwood Municipal Court Judge is an appointed position.

## Committee to recall Lynnwood Councilman Joshua Binda filed with Washington PDC

**LYNNWOOD**—Residents disappointed with Lynnwood Councilman Joshua Binda in his illegal campaign activities, pending ethics investigations, and most recently posting sexually suggestive pictures to minors, have officially filed with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission to recall the council member.

In an email received the evening of Thursday, April 6, from The Committee to Recall Joshua Binda, it says the 23-year-old councilman “neither represent the best of any city council nor of the City of Lynnwood” and that Councilman Binda has been malfeasant in his duties.

“It is evident that this and other documented behavior by this councilmember neither represent the best of any city council nor of the City of Lynnwood,” says Diodato Boucsiequez, chair of The Committee to Recall Joshua Binda. “This committee strongly believes that Councilmember Joshua Binda has met the conditions of malfeasance as outlined in the Revised Code of Washington to be recalled. It is the duty of Lynnwood residents to recall City Council member Joshua Binda from the Lynnwood City Council and restore integrity to our city.”

According to Article 1, Section 32, of the Washington State Constitution, a recall can occur if the elected official, this case Councilman Binda, “has committed some act or acts of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office, or who has violated his oath of office.”

Because Lynnwood has a population of just over 40,000 residents, a petition

*Continued* **PAGE 11** >>



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# Assault Weapons Ban resolution fails Lynnwood City Council vote

By MARIO LOTMORE

**LYNNWOOD**—Passions flare at Monday's city council meeting surrounding a resolution proposed to support SHB-1240, a bill prohibiting the statewide manufacture, sale, and import of firearms classified by the Washington Legislature as "assault weapons."

"I move Lynnwood City Council Resolution 2023-02, a Resolution in support of SHB-1240 an act relating to establishing firearms related safety measures to increase public safety by prohibiting the manufacture, importation, distribution, selling and offering for sale of assault weapons," Councilman George Hurst, the resolution's primary sponsor, motioned.

He continued, "Whereas the Washington State legislature is deliberating on SHB-1240; whereas the Lynnwood City Council has a priority to increase public safety; whereas there have been 131, as of today, mass shootings so far during 2023 in the United States; whereas some of the deadliest mass shootings in America all have one thing in common, the shooter used an assault weapon, a lethal weapon designed for war, to kill as many people as possible; and whereas in the United States, guns are now leading cause of death for children and teens.

"Now, therefore, it be resolved that the Lynnwood City Council urges the Washington State Legislature to pass SHB 1240 as a measure of public safety and as a measure to stop the availability of assault weapons."

The motion was seconded by Councilman Josh Binda.

Hurst presented his case of "stop dithering" based on a Dave Ross commentary he heard on Seattle's Morning News that inspired him to bring the resolution forward.

"As a Lynnwood City Councilmember, my response to Dave Ross' admonition against dithering was to write a resolution in support of that bill [SHB-1240], and tonight I ask the City Council to approve that resolution," Hurst said.

Fellow council members critical of the intention of the resolution ranged from accusing the councilman of "violating his oath of office" to using a tragedy for political gain as Hurst is up for reelection this year. Council members were also concerned that passing a resolution may expose Lynnwood to costly legal expenses when the SHB-1240 is challenged in the courts upon being signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee.

"I really don't understand why it is

when tragedy occurs that politicians immediately run to try and take the rights away from law-abiding citizens," Councilman Patrick Decker said. "The gun deaths that occur around the country, particularly with children, are tragic. They don't occur only in our country, they occur in other places as well, and if not by handguns and by other means.

"There is evil in the world. It exists. It exists in people. We cannot drive evil out of the world by passing laws. We cannot get criminals to stop behaving in an illegal way by passing laws. Making it illegal for criminals to use a weapon to do something illegal makes no sense at all. The law already exists, making it illegal."

Councilman Decker then presented statistics on gun violence, the impact of crime on marginalized groups, and argued how SHB-1240 is "urban-centric" and not inclusive of rural and suburban communities.

Council President Shannon Sessions raised the concern of setting precedence of the council inserting itself into state-level legislation; whereas Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby shared her concern for the need of such a non-binding resolution since the bill has already passed both chambers and is now heading back to the House for a concurrence vote on three Senate amendments.

"Are we giving them [Lynnwood residents] false hope," Vice President Altamirano-Crosby said. She later continued, "This isn't going to do anything in our city of Lynnwood, it is only a piece of paper."

The Lynnwood City Attorney Lisa Marshall confirmed with the council that the resolution is only a consideration for the Washington Legislature for which the city has no control over the authority of the state.

Councilman Jim Smith accused Councilman Hurst of "promoting" his resolution to the Human Services Commission for which commissioners, during public comments, urged the council to approve. Pam Hurst, the wife of Councilman George Hurst, serves on the commission.

"What we are seeing in our community is that we are being "Seatlized," Councilman Smith said. We are seeing more and more crime coming to Lynnwood and what this resolution is doing is saying that the young [and] marginalized community is not going to be able to protect themselves."

The motion for the resolution failed 4-3 with Sessions, Altamirano-Crosby, Smith, and Decker voting against; and Hurst, Sutton and Binda voting to approve.

If SHB-1240 receives final passage on a second House vote, Washington state will join nine other states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York—and Washington, D.C., in banning "assault weapons" since federal restrictions expired in 2004.

Currently, two cases are making their way through the federal court system: *Bianchi v Frosh*, which challenges Maryland's ban, and *Miller v Bonta*, which targets California's. Both are expected to eventually be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court which recently ruled last summer in its *Bruen* decision that lower courts can no longer consider whether gun laws serve the public interests but rather if the law is consistent with the country's "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Hurst told the Lynnwood Times after the meeting that what is most needed is mental health services to mitigate gun violence for residents. He will be resurrecting an ARPA request to fund community outreach and mental health services in schools.

## LYNNWOOD SEWER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City Council unanimously (7-0) to approve the 2023 Lynnwood Sewer Comprehensive Plan that will address an aging infrastructure, increase capacity and major upgrades for the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby shared the accomplishments of her attendance officially representing the City of Lynnwood at the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. She attended the "Celebrate Diversity Breakfast" focused on honoring excellence in Municipal Multicultural Initiatives and the ARPA Implementation in your Communities meetings.

In addition to attending several speaking engagements and panel discussions, Dr. Altamirano-Crosby met with the City of Lynnwood's lobbyist who submitted requests to Representative Rick Larsen, Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell for \$5 million for the Scriber Lake Phase 3 project and \$2 million for the Maple Stormwater Demonstration Park.

The Lynnwood Times will be providing more information on the Council Vice President's trip in a separate article.

Councilman Josh Binda, requested the council reimburse him for up to \$1,000—an amount he told the Lynnwood Times after the meeting—in

travel expenses to the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C.

There was some tension amongst councilmembers whether Councilman Binda was authorized to attend the trip. His name was not on a list of 100 delegates from Washington state who officially represented their municipalities.

Binda claims he was "intimidated" and "bullied" by Council President Shannon Sessions to not go on the trip. According to Binda, prior to going on the trip he asked to seek legal advice on the rules for approved travel to the NLC conference for which President Sessions informed him he may contact the City's attorney for clarification.

"It is not required for the council to approve anybody to go, its required for the permission from financial in our council rules to get that approve," Council President Sessions said.

After City Attorney Lisa Marshall shared with the council that Councilman Binda never contacted her regarding any travel to Washington D.C. for the NLC conference, the councilman said that he "attended on his own merit" because, as the conference was a week away, he felt there wasn't enough time for the attorney to respond to his questions.

"The reason I did not have a conversation with the attorney, because I decided it was a week out from the conference and by the time I would have a conversation with Lisa [the City's attorney], I would already miss the deadline to make it," Councilman Binda said. "So, that is why I decided to attend on my own merit and now I am requesting reimbursement of that funding."

Councilman Smith asked for the official financial statements to be presented to the council for review in a later meeting.

## PROCLAMATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

The Council unanimously (7-0) appointed Anthony Angel to the Tourism Advisory Committee, Position 6.

Councilman Decker presented the National Volunteer of the Week proclamation to Mary-Anne Grafton, Lynnwood Senior Center Supervisor, Christina Chung, Terry Strausser, and Sydney Hoard.

Councilman Hurst presented the Arbor Day proclamation to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Lynn Sordel, Nick Coelho, and Hasti Askham.



Front Row: Ryan Bush, Tourism Project Manager (left) with newly appointed Tourism Commissioner Anthony Angel. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



Front Row: Councilman Patrick Decker (left) with (L-R) Mary-Anne Grafton, Lynnwood Senior Center Supervisor, Christina Chung, Sydney Hoard, and Terry Strausser.



Front Row: Councilman George Hurst (left) with (L-R) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Lynn Sordel, Hasti Askham, and Nick Coelho.

# Let's Talk About Safety: What are you doing for a safer Lynnwood?



Let's Talk Safety panelist on March 30, 2023. (L-R) Bill Franz, Valerie Bouffiou, Presiding Judge of Lynnwood Municipal Court, Public Works Director, Lynn Sordel, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director, Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Lynnwood PD Chief Jim Nelson, Lynnwood PD Commander Pat Fagan, and Gregory Schwab, Assistant Superintendent for Edmonds School District. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

## By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Local leaders and community members gathered at Meadowdale Community Church in Lynnwood on Thursday, March 30, to discuss public safety in an open forum setting for its third Let's Talk About Safety event.

"I feel very pleased to see the presence of the community there in the sense that they had time to go and speak out, and make comments," Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Lynnwood City Council Vice President, told the Lynnwood Times.

Sitting on the panel were Bill Franz, Public Works Director, Lynn Sordel, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director, Valerie Bouffiou, Presiding Judge of Lynnwood Municipal Court, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Lynnwood PD Commander Pat Fagan, Lynnwood PD Chief Jim Nelson, and Gregory Schwab, Assistant Superintendent for Edmonds School District.

In addition to asking questions verbally during the forum, attendees were also invited to list their top three concerns about safety in Lynnwood on a paper handout, which will later be tallied and

considered among City officials and directors.

The first question of the evening came from someone named Shola, who asked what the City of Lynnwood is doing about "anti-blackness and far right terrorism," and referenced the death of Tirhas Tesfatsion, who died within custody at Lynnwood Jail in 2021, and the October 2021 arrests of two Lynnwood men for their involvement in the U.S. Capitol riots on January 6. Shola was also critical of the recent public scrutiny toward Lynnwood City Councilman Josh Binda concerning a social media post in which he posed shirtless in what the public calls a "a sexually suggestive" pose to promote his Love Conquers All Tour to mostly minors.

Binda is currently under investigation for an ethics violation for entering council chambers, without permission, to shoot a promotional video for this tour – which he profited approximately \$20,000 from – geared toward inspiring youth. The ethics investigation opened the same week that the Public Disclosure Committee (PDC) found Binda guilty of using thousands of dollars from his campaign funds for personal items. Despite this, Shola believed the public's outcry, in which

many community members called for his resignation at the Lynnwood City Council meeting Monday, to be racially driven.

Tirhas Tesfatsion's death was found to be suicide following two investigations, both internal and external, after being arrested for DUI in July, 2021.

Shola ultimately noted that they do not feel safe in Lynnwood, as a person who identifies as Black and Queer.

"If you're a resident of this city come talk to us," said Chief Nelson in response. "Come actually see the work we do. I have men and women who would, in a heartbeat, lay down their lives for you. Ideological discussions, I'm happy to have those one-on-one with you...If you're feeling unsafe in any way by how the Police Department is impacting you, or the City is impacting you, let's talk about the issue specifically, not the theory of the issue. Let's talk about 'I'm feeling unsafe because'. I would love to have that conversation with you."

Chief Nelson added that when it comes to acts of terrorism, the Police Department works with both state and federal authorities who take these matters "very seriously," adding that

the arrests of the two men involved in the January 6 riots is indicative of that commitment. In addition, the Lynnwood Police Department consults with its Race and Equity team throughout its hiring process, Nelson added, and continues to work closely with the federal Joint Terrorism Task Force on hate crime instances.

The Lynnwood Times followed up with Shola, who uses the pronouns "they/them", to ask if they felt the City addressed their question properly to which they said "yes and no." When asked what they would like to see the City do differently, to feel like a more welcoming and safe community, they said "more diversity in city roles with analysis" and "more mindfulness of different people's unique struggles."

The second question the public asked was if there was a specific website that shows how crime is trending within Lynnwood. Chief Nelson directed him to My Community Crime Map, which is directly linked to dispatch in the police department's system that also covers unincorporated segments of Lynnwood as well.

Another resident asked, albeit vaguely,

*Continued* **PAGE 10 >>**

## from page 2 **WAGONER**

House Bill 1240 declares the violent and inappropriate use of firearms 'appeal[s] to troubled young men intent on becoming the next mass shooter.' But where is the effort to help these troubled young males and heal whatever there is inside of them that is broken and leading to violence and rage?

Instead, this bill goes after the implement, and completely ignores the underlying root causes of the problems we see today.

The problems are not just reflected in deaths caused by a demented person with a firearm. We see it in the increase of drug-related deaths, teen suicides, wrong-way and drunk-driving assaults on our roads, and in the sunken eyes of lost souls we see roaming our streets with unattended-to mental-health and substance-abuse issues.

It is reflected in fatherless homes producing rulerless young men who feel hopeless and unsure of their place in this world. It is reflected in the general lawlessness we have seen explode across this state, thanks in large part to the failed policies of the Democrat majority in the Legislature and Governor Inslee.

Banning some of the most popular firearms kept and used by law-abiding citizens today will do nothing to address these problems. Absolutely zero.

Look no further than the City of Seattle. Despite Washington ranking in the Top 10 nationally for gun control for the past five years, we have seen the number of shootings – fatal or not – and 'shots-fired events' in our largest city hit an all-time high in 2022.

The fact of the matter is the law created by this bill will just be more of the same. Worse still, it will give

the victims of these crimes and all Washingtonians a false sense of security that something is being done.

And let's not forget that this ban is also blatantly unconstitutional, and likely to cost taxpayers crucial dollars that could be invested in mental health and public safety, but which will instead be used trying to unsuccessfully defend this law in the courts.

HB 1240 now goes back to the House to reconcile changes between the version that passed the Senate and the one that passed the House earlier this year. That means there is still time for lawmakers to do the right thing, put this bill down, and set their sights on real solutions.

Sincerely,  
Senator Keith Wagoner, R-Sedro-Woolley  
Washington State Legislature

# Washington West African Center hosts fourth annual Sukuri Ndogu

By MARIO LOTMORE

**EVERETT**—The Washington West African Center (WAWAC) held its fourth annual Sukuri Ndogu and Iftar Ramadan event at the Bilal Ibn Rabah Islamic Center on Saturday, April 8, distributing groceries and hundreds and meals to West Africans living in King and Snohomish counties.

Sukuri Ndogu is a Wolof word that roughly translates to “food to break fast.” For the past four years, WAWAC has held this West African tradition of supplying groceries to elders in preparation for or during the observation of Ramadan.

As community members began to pull up, volunteers issued bags of groceries. Meals of charbroiled chicken with rice and salad or meat pies were served with churra gerte—a traditional Gambian sweet porridge made with boiled peanuts and rice—as dessert.

“It is great to see the community coming out during which we serve them with hot meals, different type of fresh produce, cultural appropriate groceries,” said Pa Ousman Joof, Founder and Executive Director of WAWAC.

The meals were provided by Bantaba African Restaurant located at 19417 36th Ave W in Lynnwood just across the street from the Lynnwood Event Center, and Dijah’s Kitchen also located in Lynnwood at 16108 Ash Way, Suite 103.



**Front Row: Councilman George Hurst (left) with (L-R) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Lynn Sordel, Hasti Askham, and Nick Coelho.**

While it is important for the elders to be well-supplied for Ramadan, this event also serves significant cultural purposes, helping elders in the community stay connected with their culture and each other.

WAWAC’s first Sukuri Ndogu began in 2020 when they served over 50 seniors with funding from the 2020 census. Now, three years later, the event grew to provide over 500 meals and distribute health related materials and supplies.

Since our first meeting with Joof in 2021, WAWAC has grown to provide: an after-school program for at least 25 youth several days a week, summer camp opportunities, a monthly support group for seniors called Grandma’s Hangout, rental and bill payment assistance, connection

with immigration help, and translation services.

“We are very busy; and in fact, we are looking forward to moving to a bigger office space in Lynnwood,” Joof shared with the Lynnwood Times.

Through various partnerships with organizations like the Group Health Foundation, Verdant Health, Washington State Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health, WAWAC also utilizes their Sukuri Ndogu events to educate the community on sensitive topics such as domestic violence.

WAWAC will be in Portland, Oregon next weekend providing meals to the West African community.

“I told you, we are growing,” Joof said

when sharing upcoming activities. “We have stuff going on in King County and of course in Clark County. We will be there in Vancouver, Washington next weekend too!”

Sainey M.K. Marenah, a Gambian journalist, lent a hand at the event as a volunteer. Expressing his excitement, Marenah said, “This is a moment of holiness as people come together peacefully to be kind to one another as our religion tells us to be. This [Ramadan] is a month of forgiveness, a month of blessing, and we are grateful to be here to volunteer for our community.”

The mission of Washington West African Center is to connect West Africans in Washington with local resources, bridging the gap within the wider community and culturally socialize West African children in a value driven way. It’s Executive Director Pa Ousman Joof aims to enable West Africans to discover their full potential and facilitate communication through the use of modern information technologies and works of art for the discovery and realization of their talents.

The organization primarily operates in and around Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties, which are home to over 20,000 West Africans in the state. WAWAC opened five years ago and has an office in Lynnwood at 16911 Highway 99, Suite 102.

To learn more about WAWAC, call 253-235-2132, or email [info@wawac.org](mailto:info@wawac.org).

from page 2 **SOMERS**

ish County Opioid Multiple Agency Coordination Group which includes dedicated groups in emergency management, human services, public health, law enforcement, fire and EMS, cities and towns, and many others. In the year of its founding, its goal was to reduce deaths in the abuse of prescription medication but “just in a few short years the landscape of the drug epidemic has changed,” Somers said. The focus is now on fentanyl, counterfeit pills, heroin, methamphetamine, and “tranq dope”—a new, extremely toxic, cocktail showing up on the streets.

Snohomish County recently received its first installment of money from its lawsuit to hold opioid manufacturers and distributors accountable. Those funds will be used to provide more resources to individuals experiencing substance abuse, use of disorder, and to those seeking recovery.

Next, Somers transitioned to the county’s housing crisis stating predictions of 143,182 new affordable housing units by 2044. That’s almost 7,000 new units per year, for the next 21 years.

“We must do even more or this crisis will become irreversible,” said Somers.

The county has begun addressing this need by passing legislation encouraging attached and detached accessory dwelling units, which are “mother in-law” apartments that provide a quick-to-build, affordable housing option. The county has also utilized its American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) to purchase two hotels, one in Everett and one in Edmonds, which will help

transition people living on the streets to housing, while providing social services that enable sustainable housing and self-sufficiency.

As for economic development, Somers mentioned Everett’s Paine Field has the largest economic impact of any airport in the state, accounting for over 155,000 jobs and nearly \$60 billion in yearly economic activity. By comparison, SeaTac Airport generates approximately \$24 billion a year. As a result, the county is always working on ways of making Paine Field more stronger and more diverse.

In 2019, through a partnership with Propeller Airports, the county successfully launched commercial air service—one of the first public/private partnerships like it in the United States. The airport has also recently welcomed FedEx, which has been an important part of the region’s aerospace ecosystem.

Additionally, Boeing recently announced the establishment of its fourth 737 line in Everett to supplement its production of 737’s at its Renton facility.

Paine Field will also become home to a global first: a sustainable aviation fuel and research and development center which will be a major step forward to decarbonize air travel and offer the county enormous economic benefits. The State House and Senate have included \$6.5 million in the State Transportation budget to get the facility started thanks, in large part, due to Senator Maria Cantwell’s efforts.

“The SAF Center will be our first major effort under our climate economy

initiative,” said Somers. “The initiative will continue to look for ways to expand our climate economy and the SAF center is an ambitious first step.”

When coupled with innovators pursuing hydrogen and electric powered flight, the SAF facility will ensure that the future of aerospace will be centered in Snohomish County for many decades to come, Somers added stating: “We remain the global heart of the aerospace industry, designing, building, and flying the best planes in the world and I intend to do everything within my power to keep it that way.”

Somers also noted the county is continuing to support its small business community, which is the “backbone that make our communities thrive,” however, like many regions in the nation currently, companies are struggling to find skilled workers to fulfill positions.

However, thanks to the Future Workforce Alliance, Somers is confident the region is “well on its way to achieving our goals,” of remaining competitive, and producing an educated and skilled workforce pool. The county will also be continuing its work in supporting

apprenticeship programs, he said.

Transitioning into broadband, Somers noted the county currently has a \$16 million project to expand broadband access along SR-530 and has submitted five additional applications to the state Broadband Office for funding. The County Council established a Broadband Access Team which will continue to be instrumental in formulating the county’s plans in this area, Somers said.

Somers briefly touched on transportation, specifically acknowledging the county needs to “fix” highway 2, and complete the SR-522 connection, while pledging a commitment to the Light Rail extension to Everett. He then concluded his talking points by tackling environment protection and disaster preparedness.

“Our natural environment makes Snohomish County the best place to live, work, and play. Without it, we wouldn’t have people from all over the world visiting, investing their resources, and bringing innovative ideas here,” said Somers.

# Early childhood education provider celebrates new location in Lynnwood

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**LYNNWOOD**—The Goddard School®, a nationally acclaimed early childhood education franchise, is opening its newest location in Lynnwood. The school, which will serve up to 200 local families seeking high-quality early childhood education, is slated to open in late Spring of 2024.

“We want to bring a quality school here to Lynnwood,” Kalis Sathappan, co-owner of the upcoming Goddard School of Lynnwood, told the Lynnwood Times. “This is a play-based school, we serve from ages six weeks to six years. Goddard’s curriculum is more like a year ahead than what other public schools are doing.”

The Goddard School uses current, academically endorsed methods to ensure that children have fun while learning the skills they need for long-term success in school and in life.

This will be Sathappan and his wife Maanu Muthu’s second school and third business. They also own The Goddard School of Redmond and continuing in the tradition of providing the needs for the family, a pet care business called, The Dog Stop located in Bothell.

Having transitioned from the tech industry, both Sathappan and Muthu have a firm commitment that education for children starts from day one at Goddard.

“This is not a drop and leave experience,” Sathappan said. “There is



**Andy Hinman, Kalis Sathappan, his sons Siddharth and Vikram with wife Maanu Muthu, Bill Robison, and Sharon Crane at the groundbreaking on The Goddard School of Lynnwood on April 10, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.**

always some sort of education, some sort of learning going on.”

“Our long term goal was to be entrepreneurs,” Muthu told the Lynnwood Times. “There is a need here for doggy daycare and child care here in Washington. So, we started in Redmond with Redmond Goddard School. There are 150 kids there but this one is going to be a little bigger, about 200 kids. This location is going to be 12,000 square feet. We are really excited!”

The future site of The Goddard School of Lynnwood will be built on a 1.38-acre parcel located at 18802 55th Ave W in the center of Lynnwood just off Highway 99 and 188th Street. The single-story 12,000 square foot building will consist of 11 classrooms and a

1,500 square foot multi-purpose play room. The building structure will be in the center of the parcel to facilitate outdoor play and sports area.

The owners shared a huge appreciation to the City of Lynnwood and specifically its Development and Business Services Department for their professionalism and approach.

“This was one of the only pieces of land that I have sold where everybody in the City [specifically, permitting] showed up for the zoom meetings...like 10 or 12 people,” Sharon Crane of Seattle Pacific Realty, Inc. told the Lynnwood Times. “That was preapplication and that was amazing!”

The project was met with two challenges – a potential wetland and

zoning. After a study proved the property was not on a natural wetland, the City of Lynnwood’s Development and Business Services Department working with Sharon, Sathappan, Muthu, and project engineer Andy Hinman with A Hinman Construction and Consulting, found a workaround to the zoning issue.

“The City allowed a planned use development as a workaround to the restriction of a 7,500 square foot building use,” Hinman told the Lynnwood Times. “Everyone in permitting was absolutely fantastic!”

The site location is zoned neighborhood commercial, which typically encourages smaller multi-use businesses. The solution allowed for the 12,000 square foot single use site that will benefit the entire community.

“I feel like I know most of them. A special thanks to Charlie Palmer, Christopher Wright, Darlene Stokes, and John Tannerhill. They are all excellent to work with. You would get on the phone, and they would know about the project,” Hinman said.

Bill Robison of Kugel Construction aims to have the building complete before Christmas.

“Since we started construction, they [The City of Lynnwood] have been very good meeting us out here so we understand their desires of keeping the site and street clean,” Robison said.

*Continued* **PAGE 11 >>**

## TSA IS NOW HIRING

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**jobs.tsa.gov/events**

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# Mukilteo Community Cleanup this Earth Day on April 22, 2023



Make a difference in Mukilteo this Earth Day! On Saturday, April 22, from 9am – 12pm, join hundreds of other Mukilteans working together to make our community and planet a better place.



Choose from two locations including Lighthouse Park and 92nd Street Park, and then make your way to Lighthouse Park at 12pm for a community lunch (while supplies last) with activities and community booths until 4 PM.

Registered participants receive a t-shirt to wear during the event (while supplies last). Families are encouraged to participate – those under age 14 need to be accompanied by a parent. ALL participants are required to fill out a volunteer form with the city.

Work includes garden bed clean-up, pressure washing and trash collection/clean-up. If able, please bring gardening tools and gloves!

## 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>

## Planning Commission has two vacancies, Lynnwood residents encouraged to apply



**LYNNWOOD**—Become part of Lynnwood's future by joining the Lynnwood Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is an advisory body appointed by the City Council to advise on various issues. This will include the completion of the Imagine Lynnwood 2044 Comprehensive Plan, the City Center + Alderwood Plan, as well as the implementation of the Housing Action Plan. The Commission will also provide support on other land use and development matters.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed to serve four-year terms and meet twice monthly and meet twice per month on the second and fourth Thursdays. Members must live within Lynnwood city limits and be a registered voter.

There are currently two vacancies on the board:

- Position #1 – Term expires December 31, 2024
- Position #4 – Term expires December 31, 2026

The application deadline is Monday, May 1.



# World Athletics Council restricts male-to-female transgender athletes

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**MONACO**—In a move that its President, Sebastian Coe, said “is a decisive move to protect the female category,” the World Athletics Council announced on March 23, 2023, it will exclude male-to-female transgender athletes who have been through male puberty from female World Rankings competition, effective March 31, 2023.

World Athletics, formerly known as the “International Association of Athletics Federations” (or IAAF) is the world governing authority on competitions, standardization of technical equipment, and the official repository of all world records. The governing body was founded on July 17, 1912, in Stockholm, Sweden, following the closing ceremony of the

Olympic Games.

“Decisions are always difficult when they involve conflicting needs and rights between different groups, but we continue to take the view that we must maintain fairness for female athletes above all other considerations,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said. “We will be guided in this by the science around physical performance and male advantage which will inevitably develop over the coming years. As more evidence becomes available, we will review our position, but we believe the integrity of the female category in athletics is paramount.”

The World Athletics came to this decision after a two-month long consultation period this year with various stakeholders including

Member Federations, the Global Athletics Coaches Academy and Athletes’ Commission, the IOC as well as representative transgender and human rights groups.

The Council cited that more than ten years of research and evidence shows athletes with Differences of Sex Development (DSD) have physical advantages in the female category.

“In these circumstances, the Council decided to prioritize fairness and the integrity of the female competition before inclusion” the press release states.

World Athletics defines DSD as those individuals being assigned at birth a legal sex of female and/or having a female gender identity,

notwithstanding that the individual has fully functioning (internal) testes rather than ovaries or viceversa. In other words, these are individuals that have congenital conditions at birth that cause atypical sex development.

The Council will be establishing a Working Group to further consider the issue of transgender inclusion over the next year. The Working Group will include an independent chair, up to three Council Members, two athletes from the Athletes’ Commission, a transgender athlete, three representatives of the Member Federations and representatives of the World Athletics Health and Science Department.

from page 1 **UPS WAREHOUSE**

es.

The land sold for a little over market value at approximately \$15 million, in November 2022. Before that, it used to be a junkyard. Now, piles of trash, abandoned tents, and mattresses stretch as far as the eye can see, and into the surrounding forests. A junked RV, with missing tires and fire damage, sits in the middle of excavated tree roots.

While Aaron and Steve packed up, Natasha Jabbour, Project Engineer with UPS, surveyed the littered grounds with her team, beside a landscaping crew dismantling the remains of a homeless encampment that existed for the last two years.

Aaron has been living on the streets for about 10 years now, after he and his disabled father were “wrongfully evicted” from their “slum lord”-owned apartment in Edmonds, he said. His father was unable to work, suffering from muscular dystrophy and heart problems, and Aaron couldn’t afford to make the first month’s rent and the security deposit required to sign a new lease. The two lived in their van until Aaron’s father passed away from heart complications, unable to afford his medication. Since then, Aaron has suffered from a depression he has been unable to lift himself out of.

“I never thought I’d be homeless in my life, but since I’ve experienced it I’ve looked at people in this type of lifestyle totally different” said Aaron. “I don’t really know how to pull myself out of it.”

Aaron’s mother is also homeless, currently waiting on housing in Lynnwood. He added that when the Lynnwood Police Department informed him he had to leave, they were respectful, offered social services, and even offered to give him, and his friend Steve, an extra day to pack up if they needed it.

“Any work we engaged in that area involves first offering services and re-

sources and talking with folks there,” Maren McKay, Public Information Officer for the Lynnwood Police Department, told the Lynnwood Times.

The area surrounding the site of the, now cleared, homeless encampment has been a frequent site of crime in the last year with 11 motor vehicle thefts, 11 commercial burglaries, 14 thefts, one robbery, and five aggravated assaults, from April 2022 to April 2023, according to Lynnwood PD data. Aaron informed the Lynnwood Times he observed an increase in “riff raffs” moving into his encampment ever since a man, whom everyone referred to as “Pops,” passed away from environmental hyperthermia during the winter of 2021. Pops was somewhat of a mentor and peacemaker in their community, Aaron said, but ever since he passed, everyone had to guard their things a little more closely.

“I wish he was still there. He set up a nice tent with solar panels and everything, and he was quiet,” a resident living in the houses behind the land, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Lynnwood Times. “But at the same time, I didn’t feel like giving him a neighborly gift.”

Many residents living in the neighborhoods adjacently located have witnessed the homeless encampment come and go over the last several years, informing the Lynnwood Times they often heard “screams” at night, and witness homeless individuals run through their front yards, where one of the resident’s five-year-old granddaughter sometimes plays on the playground.

Some even camped in the woods, as close as one hundred feet to houses and apartments, until a group of beavers flooded them out.

“There’s definitely a crime problem around here. I think the police department is stretched thin, I really do,” a resident living in the neighborhood told the Lynnwood Times. “They’re doing a great job here under difficult



**Aaron and his dog Boo Boo packing up to leave the 20-acre future site of a UPS Distribution Center. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.**

circumstances, in my opinion.”

Snohomish County’s Annual Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) count, designed to provide a snapshot of households experiencing homelessness on a single night, was conducted on January 24, 2023. The results of the PIT will help ensure that vital federal and state funding continues to come into the community to fight homelessness, the county says. Data from the annual count is also used to help understand how widespread homelessness is in the county and who is most affected.

During the 2022 count, 584 individuals in 535 households reported they were unsheltered. Another 600 persons in 418 households were without a perma-

nent place to stay and were temporarily housed in emergency shelter or transitional housing. There were 46 veterans, 582 chronically homeless individuals, and 107 households with children under 18.

“The PIT Count is our chance every year to collect data and determine where our programs can have the greatest impact,” said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers in a news release. “We are a compassionate community that values public safety and human dignity. Our community is neither safe nor compassionate if people are living on our streets. I urge anyone who is interested to volunteer to help conduct our PIT Count.”

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# Nationwide halt of abortion pill Mifepristone except in WA and 16 other states

By MARIO LOTMORE

**AMARILLO, TX**—U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk of the Northern District of Texas, halted the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval of the abortion pill Mifepristone on Friday, April 7. The ruling comes just three days after Governor Jay Inslee announced the purchase of a three-year supply of the abortion-inducing pill that was delivered on March 31.

In a press conference on April 4, Inslee shared he directed the Department of Corrections to order 30,000 doses of mifepristone through its pharmacy license in anticipation of the ruling. The advance purchase of the drug means it will remain available to Washington state providers and patients, regardless of the Texas ruling.

“This Texas lawsuit is a clear and present danger to patients and providers all across the country. Washington will not sit by idly and risk the devastating consequences of inaction,” Inslee said during Tuesday’s presser. “Washington is a pro-choice state and no Texas judge will order us otherwise.”

Also on April 7, in a separate lawsuit filed in February by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas O Rice of Eastern District of Washington, granted an injunction in Washington and 16 other states from, “altering the status quo and rights as it relates to the availability of Mifepristone



From left to right: Rep. Marcus Riccelli, Sen. Manka Dhingra, Sen. Karen Keiser, Gov. Jay Inslee, Rep. Jessica Bateman, Rep. My-Linh Thai and AG Bob Ferguson  
Photo courtesy of the Governor’s Office.

under the current operative January 2023 Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy under 21 U.S.C. § 355-1 in Plaintiff States.”

In other words, the Washington state ruling bars the FDA from doing anything to reduce the availability of the abortion drug mifepristone in the 17 states enjoined in Ferguson’s lawsuit.

“Today’s ruling will preserve vital access to mifepristone while our case

continues,” Ferguson released in a statement on Friday. “Mifepristone is scientifically proven to be safe and effective after more than 20 years of use in the United States. Attacks on reproductive freedom will continue, but we will continue to fight for the right to access mifepristone in Washington.”

Ferguson’s lawsuit accuses the FDA of singling out mifepristone — one of the two drugs used for medication abortions — for excessively

burdensome regulation.

President Joe Biden strongly condemned the ruling by the Northern District of Texas tweeting that this action is one step closer to “an abortion ban that Republican elected officials vowed to make law.”

“If this ruling were to stand, there would be virtually no prescription approved by the FDA safe from this kind of attack,” Biden tweeted.

The Department of Justice on Friday immediately filed an appeal on behalf of the FDA and other defendants.

“The Justice Department strongly disagrees with the decision of the District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA and will be appealing the court’s decision and seeking a stay pending appeal,” U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland released in a statement on Friday. “Today’s decision overturns the FDA’s expert judgment, rendered over two decades ago, that mifepristone is safe and effective. The Department will continue to defend the FDA’s decision.”

In a 67-page opinion to halt the approval of Mifepristone, Judge Kacsmaryk, in his Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA case, stated the FDA violated a federal rule that allows for accelerated approval. The ruling does not withdraw the FDA’s approval of mifepristone which would have stopped all prescriptions of the drug.

### HELP WANTED: Accountant

Full time. Travel not required. Salary \$63,544 per year.

One position is open for Accountant (Lynnwood, WA). Prepare general ledger, expense reports, tax payments and returns and bank records; prepare audits and support accounts receivable.

**Requirements:** Bachelor in Accounting, Finance or Business; Ability to use QuickBooks and Microsoft Office (Excel, Word and Outlook; Functions and Macro).

**Send Resume to:** Italian Custom Cabinets LLC, 15008 35th Ave W, Suite D, Lynnwood, WA 98087.

### HELP WANTED: Interior Designer

Full time. Travel not required. Salary \$51,667 per year.

One position is open for Interior Designer (Lynnwood, WA). Prepare design plans for Kitchen and Bath and review and detail shop drawings for construction plans.

**Requirements:** Bachelor in Architecture or Interior Design; Ability to use AutoCAD, KCD, Mozaik, and other 3D modeling and visualization software; Ability to prepare presentations including drawings, renderings and conceptual work; Ability to design for a variety of styles; and ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.

**Send Resume to:** Italian Custom Cabinets LLC, 15008 35th Ave W, Suite D, Lynnwood, WA 98087.

### from page 5 SAFETY TALK

“what is happening at Meadowdale?” Greg Schwab took the question, on behalf of the Edmonds School District Superintendent’s Office, to say the schools are continuing to train its administrators to become better equipped with gang-related incidents.

“What’s going on at Meadowdale High is unfortunately what’s going on with a lot of our schools right now,” said Schwab. “I think we’re struggling with coming out of the pandemic, and struggling with getting back into school and getting kids back in a regularly routine again. That’s why we’ve invested so heavily in mental health support for our students, additional counseling supports, and social work.”

Schwab mentioned the school district’s Family Resource Advocates, who help students, and their families, suffering from poverty and homeless, find resources and navigate the school system as just one way the school helps provide services for students.

A student of Meadowdale High School was arrested last December after bringing a pistol and ammunition to school. The 15-year-old was booked

into the Denney Juvenile Justice Center in Everett for Theft of a Firearm DV and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm 2 on December 16, 2021.

“We’ve had real conversations about what do we do now, not after a situation, but now to help our kids find their identities and find a feeling of safety,” said Mayor Frizzell. “Being safe is different than feeling safe and it’s important for us to be working in those areas...we care about our kids, and we care about our community, and we want to make sure that we are touching kids’ lives.”

Other topics of conversation, throughout the evening, included the rising occurrence of graffiti, abandoned shopping carts, how the City is preparing for growth in terms of upholding safety, and the need for more police officers at the Lynnwood Police Department where there are currently 14 vacancies.

To conclude the evening, Lynnwood resident and a member of the Board of Trustees of Edmonds College, Wally Webster II, took the mic to say:

“Tonight I’ve listened to a number of questions and there’s been a lot of

nouns used. What are you doing, what are they doing, what are our partners doing. I’d like to change that to say what am I doing?”

“If you look at each one of us in this room there’s enough expertise, there’s enough people in this room to make a difference in terms of safety in this community. If we take 40,000 people in this city, and we’re all doing something this would be the safest place in the world to live. How many people are going up to the Boys & Girls Club and asking what can I do to help? How many of us are going up to the YMCA and asking what can I do to help?”

“So change that to what are you doing, and what your budget is doing to what am I doing to make a difference? If we can do that, then we can solve the problems that we came to talk about tonight.”

The gentleman was met with resounding applause.

The event was the City’s third Let’s Talk About Safety event organized by Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Altamirano-Crosby. Mayor Christine Frizzell, Councilman Jim Smith, Councilman Patrick Decker,

Council President Shannon Sessions, and Councilman George Hurst were also present.

“We received a lot of emails and phone calls, and text messages regarding safety in the City,” Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby said, recounting why she organized the event. “For me, safety is the priority. Receiving all those messages, I felt a commitment to do something as a public servant.”

Determined to take action following three shootings that took place in Lynnwood last year, the councilwoman reached out to Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo of Trinity Church who sits on the Lynnwood Police Chief’s Advisory Committee, and volunteered to host the event at his monastery. Councilwoman Altamirano-Crosby also contacted Deputy Police Chief Cole Langdon, who loved the idea and agreed to participate. The first event was held May, 2022.

“The community deserves this,” said Altamirano-Crosby, “and the community needs to talk to us so we can know exactly what their safety priorities are.”

from page 2 **BINDA RECALL**

for recall must be signed, with valid signatures, by at least 35% of the total votes cast for all candidates who ran for the office in the most recent election. According to the Snohomish County Auditor's website, the most recent Lynnwood City Council election was on November 2, 2021 with a total of 7,405 votes. Therefore, The Committee to Recall Joshua Binda, would need to collect at least 2,592 valid signatures on signed petition pages no later than August to meet the November ballot deadline.

The recall ballot synopsis is prepared and transmitted to Superior Court to determine sufficiency. Upon approval of the ballot synopsis and charges, signatures can begin to be collected.

The signed petition pages are filed with the Snohomish County Auditor

for voter and signature verification. If the recall signatures are sufficient, the Snohomish County Auditor sets an election date.

If the recall to oust Councilman Binda passes, he is immediately discharged from office and the Lynnwood City Council then appoints someone to fill the vacated position. If the recall fails, Councilman Binda officially stays in the office to complete the rest of his term which ends December 31, 2025.

Councilman Joshua Binda won against veteran politician and former councilwoman Lisa Utter by only 512 votes. According to the 2021 General Election voters pamphlet, Utter received the sole endorsement by the 32nd District Democrats, the National Organization for Women, Federation of Democratic Women, and the 21st District Democrats.

from page 7 **GODDARD SCHOOL**

"They have been very good working with us on our plans and our approach. It has been excellent to work with them."

Goddard schools support the needs of families and helps ensure that children are known and appreciated for their individual talents and personalities. The Goddard School's F.L.EX.® Learning Program (Fun Learning

Experience) helps children explore and discover their interests in a safe, nurturing environment. A team of acknowledged experts in various fields of early childhood education guides the course of study.

The Goddard School serves more than 75,000 students in 37 states and Washington, D.C. To learn more about The Goddard School, please visit [GoddardSchool.com](http://GoddardSchool.com).

The backlash against councilman Binda for posing shirtless to market his Love Conquers All Tour to minors has reach both national—New York Post—and international audiences. The UK news outlet, Daily Mail, referred to Councilman Binda of having a "Meghan and Harry-sized ego" who used a "sultry SHIRTLESS photo of himself" to promote his speaking tour

to minors.

Other news outlets and journalist including MyNorthwest, KIRO7, Lynnwood Today, and Brandi Kruse also reported on the councilman's latest decision to market himself to minors for his speaking tour.

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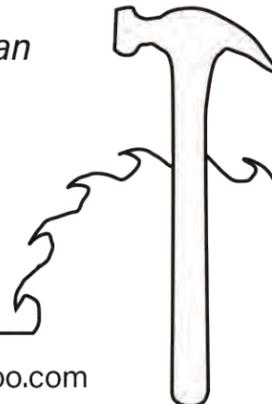
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from page 1 **KAMIAK WALKOUT**

With firearms being the #1 leading cause of death in children and adolescents, it's no surprise students around the country are taking action.

Gonzales recounted her firsthand experience of being caught in the middle of the 2018 shooting at a football game at Mariner High School.

"I can't forget anything that happened [the night of the football game]. People being told to hit the deck and seeing dozens of people crying because they weren't sure if anyone was hurt or where their friends were," shared Gonzales at the protest.

Washington State has been working towards an assault weapons ban since 2017 in the wake of the Mukilteo mass shooting by Kamiak High School student Allen Ivanov that left three dead and one injured. House Bill 1240, first proposed by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and

championed by local Representative Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds) along with others, passed the House almost six years later on March 8, 2023, with a vote of 55-42. The bill that prohibits the manufacture, sale, and importation of classified "assault weapons," with some exemptions, recently passed the Senate over the Easter weekend and now heads back to the House for a concurrence vote.

"The causes of gun violence in our country are complex and nuanced, but it is clear that having easy access to weapons designed for war with high rates of fire magnif[ies] the loss of life and devastating aftermath of a mass shooting," Rep. Peterson told the Lynnwood Times.

The bill names over 60 firearms that would be considered "assault weapons" ranging from rifles that are semi-automatic, shorter than 30 inches, and have a magazine larger than ten rounds.

Opponents of this bill say the bill caused by firearms."

Senator Wilson further criticized the Democratic-led Senate for not passing her proposal of criminalizing the theft of an assault weapon, making it a class B felony.

"The state's new Office of Firearm Safety admits stolen guns are tied to many of the shootings in our communities, yet today the Senate Democrats rejected the amendment I proposed that would criminalize the theft of these particular firearms, that makes zero sense," says Wilson.

Senate Republican Leader John Braun took to social media, criticizing the hypocrisy in the Democrats public safety plan when it comes to gun violence.

"As public safety continues to erode, Legislative Democrats are advancing legislation to REDUCE the penalties for firearm-related crimes," wrote Senator Braun referring to HB-1268 which would reduce sentencing requirements for gun- and gang-related crimes.

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

"My responsibility as Attorney General, but also as a father, is to do what I can to protect folks in our state," Ferguson told the Lynnwood Times during a February visit to Olympia. "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."

The 2023 legislative session is scheduled to adjourn on Sunday, April 23.

would have "no impact" on gun violence in the state, with Julie Barrett, the founder of Conservative Ladies of Washington, telling Fox News that the bill would "undoubtedly be challenged in the courts, costing the taxpayers more money in litigation costs."

Currently, two cases are making their way through the federal court system: *Bianchi v Frosh*, which challenges Maryland's ban, and *Miller v Bonta*, which targets California's. Both are expected to eventually be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court which recently ruled last summer in its *Bruen* decision that lower courts can no longer consider whether gun laws serve the public interests but rather if the law is consistent with the country's "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Washington State Democrats have called HB-1240 a "monumental step toward gun safety," as the Senate passed the bill 27-21 this Saturday. Governor Jay Inslee is expected to sign the bill if it passes.

**HB-1240 BILL SUMMARY**

The term "assault weapon" is defined to include various kinds of firearms, including:

- specific firearm models identified in the bill;
- semiautomatic rifles with an overall length of less than 30 inches;
- semiautomatic centerfire rifles that have the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and have one or more additional features listed in the bill;
- semiautomatic centerfire rifles with a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than ten rounds;
- semiautomatic pistols that have the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and have one or more additional features listed in the bill;
- semiautomatic shotguns that have one or more additional features listed in the bill; and
- conversion kits and parts that can be used to assemble an assault weapon or convert a firearm into an assault weapon, if the parts are in the possession of or under the control of the same person.

The term assault weapon excludes antique firearms, firearms that have been made permanently inoperable, and firearms that are manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action.

The restrictions on assault weapons are subject to several exceptions:

- licensed firearms manufacturers are authorized to manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell assault weapons for the purpose of sale to the armed forces of the United States or Washington, or to any law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes, or to a person who does not reside in Washington;
- licensed firearms dealers are authorized to import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell assault weapons for the purpose of sale to the armed forces of the United States

"We are the only country in the world that grapples with the horror of mass shootings, and today we took a critical step forward – and took the weapon of choice away from those who would do innocent people harm," said Senator Patty Kuderer (D-Bellevue). No matter if the bill is signed or not, students are pushing for change, and something has to be done.

If the bill receives final passage on a second House vote, Washington state will join nine other states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York—and Washington, D.C., in banning "assault weapons" since federal restrictions expired in 2004.

Peterson encourages residents to continue speaking out against gun violence telling the Lynnwood Times, "Change doesn't happen without the public saying enough is enough!"

or Washington, or to law enforcement agencies in Washington for law enforcement purposes;

- licensed firearms dealers are authorized to distribute, offer for sale, and sell assault weapons that were acquired from an individual legally authorized to possess or transfer the weapon, for the purpose of selling or transferring the weapon to a person who does not reside in Washington;
- the purpose of this exception is to allow individuals who no longer wish to own an assault weapon to sell their assault weapon and the exception is not intended to allow Washington dealers to purchase assault weapons wholesale for the purpose of selling a stock or inventory of assault weapons online or in person to nonresidents;
- firearms dealers may sell or transfer their existing stock of assault weapons that were acquired prior to January 1, 2023, to outside of the state for the limited period of 90 days after the effective date;
- persons on active military duty receiving orders to move to Washington State, or military retirees moving to Washington State; and
- any person may acquire possession of an assault weapon by operation of law upon the death of the weapon's former owner, if that former owner was in legal possession of the weapon and the person who acquires possession can establish such provenance.

If the Attorney General issues a civil investigative demand regarding a potential violation of these restrictions, the recipient of the demand may file in Superior Court a petition to extend the time to respond, or modify or set aside the demand for good cause. The Attorney General is prohibited from sharing any materials or information obtained through a civil investigative demand with any law enforcement agency conducting a criminal investigation, unless required to do so pursuant to a search warrant.

from page 1 **ASSAULT WEAPONS**

Jersey, and New York—and Washington, D.C., in banning so called assault weapons since federal restrictions expired in 2004.

The bill lists 61 specific gun models that would be banned from future sales in the state, including military-style weapons such as AR-15s, AK-47s and M-16s. It also lists characteristics of prohibited firearms, such as semi-automatic rifles with a length of less than 30 inches, and those that have detachable magazines or fixed magazines with a capacity of ten rounds or more. It would also prohibit the manufacture and import of classified assault weapons within Washington state. A violation of these restrictions is classified as a gross misdemeanor.

The ban does not prohibit possession of a classified assault weapon and allows for ownership by law enforcement and military service members and includes an exception in cases of inheritance.

A floor amendment allows for gun manufacturers to sell inventory already in stock prior to Jan. 1, 2023, and only to out-of-state clientele, for 90 days after the bill goes into effect.

The bill also contains an emergency clause and would take effect immediately if approved.

Several Republican senators say banning a particular kind of firearm won't make a meaningful difference in restoring public safety in Washington communities.

"This legislation clearly violates our state and federal constitutions, which is why it will end up in court immediately," says Senator Lynda Wilson (R-Vancouver). "But even if it was constitutional, a ban like this fails to get at the gang- and drug-related violence in our communities, the extreme mental-health issues, or the suicides that account for 75 percent of deaths

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