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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

WA poised to be the next Silicon Valley of the space industry, it just needs workers

Thousands of deadly fentanyl pills, meth, and weapons seized in Lynnwood arrest



Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell (center, black coat) and NASA Administrator Bill Nelson with attendees standing in front of Blue Origin's Shepard Crew Capsule at the Washington Space Summit on July 5, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Deon Dwayne Coates, 46, was arrested in Lynnwood on multiple counts of manufacturing and delivery with intent to sell illegal drugs and the unlawful possession of a firearm at approximately 4:30 a.m., Thursday, June 29,

Seattle Police Narcotics detectives, in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations, on June 29, arrived in Lynnwood with a warrant to arrest Coates on suspicion of trafficking narcotics in the Seattle and Northgate area. Homeland Security is in partnership with the Assistant U.S. Attorney's office to potentially file federal charges for similar crimes throughout the state of Washington and Montana.

During the arrest, law enforcement recovered the following during the service of the warrant:

- Fentanyl Powder – 2.17 pounds
- Methamphetamine – 1 pound
- Cocaine – ¼ pound
- Approximately 7,000 Fentanyl pills
- Two sets of body armor
- Three semi-automatic handguns
- Ammunition
- High-capacity rifle magazines

By KIENAN BRISCOE

KENT—Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) joined NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and several Washington space industry leaders at the Washington Space Summit on Wednesday, July 5, to discuss regional economic opportunities as the United States revamps its space program to return to the moon and beyond.

Washington's space industry has doubled in the last four years employing more than 13,000 Washingtonians and generating over \$4.6 billion of economic activity. More than 100 space industry companies make up Washington's space cluster including SpaceX, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Spaceflight. Additionally more than half of the satellites in low-earth orbit are manufactured in Washington State,

according to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Although Washington's space industry is on the rise, the immediate challenge to remain globally competitive lies in finding the workforce to fill its roles, Sen. Cantwell said Wednesday. As it stands there are over 1,000 cur-

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Alaska Airlines offering nonstop flights from Seattle to Bahamas

By MARIO LOTMORE

SEATTLE—Alaska Airlines now offering first-ever flights to the Bahamas with nonstops from Seattle to begin flying in mid-December of 2023.

For a limited time, introductory fares for flights between Seattle and Nassau start at \$199 one-way. Tickets are available for purchase now at alaskaair.com. The convenient morning departures from Seattle allow travelers to arrive in Nassau in the late afternoon.

pristine shores of the Bahamas, opening a treasure trove of experiences for travelers," said Bahamas Prime Minister Hon. Philip E. Davis. "For those looking to escape to our enchanting white beaches, turquoise waters and vibrant culture, this new connection provides an effortless path. We can't wait to extend our warm Bahamian welcome to the visitors from afar, ushering in a new chapter of tourism and cultural exchange. We welcome and look forward to this new partnership."

"We are thrilled to share in the anticipation of Alaska Airlines' inaugural flight to the

"We're excited to add a 'new

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Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, Bahamas. Source: Bahamas Tourism Center

Lynnwood City Council approves funding to hire one additional Deputy City Clerk

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood City Council on Monday, June 26, approves funding for one additional Deputy City Clerk, authorizes Mayor Christine Frizzell to sign a Multi-Jurisdictional Partnering Agreement with Sound Transit, and approves research to be conducted on a HASCO rezone proposal.

Public Hearing: Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) and 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Ordinances

City Engineer David Mach and Civil Engineer Levi Moore asked for requests to the 6-Year update for the 2024-2029 Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are meant to provide a look-ahead as to what projects are on the City’s agenda and to summarize the general expected costs associated with these projects.

The proposed CFP contains 122 projects with a 6-year total nearing \$485 Million. The CFP projects are grouped into five categories: Police Administration, Information Technology, Economic Development, Public Works, Administration, and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts.

Citizen watchdog Ted Hikel, requests that the City produces a list of how many of the 122 projects in the plan are “shovel ready,” eligible for grants and the grant application status of eligible projects.

SOUND TRANSIT MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTNERING AGREEMENT

The council approved the motion unanimously 7-0,



Lynnwood Council presenting the Proclamation for Independence Day to the Daughters of the American Revolution – Puget Sound Chapter and City Employee Frantz Jocelyn. SOURCE: City of Lynnwood.

authorizing Mayor Christine Frizzell to sign the Multi-Jurisdictional Partnering Agreement involving Sound Transit’s Everett Link Extension Project. The motion to approve the mayor to sign the agreement was made by Council President Shannon Session with a second by Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby.

The proposed Multi-Jurisdictional Partnering Agreement between Sound Transit, the City of Everett, the

City of Lynnwood, Community Transit, and Snohomish County is an umbrella agreement for the Everett Link Extension Project. The agreement identifies roles and responsibilities for signatories, establishes a platform for reaching early and durable decisions and promptly resolving disputes, and defines general project scope, schedule, and budget.

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Mayor awards Finance Director for exceptional performance

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood Finance Director Michelle Meyer was awarded ten Administrative Leave days on April 7, 2023, by Mayor Christine Frizzell for “exceptional work efforts over the past year.”

“You have spent endless hours and weekends restructuring the Finance Department, dealt with multiple staffing challenges, worked through the 2023-2024 budget process and brought it to a positive end with Council acceptance, I am happy to award you ten (10) Administrative Leave days,” Mayor Frizzell wrote in a letter to Meyers rewarding her for her hard work.

Lynnwood Municipal Code 2.54.170 grants the mayor the privileged authority to award department heads and other senior staff benefits in the form of

administrative leave “for performance of responsibilities and duties beyond an employee’s typical responsibilities and duties as specified in their city job description and which clearly benefits the city.”

Mayor Frizzell also thanked Meyers in her award notification letter for successfully implementing budgetary, operational, and organizational efforts in the Finance Department. She notified Human Resources Manager Lori Charles on March 27, of her proposal for Meyers.

On Monday, February 22, 2021, the Lynnwood City Council unanimously approved then-Mayor Nicola Smith’s appointment of Michelle Meyer to serve as the City’s Finance Director. She has spent her career in public service with over twenty years of experience in local government agencies

including the last twelve in municipal Finance Director roles. She has extensive experience in debt management, economic development, and operational and capital budgeting for full-service cities.

Meyer holds a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in City/County Management from Wichita State University. Lynnwood’s previ-

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| PUBLISHER Mario Lotmore publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com | REPORTERS Doug Buell doug.buell@lynnwoodtimes.com |
| MARKETING SPECIALIST Michele Mitsuchi-Stork sales@lynnwoodtimes.com | George Ftikas Jr. george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com |
| SENIOR STAFF REPORTER Kienan Briscoe kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com | Olivia Thiessen olivia.thiessen@lynnwoodtimes.com |
| | Emily Chu and Jonah Rand |

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12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087
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Thousands kicked off Independence Day at the Color of Freedom parade in Everett



Fourth of July Parade in Downtown Everett on July 4, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Thousands attended the Color of Freedom Fourth of July Parade in Everett that returned after a three-year hiatus.

When the pandemic ended, the City of Everett announced that it will not be able to hold the annual 4th of July Parade in 2022, citing budget and staff-

ing issues as reasons. With drive and determination, the Everett July Fourth Foundation for which Kerri Lonergan-Dreke, owner of Lombardi's Italian Restaurant, is its President, along with former Everett City Councilman Scott Bader and Jonathan Nelson lead an all-volunteer committee that returned the annual celebration of the birth of the Republic of the United States from the British Empire.

"We are thrilled with the turnout at the parade," Kerri Lonergan-Dreke, event Board Chair, told the Lynnwood Times. "Community engagement is what's on the menu in 2023!"

Ryan Crowther and Twyla Lucas were also part of our dedicated board members who dedicated countless hours to making the parade possible. A total of fifty-six participants entered the pa-

rade.

According to the Color of Freedom website, the parade included favorite entries from years prior, as well as processions from local shops, drill or dance groups, marching bands, and government representatives. It aimed to celebrate and represent the values of freedom, dignity, and liberty for all people.

"We need to bring the spirit of the USA back," Jeanie Nelson, a spectator, told the Lynnwood Times. "July 4th is about

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Superior Court Judge accepts Binda recall effort, decision now falls on voters

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Marybeth Dingley found sufficient reason to recall Lynnwood City Councilman Josh Binda for misfeasance, malfeasance, and violation of oath of office at a 9:30 a.m. hearing on Tuesday morning, June 27.

The court accepted four of five charges brought forth by the Recall Binda Committee — a grassroots, community-led, effort to recall the 23-year-old from public office following concerns he misused public facilities for personal gain, mishandled campaign funds, lied to council, and lacked a certain decorum the community believed was “inappropriate” after he posed shirtless to promote a speak tour to mostly minors.

“The Committee to Recall Joshua Binda is pleased that the Snohomish County Superior Court determined that the charges our committee filed with the Snohomish County Auditor’s Office satisfied the criteria for the recall petition and found the ballot synopsis filed by the Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office was adequate. We are moving full steam ahead and are ready to gather petition signatures. We are fully confident that we will surpass the amount of signatures required to place the recall vote on the ballot,” a spokesman for the Recall Binda Committee said in a statement prepared for the Lynnwood Times.

The charges accepted by the judge include violating Lynnwood Municipal Code (2.94.030.B) by using the city’s email system to send and receive “numerous” emails on behalf of his private business, arranging speaking engagements with school districts, and entering City Council Chambers after hours to film a promotional video promoting these engagements. These incidents took place from December 2022 through January 2023.

Councilman Binda used city facilities to make a promotional video for his Love Conquers All Tour on December 19, 2022, in which he profited at least \$14,000. Binda was accompanied by an unidentified male who was acting as a cameraman to take video in the lobby, before moving to the Lynnwood Council Chambers. Binda then gave the cameraman his City of Lynnwood ID badge so that the unidentified cameraman could go in and out of the building unaccompanied. Councilman Binda stayed in the council chambers while the cameraman went in and out, according to the city employee.

Lynnwood City Councilman Patrick Decker, on behalf of the City Council, filed an Ethics Complaint on January 25, 2023, alleging that Councilman Binda violated the City Ethics Code by using City property and email to conduct a personal business. Two counts of ethics violations were identified by an Ethics Attorney working for the City of Lynnwood and a settlement agreement was signed by the Councilman at Council’s Business Meeting on May, 8, 2023. One of the conditions of that settlement was to publicly admit guilt, however Binda argued that he simply was unaware he was committing any violations.

The second charge accepted by the judge Tuesday was Binda failing to file a required Personal Financial Affairs statement with the Public Disclosure Committee (PDC), within a timely manner, violating state law RCW 42.17A.700, in 2021 and in 2022.

The PDC found Councilman Binda guilty of two separate PDC violations and imposed a \$1,000 fine at its public hearing Thursday, January 26, 2023. The violations included using campaign funds for personal use (RCW 42.17A.445 and WAC 390-16-238) related expenditures as well as submitting a Post-General election C4 report 280 days late (RCW 42.17.235 and .240).

The third charge accepted by the judge was Binda violating state laws RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to timely file a Post-General Election Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure report disclosing contributions and expenditure activities undertaken during his 2021

campaign. Between November 2021 and April 2023 Binda improperly used \$2,742.49 in campaign funds for non-campaign related expenditures in violation of RCW 42.17A.445.

Back in November the Lynnwood Times obtained PDC files exhibiting Binda recorded almost \$4,848.19 in expenditures towards rent, towing fees, concert tickets, jewelry, laptops, airfare, groceries, dental work, haircuts, and office furniture. Another expense, totaling \$1,563.58 was paid to Versace (an Italian luxury fashion company).

In addition to the thousands in suspicious expenses, another \$4,952.12 was recorded as “Expenses of \$50 or less.” This would equate to at least 100 expenses of \$50 or less to which Glen Morgan told the Lynnwood Times, “Is an odd amount.” However, Binda later assured the Lynnwood Times these expenses were campaign-related although no proof of his claim was provided. Out of these transactions the PDC, following their lengthy investigation, found at least eight of them to be for personal use and not campaign related.

The PDC offered a \$500 waiver to the \$1,000 fine under the condition that Binda remains clear of any additional violations and pays the amount due in a timely manner – typically within a four-year period which would last until the next election cycle. However, when Binda failed to pay this fine the full amount of \$1,000 was reinstated. As of June 27, 2023, Councilman Binda has yet to pay this fine, nor his fine of \$250 for filing a F1 report late, with the PDC — a total of \$1,250.

Lastly, the fourth and final charge accepted by the judge was that Binda knowingly lied to the Lynnwood City Council and the public by stating his private business contracts for speaking tours and appearances had been signed prior to December 2022. In March of 2023, Councilman Binda attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. without prior notice to the City Council. Binda falsely claimed he was representing the City of Lynnwood at

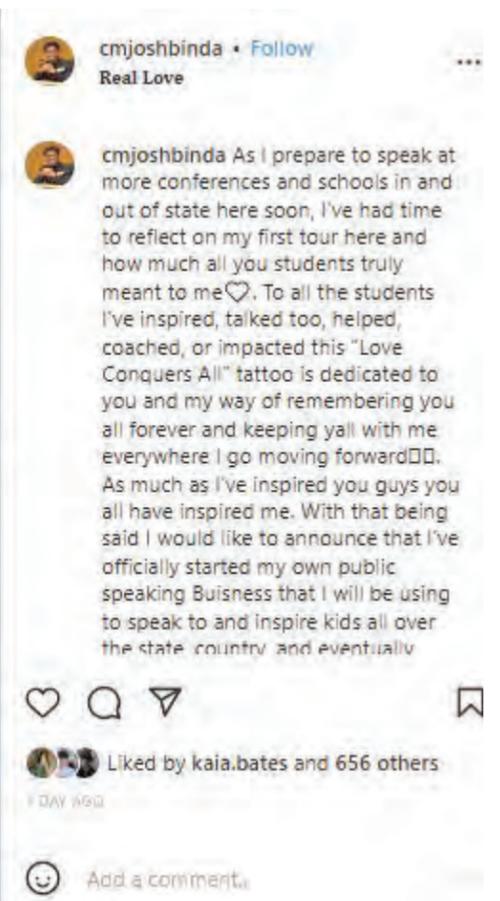
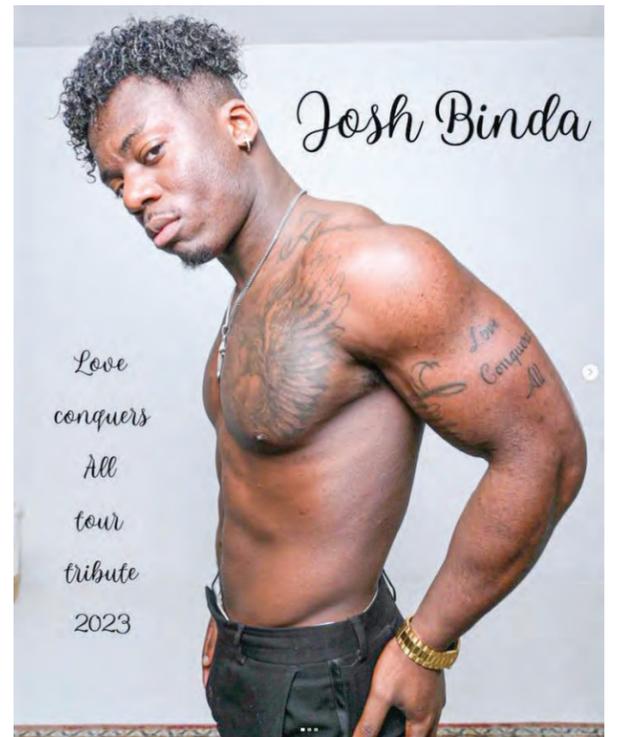
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(Right) Snapshot of the controversial posting from Lynnwood City Councilman Joshua Binda’s political campaign Instagram account on March 21, 2023, for which residents are requesting him to resign.

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



Diodato Boucsiequez, Founder and Spokesman for the Recall Binda Committee.



Olympus Spa and transgender activists face off at the Lynnwood Event Center

By **GERTI KATRO**

LYNNWOOD—The highly anticipated rally surrounding the controversial court order against the Olympus Spa policy surrounding biological women took place Saturday afternoon at the Lynnwood Event Center. The rally was marked by a significant police presence, as fears of physical confrontation ran high among both protesters and counter-protesters.

Nearly 100 pro-female only space demonstrators, led by Sovereign Women Speak activists, began gathering at approximately 1:30 pm in support of the Olympus Spa. They voiced their dissent through protest songs, speeches, and the display of cardboard signs. Supporters of the spa, including men and gay rights activists, held signs with messages that read, “Save women spaces,” “Sex change is a fantasy,” and “Trans ‘women’ are men,” further stoking the flames of the ongoing debate.

In response, 75 counter-protesters held umbrellas in their hands to cover their identity and displayed signs stating “Transwomen are women” and “Defend trans lives.” Pro-antifa posts on social media called for physical confrontation against pro-female only space demonstrators.

The Lynnwood Police force with support from Mukilteo and Bothell agencies were deployed between and around the two groups, blocking roads leading to the Lynnwood Event Center parking lot where the Olympus Spa is located.

Barricades were placed in front of the spa, while a line of uniformed police officers separated the opposing sides. Additional police officers wearing helmets and holding shields stood ready to intervene in case of violence. A police drone scanned the area from above, and agents were stationed on the roof of the nearby City Center apartment building. The scene was reminiscent of a major motion picture.

Women protested through their previously prepared speeches; however, they were frequently interrupted by Antifa chants, such as “Fascists go home.” During her speech, April Morrow, the founder of Sovereign Women Speak, expressed frustration with the court decision against the Olympus Spa.

“My mother, my aunt, my sisters, my daughters, my nieces, my women friends—we have been enjoying the Olympus Spa for almost three decades,” said Morrow. “And now, the State of Washington is mandating that we allow men inside our women’s space.”

She continued, amid attempts to interrupt her speech, “The women who work there, can you imagine having to choose between quitting your job or providing body scrubs, massages, and moisturization to men from head to toe, naked?! That is not what these women signed up for when they took a job at the Olympus Spa.”



TOP: Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park in Lynnwood on May 29, 2023. BOTTOM: Gold Star wife Michelle Black speaking at the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park in Lynnwood on May 29, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



Dual Pro Olympus Spa and Pro-Trans rallies at the Lynnwood Event Center on June 17, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Gerti Katro.



Dual Pro Olympus Spa and Pro-Trans rallies at the Lynnwood Event Center on June 17, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Gerti Katro.

The protest drew the attention of various state and city representatives. Lynnwood City Council member Jim Smith and Washington State House of Representatives member Jim Walsh (R) were both present at the event.

“What we are here for is what is good,” Representative Walsh said addressing the crowd. “We want to support Olympus Spa, and what we want to support is something that our

state constitution recognizes in Article 1, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution. The problem with this court decision against Olympus Spa is that the court is trying to force someone else’s beliefs on the spa and the family that runs this business. That is unconstitutional, immoral, and illegal. Although this decision currently favors one group, it must ultimately be overturned.”

Lynnwood council member Jim Smith,

when asked about his presence at the protest, told the Lynnwood Times, “In these kind of situations, it’s better to roll up the sleeves and get to work.”

Antifa protesters and their supporters declined to comment to the multiple requests by the Lynnwood Times.

Protesters began to disperse around 3:50 pm, with the pro-women supporters leaving first. After a few more chants, the Antifa counter-protesters also dispersed. Despite the initial fears of violence and the mobilization of the police department, the protest concluded without any significant incidents.

The controversy surrounding the Olympus Spa started when Western Washington District Court Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein ordered the Lynnwood-based spa to allow pre-op trans women access to its female-exclusive facilities following a complaint filed with the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC).

Haven Wilvich, a transwoman, sought access to the Lynnwood spa in 2020 but was allegedly denied due to not having undergone bottom surgery. At the time, Wilvich still had male genitalia. She subsequently underwent vaginoplasty on August 3, 2020, according to her blog, Finding Haven.

Olympus Spa, located on 196th Street near the Lynnwood Event Center, is inspired by the Korean tradition of “Jjimjilbang,” a health and wellness facility where nudity is required for certain procedures. Throughout its 20 years of operation, the spa has maintained the requirement that

Four exceptional youths awarded college book grants by SCBHC

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MILL CREEK—Four graduating high school students were awarded “Budding Youth” award grants at the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee’s (SCBHC) Red and White Banquet on April 29 for the first time ever. In addition to an adornment, each student received a college book grant, as part of that award, that will help pay for their textbooks when they begin college classes this fall.

The award’s top recipients—based on high school performance—were Chaya Diego, of Lake Stevens High School, Kalyani Blackwell, of Lynnwood High School, Amna Janoo, of Edmonds Woodway High School, and Jemyah Reed, of Everett High School.

“These students have risen above and beyond in academic, scholastic, and community involvement. Their essay contents highlighted incredible feats and weighted heavily in the selection process,” said MaryAnn Darby with the SCBHC. “Some of our recipients completed Running Start at Everett Community College, receiving a high school diploma and an AA at the time of graduation, thus entering college as a Junior. This year, in addition to recognizing African American honor students, we chose to select an outstanding community recipient.”

CHAYA DIEGO, AWARDED \$150

Chaya Diego graduated from Lake Stevens High School with a 3.97 grade point average (GPA). She will be attending University of Washington’s Bothell campus this fall to study Biology. After she receives her undergraduate degree she plans on furthering her study in the school’s Physician’s Assistant program.

After college Diego hopes to become a Physician’s Assistant with the backup plan of becoming an educator. Her interest in health stems from her mother working at UW Medicine as Manager of the MS Center as well as an interest in helping underprivileged, people of color, have access to health care.

For the last five years, Diego was a member of her Junior High and High School’s cheerleading team which she said was a “huge part of growing up.” She was also active in several clubs including Diversity Student Union, Black Student Union, Honor’s Society, and Link Crew. She hopes to continue pursuing her interest in sports and clubs while attending college.

“I was really grateful to be chosen and given the opportunity [to receive this book grant],” Diego told the Lynnwood Times. “College is really expensive, so it was truly an honor that someone wanted to help me pursue my education and trusted giving this opportunity to.”

AMNA JANOO, AWARDED \$150

Janoo graduated from Edmonds Woodway High School with a 3.99 GPA. She is off to Los Angeles this August to double major in Finance and Computer Science at the University of Central California while, hopefully, minoring in Media, Entertainment, or Marketing. She was granted a full ride scholarship to USC and informed the Lynnwood Times the book grant will help pay for



(L-R) Amna Janoo, Chyna Diego, Jemyah Reed, Chyna Diego, and Kalyani Blackwell receiving their awards at the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee’s Red and White banquet on April 29, 2023, at Four Square Mill Creek Church. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

the last remaining college expenses she had left, allowing her to finish her degree without going into student debt.

She is still figuring out what career path she’ll choose after college but she does know she wants to pursue a Master’s degree after finishing her Bachelor’s then possibly enter the tech world. She has been interning at the T-Mobile headquarters in Bellevue for the last year in its product management department and plans on continuing that internship throughout the summer. In her free time she enjoys painting.

Janoo is looking forward to a new environment and living independently for the first time in her life when she relocates to Southern California. She can’t wait to experience new things and visit the beaches surrounding Los Angeles and join various student groups in college as a way to connect with others.

“I was really excited [when I was awarded this book grant] because USC is obviously very expensive,” Janoo told the Lynnwood Times. “I was very excited and thankful that I would be getting my textbooks covered and I wouldn’t have to worry about that.”

KALYANI BLACKWELL, AWARDED \$150

Kalyani Blackwell graduated from Lynnwood High School with a 3.90 GPA. She plans to attend San Jose University this fall to study Animation and Illustration with the hopes of work as a storyboard artist for movies in the future. Her favorite movie is Vivo.

Blackwell has had an interest in the arts for several years and loves to draw people and landscapes. While in high school she was a member of the Black Student Union, Women’s Care Club, and was on the volley ball and tennis teams.

“It was really an amazing moment to be surrounded by so many people of color, so many Black people specifically, and to be able to be granted [this book award],” Blackwell told the Lynnwood Times. “I felt very proud in that moment, I felt like I was doing some-

thing that was making others proud as well as myself. I plan to put this money to good use and it’s going to be awesome.”

Blackwell first heard about the grant opportunity through her College and Career advisor at her high school. She filled out an online form about herself, her extra circulars, and what she plans on studying and pursuing in the career world. Within two weeks she heard back that she was being accepted for the award.

JEMYAH REED, AWARDED \$125

When Jemyah Reed opened her acceptance letter from Texas Southern, she was excited, happy, and ready for change. Jemyah plans to study Finance and will enter her college’s ROTC program. After graduating, she plans to enlist in the Air Force and pursue a career in Financial Advising.

“I wanted to go to Texas Southern because I wanted to go to a historically Black college or University and we don’t have any in Washington,” Reed told the Lynnwood Times. “But I do have family in Texas and I did want to stay close to a home.”

Reed graduated from Everett High School with her Associate’s degree from Everett Community College, through her school’s Running Start program. While taking college and high school classes alike, she still managed to play softball, was a member of the debate club, the International Student Organization, the National Honor’s Society, and was a Sophomore Senator. Outside of academics, Reed enjoys playing the piano for church.

As a member of the SCBHC’s Youth Initiative Program, Reed said her favorite part of the program was building relationships. Her favorite activity was the car wash fundraiser to raise money for an upcoming trip to Washington D.C. this August.

“In the program we become family so it’s always fun to have events and get together and see each other again

because we live in a predominately White area so getting to come together is nice,” Reed said. “I’ve had a great experience and building those bonds that will hopefully last forever has been nice.”

When Jemyah visits D.C. this August, as part of the SCBHC’s Youth Initiative Program, it will be her first time on the East Coast. She’s looking forward to seeing all the different museums the National Mall has to offer, touring Howard University, and seeing all of Washington, D.C.’s sites.

OTHER RECIPIENTS

In addition to these top performing students, a book grant in the amount of \$125 was awarded to Ava Moton, who will be attending Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Semhal Beyene, who will be attending University of California (Santa Barbara), Misgana Okbagaber, who will be attending Edmonds Community College.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate. Email editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com.

Mattie Jones wins 2nd District 2023 Congressional Art Competition



(Top) Oak Harbor High School rising star Mattie Jones, a rising junior at Oak Harbor High School, winning piece “Lost in Creativity,” of the Second District 2023 Congressional Art Competition. SOURCE: Office of Rick Larsen.

(Left) Oak Harbor High School rising star Mattie Jones, a rising junior at Oak Harbor High School. SOURCE: Office of Rick Larsen.

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

OAK HARBOR—Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) announced Mattie Jones, a rising junior at Oak Harbor High School, as the Second District winner of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition with her piece, “Lost in Creativity.”

“The Congressional Art Competition continues to be an opportunity to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the Second District and across the country,” said Larsen. “Congratulations to Mattie Jones for winning this year’s competition with her outstanding piece, ‘Lost in Creativity,’ and to all the talented Second District artists for submitting their artwork.”

Jones acknowledged art’s importance to her and expressed gratitude for the teachers who have encouraged her love of art.

“I find art to be a creative outlet for me to get lost in. I love being able to see a project develop over time with layers of brush strokes, pencil markings, and color I add to it,” said Jones. “I think it is so cool that creative processes in art can capture the essence and likeness of a person or object, these kinds of elements to pieces are so interesting as they invoke interest and emotion among my art.”

“I am greatly thankful for my teachers who have helped me develop my skills and encouraged me throughout the years I’ve been doing art. Their encour-

agement has helped me get into new mediums, such as paints, that I would have never tried if I wasn’t pushed to attempt them.”

Kit Christopherson, Jones’s art teacher at Oak Harbor High School, congratulated Jones for winning this year’s competition.

“Mattie Jones has found a balance in creating work that is confident in brushstroke and humanizing in subject, both energetic and thoughtful—a balance many painters spend a lifetime chasing. To me, her piece represents that spark of creative drive that we all start with but can sometimes lose. Arts Education is the balance of creating space for that spark and it has been an absolute blessing this year to watch a hard and independent worker like Mattie progress and succeed.”

This year, Larsen’s office received 15 eligible artwork submissions from across the Second District. In addition to Larsen, Raedle Alburn, art education director at the Schack Art Center; Mira Kamada, a local fine artist and designer; Therese Kingsbury, president of Sculpture Northwest; and Diane Martindale, former president of the San Juan Islands Museum of Art, judged the pieces on their creativity, the execution of the artist’s skill, and the way each piece tells a story or provokes a reaction.

Last year, Kamiak High School senior Toko Kameda won the competition with her piece, “Double-layered.” Since 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has celebrated the artistic achievements of high school students across the United States.

\$92,000 raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County

By **YMCA OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

EVERETT—Despite a cold and rainy Father’s Day Sunday, the 9th Annual Dream Builders Car Show brought in \$92,000 to support Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Snohomish County’s youth mentorship programs. The terrible weather reduced show participation by nearly 50 percent, but it was still the second-highest grossing event in the Dream Builder Car Show’s history.

“We consider the show a huge success, despite lower participation due to the weather. We had tons of support from the YMCA and the greater community,” said Kim Gaffney, Executive Director of Youth Leadership, YMCA of Snohomish County. “We thank our dedicated supporters for coming out and braving the rain. We look forward to some sunshine next year and raising even more money for our BBBS programs.”

Funds raised at the car show go directly to support BBBS adult-child matches, as well as other programs like Mentor U and Kids Book Club which serves kids in local schools. The event is quickly becoming one of the larg-



Photo Courtesy of Randall G Smith via Dream Builders Car Show.

est car show’s in the county, building awareness and support for BBBS.

“We appreciate the visibility in the community and how many people we’re reaching at a fun event,” said Gaffney. “Participants and attendees get to see who we are and hear about our impact through our event founder, Steve Myers, and his Big Brother sharing their story year after year.”

Myers benefitted from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in his youth and uses the car show to give back to the organization that provided so much to him.

“I was matched with my Big Brother in 1994 and he is still a part of my life today,” said Steve Myers. “Over the years, we’ve done everything together. He’s been the closest thing to a father figure that I’ve ever had.”

Due to his work schedule, Myers hasn’t had the availability to volunteer as a Big Brother, but wanted to contribute in some way. He tried fundraising in other ways before hosting his first car show in 2014. The first show surpassed its goal of \$10,000 and the event has kept growing and raising money throughout the years. Over its nine-year history, the car show has raised nearly \$600,000.

“People come back year after year because it’s a fun day, but they also see my passion for BBBS and want to contribute and support an organization that means so much to me,” said Myers. “Rich, my Big Brother, stands behind me during the awards ceremony, so attendees see the positive, lasting impact of mentorship relationships first-hand.”

Supporting youth in the community is beneficial for both the adult and the child. There are dozens of children waiting for a match and BBBS is actively looking for “Bigs.”

“Many volunteers think they are just changing the life of youth, but there are two lives being changed,” said Gaffney. “A mentoring relationship is

VOAWW celebrates opening of regional food distribution center in Arlington



Volunteers of America of Western Washington food distribution center Open House in Arlington on June 23, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

ARLINGTON—Community leaders gathered to celebrate Perdue Farms presenting a donation to Volunteers of America of Western Washington (VOAWW) for its new Food Distribution Center in Arlington on Friday, June 23.

The 79,000-square-foot facility, located in the Raine Building, serves as Snohomish County’s distribution center for

its 19 food banks. In 2022, VOAWW distributed 6.1 million pounds of food to over 163,000 households in partnership with local food banks.

What started from a call in early 2020 to process up to 20 pallets of food turned into a need of 18 semitruck loads to support COVID relief efforts — well over the capacity of the 10,000-square-foot space shared with the Everett Food Bank, Brian Smith, CEO of VOAWW shared.

“We did it! With an incredible team and the help of Mayor Tolbert we were able to secure a vacant grocery store in Arlington,” Smith told attendees. “Within two weeks of the phone call, we were able to set up shop and get 18 semis in and 18 semi loads of food out every single week.”

Because the demand for food insecure individuals was not going away, VOAWW made the investment to establish a permanent food distribution

center for Snohomish County.

“I strongly support the work of the VOA,” Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert told the Lynnwood Times. “They have made a huge difference in the lives of people in my community. I am willing to support them in any way we can.”

Continued **PAGE 11** >>

from page 2 **LYNNWOOD CC**

2023 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HASCO AMENDMENT

The city council unanimously approved on approving the 2023 Proposed Amendment List (PAL) to include the following projects: HASCO – Future Land USE (FLU) Map Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Concurrent Rezone (RZN-010060-2023). On June 12, 2023, the city council held a Public Hearing on this topic. Councilman George Hurst made the motion which was seconded by Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby.

“All we are doing is moving it on to a list; we’re not making any type of assessment on what type of project is going to go there or anything like that,” Councilman George Hurst said.

The vote authorized City staff to process and do more research on the HASCO rezoning proposal and get back with the council their findings for a final vote to be added to the comprehensive plan.

LYNNWOOD DEPUTY CITY CLERK POSITION

The motion to approve the funding of an additional Deputy City Clerk position made by Lynnwood Councilman Josh Binda and seconded by Council President Sessions, was approved 4-3,

with Councilmembers Hurst, Smith, and Sutton dissenting.

“I can’t support adding a Deputy City Clerk position,” Hurst told his fellow colleagues. “I do understand that public records requests have put a burden on the Clerk’s Office. I still would request that a records position rather than a Deputy City Clerk be part of the change.”

Hurst is also concerned that by approving a Deputy City Clerk, the department will be top heavy.

“If you look at the way the Clerk’s Office is, you will have a City Clerk and two Deputy City Clerks, and then you will have two staff members,” Hurst continued. So, to me it looks like three management type of folks managing two staff members.”

Luke Lonie, City Clerk explained to the council in his presentation that in addition to accepting, processing, and maintaining requests for public records, a Deputy City Clerk processes claims for damages; accept claims submitted; explain process to claimants and send appropriate documentation upon request; prepare and submit Claim Incident Reports to Insurance Company; maintain all City claim records and prepare quarterly litigation status report, pay insurance invoices.

Several members of the council re-

quested that the City Clerk’s Office reach out to Washington State’s Local Government Public Records Consultation Program housed within the Attorney General’s Office to review and assess any opportunities of improvements within the department.

The City’s Finance Director Michelle Meyer confirmed with the council that position of Deputy City Clerk already exists within the salary schedule and there is identified savings from the refunding of the 2012 bond in the Non-Departmental classification of the General Fund to pay for one fulltime employee request.

“We would just want to make sure that when we bring forward the next budget amendment that we account for this is added and make sure we include that in the appropriations for the year,” Meyers told the council. “And then we would make sure the next time we update the budget that the staffing level for the Executive Department is also updated to reflect the additional position.”

The City Clerk’s Office is requesting approval by the city council to fund an additional Deputy City Clerk at a cost of \$141,803 per year (includes both salary and benefits) due to an overall increase in Public Records Requests (PRR).

In 2019, the Clerk’s Office received

a total of 522 PRRs which decreased during the pandemic. The Clerk’s Office staff decreased from five to four personnel during this period but has experienced a steady year-to-year increase of 11 percent. With a current year-to-date of 329 PRRs for 2023, the projected end of year is expected to be 769 PRRs — a 53% increase when compared to last year. As of June 5, 2023, the city has spent \$18,865 (year-to-date) in attorney fees associated with public record requests alone, a 55% increase when compared to 2022.

The Clerk’s Office aims to fill this vacant position no later than September 1, 2023.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

- If anyone is interested in being part of an Inter-faith Christmas Choir, you are asked to contact Councilman Patrick Decker at pdecker@lynnwoodwa.gov
- Lynnwood City Council voted unanimously (7-0) to appoint Robert Leutwyler to the Planning Commission to fill vacant Position 4. Motion made by Councilman Patrick Decker.
- Council unanimously approves the mayor to re-appoint Marcie MacQuarrie and Mikaela Shipley to Snohomish County Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Marilyn Quincy: The deep roots of a Snohomish County legend

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Marilyn Quincy, 79, is a name so ingrained in Snohomish County history that it's difficult not seeing her and her family's influence in the region.

From William P. Stewart Highway in Everett named after her great grandfather — a Black Civil War veteran who fought for the Union Army and was part of the Illinois 29th Colored Infantry; to the Civil War memorial in Snohomish also honoring Stewart; to the county's annual Nubian Jam event; to the Marilyn Quincy Community Center in Marysville; to the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee (SCBHC); to the way the Everett Public Library assembles its historical archives, Quincy has had, and continues to have, a tremendous impact on shaping the area since her family first settled here in the 1880s before Washington was a state.

Recently Quincy was awarded the Legacy Award, appropriately named the Marilyn Quincy Award, at the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee's annual Red and White Banquet on April 29. The award was in partnership with the city of Everett and an associated plaque will be displayed somewhere in the city at a yet-to-be-determined location, memorizing Quincy's great work for years to come.

"It's an honor to get an award while you're still alive for legacy," said Quincy at the award ceremony. "When my family was here before the state of Washington really was a state, they looked forward to having a better life



Marilyn Quincy, founder of the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee speaking at its Red and White banquet on April 29, 2023, at Four Square Mill Creek Church. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

for themselves and their offspring. I want to say that their offspring are doing well here...I am so proud to look out here and see all those people part of the legacy of Snohomish County and are carrying on."

Quincy had always known her family had deep roots in Snohomish County. Her mother was born in Everett in 1918 and knew that her grandparents,

at least, had lived in the county for years. Her great grandfather, William P. Stewart, is buried in the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Snohomish.

When Quincy was a child, her family had the tradition of visiting cemeteries on Memorial Day to pay respect to veterans. During these visits her mother would frequently say: "one of these

days I'm going to go to Snohomish and see if I can find my grandparents grave," but she never had the chance.

In 1993, during Everett's centennial anniversary, Quincy began researching her family's history in preparation for an exhibit the city was holding, honoring resident's families who lived in the

Continued **PAGE 10 >>**

"I decided to run for water commissioner to represent the families of our community who have the right to good clean water and a clean healthy environment."

ALDERWOOD WATER & WATERWASTE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Each week Annie's Community Kitchen serves over 200 free meals to people in need

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EDMONDS—Every Wednesday morning, around 8:30 a.m., a group of volunteers and special needs students from schools throughout the Edmonds School District, arrive at Edmonds Lutheran Church to begin prepping for Annie's Community Kitchen's weekly free dinner.

The Kitchen is a service of Edmonds Lutheran Church that provides a delicious, hot and free community meal, every Wednesday evening from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. The meal is always well attended and made possible by a committed group of volunteers that collectively donate dozens of hours to make the meal enjoyable and nourishing, its website states.

The Kitchen also takes weekly meals to the Veteran Center behind Aurora Plaza.

"Anybody can show up and ask for a meal," Sandy Yeigh with Annie's Kitchen told the Lynnwood Times. "We don't ask any questions."

There is no menu at Annie's Kitchen and many times the chefs don't even know what they'll prepare until they arrive the morning of, Yeigh explained, but "there's always a vegetarian dish" and "it's always fresh."

The meal's ingredients are collected by a group of "gleamers" who drive around the area in Annie's Kitchen vans, five days a week, collecting a couple tons of food from local restaurants and grocery stores deemed unfit to sell.

One of these gleamers, Erik Harada, who has worked at Annie's since its inception, was drawn to the work he does through his love for cooking and serving his community. He told the Lynnwood Times that Lexus donated



Sandy Yeigh at Annie's Community Kitchen on Wednesday, June 22, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

the vans he drives in 2016 and are great about covering the cost of repairs. Just last year both vans had their catalytic converters stolen and Lexus replaced them free-of-charge, he said.

Each week a group of approximately 30 volunteers take the ingredients Harada, and his team of about 12-15 gleamers, collect and prepare around 200 meals, which have exclusively been packaged for take out since 2020. The kitchen hopes to return to in-person dining some time this fall.

"I think one of the reasons that Annie started this was that she saw a lot of seniors who were lonely and the social security check may not last until the end of the month," said Yeigh. "When we were serving the meal we had a lot of them come because it was social, and we're trying really hard to go back to that."

Yeigh, who has been working at Annie's Kitchen for about nine years, wears a lot of hats, she said, but her

informing its residents of the end of the Civil War and slavery was abolished.

Pleased to learn this, Quincy then took her research further at the Everett Public Library but was surprised to hear there was little record of Blacks living in Snohomish County at the time. She knew she had to take matters into her own hand.

"Her tracing of early Black families has given me so much hope because I've known there has been Black people in Snohomish County and Everett since the early colonization of it but nobody was really collecting or telling their stories; the fact that she was able to go back and look through those records and find those is super impressive," Lisa Labovitch, History Special-

ist at Everett Public Library, told the Lynnwood Times.

Labovitch explained that historically, archival records collect media written by White people for White people and there hasn't always been great documentation of Black History. Quincy helped changed that through record collecting of her own, reshaping the way the Everett Public Library has continued to collect records today.

Researching further, Quincy learned that her great grandfather was living in Snohomish County around 1897 although she believes he came much earlier. Her grandfather, for example, contributed to the Census when Washington became a state in 1889 so she knew her family was living here then.

The kitchen has also partnered with local drug courts to fulfill community service hours for individuals in the past.

Annie Fortnum and Bob Snyder founded Annie's Kitchen in 2004, in response to the ever-alarming rate of poverty in the community they were witnessing. Unfortunately, Fortnum passed away in October of 2022, but her memory lives on through the continued community work of Annie's Kitchen and a portrait of her displayed above the prep

table.

Fortnum was described by many working at Annie's Kitchen as "passionate," "feisty," and "determined." She was always trying new things, picked up playing the harp at the age of 80, and continued to work in Annie's Kitchen until she was physically unable to do so.

One of the volunteers at Annie's Kitchen, Wayne Case, a Vietnam War vet, shared with the Lynnwood Times he entered a deep depression after his wife passed away in 2012. Since volunteering his time at Annie's Kitchen he found a sense of purpose and was able to lift himself out of that dark place. His favorite part about working at Annie's Kitchen is "working with children" and giving his life structure, he added.

According to the organization Bread for the World, one in four American families struggle today to find adequate food. It is this need that gave rise to a community effort that over the years has served tens of thousands of meals.

The weekly dinner grew from humble beginnings when only four people showed up for the first feast. But it has been steadily growing since then, bringing new faces and appetites each week to the church. It is now estimated that Annie's Kitchen serves over 10,800 meals a year, free of charge. No strings attached.

Annie's Community Kitchen celebrates its 19th year of service this year although nothing special is yet planned to commemorate this landmark. They are always looking for able-bodied, and willing, volunteers to join their team.

For more information on how to volunteer at Annie's Community Kitchen, email Bob Snyder at: robert_a_snyder@msn.com.

from page 9 **QUINCY**

area around the time Everett became a city. Quincy thought this would be an appropriate time to carry out her mother's wishes in locating her great grandparents, to gain a better understanding of when her family arrived in town. She found them at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Snohomish, where her grandfather, who served in Illinois' 29th Colored Infantry, was memorialized as a war hero.

The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry, which was Illinois' only Black regiment during the Civil War, arrived at Galveston Bay, Texas on June 18, 1865, and was present at the first Juneteenth on June 19, when Major General Gordon Granger read General Order Number 3

Through genealogy, Quincy learned her family originated from Wisconsin where her great, great grandfather was recorded as one of the first people to buy land in the Cheyenne Valley. Quincy also learned that her grandmother's family — known as the Shepherd Family — came from slaves and were brought to Wisconsin, by their master, to set them up with a new life.

Somewhere down the line the Shepherd family moved to Washington, settling near Monroe, although Quincy has yet to find the reason why in her research. According to the 1889 census, there were three black families in Snohomish County: The Udells in the Edmonds area, the Richardsons in Monroe, and

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Pickleheads is a new way to connect with Washington's official state sport pickleball

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SCOTTSDALE—When Brandon Mackie, Pickleheads Co-Founder, was living in Los Angeles he struggled with finding a place to play pickleball. He would look up parks, one-by-one, and zoom in on a map looking for courts because the last thing he wanted to do was drive 30-minutes to a park just to find out there wasn't a pickleball court.

"In a city that big you'd think there would be places to play everywhere but that just wasn't the case," said Mackie. "That was some of the earlier frustrations that led me to think that the key to having Pickleball grow is having a trusted directory or resource of all the best places to play."

His solution was to launch Pickleheads, a website which aims to provide free tools for global organizers to schedule Pickleball games. It does this by providing a complete directory of available Pickleball courts and facilities in a given area. The website connects like-minded individuals for scheduled games, offers free training resources, and even allows users to review Pickleball products so newcomers, and seasoned players alike, can know where to turn for the greatest gear on the market.

Patrons easily enter their home location, or travel destination, and see an updated list of all the available pickleball courts in that area similar to using Yelp to find a restaurant, Mackie compared. By creating an account, users can also see when other people are playing at a specific location or if an event is going on. The website is entirely crowd sourced, meaning anyone can log in and add a facility. A team of dedicated gatekeepers work diligently to update, edit, or ensure listings are real and active.

Mackie launched Pickleheads in July of 2022, but truly cemented its data in December. The first year was spent auditing every existing Pickleball court, city by city, locating every court they could find. At the same time, Pickleball players in the community began adding their own locations until the database became what it is today.

In addition to finding facilities and players, Pickleheads also offers a variety of free resources for players including videos that teach newcomers



Pickleheads co-founder, Brandon Mackie (right) with friends who are about to play pickleball. Photo courtesy of Pickleheads.

how to play and basic techniques. The free video course is taught by the "Pickleball Chicks" — Beth and Jackie — two competitive pickleball players who both secured a spot on the DUPR Great Plains Top 50 list through their tournament pickleball playing.

Mackie now resides in Scottsdale, Arizona, but Pickleheads provides resources in every U.S. state and Canada with a total court listing of approximately 13,000. He plans to roll out an associated smart phone app in the coming weeks so users can begin to use Pickleheads' services on the go.

A biochemist by trade and lifelong competitive tennis player, Mackie first turned in his racket for a paddle as a new hobby to try when the pandemic hit in 2020. What drew Mackie to pickleball, from tennis, is its accessibility, he said, where anyone can pick it up and have a good time. Tennis, on the other hand, at least high-level tennis, typically requires two players to be on a similar skillset, he explained.

Mackie hopes his website will encourage Washington to build more facilities where pickleball enthusiasts can play. While collecting data for Washington

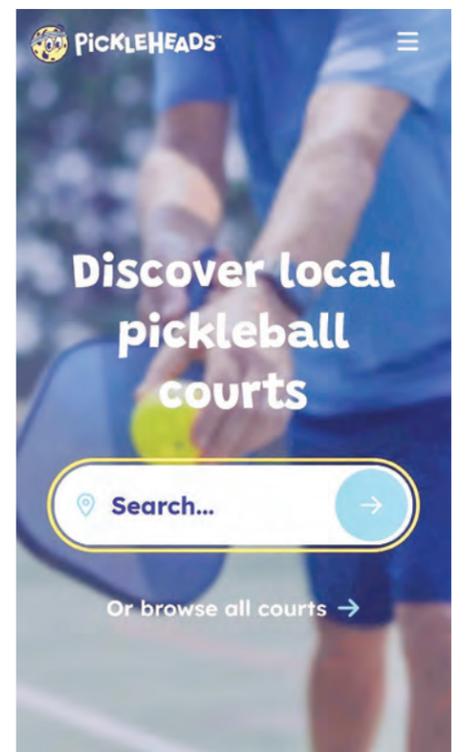
state, he was shocked to find that the birthplace of pickleball lacked places to play relative to its demand, he told the Lynnwood Times.

"We are forever indebted to Washington for giving us this sport but even though Washington is the birthplace of Pickleball, and Pickleball is its state sport, the state itself is actually pretty behind the curb as far as facilities to meet demand," said Mackie.

In June 9, 2022, Pickleball was signed in as the official state sport of Washington through SB-5615. The primary sponsor of that bill was Mill Creek resident Senator John Lovick, with the support of pickleball advocates Chuck Wright and Kate Van Gent.

"In my sixteen years in legislation, in the house and the senate, I have never sponsored anything that has generated more positive energy and more enthusiasm," Sen. Lovick told the Lynnwood Times. "It's one of those games you can just play, you don't care whether you win or you lose, you're still smiling and you still have fun."

Since SB-5615 has signed more and more facilities and courts have opened



for pickleball including, most recently, the pickleball specific courts at Mill Creek's Highland Park.

To learn more about Pickleheads, visit <https://www.pickleheads.com/>.

from page 9 **VOAWW**

Mayor Tolbert and Smith shared the genealogy of their roles in addressing food insecurity for tens of thousands of residents throughout the county during and after the pandemic.

"When I got the call that we were going to be receiving that many shipments of food, it was a Hail Mary," Smith said. "I knew that Arlington of all cities possibly had more opportunities with warehousing; so, I made a request and Mayor Tolbert kindly guided us in the perfect direction."

Mayor Tolbert was able to secure the former Haggen Grocery building lo-

cated at 20115 74th Ave NE that was vacant for VOAWW to utilize. The 64,000 square-foot building was equipped with loading bays, permitting for semi-trucks, and had adequate parking.

"It checked off the boxes that Brian and Steve said they needed," Mayor Tolbert shared.

"We couldn't do it without your City's support," Smith told Mayor Tolbert.

During the Open House event at its new permanent Arlington location at 17212 51st Ave. NE, Suite 100, Perdue Farms presented a \$10,000 contribution towards the new food distribution

center's efforts.

"It is good to be among our friends here at Volunteers of America of Western Washington," Scott Taylor, Perdue Farms Director of Operations said. "Today we are here delivering a little hope. Hope for so many of our neighbors who struggle to put a meal on the table every day, especially in these challenging economic times. On behalf of Perdue Farms, Draper Valley, the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, I am pleased to announce today's gift of \$10,000 to help enrich and nourish the lives of those you serve."

David Ricketts, Plant Manager, and Penny Roodzant, Complex HR Man-

ager, both of Draper Valley Farms a local brand of Perdue Farms, accompanied Taylor. Their gift of \$10,000 will provide 4,587 meals to community members, according to Smith.

Scott Rossiter, Senior Director of Hunger Prevention of VOAWW, who will be managing the distribution center shared some basic facts not only about the facility but of the growing demand of food insecurity post-pandemic.

From July of 2022 through May of 2023, of the 8.7 million pounds of food processed through VOAWW's food distribution center, 2.7 million pounds

A Lynnwood Celebration: Community partners came out in full force to celebrate Juneteenth

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—To commemorate the day the last remaining people in the United States were freed from the evil of slavery and servitude, hundreds of people of all colors celebrated Juneteenth at Cedar Valley Community School in Lynnwood today.

“It is beautiful to see the community come out,” Olympia Edwards, Founder of Project Girl Mentoring Program, Lynnwood Times’ 2022 Person of the Year, and host for Monday’s Juneteenth event told the Lynnwood Times. “Events like this really show the girls [in Project Girl] and their families see this is what it means to do community in the area. It gives them a dream and hope for when they want to do something, they reflect that if Olympia can do events like this, then I know I can do something, no matter what.”

Edwards shared with the Lynnwood Times that after Juneteenth she is gearing up for Project Girls’ Immersion Lab where 50 to 60 young women of color will take hikes, go on tours, and immerse themselves in confidence building and health habits for the summer. She continues her heroic efforts in passing to the next generation of young woman of color how they can be seen, loved, and supported by the community.

Speaking at the Juneteenth event were Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Edmonds School District Superintendent Rebecca Miner, Dr. Yvonne Terrell-Powell, Edmonds College, and Lisa Edwards, Chief Executive of the Verdant Health Commission who also co-sponsored the event. Lynnwood Councilman George Hurst attended the event but did not speak.



Olympia Edwards, Founder of Project Girl Mentoring Program, Lynnwood Times’ 2022 Person of the Year, and host for Monday’s Juneteenth celebration with Mayor Christine Frizzell at Cedar Valley Community School on June 19, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

Mayor Frizzell read the Juneteenth Proclamation passed by the city council and signed by her on June 12. It was accepted by Kirk Mathis of Verdant Health Commission; Olympia Edwards of Project Girl and some of her mentees; Councilmembers Shirley Sutton and Josh Binda; and several City of Lynnwood employees.

Lisa Edwards, CEO of Verdant, shared her and the organization’s appreciation to co-sponsor the event and the honor of celebrating Black Heritage.

“While we are here to celebrate that initial freedom and emancipation, we know there are other freedoms that we need to continue to fight for,” Edwards said. “We will continue at the Verdant Health Commission to ensure all of our

residents have access to quality health-care and food security and the services they need to have a vibrant life.”

Edmonds School District Superintendent Rebecca Miner, committed to helping students learn about the true and accurate history of the United States.

“I got a really poignant email recently from a student who said, ‘Our students are graduating from this system always hearing about the same leaders, always hearing about the same things but you need to help us go beyond Rosa Parks, beyond Martin Luther King Jr.’ I commit today that we are committed to doing that.”

Dr. Yvonne Terrell-Powell of Edmonds College shared with the Lynnwood

Times that she hopes another the take-away from today’s event is the importance of building community.

“Ida B Wells said that eternal vigilance is something that is a price for liberty,” Dr. Terrell-Powell told the Lynnwood Times. “So, we must remember that we must continue to be vigilant if we want to continue to have freedom for all.”

Councilman Hurst, who attended the event with his wife, shared with the Times the significant importance Juneteenth.

“To celebrate that this was the end of a horrible institution we had in our country that we are still rebuilding from that. I hope every year we can build more and more unity,” said Hurst.

He added, “We still need to emphasize voter registration in the BIPOC community and engagement. We need to be able to say that our council represents the diversity in our city. In some ways I think it does and in others, I think, there are things we can do better to celebrate our BIPOC population.”

Sponsors for Lynnwood’s Juneteenth celebration were Verdant Health Commission, United Healthcare, Project Girl Mentoring Program, Edmonds School District, and the City of Lynnwood.

Attendees enjoyed a Mini Health Fair, access to mental health on-site advocates, food, games, a marching band, a drum circle, and dances by Daughter of Royalty Marching Team, Vision Step team from Meadowdale High School and a Rwandan traditional dance by Umunezero.

Lynnwood Police Chief retires after 30 years of service

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood Police Chief Jim Nelson has announced that he is retiring after 30 years of serving the community. His last day is scheduled for July 31.

Nelson joined the Lynnwood Police Department on August 1, 1993. Throughout his time with the department, he’s held a variety of roles including detective sergeant, sergeant with the South Snohomish County Narcotics, commander of the detention division/municipal jail, and Deputy Chief. His first day as Chief was August 1, 2020, and his date of retirement will be August 1, 2023 – exactly 30 years.

“Over the past 30 years, I have been fortunate to work with a superb group of dedicated men and women at the Lynnwood Police Department and today, I remain impressed with their selfless service. I have also had the great opportunity to work across city departments with incredible professionals who all work in concert to provide exceptional services to our community. I want to thank the Lynnwood community, our awesome police volunteers and all the members of the police department who have worked alongside



Chief Nelson (right) and Commander Wes Deppa smile with an attendee of our Cops & Kids event at Alderwood Mall. Photo courtesy of the City of Lynnwood.

me to make this a great place to live, work and play,” said Nelson.

“I am proud of my service, but even more proud to see the growth and development of the former, current, and newest employees of the Lynnwood Police Department,” said Nelson. “I was very fortunate to have excellent mentors and role models throughout my career. My goal has been to provide

a path and tools for our organization’s next generation of leaders, which has been successful and leaves our department in their highly capable hands. I have no doubt that they will continue to evolve the provision of excellent public safety services in our growing and vibrant City. It has been my pleasure to serve this community for three decades – Thank you for giving me that opportunity.”

City of Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell is thankful for Chief Nelson’s decades of service to the community, especially his time as Chief, navigating through challenges and building a strong culture of service to this community.

“Chief Nelson has served this organization exceptionally for nearing 30 years, stepping into leadership role after leadership role and ultimately stepping up to be the Chief of Police three years ago,” said Mayor Frizzell. “He became the Chief during an extremely difficult time, navigating through COVID, tight budgets, critical incidents, legislative changes and staffing shortages. Chief Nelson has done a remarkable job of leading the department through these incredible challenges while nurturing and mentoring new leaders and setting the department on a solid path forward.”

To continue the current positive direction of the department and to nurture the foundation of community-based service, Mayor Frizzell, with the support of the City Council, has decided to move forward with an internal recruitment for the next Chief of Police. The next Chief of Police for Lynnwood will be announced later this summer.

String of dog killings sparks investigation by animal shelter

By KIENAN BRISCOE

YAKIMA—Pasado's Safe Haven, a Sultan-based animal sanctuary and rescue organization, is teaming up with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to offer a \$10,000 award for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for a string of dog killings in the Yakima Valley area.

Since March of 2023, a total of five deceased dogs have been found by law enforcement working with the Yakima County Sheriff's Office, all of which exhibited signs consistent with abuse and neglect. Pasado's brought each of these dogs in for necropsies to determine the type and level of abuse these animals suffered in hopes of finding new leads.

"Beyond our recovery efforts associated with these killings, we are seeing a disturbing rise in the number of dog abuse, abandonment, and neglect cases in Yakima County overall," said Cynthia Wang, Executive Director of Pasado's Safe Haven. "We are doing what we can to respond quickly and save the animals, but our sanctuary is at capacity. We're stretching ourselves to make space for the increase in dogs needing homes."

Pasado's Safe Haven investigates animal cruelty crimes and provides rehabilitation and sanctuary to those who have suffered from abuse or neglect. The organization advocates for better laws to protect animals and educate the public about how we can end animal suffering together.

The organization is named after a donkey, "Pasado", that was killed in Bellevue in 1992, by three boys. At that time no felony charge existed for animal cruelty in Washington but Pasado's Safe Haven, in one of its first major achievements, helped pass a law that would make First Degree animal cruelty a felony offense. That law has since become known as the "Pasado Law."

A private investigator for Pasado's working on the dog abuse cases, who asked to remain anonymous because she often works undercover, told the Lynnwood Times that Yakima County has had a history of dog killings, and animal neglect, for years. She suspects



One of many pictures of the horrific killings of dogs in Yakima being investigated by Pasado's Safe Haven and PETA. SOURCE: Pasado's Safe Haven.

it is because local law enforcement have not taken animal abuse cases seriously in the past. Research proves animal violence can be linked to human violence and even terrorism. With the addition of a new Animal Control Officer at the Department things have started to change for the better.

"Having seen similar situations in Yakima for so long I'm hoping this case will shine awareness to the whole problem there," said the investigator. "It's very widespread and this kind of thing is happening a lot in Yakima County and has for a long time...I think what it is about Yakima is, in my opinion, people know they can get away with it any no one seems to care."

The investigator added there is a lot of dog fighting that takes place in Yakima, but some of the dogs found did not indicate signs of blood sport. While some might have been used in dog fighting as "bait" — to rile up a blood sport dog for battle then discarded after use — other causes of death ranged from being bound and dragged by a car to being tortured and shot in the head.

The Washington State Gambling Commission has been great in working with suspected blood sport rings in the past, but investigations typically take years,

the investigator said.

The deceased dogs found are mainly larger breeds such as Pit Bulls, Dobermans, Golden Retrievers, and Rottweilers, none of which are believed to have died from natural causes — exhibiting signs of gruesome abuse and neglect. They also do not appear to be street dogs, these are dogs that were "owned, cared for, then brutally killed."

"Really, really, horrible, intentional, premeditated [killings]; someone did this knowing what they were doing it's not something that just happened," said the investigator. "I hope that that [this investigation] leads to a reduction, if not a stop, to the horror that has happened over the last number of years there,"

So far Pasado's has received some great tips but no substantial leads. The investigator did inform the Lynnwood Times she does not suspect the killings were by a single person. The dog killings are spread throughout Yakima Valley.

To aid the Yakima Sheriff's Office with this ongoing effort, Pasado's has offered to do everything from holding the deceased to performing necropsies, to building a case with attorneys and prosecutor's; the problem, however,

is many of the dogs found are not recovered in a timely fashion, hindering Pasado's ability to determine cause of death.

Pasado's needs the public's help to find who is responsible for this pattern of gruesome deaths. Anyone with specific details relevant to the current incidents should call 1-800-222-TIPS and reference Case #23C03867, or submit a tip on Yakima County Crime Stopper's website: <http://www.crimestopper-syakco.org>.

In addition, those with information can download the P3 Tips app (for Apple or Android devices) and submit a tip digitally. Pasado's encourages the public to be vigilant when providing information about these incidents and share specific details relevant to the current case. All reports will remain anonymous.

To donate to Pasado's and help investigators continue to pursue these terrible cases of abuse and protect animals, visit pasadosafehaven.org/yakimareward.

Follow Pasado's on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram for daily updates, or visit the over 200 animals at its Pacific Northwest sanctuary in Sultan. Learn more at <https://www.pasadosafehaven.org/>

Why is America tolerating indecent exposure at Pride events?

By FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE

LGBTQIA2S+ activists wants to convince people that events such as drag shows are appropriate for children to attend as innocent entertainment. How, then, could they justify or explain the Pride event in Seattle last weekend that featured fully naked grown men walking around and riding bicycles, exposing themselves to countless children in the crowd. In any other setting, a grown man exposing himself to children would be labeled predatory, perverted, and illegal. But because it took place at a "Pride" parade, the Left is passing it off as acceptable.

The event's website stated that the "parade is all about inclusiveness — so all ages gather along the route to watch the festivities." The website also states that "LGBTQIA+ youth, no matter where they are on the gender or sexual identity/expression spectrum, should be cele-

brated, loved, and supported." The Boys & Girls scouts of America even participated in the event, marching at the front of the parade. This is the definition of grooming.

The event is being praised by Washington's elected officials, such as Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, who wrote on Twitter that "It was great to feel the love, energy, and sunshine at today's #Pride parade with @CityofSeattle employees! Our diversity makes us stronger, which is why we must send a clear message to our LGBTQIA+ community today and every day: we see you, we support you, and you belong here."

At another Pride event in New York, adults and children were videoed "playing" at a "clothing optional" water party. There is no other way to describe it than outright debauchery. One critic hit the nail on the head when he wrote on Twitter, "If you're going to paint your-

self, walk around naked, and play in a public fountain, I question your level of sanity. But when you do it in front of kids, without pause, I think you should be placed on a watch list."

At one Pride event, activists were unabashedly chanting "we're here, we're queer, we're coming for your children." They aren't hiding it anymore — they're shouting it from the rooftops. When will America wake up? When will we question parents who bring their children to these events? What else are they exposing their children to? This is predatory behavior that is opening the door for these children to be groomed and abused. They are unsafe with parents who eagerly expose them to naked adults performing sex acts on the street and in drag clubs.

It's high time America questions the sanity of LGBT activists who so badly want to expose themselves in front

of children. What is their motive? And why is this behavior being tolerated because it is part of "Pride" celebrations? Indecent exposure is illegal — being proud of your sexual identity is no excuse for violating the law and destroying the innocence of children.

from page 5 **OLYMPUS SPA**

its members have female genitalia. Transgender women are admitted to Olympus Spa only if they have undergone post-operative sex confirmation surgery.

The attorney representing Olympus Spa, Tracy Tribbet of Pacific Justice Institute, told journalist and Senior Fellow Jonathan Choe of Discovery Institute that her client intends to appeal the court decision all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

from page 14 **QUINCY**

the Stewarts near Snohomish.

“Quincy is such an awesome lady; at her age to be so meticulous and so intelligent, and so honest, and so kind. That’s just who she is,” MaryAnn Darby, Executive Committee member for the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee told the Lynnwood Times. “And she’s been so instrumental in ensuring her heritage is remembered, and the community is remembered, and African American people are remembered.”

When Quincy was younger, there weren’t many other Black families in Snohomish County, so many would get together for picnics on the fourth of July. Prior to that, Black families in the area would seldom see each other, only at funerals, and according to Quincy, the Fourth of July picnic was a way to have a sense of community and check-in with one another in a more jovial setting. One of these gatherings came to be known as Nubian Jam, on July 3, 1993, that paved the way for the eventual founding of the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee.

“I have known Ms. Marilyn Quincy since I was a little girl,” DanVonique Bletson-Reed, President, Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee wrote in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. “In fact, I have known her for as long as the Nubian Jam has been in existence. Ms. Quincy has been a pillar in our community for many years and it has been a pleasure learning from and serving with her to help make Snohomish County a better and richer place for its residence.”

Quincy has endured her share of discrimination over the years. After high school she encountered difficulty landing a job. When visiting the employment office, she was told the only place that was hiring Black people was the Scott paper company and nursing homes. She chose the nursing home route where she worked for three years.

While working at the nursing home, Quincy, who shared with the Lynnwood Times she was overweight at the time, began taking an interest in nutrition and enrolled herself in Everett Community College to become a dietician.

Shortly after, she saw an ad for her dream job — working as a dietician at a local hospital. She called the hospital, explained her qualifications, and was told she would be a “perfect fit,” according to Quincy, and to “get right

down here for an interview.” When she arrived for an interview, however, the employer said they could not hire a Black person, Quincy told the Lynnwood Times.

The incident landed Quincy on the news about six months later. In that report, the hospital explained they had hired a Black man during World War II who had taken a knife and threatened his employees. They swore to never hire a Black person again. Later, the hospital was ordered to come up with an affirmative action plan but by then Quincy had her reservations based on her past experience.

She decided to try her luck at the Boeing company instead, where she worked for three years. During this time her husband, also a Boeing employee, was transferred to Everett so she followed — being closer to where they lived in Snohomish County anyway. The couple worked opposite shifts, with Quincy working nights and her husband working days — a scheduling conflict that “wreaked havoc” on their marriage, she told the Lynnwood Times.

She soon quit her job with Boeing to further her education, while working as a cashier at Safeway. As far as she knows, she was the first Black cashier at Safeway although Safeway’s Media Relations team was unable to confirm this with the Lynnwood Times.

Throughout the years, Quincy also served on the Board of the Snohomish County Immigrant and Refugee Forum where she helped refugees from other countries acclimate to life in Snohomish County, was on the board of M2 Job Therapy where she helped



After fifteen years with the Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO), Westwood Crossing Apartments in Marysville was renamed the Marilyn Quincy Community Center in her honor. Photo Courtesy of Marilyn Quincy.

inmates of local prisons develop job hunting and life skills to successfully transition upon release, was on the Workforce Development Board where she researched the labor market and even established training programs to encourage businesses to move into Snohomish County, and worked on the Dislocated Worker Program that helped people whose jobs had been eliminated by plant closures or large downsizing learn new workplace skills, learn job hunting skills and work with employers to hire them.

“On behalf of the City of Everett, we’d like to express our appreciation for Marilyn Quincy and acknowledge the major impact she’s had on our community. Ms. Quincy has dedicated much of her life to helping others and being an advocate for African Americans in Snohomish County and beyond. We are proud to have awarded Ms. Quincy the first ever Quincy Award for her years of service. Thank you, Marilyn,”

Simone Tarver, on behalf of the city of Everett and Mayor Cassie Franklin, told the Lynnwood Times.

Quincy is active in her church (New Life Everett) and has been able to go on mission trips to Mississippi to build houses with Habitat for Humanity and distribute food, and the gulf to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She has also been able to help with local needs through several other church projects.

For her outstanding achievements in

Continued PAGE 14 >>

from page 2 **MEYER**

ous Finance Director, Sonja Springer, retired in December of 2020 after 33 years in municipal finance, and the last five years as the City of Lynnwood’s Finance Director.

from page 3 **JULY 4TH**

bringing the people together and celebrating the freedom of the country.”

To volunteer, be a sponsor, and/or participate in next year’s parade, visit www.everett4thofjuly.org/.

from page 14 **BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER**

life-changing, and much more impactful than just community service. You may be positively changing the trajectory of a child’s life.”

For more information about next year’s Dream Builders Car Show, please visit dreambuilderscarshow.com. To volunteer or learn more about BBBS of Snohomish County, please visit bbbs-sno-co.org.

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from page 11 **VOAWW**

of food went to other food networks outside of Snohomish County across the state of Washington, Rossiter said. VOAWW’s Food Distribution Center is now a vital resource in addressing food insecurity for the state.

“So far this year, if we keep on the projection that we are on, by the end of the month of June, it will likely be over 255,000 households [over the last 12 months],” Rossiter said. “We have added 100,000 individuals each year over the last two years [needing food].”

The new facility is equipped with two 1,000-square-foot walk-in freezers, vertical shelving that increases stor-

age capacity by 10,000 square feet, a forklift, one distribution truck, multiple loading bays, a picking and sorting area, and a conference area. The facility is also home to North Sound’s Regional 2-1-1 information and referral system to help residents with basic needs and human services programs.

The millions of pounds of food each year processed through the VOAWW Arlington site is performed by a staff of only four individuals. These outstanding persons are responsible for loading/unloading pallets of food, sorting and picking in preparation for each distribution site, and delivery to offsite locations. Rossiter informed the Lynnwood Times that most of their clients pick up their demands from the Arling-

ton facility on a predetermined schedule. The food is also distributed to food distribution pantries, meal distribution programs, and churches.

“I was here two years ago when it was an empty building, I am just amazed of how much food they can bring in and send out by the truckloads,” Representative Carolyn Eslick (R-Sultan) told the Lynnwood Times. “It is a well-oiled machine they have here.”

The legislature on March 29, 2023, unanimously passed HB 1784 in both chambers that was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee on April 13, allocated \$28 million to address food insecurity in Washington state. According to the bill, \$20 million went

to the Washington State Department of Agriculture to provide grants to hunger relief organizations such as local food banks and distribution centers for the purchase of food and supplies; investments in storage capacity; management of facilities; and operations.

“This is my first time at the facility... very impressive,” Senator Keith Wagner (R-Sedro-Woolley) said. “It is really important that we have these [distribution centers] to supply the local food banks. One thing I heard that is disappointing is that demand keeps going up. We’re hoping people get better and don’t need to use it, but that’s not really and we have to take care of that need.”

from page 1 **ALASKA AIRLINES**

dot' to our route map and believe our guests will appreciate the convenience of nonstop service to the Bahamas this winter," said Kirsten Amrine, vice president of revenue management and network planning for Alaska Airlines. "Whether our guests choose to stay in Nassau, or venture to the outer islands, the pristine beaches and crystal clear waters of the Bahamas await."

NEW INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

According to the Alaska Airlines, the Seattle to Nassau international route is made possible because of the additional Boeing 737-9 aircrafts entering its fleet that offer an affordable and greater range to fly longer distances.

The Bahamas is comprised of 700 islands with Nassau located on New Providence Island as its capital. It was the first place in the New World where Christopher Columbus landed on October 12, 1492. After 325 years of "peaceful" British rule, the Bahamas became an independent country within the Common-

| Route | Start Date | End Date | Frequency | Aircraft |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Los Angeles-Nassau | Dec. 15 | April 9, 2024 | 4x weekly | 737 |
| Seattle-Nassau | Dec. 15 | April 9, 2024 | 3x weekly | 737 |
| Las Vegas-Cabo San Lucas | Dec. 15 | April 10, 2024 | 4x weekly | E175 |
| Las Vegas-Puerto Vallarta | Dec. 14 | April 9, 2024 | 4x weekly | E175 |

Travel service to the Caribbean. Source: Alaska Airlines.

wealth of Nations in 1973 and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee on July 10, 2023.

LOS ANGELES & SEATTLE TO THE BAHAMAS

New flights to the Bahamas are a first for Alaska Airlines to the Caribbean nation. From two of its key West Coast hubs – Los Angeles and Seattle – the Boeing 737 will fly nonstop to the popular vacation destination off the coast of South Florida. The convenient morning departures from both Los Angeles

and Seattle allow Alaska Airlines guests to arrive in Nassau in the late afternoon.

"SEA welcomes another dynamic, sunny winter destination – the first time Nassau has been served with nonstop service from Seattle," said Lance Lyttle, managing director at SEA Airport. "Alaska Airlines is providing that opportunity for fun and sun to go with destinations from Mexico to Hawaii – choices Seattle travelers will surely be happy to have!"

from page 14 **QUINCY**

her career in the Employment Security Department, and contributions to the to the quality of life in Snohomish County and Washington State, Marilyn Quincy was honored and recognized in 2007 by the Washington State Legislature with House Resolution 4649 that was introduced by then-Representative John Lovick.

"Marilyn Quincy is an exceptional individual whose dedication and pas-

sion have left an indelible impact on her community. Through her tireless efforts, she has become a beacon of inspiration, leading by example and uplifting those around her. Marilyn's unwavering commitment to serving others has not only transformed lives but has also created a ripple effect of compassion and positive change in Everett," Tyler Chism, Placemaking Manager for the City of Everett Economic Development, told the Lynnwood Times.

OBITUARY FOR JOHN WESLEY BURBANK, 96



John entered eternal rest with his wife Linda at his side on May 13, 2023. Navy photographer, educator, outdoorsman, woodworker, and community leader, John, most especially, was a man who dearly loved his family.

A celebration of John's life will be held at Maple Park Church, Lynnwood. Share memories of John and visit his full obituary page & online guestbook at: www.emmickfunerals.com/obituary/John-Burbank Emmick Funeral Home (206) 935-2207

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from page 4 **BINDA**

the Conference, court documents state. On April 24, 2023, when confronted, Binda falsely claimed he was a “keynote speaker” at the conference.

Council President Sessions revealed that she confirmed with a senior specialist involved with the conference that Councilman Binda was not a keynote speaker.

Binda then requested his travel expenses be reimbursed by council despite not receiving approval. In what Councilman Binda called a “performative” action, the Council voted 5-2 requesting the City’s Finance Director, Michelle Meyer, not to approve a travel reimbursement request of \$1,190.80 for his impromptu

trip.

Councilman Binda stated that he felt “bullied” and “intimidated” by Council President Sessions to not go on the trip. According to Binda, prior to going on the trip he was told 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.

During the City Council meeting on April 10, City Attorney Marshall shared that Councilman Binda never contacted her regarding any travel to Washington D.C. for the NLC conference. Binda 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.

It was later discovered by city staff that all councilmembers have a \$2,500 budget for city-related travel and functions for which Binda was later reimbursed from this fund.

A fifth charge brought to court by the Recall Binda Committee argued that Binda was observed sleeping during multiple City Council meetings in 2022 and has been absent from multiple meetings due to out of state speaking activities benefitting his private business while interfering with the performance of his official duties. However, the court dismissed this charge due to lack of supporting evidence.

Binda, nor anyone representing him, was not in attendance at his hearing Tuesday morning.

The Recall Binda Committee plans to begin collecting signatures to add Councilman Binda’s recall decision to a Special Election ballot. Residents of the city of Lynnwood will then have the opportunity to cast their vote deciding if Councilman Joshua Binda will be recalled from office or remain in his position.

In May of 2023, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Snohomish County announced that it is investigating alleged “misinformation” surrounding Councilmember Josh Binda. They argued that the Recall Binda Committee and multiple media outlets covering his misuse of political power were “racist.”

from page 1 **WA SPACE SUMMIT**

rent openings for space jobs in Washington State and not all these deal with rocket science nor engineering. These are positions ranging from welding, to communications, or even law, some of which pay as much as \$100,000 a year and do not require a four-year degree.

“Today’s jobs and tomorrow’s future’s jobs are going to depend on the manufacturing sector assembled here today,” said Sen. Cantwell. “That is why I encourage the Department of Commerce and NASA to create a new manufacturing institute here in the Pacific Northwest...I hope that we can talk about these innovations, about building the workforce of tomorrow and how we can help the supply chain by not only building for aerospace but building for space too.”

On the federal level, NASA has been reconstructing its space program since the Obama Administration cut funding to space exploration in its 2011 Budget, effectively halting a five-year, \$9 billion effort to build a new Orion spacecraft and Ares rockets.

With the Biden Administration currently seeking to increase the budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to \$27.2 billion for the 2024 fiscal year, the agency unveiled plans to launch the Orion to the Moon in late 2024 — landing the first woman and first Black man on earth’s nearest neighbor in January of 2025.

“NASA’s work with Washington commercial space companies and academic institutions demonstrates the power of investing in America. NASA partnerships in the state are creating good-paying American jobs and fueling groundbreaking research and technology that will help propel humans back to the Moon and onward to Mars,” said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. “With the help of Washingtonians, NASA will make new and more exciting discoveries while also inspiring the Artemis Generation -- the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians, and explorers.”

Sen. Cantwell, who chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, oversees NASA and the space industry. Through this oversight, she voted to pass the CHIPS and Science Act which was signed into law by President Joe Biden in August of 2022. The Chips Act is one of the largest five-year federal research and development investments in U.S. history, and include the first new NASA Authorization Act since 2017, solidi-



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson addressing attendees of the Washington Space Summit at Blue Origin on July 5, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

fy into law its Artemis missions — which has 42 suppliers in Washington State.

The provisions of the CHIPS and Science Act provide \$13 billion toward STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education funding at the National Science Foundation (NSF), which can be used for scholarships, fellowships, traineeships, and for competitive awards to universities to expand STEM education capacity.

Wednesday’s Summit, held at Blue Origin’s Headquarters in Kent, kicked off with a trade show featuring nearly 20 local space companies including Marysville-based Gravitics, developer of the StarMax — the world’s largest interior spacecraft with 400 meters of cubic space, Everett-based magniX, focused on mastering electric aerospace travel, and Everett-based Off Planet Research, that develops mission assurance testing for space-based industries.

“Think of how Boeing builds airplanes but then sells them to Delta or United who are the operators, and they fly them,” Jiral Shah, Vice President of Business Development for Gravitics, told the Lynnwood Times. “We are building space station modules and providing them to commercial space station operators like Blue Origin, or Axiom Space, or Northrop Grumman.”

Following the trade show, Sen. Cantwell, Administrator Nelson, and Blue Orbit CEO Bob Smith led a panel discussion featuring Starfish Space Co-Founder Austin Link, CEO of Stoke Space Technologies Andy Lapsa, Gravitics CEO and Founder Colin Doughan, Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance CEO Nikki Malcom,

Karen Morales Vincent, Instructor for Sno-Isle Tech’s Aerospace Manufacturing and Maintenance Technology program, Jihui Yang, Vice Dean of the University of Washington’s College of Engineering, and Dr. Mary Rezac, Dean of Washington State University’s Voiland College of Engineering.

The question of the hour, posed by Sen. Cantwell, was how to ensure Washington stays competitive in the space industry through the next generation of thermoplastics high-rate composites. Blue Origin CEO Bob Smith replied that “great government begets great business,” thanking Sen. Cantwell for her support in bolstering Washington’s ever-growing space market.

At Stoke Space Technologies, the Kent-based aerospace company says they are doing their part in keeping the money close to home where its \$100 million worth of financing, received since first founded in 2019, has all remained in-state. In the last couple of years, the company has also built a new state-of-the-art rocket engine testing facility in Moses Lake and is looking forward to building up its workforce.

Stoke Space consciously decided on Washington to “set up shop”, Andy Lapsa explained, for its “incredible nexus of established engineering talent” and software engineering. As far as manufacturing the company hopes to steer toward reusability of space exploring vehicles instead of single-use technology.

From an educational standpoint, finding a workforce begins at education and training at the academic level. About two years ago the University of Washington allocated additional

faculty members to space engineering programs, Jihui Yang explained, while working with many industry partners including Boeing.

“We’re committed to continue to work with this community both in terms of future workforce education and research to develop the technology to produce the workforce necessary to go to the Moon, Mars, and beyond,” said Yang.

On the Eastern side of the state, Washington State University produces more than 1,200 STEM graduates annually contributing to every sector of the Washington economy. Blue Origin, for example, has hired hundreds of WSU graduates over the last decade.

“While our numbers have grown dramatically since the great recession we recognize that our workforce efforts are insufficient to meet demand,” said Dr. Mary Rezac of WSU. “The Washington roundtable estimates that less than fifty percent of the new STEM jobs in this state could be filled by in-state graduates.”

Snohomish County-based Sno-Isle Tech begins cultivating their student’s skillsets at the age of thirteen, exposing them to various courses of industry and pathways hoping to “inundate them with the possibilities of our imaginations,” Karen Morales Vincent, an Aerospace Manufacturing instructor at Sno-Isle Tech, explained.

“We are opening up a world where they can make a wonderful living just by seizing their opportunities, meeting people, wanting to come in, learning the subject matter, but that’s only half of it,” said Morales Vincent.

To fill the 1,000 current space industry job openings, Morales Vincent says it falls on educators to encourage students to have hope they can earn a living wage as early as their eighteenth birthday.

from page 1 **LYNNWOOD ARREST**

According to the Snohomish County Jail Roster, Coates was charged with unlawful possession of firearm 1, mfg-del amphet-methamphet (w-intent) [amphet-sell], mfg-del sch i-ii-narc-sch iv-fln (w-intent) [cocaine-deriv-sell], and mfg-del amphet-methamphet (w-intent) [amphet-sell]; each a Class B Felony of up to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$20,000.

Coates posted bond of \$250,000 on July 2 and according to court documents, is no stranger to the law.