



North Queens Drill Team on fire with six years of victories **P8**



First annual Sounds of Africa Festival a success at Everett CC **P2**



Cole Langdon sworn in as new Lynnwood Police Chief **P5**

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Real Impact

196th Street improvements paves way to Lynnwood's ongoing renaissance



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell (left) and Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) at the 196th Street ribbon-cutting celebrating the completion of the \$48 million improvement project on August 15, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—After years of planning and actual years in the making, motorists commuting through and to Lynnwood can now breathe a sigh of relief: major construction on 196th Street has finally come to a close.

In addition to the nearby future Sound Transit Lynnwood Transit Center just south of 196th Street, construction cranes stretched as far as the eye could see ushering in new housing buildings while the Lynnwood Event Center undergoes an expansion and redevelopment just up the street, and over the

hill a multitude of new and remodeled buildings are being erected around Alderwood, all the start of many more to come for Lynnwood's rapid growth.

On Tuesday morning, August 15, the city of Lynnwood held a ribbon cutting ceremony, at the corner for 44th Avenue West and 196th Street, commemorating this momentous occasion with refreshments, guest speakers, and honoring the people who made the project a reality, including those who worked on it, those who championed it, and those who were impacted from the work.

To kick off the ceremony Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell took to the podium to share a few words, thanking the many hands involved and encouraging those in attendance to walk the new sidewalks (with a bottle of water in hand) to support the many surrounding local businesses.

"196th is a conduit that links and connects our city's economic centers and continues to serve as a hub for Lynnwood and our region as we grow and expand in the coming years," said Mayor Frizzell. "Completing the 196th

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Serial killer suspect identified in Marysville and Edmonds shootings

By LYNNWOOD TIMES STAFF

MARYSVILLE—According to the Snohomish County Jail Roster, a Gilbert Alexander Escamilla, a 31-year-old Marysville man, was booked on Thursday on three counts of Murder (Murder 1 and two counts of Murder 2), two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the 1st Degree, theft of a motor vehicle, Assault in the 1st Degree, Burglary in the 1st Degree, and Eluding Police.

Escamilla had his court appearance on Thursday, August 10, and bail was set at \$5 million. If convicted, Escamilla could face up to life in prison.

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and Marysville Police detectives are investigating a series of murders that occurred early morning Thursday, August 10.

Anyone with information about either incident is asked to call the Marysville Police Department at 360-363-8300 or the call the Sheriff's Office tip line at 425-388-3845.

Marysville Police Department officers responded to a distress call, regarding a reported shooting, at approximately 4 a.m. Thursday morning at the 2600 block of 164th St. NE in Marysville.

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DelBene delivers \$250,000 to expand transportation to seniors

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Representative Suzan DelBene (WA-01) delivered a \$250,000 ceremonial check to improve transportation for seniors across Snohomish County today, Monday, August 14, at Homage — a senior services center headquartered in Lynnwood.

The funding will be used to expand transportation options in rural eastern Snohomish County, specifically between Snohomish and Index along

US-2 and Monroe to Bothell along US-522, by funding a brand-new bus, a driver, as well as marketing and outreach to get the word out. This route will serve more than 120 door-to-door trips per month.

"This really makes a huge difference. We know how isolated some members of our community can be. If you look at a map of Snohomish County it's a big, big area, but there's tons of areas where there aren't good transportation options. If you're in a

wheelchair, or have a disability, or just can't drive a car it can be really difficult," DelBene told the Lynnwood Times. "This funding allows Homage to buy another bus and be able to serve, in particular the Highway 2 corridor as well as the 522 corridor in eastern Snohomish County."

"This is not possible without Representative DelBene's help. We're able to get out into rural areas and provide services, transportation,

Continued **PAGE 06** >>



(L-R) Local resident Char McCain, Keith Bell, CEO of Homage, Representative Suzan DelBene, Juli Rose, Senior Director of Government Funded Programs at Homage, Jami, Transportation dispatcher and Scheduler at Homage, and Llyod White, Transportation Supervisor at Homage accepting the \$250,000 check for a new bus for TAP program on August 14, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

First inaugural Sounds of Africa festival a success at Everett Community College

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Lynnwood-based Washington West African Center (WAWAC) held its first-ever Sounds of Africa festival at Everett Community College’s Fitness Center, Friday August 4 through Saturday August 5, celebrating African culture through food, fashion, languages, and music.

The festival’s objective was to create a harmonious gathering where people from various communities can come together to immerse themselves in the rich and authentic culture and traditions of Africa, presented by Africans themselves.

“We firmly believe that this event will foster diversity, promote peaceful co-existence and facilitate meaningful business exchanges between the African community in Washington and other communities,” the WAWAC said.

Over the course of the two-day festival visitors were treated to different displays of African culture. On Friday the event hosted a series of free workshops on traditional African musical instruments, including the Kora, Balafon, Djembe, Sabarr, and African Dance, facilitated by West African musicians and dancers from around the world. Notable musicians include Kora player Pa Bobo Jobarteh from The Gambia, the Gansango West African Drumming and Dance Group and the talented Kouyate Twins from Atlanta and California, respectively, among many others.

The next day, on Saturday, August 5, the festival put on an African-style fashion show, a dance competition, and additional musical performances by various musicians while visitors could indulge on delicious African food such as Afro Lamb and plantains, fataya, chicken and shrimp skewers.

Food was provided by various local restaurants including Nothing Bundt Cakes, Hadiani African Restaurant, and a small market sold African wears from hand woven baskets to jewelry.

To kick off the event notable speakers including Snohomish County Dace Somers, Washington State Senator John Lovick, Representative April Burg (who delivered the keynote speech), and Lynnwood City Council Vice President Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby.



Opening performance by Pa Omar Jack and Pa Bobo Jobarteh at the Sounds of Africa Festival on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

“This festival is a testament to the universal language of music, the joy of indulging in new tastes, the creativity that flows through each African fashion, it is a chance for us to all come together, embrace diversity, and celebrate the unique tapestry that Africa weaves,” said Mast of Ceremonies, Musu Bako to Sawo, with the WAWAC.

Pa Ousman Joof got the idea for the Sounds of Africa in 2019. As Executive Director for the Washington West African Center he put on events for years within his community, but thought the center needed an event that took things out of his community.

Joof, along with his wife formed the WAWAC to connect West Africans in Washington with local resources while bridging the gap between them and the wider community. The organization also promotes West African culture, inform, and educate West Africans to discover their potentials and facilitate communication in the use of information technologies and work of arts for the attainment and discovery of their talents.

Joof took the mic Saturday to share his own lived experiences, as an African immigrant getting arrested by Immi-



Washington West African Center founder Pa Ousman Joof speaking at the Sounds of Africa Festival on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



A children’s choir from the African Community at the Sounds of Africa Festival on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

gration Officers in Atlanta, Georgia. He thanked his staff for helping make the WAWAC what it is today, helping other African like Joof to connect to resources, navigate the United States system, and obtain their citizenship. Joof officially became a United States citizen himself in September of 2022.

provides for the African community, it also hosts multiple events including an annual Sukuri Ndogu and Iftar Ramadan events

Sukuri Ndogu is a Wolof word that roughly translates to “food to break fast.” For the past four years, WAWAC

In addition to the services WAWAC

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Council approves ARPA funds for eight projects focused on youth and families

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood City Council approved eight community projects utilizing \$668,130 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds at its Business Meeting on August 14. The council will further discuss and allocate the remaining \$144,177 of ARPA funds at its September 5 meeting — the council is in summer recess until September.

Several members of the Edmonds School District staff and Board attended the meeting advocating for the Lynnwood Human Service Commission's School Based Clinicians program. Councilman Hurst heavily lobbied for the program for months and clarified with councilmembers that his School Based Clinicians program ARPA funds request is not a referendum on the Edmonds School District's budget.

"Do not conflate it with your concerns over the budget with the Edmonds School District," Hurst explained passionately. "They are not providing the staff, the funds are not going to the Edmonds School District, this is simply something for the kids that attend schools in Lynnwood."

After Councilman Patrick Decker read a proclamation in honor of Labor Day, the ARPA projects approved by the council are as follows:

EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT:

SCHOOL BASED CLINICIANS, \$199,657

- Project Description: Approve funding from ARPA to provide two full-time master level mental and behavioral health clinicians in Meadowdale High School, Meadowdale Middle School, Meadowdale Elementary School and Lynndale Elementary School under the supervision of the Center for Human Services.
- Motion by Councilman Joshua Binda, seconded by Councilman George Hurst and approved 5-2 with Councilmembers Jim Smith and Patrick Decker dissenting. As an explanation for their vote, Councilman Decker shared that he would prefer the monies be used to bring back drama and music programs; whereas Councilman Smith had reservations that the School Based Clinicians program restricts parental involvement.

KEEP DREAMS ALIVE FOUNDATION: HOUSING ACADEMY, UP TO \$6,000

- Project Description: Provide six 120-minute presentations on foundational information for up to 50 families to better understand procedures, responsibilities and obligations about rental housing as well as obtain knowledge about local community resources.
- Motion by Councilman Hurst,

seconded by Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby and approved unanimously.

LYNNWOOD POLICE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY FLEX FUND, \$25,000

- Project Description: Crisis management funds for those needing emergency hotel stays, access to treatment, etc.
- Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Decker to raise the allocation from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The motion was approved 6-0-1 with Councilman Binda abstaining.
- The main motion to approve the funding was made by Councilman Decker, seconded by Council President Shannon Sessions and approved 6-0-1 with Councilman Binda abstaining.

EVERGREEN RECOVERY CENTERS: HIRE 2 ADDITIONAL NURSES, \$252,720

- Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Decker and approved unanimously.

ACCESS PROJECT, \$79,469

- Project Description: Provide intervention and referral services to at-risk youth in the community to address underlying mental health needs and prevent violence and self-harm.

- Motion by Council President Sessions, seconded by Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby and approved unanimously.

FOUNDATION FOR EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT: ON THE JOB TRAINING PROGRAM, \$43,784

- Project Description: Foundation for Edmonds School District's on the Job Training program, in partnership with the Edmonds School District's Career Connected Learning Program to in

Continued **PAGE 06** >>



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Community Transit considers making Lynnwood Zip permanent, North County on the horizon

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Things are looking good for Community Transit's Zip ride share project in Lynnwood, just a few months shy of its year-long pilot timeframe ending.

As the decision to implement the pilot project as regular service approaches on October 5, Jennifer Hass, Senior Manager of Innovation for the transportation agency presented to the board some of its continued success over the last nine months, at Community Transit Board Meeting on Thursday, August 3.

The Lynnwood Zip ride share service launched on October 20, 2022, operating 17 hours a day from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. Since then, the fleet has expanded from three vehicles to five and clocked approximately 23,000 trips, gaining 20 to 30 new passengers every week.

The service area has roughly remained unchanged since launch, covering about a three-by-three mile area, but demand for service has steadily increased, Hass told the Lynnwood Times. About 25% of users call for service around the Lynnwood Transit Center near where the Lynnwood Light Rail station will be opening next year.

Being the first pilot project in Community Transit's history, the transportation agency was extremely methodical in how they rolled it including an extensive community engagement strategy to assess rider's needs. Hass continued it was because of this the agency was confident it would work; they just weren't quite sure how they would "fine tune it."

"We knew we would get bus riders, of course, that would use it solely on its own or for a first-last mile connection point – which they are – but we're excited that we're getting new people into the service," Hass told the Lynnwood Times. "We designed it after hearing community need and how people needed to travel within that area, and we found that it is serving that purpose; it's really exciting."

Currently, Zip is limited to a fixed area, from 204th Street Southwest to just north of 16th Street Southwest (North to South), and Highway 99 to Interstate-5 (East to West) from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Depending on the success of the pilot project, both the city of Lynnwood and Community Transit hope to expand this service to other areas of the city. What that will look like, as far as routes and additional lines, will depend upon the success of this pilot project and community feedback.

The project was originally budgeted to cost \$1,300,000 throughout its year-long pilot. To date the project has spent a little over \$700 thousand leaving \$465,000 remaining for the next couple of months. If everything goes according to plan, the pilot will fall below budget by \$111,034.

So far approximately 80% of customer feedback has been positive with the negative reviews sharing the common theme of long wait times during peak travel times or difficulties navigating the app. On average the pilot has kept

with its goal of keeping wait times under 15 minutes and has already made adjustments with its vendor, MetStar Transportation, for improvements to make the app more accessible.

"I can't tell you how many of our community members told me how wonderful [the Zip] is, that it gets them where they want to go, but the biggest thing I hear is how wonderful the drivers are," Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell said at Thursday's meeting. "It's almost as if they go out of their way...it's just been a joy having Community Transit use as a pilot program and I highly recommend it."

The pilot, to-date, has an overall Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 64 with that score reaching above 80 among its senior users. To put this in context, a Net Promoter Score can fall anywhere from ± 100 , so even if the score lands on zero this can be considered a good score. Anything above 50 is considered great, by CT's standards. Additionally, 96% of riders reported they felt safe while using the Zip's service.

Commuters can access the ride share pilot for the same cost as riding a bus, which is much cheaper than most private ride share models, also making the service accessible for low-income individuals. Additionally, anyone under 18 years of age can ride free although riders under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Demographics, as far as age, are pretty widespread across the board, Hass told the board Thursday.

Community Transit's next step in making Zip regular service is undergo a community engagement process 30 days before the pilot ends on October 19. The Board will return on September 7 for a Public Hearing where the public is open to comment, then again on October 5 when the Board will act.

The hope is that Community Transit can continue the service so there's no disruption between the pilot ending on October 19 and regular service beginning. Currently, a contractor operates the service for the first 12 months, but Community Transit is discussing internally whether to extend this contract, find another contractor, or take over the reins.

In late 2024, Community Transit hopes to expand micro transit to other areas around Snohomish County with similar demographics to Lynnwood. It's currently planning to test pilots in Arlington, Darrington, and Lake Stevens.

Keeping with Community Transit's commitment to cleaner greener modes of transportation the agency is looking at hybrid models and, hopefully all-electric once the market presents that opportunity. Currently there are no minivans of the model used that are completely electric.

There current vehicle models used are gas-powered Plymouth Voyagers for larger parties and passengers in need of ADA assistance, and a Hyundai Ioniq hybrid sedan.

"The city [of Lynnwood] has been amazing, it's a great partnership," said Hass. "The prior Mayor and current Mayor are great and have been super



Current service area of Lynnwood Zip. SOURCE: Community Transit

excited about the project."

The Zip project was funded by a \$1 million grant from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), which provides funds to states for transportation projects designed to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, particularly in areas of the country that do not attain national air quality standards.

Representative Larsen supported the bipartisan Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act, signed by President Joe Biden November 2021, which invested \$2.54 billion in CMAQ through the 2022 fiscal year.

"The Zip shuttle signifies a couple things; one is equity in transportation. This is going to expand opportunities to use transit and to get them to where they need to go. The second thing is this is the Federal dollar going to work. Zip is just one way the infrastructure funding is coming home," Representative Larsen told the Lynnwood Times.

To develop the one-year pilot, Community Transit began working closely with the City of Lynnwood and local community organizations in 2021 to better understand how to meet local transit needs. The Alderwood area was chosen as the first test area because of its growing population, popular destinations, and the new Link light rail station opening in Lynnwood in 2024.

On-demand ride share service is just the beginning for Community Transit who are currently working on transitioning their entire fleet to electric vehicles within the next 10 years.

To book a trip using the mobile phone app, download the GOIN' – Rides for All app on a smartphone or call (425) 521-5600.

Wait times for pick up will vary based on demand. Customers can expect to wait 10-15 minutes for the shuttle to

arrive. The Zip Alderwood Shuttle service area includes Lynnwood Transit Center for riders connecting to bus routes.

Community Transit seeks public comment on Zip Alderwood Shuttle

Community Transit is seeking public comment on making Zip Alderwood Shuttle a regular, long-term service. The on-demand ride service, offered for the same price as a local bus trip, is nearing the end of its one-year test period. The agency is considering transitioning Zip to regular, ongoing service.

As of August, Zip has had 23,000 boardings by 1,100 unique customers. Average wait time for customers is less than 15 minutes. The pilot started with three service vehicles and the fleet has now grown to five vehicles.

Public comment is welcome through September 7.

Comments can be sent in several ways:

- Email: engage@commtrans.org
- Social: Facebook ([/communitytransit](https://www.facebook.com/communitytransit)), Twitter ([@MyCommTrans](https://twitter.com/MyCommTrans))
- Mail: Community Transit, Administrative Office, 2312 W Casino Rd, Everett, WA 98204
- Call: (425) 353-RIDE (7433)
- Public hearing: Community Transit Board Meeting, 3 p.m. Sept. 7 (sign up at communitytransit.org/how-to-attend-a-meeting). The meeting will be in a hybrid format, with in-person attendance and an online option available.

Cole Langdon sworn in as Lynnwood Police Chief

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Cole Langdon was sworn in as Chief of the Lynnwood Police Department by Mayor Christine Frizzell on Tuesday, August 8, at City Hall.

“I absolutely love this department,” Police Chief Langdon said. “A lot of what has made this such a fulfilling career, first of all it is a great community, but really its walk[ing] along side an awesome group of people.”

“Everyday when we show up to work, we know what we are there for; we have meaning, we have purpose. That is one thing this job gives back to us... when I come here this is home and this feels right,” Langdon added.

Langdon shared he would continue the direction of the Lynnwood Police Department to recognize its role in the community through outreach, compassion, and supporting one another.

Mayor Frizzell shared an overview of the eight-week process promoting Langdon to Lynnwood Police Chief by speaking with members of the community, councilmembers, the local police union, and members of the police chief advisory group. It was a consensus that the Lynnwood Police Department possessed the talent for an internal hiring process.

“Cole has been so active in the community since I have known him,” Mayor Christine Frizzell said. She



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell swearing in Lynnwood's new Police Chief Cole Langdon at City Hall on August 8, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

shared firsthand accounts of Cole's compassion and professionalism in action during his work with Neighbors in Need, Cops and Clergy, and his outreach to what she called Lynnwood's "homeless neighbors."

Langdon was joined by his wife Kimberly and their three kids, parents, and about one hundred other friends, family members, and Lynnwood employees. Lynnwood City Council President Shannon Sessions, Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, and council members Shirley Sutton, Patrick Decker, and George Hurst. Councilman Jim Smith was attending a family matter or would have attended he told the Lynnwood Times.

"I couldn't think of a better person to be

leading our city in this way," Council President Sessions said.

Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby emphasized that Chief Langdon has his "heart in his place." She thanked him for believing in people and being open to new projects such as the Let's Talk About Safety forums.

The vote to confirm Langdon at its Business Meeting on July 24 succeeded with six council members in favor with Councilman Josh Binda abstaining stating he is confident in the then-Deputy Police Chief's qualifications to be police chief, but cited concerns about the process — believing external candidates should have been considered.

Langdon is the first Lynnwood resident since 1972 to hold the office and the first to have worked in every rank of the force. He replaces Jim Nelson who was appointed in 2020.

“You will do a great job, you have good people,” now retired Chief Nelson said. “I have my upmost faith in your ability to take this organization further and better.”

Cole Langdon joined the Lynnwood Police Department as a college intern with the Police Cadet program in the summer of 1996. After graduating from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy, he worked as a patrol officer for several years before transferring to the Traffic section. While there, Langdon served as a collision investigator and police motorcycle instructor. Langdon successfully transferred to the K-9 unit, where he worked with two cross-trained dogs, Tanner and Buddy, and served as a master trainer for the Washington State Police Canine Association. He has also served on the regional SWAT team.

After 11 years with K-9, Langdon was promoted to sergeant. After supervising a patrol squad for several years, he transferred to the department's Community Health and Safety Section (CHSS). From CHSS, Langdon was promoted to the rank of commander. Langdon commanded the Patrol division, which included Patrol, K-9, and Traffic sections, before transferring to the Administrative Services division.

Continued PAGE 07 >>

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from page 1 **HOMAGE**

we otherwise would not be able to get around,” said Keith Bell, Homage CEO. “We’re excited about that and the response we’ve had from our community is really positive.”

Homage’s Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) is a transportation program that provides service to seniors and people with disabilities by picking them up at home and delivering them to their desired destination or, if needed, a connecting transportation network such as DART, Everett Paratransit, or ACCESS. By doing this, TAP connects its clients to essential services such as healthcare providers, dialysis appointments, congregate meal sites, shopping, schools, senior centers, recreation, jobs, and much more.

The underserved rural areas east of I-5 is where TAP specializes the most, where most transportation agencies find it too expensive to maintain service for thousands of people living east of Monroe along US2 to Index. Typically, transportation agencies don’t service this area because it requires longer labor hours, more maintenance, and the additional gasoline needed to accommodate residents living in lower density population areas.

Community Transit does offer a fixed route in this area for ambulatory riders, but it does not serve residents outside a 3/4 mile of city limits. Currently there is also no public transportation between Gold Bar and Index in Snohomish County. Because of these, many residents in rural areas need a car to reach nearby public transportation but for seniors and people with disabilities this is not always an option. That’s where Homage’s TAP program comes in, presenting an opportunity for independence and a greater quality of life for residents living in these underserved areas whose needs are the same as others living in denser populated areas.

The recently awarded funding, which DelBene secured during the Fiscal Year 2023 government funding law, will support a new TAP pilot program



Llyod White (right), Transportation Supervisor at Homage sharing a picture of the current bus to Representative Suzan DelBene at Homage on August 14, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

that expands the TAP services with a new bus and expanded service routes. The new project will also help generate jobs, DelBene’s office said, by adding a driver position, working 40 hours a week, supported by a dispatcher, scheduler, vehicle service supervisor, and program manager.

After the pilot program ends in 12 months, Homage can use the data gathered to leverage for additional funding, while demonstrating how regular and reliable transportation can benefit this area.

Homage began offering on-demand rides on July 6, 2023. Within their first month of service, they spent 138 hours transporting individuals through 98 one-way trips, traveling more than 2,300 miles. The nonprofit is currently shopping for its second bus with the goal of holding two wheelchairs and eight people that costs approximately \$93,000.

In a 2022 TAP rider survey Homage conducted, 100% of users said the service decreased transportation barriers, 100% said it enabled their social contacts, 90% said it increased critical services, and 100% said they would recommend it.

“People have places to go and it’s going to take a lot of miles to get them there,” said Juli Rose, Senior Director

of Government-Funded Programs at Homage. “I think one of the most rewarding things, in sitting in a front row of the transportation assistance program, is seeing us focusing and filling a gap.”

Rose shared a story about an elderly gentleman TAP recently picked up who shared he was “thrilled” that the service could pick him up in Index, where even ride shares like Uber or Lyft sometimes won’t even go, so he can now visit his granddaughter on a regular basis.

DelBene’s office has just submitted \$49 million for 15 community projects for Fiscal Year 2024 that will go into the appropriations packages which Congress will then need to pass before the fiscal year begins on October 1.

DelBene informed the Lynnwood Times she suspects a looming government shutdown because “Congress is definitely divided” and the House has become “very” partisan, making cuts to appropriation bills even going beyond the agreement with President Biden after the default crises was avoided.

There are twelve appropriations bills that need to pass to fully fund the government, which have to be passed by the House, the Senate, and signed by the President. Many of those bills have not passed and many House Republicans are even struggling to agree with

one another, DelBene added using the example of the agriculture appropriations bill which was removed from the calendar at the end of July after House Republicans could not agree on the bill being bipartisan.

“I’m very concerned House Republicans are leading us to a shutdown,” DelBene told the Lynnwood Times.

Homage is the largest provider of services for older adults and people with disabilities in Snohomish County. Each year more than 25,000 individuals benefit from Homage’s core programs in food and nutrition, health and wellness, home repair, social services and transportation. The majority of people receiving its services live on limited incomes and are in need of services that help them maintain their health, independence, and quality of life.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

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

from page 3 **LYNNWOOD ARPA**

support high schoolers become job ready.

- Motion by Council President Sessions, seconded by Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby and approved unanimously.

HOMAGE SENIOR SERVICES: FOOD, \$3,000

- Project Description: To assist in relieving some of the food insecurity from the reduction of food benefit in March.
- Motion by Councilwoman Shirley Sutton, seconded by Council President Sessions and approved unanimously.

CLOTHES FOR KIDS: CLOTHING, \$58,500

- Motion by Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby, seconded by Councilman Decker and approved unanimously.

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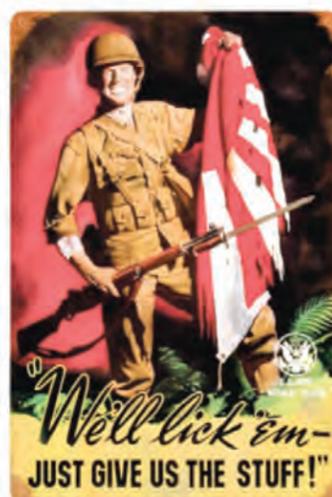
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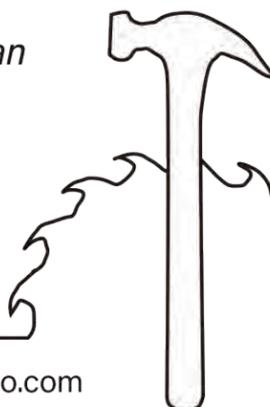
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from page 1 **MULTIPLE SHOOTINGS**

Upon arrival, officers discovered a 31-year-old male victim with gunshot wounds. Despite immediate medical attention, the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

The suspect, Escamilla, is also believed to be involved in an unincorporated Edmonds homicide of a woman at approximately 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 10. The investigation of the homicide in Edmonds is being led by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

The early morning unincorporated Edmonds shooting took place at the 16300 block of 48th Place W. There a 68-year-old woman was found dead upon the arrival of officers, and two relatives — a 32-year-old woman and the 43-year-old man — were both found with life-threatening gunshot wounds. The two living victims were transported to Harborview Medical Center and remain in critical condition as of Thursday evening.

Two young children were also in the home at the time of the shooting. They

were uninjured. They were cared for off-site by law enforcement until Child Protective Services responded to assist with temporary placement for the children.

As of Thursday evening, there are no known connections between the victims and the 31-year-old suspect who entered their home.

After a car pursuit by officers that ended at Norma Beach Road in unincorporated Lynnwood, the suspect fled on foot and was eventually captured after a K-9 and WSP's air unit search.

Authorities have confirmed they suspect the same man is connected to both homicides and that there is no ongoing threat to the community related to this incident. Detectives believe the suspect arrived at the location and gained entry into the home before shooting the three adults inside. The suspect then took a vehicle registered to the home and fled from the scene.

As of now, no further details regarding the incident will be released as this is an active investigation.

A letter from Lynnwood Chief Langdon to Mayor regarding LPD's role in apprehending suspect

Below is a letter Mayor Christine Frizzell read during Monday's City Council Business Meeting provided to her by Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon regarding his officers' role in apprehending Gilbert Alexander Escamilla, a 31-year-old Marysville man, who was apprehended on Thursday, August 10, in connection to four shootings within a three-hour period killing two individuals.

Mayor:

[I] wanted to share some information with you reference the critical incident our officers responded to on Thursday, August 10, at approximately 7 a.m. While not mentioned in any of the media stories related to this critical incident, officers from Lynnwood Police Department played a critical role in assisting at the scene and capturing an extremely dangerous suspect who was responsible for the brutal murder of at least two people and the critical wounding of two others.

The suspect, who is believed to be responsible for the killing of a man in Marysville earlier in the morning, drove to the Lynnwood area and abandoned his vehicle. The suspect was apparently in the process of stealing another vehicle at a nearby residence

just north of our city limits when he was confronted by a male victim who resided at the residence. During this incident, the suspect shot the male victim multiple times before entering the home and shooting an elderly woman and then turning his gun on the mother of two young children who was on the phone with 911 reporting the incident in real time. The suspect shot the mother in cold blood with her two young children (Ages 5 and 7) standing nearby before fleeing the house and driving away from the scene in the victims' vehicle.

A Lynnwood officer spotted the suspect fleeing the scene of the residence and attempted to stop the vehicle. The vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit ensued. It's worth noting that if the Washington State legislation governing pursuits had not recently been modified to allow the police to pursue a criminal suspect when reasonable suspicion to believe the suspect is wanted for a violent crime, officers would have been legally obligated to let the suspect drive away. Prior to the recent legislative change, officers would have had to establish probable cause to arrest the suspect for a specific violent crime, a legal standard that departs from the reality and dynamics of police response to critical incidents. We are grateful to have the

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legislation moving into a realm that more closely matches with the reality of police work.

During the pursuit, the officer and her partner gave chase of this suspect who was wanted for the shooting of 4 people. The officer was able to keep up with the suspect throughout the pursuit and she and the other officer did an outstanding job of broadcasting and coordinating the pursuit with other police agencies over the radio. Ultimately this suspect was captured through a team effort of multiple police agencies after the suspect fled from their vehicle into a wooded area near Picnic Point.

While this pursuit was being managed, another Lynnwood officer was at the scene of the shooting, assisting the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office deputies. This officer took charge of the two young children who had just witnessed the brutal shooting of their parents and grandparent and took them to his vehicle where he worked to comfort them. One of the children had blood on them from one of the parents. This officer provided stuffed animals to the children and worked to comfort them until other units to include chaplains could arrive to take over caring for the children.

Other officers and sergeants from LPD were present at this critical incident and played important roles in capturing the suspect. Our department has already begun the process to formally recognize our officers and sergeants more for their exemplary work.

My hope that you and council could keep our officers in your thoughts as they work to keep this community safe, oftentimes engaging in selfless and courageous acts.

I find myself inspired and grateful to have the opportunity to lead such men and women and thank you again for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully, Cole

from page 5 **COLE LANGDON**

He was then appointed to the rank of deputy chief overseeing the Bureau of Field Operations, which includes the Patrol and Detention divisions.

Langdon holds a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from the University of Washington and is currently working towards his Master of Science in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership through the University of San Diego.

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North Queens Drill Team on fire with years of championship victories

LYNNWOOD—Not only is Lynnwood's North Queens Drill Team unlike any other drill team in the United States, they are also on an All City Championship roll, winning the last six years and bringing the number of championships to a whopping 15 wins since Kim Looney, current Drill Mistress, took the reins.

Formed in 1959 the North Queens Drill Team is one of the oldest and longest running drill teams in the country. It's also the only team in the nation of its kind, according to Looney, sticking to an older style of drill while many teams across the nation shifted to more of a "dance drill" style.

The team took another championship this year at the All City Championship held at Lynnwood High School on April 22. The North Queens won the All-City Championship in 1974, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, and now 2023. They are currently the only team on the Seattle Drill Team Association to secure that many championship victories, Looney said.

Competitions were put on hold for two years during the pandemic from 2020 through 2021.

The North Queens Drill team has been ingrained in Looney's life since she was too young to remember. Her father was a Lynnwood Elks member growing up – a major sponsor of the North Queens Drill Team at the time – so she always told her father she wanted to participate in drill the minute she turned 12 (the minimum age requirement when she was growing up). When that happened in 1972, she enrolled in the team and brought it to a championship win two years later.

Looney left the team in 1978 but returned as Drill Mistress in 1980. She's been the team's Drill Mistress ever since alongside her daughter, Nikki, who acts as her assistant and has been involved in drill since 1982.

"They keep me young; they keep me going, and I really enjoy them," Looney told the Lynnwood Times.

In addition to its most recent All City win, Jaylin Jackson, 17, current Drill Captain for the North Queens, won the Best Captain award in her first ever competition in that role. The team also received the Best General Effect, Best High Point and Best Average awards.

The current North Queens team is comprised of 13 girls (although the group is inclusive to everyone, Looney noted) ranging in age from 8 to 21, from as far south as North Seattle and as far North as Lake Stevens. Drilling alongside Captain Jackson is Co-Captain Madison Landis, First Lieutenant Alena Harris, and Second Lieutenant Serenity Napper.

During the competition several drill teams bring their own choreographed routine, captains exchange gifts, and each teammate undergoes a military inspection of their uniform while properly standing at attention.

Two judges, called Marching and Maneuvering Judges, are on the floor – typically members of the military. And two judges in the stand, called Variety or General Effect Judges, evaluate the team's patterns, innovation, and overall performance.

These judges tally up a team's score in several different categories which include marching and maneuvering, general effect, and the captain's score.

At the end of the performance, a team's score is tallied up and the team with the highest score is named the winner.

Typically, the North Queens practice once a week, year-round, although during competition and parade season practices are typically increased to three nights a week with a five hour session on Saturdays. Drill Mistress Looney likes to break up these long Saturday rehearsals with games to keep her girls engaged and having fun. Practices are often held at Mountlake Terrace High School, although the team sometimes practices at the Edmonds Center for the Arts when the weather is less favorable.

During the summer you can catch the North Queens Drill Team perform at many of the region's parades and events such as the Mountlake Terrace Tour de Terrace, the SeaScare Porchlight Parade in Brier, and the upcoming Lake City Parade on Saturday August 5. Most recently the team performed at Lynnwood's iconic Bowl and Skate for its 66th anniversary celebration.

While the current team sits at 13 members, Looney noted that pre-pandemic numbers averaged around 30 teammates at a time. She hopes to return her team to these numbers soon and encourages anyone who may be interested to attend a rehearsal to learn more.

"It's hard work, there's no getting around it, especially when we go to parades," said Looney. "But once we get there we have fun, we have free time afterwards. My closest friends are from drill. We encourage people to come to practice, check it out, try it out, and make a decision."

Looney's favorite part about coaching is training for competitions, she add-

ed, when the team becomes close and a "really tight unit." She continued that everyone should try out drill for the friendships and memories they'll make adding that some of her closest friends in life were from her time on drill teams.

For more information on the North Queens Drill Team and how to get involved you can reach out to Kim Looney by calling her at (425) 218-6103 or emailing: patkimlooney@comcast.net

from page 2 **SOUNDS OF AFRICA**

has held this West African tradition of supplying groceries to elders in preparation for or during the observation of Ramadan.

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

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

Lynnwood City Councilwoman Dr. Altamirano Crosby reminisced on first meeting Joof, immediately impressed by his hard work and passion.

"He has the passion and goal to organize this festival, to unify cultures, to embrace every single culture around, to know each other, to have this opportunity to reach out to the community and share," said Altamirano Crosby about Joof.

from page 1 **196TH ST SW**

Street Improvement Project would not have been possible without strong partnerships with multitudes of contractors, consultants, and agencies our teams interacted with almost daily. We are so thankful to each person's dedication to this project."

Following Mayor Frizzell, Congressman Rick Larsen followed suit noting that transportation leads to jobs and is a gateway to longtime economic growth. Larsen continued the 196th Street Improvement Project is no exception to this and is at the heart of a "transportation revolution" happening in Lynnwood.

Larsen was paramount in securing federal dollars for the 196th Street Improvement project and has been with many Lynnwood projects by supporting the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which secured more than \$1 billion in federal investment for the future Lynnwood Link light rail extension opening in 2024, and the Poplar Way Bridge project, and Community Transit's Swift Orange Line, to name a few.

"I always say that you cannot have a big-league economy with little league infrastructure, to grow our economy, to grow local jobs, to grow our transportation network, to reduce pollution, and ensure people of all abilities can get safely to and from work these investments are critical," said Larsen. "We have a great story to tell."

Larsen was able to tell this great story last week to Republican leader Sam Graves at the Port of Everett, bringing in local agencies who shared how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping them.

With the completion of the 196th Street project residents have easier access to Community Transit, paratransit, and van pool to get to and from the Lynnwood Transit Center and the City Center Station, while improving access to local business, improving safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, and provide the infrastructure for future development in the city, Larsen continued.

Bill Franz, Lynnwood Public Works Director, was next to speak noting the city is "doing much more with this project than just improving a road" it's "helping create the new Lynnwood."

"This project is one of the critical pieces of a decades long plan to reshape our city," said Franz. "If you look around the area we stand in the middle of exciting times as many new gems for our community are being created."

David Mach, City Engineer for Lynnwood, followed Franz to reflect how much has changed in 100 years, when 196th Street in Lynnwood was an old lumber track loggers used to transport timber to the mill in Edmonds — a road that maybe had five houses total on it at the time. With the advent of cars, the road was paved and when au-

tomobile travel grew more popular, it was later widened to a five lane road with sidewalks in the 60's. More lanes were added by the Convention Center again in the 90's, following the completion of the I-5 196 Interchange Project, and a few years after that, in the early 2000's, the city of Lynnwood had a vision: to create a Downtown.

In 2008 the city hired a consultant firm, David Evans and Associates, to start plans. Many years of revisions and iterations the city brought on board Contract Land Services to assist in 40 or so different properties needed for the improvements while working closely with local utility companies to remove old power lines and replace old pipes.

In early 2020 the city advertised for bids and hired Marshbank Construction. After 300 newly planted trees and 4,000 plants, 1,000 truckloads of asphalt, 1-mile of drainage pipes, and 15-miles of utility conduits later, 196th Street is complete in two and a half years of hard work.

The new improvements add street and pedestrian lighting, conversion of overhead power and communication utilities to underground, new traffic signals, planted medians, wider sidewalks and landscape features, new business access and transit (BAT) lanes, new storm drainage, water quality and flow control, new water main and fire hydrants, new sewer main, new driveways for all businesses, and a repaved full roadway.

The City received \$26 million in state and federal grants for completion of this project. Project funding includes an additional \$22 million in city, WS-DOT and private funding for a grand total of \$48 million.

In addition to the guest speakers, Lynnwood City Council members Shriley Sutton and Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby were also in attendance. Senator Maria Cantwell was unable to attend Tuesday's ceremony but a staff member, speaking on her behalf, shared the following statement:

"Congratulations to the city; a job well done to all the staff who put in the many hours to makes this possible," said Cameron Caldwell on behalf of Senator Candtwell.

196th Street (SR 524) is one of the busiest highways in Snohomish County, carrying 40 to 50 thousand vehicles a day. The corridor is also home to hundreds of businesses, a major transit center, and a future light rail station opening next year. The improvements were designed to reduce traffic congestion, better accommodate bus and transit travel, increase business access, provide utility capacity for future development and promote safety.

These improvements will accommodate the growth of City Center and also created an enhanced pedestrian environment with a boulevard appearance.