



All six Let's Go Washington initiatives certified by SOS **P9**



Alderwood B&G Club unveils plaque memorializing Jim Corcoran **P10**



Northwest Orchid Society Plant Festival March 2-3 **P3**

Real News ⚡  
Real Impact

# Missing bolts in door plug build of Alaska flight 1282 led to blowout, NTSB finds



NTSB investigators examine the door plug from Alaska Airlines flight 1282, a Boeing 737-9 MAX. SOURCE: NTSB

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON D.C.—The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), on February 6, released its preliminary findings in the Alaska Airlines Flight

1282 incident involving a mid-cabin door blowing off mid-flight on January 5, 2024. In that report it was found that four key bolts were missing from the cabin door, which prevent upward movement to the aircraft's mid exit

door (MED) plug, that led to the MED plug moving upwards off the stop pad leading to rapid decompression of the aircraft with almost 180 passengers

Continued **PAGE 8 >>**

# Black Press Media, parent company of Everett Herald, files bankruptcy

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Black Press Media, the parent company of the Everett Herald, has filed for Chapter 15 bankruptcy protection in Delaware on January 16, 2024, owing some \$101.2 million to creditors according to court documents.

Filed in British Columbia court a day earlier on January 15, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), gives financially troubled corporations in Canada the opportunity to continue to operate while it restructures its financial affairs. According to Investopedia, "The primary goal of Chapter 15 bankruptcy is to promote cooperation among U.S. courts, their appointed representatives, and foreign courts and to make legal proceedings of international bankruptcies more predictable and fairer for debtors and creditors."

The purchase price of the deal is estimated at \$55.5 million USD to cover outstanding debt and other obligations unless higher offers come in by the February 16 auction bid deadline.

Continued **PAGE 11 >>**



## A look at some of President Biden's accomplishments since taking office

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON D.C.—When the United State's 46th President, Joe Biden, was inducted into office in 2021 his administration was faced with many challenges - a global pandemic, economic crises, environmental crises, and social injustice, just to name a few.

PAGE 11 >>



## Rep Larsen releases report to combat opioid epidemic in NW Washington

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Representative Rick Larsen (WA-2) released a district opioid report on January 25 analyzing the opioid epidemic in Northwest Washington while presenting several federal policy recommendations he believes could address the issues facing local communities.

PAGE 5 >>



## Mukilteo Councilman appointed to Puget Sound Regional Council

By MARIO LOTMORE

MUKILTEO—Freshman Mukilteo City Councilman, Mike Dixon, was appointed by Snohomish County Cities on January 18 to represent all cities and towns within the county—except Everett with its designated seat—on the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

PAGE 4 >>

# Northwest Orchid Society Plant Festival coming to Lynnwood Event Center

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—At Seattle-based Northwest Orchid Society people from all over the region are united under a single hobby – a shared interest in the complex practice of growing, conserving, and propagating one of the most difficult species of plants to cultivate: the orchid.

This upcoming March 2 through 3, the Northwest Orchid Society will be hosting its first-ever group-sponsored Indoor Plant Festival, to be held at the Lynnwood Event Center. Presale tickets begin at \$7 a day but increase up to \$10 if purchased the day of the event. For \$50, guests can also purchase a Preview Event ticket which grants access to an evening of food, drinks, and early access to vendors and plants. All ticket sales are a fundraiser to support the non-profit.

“It’s going to be an incredible array of vendors and societies coming, from Spokane, from Oregon, from Mount Baker. Not only orchids but other house plants – an amazing display of houseplants for you to choose from,” said Ben Johnson, Vice President of Events at Northwest Orchid Society. “You come for a cactus, and we’ll get you to take home an orchid that will work for you.”

As an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Orchid Digest Corporation (ODC), the Northwest Orchid Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1947 with the goal of creating a community for orchid growers while promoting and educating people about the hobby. The group welcomes both beginners and experienced orchid growers yearning to learn more about the hobby and meet other like-minded individuals through its monthly meetings, plant raffles, special events, and display tables where members show off their latest blooms.

Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture in the NHS hall, which often feature renown guest speakers giving lectures on different topics from culture; to breeding programs; to history. Meetings are free and open to anyone.

Also, during these meetings, the so-



Orchid Plant Festival. SOURCE: Orchid Digest Corporation | Facebook

ciety holds an exhibition table where members can display their blooming plants. During the meeting a member does the “plant table walk,” points out unusual, interesting, or exceptionally well-grown plants and asks some of the growers for information about their plants and growing conditions.

The society also holds a variety of community events from summer picnics, plant shows, giveaways, and more including maintaining a library of orchid books, videotapes, and periodicals. The Society librarian brings a small selection of items from the library for check-out by members at monthly meetings, though all items are available by arrangement with the librarian. See what’s in the library here. If you’d like to check out a book or tape from our Library, please contact our librarian a minimum of two (2) weeks before the next meeting.

Johnson has been growing orchids since he was just 17 years old. Now in his late 40’s what keeps Johnson coming back to the art is just how beautiful, interesting, diverse, and challenging

### WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

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

the plant, and the hobby that surrounds caring for it, is.

“My dad had a bunch of plants just sitting around in the back of the house. He didn’t take care of them at all, and I enjoyed plants, so I just started taking care of them and they started flowering for me,” Johnson told the Lynnwood Times. “It was an addiction almost, a

sort of passion that you discover, and it’s been an adventure of trying out new plants since, seeing what I do well at and what don’t do well at, and learning new things.”

For anyone interested in taking the first leap into orchid care Johnson rec-

Continued PAGE 12 >>

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<p><b>PUBLISHER</b> Mario Lotmore <a href="mailto:publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com">publisher@lynnwoodtimes.com</a></p> <p><b>MARKETING SPECIALIST</b> Michele Mitsuchi-Stork <a href="mailto:sales@lynnwoodtimes.com">sales@lynnwoodtimes.com</a></p> <p><b>SENIOR STAFF REPORTER</b> Kienan Briscoe <a href="mailto:kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com">kienan.briscoe@lynnwoodtimes.com</a></p>	<p><b>REPORTERS</b></p> <p><b>George Ftikas Jr.</b> <a href="mailto:george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com">george.ftikasjr@lynnwoodtimes.com</a></p> <p><b>Olivia Thiessen</b> <a href="mailto:olivia.thiessen@lynnwoodtimes.com">olivia.thiessen@lynnwoodtimes.com</a></p> <p><b>Emily Chu</b></p>
---	---

**LYNNWOOD TIMES**

12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087  
P: 425-931-1374 | Website: [Lynnwoodtimes.com](http://Lynnwoodtimes.com) | Subscription: \$72/Year  
(Mail Checks Payable to Lynnwood Times at above address)

**AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS®**

Now Open  
to Serve You!

IN LYNNWOOD

FREE X-RAY & CONSULT FOR NEW DENTURE PATIENTS\*\*  
Best Price Guarantee\*

SCAN HERE

Scan the QR Code to learn about Affordable Payment Options

AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS - LYNNWOOD

NOOZHAN KARIMI, DDS, MS, MSc, AFAAID  
PROSTHODONTIST  
2701 184TH STREET SW, SUITE 118  
LYNNWOOD, WA 98037  
  
(833) 651-4331  
[AFFORDABLEDENTURES.COM](http://AFFORDABLEDENTURES.COM)

32412-1

\*Bring in a treatment plan from any competitor and we will beat the total treatment plan for comparable services. Treatment plan must come from a licensed dentist within the past six months for comparable services and is subject to verification. Some plans are excluded. Full details of the Best Price Guarantee are available from our web site or at this practice. [Valid until December 31, 2024] \*\*Free X-ray & consult offer has a minimum value of \$75 and covers a traditional 2-D X-Ray & consult at initial visit. Free X-ray & consult offer may not be combined with any other coupons, discounts, insurance program, or prior order. Offer may change or end without notice.

# WHEN I'M GOING... I PREFER **BOEING!**

**Electroimpact of Mukilteo is a proud  
2015 Boeing Silver Award Supplier**



**BOEING**

**10,000 Boeing aircraft carry millions of passengers  
to their destinations daily!**

**When a safety issue arises, Boeing quickly resolves it!**

**Boeing provides living-wage jobs  
to our community!**



**Share your Boeing story with us!**

**Peter Zieve, Founder and CEO of  
Electroimpact, wants to hear from you.**

**Send your story to  
[info@electroimpact.com](mailto:info@electroimpact.com)**



# Sno-Isle Libraries Launches Reading Program

By SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES

**SNOHOMISH AND ISLAND COUNTIES**—Sno-Isle Libraries is launching its inaugural community reading program, Sno-Isle Reads Together. Connect with your community as we read the same book. The selected title for the first Sno-Isle Reads Together is “Hollow Kingdom,” by Seattle author Kira Jane Buxton.

“Hollow Kingdom” is a quirky, humorous, and heroic tale following a crow in the apocalypse. Readers will recognize locations in this local story and be inspired to create a closer connection with nature. This unique story will spark reflection, discussion, and have you rooting for your new favorite corvid.

Sno-Isle Libraries will offer fun complementary programs for book discussion, wilderness survival, learning about local wildlife, zombie folklore, and more. The programs are designed to pair with “Hollow Kingdom,” but can also be enjoyed regardless of reading the book.

Our community will also have the opportunity to meet author Kira Jane

Buxton. Sno-Isle Libraries will host three author events:

- May 14, 6:30 p.m. at Kamiak High School Performing Arts Center, 10801 Harbour Pointe Blvd, Mukilteo, WA 98275
- May 15, 6:30 p.m. at Coupeville High School Performing Arts Center; 501 S. Main St. Coupeville, WA 98239
- May 21, 6:30 p.m. – online, register at [sno-isle.org](http://sno-isle.org)

Sno-Isle Libraries would like to thank the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation for their generous support. “Hollow Kingdom,” by Kira Jane Buxton is available at local libraries as an eBook, audiobook (digital and CDs), and physical copies. Join the conversation, *start reading (or listening) today!*

### About Sno-Isle Libraries

Sno-Isle Libraries serves over 800,000 residents in Snohomish and Island counties through 23 community libraries, online services and Library on Wheels. Our Vision: Everyone in our community is connected to their library. Our Mission: We engage and inspire our communities through *equitable access* to knowledge and resources.

## Fast, frequent, convenient BRT Swift Orange Line coming March 30, 2024

By COMMUNITY TRANSIT

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**—Starting March 30, South Snohomish County will soon enjoy the Community Transit Swift Orange Line—a new, quick and convenient way to get around! The new bus rapid transit (BRT) line—the agency’s third—will provide fast, frequent service linking Edmonds College, Alderwood Mall and Mill Creek, with connections to Link light rail in Lynnwood when it opens in fall 2024.

The March 30, 2024, launch of the Swift Orange Line will be marked with a community celebration, with a Block Party near the transit station at Edmonds College from 12 to 3 p.m.

The new, 11-mile BRT line, with easy connections to the Swift Blue and Green lines and other Community Transit routes, is a key part of the agency’s “Transit Changes in 2024 and Beyond” expansion plan. The greatly improved network will bring shorter waits on many local routes and better connections to local services, including Zip Alderwood Shuttle, as well as regional transit services.

“The addition of the Swift Orange Line will open up a new world of possibilities for people who are looking for faster and easier ways to get around our county, the region, and beyond,” said Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz. “Swift is truly the backbone of Snohomish County’s transit system with its high-capacity buses, accessible features, and iconic stations.”

The Swift Orange Line is an \$83 million project that has received \$67.9

million in federal funding, including \$37.2 million from Capital Investment Grant funds and \$6.5 million of American Rescue Plan stimulus funding. The project also received \$5 million as part of the Connecting Washington package. The remainder is funded by local sales tax approved by voters.

As part of the expansion of the Swift BRT network, the Blue Line will be extended south to meet with light rail in 2024 and the Green Line will be extended farther south into Bothell in coming years. The two existing Swift lines carry more riders each day than any other Community Transit route.

### About Swift BRT

- Buses arrive every 10-12 minutes on weekdays and every 15-20 minutes on early mornings, evenings, and weekends. Service is so frequent riders do not need a schedule.
- Buses stop at all stations, which are spaced farther apart than regular bus stops, and depart after about 10 seconds. Signal priority technology, bus lanes, and real-time information help keep Swift running quickly.
- Swift fare is the same as other local buses. Riders pay at the station with an ORCA card or use a ticket kiosk before boarding at any door.
- Swift is accessible to wheelchairs, disabled passengers, strollers, carts, and bikes.

Visit [communitytransit.org/orange](http://communitytransit.org/orange) for more details.

**GET READY FOR READING ADVENTURES**

Give your child a lifelong love for reading.

- Graphic novels, audiobooks and books
- STEM and craft events
- Storytimes

Start your journey!

**SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES**  
[sno-isle.org](http://sno-isle.org)

from page 1 **DIXON**

According to its website, the prestigious PSRC is the central planning agency that “develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.” Its 100 members include elected officials of the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies and Tribal governments within the Puget Sound region.

“With the development of the Mukilteo Waterfront Development Project and a possible Port of Everett Expansion on the horizon, Lynnwood Link Extension opening in early 2025, and the Seattle Paine Field Airport on our boundaries, I am honored to represent the interests of all cities within our county at a regional level on the Puget Sound Regional Council,” Councilman Mike Dixon told the Lynnwood Times.

Dixon will serve as a member of the PSRC’s Growth Management Policy Board and as an alternate on the Economic Development District and Transportation Policy boards.

The Growth Management Policy Board develops policy addressing housing affordability, population growth, urban sprawl, and shoreline management just to name a few. This board also focuses on aligning multimodal transportation to growth management, whereas the Transportation Policy Board focuses on resolving specific transportation is-

sues.

The Economic Development District Board is the governing board for the federally designated economic development district for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The board is responsible for development and adoption of the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

Representatives of Snohomish County Cities to the Puget Sound Regional Council are responsible to read all materials, prepare as needed by consulting with other cities, attend the monthly meeting in downtown Seattle to speak on SCC Cities’ behalf, and vote on all matters before the assigned PSRC’s boards to advance the interests of Snohomish County’s cities and towns. Alternates to the board are expected to stay informed and fill in when the primary representative cannot attend a meeting.

Councilman Dixon currently serves on the Community Support Grant Committee for Mukilteo and the City’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission as its Liaison.



**Mukilteo Councilman Mike Dixon**

# Transportation update: Lynnwood Light Rail and Swift Orange Line

BY KIENAN BRISCOE

**EVERETT**—The Economic Alliance of Snohomish County held a Coffee Chat event with local leaders on February 6 to discuss key transportation projects within Snohomish County, including the Lynnwood Link Extension, offering an update on developments shaping the county's transportation landscape.

The event was hosted by Wendy Poischbeg, Interim President and CEO of the Economic Alliance, featuring a panel consisting of: Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Planning Environment and Project Development for Sound Transit Don Billen, Executive Project Director for Lynnwood Link Randy Harlow, and North Corridor Development Director for the Everett Link Extension Eric Widstrand.

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE: SOUND TRANSIT UPDATES

First to speak was Don Billen, representing Sound Transit, who updated that the transportation projects approved during the 2008 Sound Transit 2 ballot measure are now under construction and will be opening within the next few years. Additionally, the transportation agency is in the planning process from the approved 2016 ballot measure which in-

cludes expanding Light Rail service to Everett, south to Tacoma, west connecting West Seattle and Ballard, and a line between Kirkland and Issaquah.

For its east side Light Rail service, between Bellevue and Redmond, Sound Transit is in need of a second operations and maintenance facility (OMF). Currently the transportation agency has one OMF just south of downtown Seattle but to support buildout to the east side, to Lynnwood and Federal Way, a second facility is needed to support its expanded fleet.

An OMF is where light rail trains go 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for cleaning and repairs. To build this new facility, ST need approximately 60 to 70 acres near an operating Link line. The agency is building a second facility in Bellevue but is currently looking north of Seattle, near Lynnwood most likely, to build another.

Sound Transit operates two Light Rail lines, one connecting Seatac Airport to Northgate (soon to be Lynnwood) and another in Tacoma, running from downtown to the Hilltop neighborhood. In Snohomish County, Sound Transit's primary transportation line is an express commuter bus service that connects the county with nearby King County – a project in partnership with their partners at Community Transit.

Sound Transit's Lynnwood Light Rail

station is scheduled to open later this year, either late summer or early fall, adding 14 new stations and expanding service from Lynnwood to Northgate over 8.5 miles of new track. In 2025 the Lynnwood line will be expanded further to connect with ST's Bellevue OMF facility.

Opening in 2037 through 2041, Light Rail will be expanding to Everett which will be the longest Light Rail extension yet at 16.3 added miles.

Separate to Light Rail, Sound Transit will also be opening Stride Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service from 2027 through 2029, which will utilize completely electric vehicles with three different lines: S1 line connecting Bellevue to Burien, the S2 line connecting Bellevue to Lynnwood, and the S3 line connecting Shoreline to Bothell.

"Light Rail gives us a transportation option in the region that moves us away from automobiles. I've used it a number of times and it's really a quality of life option to move around the region freely and have the option to do so," said Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers. "It also connects our centers around the region – centers of commerce, work, employment – and strengthening those bonds. As we grow as a region we need to make sure those centers are connecting and functioning and people can get to and from them easily. The third reason is energy efficiency. As we look for

ways to reduce our carbon footprint in our transportation system, light rail really helps us in that drive to move efficiently."

Much like the Economic Alliance with Poischbeg stepping in the role of Interim CEO following Gary Clark's retirement, Sound Transit is also currently going through a leadership transition. Sound Transit's new Interim CEO is Goran Sparrman bringing with him 30-years of experience working in the region including for the Seattle Department of Transportation as well as the City of Bellevue Department of Transportation.

Sound Transit serves King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties – a region of over 3 million people and 40% of the state of Washington's population. What's more, population forecasts estimate the region could grow to nearly 4 million by 2040. Sound Transit is governed by the state's Transportation Department as well as an 18-member board including County Executive Somers, Everett Mayor Franklin, and Lynnwood Mayor Frizzell.

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE: COMMUNITY TRANSIT UPDATES

Ric Ilgenfritz was next to update the panel on its 2024 and Beyond Network, a plan adopted in 2022 that will restructure Snohomish County bus service to

*Continued* **PAGE 7 >>**

from page 1 **LARSEN**

"It is time to regain the momentum to combat the opioid epidemic and save lives," said Larsen. "Congress and the Biden administration must do more to coordinate with local governments, Tribal communities, law enforcement, health care providers and community partners who are on the front lines of the epidemic. This begins with understanding the challenges communities are facing and working together to break down barriers to lasting solutions."

The report takes a "four-pillar" approach to tackling the drug crises in Washington centered on preventing individuals from turning to opioids, interdicting the flow of opioids into communities, expanding treatment options for those suffering from substance abuse, and supporting a long-term recovery for individuals while building resiliency in local communities.

Though the opioid epidemic has run rampant through the state of Washington for several years it was exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Between February 2022 and February 2023 Washington State had the largest percentage increase in the United States with most overdose-related deaths being attributed to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. In 2022 more than 75% of all of Washington's drug-related overdoses were linked to opioids. While the United States witnessed a 3% decrease in overdose deaths during this period, deaths in Washington State increased 21%.

## PILLAR ONE: PREVENTION

In Larsen's report he argues that the United States must take meaningful action to prevent individuals from relying on opioids, instead of implementing stopgaps that simply mitigate the impacts of the crisis.

Larsen's preventative strategy relies on the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program, which was created in 1997 and is the only national effort dedicated to helping communities fight substance abuse from the prevention stage. DFC grants help coalitions which coordinate local schools, law enforcement, local media, and other actors fight youth substance abuse.

Analytics in Larsen's report find that adolescents are at a heightened risk of beginning to use substances with rates of drug usage rapidly escalating between the ages of 12 and 19.

In Snohomish County, Human Services contracts with 11 school districts, including 52 schools, to provide Student Support Advocates and curricula on youth substance use prevention for teachers and counselors.

Larsen says preventative measures should not ignore local Tribes, who traditionally struggle with gathering resources such as social workers for its Indian Child and Welfare Act (ICWA) system.

Larsen used the example of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)'s Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI) as proof

of education-based preventative measures which has been proven to prevent Veteran's relying on opioids for pain management. Since its inception in 2013, the VA has reduced the number of veterans with opioid prescriptions by 67%, from 874,897 veterans in 2012 to 288,820 in 2023, and reduced the number of patients on high doses of opioids by 81%, from 76,444 in 2012 to 14,733 in 2023.

## PILLAR TWO: INTERDICTION

Larsen's interdiction strategy revolves around cracking down on drug trafficking to prevent the spread of drugs entering local communities.

As it stands illicit drugs are almost entirely manufactured overseas and delivered to the United States via Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO). The DEA Seattle Division reported that most fentanyl pills in Washington contain chemicals manufactured in China, for example. In addition to this most fentanyl pills in Washington were found to have been pressed into pill format by Mexican drug cartels before being smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Biden administration launched the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats in July 2023, which includes more than 100 countries and 11 international organizations to employ coordinated approaches to prevent illegal drug manufacturing and disrupt drug trafficking.

Additionally, the Bipartisan Infra-

structure Law (BIL), which Larsen championed for, invests in modernizing LPOEs at the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders through updating technology and infrastructure and enhancing capacity to screen cargo in vehicles.

In his report Larsen introduced the idea of implementing artificial intelligence and advanced technology to help the screening process and scan data for potential drug traffickers.

"Any time you do a law enforcement function privacy and first amendment rights, fourth amendment rights, and other rights comes into play," Larsen informed the Lynnwood Times. "No matter what tool law enforcement is using it has to comply with the constitution and the courts have been clear that as technology has changed the constitution has not."

As far as local law enforcement goes in interdiction efforts, Larsen applauded the work of local drug task forces but reported that these preventative measures are in dire need of more federal support and resources, particularly in tribal communities which are susceptible to drug trafficking given their remote location and traditionally insufficient law enforcement and resources.

"Because of longstanding tradition and history tribal law enforcement has relatively robust tools to enforce law on reservations against tribal members but as we found out during the Violence

*Continued* **PAGE 12 >>**

# Multiple animal rights bills head to WA Senate after overwhelming House passage last month

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**OLYMPIA**—Three new animal protection and justice bills head to the Washington State Senate after overwhelming passage in House in January.

## STANDARDIZING ANIMAL ABUSE PENALTIES

HB 1961, concerning animal cruelty in the first degree, addresses a significant hole in current law, where judges have wide discretion in sentencing for certain forms of animal cruelty, leading to inconsistencies and potentially insufficient penalties for heinous acts.

The bill hopes to rectify this disparity by reclassifying all forms of Animal Cruelty in the First Degree (RCW 16.52.205) as an Offense Seriousness Level (OSL) III crime. As it stands, only the act of animal cruelty involving sexual conduct is classified as OSL III. By standardizing penalties across all forms of Animal Cruelty in the First Degree, the bill would establish a clear and consistent sentencing framework for judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

“The current sentencing disparity for different types of animal cruelty sends a mixed message that some forms of barbarity are acceptable while others are not,” said Representative Sam Low, the primary sponsor of the bill. “This legislation would provide much-needed uniformity and certainty to the justice system, ensuring appropriate penalties for anyone who chooses to inflict suffering on defenseless animals.”

HB 1961 passed the House with 95 yeas and 1 nay on January 29 and received its first reading in the Senate on January 30. It has been referred to the Senate’s Law and Justice Committee for further action.

## PROHIBIT SALE OF COSMETIC PRODUCTS TESTED ON ANIMALS

HB 1097, dealing with cosmetic testing on animals, would prohibit the sale of cosmetics in Washington state if any ingredient, or the final product itself, was subject to new animal testing.

The bill specifically deals with cosmetic testing and the sale of cosmetic products that used animal testing, not statewide animal testing in general. A separate, unrelated, bill, HB2304, which deals with the University of Washington’s National Primate Research Center, was also introduced this legislative session on January 11 which would require the facility to annually produce data on the primates used for experimentation as well as deaths involved.

While many of these cosmetic companies don’t operate within Washington

State proper, if passed this bill would prohibit the sale of cosmetics manufactured outside of the state that involved animal testing.

“We’re really fortunate that consumer trends, and industry trends, are heading in the right direction – consumers are much more aware of the products that they’re purchasing and using and want to make compassionate choices,” Brenna Anderst, Director of Education and Advocacy at Pasado’s Safe Haven, told the Lynnwood Times. “If we don’t address this through a legislative process the consumers will speak more with their dollars which they already have been.”

Anderst explained that at this point in time animal testing for cosmetic products is “pretty unnecessary” because there are literally thousands of ingredients with the history of safe use.

Brenna Anderst, Director of Education and Advocacy at Pasado’s Safe Haven, oversees the legislative and advocacy work for the organization as well as its education programs and initiatives.

HB 1097 passed the house with 90 yeas and 3 nays on January 25. It received its first reading in the senate on January 27 and was referred to Business, Financial Services, Gaming and Trade.

## ANIMAL SHELTERS DURING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

HB 1012, improving the response to extreme weather events, would create an Extreme Weather Response Grant Program, which would provide animal friendly shelters and transportation when small and under-resourced communities are impacted by extreme weather and/or wildfires.

The bill was initiated due to an event that occurred during the summer of 2021 when a severe heat wave led to the deaths of many Washingtonians and their pets. During extreme weather conditions, including wildfires, many people are forced to make the difficult choice of staying with their pets or seeking shelter. If passed by the Senate and signed into law, HB 1012 would increase the amount of pet-inclusive emergency resources in Washington State by establishing an extreme weather grant program to help small communities and federally recognized tribes provide pet-friendly housing and transportation in the event of extreme weather.

The bill would retrofit already existing extreme cold and extreme heat shelters to be pet friendly. The language of the bill specifically leaves the meaning of “pet” arbitrary to be inclusive of many different animals people consider to be pets, not just limited to cats and dogs – within reason of course.



Representative Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens) with his four-legged best friend at an Aqua Sox Game in Everett, Washington in 2022. SOURCE: Sam Low.

The bill passed the House with 68 yeas and 30 nays on January 8 and was first read in the Senate on January 10. It was also addressed during a Public Hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government and Elections on January 30.

## LOOKING FORWARD FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

All three bills were lobbied by Sultan-based animal shelter Pasado’s Safe Haven’s Legislative Advocacy Department who worked closely with lawmakers, prosecutors, and law enforcement to identify gaps in the state’s animal protection laws. Many of Washington’s animal protection laws were written over 100 years ago and are extremely outdated, Brenna Anderst explained.

Separate from the three bills, Pasado’s helped bring forward there are a number of other animal-related bills that are being considered at the legislature

such as HB 1153, related to octopus farming. Currently Washington State does not have any octopus farms, but this bill would prohibit the creation of one. It would not impact commercial fishing or the sale of octopus, just the farming and cultivation thereof.

Anderst specifically commended Representative Sam Low’s involvement in HB 1961, who worked with Pasado’s during the interim to get the bill drafted. Rep. Low, an animal lover himself, represents Washington’s 39th district where Pasado’s Safe Haven’s sanctuary is located.

“Every bill has its own journey and its own process based on what committee it might go through or what it’s tackling in Washington State statute, but a lot of it is based off relationship building with our legislatures,” said Brenna Anderst. “When you build a relation-

Continued PAGE 10 >>



# ADVERTISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: Michelle at 773-255-8133 • EMAIL: SALES@LYNNWOODTIMES.COM

from page 5 **SWIFT ORANGE LINE**

connect with Sound Transit's planned Link Light Rail expansions.

The first of these is the Swift Orange Line, opening March 30, which will connect Edmonds College Transit Center to McCollum Park Park and Ride in Everett with stops in Lynnwood and Mill Creek. The line will have buses every 10-minutes, Ilgenfritz said.

Community Transit presently operates a Blue Line on the Highway 99 corridor, and the Green Line on Airport Road and 527 corridors, which will be expanded into downtown Bothell to connect with Sound Transit's Stride BRT system.

"We're creating a network that flows commuters into those services across the county lines and provides multiple opportunities for people to move around both counties," said Ilgenfritz. "This should be a game changer, making new connections, new frequency and new reliability for every community within Snohomish County."

Ilgenfritz continued that ridership is returning to pre-pandemic levels within its existing transportation services but the key to ridership is frequency stating "when people know a bus is coming they're more likely to want to use it."

Also coming in the coming months are a series of Community Transit express routes, called the 900 series, which will be connecting to new Lynnwood Link Light Rail station to several communities throughout Snohomish County.

Community Transit will be changing its 400 and 800 routes, which run through

downtown Seattle, to encourage riders to transfer to the Light Rail station for service into Seattle. The transfer, Ilgenfritz admitted, could be seen as an inconvenience to some riders but comes with a greater improvement to reliability and travel time to get riders off of Interstate 5 into the rail system.

Although service in downtown Seattle will be compromised Ilgenfritz reiterated that Community Transit will be increasing overall frequency across Snohomish County.

Following both Community Transit and Sound Transit's presentation the Coffee Chat, per tradition, was open to community engagement – allowing its audience to participate in a Q and A session with the officials participating in the event.

The Coffee Chat was sponsored by the Boeing Company.

**We're open**

Earn points. Redeem rewards.  
Join Chick-fil-A One\* today

19615 Hwy 99, Lynnwood, WA 98036

© 2023 CFA Properties, LLC. All trademarks shown are the property of CFA Properties, Inc.

## AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS®

**We Make Tooth Replacement Affordable for Everyone  
Now Open in Lynnwood, Washington!**

According to the American College of Prosthodontists, 178 million Americans are missing at least one tooth and nearly 40 million Americans are missing all of their teeth on one or both arches. With a mission to help these patients, Affordable Dentures & Implants was founded nearly 50 years ago to expand patient access to high-quality and affordable tooth replacement care.

With new financing options and our best price guarantee\*, patients can get their smile back today!

The new Affordable Dentures & Implants practice in Lynnwood, located at 2701 184th Street SW, Suite 118, offers a variety of services from extractions and partial dentures to full dentures and dental implants – at an affordable price – to create a new smile that not only looks great, but has the potential to transform a patient's life, allowing them to eat, speak and smile with confidence again.

Scan the QR Code or call (833) 651-4331 to learn more about this new practice, including special offers available, and to schedule your new smile consultation.

**Affordable Dentures & Implants - Lynnwood**  
Practice Owner: Noozhan Karimi, DDS, MS, MSC, AFAAID, PROSTHODONTIST  
Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday  
[affordabledentures.com](http://affordabledentures.com)

\*Bring in a treatment plan from any competitor and we will beat the total treatment plan for comparable services. Treatment plan must come from a licensed dentist within the past six months for comparable services and is subject to verification. Some plans are excluded. Full details of the Best Price Guarantee are available from our web site or at this practice. Valid until December 31, 2024.

# Another Swift Way to Ride

## Swift Orange Opening March 30, 2024

- Departs every 10 minutes weekdays
- Improved station shelters
- Future connection to light rail

Visit [communitytransit.org/orange](http://communitytransit.org/orange) to learn more.

**community transit**

**BUILDING TRANSIT. GROWING COMMUNITY.**

from page 1 **NTSB REPORT**

and crew on board.

“The separation of the MED plug from the airplane adversely affected the pressurization performance of the airplane and the damage to the MED plug adversely affected its structural strength, requiring replacement of the MED plug, resulting in a classification of substantial damage in accordance with Title 49 CFR Part 830”, the investigation report reads.

Two weeks ago, the NTSB held a press conference in Portland, Oregon, where Jennifer Homendy, Chair of the NTSB, briefed the media on key preliminary findings of the investigation. The following is a summary of their findings:

- At approximately 5:06 p.m.PST Alaska Airlines flight 1282 left the runway at Portland International Airport. Just six minutes later the recorded cabin pressure of the aircraft dropped from 14.09 to 11.64 PBS per square inch when the aircraft was at approximately 14,830 feet and 271 knots. The cabin altitude greater than 1,000 feet warning activated.
- At 5:12 the master caution activated. The cabin pressure dropped to 9.08 psi at approximately 14,850 feet and 271 knots. Just twenty seconds later the master caution deactivated.
- At 5:13 the aircraft continued to climb and reached a maximum altitude of 16,320 feet and began to descend. The air speed was 276 knots. The selected altitude changed from 23,000 feet to 10,000 feet.
- At 5:14 p.m. the master caution activated for three seconds.
- At 5:16 the aircraft began a left turn from 121 degrees. The altitude was approximately 10,120 feet.
- At 5:17 the aircraft descended below 10,000 feet.
- At 5:18 the altitude was approximately 9,050 feet and the air speed was 271 knots. The cabin altitude greater than 10,000 feet warning deactivated. The cabin pressure was 10.48 PSI.
- At 5:26 the aircraft landed on Runway 28 left at Portland International Airport.

The NTSB found that the cockpit door was designed to open during rapid decompression, which none of the flight crew knew. Boeing has announced it will update its manual which the NTSB hopes will translate into procedures and information for the flight attendants and crew. The oxygen masks did deploy during the incident, Homendy added.

The NTSB Systems Group focused on the cabin pressure control system aboard the aircraft, because the auto-pressurization light illuminated during the incident. This is designed as a triple redundant system with one primary cabin pressure controller, Homendy said, with one primary cabin pressure controller (a computer system). There is a secondary cabin pressure controller, and a manual controller. The system is designed so that if the first system fails the flight controller switches to the second controller and, if that fails, they can switch to manual.

“Any one of these systems is fully ca-

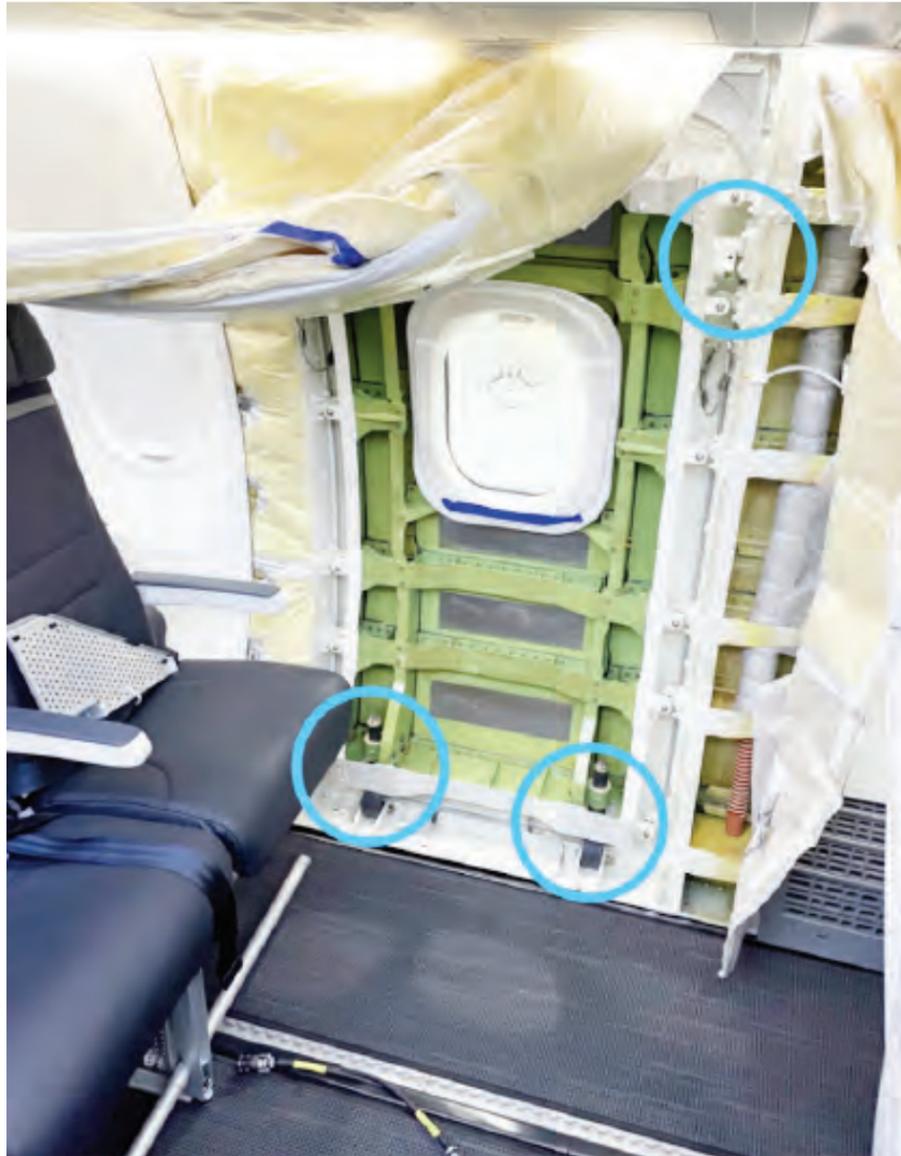
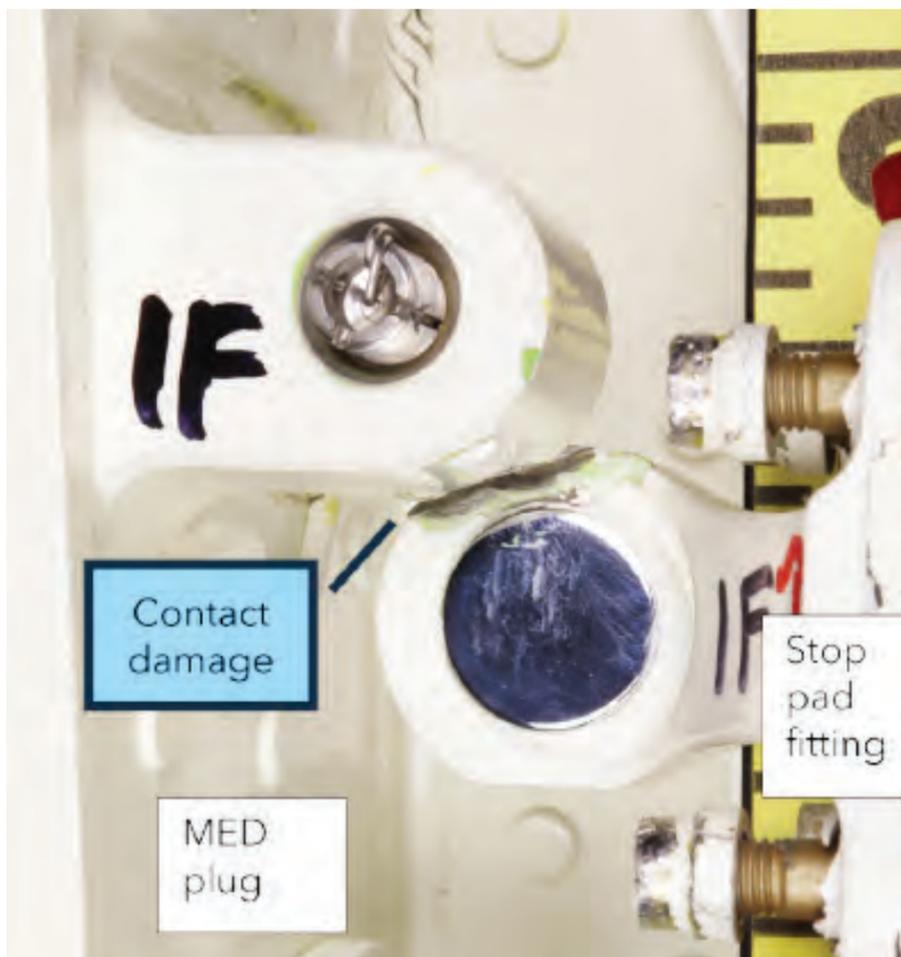


Photo showing the left MED plug immediately before interior restoration and the circles show the three locations without the retaining bolts, two vertical movement arrestor bolts and the forward upper guide track bolt. The aft upper guide track is covered with insulation and cannot be seen in the photo. (Source: Boeing. Image Copyright © Boeing. Reproduced with permission.) SOURCE: NTSB Preliminary findings report of Alaska Airline flight 1282.



Contact damage was noted on the lower sides of the 12 stop pins and fittings on the MED plug. Witness mark matching between upper forward MED plug stop pin fitting and stop pad fitting as received in the NTSB Materials Laboratory. SOURCE: NTSB Preliminary findings of Alaska Airline flight 1282.

pable of maintaining safe cabin pressurization,” said Homendy. “In fact, if either one of the computer systems is inoperative the FAA allows the operator to continue flying the aircraft. We have verified from the maintenance logs that the redundant system operated as designed on December 7, January 3, and January 4. At this time, we have no indications whatsoever that this correlated in any way to the expulsion of the door plug and the rapid decompression.”

Just hours after the NTSB released the report, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, issued the following statement:

“This morning, NTSB gave Committee leaders an up-close look at the plug door that flew off Alaska Airlines flight 1282 and its initial finding that bolts securing it to the fuselage were missing. The NTSB’s preliminary report on the Alaska Airlines flight 1282 acci-

dent underscores how important quality assurance is from manufacturers and how important quality control inspections from both manufacturers and the FAA are to the safety process. We look forward to NTSB’s final report highlighting the importance of these safety practices,” wrote Sen. Cantwell. “The Commerce Committee will be holding oversight hearings on these issues and the NTSB findings.”

The U.S. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a meeting on the state of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that same morning where FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker testified.

The three-hour meeting discussed the 2018 FAA reauthorization which expired last December, the passage of the comprehensive long-ranged 2023 FAA reauthorization which passed the House last July and examined the recent problems the Boeing 737-9 MAX exposed when a door blew off mid-flight on January 5.

“Safety has always been this committee’s top priority and the aviation system here in the U.S. is responsible for safely transporting hundreds of millions of passengers each year without fear of harm or injury,” said Representative Rick Larsen, ranking member of the committee, at yesterday’s hearing. “Americans have to have the full confidence for our aviation system and that confidence must be justified. This committee must ensure the FAA has the resources and tools to effectively conduct its investigations, audits, and enforcement actions. And as always, we remain vigilant to ensure the likelihood of this accident is decreased substantially.”

During Whitaker’s testimony, he highlighted the FAA’s commitment to reducing close calls to zero since March of last year holding over 100 runway safety meetings at airports with control towers to identify and address airport-specific risks. The FAA also tasked the Investigative Technologies Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) to recommend new technologies, such as cockpit alerting systems to reduce runway safety events. The ARC is expected to submit an interim recommendation report later this year.

Additionally, Whitaker defended the FAA’s commitment to enhancing safety by focusing on infrastructure improvements (namely airfield geometry issues which he says are a significant contributor to runway incursions) and evaluating runway safety areas.

Since the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2023, the FAA has awarded 57 grants for runway safety projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and 154 runway safety projects under the Airport Improvement Program, totaling more than \$1 billion. These projects will install airfield lighting, signage, and markings, as well as reconfigure and construct new taxiways to enhance safety on the airfield, Whitaker said.

“Overall, our data shows a recent downward trend in the rate of runway incursions. We are optimistic that our recent and ongoing work and collaboration with industry will lead to continued safety improvements,” said Whitaker during his testimony Tuesday. “But to drive the number of runway incursions to zero, we must continue to fo-

# All six Let's Go Washington initiatives certified

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**TUMWATER**—All six Let's Go Washington initiatives have been certified to the legislature after a careful review of the nearly three million signatures garnered. This marks the first instance in state history where six initiatives to the legislature have been certified in the same year.

The signatures have been verified by the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division using a state-mandated process of examining a 3% random sample of submitted signatures.

“Many significant state laws have been adopted due to the initiative process since Washington became one of the first states to enact it in 1912,” Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said. “My office’s responsibility is to ensure it runs fairly, efficiently, and smoothly.”

The legislature has until the end of the legislative session on March 7 to approve, amend, or reject the initiatives which, if approved, would appear on the November ballots for voter consideration.

Initiative 2113 deals with “reasonable” police pursuit which would remove certain restrictions on when Police officers may engage in vehicular pursuits. Such pursuits would be allowed when the officer has reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law, pursuit is necessary to identify or apprehend the person, the person poses a threat to the safety of others, those safety risks are greater than those of the pursuit, and a supervisor authorizes the pursuit.

Initiative 2117, dealing with a so-called “hidden gas tax”, would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, including “cap and trade” or “cap and tax” programs, regardless of whether the resulting increased costs are imposed on fuel recipients or fuel suppliers. This would repeal sections of the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act as amended, including repealing the creation and modification of a “cap and invest” program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by specific entities.

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which creates a market-based program (called the “cap-and-invest” program) to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Department of Ecology. To achieve this, the scheme puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions emitted in Washington state increasing the cost to deliver electricity, natural gas, and carbon-based fuels that is forwarded to end-users.

Using a 1990 baseline, CCA seeks to reduce state greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 70 percent by 2040, and 95 percent and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Starting on January 1, 2023, businesses and organizations that emit more than 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases a year such as carbon dioxide, were charged a carbon offset fee which is then used to invest in climate projects throughout the state and with the goal to transition Washington to a lower-carbon economy. Affected businesses include fuel suppliers, natural gas

and electric utilities, waste-to-energy facilities (starting in 2027), and railroads (starting in 2031).

The cap-and-invest program sets a limit on overall carbon emissions in the state. Businesses emitting more than 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases a year are required to obtain carbon allowances equal to their covered greenhouse gas emissions which are purchased through quarterly auctions hosted by the Department of Ecology, or bought and sold on a secondary market. Businesses not complying with the CCA program will be fined up to \$50,000 per violation, per day by the Department of Ecology.

The state estimates approximately 75% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions will be covered under this cap-and-invest scheme. As of August, Washington state has received \$1.213 billion in revenues from the three greenhouse gas allowance auctions with a fourth auction scheduled for December 6, 2023. An additional \$184 million in revenue was collected on behalf of eligible electric and gas utilities to provide credits to customers for increased costs.

Currently thirteen states have adopted carbon pricing policies: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Historically, Washingtonians have overwhelmingly rejected carbon pricing policies—in 2016 with I-732 at 59.25%, and in 2018 with I-1631 at 56.56%. According to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, a total of \$2.7 million was spent by committees for and against I-732; whereas in 2018, that amount jumped to \$47.9 million — \$16.42 million in support and \$31.58 million against.

If I-1631 would have passed, and assuming emissions would remain at 2019 levels of 102 million metric tons (the latest state reported data according to KING5), from 2020 to the end of 2023, the state would have received \$7.344 billion in revenues to fund various environmental projects such as clean energy infrastructure and to increase the resiliency of water and forest resources.

Initiative 2124, opting out of state-run long term care coverage act, would amend state law establishing a state long term care insurance program to provide that employees and self-employed people must elect to keep coverage under RCW 50B.04, allow employees to opt-out of coverage under RCW 50B.04 at any time, and repeal a current law governing exemptions for employees who had purchased long term care insurance before November 1, 2021.

Washington lawmakers were the first in the country to implement a long-term care payroll tax for those who don't own private long-term care insurance that caps off at a lifetime disbursement of \$35,500 which adjusts for inflation. Eligible long-term care expenses include nursing care, home modifications for wheelchair ramps, home-delivered meals, and reimbursement to family caregivers.

Initiative 2109 would repeal the Cap-

ital Gains Tax, imposed on the sale or exchange of certain long-term capital assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000.

“Not only does the income tax on capital gains not support of the law or voters, but in their own words, it’s a foot in the door for a statewide income tax,” said Heywood. “They’re already planning to expand the tax and target more small business owners, family farms, entrepreneurs and restaurant owners. It’s time to shut the door on this for good.”

On January 16, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to hear an appeal to overturn Washington state’s capital gains tax.

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision today was a huge victory for Washington kids and families. It preserved \$900 million a year to support Washington’s childcare and education programs, far more than was initially projected to be collected from this tax,” Invest in Washington Now, a non-profit opposing I-2109 released in a statement. “This decision could not have come at a more critical time as school districts across the state are facing funding shortfalls.

After spending years falsely claiming that the capital gains tax is an income tax, and losing that argument again and again, they made another desperate attempt based on a dubious legal theory which forced them to admit that it’s an excise tax.”

Initiative 2111 would prohibit the state, counties, cities, and other local jurisdictions from imposing or collecting income taxes, defined as having the same meaning as “gross income” in the Internal Revenue code.

And lastly, Initiative 2081 would allow parents and guardians of public-school children to review instructional materials and inspect student records, including health and disciplinary records, upon request. It would require public schools to provide parents and guardians with certain notifications, including about medical services given and when students are taken off campus; access to calendars and certain policies, and written notice and opportunities to opt students out of comprehensive sexual health education and answering certain surveys or assignments.

“The fact that six initiatives have been introduced in a single year point to the urgency the people of Washington feel toward fixing what’s broken in our state. The people are demanding change from Olympia,” said Rep. Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen, sponsor and author of all six initiatives.

Let’s Go Washington, a conservative group founded by Redmond businessman Brian Heywood, turned in a total of 2,662,310 signatures between late November through December 28 last year to qualify the six landmark initiatives.

At a legislative preview hosted by the Washington State Association of Broadcasters and Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington earlier in January, House Speaker Laurie Jenkins shared her disdain for Let’s Go Washington and specifically its founder, Heywood,

comparing their efforts to the “Robber Barons” of the 19th century.

“I am very sadden when I think about why the initiative process was established in this state... It was really like the big railroad barons that folks didn’t want taking over this state,” Jenkins said. “Now what we have is an ultrawealthy, multi-millionaire trying to buy his way onto the ballot.”

“People are just mad... not because they don’t like it; it’s because they are making a choice between groceries and gas,” Brian Heywood, founder of Let’s Go Washington, shared with host Brandi Kruse on her Tuesday podcast of un-Divided on November 21, 2023.

According to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), Let’s Go Washington has expensed \$6.933 million (\$2.61 per signature submitted) of which approximately \$5 million is directly linked to signature gathering and printing expenses. Heywood has loaned his Let’s Go Washington PAC \$4.15 million and contributed an additional \$1.7 million in both in-kind and cash contributions as a vested interest in.

## from page 8 NTSB REPORT

cus on and invest in this priority.”

The FAA’s response to Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 was immediate, calling for the grounding of the Boeing 737-9 MAX under an emergency airworthiness directive the very next day. Before the 737-9 MAX was approved to resume flights last week, the FAA further approved a thorough inspection and maintenance process that was performed on each grounded aircraft prior to resuming flight. The findings during that inspection found that the quality system issues at Boeing were “unacceptable”, said Whitaker, and “require further scrutiny.”

As a response the FAA increased oversight activities of Boeing which includes capping expanded production of new 737-9 MAX aircrafts, launching an investigation scrutinizing Boeing’s compliance with manufacturing requirements, aggressively expanding oversight of new aircrafts with increased floor presence at all Boeing facilities, closely monitoring data to identify and mitigate safety trends and risks in the system, and launching an analysis of potential safety-focused reforms around quality control and delegation.

“We will follow the data and take appropriate and necessary action. The safety of

the flying public will continue to inform our decision-making,” said Whitaker. “We will continue to implement the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act as recent events underscore the importance of continuously looking for ways to improve and refine safety oversight activities.

Alaska Airlines resumed its 737-9 MAX service on Friday, January 26, with Flight 1146 from Seattle to San Diego.

# Alderwood B&G Club unveils plaque memorializing Jim Corcoran

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—The Alderwood Boys & Girls Club unveiled a brand-new plaque memorializing the late, great, Jim Corcoran on February 2 at what's come to be known as its James W. Corcoran Memorial Gymnasium. In 2023, the flooring of the gym was stripped and repainted, the first time in over 30 years.

During the ceremony, Jordan Daniel, Athletics Director at Alderwood Boys & Girls Club, spoke about Corcoran's tremendous legacy of community involvement, specifically his work at the club where he sponsored around 7-10 youth sports teams for many years including the basketball teams his grandson, Alex, coaches now. His sponsorship did not end with donations and his name on the jersey, however. He also became very involved with the teams he sponsored, attending every game they played to show his support.

"If we weren't [at the Boys & Girls Club] every day something was wrong," Alex Hendrick said. "Every time I was at the Boys & Girls Club there was at least one team with the Corcoran name on their back."

Hendrick, who Corcoran adopted from a young age, followed Daniel at Friday's ceremony to share how much the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club, via his grandfather's influence, plays a large part of his upbringing.

"Seeing [the Boys and Girls Club] honor him really means a lot to me and my family. I sincerely appreciate all of you guys," said Hendrick.

Also in attendance at Friday's ceremony was former Lynnwood City Council President Shannon Session who first met Corcoran 30 years ago as a husband to her best friend's mother. In a lot of ways, she has felt like a member of Corcoran's family, attending many of the potlucks, picnics, and events he would host on his land. Councilwoman Sessions, a fellow Air Force veteran, recalled her working relationship with Corcoran over the years helping many of Lynnwood's Veteran community.

"Really [our relationship] grew when both of us we're doing stuff in the community. Jim is a major advocate for veterans, he is an award-winning medal honored veteran himself and did a lot for our local veteran community, including our Northwest Veterans Museum here in Lynnwood – if it wasn't for him it probably would have died," Sessions told the Lynnwood Times.

Anyone who knew Jim Corcoran would describe him as active, outgoing, and profoundly generous. In the last 25 years there was hardly a day you wouldn't catch Corcoran sponsoring sports teams at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club, sharing his military expertise at the Northwest Veteran Museum, or sitting on the Board of Directors for the Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association where he met his most



Jordan Daniel (left), Athletics Director at Alderwood Boys & Girls Club, with Paul Keen, Lynnwood High School Athletic Director, and Alex Hendricks (right), in front of the plaque in the James W. Corcoran Memorial Gymnasium on February 2, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

recent partner, Sharon Jungers.

It was because of Corcoran's intensely involved, and tremendously altruistic lifestyle, that when he began slowing down his community service his friends and family knew it had to be serious. After being in-and-out of the hospital for the past six weeks, Corcoran ultimately passed away on Tuesday, June 14, due to aplastic anemia and complications with his heart. He was 81 years old.

"He was not one to lay around and do nothing," Jungers, his partner, said. "When I would visit him in the hospital, he would joke, 'they're keeping me captive, take me home.'"

Corcoran's fast-paced life began at a young age growing up in Jewell, Oregon where he played sports and made friends with just about everybody. Even though his life eventually would lead him to Washington State, he always returned to Jewell once a year during Memorial Day, for a family reunion. This year marked that reunion's 70th anniversary.

"He was somebody who could talk to anyone. We would be standing in line at McDonald's or we would be at the gas station, it didn't matter where we were, he could strike up a conversation with anybody. It always embarrassed me as a kid, but it really influenced me in my adult life where, now I talk to everyone and always laugh because it reminds me of him," Alex Hendrick, Jim's grandson told the Lynnwood Times.

When Corcoran was approximately five years of age, his family relocated to Raymond, Washington, where his active lifestyle brought him through drama, choir, high school student government, and playing football and running track.

After high school, Corcoran joined the U.S. Army fighting in Vietnam, where he earned a bronze star, and the Korean War quickly working his way up to a Green Beret in Special Forces. He retired from the military a Lieutenant Colonel after about 20 years of service.

Corcoran remained actively involved in the Veteran community, volunteering his time at Lynnwood's Northwest Veteran's Museum where he even generously paid for the museum's utility bills.

"It's really sad to have lost Jim so quickly. I had a chance to visit him at Manor Care. I called him Jim 'the Colonel' Corcoran," Myra Rintamaki, with the Veteran Museum, told the Lynnwood Times.

Corcoran was an extremely dedicated volunteer and club supporter at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club, where he visited almost daily, and was named Volunteer of the Year.

On September 11, 2019, Corcoran pushed his generosity and love for his community to new heights by donating this land to Snohomish County to be turned into Corcoran Memorial Park. The land at that time was valued at \$1,573,800 making it one of the highest-valued land donations in Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department's 57-year history.

"We're not a real wealthy family and for someone to give that kind of property away is tremendously generous," Dean Corcoran, Jim's nephew and Executor of his uncle's estate, told the Lynnwood Times.

The property will be known as the Corcoran Memorial Park in memory of Mr. Corcoran's younger brother who died in 1970 shortly after serving in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne Division, his nephew who perished in the 2014 Oso Mudslide, and the memory of other loved ones lost in a plane crash in 1960 while serving in the Navy. Most recently the park will also honor Jim Corcoran himself and his life, legacy, and extremely generous contributions to his community.

"He wanted it to be the way he wanted it to be, so that's why it took such a long time. He had a lot of requests about the park to make sure he supported the community around it," Sessions told the Lynnwood Times. "He was hoping

Lynnwood would annex that area so it could become a Lynnwood Park but that didn't happen, so it went to the County."

During his last six to eight weeks, daily tasks became harder for Corcoran. To those who knew him best, not seeing him attend the Boys and Girls Club to root on his teams was concerning. After struggling with his health for the past couple months Jim William Corcoran passed away on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

## STATEMENT FROM STACI BALDWIN, CORCORAN'S STEPDAUGHTER

"Jim was my stepdad of 35 years. He always knew how to make sure we knew he was proud of us. He lived modestly so that he could give generously. I was Miss Washington many years ago and Jim wanted to introduce me to all of his Military colleagues, asked me to attend all of the veteran memorial events. He made The BEST BBQ steaks ever."

"He was a hero who served in the Vietnam and Korean wars. He was a true patriot. As noted, he gave so much to the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club. He sponsored 100's of teams at the Alderwood Boy & Girls Club through the years. He started playing baseball with my nephews when was 2 years old and never stopped."

"There is just so much I can say that I really don't know what to say after 35 years. Jim's generosity changed so many people's lives for the better. One small act in helping someone can impact their life forever, Jim did that for me. He made me accountable, taught me to be financially responsible. He was intentional About everything he did."

## from page 6 ANIMAL RIGHTS

ship around trust, and facts, and quality information legislatures really do want to listen to Washingtonians and consider what's important to us.

Studies show that over 60% of Washingtonians are pet owners which is indicative of the love and care residents for animals and their safety.

"Animal issues are community issues and by having really clear animal cruelty protection laws in place we're really not just protecting animals, we're protecting our entire community," said Anderst. "I think that's been really evident by the support that we've been getting from legislatures."

After this year's legislative session, which is exactly half-way through today, Pasado's plans to work closely with legislatures to secure more funding for animal shelters, particularly in Eastern Washington which she said are "severely underfunded," as well as securing more funding more spay and neuter services for low-income families and communities that would help control pet overpopulation and its impact on local shelters.



# ADVERTISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: Michelle at 773-255-8133 • EMAIL: SALES@LYNNWOODTIMES.COM

from page 1 **BIDEN**

With wins in both Nevada and South Carolina, President Biden is the leading Democratic Party candidate for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election with 91 delegates. A total of 1,968 delegates are needed to win the nomination for candidacy.

Here's a brief look at some of his administration's accomplishments since assuming presidential office, as highlighted on his campaign website: <https://joebiden.com/>.

**Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act aims to lower the cost of living for families while combatting climate crises and reducing the deficit. Through the passing of this act Medicare can now negotiate the price of certain high-cost drugs, a month's supply of insulin for senior is capped at \$35, Medicare beneficiaries pay \$0 out of pocket for recommended adult vaccines, and seniors' out of pocket expenses at the pharmacy will be capped at \$2,000 a year. The president also claims that gas prices are down \$1.60 from 2022, something GasBuddy, a technology company that tracks the price of gas stations nationwide, fact checked to be accurate. The company predicts gas prices will average \$3.38 during the key election year of 2024, according to CNN.

**Created jobs, lowered unemployment**

President Biden claims that more people are working at any point in American history after his administration

created 11,000,000 jobs.

NBC News did corroborate this claim during a 2021 report stating job opening soared above 10 million however approximately 8.7 million people were still without job during the publication of that article. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the number of people currently not working in the U.S. as of January 2024 has decreased to 6.1 million.

The Biden Administration claims unemployment rate is at a historical all time low of 3.5%, which isn't entirely factual. The lowest recorded unemployment rate in U.S. history was during World War I when it was 1% but given that unemployment was at a staggering 6.3% when Biden took office the achievement remains. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce unemployment is still the lowest it has been in 54 years.

**Rebuilding Infrastructure**

Related to jobs, Biden has signed legislation that led to a manufacturing boom, he states. In two years, companies have announced nearly \$300 billion in manufacturing investments as a result of this legislation which would ensure technologies are built in America in order to bring back supply chains from overseas. This, in turn, creates jobs that typically don't require a four-year degree.

**Expanding benefits and services for toxic exposed veterans**

President Biden signed into law the PACT Act, which expanded benefits

and services for toxic exposed veterans - the most expanded services in the last 30 years - while allowing the Department of Veteran Affairs to more quickly determine whether an illness is related to military service. The law also authorized 31 new clinical sites and provides the VA several new tools and resources.

**Safer Gun Laws**

Both Republicans and Democrats band together to pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act which is the first major gun safety legislation in three decades. The law requires people ages 18 to 21 to undergo extensive background checks to keep guns out of the hands of convicted partners, funds crises intervention, including extreme risk protection order laws, and makes significant investments to address the mental health crises in the country - including schools.

**Protecting same sex marriage**

President Biden passed the Respect for Marriage Act which protects same sex marriage and interracial couples.

In addition, the President reversed a discriminatory ban on transgender service members in the military, strengthened non-discrimination protections in health care, housing, education, and unemployment, while ensuring transgender Americans can have access government support and services.

**More people with health insurance**

President Biden aided in lowering the price of health care for millions of

Americans and, as a result, he claims the number of Americans with health insurance is at a historical low uninsured rate of 8%, with 16 million people enrolled in some form of health care.

The U.S. Office of the Assistant for Planning and Evaluation confirmed the uninsured rate of Americans is indeed an all-time low in the U.S. now reaching 7.7% in 2023 (2024 data is not yet available). The data shows that the uninsured rate of Americans drop 1.9% from 2019 to 2022.

**Aggressive Climate Action**

President Biden has always maintained climate protection measures as a part of his platform and has stuck to that focus with the ambitious goal of cutting our emissions in half by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The President signed legislation to develop clean energy at home, accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, and reduce pollution that endangers communities while lowering energy costs for families, creating good paying jobs, and ensuring America leads the global energy economy.

**Protecting reproductive rights**

When the Supreme Court resorted to having abortion rights fall on a state-by-state basis, the Biden Administration stepped in to sign Executive Orders that would protect access to reproductive health care, including abortion and contraception, while safeguarding patient privacy and sensitive information.

from page 1 **HERALD**

As first announced by the Herald on January 15, Black Press Media hopes to sell to Canso Investment Counsel, a brokerage in Richmond Hill, Ontario, and Deans Knight Capital Management, a private-equity firm in Vancouver, and Carpenter Media Group of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. If the deal closes on or before March 15, 2024, the Canadian companies will control 75% of the former Black Press Media, managing the finances, with its American partner at a 25% ownership overseeing daily newspaper operations.

Black Press Media currently employs roughly 1,200 employees in both Canada and the U.S., and it is unknown what restructuring plan the potential owners have in mind—breakup the company, layoffs, etc. However, according to an article in Post Alley, Metroland who owns 19.35% of Black Press is not in favor of the current offer and may upend the deal. If no agreement is reached by March 15, Black Press Media is likely the to enter receivership (sell the secured debt and pay outstanding bills) or business bankruptcy (closes its doors).

Black Press Media owes approximately \$101.2 million USD to creditors throughout the U.S. and Canada—over 200 unsecured creditors approximately \$47.1 million USD and four creditors \$54.1 million USD of secured debt. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Company in Alexandria, VA, is owed some \$44 million USD and comprises the largest unsecured debt source.

Local companies Black Press owes monies to are Inland Empire Paper Company, located in Spokane, \$74,000

USD, and Command Media in Seattle \$3,200.

As of January 8, the company with its 144 publications, had approximately \$1.7 million cash USD on hand. By the March 15 closing date of the CCAA, projected net cash flow plummets to negative \$5.7 million USD.

The CCAA identified and sealed the records of 18 key senior executives and key employees in Canada and the US who are crucial in the operations of the company during the restructuring. The company is also attempting to secure \$13.8 million to pay wages and vacation pay to employees.

Black Press Media, started in 1975, is owned by David Black who announced his retirement from the company the day of the CCAA filing in Canada. It is headquartered in Surrey, British Columbia. Its primary business is print newspapers and magazines, digital news, marketing and advertising services, commercial printing, and parcel delivery operating in Canada in British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories, and in the US in Washington, Alaska and Hawaii.

The Everett Herald, Black Press Media's largest Washington state publication, has been a leading news source in Snohomish County for more than 100 years.

The Everett Herald is the latest victim in a trend of corporate media giants facing the challenges to a paradigm shift in news media from centralized outlets to alternative decentralized platforms. For 2023 alone, the corporate media industry announced over 17,000 job cuts.

**Are you satisfied with your total body wellness?  
Do you want more energy? More muscle mass?  
Do you want to lengthen the healthy part of your life?**

- Hormone Optimization**
- Weight Loss with Semaglutide**
- Drug Free Pain Management**
- IV Therapy**
- NAD+ Therapy**
- Ozone Therapy**
- PRP Facial Rejuvenation**
- Biofeedback**
- Health & Wellness Coaching**

**Control how you age  
Look better and feel your best!**

Let Renew help you live your best life!  
*Request an appointment today*

 **RENEW MEDICAL** **(206) 880-1407**  
[renewmedicalwa.com](https://renewmedicalwa.com)

190 W Dayton ST, Ste. 204, Edmonds 98020

from page 5 **LARSEN**

Against Women Act, for instance, enforcing law against non-tribal members on reservations gets really problematic,” Rep. Larsen told the Lynnwood Times. “The Parody for Tribal Law Enforcement Act would enable tribal law officers to enforce federal law.”

**PILLAR THREE: TREATMENT**

Larsen write that a holistic approach is needed to overcome the main barriers to treatment which includes normalizing harm reduction treatment such as Naloxone (“Narcan”), ensuring there are enough beds for recovery treatment, improving reimbursement rates and coverage for Medicare and Medicaid, investing in a robust health care workforce and personalizing care for patients, leveraging the justice system as an incentive to seek treatment, and meeting patients where they are.

Snohomish County, specifically, must grow its number of outpatient treatment facilities to meet the increasing need and future expected demand, Larsen says.

Although Snohomish County has the largest number of outpatient treatment facilities in the Second District, per-capita availability for outpatient services ranks below the other counties in the district and the state average. Snohomish County officials have argued that Medicaid’s Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion, which clarifies that inpatient facilities with more than 16 beds cannot reimburse services through Medicaid, has disincentivized them from building OUD treatment facilities with greater capacity, the report states.

What’s more, people with substance use disorders are overrepresented in the criminal justice system with 63% of jail inmates and 58% of prison in-

mates suffering from these disorders, compared to 11% of people between 18–25 years-old and 6% over age 25 in the general U.S. population. As a result, corrections facilities are often used for detoxification, despite having limited and insufficient resources and treatment programs.

Snohomish County counters this with its Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program which diverts people with OUD or behavioral health issues who have committed low level crimes away from the criminal legal system and connects them with treatment and other resources. Participants in LEAD work with case managers to address their underlying behavioral health needs.

**PILLAR FOUR: RECOVERY**

Lastly, as a long-term solution Larsen writes in his report that ongoing supporting services are needed for people suffering from chemical dependency to ensure their long-lasting recovery, including continued MOUD medications and ongoing therapy to address underlying issues.

Just some of the services Larsen highlights is a continued presence in Narcotics Anonymous, Snohomish County’s very own Office of Neighborhoods, which has data partnerships with

Providence Regional Medical Center Everett and Swedish Edmonds to gather data on non-fatal overdoses and support patient follow-up, and Washington State’s Arms Around You program which helps individuals in recovery reenter the job market.

People who have previously been incarcerated due to drug charges or who have large gaps in their employment history due to their addiction often struggle to get hired for jobs. An analysis by the Prison Policy Initiative

found that the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people is nearly five times higher than the rate for the general population, the report states.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Larsen concludes his report with several policy recommendations he believes are necessary in order to combat the opioid epidemic in Washington State, and the nation at large.

In general, he recommends the passing of President Joe Biden’s supplemental budget request, which includes \$1.55 billion to strengthen addiction treatment, overdose prevention measures and recovery support services across the country, and more than \$1.2 billion to combat drug trafficking.

For his prevention pillar Larsen recommends increasing funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program and establishing other funding opportunities to support K-12 schools and youth organizations, implement a national opioid abuse prevention plan, increase access to integrated pain management programs for veterans and increase funding for OUD research, and support the reintroduction of Rep. Gottheimer’s Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act of 2023.

For interdiction Larsen recommends establishing a dedicated funding source which states can distribute to multi-jurisdictional drug task forces or other law enforcement agencies to stop narcotics trafficking, fully fund modernization and advanced screening technology at U.S. borders, pass Rep. Newhouse and Senator Cantwell’s Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act, establish a dedicated funding source that law enforcement could use to update their technology and equipment, and pass Rep. Vasquez’s Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act.

For treatment Larsen recommends increasing funding for Harm Reduction Grant Program, increase Medicaid reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient care, pass Rep. Barbara Lee’s Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2023, pass rep. Norcross’ Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act, and establishing a Behavioral Health and Substance Use Workers Retention Fund.

“One challenge we have in Washington State, really the country, is the lack of good pay for behavioral health and substance abuse counselors,” Larsen told the Lynnwood Times.

“They do good work, but they get burned out and they leave. One of the things I want to do is develop legislation that would provide an annual bonus to health care workers in those fields to make it more attractive for them to stay. This could be tuition waivers for their education, student loan repayment forgiveness, or any additional incentives that would be our role to play at a federal level,” Larsen added.

And lastly, for recovery, Larsen recommends establishing a grant program to fund educational and workforce development opportunities for people in recovery, increase funding for opioid peer support programs, increase funding for sober living homes, invest in child care and family support programs, support local organizations providing wraparound services for people in recovery, and provide long-term access to MOID to ensure people receive continuous care in recovery.

In addition to the several federal policy recommendations listed in his report, Larsen plans to soon introduce legislation aimed at creating a dedicated funding source for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and helping communities that have been economically dislocated by the opioid epidemic recover.



**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

**15% OFF** + **10% OFF** + **0%**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*    SENIORS & MILITARY\*    APR FOR 24 MONTHS\*\*

**Promo Code: 285**

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING\*

**CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER**

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

**1-888-360-1582**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*\*Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective - 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. 2The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." \*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT/Mercer Group in Ohio. AR #0366920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC.0649905, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #IR731804, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13VH09953900, NM #408693, NV #0086990, NY #H-19114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFNW82ZJZ, WV #WV056912.

**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

**Call 888-674-7053 to schedule your free quote!**

\*Terms and Conditions apply.



**GENERAC**

from page 2 **ORCHIDS**

ommends first having a space to grow them. This often means a terrarium, greenhouse, light box, or even inside your home although they typically prefer more humid environments.

One of Johnson’s major draws to the Northwest Orchid Society is meeting people who have been growing orchids for several years and the vast amount of information that comes with meeting people in the area.

“It’s really an educational club that helps people figure out how to do this with our rainy climate, and it’s cold in the wintertime,” said Johnson. “The type of information you find online

is usually catered to people growing plants in Southern Florida where people tie a Phalaenopsis to a tree and it grows. Here growing orchids is much different, much more challenging, and I think that was the main draw to the society – learning from people locally...There’s no end to the amount of expertise in our club.”

In addition to education, Johnson noted that the club is a great place to find unique and rare specimens, often grown by members themselves who can tell you firsthand how to care for it and how it will grow. At the very least it’s an opportunity to see a flower show once a month.

In past events the NW Orchid Society

has brought in the American Orchid Society to judge its members plants with many of them winning several awards, and with them national recognition.

“Our shows are a great way for people to engage a couple of times a year, show up, and meet some people or just enjoy the plants and see what the club is up to,” said Johnson.

Johnson encourages anyone who may be interested in joining the club, or learning more about orchids in general, to find some time and attend one of their events or monthly meetings.

“Come to one of our shows. We’ll find you a plant that will meet your price

point and growing conditions. Give it a shot. We can make sure you find something that meets your needs and that’s what’s great about having a club nearby is you have an endless supply of people and plants that can work for you and beautify your home,” said Johnson.

The Northwest Orchid Society’s Indoor Plant Festival will feature an array of plant displays and an awesome lineup of vendors.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nwos.org/2024-spring-indoor-plant-festival-2/>.