



Secretary of the US Navy visits Naval Station Everett **P2**



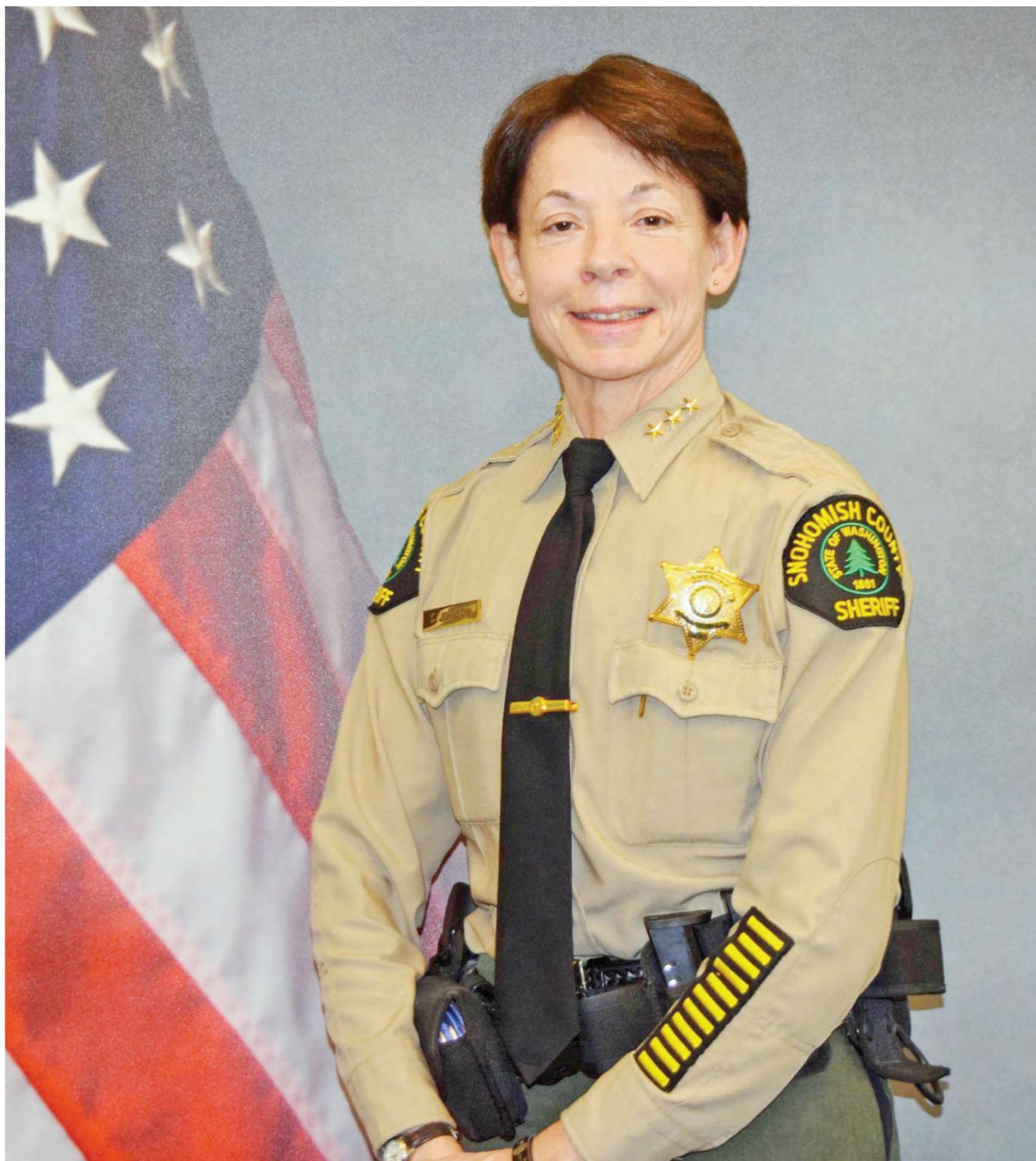
VOA's Lynnwood Neighborhood Center to begin construction **P9**



Paine Field's temporary SAF facility set to open this year **P10**

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

An exclusive interview with Snohomish County's new Sheriff, Susanna Johnson



By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Snohomish County's new sheriff, Susanna Johnson, was ceremoniously sworn-in on January 2 at the PUD Auditorium by Superior Court Judge Patrick Moriarty. Johnson defeated incumbent Adam Fortney in the 2023 General Election with a vote of 51.5% (or a difference of 5,719 votes).

Johnson, now the County's 33rd sheriff, first joined the Sheriff's Office in 1990 as a patrol deputy. Over her three-decade career, she rose through the ranks serving as a K-9 handler, detective, SWAT squad leader, detective sergeant, lieutenant, patrol captain and bureau chief of operations.

In 2019, Johnson retired from the Sheriff's Office after nearly 30 years of service. In 2020, she joined the Bothell Police Department to serve as a lateral police captain before being promoted to deputy chief.

The Lynnwood Times sat down with Sheriff Johnson on Wednesday, February 14, at the Snohomish County Courthouse, to get to know her priorities for the office moving forward.

To view the sit-down interview in its entirety we urge you to visit our social media channels, such as YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and our website: lynnwoodtimes.com/.

For about six weeks, from Election Day to assuming office, the Sheriff's Office staff were busy transitioning administration so that Johnson could "hit the ground running" on day one, she told the Lynnwood Times.

One of the first things she did as Sheriff was to review staffing at the office to understand what adjustments needed to be made, some minor budget tweaks,

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Snohomish County Sheriff Susanna Johnson. SOURCE: Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

In Memory of Loren G Simmonds, 'Mr. Lynnwood'



By **THE SIMMONDS FAMILY**

LYNNWOOD—Loren G. Simmonds, born on January 27, 1943, in Clovis, New Mexico, passed

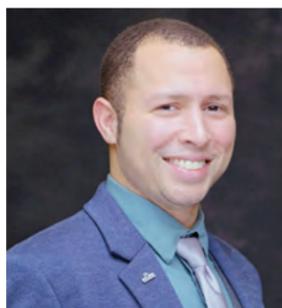
away suddenly while enjoying one of his favorite pastimes, watching football, on December 30, 2023, at the age of 80. Loren was the beloved son of the late Frank and Glendell Simmonds.

Loren's journey began in the close-knit community of Clovis, where he grew up in the home of hardworking parents who owned Sutton's Bakery on Main Street. After graduating from Clovis High School,

Loren pursued higher education, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Pasadena College, today known as Point Loma Nazarene University, on May 31, 1965. His academic journey continued with a Master of Arts in Religion from Pasadena College on May 29, 1967, and culminated with a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, on June 2,

Continued **PAGE 09** >>

Mukilteo's Step Towards a Sustainable Future



By **LOUIS HARRIS**

MUKILTEO—As the President of your City Council, and a millennial deeply committed to effecting real change in

the battle against climate change, I am excited to share a significant update from our city's legislative chamber. On February 6, 2024, the Mukilteo City Council took a step forward by revising our city's master fee schedule for building and permit fees, specifically eliminating the fixture fee for new installations of solar panels and heat pump systems in Mukilteo homes.

This initiative was born

from a critical examination of the 2024 Master Fee Schedule, an important document that sets the prices for many city-related services and functions. After engaging in discussions during our January 9th work session, we identified an opportunity to positively contribute to our city's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases. Through the adoption of our amended fee sched-

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

Secretary of the Navy visits Naval Station Everett

By OFFICE OF THE NAVY WITH ADDITIONS BY MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro met with leaders and executives from Vigor Shipyard while at Naval Station Everett on Tuesday, February 13. He then held an All Hands’ Call for Sailors the next day on the base where he shared his priorities and listened to service personnel.

“I welcome Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and his team to the Pacific Northwest!” said Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02), whose district includes Naval Station Everett and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. “As Secretary Del Toro will see and hear during his visit, Everett’s strategic location, natural deep-water port, modern infrastructure and shipyards, and supportive community make the base an ideal location for the Navy’s strategic missions.

“The Navy’s decision to homeport 12 Constellation-class frigates and crew at Everett shows that Everett is essential to the Navy’s broader mission of keeping the country safe and protecting U.S. interests worldwide. I look forward to working with Secretary Del Toro and the Pentagon to ensure Everett continues to be an ideal location for future homeporting and training.”

Vigor is currently modernizing the USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, at Naval Station Everett to be battle-ready. The meetings are part of Secretary Del Toro’s ongoing effort to visit naval bases, shipyards, depots, and training ranges to witness firsthand the progress made to improve the training, readiness, and modernization of the United States Naval fleet.

Secretary Del Toro visited the USS John Paul Jones, which recently returned to Naval Station Everett during a 16-month docking selected restricted availability (DSRA) conducted by Vigor Shipyard.

“Completing maintenance on all of our platforms and returning them to the fleet on time is a critical warfighting priority,” said Secretary Del Toro. “Overall, we have realized reductions in days of maintenance delay (DoMD), which is a positive trend, and we are committed to drive maintenance delays down even further.”

As part of his Maritime Statecraft initiative, Secretary Del Toro has called for a whole-of-government effort to



Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, meeting with service personnel at Naval Station Everett. SOURCE: Naval Station Everett

restore the maritime capabilities of the Nation. That effort includes reinvesting in ship maintenance and sustainment.

“It is a critical imperative that American companies executing contracts with the Department of the Navy re-invest their capital into training their workforce, improving their infrastructure, and expanding their capacity,” said Secretary Del Toro.

Throughout his visit, Secretary Del Toro also emphasized the importance of conducting ship maintenance and construction on time and on budget to increase throughput and increase the number of operational vessels in the Navy.

“It is a strategic imperative for industry to join efforts to restore the Nation’s competitive shipbuilding and repair landscape,” said Secretary Del Toro. The future of the Navy hinges on modernization and readiness of our fleet today to build a modern, highly capable Navy and Marine Corps team dedicated to our mission of combat-readiness.”

Secretary Del Toro left for San Diego where he gave the keynote address at WEST 2024 on Thursday, February 15, that emphasized accountability to product quality, operations in the Red Sea, and Russian aggression against Ukraine.

“The challenges we face are complex, demanding, and ever evolving,” said Secretary Del Toro at WEST 2024. “Among all the challenges, one thing must remain constant: the unwavering commitment of our nation to uphold the values of freedom, security, and prosperity.

“Our acquisitions and readiness are the

bedrock of our national security. We’re not just building ships, we’re forging a modern, lethal fleet—agile, adaptable, and able to meet any threat on the horizon. Our logistics and shipbuilding initiatives aren’t just about jobs or creating a technological advantage, they’re about guaranteeing a maritime force that can outmaneuver any challenge.”





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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Celebrating 35 Years of Trusted Care at Fairwinds – Brighton Court

A new generation of older adults is speaking – and Fairwinds – Brighton Court is listening. Taking a refreshing approach to senior living, the Fairwinds – Brighton Court team knows that today's older adults aren't wrapping up their life's journey; they're seeking a new one. Here, they are committed to reimagining and reinventing senior living to make sure older adults have the most fulfilling, rewarding, and productive opportunities possible.

Moving to senior living is a life-changing decision for yourself or a loved one. You want to get it right. In fact, you have to get it right. You need experience you can trust and excellence you can rely on, and you can find both at Fairwinds – Brighton Court.

Fairwinds – Brighton Court in Lynnwood, WA, has been supporting older adults for 35 years and has a proven track record of excellent care, as evidenced by their long-term residents and employees. The senior living community provides award-winning independent living and assisted living services. Rather than sitting in a rocking chair, today's older adults want to keep rocking – and the Fairwinds – Brighton Court team is helping them do just that through a robust activity calendar, signature programs, and personalized care services.

“Every day at Fairwinds – Brighton Court is not just a job; it's a journey filled with purpose, compassion, and the joy of positively impacting our residents' lives. I don't just work here; I love the opportunity to be a part of the 35-year legacy of a community that truly cares.”

– Jackie Requa-Hall, General Manager

At Fairwinds – Brighton Court, residents access amenities and services that encourage holistic wellness. Managed by Leisure Care and backed by nearly 50 years of senior living

excellence, this experienced senior living community offers residents access to various signature programs that encourage social engagement, including PrimeFit Wellness. This signature program takes a holistic approach to senior wellness, taking living well outside of the gym and bringing it into every aspect of the day. Fairwinds – Brighton Court practices well-being and champions proactive wellness by meeting the social, physical, mental, emotional, and communal health of residents.

Residents at Fairwinds – Brighton Court enjoy accessible amenities that maximize independence, build confidence, and deliver joy and purpose in a new age of senior living. The community features an onsite restaurant with an in-house chef and a bistro for snacks and beverages throughout the day. In their dining room, meals are homemade and customized to meet a range of dietary restrictions, including gluten-free and dairy-free options. The bustling dining rooms are social gatherings where residents enjoy good company and great meals that encourage excellent health.

“Fairwinds – Brighton Court has been my second home for the last 20 years. It's a magical place because of the residents who have traveled the journey of life, experienced and addressed some of our very own questions, had careers, raised families, and are now, sharing their wisdom with those of us who simply listen. Those are the very interactions I look forward to every day at Fairwinds – Brighton Court.”

– Hedley K., Restaurant Manager

Fairwinds – Brighton Court has onsite PrimeFit Wellness instructors who specialize in senior health and fitness. Their experience and individualized approach take senior wellness to a new level. Residents enjoy yoga,

Balance Builders, group fitness classes, personal training opportunities, and BrainHQ, a research-backed and results-driven approach to cognitive and mental health.

Residents even have access to an onsite travel agency that specializes in senior travel. Travel by Leisure Care brings adventure to the everyday. From traveling a long overdue family reunion, a long-distance trip to Europe, or even a staycation in the local area, Travel by Leisure Care encourages the residents at Fairwinds – Brighton Court to explore more.

Here, the residents and staff are tight-knit, encouraging, and committed to each other. They are, simply put, everything you could want in a community. More than a senior living community, Fairwinds – Brighton Court is a family that starts with its staff. It's not only a great place to live; it's a great place to work.

“After looking at 12 different communities, I chose Brighton Court and have never looked back. I love the setting, with trees galore and nearby amenities. The friendly residents, staff who call everyone by name, and outstanding dining make Brighton Court my ideal home.”

– Keith W., resident

In all aspects of care, the team at Fairwinds – Brighton Court promotes independence and respects privacy. Assisted living services are provided in the comfort of each resident's apartment home. They are regularly reviewed so residents receive the care they need, even as those needs may change over time. The tenured staff at Fairwinds – Brighton Court is available around the clock to assist when needed. Residents and families of residents have peace of mind knowing their loved one is receiving exceptional care from a team of well-trained, experienced caregivers and two nurses.

Contact Fairwinds – Brighton Court today and discover how living well and well-being come to life in their community! Call 425-906-1823 or visit [FairwindsBrightonCourt.com](https://www.fairwindsbrightoncourt.com) to schedule your tour!

LPD chief addresses concerns of rising violent crime

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon released a video message addressing the recent uptick in violent crime, specifically carjackings, in Lynnwood proper and surrounding neighborhoods. Chief Langdon is reminding residents to stay vigilant.

“Most concerned to us and most concerning to you are these situations where we’ve had people taking firearms removing people from their vehicles these are commonly referred to as carjackings,” Langdon said. “While we’ve seen an uptick, something that’s beyond the characteristic what we’ve seen historically in Lynnwood, we do think it’s important that you know that there are things you can do to prevent this crime from happening; to make yourself less likely to be a victim of such an incident. The word I’m going to use is a core value of the Lynnwood Police Department and that is vigilance.

He shared the following three tips to being aware of your surroundings and

how to handle to possible threat:

- Keep an eye on your surroundings.
- If you’re driving home and it seems as though someone is following you, get to a public area and call 9-1-1.
- If you see something suspicious, call 9-1-1. Let us come help you.

He clarified to not to be hyper vigilant but simply vigilant.

“While we’re not looking for hyper vigilance, because at that point it starts to intrude into you being able to live a joyful life, we do think it’s important to be vigilant,” Langdon said.

He encourages residents to call 9-1-1 and not engage a person you suspect is following you, it could be a difference of life or death.

“If you’re not quite sure something is normal, there is nothing wrong with calling 911 to seek further assessment from one of our trained professionals,” said Chief Langdon.

Students invited to sign up for the 2nd District 2024 Art Competition

By OFFICE OF RICK LARSEN

EVERETT—Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) is inviting high school-aged students who live or attend school in Washington’s Second Congressional District to showcase their artistic talents in the 2024 Congressional Art Competition.

All art entries must be original in concept, design and execution. Art submissions and forms are due to Larsen’s office no later than Monday, April 8, at 5:00 p.m. PT. Interested students can find details and a full list of contest rules on Larsen’s website.

“I am encouraging the many gifted young artists in Northwest Washington to submit their artwork to the 2024 Congressional Art Competition,” said Larsen. “I am excited to see this year’s submissions and highlight the talent Washington’s Second Congressional District has to offer.”

The U.S. House of Representatives holds the annual high school visual art competition to encourage and recognize artistic talent in each congressional district. Since 1982, hundreds of thousands of students nationwide have participated in the Congressional Art Competition. In 2023, Oak Harbor High School’s Mattie Jones won the districtwide competition with her piece, “Lost in Creativity,” which has

been on display in the U.S. Capitol for the past year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school-aged students (grades 9-12) who live or attend school in the Second District; students can verify whether they are Second District residents or attend school in the district here. Interested students can find details and a full list of contest rules on Larsen’s website.

Entry forms must be signed by the student, a parent or guardian, and a school faculty member; the form can be accessed here. Forms and art submissions are due by Monday, April 8, at 5:00 p.m. PT. Forms can also be mailed or delivered with art pieces to Larsen’s Everett office:

Office of Rep. Rick Larsen – Everett
Re: Art Competition
Wall Street Building
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F
Everett, WA 98201

CONTACT LARSEN’S DISTRICT OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Students needing assistance in delivering their artwork to Larsen’s office can contact Kevin Phan in Larsen’s office via phone at 425-252-3188 or via email at Kevin.Phan@mail.house.gov. Participants will be honored at a ceremony

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Lynnwood City Council Chambers
19100 44th Ave W, Lynnwood

Join Director Will Cena of Lynnwood’s Information Technology, members of the Lynnwood City Council, detectives from the Lynnwood Police Department, and Lynnwood residents for a presentation and an informal conversation about your internet safety concerns.

If you need an interpreter, please call 425-670-5011 by Wednesday, February 21st

For more information:
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ny at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., later this year. Plans for a district celebration will be announced soon. For more information on the 2024 Congressional Art Competition, visit <https://larsen.house.gov/>.

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Snohomish County on its way to becoming the ‘Quantum Valley’ of the West Coast

BY KIENAN BRISCOE

BOTHELL—Maryland-based quantum computing company IonQ celebrated the grand opening of its new 105,000 square foot building in Bothell on Thursday, February 15. This is the very first known dedicated quantum computing manufacturing facility in the United States and the latest, and greatest, next chapter for Snohomish County innovation and industry.

The new facility will house IonQ’s growing R&D manufacturing teams where about 80 employees are currently working as of now. Bothell was the chosen location of the company’s West Coast expansion due to its proximity to several software, aerospace, and tech companies that could utilize its services.

“The Seattle area obviously has a huge history of leadership in classical computing, with companies like Microsoft, and Amazon, but also Boeing and many others. So, it has a great DNA for technology but also manufacturing,” said Peter Champan, IonQ CEO. “That’s really the two things that we pull into manufacturing quantum computers. It’s great to have a highly skilled and highly educated work force to pull from.”

The State of Washington has the highest state concentration of tech workers in the country with about 350,000 jobs as of 2023, according to Sen. Maria Cantwell’s Office. The state also employs the highest number of people in emerging technology jobs such as artificial intelligence and quantum. Just recently GeekWire reported that Seattle was found to be the top city in the country for hiring elite software engineers, and one of the top cities in the world for this level of talent.

IonQ is a leader in quantum computing with the mission statement “to build the world’s best quantum computers to solve the world’s most complex problems.” Quantum computers are a revolutionary technology that has the potential to change how many businesses – including artificial intelligence, security, pharmaceutical companies, aerospace, and more – conduct its operations.

Unlike a conventional computer, which uses binary bits (typically ones and zeros) as its unit of information, quantum computers operate at a subatomic level, trapping atoms out of the atmosphere and, with specialized lasers, manipulates particles (such as photons and electrons) to use what’s called a quantum bit (or qubit) to allow the particles to exist in more than one state at one time. What this means for computer performance is essentially an upgrade in every way from data to performance time, to solving complex problems.

While quantum computing is a still-developing technology, if successful, this enormous amount of information can help tackle some of the world’s biggest challenges, from fighting diseases to developing better sustainable energy.

At Thursday’s ceremony Senator Maria Cantwell, a lead negotiator behind the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act and chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce,



The ribbon cutting at IonQ’s Grand Opening Ceremony on February 15, 2024. (L-R) Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, Jungsang Kim, co-founder of IonQ, Peter Champan, CEO of IonQ, Senator Maria Cantwell, and Rima Alameddine, Chief Revenue Officer for IonQ. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.



One of IonQ’s products on display for the company’s Grand Opening Ceremony on February 15, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

Science, and Transportation, took to the podium to share a few words before several teams were led through the facility to see firsthand how these miraculous machines are made.

“The quantum computing industry has the potential to add thousands of new jobs here in the Pacific Northwest — jobs at all skill levels, from technicians to software developers,” said Sen. Cantwell. “Our region is already known worldwide for our innovation and leadership. And this facility will continue to build on that... We are becoming the ‘Quantum Valley,’ if you will, of the United States.”

Sen. Cantwell has been working hard to help industry and academia translate

ideas developed in a lab into products and solutions for the American people. She helped authorize \$20 billion for a new Tech Directorate program at the National Science Foundation to focus on translational science in 10 key developing areas, including quantum technology.

Also in attendance at Thursday’s event was Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, members of the Swiss embassy, and officials representing Microsoft and Amazon.

IonQ has pumped in around \$20 million to its Bothell facility to upgrade its infrastructure within the last year. As of now, half of the building—it’s lower level—has been fully completed and is

already undergoing manufacturing with the other half still under construction. Once completed the company will have gone from 6,500 square feet, working with just a handful of employees, to over 100,000 square feet with eventual plans to bring its data center from Maryland to Bothell in Snohomish County.

Founded in 2015 by quantum physicists Chris Monroe and Jungsang Kim, after 25 years of academic research and \$1 million in seed funds from New Enterprise Associate, IonQ was able to raise \$20 million from GV, Amazon Web Services, and NEA to build two of the world’s most accurate quantum computers. In 2019 the company began offering their quantum computers available via the cloud, through a partnership with Microsoft and Amazon Web Services.

In 2020 and 2021, IonQ built additional generations of high-performance quantum hardware, added Google Cloud Marketplace to its cloud partner roster and announced a series of collaborations and business partnerships with leading academic and commercial institutions.

On October 1st, 2021, IonQ began trading as IONQ on the New York Stock Exchange, making it the world’s first public pure-play quantum computing company. Its quantum computer products include the Forte Enterprise, the Forte, the IonQ Aria, the IonQ Harmony, and the still in development AQ 64 IonQ Tempo which will have faster gate speeds, mid-circuit measurement, and 99.9% fidelity, all helping to unlock larger and more complex problem classes and deliver a faster time-to-solution, the company says.

Peter Champan, CEO of IonQ, shared that in the upcoming year, IonQ will have invested close to \$80 million into the Seattle area which will hit close to the company’s promise of investing \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Ryu, Davis share successes at 32nd LD Town Hall

By KIENAN BRISCOE

OLYMPIA—Washington State House Democrats held a virtual town hall Wednesday, February 14, featuring Representatives Lauren Davis and Cindy Ryu, who both represent Washington’s 32nd Legislative District that encompasses portions of King and Snohomish Counties and including the cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Shoreline. The purpose of the town hall was to update the public on current legislation each Representative has introduced this session and each bill’s status.

Representative Cindy Ryu, who chairs the House Innovation, Economic Development, and Veterans Committees as well as serves on the Consumer Protection and Business and Appropriations Committee with Representative Davis, has introduced a couple bills that have progressed this session including HB 1997 – concerning gubernatorial appointments for state parks.

Ryu noted Washington State has been practicing a diverse appointment process to State Parks for some time and recently, for the first time ever, appointed a female Parks Director.

“We will continue to pay more attention to, not only people of diverse backgrounds outdoors, but also leading in the profession of outdoors,” said Rep. Ryu.

Another bill that has progressed this session Rep. Ryu introduced is HB 2153—deterring the theft of catalytic converters—which Ryu has been working on for the last three years and unanimously passed the House on February 13.

“I believe [this bill] will be one of the foundational pillars of increasing public safety as well as protecting consum-

ers,” said Ryu.

Another bill introduced by Ryu, which did not progress, but she plans to work on through the interim, is HB 2057—dealing with incarcerated veterans.

“Every year about 140 or so veterans who are incarcerated are rereleased back into society after paying for their crimes,” said Ryu. “Fortunately, Edmonds College has a program that connects with them, I believe, six months before they’re released so they are getting the help they need to make sure they continue education as well as access housing. I wanted to make sure this program continues and, hopefully, expands.”

Another bill Rep. Ryu introduced, HB 2109, did not progress, but she has been working on for the last seven years, deals with cosmetic artist licensing. Ryu explained she has been working closely with the Department of Licensing and believes they have finally figured out a formula that would save \$1 million from the fiscal note. She continued she looks forward to fine-tuning it so that it can be reintroduced next legislative session.

The most expensive bill Rep. Ryu ever worked on, HB 1990, was a \$32 million statewide aerial imagery program which she believes she can cut down to \$15 million every two years.

Ryu informed the Lynnwood Times of some other bills she was proud progressed this legislative session, one specifically concerning disaster preparedness and resiliency.

Representative Lauren Davis, who serves on the Appropriations (House Budget), Health Care, and House Community Safety Committee.

HB 2320, that Rep. Davis introduced,

passed the House and is now in the Senate, deals with high-potency cannabis with the intent to tackle some public health concerns related to high THC products—namely psychosis and psychotic disorder. However, her bill, HB 2319, relates to substance use disorder treatment. It would make it easier for individuals to enter, and stay in, inpatient treatment programs by eradicating some insurance barriers and address issues related to addiction treatment providers who kick people out of treatment.

Lastly Rep. Davis had HB 2311 progress recently that relates to first responder wellness, to ensure the state provides mental health and addiction support for law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMS, and other first responders.

Rep. Davis mentioned she keeps adding items to her interim to-do list and, as it stands, there are about 50 items that will be keeping her busy after the session ends.

Notable selections from this list involve HB 2469 relating to civil commitment or involuntary treatment—which is the state’s provision for getting individuals who are too sick or too willing to seek help, either because of mental, behavioral, or substance abuse disorders.

Another bill, HB 2457, relates to housing for domestic violence survivors which, if passed, would purchase units, out of the capitol budget, where victims of domestic violence can seek temporary shelter for their family.

“Our domestic violence shelters in this state are virtually always full so survivors who are in grave danger have nowhere to go” said Rep. Davis. “

The bill, if passed, would also consider a housing voucher program.

“We have many housing voucher programs in this state for all sorts of populations – people with mental health challenges, people with substance use disorder, people with developmental disabilities – but we don’t have any voucher programs for survivors of domestic violence,” said Rep. Davis.

Rep. Davis informed the Lynnwood Times she’s also especially proud of some budget proposals, related to domestic violence intervention treatment (also known as perpetrator treatment), and twelve budget provisions related to substance use disorder and the fentanyl crises.

After the brief on current, and forthcoming, legislation both representatives have introduced and are currently working on, the virtual town hall was open to community comments and questions.

Questions varied in topics from expensive ambulance costs; to reducing CO2 with Cap and Invest; to tackling car prowler incidents; to controlling rent costs and unaffordable taxes; to cooperating with both sides of the aisle.

The Lynnwood Times asked if there were any appropriations for projects or programs in the cities of Lynnwood or Edmonds.

Rep. Ryu mentioned she has submitted, and will hopefully secure, a request for \$400,000 for the Lynnwood Event Center to assist in the redevelopment of the Lynnwood Public Facilities District’s (now the District) 13-acres surrounding the event center in preparation for the upcoming Lynnwood Light Rail station and the projected growth and tourism that would bring. If approved, the money would go towards the planning costs of the multi-million-dollar project.

Snohomish County Republican Women’s ongoing outreach

By SNOHOMISH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

EVERETT—Republican women in Snohomish County continue to reach out to help those in need time and again. Their recent and ongoing efforts include supporting three charities, with the most prominent being Esther’s Place. In 2023 they donated more than 1300 items. One member took 182 items there in January; a second trip in January 169 items t, while the group took more than 350 items of clothing and sundries and is taking another 150 items in February. They seek leggings and sweatpants, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters and coats. They are gathered at the Snohomish County Republican Women’s meetings.

In addition this group of women who genuinely care about others in need has collected \$1,065 for Fisher House, a place where a wounded service member can stay at no charge while a loved

one is in the hospital, \$744 for Concerns of Police Survivors, \$200 for Two Hearts Pregnancy Aid, \$200 for 5R Recovery and \$336 cash for Esther’s Place.

The Snohomish County Republican Women’s Club also takes up a collection every month at their meeting to support those in need. These fine Republican women serve as an outstanding example of helping those who are in need across multiple fronts. Neighbors helping neighbors, Republicans helping those in need.

For more information about these truly great women, please contact Donna Schneider at (206) 363-4735.

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21st Legislative District Town Hall attendees criticize lawmaker's handling of statewide issues

By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO—Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo), Representatives Lillian Ortiz-Self (D-Everett) and Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds), shared their priorities and heard from constituents at a 21st Legislative District town hall event at Kamiak High School in Mukilteo, on Saturday, February 17. The event was emceed by Mukilteo Council President Louis Harris. Washington's 21st Legislative District encompasses portions of Everett, Mukilteo, Edmonds, and Lynnwood.

Senator Marko Liias, Chair of the Transportation Committee and Kamiak graduate, kickstarted the evening by highlighting three of his priorities throughout this year's short, 60-day, legislative session. The first is ensuring kids have a quality education, which he tackled by introducing the 9th Grade Success Grant Program (SB 5408) which would fund the creation of ninth grade success teams that can identify and support incoming high school students who are at risk of not graduating.

Senator Liias' second priority is transportation and infrastructure, which includes "getting our iconic ferry system back to where it needs to be," he said Saturday. Senator Liias just unveiled the supplemental transportation budget, Senate Bil 5947, on Tuesday, February 20—a \$14.6 billion proposal which prioritizes public safety, preservation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and investments in the ferry system.

Lastly, Liias mentioned public safety wrapping up his top three priorities, mentioning his recent opportunity to meet with Edmonds Police Chief Michelle Bennett, Mukilteo Police Chief Andy Illyn, and new Snohomish County Sheriff Susanna Johnson, to learn more about challenges they've faced ensuring community members feel safe.

Representative Ortiz-Self, House Majority Caucus Chair and member of the Education Committee, shared how she has prioritized ensuring behavioral health services for students remains accessible while stressing the purpose of encouraging higher education.

Representative Peterson, who chairs the Housing Committee, noted that access to and affordable housing is the number one issue his office consistent-



Representatives Lillian Ortiz-Self (center) and Strom Peterson (left), and Senator Marko Liias (right) at 21st LD Town Hall. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

ly hears about. Rep. Peterson noted that Washington State is about 1 million houses short as "we look out into the future" and mentioned he has been working diligently to address the housing issues many Washingtonians face this legislative session.

Rep. Peterson said the housing problem falls on three solutions: supply, which he said legislatures have been working on for the last couple of years, support which is the state level investments lawmakers can do to maintain affordable living options, and stabilization to address rising renting costs and ensuring people stay housed.

Rep. Peterson also serves on the Capital Budget and the Civil Rights and Judiciary committees where he primarily focuses on reducing gun violence. He closed opening remarks by applauding Senator Liias, and other Washington lawmakers' work on supporting high-capacity magazines and assault rifle bans.

After each officials' introductions, the floor was open to questions from community members, with many of them animatedly expressing dissatisfaction with their elected officials from legislation related to COVID-19 vaccinations; to handling substance abuse services; to "over-governing" by introducing hundreds of new bills this session; to "enforcing housing density" as a solution to the state's housing crises.

"I believe our response to the pandemic was data driven and fact drive," said Rep. Strom Peterson in response to

the COVID-19 vaccination criticisms. "Science is always growing and always evolving. I believe that Washington citizens fared better in health impacts from COVID than just about any other state in the country and I think we should be proud of the work we did."

Senator Liias echoed Rep. Peterson's defense of how the state handled vaccinations adding that their response was guided by leading authorities in health and science which, he added, is a constantly evolving field as more information becomes available and as the field changes as does legislatures approach to problems.

Liias also addressed the "over-governing" concern stating that the 60 bills or so, he introduced this session were the result of having conversations with community leaders who expressed a need for them.

Senator Liias, as it pertains to the housing, mentioned the reality is that more people are moving to our region than there are houses to accommodate them.

With regards to a question by a resident about the lack of crisis beds in Snohomish County, Liias told the Lynnwood Times after the meeting that the state acquired a new hospital in Tukwila and Tulalip is adding more crisis beds. He added that if I-2109, repeal of the capital gains tax, were to pass, funding for programs like this would be hindered.

"I want to make sure we invest more," Liias told the Lynnwood Times. "This

budget invests more across the Puget Sound Region to create more capacity."

Rep. Peterson also answered an audience question concerning a rent stabilization bill he introduced which he defended as being a way for renters (who encompass 30% to 40% of the state's housed individuals) from knowing 30 to 40 years out what to expect as far as rent payments go, adding that for every percentage of rent increase there is about a 10% increase in homelessness.

Rep. Ortiz-Self, after urging the crowd – which at this time had been extremely vocal – to remain respectful, then answered a question regarding the housing crises adding that the issue is complex and must be resolved by working with her constituents and multiple agencies.

Throughout the public question segment, the over 120 attendees continually interrupted the lawmakers, chastised their handling of certain issues, spoke out of turn, and talked over each other.

The line for questions and comment stretched from the stage of the Kamiak High School auditorium, down the aisle, all the way to the back door. Over all attendees told the Lynnwood Times

Below are comments of how the Mukilteo Town Hall went from random people we spoke to after the event:

- The responses were the typical political rhetoric.
- Disappointed only three initiatives made it to hearing.
- It was brutal, you need to have a calm voice. Sometimes we forget we live in a representative democracy.
- Tough crowd, but our electeds aren't listening to us
- It is a necessary platform to allow people to voice their opinion. It is not set up in a manner to be specific with the issue. It was beneficial and necessary.
- I am not sure how to improve the format, but an hour and a half was not enough time.
- The reality is that they are making their own choices.
- They knew the hotels were contaminated for months; Claire's Place was in the Herald today. How is this helping addiction?
- A lot of people came here to not have a discussion.
- Liias is a great speaker, he handled himself well.

from page 1 **SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

ule, we aim not only to promote the integration of responsible solutions but also to position Mukilteo as a leader in local innovation in the fight against climate change.

Previously, the installation of heat pumps involved a \$120 base fee for mechanical permits, a \$15 fixture fee, and an additional \$6.50 state-required tax. To encourage our community towards more sustainable energy choices, we have now removed the fixture fee, making it more cost-effective for our residents to adopt such technologies. Additionally, we eliminated the proposed increase to over \$300 for the installation of solar panels, setting the

permit fee at \$0. It's important to note that none of the permitting and inspection requirements have changed; only some of the local fees that we historically charged have been eliminated. You are still required to obtain a permit for most improvements on your home, and there is no charge for inspections on these systems.

Furthermore, while the City of Mukilteo itself does not directly partner with the Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD), it is heartening to see that there are existing incentives and support systems in place for our residents interested in making the switch to sustainable systems. The PUD offers substantial rebates for the installation of ducted heat pumps, potentially up

to \$2,500, and provides valuable information for those considering solar panel systems, including details on net metering and federal tax credits. These initiatives, although independent of city policies, complement our efforts by providing additional resources and support for our community's transition to cleaner energy solutions.

Our decision to adjust the fee schedule is more than an administrative change; it reflects our collective commitment to a sustainable and thriving future. The challenges posed by climate change require action on all fronts, and by facilitating easier access to renewable energy technologies and sustainable systems, we are taking a vital step in the right direction.

I am incredibly proud of our community's willingness to embrace such transformative initiatives. This move is not just about Mukilteo; it's a model of how local governance can play a pivotal role in addressing broader environmental challenges. It signifies our readiness to lead, innovate, and support each other in the pursuit of sustainability.

Let's continue to push the boundaries of what's possible, encourage sustainable living, and support initiatives that lead us towards a more resilient and environmentally conscious community. Together, we are making Mukilteo a shining example of how cities can contribute to a more sustainable planet.

After public backlash, Democrat lawmakers will hear three of six citizen initiatives

By MARIO LOTMORE

OLYMPIA—Washington State House and Senate leaders agree to hold joint public hearings on initiatives I-2113 (police pursuits), I-2111 (state income tax) and I-2081 (parental rights) on February 27 and 28. Exact times will be confirmed later this week and the hearings will be televised live on the TVW website.

“The fact Democrats in the legislature have scheduled three hearings is a step in the right direction,” Let’s Go Washington founder Brian Heywood responded to the news to three of his citizen group’s initiatives making it to a public hearing. “Next, they need to pass those three initiatives into law to stop an income tax, restore reasonable police pursuit, and reestablish parents as the primary stakeholders in their children’s lives.”

Democratic leadership has confirmed that I-2117, a repeal of the Climate Commitment Act, I-2109, a repeal of the capital gains tax and I-2124, an opt-out of Washington’s long-term care retirement program will not receive hearings or floor action, and will go directly to the November ballot.

“The three initiatives we are not taking action on would have a dire effect on the day to day lives of every single Washingtonian,” Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig and Speaker of the House Laurie Jenkins released in a joint announcement on February 16. “These initiatives would dramatically decrease

quality of life and devastate progress on K-12 education, childcare, clean air, clean water, climate action, and aging with dignity – matters that are important to people across the state. The fiscal notes on I-2109 and I-2117 confirm this and we expect the final fiscal note on I-2124 to reveal the same.”

Heywood disagreed with Billig and Jenkins saying, ““It is intriguing to me that the pet projects of Jay Inslee and his crony union bosses won’t be getting hearings. Voters have said that all six of these issues are important, and they deserve to be heard.”

Senate Republicans blasted Democrats, with a post on X saying, “stop the greed” accompanied by the hashtag #StopTheGreed.

“Expect Legislative Democrats and Inslee to warn that repealing cap-and-trade takes away money for vital transportation projects,” Washington State Senate Republican Caucus posted to X. “Guess again. Only 20% of cap-and-trade revenue would go to transportation, and that’s a small fraction of what our state needs. Besides, this is not your everyday transportation funding. Cap-and-trade law money can only go to “carbon-reducing” investments — think free transit for kids and more money for walking, biking and hiking trails. Highway maintenance and construction don’t qualify. Same for court-mandated fish-culvert replacements, which are considered a transportation expense and have become a real budget-buster.”

Senator Marko Liias (D-Mukilteo), who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee, and Republican House Speaker Drew Stokesbary (R-Auburn), exchanged words on X regarding the impact of I-2117, which, if enacted into law would prohibit carbon tax credit trading, also known as “cap-and-invest,” and repeal provisions of the Washington Climate Commitment Act passed by the legislature on April 24, 2021, and signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee on May 17 of that same year.

In a post on X, Senator Liias alleges that I-2117 would repeal the Climate Commitment Act and remove \$4.5 billion away from transportation funding projects across Washington State.

“That devastation would force difficult choices and potentially put at risk funding for critical work on the preservation and maintenance of roads in every community,” Liias added.

Senator Liias co-championed the \$16 billion, 16-year “Move Ahead Washington” transportation package to victory in March of 2022 that aimed to fund existing mega projects, highway preservation and maintenance, expansion of fish culverts, and introduce new hybrid electric ferries.

Also included in the Move Ahead Washington package, is to invest billions of dollars in safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, including the Safe Routes to School Program, the ferry system, transit and about \$150 million in high-speed rail. This is to be large-

ly funded (\$5.4 billion) by the Climate Commitment Act, to avoid increasing gas taxes. The Move Ahead Washington package also includes \$3.4 billion from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) championed.

Republican House Leader Stokesbary, the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee and former member of the House Finance Committee, wrote in response to Senator Liias’ X post, “Senator, not a dime of CCA revenue goes to maintenance and preservation of our highways. De-funding that work would be a devastating choice—costing thousands of union jobs in our districts and longer commute times for our constituents.”

Representative Stokesbary then released a spreadsheet of the Transportation Budget Climate Commitment Act Spending through 2023 to 2029 showing none of the monies going to funding “critical” transportation projects and only so-called green projects such as electric vehicle stations, free youth fairs on public transit, a lot of transit grants, and ferry electrification.

In a second post on X the following day, Senator Liias, warned that bridge maintenance is at risk if I-2117 is repealed by voters.

Founder of Let’s Go Washington, Brian Heywood, replied to Liias’ X post say-

Continued **PAGE 11 >>**

from page 1 **SHERIFF JOHNSON**

and meeting with community leaders, business leaders, and peers and other agencies (such as schools and superintendents) to better understand what the community’s needs are.

“That community component is the most important piece,” said Sheriff Johnson. “Instead of coming in and firmly deciding everything we’re going to do, we have our vision and then we needed to hear what’s important to our people - who we support.”

Sheriff Johnson never anticipated running for public office, but she shared that becoming sheriff felt like this is where she “was always meant to be.” She shared with the Lynnwood Times that it feels like she’s “returning home.”

“When you come into law enforcement you never know what path it would take you, and opportunities come and go - doors are opening and closing all the time - and the fact that I’ve had the opportunity to do all those things helps me to understand my responsibilities now,” said Sheriff Johnson.

Having served in a variety of roles throughout her law enforcement career, Sheriff Johnson shared that it allows her to understand the “downstream impacts” her decisions have on her staff with the betterment of service delivery in mind.

Sheriff Johnson was also a decorated graduate of the FBI National Academy, one of the most sought-after executive

law enforcement training in the world with only “one half of one percent” having the opportunity to attend, she said. Through the program she learned the importance of professionalism and leadership, and building relationships with the community, above all else.

When Sheriff Johnson retired from law enforcement after serving for 30 years, for the short span of only five months, she missed all the things that drew her to the profession the first place, she shared. Mostly, she missed the service component and being part of a team.

“We’ve watched our society struggle for a number of years and the first thing people want to do when you see that is roll up your sleeve and help. I felt like I had more to give and it was a great opportunity to come back into law enforcement,” said Johnson. “I feel like I have another 30 [years] to give.”

Johnson returned to law enforcement to the Bothell Police Department, where she worked her way up from Captain to Deputy Chief. She shared with the Lynnwood Times the biggest difference working for a municipal agency and a county department is the access to resources, where in municipalities you have more resources for things like community outreach but at a county level you have more responsibilities and tools at your disposal (such as search and rescue, K9, and SWAT).

The biggest public safety issue facing Snohomish County, according to Sheriff Johnson, is behavioral health which to her encompasses housing instability

as well as substance use disorder.

“I worked in narcotics as an undercover detective for eight and-a-half years, and we have a local task force regionally who’s done some amazing things, but I’ve never seen a drug like what we’re looking at now with fentanyl,” said Sheriff Johnson. “It’s overwhelming all of us - government and our social programs.”

Johnson said her strategy to combat the behavioral health crises in our county is to utilize community partners and resources, such as Office in Neighborhoods where she added another staff member back in January to bolster their ability to serve those struggling with behavioral health issues. She also plans to take advantage of the Prosecutor’s Office LEAD program.

“We have to keep reassessing what’s working but we also have to understand that we’re just part of the web and we need to complement the other resources that are out there,” said Johnson. “There is no single answer, this is very complex...for me personally it’s getting on committees, having a voice, and making sure we’re participating where we can form a solution while understanding this is not a policing solution.”

Separate from behavioral health, Sheriff Johnson’s number one priority is public safety, which she admitted seems obvious yet one of the most re-occurring issues the community articulated. During her outreach efforts, residents expressed to her that they simply

do not feel safe in their day-to-day lives anymore. She plans to restore the region back to a state where the public begins to feel safe again by leveraging partnerships such as a regional property tax unit, which would come at no cost to taxpayers, she said. Another opportunity she said was partnering with the Everett Police Department on a pending grant which would allow both agencies to utilize technology to crack down on violent crime.

Other priorities of Sheriff Johnson’s include trust and transparency, employee investment, and organizational resiliency.

Outside of her time working in law enforcement, Sheriff Johnson enjoys outdoorsy activities such as hiking and camping, as well as spending time with her family and two dogs.

In closing to our interview Wednesday, Sheriff Johnson issued the following message to the community members of Snohomish County:

“I want to say how much I appreciate and how honored I am to be your elected Sheriff. I take the responsibility very seriously and we’re going to work very hard for you. I also want you to know that all of the people who work at the Sheriff’s Office have been working incredibly hard and staffing is coming up, morale is great, I was working with open arms, the union’s here have been fantastic, and we share common values in what we want to do in our community. We’re really excited for what the future holds.”

VOA's Lynnwood Neighborhood Center to begin construction this upcoming April

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Volunteers of America's new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is set to begin construction this upcoming April 15 which will serve over 20,000 community members annually, from the most vulnerable needing support to at-risk children and youth.

"The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is a true partnership between the faith community, the local businesses, the local community members and, the state and local government" said Representative Cindy Ryu (WA-32).

Located at 6330 195th Street Southwest in Lynnwood, the Center will also serve as a vibrant hub where neighbors can meet, learn, and serve, building, and sustaining, safe, stable, and healthy communities for generations to come. Phase I of the project, which encompassed site preparation, reached completion back in 2019.

"I am thrilled to be a part of a project that addresses so many of the needs in south Snohomish County. We knew that the challenges our communities would face coming out of the pandemic would not look the same as they once did and our team has done an incredible job designing the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center as a response to that," said Brian Smith, President and CEO of Volunteers of America Western Washington.

The nonprofit corporation—which as-



Artist rendition of the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center. Source: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

sists with food banks, rent and utility assistance, crisis counseling, mediation, and ECEAP preschool—plans to kick off a Community Fundraising Campaign at the beginning of construction this spring with the goal of raising \$2.5 million to ensure the project will be debt free open opening. This would allow non-profit partners below market lease rates, Kristi Meyers, Chief Operations Officer for VOA, told the Lynnwood Times.

The VOA Lynnwood Neighborhood

Center is a collaboration between Volunteers of America, Trinity Lutheran Church, renown author and travel writer Rick Steves, and the Greater South Snohomish County community at large.

When the center opens up by June of 2025, it will house a VOA Community Resource Center, medical, dental and behavioral health clinics, an early

childcare education and assistance program (ECEAP) preschool, a boys and girls club, technology lab, adult day programs, community events and gatherings, culturally specific programs, refugee and immigrant assistance, a commercial kitchen and café, and classes, trainings and workshops.

Continued PAGE 11 >>

from page 1 SIMMONDS

1970.

Loren dedicated 12 years of his life to serving as a Nazarene pastor in Oregon, California, and Washington. Settling in Lynnwood, Washington, in 1981, he embarked on a diverse professional career, including roles as a development consultant for non-profits and an elected municipal official.

Throughout his life, Loren was a passionate advocate for citizen engagement and volunteerism, believing in the power of community. His commitment to these values was reflected in his role as a board member of the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation among many other civic engagements and commissions. He served on the Lynnwood City Council for an impressive 16 years, eight of which he presided as Council President. Loren's impact extended beyond local governance; he was recognized with the Citizens Excellence Award and earned various other accolades.

Loren was married to Sheri Simmonds for 53 years. Together, they raised two children, Wendy and Tyler, and built a legacy that extends to grandchildren and great-grandchildren, which includes a strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit.

Wendy, married to Lanny Hough, has two children, Max and Stella. Tyler, married to Vannice, has three children, Etalya, Austin, and Porter, and a

granddaughter, Palmer Jean. Loren has instilled in these generations an understanding of and commitment to Christian service.

Loren's downtime activities showcased his diverse interests. An avid reader of political and religious books, he also enjoyed spending time with people, filling his schedule with coffee dates. His love for the Seattle Seahawks was unwavering, evident in his 29 years as a season ticket holder.

Known for his sharp dress sense, Loren was consistently well put together, adorned in slacks, a clip-on tie, a sports jacket, loafers, and always accompanied by a hanky. His sweet tooth for red vines, Dr. Pepper, Oreos, and peanut butter cookies added to his distinctive character.

Loren's storytelling prowess and exceptional writing skills were evident in his contributions to Lynnwood Today and various publications. His legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew him, cherished the stories he shared, and admired his dedication to community service.

Loren is survived by his two children, Wendy Hough and Tyler Simmonds, and their mother Sheri Simmonds. He leaves behind a community and family who will forever remember him as a relationship builder, a driven leader, and an inspiring individual.

The Family of Loren G. Simmonds

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Paine Field's temporary SAF facility set to open later this year with a permanent facility as early as 2027

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—The ball is rolling on Paine Field's new Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Research and Development Center as the repository prepares to break ground later this year, with a later, permanent facility currently entering its planning phase.

SAF's are a biofuel with similar properties and safety requirements as conventional jet fuel used in aircraft but with a smaller carbon footprint. These certified "Jet-A1" fuels are made by blending conventional kerosene (fossil-based) with renewable hydrocarbon. Currently, SAFs are used as a "drop-in" replacement to conventional petroleum-based jet fuel that when combined is called a blend. The minimal acceptance blend is 10% SAF to a high of 50%. The goal is a certified 100% replacement blend of SAF to conventional jet fuel.

A huge benefit to SAFs than alternative green aviation solutions such as electric and hydrogen powered aircraft fleets is the minimal disruption to implement into existing infrastructure. It is cost beneficial to ensure that manufacturers do not have to redesign engines nor aircraft, and that fuel suppliers and airports do not have to build new fuel delivery systems.

The R&D Center is made possible through a partnership with Washington State University (WSU) and will be the world's first-ever SAF repository of its type for advancing sustainable aviation fuel technologies and serve the global needs for reference samples to support research, the county says. The Center will also be the only facility to collect, sample, and distribute SAF at a scale needed for widespread use in the largest aircrafts.

In its current state the project has successfully secured State Department funds to begin construction on the repository and completed a business plan late 2023 with the assistance of William Gary - a consultant hired through the county's partnership with Aerospace Futures Alliance. Gary has worked on several research and development projects including Oregon's Manufacturing and Innovation Center and Sheffield in the United Kingdom.

Start-up funding comes from a Senator Marko Lias-backed \$6.5 million proviso proposal in the State Senate Transportation Budget published last year, with the consultant and business plan funding amount of, around \$30 thousand, coming out an ongoing state Commerce fund.

One of the first orders of business last year was to locate a plot of land for both the repository and permanent facility, both of which have now been identified. The permanent facility is shovel-ready, Simreet Dhaliwal, Project Manager for the SAF R&D Center, informed the Lynnwood Times in a phone interview Tuesday, and will be located right off Bernie Webber Drive, adjacent to terminal. The repository, which will act as a



Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers announcing the world-leading Sustainable Aviation Fuel Research and Development Center at Paine Field on March 28, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

temporary facility while the permanent facility undergoes construction, will also be at Paine Field.

"We're doing our best to ensure there's due diligence in preparing a product and facility that's going to be beneficial to both our researchers and private industries," said Dhawliwal. "That's the county's goal; to make sure we're meeting those needs while also supporting our workers and businesses that are already here."

The actual specifications of the permanent facility, as far as size and square footage, have yet to be determined but Dhawliwal explained many of the specific details will be determined during the project's Design and Construction plan set to be completed later this year.

The repository, on the other hand, will have three tiers of storage with three to four 50,000 to 60,000-gallon tanks, 10 to 20 1,000-gallon tanks, and about 100 5-gallon tanks. The construction of the repository is expected to begin sometime this year spanning a 3-to-6-month process contingent on expected supply chain issues, as far as procuring the storage tanks.

The centers will be focused primarily on storing, testing and blending SAF (to see if the product qualifies for FAA standards), not necessarily production. Whether production becomes a priority of both facilities in the future depends on private investors, the county said.

"The county's goal is to ensure this facility remains a lead in SAF and clean technology just generally, so that's where our focus will be. If production is a need that is identified through our further work with private industry, then we'll look into it but that [decision] is kind of out of our wheelhouse," said Dhawliwal.

As far staff members working there, the

county is looking at utilizing a membership-based system between the county,

Continued PAGE 11 >>

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from page 10 **SAF**

Washington State University, and other private industry partners. WSU will be sending researchers out to conduct work at both the repository as well as the eventual permanent facility. The county, while looking forward to being a member of both facilities, does not foresee employing any county staff.

“We don’t have a specific number [of how many people will be working there at one time] but we do believe we are going to generate a considerable number of jobs and investments through the center,” said Dhawliwal.

If all goes according to plan the county says the permanent facility could see an opening from anywhere between 2027 and 2029, though with capital projects like this which often undergo unforeseen setbacks, the actual date has yet to be determined. Once the permanent facility finally opens, the county will be incorporating all of the work conducted at the temporary facility, within the repository in the meantime.

“We have received a lot of positive feedback from our community as well as our elected officials,” said Dhawliwal. “Our partners at the federal level have been supportive, as well as at the local, and state levels. The community in general have been really interested. We hopefully continue to have people invested because the jobs and investment that are going to come out of this will be very beneficial across the county.”

Kelsey Nyland, Snohomish County’s Office of Recovery and Resilience Director of Communications, added that a lot of excitement has been generated among the county’s labor partners - such as machinists - as well as school districts, which is important to generate STEM workforce pipelines.

Snohomish County’s Paine Field Airport, a major hub of aviation and aerospace in the region, supports over

158,000 jobs and generates nearly \$60 billion annually for the economy, Executive Sommers said Tuesday. However, the continued success of commercial aviation depends on addressing the industry’s carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change he added.

In Snohomish County, aviation is estimated to have accounted for 5% of Snohomish County’s total community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, which represents a 23% increase from 2015 levels, according to the county.

Paine Field was determined to be the ideal location for the upcoming SAF R&D Center due to its proximity to the production of medium and long-haul aircraft—planes that seat at least 100 passengers and fly at least 150 minutes. These aircraft make up 73% of carbon emissions in commercial aviation.

In 2022 Sen. Liiias led the effort in passing the State’s \$16 billion Move Ahead Washington Transportation package premised on decarbonizing Washington’s transportation sector while growing the economy. That package included funding for sustainable aviation which aligns with the R&D’s objectives.

The Snohomish County Executive’s Office have been also working with U.S. Representative Rick Larsen, who is the Ranking Member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell for federal backing.

With the R&D Center for SAF, the County and its partners hope to change the industrial landscape by leading the world in the development, distribution, and adoption of new technologies to reduce the economy’s dependence on carbon-based fuels. It plans to achieve this goal by testing SAF samples, investigating SAF production methods and its impacts on human health and the environment, and testing SAF samples large scale (by the thousands of gallons) needed to ensure safety and bring new fuels and products to the market.

Mukilteo resident recognized for her vigilance in reducing crime



Mukilteo Police Chief Andy Illyn presented local crime fighter and resident, Debbie Willcutt on February 20 with the Community Law Enforcement Award for her exemplary volunteer service to public safety. Below is his speech in its entirety:

“One of our core values at the Mukilteo Police Department is Community. Yet, I haven’t always done the best job of recognizing our excellent partners within our city. Tonight, I want to rectify that by presenting a very special award.

“Since arriving in our city, Debbie has exemplified unwavering dedication to our department. Her steadfast support is evident through her consistent donations of snacks, cards and amazing lemon bars, providing food and reminding our officers that the community appreciates their often selfless and unseen actions. I don’t think I would be exaggerating by saying she stops by almost weekly.

“Debbie’s partnership with the Mukilteo Police Department has been nothing short of exemplary. Her proactive engagement in various initiatives, including her participation in the citizen’s academy, presence at National Night Out events, attendance at promotion ceremonies, and active involvement in community meetings, demonstrates her deep commitment to fostering a strong and collaborative bond between the community and law enforcement.

“Furthermore, Debbie’s invaluable role as a source of crucial information cannot be overstated. Her willingness to pass on tips to the department has directly contributed to the success of several operations, underscoring the significant impact of citizen engagement on our collective efforts to ensure public safety.

“Debbie Wilcutt’s selfless dedication, proactive involvement, and valuable contributions embody the spirit of the Community Law Enforcement Award. Her exemplary support and partnership with the Police Department serve as a shining example of the positive impact that an engaged citizen can have on law enforcement and the community as a whole.

“In recognition of Debbie Wilcutt’s exceptional commitment to supporting the Police Department and her outstanding contributions to the community, we proudly present her with the Community Law Enforcement Award.”

from page 9 **LYNNWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

“I’m all over this project because it is the very, very, best investment as a community we can do in so many ways,” said Rick Steves, “local business owner and enthusiastic donor, “It’s an opportunity for different dimensions of our society, of our community to come together.”

Although Volunteers of America was founded in 1896, it didn’t open its Northern Washington branch in Everett until 1915. For the last 108 years the nonprofit has assisted those living in north Snohomish County but for residents living in south county this left a desert for social service accessibility.

For example, out of 1,286 ranked schools in Washington, Cedar Valley Community School (which is located just 1.5 miles from the upcoming Lynnwood Neighborhood Center site) is ranked 180th for total students on lunch assistance. Additionally, the percentage of Cedar Valley Community School students on free and reduced lunch assistance (79.5%) is significantly higher than the state average of 47.3%, indicating the area has a higher level of poverty than state average, according to Meyers.

The Lynnwood Neighborhood Cen-

ter will provide an accessible hub of services and programs to serve Lynnwood, Edmonds, Shoreline, and communities across the area.

“I think the goal of having this facility is to empower families. To help them access these services so they can take care of themselves,” said CJ Gray, former principal of Cedar Valley Community School. “This area is right in the hub, the most important part of Lynnwood and the highest needs part of Lynnwood.”

Community members in the area have expressed a need for more gathering spaces, low-cost medical and dental as well as behavioral health support, and opportunities for children, kids, and young adults. The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is anticipated to address the need of all of these services.

“For some of the kids, it may be the safest place they have. It could be that place that makes a difference between a kid having hope or becoming hopeless,” said David Greenlee with Trinity Lutheran Church.

The upcoming Lynnwood Neighborhood Center’s outcome-driven programs, services and partnerships will focus on five key priority areas to fill gaps in social determinants of health in the community: economic stability,

access to quality education for children and youth, access to quality health care, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

It will help people achieve economic stability by providing wrap-around preventative services that empower families towards self-efficacy and generational wealth development, Myers said. This includes support for food, childcare, accessing affordable housing, tenant-landlord dispute resolution, and job training.

The center will provide access to quality education for children and youth by providing free and affordable educational opportunities and supportive youth development for early learners through adolescents, with a focus on communities that have faced historically disproportionate barriers to education. It will also provide access to quality health care by helping people access timely, high-quality health, dental and, behavioral health care services at convenient onsite clinics.

The LNC will address neighborhood and built environment by providing a safe, easily accessed, and centrally located gathering place where all are welcome while expanding access to public space communities who have faced disproportionate barriers to access, such as BIPOC and low-income

communities. The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center will also serve as a venue for community arts and cultural celebrations.

And lastly, the Center will address social and community context by developing a sense of community where people from all walks of life find social support and positive interactions.

The Neighborhood Center will be a 40,000 square-foot Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility on 2.13 acres of land in central Lynnwood. The design is intended to be flexible enough to change as community needs evolve for generations to come.

from page 8 **INITIATIVES**

ing, “the cap-and-trade hidden tax not about the environment, it is all about the Benjamins, all about the money, all about the Cha ching cha ching, all about the ba bling ba bling.”

Lawmakers have until March 7 to vote to accept or reject the three initiatives Democratic Leadership approved for public hearings on February 27 and 28. If lawmakers make any changes to or fail to pass any of the three initiatives as is, voters will decide to approve or reject these in the November 5th General Election.

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