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Real News
Real Impact

Support 7 raises \$100,000 at third annual reception and auction



Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon (left) and Shannon Sessions, Executive Director of Support 7 at its annual fundraising gala on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE
LYNNWOOD—Support 7 held its 3rd annual reception and auction at Community Life Center in Lynnwood on Satur-

day, April 13 hosted by former Lynnwood City Councilwoman, and current Support 7 Executive Director, Shannon Sessions.

The annual fundraising event consisted of a silent auction, dinner and drinks, guest speakers, fundraising activities

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At St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School, students can be Principal for a Day



St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School student Sofia Schumacher, Principal of the Day, with actual full-time principal, Dr. Bernadine A. Mahar. SOURCE: Jeff Schumacher.

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—A student at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School, 13-year-old Sofia, had the privilege of being Principal for the Day last month as part

of a unique auction item her parents won at a school fundraiser last year. Meanwhile, actual full-time principal, Dr. Bernadine A. Mahar, spent the day

Continued **PAGE 5 >>**

Mukilteo EMS Levy heads to voters for approval

By MARIO LOTMORE

MUKILTEO—The Mukilteo City Council passed a resolution at its Business Meeting on April 15 placing an emergency medical services (EMS) levy renewal on the August primary election ballot. The purpose of the ballot proposition is to restore funding for EMS to the previously voter-approved amount of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

“EMS is our most widely used service – and our call volumes are increasing. We need to add six firefighters/EMTs to respond to calls and reduce response times,” Fire Chief Glen Albright said. “We must also maintain consistent funding for equipment replacement and ambulances so we can ensure service reliability when responding to calls.”

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From 'accidental politician' to Vice President of Federal Relations



Snohomish County Executive Policy Officer Stephanie Wright

By KIENAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Former Lynnwood City Councilwoman, Snohomish County Councilwoman, and Snohomish County Executive Policy Officer, Stephanie Wright, is settling into her new role as Vice President of Federal Relations at Strategies 360.

Lynnwood Times, has been a seamless transition so far from her years working as a public servant in Snohomish County.

Strategies 360 is a Seattle-based research, public affairs, and communications firm that offers a variety of services including consultations, legislative advocacy, campaign polling, reputation management and media relations, and government relations.

Wright's first two weeks in her new role mainly consisted of meeting with clients primarily in Washington and Hawaii, respectively.

For Washington state, Wright deals with both city and county clients, many of which she has had the pleasure of working with in the past as an elected official. She also works as the secondary person for clients located in Hawaii, which include nonprofits such as Hawaiian homelands.

“It was a lot of client meetings and a lot of coming up to speed in my new line of work,” said Wright. “But I’m very excited to be learning the different areas that I get to delve into and the different subject matters that I get to work on now.”

Transitioning from Executive Policy

The position, she informed the Lyn-

Continued **PAGE 10 >>**

Potential Trump VP pick and former CIA Director Mike Pompeo speaks to a full house at Edmonds church

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EDMONDS—Former United States Secretary of State, Director of Central Intelligence Agency, and potential Vice President pick for presumptive Republican Presidential nominee, Donald J Trump, Mike Pompeo, made a rare Snohomish County appearance at Westgate Chapel in Edmonds on Sunday, April 14, to discuss his faith, international relations, and the future outlook of American exceptionalism.

Westgate Chapel's Apologia speaker series is a monthly, Sunday evening, event where nationally recognized voices address the local Christian community on topics where culture and biblical values intersect, the church's website states. Past speakers have been Dennis Prager, founder of Prager University, Kayleigh McEnany, former White House Press Secretary in the Trump Administration, and Star Parker, presidential appointee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights California Advisory Committee.

Pompeo was the United States' 70th Secretary of State, serving under former President Donald J Trump's administration. Prior to serving as Secretary of State he served as the Director of the CIA and, before that, he was elected to serve four terms in Congress representing Kansas' fourth district.

Pompeo was a businessman before an executive founding the Kansas-based aircraft part manufacturing firm Fair Aerospace. Pompeo holds a degree from Harvard Law School, graduated first in class at the U.S. Military Academy at Westpoint and served as a U.S. Army tank platoon leader. His career has taken him to West Berlin during the Cold War, lead a machine shop floor in Kansas, and lead our nation's intelligence agents and diplomats.

At Sunday's Apologia speaker series event, Westgate Chapel Senior Pastor Alec Rowlands moderated a campfire discussion with Pompeo on the future of the nation under a Christian Conservative lens.

Pompeo, a staunch and outspoken Christian, shared that he was brought to



Former United States Secretary of State and Director of Central Intelligence Agency, Mike Pompeo, speaking with Senior Pastor Alec Rowlands at Westgate Chapel in Edmonds on Sunday, April 14, 2024. SOURCE: Westgate Chapel YouTube channel.

his faith while serving at the U.S. Military Academy. His only real free day from working, he said, was on Sundays and, without anything better to do, he wandered into a place that was advertising free lemonade and cookies; that place ended up being a Bible study. It was here, he said, where he first entered his faith.

"Among the biggest risks that we face today in our country, and there are many, is the lack of faith in our central institutions," said Pompeo. "They've lost faith because they've watched these leaders of these institutions behave in ways that are deeply inconsistent with our American value set."

Pompeo said his solution would be to put the right leadership in place. He claimed the "left has infiltrated these institutions" for the last 20 years and conservatives need to take it back. He then shared his thoughts on restructuring the FBI and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 2024.

The conversation then took a turn to global politics—the Ukraine/Russia conflict—siding with Ukraine and taking a firm stance on defending European sovereignty from Russia's Vladimir

Putin's reign.

Pompeo criticized President Biden's approach to national security stating Putin took a fifth of Ukraine in 2015 under President Obama's administration where Biden was Vice President, none during the Trump administration, and within a handful of months, Putin then infiltrated Ukraine under the Biden administration. He said it all came down to leadership and Putin's belief that the U.S. would not get involved with a Democratic President in office.

As part of its Declaration of State Sov-

ereignty from the Soviet Union in 1990, Ukraine stated it would not acquire nor produce nuclear weapons and in 1991 declared non-nuclear-weapon status. On December 5, 1994, the United States, Ukraine, Russia, and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum to provide Ukraine with security assurances in exchange for the nation destroying its nuclear weapons.

Pompeo expounded noting that it is the duty of the U.S. to "live up to our promises." Pompeo also mentioned he

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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GENERAC

Lynnwood approves \$6.4M tax exemption for new 318-unit mixed-use development

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—The council unanimously approved the mayor to enter into an eight-year \$6.4 million Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) for ACG Acquisitions, LLC, the developer of the new 318-unit mixed-use housing development, ENSO.

The Multi-Family Housing Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) program began in 1995, codified as RCW 84.14, to incentivize residential development in urban centers, designated as “residential targeted areas,” for Washington’s largest cities, according to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Under these exemptions, a property owner, in this case ACG Acquisitions, LLC, does not have to pay property taxes on the residential improvements for a given number of years. Lynnwood City Council accepted the City’s Business & Development Services’ recommendation of eight years. The property owner will still pay tax on the land and on non-residential improvements like the commercial portion of a mixed-use building for the eight years, however.

On May 29, 2007, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2681 establishing the MFTE Program to encourage housing and redevelopment in the City Center District.

ENSO, currently under construction, is a mixed-use development to be lo-



ENSO mixed-use development. SOURCE: City of Lynnwood.

cated at 198th St SW and 40th Avenue West in downtown Lynnwood, better known as City Center. The 318-unit, 7-story building will consist of 4,235 square feet of commercial space on its ground floor. The development will also consist of 397 parking spaces, and provide studio, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments at market value for residents. Preleasing is scheduled to begin in 18 months (Fall of 2025) with construction scheduled to be completed by April of 2026.

Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby proposed the motion to approve Mayor Christine Frizzell to enter into an eight-year \$6.4 million Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) for ACG Acquisitions, LLC, that was seconded by Council President George

Hurst, and approved unanimously 7-0.

CITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

City Administration will begin using the newly updated Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of events, large gatherings, and before Board and Commission meetings that was approved with six votes and one abstention at Monday’s meeting. Council President Hurst motioned to approve the new statement with Council Vice President Altamirano-Crosby seconding.

Council President Hurst thanked Lynnwood’s Equity and Social Justice Advisor Doug Raiford for working with local tribes and the city’s internal equity team in developing the new land

acknowledgment statement.

Councilman Patrick Decker abstained from the vote citing he doesn’t know the legal ramifications of the new statement. The mayor approved Decker to email the following questions to Raiford for clarification:

1. What rights are granted in the new statement?
2. What are the liabilities for the city?
3. How many people will see their lives improve by the new statement?
4. How will residents see improvements from the new statement?
5. How does the new statement increase diversity in a real way?
6. Who is excluded and will be included in the new statement and how will it be used by the city council?

The new 2024 Land Acknowledgement will read:

We acknowledge that the City of Lynnwood is located on the traditional lands of the Snohomish Tribe and the confederation of Tulalip Tribes and their families. For generations, these Indigenous communities have lived on this land, and we recognize, support, and advocate alongside them.

We also acknowledge the forced re-

Continued **PAGE 7 >>**

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ORCA Business Incentive: Empowering small businesses to offer commute benefits

FEATURE By COMMUNITY TRANSIT

The reasons are varied — rising gas prices, reducing carbon emissions, avoiding the stress of driving — but many people are rethinking how they get to work. As Snohomish County grows, public transit plays a vital role in reducing traffic congestion and helping people find affordable travel options.



ORCA FOR BUSINESS

“Job satisfaction and a person’s commute go hand-in hand,” says Colton Davis. Davis helps to educate local businesses about the various transit-related benefits that employers can offer their employees through Community Transit.

“Your commute is how you begin and end your workday. If you’re stuck in traffic, stressed about finding a parking spot, or feeling anxious at the gas pump, it may push you to look for another job,” he says. “Employer-provided transit benefits can help address many of these concerns.”

For a limited time, Community Transit is offering small businesses an exclu-



sive discount when they provide their employees with ORCA transit passes. This special incentive helps small businesses in Snohomish County improve their employees’ benefits and commuting experiences. Snohomish County businesses with fewer than 100 employees can save up to 50% off first-year costs. This offer is not available for businesses within the city limits of Everett, as Everett is not a part of Com-

munity Transit’s service area. With an employer-provided ORCA card, employees enjoy a wide range of commuting options, from buses and trains to ferries, providing flexibility for convenient commute options. Riders can pay with ORCA for services on all seven of the major regional transit agencies.

“ORCA for Business helps take the

guesswork out of providing affordable and reliable transportation options to employees,” says Davis. “And benefits like this are a great way to show current and prospective employees that you value their time, money, and work-life balance.”

Moreover, the ORCA for Business program promotes sustainable commuting options. By encouraging public transportation use, businesses not only contribute to reducing carbon emissions but also position themselves as responsible stewards of the environment.

“People want to work for businesses that reflect their values. Supporting sustainable transit resonates well with those who value social responsibility,” says Davis.

Businesses can also benefit from transportation tax deductions by participating in the ORCA for Business program. By providing employees with transit benefits, organizations may be eligible for tax breaks, optimizing their business expenses and enhancing their overall fiscal health.

Interested businesses can learn more at ctgo.org/orca4business or by contacting OrcaBusinessAccounts@comtrans.org.

Sound Transit launches onboard passenger survey

By SOUND TRANSIT

SEATTLE—Over the next several months, Sound Transit will conduct a survey onboard select bus, Sounder, and light rail routes in the Puget Sound region. This will include select Community Transit and King County Metro routes. From April through fall 2024, survey participants will help transit planners understand who rides transit, their origins and destinations, and trip purpose — all to inform transit planning and transit demand modeling.



TAKE THE SURVEY

Surveyors will wear blue vests and a badge with a transit agency logo. They’ll use tablet computers to select participants at random and administer the survey. Paper surveys will be available if necessary. All personal information will be removed from all records kept by Sound Transit, and the results will be aggregated to ensure participant privacy and anonymity. Later, Sound Transit will share survey results with the public. To increase participation in the survey, riders who can’t complete it when approached will be offered options for a follow-up interview. While the survey contains some questions about personal characteristics, surveyors don’t ask about personally identifiable information such as Social Security or bank account numbers.

For more information about the survey visit www.soundtransit.org/ridersurvey.

Sound Transit is required to collect specific demographic data about passengers including race, household income, and language proficiency to comply with Ti-

tle VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This information is submitted to the Federal Transit Administration approximately every five years.

Sound Transit builds and operates regional transit services throughout the urban areas of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Transit services include light rail, commuter trains, express buses, and their associated stations and facilities.

SUMMONS, PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION

In the superior court of the State of California for the county of Orange, Ashlie Antonitis, Petitioner, vs. Justin Cayse Brandt, Respondent


Case #: 23D005073

The State of California to the said Justin Brandt:

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 18 day of April, 2024, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the Petition for Dissolution of Petitioner Ashlie Antonitis, and serve a copy of your Response upon the undersigned attorneys for Petitioner.


Ashlie Antonitis at her office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the Petition for Dissolution, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. This is an action regarding the Dissolution of the Marriage of Ashlie Antonitis and Justin Cayse Brandt

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NAIA bans transgender athletes from women's sports competitions

BY MARIO LOTMORE

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—In a unanimous vote, 25-0, on Monday, April 8, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Council of Presidents approved a policy mandating that only athletes assigned female at birth will only be allowed to compete in women's sports for all of its competitions. It is the first national college governing body banning transgender athletes from competing in women's sport competitions.

According to its website, NAIA is “a governing body of small athletics programs that are dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics.” Approximately 80% of its membership of 249 is private colleges.

The decision comes just over a year after the World Athletics Council announced on March 23, 2023, it will exclude male-to-female transgender athletes who have been through male puberty from female World Rankings competition, effective March 31, 2023.

World Athletics, formerly known as the “International Association of Athletics Federations” (or IAAF) is the world governing authority on competitions, standardization of technical equipment, and the official repository of all world records. The governing body was



founded on July 17, 1912, in Stockholm, Sweden, following the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games.

This decision does not apply to competitions within the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Currently, 16 biological women are suing the NCAA for letting transgender athletes both compete in female sport competitions and allowing them into female locker rooms. The key argument in their class-action lawsuit is that the NCAA “knowingly violated Title IX, the federal statute that guarantees equal opportunity for men and women in college education and sports,” the Independent Council on Women's Sports reports.

Below is the complete NAIA policy, as

released by NAIA on April 8:

Student-athletes may participate in NAIA competition in accordance with the following conditions:

A. Participation by students in sports designated as male by the NAIA: All eligible NAIA student-athletes may participate in NAIA-sponsored male sports.

B. Participation by students in sports designated as female by the NAIA: Only NAIA student-athletes whose biological sex is female may participate in NAIA-sponsored female sports. They may participate under the following conditions:

1. A student who has not begun any masculinizing hormone therapy may participate without limitation.

2. A student who has begun masculinizing hormone therapy may participate in:

a. All activities that are internal to the institution (does not include external competition), including workouts, practices, and team activities. Such participation is at the discretion of the NAIA member institution where the student is enrolled; and

b. External competition that is not a countable contest as defined by the NAIA (per NAC Policy Article XXV, Section A, Item 12). Such participation is at the discretion of the NAIA member institution where the student is enrolled.

An NAIA institution that has a student-athlete who has begun masculinizing hormone therapy must notify the NAIA national office. The national office will take the necessary steps to provide appropriate privacy protections.

This policy will be subject to review in light of any legal, scientific, or medical developments.

from page 1 PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

in Sofia's shoes sitting in class, doing schoolwork, researching, and even taking pop quizzes.

“If they're a good student it's really easy. But I was in Spanish class and Sofia speaks Spanish, but I don't know anything,” Dr. Mahar joked.

As Principal Sofia sat in on a Parrish staff meeting with the school's Parrish Priest, the Parrish PAA, and other members of staff, she had the opportunity to see how the school and church work together from an operational standpoint.

For the rest of the day Sofia was granted the ability to do whatever she wanted. She took advantage of this newfound liberty to offer students a third recess, of which she herself was able to partake in the next day when it went into effect.

In former years students have requested to pull fire alarms just to see what it feels like. The school contacted the local Fire Department to work out how to make this possible.

Sofia said her biggest takeaway as principal was learning just how much the principal role helps students. She shared a couple encounters as Principal helping a student needing help finding her way to class, and during mass she helped

students into their respective pews.

“I learned that when you're principal helping the kids really matters,” said Sofia.

There weren't really any downsides to being Principal, Sofia added although she did say she quickly learned that some tasks take longer than others, so she had to prioritize.

As an added bonus to the perks of Principal, Sofia was picked up by a community volunteer in a Ferrari Especial bright and early in the morning and chauffeured to school. She was also provided with free lunch and was able to invite two of her friends.

Now, after having served as Principal for a Day, Sophie told the Lynnwood Times she looks at the role of principal differently adding that “there is a lot to do and you have to take care a lot of kids of all different ages.”

Sofia has attended Mary Magdalene Catholic School since the fourth grade. Now, a seventh grader, she aspires to be a History Teacher one day (her favorite subject) after she completes her education. Outside of school, she enjoys going to the mall, working out at the gym, and going for jogs.

The prize of being allowed to be Prin-

icipal for the Day was an auction item Sofia's parents won at Mary Magdalene's annual fundraiser last year. She informed the Lynnwood Times she wasn't aware that her parents had won the auction item, and she would be, subsequently, filling the principal role until about a month before, however.

“We don't just throw them to the wolves when they enter a Parrish staff meeting,” Melissa Morrier-Turk, Advancement and Bookkeeping at Mary Magdalene, told the Lynnwood Times. “Our Principal of the Day will actually sit there with the principal just to make sure the Principal of the Day does not make any decision we would not be able to facilitate.”

Morrier-Turk was a member of the school's Auction Committee when the idea came into fruition. For the last 17 years she has sat on the committee, beginning as a parent and now a faculty member.

About 10 years ago a member of the Auctioning Committee pitched the idea of offering a student the privilege of being Principal for the Day as a cost-effective way to try and raise money for the school that was both economical and fun.

These annual auctions are meant to raise funds for the bottom-line expens-

es of the school and help the institution meet the needs that tuition doesn't cover such as benefits, technology, supplies, and more.

St. Mary Magdalene held its annual auction, and with it, next year's Principal for a Day prize, just last Saturday, April 13.

In addition to its annual auction, St. Mary Magdalene has an active, community-driven, Parent Club that puts on events monthly. Upcoming next is a Tacos and Trivia night where the club goes to a nearby Mexican restaurant and does a Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader-style trivia game. Other events include attending Everett Aqua Sox games.

“Whatever we can do that's community driven and helps build up the community here within the school and the Parrish is all we strive to do,” said Morrier-Turk.

Located at 8615 7th Avenue Southeast in Everett, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is a non-profit, co-educational school for preschool through 8th grade. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is committed to giving our students a firm academic and spiritual foundation rooted in intellectual inquiry and Catholic values.



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Man found guilty in 2021 crime spree from Mukilteo to Seattle gets 120 years in prison



Joseph F Sims

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—A Snohomish County jury found Joseph Forest Sims, 33, guilty on all counts on Tuesday, March 26, related to a 2021 multi-jurisdiction crime spree (Bothell, Mukilteo, Shoreline, and Seattle) involving, rape, drive-by shootings, burglaries and kidnappings. At his sentencing hearing on April 12, he was sentenced to 120 years in prison with no parole considered before 2095.

“Since Bothell Police took the suspect into custody in 2021, our detectives and partner agencies have worked closely with the Snohomish County prosecutors,

providing evidence in this violent crime spree,” Bothell Police released in a statement on X to the Lynnwood Times.

Sims request for a mistrial was denied however his request for an appeal of the trial-by-jury verdict was forwarded to the appellate court for review and it will be fully paid for at “public expense.” He also requested that he remain in the Snohomish County Jail for 30 days after his sentencing to work on his appeal, which was denied.

Sims was sentenced to multiple life sentences. After years of delays by the defendant navigating the judicial system, even dismissing his public defender, Donald Wackerman one year after the original incident to represent himself, the jury found Sims guilty of the following counts:

- Two counts, First Degree Burglary, Class A felony
- One count, First Degree Rape, Class A felony
- Two counts, First Degree Kidnapping, Class A felony
- Three counts, Second Degree Assault with Deadly Weapon, Class B felony
- One count, Drive By Shooting, Class B felony
- One count, First Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Class B felony

Sims is no stranger to the law with 10 juvenile felony convictions and 11 adult

felonies prior to the June 15, 2021, crime spree. He was incarcerated for almost seven years, from September 19, 2008, to May 27, 2015, for assault and firearm possession. While in community custody, in January of 2017, he was arrested for numerous residential burglaries for which he was convicted on nine counts in November of 2017 and sentenced to 72 months in prison. He was released on May 7, 2021, and placed back in community custody for his 2008 conviction.

Within less than a month of being released from prison, Sims’ life of guns, drugs, and a multi-day crime spree in a 2015 silver Mercedes began, court records show.

EVENTS LEADING UP TO DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS AND KIDNAPPINGS

Shortly after being released in May of 2021, Sims rekindled his relationship with a young Bothell woman he met prior to his 2017 conviction, who the Lynnwood Times will identify as M.

Sometime between June 8 and 9 of 2021, she texted Sims to end the relationship citing “paranoid” behavior by him believing she was seeing other men in their relationship.

At around midnight on June 10, M opened the door to an unannounced visit by Sims after which he placed his hand over her mouth to prevent her from screaming as a pistol was placed against her stomach. Sims allegedly threaten to

kill M and her roommate L.

According to testimony by M, Sims felt disrespected by M for allegedly seeing other people and told her he is now in control. In her room, Sims forced M to unlock her phone for which he changed the passcode, and then spoke for hours about their relationship. Sims then forced M to ingest Adderall to stay up with him and at some point, during the early morning, he began making sexual advances towards her.

In her testimony, M shared that under threat, she and Sims engaged in non-consensual intercourse. Sims then became paranoid of adding a possible rape conviction to his record that he coerced M into filming “awkward” videos of her consenting to the sexual encounter which she provided police.

Still paranoid of a rape conviction, Sims search the internet for a “sexual consent form” that he emailed to his sister in Ballard, 10 radial miles or 13.5 commuter miles from M’s residence in Bothell, to print. After being convinced by his sister to not sign the form, Sims and M drove back to her place where they arrived in Bothell around 8 p.m. that evening.

Again, still paranoid and brandishing his firearm, Sims allegedly concocted a “home invasion” scheme to incriminate M to ensure she will not report him for

Continued **PAGE 07** >>

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from page 6 **SIMS**

rape. At 11:30 p.m., they arrived at the Shoreline home, unknown to M at the time, of Sims' ex-girlfriend. Sims told M that the woman living in the home stole \$60,000 from him. Sims decided not to burglarize the home and return to M's apartment in Bothell.

At her apartment, he allegedly sent several text messages, one of which was of M's driver's license and cards, to "hitlers" who would "handle it" if M were to report the rape to police.

"If you tell anybody, I'm going to kill your parents, and I am going to kill you," Sims allegedly told M according to court records shortly before they went to sleep around 2:45 a.m. on June 11.

On June 11, M convinced Sims to allow her to go to work, which he did. A co-worker convinced M to report the events to the Bothell police. Bothell detectives searched M's apartment and documented the scene. Her roommate was out of time for a few days during this period and M stayed in a hotel.

DRIVE-BY SHOOTINGS AND A KIDNAPPING

Around 10:30 p.m. on June 14, 2021, M's roommate returned home from her trip, aware of what transpired between M and Sims. Shortly after returning home, M's roommate, L, heard some rustling noises and sounds of footsteps in the backyard area. She texted M's co-worker telling her about the noise. She and M's coworker chatted for a bit about leaving the porch lights on.

Around 3:15 a.m., on June 15, the night of the multi-jurisdiction crime spree by Sims, L awoke to the loud crashing sound of the sliding glass door being smashed. Sims was suddenly in her room allegedly with a gun in her face asking, 'Where's [redacted]? Where's [redacted]?'"

After telling Sims that she didn't know where her roommate was, she was forced to walk on broken glass shards, cutting into her feet, causing them to bleed. Sims then took L to his vehicle, the silver 2015 Mercedes that is registered to Sims, forcing her to go with him. In the car was a rifle.

Sims and L drove to M's coworkers' place of residence in Kenmore, but then he drove pass the home heading to Mukilteo believing M was staying at

her parents' apartment.

On June 15, 2021, Mukilteo Police Officers responded to multiple reports of gunfire at the 300-unit Elliot at Mukilteo Apartments at approximately 4:03 a.m. Luckily no injuries were reported—both parents were home at the time of the shooting.

Upon arrival, Mukilteo Police discovered 29 shell casings (.223 caliber) and gunshot damage to the rear of an apartment building—predominately the master bedroom of the unit.

By the time Mukilteo police arrived, Sims was on his way to his next target, his ex-girlfriend's home in Shoreline. Before arriving to Shoreline, Sims removed the zip tie around L's hands and told her he would release her.

Around 4:30 a.m., they arrived at the Shoreline house where he shared with L that the woman in the home owed him money. Sims stopped his vehicle outside of the home, grabbed his rifle, exited the car, and allegedly fired 30 rounds (.223 caliber) into the house until his magazine emptied.

At a Shell Gas Station off 85th Street NW in Seattle, Sims released L from his vehicle around 4:43 a.m., and according to court records, in a menacing tone, told her to, "tell the police I will be waiting for them." L then immediately called 911.

The defendant, Sims, then allegedly drove to another house in Seattle off 3rd Avenue NW and emptied nine rounds (.223 caliber) into the home. Detectives later discovered that this residence was allegedly associated with another one of Sims' ex-girlfriends.

The eight-hour multi-jurisdiction crime spree in Bothell, Mukilteo, Shoreline, and Seattle, came to an end at around 6:35 a.m. on June 15, 2021, with Sims turning himself into the University of Washington Police Department. Within a few hours he was in Bothell Police custody then booked into the Snohomish County Jail where he remains.

The District Court set bail at the time in the amount of \$500,000 but was later increased to \$750,000 at the State's request. Sims is considered a violent repeat felony offender.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Audrey Majkut revoked Sims bail amount on March 26. Sims is being stripped of his

right to bear arms and is required to attend drug court, a court motion states.

Sims filed for appeal on March 26 at the expense of public funds, citing his indigent status. He told the court that since

he has been in prison for the last several years, for multiple felonies, that he has no money and does not foresee his financial situation improving by the time of his sentencing on April 12.

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from page 3 **LYNNWOOD**

OTHER BUSINESS

removal of Indigenous communities from their Homelands as a result of the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. We understand that Land Acknowledgements are only the first step in our efforts to support Coast Salish tribes and educate non-Natives about their lived history. We strive to achieve this through building relationships with Indigenous communities, supporting Indigenous commerce, government-to-government partnerships, and lifting indigenous voices to create equity for all.

Through these actions, we hope to not only pay respect to the past but also collaborate in creating a sustainable future, hand in hand with the first protectors of our shared environment.

The council presented two proclamations: Arbor Day and National Volunteer Week. The actions of an Executive Session related to the evaluation of the qualifications of an applicant for public employment will be discussed at the next Business Meeting on April 22. The Council did not share any more information.

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WA judge rules high-capacity magazine ban unconstitutional, state appeals

By KIENAN BRISCOE

OLYMPIA—A Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge ruled Monday, April 8, that Washington State's ban on high-capacity magazines was unconstitutional, immediately issuing an injunction for the state to stop enforcing the ban, the Seattle Times first reported.

On July 1, 2022, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5078 went into effect making it illegal to sell or possess magazines with more than ten rounds of capacity in Washington State and included sections creating claims under the Washington Consumer Protection Act.

"Enough families have experienced the tragedy of gun violence in our state," said Sen. Liias, the bill's primary sponsor. "It is long overdue that we step up to protect Washingtonians from mass shootings. The Legislature took that step today by voting to limit high-capacity magazines, and our communities will be safer for it. This is a common-sense policy that will save lives, and I am grateful for all of the years of advocacy that led to its passage."

A Kelso-based retail firearm business, Gator's Custom Guns Inc., which has historically sold high-capacity magazines, filed a declaratory judgement action against the State of Washington, in Cowlitz County Superior Court, arguing that ESSB 5078 violated the Washington

Constitution, Article 1, Section 24, as well as the United States Constitutions' second amendment.

The arms store refused to prohibit selling high-capacity magazines following the effective date of SB-5078 prompting the state to file a CPA enforcement action. Both lawsuits, with overlapping constitutional claims, were consolidated in court by the state's suggestions.

Just last February a gun store in Federal Way, Federal Way Discount Guns, was ordered by the Washington Attorney General's Office to pay \$3 million in fines for selling high-capacity magazines following the effective date of ESSB 5078. It's unclear what will become of the gun store's, and owner Mohammad Baghai, \$3 million fine now following the Superior Court judge's rulings Monday.

At Monday's hearing, after oral arguments from council, considering memorandums, and thoroughly researching federal, and state, caselaw, Superior Court Judge B. Bashor ruled Monday that there were no factual circumstances the court could "conceive under which ESSB 5078 as written and codified could be constitutional under the United States Constitution, Second Amendment," court documents state. The Court also found "ESSB 5078 is facially unconstitutional under the United States Constitution".

Following the decision, Attorney General Bob Ferguson immediately filed an emergency stay to the State Supreme Court seeking the ban to remain in effect through the appeal process, KIRO 7 reported. The appeal was granted Monday, 88 minutes later, and the ban will remain in place for now.

Attorney General Ferguson has been a staunch anti-assault rifle and anti-high-caliber magazine since at least 2017 following the 2016 mass shooting at a Mukilteo house party when the shooter used a military-style assault rifle and a high-capacity magazine. Ferguson backed the passing of SB 5078 as well as successfully passing a bill banning the manufacturing and possession of ghost guns, which passed the legislature in 2019.

Back in October, 2023, U.S. District Court Judge Roger Benitez struck down a similar ban to assault rifles in California which prohibits the sale, transfer, manufacturing, and possession of specific semi-automatic weapons, writing the ban was unconstitutional, "extreme", and had "no historical pedigree," — almost identical to Washington's ban.

"Like the Bowie Knife which was commonly carried by citizens and soldiers in the 1800s, "assault weapons" are dangerous, but useful. But unlike the Bowie Knife, the United States Supreme Court has said, "[t]here is a long tradition of

widespread lawful gun ownership by private individuals in this country," Judge Benitez wrote in his 79-page decision October 19.

On March 5, 2022, in a late-night session, legislation to restrict the sale of high-capacity firearm magazines was approved by the Washington House of Representatives on a 55-42 vote with no Republican support.

"This is a serious bill that will jeopardize the safety of Washingtonians," said Sen. Phil Fortunato R-Auburn. "This is not about providing safety for children. This is putting in jeopardy the lives of law-abiding citizens, especially women."

Senate Bill 5078, sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D-Everett), prohibits the manufacture, sale, import or transfer of large-capacity magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The approved legislation does not ban the current possession of high-capacity magazines already in possession. The law was signed by Gov. Jay Inslee on March 23, 2022, joining Washington with nine other states to impose similar prohibitions.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

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

from page 1 EMS LEVY

The current EMS Levy Rate is \$0.27529739895 per \$1,000 assessed valuation and will provide the City with a revenue of \$2,039,955 in 2024. The proposed \$0.50 per \$1,000 is projected to provide the City \$3,705,003 based on the current Mukilteo home assessed valuation. The EMS funds may only be used for EMS related expenses.

Chief Albright shared in his presentation to council that the average home tax increase will be just under 52 cents per day or \$189 for 2025. The average home value in Mukilteo is \$839,000.

Approximately \$1.320 million of the \$1.665 million increase will be used for a Medical Services Officer, two additional firefighters, paramedic training, equipment, and maintenance.

On September 14, 2004, Mukilteo voters approved an EMS Levy of up to \$0.35 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for six years. On August 17, 2010, the voters approved making it permanent at a rate not to exceed \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. On August 7, 2018, the voters rejected a measure that would have set the rate at \$0.50 per \$1,000 for six consecutive years, with the limit factor for each ensuing year not to exceed 106% of the previous year.

On August 1, 2023, the voters rejected a EMS Levy measure that would have set the rate at \$0.40 per \$1,000 for six consecutive years. With the passage of time, the rate has been gradually reduced to approximately \$0.27 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The fire

chief shared that if voters approve the ballot measure, the burden from the City's General Fund would reduce from \$449,047 in 2025 to \$47,901.

The EMS Levy renewal was previously presented to the City Council at their March 25, 2024, work session. At that meeting a consensus was for placing a ballot measure before the voters that would seek to raise the levy rate to \$0.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed for 2025.

The motion to approve placing the EMS Levy renewal on the ballot passed 6-1 with Council Steve Schmalz dissenting.

"I am very pleased to see the City Council place the EMS levy renewal on the August ballot," Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine said. "Costs for our fire department continue to rise, while our EMS levy rate continues to decrease year after year."

The council also approved with a vote of 6-1, with Council Steve Schmalz dissenting, to authorize Mayor Joe Marine to sign Consultant Agreement with Liz Loomis Public Affairs in the amount of \$45,000 to provide strategic communication services to city staff. The consultant will create a communications plan and messaging for the EMS Levy renewal.

With a unanimous vote, the council approved Richard Emery, Dave Dundon-Harris, and Michael Dixon to serve on the pro committee and Kevin Stoltz, Steve Schmalz, and Sabrina Otteness to serve on the con committee for the EMS Levy renewal ballot measure.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The Finance Director is seeking approval to reconvene the Long-Range Financial Planning (LRFP) Committee and approval of the make-up of the

members of the LFRP Committee in order to proceed with the next steps. The motion proposed by Council Vice President Tom Jordal and seconded by Councilman Richard Emery, was approved unanimously.



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Boeing makes its largest purchase of blended Sustainable Aviation Fuel

By THE BOEING COMPANY

ARLINGTON, Va., April 16, 2024—Boeing is buying 9.4 million gallons (35.6 million liters) of blended sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to support its 2024 U.S. commercial operations, reducing its carbon emissions and working to help grow the supply of the fuel globally.

This is the company’s largest annual SAF purchase, more than 60% higher than its buy in 2023.

The blended fuel – 30% SAF made from waste by-products such as fats, oils, and greases and 70% convention-

al jet fuel – will support the Boeing ecoDemonstrator program and Boeing U.S. commercial operational flights.

“As our focus remains on safety and quality, sustainability continues to be a priority,” said Ryan Faucett, vice president of environmental sustainability at Boeing. “Sustainable aviation fuel is essential to decarbonize aviation. About 20% of our fuel usage is a SAF blend, and we continue to increase our use of this fuel to encourage growth in the SAF industry. We are also working to make SAF more available and affordable to our commercial airline customers through collaboration, investment, research and policy develop-

ment.”

Unblended, or “neat” SAF, can reduce carbon emissions up to 85% over the fuel’s life cycle and offers the commercial aviation industry’s greatest potential to reduce its climate impact over the next 30 years.

Boeing will receive 4 million gallons of the blended SAF into its fuel farms in the Pacific Northwest. EPIC Fuels, a Signature Aviation company, will supply 2.5 million gallons from Neste, and Avfuel will provide 1.5 million gallons of blended SAF from Neste.

Boeing will also purchase the CO2

emissions reduction associated with 5.4 million gallons of blended SAF through an accounting process called book-and-claim. Book-and-claim is when a company purchases SAF certificates to displace conventional jet fuel. Instead of putting the fuel into a Boeing fuel farm, distributors will deliver it to nearby airports for use by airlines and other carriers.

Through Boeing’s book-and-claim purchases, EPIC Fuels will supply 3.5 million gallons of blended SAF made by Neste, while World Fuel Services, a World Kinect company, will supply 1.9 million gallons from World Energy.

WA eighth most dangerous state in 2024 study

By SIMMRIN LAW GROUP

The latest study reveals Washington is the eighth most dangerous state, highlighting ongoing concerns over crime and safety. Washington state has a safety score of 59.6. The Larceny/Theft Rate in Washington is the highest (2133.6) per 100,000, revealing it as having a major issue with property crime compared to other states.

Legal experts at Simmrin Law Group examined crime statistics from the FBI and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), assigning weight across ten critical crime types to identify 10 safest and most dangerous states, offering a clear snapshot of national safety landscapes.

New Jersey is the safest state, with the highest and most impressive safety score of 80, mainly due to its low crime rates. On the other hand, New Mexico comes out much worse, taking the bottom spot as the most dangerous state. With a safety score amounting to a very small 40, this reflects the challenges New Mexico faces with crime and safeguarding its residents.

Key Findings

- New Jersey is the safest state

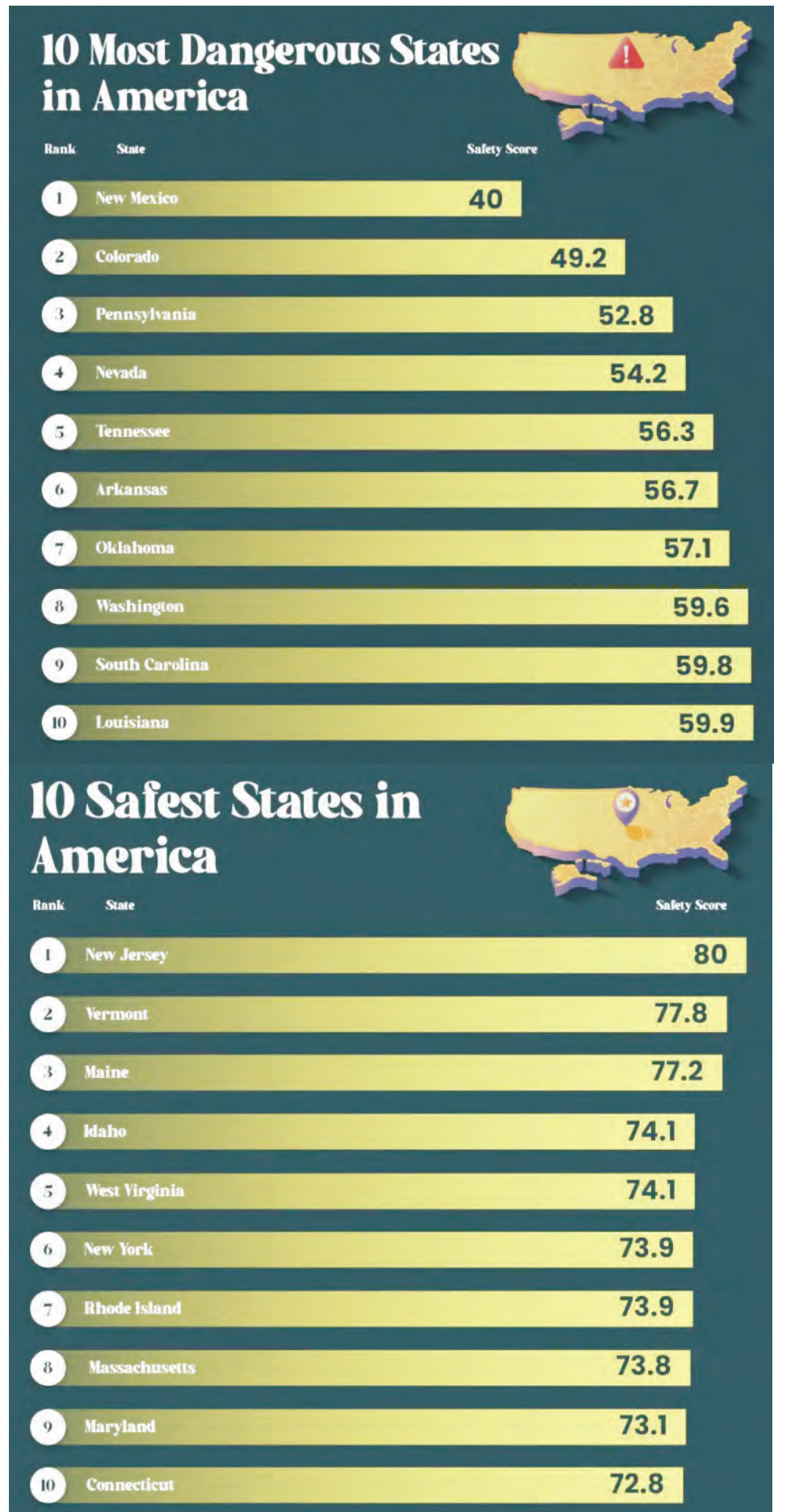
with a safety score of 80, featuring the lowest assault rates at 430 and sex offenses at 25.2 per 100,000 residents, alongside minimal burglary at 81 and theft rates at 608.2, securing its place at the top of this study.

- Vermont, ranking 2nd, shines bright with a safety score of 77.8 and is distinguished by a low extortion rate at 2.6 and a homicide rate at 2.3 per 100,000.
- Maine, following closely, came in 3rd with a safety score of 77.2, contributed by low homicide offense at 2.2, kidnapping/abduction at 1.8, and motor vehicle theft at 65.2 per 100,000 residents.
- New Mexico is sadly identified as the most dangerous state, scoring only 40. It struggles with the highest kidnapping at 63.9, vandalism at 1226, and sex offense rate at 129.4 per 100,000 residents.
- Colorado, the second most dangerous state with a score of 49.2, has the second-highest larceny/theft rate of 2087.6 per 100,000 residents.
- Pennsylvania is third from the bottom, marked by a score of 52.8 and challenged by the highest homicide rate of 25.2 per

100,000 residents.

To access the full ranking, detailed

analysis, and methodology, I invite you to explore the complete study here.



83-y/o Lynnwood woman killed after kidnapping suspect flees police

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood resident Trudy Slanger, 83, was killed after kidnapping and domestic violence assault suspect, Robert Rowland, 37, of Kenmore, stuck her vehicle in a head-on collision fleeing from law enforcement around 8 p.m., Thursday, April 11, at SR-525 and 148th Street SW in unincorporated Lynnwood. Rowland is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the fatal crash.

Earlier, Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office deputies had been pursuing Rowland for Assault 1 DV and kidnapping of an adult female victim, 34, of Monroe, who was inside the suspect’s vehi-

cle at the time of the crash, the Sheriff’s Office informed the Lynnwood Times. Sheriff deputies terminated pursuit of Rowland’s vehicle when it veered onto oncoming traffic on SR- 525 in the wrong direction—heading southbound onto northbound SR-525.

Trudy Slanger was traveling in her vehicle northbound on SR-525 when it was struck head-on by Rowland. The suspect’s vehicle then rolled over, caught fire, and came to a rest on top of barrier dividing northbound and southbound lanes. SR-525 was closed in both directions for several hours as traffic was diverted to HWY 99 and Alderwood Mall Parkway. All traffic was

Continued PAGE 10 >>

GOP challenger for Secretary of State advocates for secure voter registration



Senator Phil Fortunato

AUBURN—Having served on com-

mittees and boards that provide oversight and policy changes on elections for nearly a decade, state Senator Phil Fortunato is running to be Washington's next election's chief as Secretary of State.

Senator Phil Fortunato awarded the Legislator of the Year in 2022 by the King County Police Guild because he "stood steadfast as a supporter of public safety throughout a very difficult year for law enforcement."

"The Secretary of State is the second most important elected position in

Washington, and we simply cannot have one party controlling the entire process from registrations to election legislation, to counting the ballots," said Fortunato.

While most people who talk about election security are focusing on counting ballots, Fortunato points out it all starts with the registration process. He has sponsored legislation to stress-test the state's elections systems for vulnerabilities, in addition to a comprehensive

Continued PAGE 10 >>

*Beloved mother,
grandmother, and
great-grandmother*

Nancy L. Patterson, 88



On April 2, 2024, Nancy L. Patterson of Chicago, Illinois passed peacefully into the presence of her Saviour. She was surrounded by her family in her

final days.

She grew up in Southern California with her beloved parents Charles and Lillian Brown, her sister Sally, and brother, John. She married her sweetheart Bill Patterson in October 1955 in La Crescenta where they raised three daughters. Nancy worked as an Office Manager and Medical Assistant for various physicians over the course of her career. She was known for her professionalism, delightful personality, and sense of fashion.

Nancy especially loved music and played piano and organ for church over the years. She loved attending Dixieland Jazz festivals with her brother and his wife. Another favorite destination was Hawaii each year with family or friends. These events were always a highlight of her time away from work.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her sister and brother, her three daughters, as well as 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren (with 3 more on the way).

Nancy is lovingly laid to rest at Floral Hills Cemetery in Lynnwood, WA.

Wright told the Lynnwood Times that there is no better feeling than working hard on projects that finally materialize and becomes successful. She used the example of the Meadowdale Project which she was initially told was not possible because of the different jurisdictions and the railroads 12 years ago when it was first introduced.

"It takes a decade sometimes and you're in it going no one's going to know we did this, and we might not be possible, but when it happens, and you see people out and enjoying your project. If you go to Meadowdale Beach nobody knows Steph Wright worked on that, well maybe my friends and family because they heard me talk about it," said Wright. "Whenever I go to a park with my family, I always think somebody made this happen. Somewhere in this park is a plaque of somebody we don't remember but I'm so glad that this is here. It's so exciting to realize that you've left something for the future. Nobody will know it was you but there's a whole beach here, a whole estuary, because your team didn't let you give up."

Wright continued that she believes it's better to try and fail than to fail because one didn't even try.

from page 2 **POMPEO**

spent a lot of time convincing North Korea's Chairman Kim to give up his nuclear weapons but to no avail.

Pompeo added that the current Russian operation in Ukraine is a direct result of decisions President Biden's administration has made and their failure of not keeping an effective risk-level for Russia with the weapons the U.S. gifted Ukraine.

"Think about this: A mother in Moscow puts her baby to sleep and does not fear a thing. A mother in Kiev, in Ukraine, puts her baby to sleep and prays that a missile doesn't attack their home. When that asymmetry exists it's a green light for the bad guys," said Pompeo. "It's in America's best interest that Vladimir Putin not win."

As far as the conflict between Israel and Palestine, Pompeo took a stance

stating that Jerusalem is the rightful Holy Land of the Jewish people and a healthy Middle East means a healthy United States because "we've had to send our children to fight in the Middle East too many times."

"We have one deep, longtime friend and ally that is with us no matter what — that's the Israelis. Not only are they a democracy but there's the greatest chance of anywhere in the Middle East for religious freedom. If you're a Muslim you can practice your faith, a Jew, a Christian, you can practice your faith. In many places in the Middle East that's not true," said Pompeo.

Pompeo noted he has visited Israel several times and he was headed back there directly after finishing up the Sunday's event at Westgate Church.

In late March of this year, Pompeo was asked if he were being considered by presumptive Republican Presidential

nominee, Donald J Trump, as a potential vice presidential running mate. He noted he would be "pretty inclined to do so and join the team," he told the Guy Benson Show on March 28.

Former President Trump told reporters at FOX News, just weeks earlier, that he had consolidated his potential running mate list to a handful of options, Pompeo being one of them. Other names on that list included Florida Senator Marco Rubio, New York Representative Elise Stefanik, and former Trump Cabinet official Ben Carson.

Running mates are traditionally announced around July or August of the Presidential Election year.

Upcoming Apologia speaker series events at Edmonds' Westgate Chapel include best-selling author and radio host Eric Matas on June 9 at 6 p.m., and FOX News Host and author Pete Hegseth on September 15 at 6 p.m.

from page 1 **WRIGHT**

Officer for Snohomish County into her new role was natural for her. Much of the work Wright was doing at the county-level already involved federal relations such as grants, earmarks, appropriations, and that is exactly what she's going to be doing with Strategies 360 for counties and cities across Washington.

"It's a direct translation, it's just an expansion of what I was doing for the county," said Wright.

Since working for Snohomish County, Wright has been building a federal program and forming relationships with several federal partners, helping the county's different departments become well-versed in what options exist at the federal level. In turn, she ensured the county's federal partners were well-versed in the county's many departments to holistically support the county's needs as far as transportation, economic development, and environmental projects.

"Getting that scope and that understanding to our federal team and then again having our departments really know where the opportunities are, where we fit in, and how we can plan ahead for, especially these congressional, direct, spending opportunities (also called earmarks)," said Wright.

Just one of the many things Wright is looking forward to in her new role is assisting the small towns Hawaii to access federal resources for infrastructure,

transportation, and climate conservation. Wright told the Lynnwood Times it gives her "goosebumps" when she thinks about everything these entities are capable of when they're matched up with federal money.

"This is community building, this is grassroots, this is infrastructure, roads, highways, culverts, economic development, all of those things that really help rebuild communities — I get to work on all the good stuff," said Wright. "I'm so excited to help entities match up with these funds. These projects really help communities. Being able to help on that front is my fuel every day."

Though a Seattle-based company, Wright's position is based out of Washington, D.C., with monthly trips back to Washington.

Wright told the Lynnwood Times she wasn't necessarily looking for a new job when the opportunity at Strategies 360 arose. She had known the founder, Ron Dotzauer, since 2000 and when an opportunity at his company surfaced, that aligned with her skillset and goals, she threw her name in the bucket believing that it was everything she loved about her former positions but more expanded.

"I am so thrilled that Stephanie has joined our team," said Ron Dotzauer, Founder and CEO of Strategies 360. "She is a phenom who can bring people together to tackle complex issues, gain confidence, and build momentum to execute large, mission-critical projects that benefit both public and private in-

terests."

Prior to joining the world of politics, Wright was a High School teacher and High School librarian. It was through working in education that drew her into politics to begin with, she told the Lynnwood Times. What started as standing up for teacher's rights and education-based issues led to a career on the Lynnwood City Council, then to Chair of the County Council, and then an Executive Policy Officer.

Beginning her career as a teacher helped "frame" Wright's approach to several political issues, she continued, such as understanding that various people have various viewpoints on things, but all need the necessary tools to do the best that they can.

"I've never framed myself as a politician but more of a public servant. I became an accidental politician just because I started showing up to town hall meetings advocating for things like class sizes and teacher's pay," said Wright. "Giving people the tools to advocate so that we can all make our case and better our situations, be it a personal situation, or a city situation, or a community situation it's really understanding the playing field and the tools...and then a whole lot of patience."

As opportunities presented themselves to Wright, she could not help but try and expand the scope of what she wished to accomplish. Her newest role with Strategies 360 is just the latest example of this.



Josi Jones, recipient of the 2024 Good Samaritan Award at the third annual Support 7 gala on April 13, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

from page 6 LYNNWOOD CRIME

diverted to Alderwood Mall Parkway from around 9:00 p.m. Thursday night until about 3 a.m., Friday morning.

The fatal incident, now being investigated by the Washington State Patrol, left Slinger dead with Rowland, injured, transported to Harborview Medical Center and his female passenger, also injured, transported to Providence.

Rowland is now facing additional charges of vehicular DV, DUI, and Murder 2.



in all the support that they give,” Lynnwood Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby told the Lynnwood Times. “There are a lot of community members in Snohomish County that they serve even those who are not Native English speakers.”

During the award ceremony Josie Jones received the 2024 Good Samaritan Award,

“At one point the Lord pointed out to me that I like to talk to people and I like to listen to people, it’s just all the glory goes to the Lord for him using those things in my life,” said award recipient Josie Jones. “Thank you guys for honoring me and I’m humbled by the work the Lord allows me to do.”

Each ticket sold for Support 7’s annual fundraising reception included entry, hearty appetizers provided by Chef Dane Catering, beverages (beer, wine, and non-alcoholic), a chance to bid on amazing items at the Silent Auction, and a seat for the main event. After the event concluded, patrons could continue the fun and the giving by going out to dinner at Todo Mexico or Moonshine BBQ in Lynnwood who agreed to graciously give back a portion back to the non profit.

The first Support 7 annual fundraising dinner took place at Westgate Chapel in Edmonds in October of 2019 and had approximately 300 guests.

from page 1 SUPPORT 7

and an award ceremony, a live auction, a desert dash, and ending in a panel discussion to conclude the evening.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the nonprofit which assists public safety agencies to effectively care for victims in need during events of trauma, directly partnering with South Snohomish County first responders.

Support 7 partners with local first re-

sponders and assists them as well as victims in moments of crisis such as unexpected natural deaths, death by suicide, homicide and other fatalities. It provides individuals a private place with water and snacks where they can step away from the crisis, onlookers, and potential media they may not want to deal with at the moment. Support 7 also provides a connection to other resources like grief counselors, funeral services, medical examiner office, etc.

The organization also responds with its mobile unit to care for displaced victims’ & families from house and com-

mercial fires, SWAT callouts, and vehicle collisions involving pedestrians.

The Support 7 also has a mobile dispatch team of emergency-trained volunteers to respond on-scene, in a van converted into a temporary private shelter, providing victims with an immediate space offering connection to resources and support.

“Support 7 is a great organization. A former council member is now the Executive Director and we’re just here to do whatever we can to support Shannon,” said Lynnwood Council President George Hurst.

The evening commenced with a few words by Sessions before she introduced Cindy Cinema who she first met many years ago on the response team of Behind the Badge Foundation. Cinema is also a longtime chaplain and director of the Grief Companion Project which Support 7 directly collaborates with and has worked with grief and trauma for many years.

Accompanying Cinema was Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon and Michael Cheong, the event’s auctioneer,

“I support Support 7. They are very aware of how diverse Snohomish County is and they are very intentional

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bipartisan bill that would have made Washington’s elections more secure.

Fortunato argues that while focusing on testing ballot-counting machines and ensuring electronic security is currently being done, there are potential vulnerabilities in the registration process.

“While on the Election Administration and Certification Board I’ve been told how secure our registration process is. When I laid out problematic scenarios, I was assured that multiple or duplicate registrations would be caught,” Fortunato said. “We hire hackers to test electronic security, but not the registration process. The fact is that motor voter laws and documentation loopholes are serious vulnerabilities allowing non-citizens to register and duplicate registrations. To ensure the electorate that the entire process is secure, I say let’s test it.”

Fortunato also highlights lesser-known but just as important functions of the Secretary of State that impact election fairness. His opponent recently declined to take a position on upholding the bipartisan, constitutionally enacted maps in recent redistricting lawsuits.

“Since the Secretary of State took no position, the state Attorney General declined to represent the people in the courts, effectively leaving the defense of the constitution to progressive activists. This would not happen on my watch,” Fortunato said.

Fortunato is asking voters to consider, “With the legislature and all state executive offices being dominated by one party, there is no independent voice to push back on laws that may weaken or dilute their vote.”

He strongly opposes Democrat proposals for ranked choice voting or mandatory voting, which would fine voters who choose not to exercise their right to vote. “The people of Washington must decide if they want to allow the foxes to guard the hen house or a watchdog,” added Fortunato.

ABOUT PHIL FORTUNATO

Fortunato, an Auburn, King County resident, has served as the district’s senator since being appointed in 2017 after being elected to the state House in 2016. He previously served as a state Representative from 1998-2000. Fortunato’s work in Olympia has focused on increased government accountability, tax fairness, and protecting citizens’ rights.

Fortunato attended Rutgers University, Cook College of Agriculture. He is a small business owner, providing consulting and training on environmental regulation compliance. Married for over 40 years, Fortunato is a father of five, three of whom are decorated U.S. Marines. Phil is active in his church and community and supports philanthropic activities including housing low-income families, Knights of Columbus, Project Rachel, and domestic violence issues.



Panelist at the third annual Support 7 gala on April 13, 2024. SOURCE: Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

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