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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Mayor presents Lynnwood Council with a 23 percent city budget increase



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell (center) with the City Council at September 23rd's Public Hearing on the 2025-26 preliminary biennium budget. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Questions surrounding deficits, property tax increases, and senior city leadership salaries led the \$156 million preliminary 2025-26 biennium general fund budget discussion presented to council members during Monday's Public Hearing.

"So, our two-year revenue is estimated to be \$152 million, our two-year expenditure is estimated to be \$156 million; so, if I am reading that correctly, we are forecasting a deficit of [roughly] \$4 million between revenues and our expenditures over that two-year period," Councilman Patrick Decker said.

"We are a long way behind, and we are going to have to figure out how we make this work without driving the citizens and residents of Lynnwood into the poorhouse with taxes," Decker replied to Finance Director Michelle Meyer, who confirmed that the biennium budget has approximately an additional \$3.3 million of "requests" not factored into it yet.

If approved without additional revenues the biennium general fund budget deficit would increase to an estimated \$7.3 mil-

Continued **PAGE 9**

Seattle Center named official fan site for the FIFA World Cup

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SEATTLE—The Seattle FIFA World Cup 26™ Organizing Committee (SeattleFWC26) and Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell announced Tuesday, October 1, that the city will be hosting the official Seattle Fan Celebration for the FIFA World Cup 26 at the Seattle Center.

The Fan Celebration is expected to serve as a destination for the, estimated, 750,000 visitors who will visit Seattle and the region over the course of the soccer tournament.

"Located within the heart of the city, Seattle Center is the perfect location for the Seattle Fan Celebration," said Peter Tomozawa, CEO of Seattle FWC26. "This fan experience will create a place where fans – whether residents or visitors – can come together to watch live

Continued **PAGE 10**

Northshore educator named WA State 2025 Teacher of the Year



(L-R) Geancarla "Carla" Shanks Morales of Orcas Island Elementary, 2024 Classified School Employee of the Year, and Kim Broomer of Ruby Bridges Elementary, Washington State 2025 Teacher of the Year. SOURCE: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

OLYMPIA—Northshore School District's Kim Broomer of Ruby Bridges Elementary was announced the Washington State 2025 Teacher of the Year

in Olympia on Saturday, September 28. She was one of eight finalists across the state considered for the prestigious award. Geancarla "Carla" Shanks Morales of Orcas Island Elementary with in the Orcas Island School District was

awarded the 2024 Classified School Employee of the Year.

"I love my job," Broomer said after receiving her award. "I have such a cool job. I have taught kindergarten for 22 years. Kindergarten kids are just so cool and funny, and they share all of their family's business, and I just love that. Yet I hadn't realized for so long in my career that certain kids were actually being segregated from my classroom.

Broomer continued, "I always thought that Special Ed kids weren't my jam... there are other teachers for that. When I moved to Ruby Bridges Elementary and I met my principal, Cathi Davis, she explained her mission and her vision for including all kids in meaningful ways in all spaces, and then relentlessly helped us pursue that every day with all of our kids, I realized how much work we all have to do; how much work I have to do.

"So, I am going to be using this platform to talk about inclusion but also belonging and thinking about who belongs at every given space...who genuinely and

Continued **PAGE 8**

Reps Larsen and DelBene join the picket line with Boeing Machinists in Everett



Striking Boeing IAM 751 workers on the picket lines outside of Boeing's Everett factory on Friday, September 27, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02) and Suzan DelBene (WA-01) joined striking Boeing IAM 751 workers on the picket lines outside of Boeing's Everett factory on Friday, September 27, to hear their concerns and to show support to union members' efforts to negotiate a fair contract with Boeing.

"They are very dedicated to each other, they are dedicated to the community, and they understand that a strong community, a strong local economy depends upon a strong union and depends upon a strong Boeing company," Rep. Larsen said.

"I just want to be out here and meet with workers, support their right to organizer and their right to collectively bargain and strong compensation," Rep. DelBene told reporters. "They are the backbone of the company, and the backbone of our community."

Representative Larsen, ranking member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee, heard testimony on Tuesday, September 24, from FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker on the agency's oversight of Boeing's corrective action plan following Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 incident.

"Our hearing showed he is using his authority, he is taking action to hold Boeing accountable," Larsen told reporters on Friday. "Our job in Congress is to hold the FAA accountable to these new authorities and use them so that we know safety is always going to come first when we are building airplanes."

The strike is entering its third week. IAM Union leadership on blasted Boeing for emailing its "best and final" offer "directly to all members and the media without any prior communication" to the union's negotiating team.

"This tactic is a blatant show of disrespect to you – our members – and the bargaining process," wrote the Union Negotiating Committee in a statement on X released last Monday evening.

"After talking with the workers [on the picket line], there's this long simmering tensions that seem to go back beyond the last couple of years, back maybe 10 to 12 to 15 years," Larsen said. "The company needs to recognize that."

If approved by union members, according to Boeing, the average annual machinist pay at the end of the proposed 4-year contract would increase from \$75,608 a year to \$111,155. In its final offer to IAM 751 & W24 members:



Representatives Rick Larsen (WA-02) and Suzan DelBene (WA-01) joined striking Boeing IAM 751 workers on the picket lines outside of Boeing's Everett factory on Friday, September 27, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

- Boeing committed to building its next new airplane, in the Puget Sound region.
- A general wage increase of 30% over four years.
- A ratification bonus of \$6,000.
- A reinstatement of the Aerospace Machinists Performance Program (AMPP) bonus.
- A one-to-one match on the first 8% an employee contributes to Boeing's 401(k) plan
- A lower cost share for health care
- A new employee annual floating holiday

"What is so hard about that?"

IAM says Boeing's final offer doesn't go far enough, demanding a pay increase of 40 percent and for Boeing to reinstate the company's defined-benefit pension program, which members voted in January of 2014 to replace with Boeing's 401(k) plan.

Talks did resume on September 30 but both sides are holding firm.

"We just want to have an honest living and just enjoy life while we can," Johnny Kheng, an IAM 751 member who works on the production line at Boeing told the Lynnwood Times on Friday.

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Upcoming Elections Explained events at libraries

BY SNOHOMISH COUNTY AUDITOR

In partnership with the League of Women Voters and Sno-Isle Libraries, Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell launches Elections Explained, a series of information sessions to share insights into the process of voting and administering elections ahead of the 2024 Presidential Election.

The Elections Explained sessions will be hosted at seven public libraries across Snohomish County in September and October. Snohomish County residents curious about the voting and election processes can get answers to their questions straight from Auditor Fell.

Snohomish County residents interested in attending should register and submit their questions in advance using the online form from Snohomish County Elections.

Snohomish County Elections, a division of the Auditor's Office, administers elections and manages the voter registration process for Snohomish County voters. Its mission is to conduct fair, accountable elections and encourage people to understand and participate in the voting process.

"As the November election approaches, we are ramping up efforts to provide accurate information to voters through

this Elections Explained series," said Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell. "If you have questions or are curious how our local elections administrators deliver accurate, secure elections, I encourage you to attend an Elections Explained session to learn more."

Dates and Registration Links for Elections Explained:

- Wed. Oct. 9 | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Lynnwood Library
- Sat. Oct. 12 | 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Granite Falls Library
- Tues. Oct. 15 | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Mountlake Terrace Library

"The nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Snohomish County is proud to partner with Snohomish County Elections and Sno-Isle Libraries to enable voters to get answers to their questions about our elections, including the security and safeguards in place that ensure the ongoing reliability of our democratic process in Snohomish County," said the President of the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County Cathy Liu Scott. "Along with the hard-earned right to vote in our American republic comes the responsibility to obtain and share accurate information. Voters deserve this clarity so that we maintain the integrity of our constitutional institutions."


"Libraries provide access to election

ELECTIONS EXPLAINED

A Q&A event series with your Trusted Election Experts


Curious about the voting process and election security in Snohomish County? Get the answers to your questions this fall at *Elections Explained*, an event series hosted by Snohomish County Elections, Sno-Isle Libraries, and the League of Women Voters.




These informational sessions, led by Auditor Garth Fell, will take place in September and October at public libraries throughout the County. Scan the QR code to see event dates, times, and locations.



SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE!

To ensure our elections experts address the topics that matter most to you, please submit your questions in advance.





and candidate information, voter registration, and voting ballot boxes to support democracy," said Sno-Isle Libraries Executive Director Lois Langer Thompson. "Sno-Isle Libraries is hosting Snohomish County Elections and the League of Women Voters to strengthen our understanding of elections processes through this Elections Explained series."

As part of its larger outreach efforts to encourage people to understand and participate in the voting process, Sno-

homish County Elections has partnered with local transit agencies to post informational promotions on local buses with the same theme of Elections Explained.



SCAN FOR EVENTS WEBSITE



SCAN FOR EVENT REGISTRATION

New Utility Billing Payment website, Lynnwood customers to re-enroll by Nov 15

BY CITY OF LYNNWOOD

LYNNWOOD—The City of Lynnwood has completed upgrades to its Utility Billing Payment System. Beginning today, September 12, 2024, Lynnwood Utility Customers who currently use auto-payment or the Self-Service website will need to log in and take action by November 15, 2024.

If you already have a login for the current Lynnwood Self-Service website, your login and password will be the same for the new site. If you have an auto-pay enrollment, you will need to log into the new site, link your utility account, and re-enroll in auto-pay. Visit www.LynnwoodWA.gov/UB and click "Pay Your Bill" to visit the new site or follow the link below.


Features of the new site include:

- Quick Pay – You do not need to create a login to make a payment
- New E-check payment method for all payment types (Quick Pay, Scheduled, One-time, or Auto Pay)
- Scheduled Payments – you can schedule Quick Pay or One-time payments in advance
- Auto Pay – If you are currently enrolled in auto-pay, you will need

to log into the site, link your utility account, and enroll in auto-pay by November 15, 2024. Enrolling on the new site will replace your old auto-pay setup. If you are not currently enrolled in auto-pay, click the Enroll link after logging in to the new site and follow the prompts.

Although Quick Pay is new, creating an online account allows for easy saving and updating of payment methods, including auto-pay enrollments. You can also set up email reminders for bills and payments, view consumption, and access your bills and account activity in your online account.

Visit www.LynnwoodWA.gov/UB and click "Pay Your Bill" to visit the new site or follow the link below.



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Trial date set for whistleblower who refused to lie about Cap-and-Trade / CCA scheme

By MARIO LOTMORE

BACKGROUND

OLYMPIA—A trial date has been set in the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) whistleblower lawsuit, brought by the Citizen Action Defense Fund (CADF) on behalf client Scott Smith. The trial has been scheduled for August 18, 2025, in Thurston County Superior Court. The parties are proceeding with discovery, which according to the scheduling order, will need to be completed in March of 2025.

MOTION TO DISMISS: CADF WIN

Earlier this year, WSDOT filed a Motion to Dismiss, attempting to stop the whistleblower lawsuit from moving forward. Thurston County Superior Court Judge Anne Egeler ruled in CADF’s favor, stating that she found legal merit to the case. CADF Executive Director Jackson Maynard argued the motion for Smith and CADF.

In March 2024, CADF filed the whistleblower lawsuit on behalf of Smith, a state employee who refused to lie about cap-and-trade fuel costs. Smith was allegedly pressured by WSDOT to change the numbers in his fuel estimates and reports so that they wouldn’t indicate that the cap-and-trade scheme was significantly impacting the cost of fuel.

This pressure was applied right as Governor Jay Inslee was publicly blaming and accusing the fuel industry of lying about the cost of his program. When Smith refused to change his estimate to fit Governor Inslee’s narrative – which was dictated by simple math – he was forced out of state service.

In December of 2023, CADF filed a tort claim form and sent a demand letter formally notifying the state of Smith’s claim. The state refused to pay the claim

or present a counteroffer, and the 60-day statutory time period elapsed, so filing a lawsuit is the next step in the process.

The suit seeks an unspecified amount of damages, including loss of wages and pension, loss of reputation, and punitive damages. The lawsuit asserts four causes of action:

- Two statutory whistleblower retaliation claims
- One wrongful termination claim
- One negligence claim.

“We are pleased that the case is proceeding and for the opportunity to try this matter before a jury next summer,” said Jackson Maynard, Executive Director and Counsel for the Citizen Action Defense Fund. “The state pushed our client out of state service for serving his role with integrity, and that is why we are proud to be here fighting for WSDOT to be held accountable.”

The Citizen Action Defense Fund (CADF) on December 19, 2023, submitted formal complaints with the civil rights divisions of both the Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Washington related to allegations that the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office’s (KCPAO) mismanaged juvenile sexual assault cases and violated the civil rights of sexual assault survivors.

In August of 2023, the Citizen Action Defense Fund launched an investigation into alleged discrimination of Lynnwood Public Facilities District (PFD) board member Vivian Dong by Board Chair Mike Miller and Executive Director Janet Pope for their latest treatment of the newly appointed board member during Lynnwood Luau in 2023. As of September 2024, PFD has yet to provide all the requested documentation to local media and law firms regarding their investigations.

New FBI data shows Washington state surpassing national crime average

BY MARIO LOTMORE

LACEY—Recently released 2023 FBI crime data shows, for the last five consecutive years when comparing Washington state to the national average, murders are 408% higher, vehicle thefts higher by 144%, and burglaries, robberies, and aggravated assaults are all higher since 2019.

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) released its annual crime data report on Tuesday, July 9, which compiles crime data across the state. Overall, the report found that crime rates were down across the board in Washington State when comparing 2022 to 2023; yet hate crimes and vehicular thefts continue to climb.

Still, crime rates have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels and Washington State still ranks last in the nation for commissioned police officers per capita, which precipitated during and after the Goerge Floyd riots, and antipolice rhetoric and what some called poor legislation from lawmakers.

When comparing 2019 to 2023 FBI crime statistics released on Monday, September 24, 2024, for the last five years, the data shows that:

- In Washington State, the increase in murders is more than five times higher than the national trend—87.4% (WA) vs. 17.2% (US), and that the murder rate increased in Washington state more than 80.8% since 2019.
- Violent crime rates have increased 19.6% in the last five years in Washington state, while nationally it has decreased 4.1%.
- Aggravated assault crime rates (per 100,000) have increased 27.3% since 2019 in the state, while nationally it increased 5.6%—an almost a 5 times higher rate than in the United States.
- Vehicle theft rates have increased 110.2% since 2019 in Washington state, while rising 44.9% nationally. The vehicle theft rate in Washington state is more than twice the national rate—318.7 per 100,000 nationally vs. 673.7 per 100,000 in Washington state.

	Crime Totals			Crime Rates Per 100,000		
	2019	2023	% Difference	2019	2023	% Difference
Violent Crime (US)	1,245,410	1,218,467	-2.2%	379.4	363.8	-4.1%
Violent Crime (WA)	22,377	27,641	23.5%	293.9	351.5	19.6%
Murder (US)	16,425	19,252	17.2%	5.0	5.7	14.0%
Murder (WA)	198	371	87.4%	2.6	4.7	80.8%
Rape (US)	139,815	127,216	-9.0%	42.6	38.0	-10.8%
Rape (WA)	3,332	2,880	-13.6%	43.8	36.6	-16.4%
Robbery (US)	267,988	222,795	-16.9%	81.6	66.5	-18.5%
Robbery (WA)	5,147	6,371	23.8%	67.6	81.0	19.8%
Aggravated Assault (US)	821,182	884,550	7.7%	250.2	264.1	5.6%
Aggravated Assault (WA)	13,700	18,019	31.5%	179.9	229.1	27.3%
All Property Crimes (US)	6,925,977	6,419,149	-7.3%	2109.9	1916.7	-9.2%
All Property Crimes (WA)	204,224	223,535	9.5%	2681.9	2842.4	6.0%
Burglary (US)	1,117,696	839,563	-24.9%	340.5	250.7	-26.4%
Burglary (WA)	34,540	37,176	7.6%	453.6	472.7	4.2%
Larceny-Theft (US)	5,086,096	4,512,064	-11.3%	1549.5	1347.2	-13.1%
Larceny-Theft (WA)	145,282	133,379	-8.2%	1907.9	1696.0	-11.1%
Vehicle Theft (US)	721,885	1,067,522	47.9%	219.9	318.7	44.9%
Vehicle Theft (WA)	24,402	52,980	117.1%	320.5	673.7	110.2%

Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>. Chart provided by WASPC.

- While the rate of robberies in Washington state has increased 19.8% over the past five years, they have decreased nationally by 18.5%.

“WASPC calls on our state’s policy makers to provide balanced public safety approaches that respect victims, provide for adequate and meaningful consequences for criminal behavior, support fair and transparent policing, and increase staffing and support for law enforcement,” Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director of WASPC released in a statement regarding Monday’s

FBI data statistics.

The per capita rate of law enforcement officers fell to 1.35 per thousand statewide in 2023, which is the lowest per capita rate ever recorded. The national average is about 2.31. Just to meet the average Washington needs to hire 8,000 officers, an increase of over 80%.

This is the thirteenth straight year Washington State has ranked last in its number of law enforcement officers per capita.



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Community Transit Invites New Riders to Take Public Transit



By COMMUNITY TRANSIT

Community Transit recently launched a major service expansion, bringing more public transit options to people in Snohomish County. The service expansion and connections to four new light rail stations — one in Lynnwood, another in Mountlake Terrace, and two new stations in Shoreline — have sparked a renewed interest in local transit options. Many people in the region are taking public transit for the first time.

MORE TRIPS, SHORTER WAITS

New and returning riders will enjoy more trip options and less waiting between rides. Changes include:

- **An expanded network:** Community Transit now provides even more frequent and reliable local bus service with a 32% increase in service hours compared to 2023. This increase over last year includes the new Swift Orange Line and an expansion of Swift Blue Line.
- **More regional connections:** Parking is limited, and buses are a convenient alternative to driving to light rail stations. Six new express routes offer quicker and more efficient travel options during peak travel times to seamlessly connect riders to light rail stations.

GETTING STARTED

Community Transit's website offers trip-planning tools to make getting started easy.

- **Plan My Trip:** Find the best route for your journey.
- **Find My Bus:** See when your bus

will arrive with real-time location information.

- **Rider Alerts:** Sign up for Rider Alerts to receive notifications about schedule changes or delays.

And for even more help, call Customer Care at (425) 353-RIDE (7433) or visit the Ride Store at the Lynnwood City Center Station. Travel Training can also help people who would like more support learning to ride. In this free training program, a travel trainer rides with you every step of the way until you're comfortable riding alone.

FARES & SAVINGS

With an ORCA card, pay just \$2.50 for adult fares, \$1.25 for discounted fares for riders who qualify, and ride for free if you're 18 or younger. An ORCA card makes paying your fare easy and saves you money. When you pay using an ORCA card, fares can be transferred to other buses and light rail for two hours. Riders can also pay with exact change or with a debit or credit card at Swift stations.

TRAVEL FOR ALL

Community Transit buses and stops are accessible, with ramps and wheelchair lifts, low floors, and kneeling features to assist in boarding. Riders who are unable to ride fixed-route buses may qualify for Community Transit's DART paratransit service. And for people who want to connect to transit by bike, every bus has a bike rack. Bike lockers are also available to rent at select transit centers.

With these tips and the expanded service, Community Transit is making it easier than ever for everyone to get around Snohomish County. Learn more at ctgo.org/transit4you.

To ensure small and BIPOC-owned businesses share in the economic benefits, SeattleFWC26 will also establish a business opportunity zone, the city said.

By opening the Fan Celebration site at the Seattle Center, the city hopes to provide an accessible fan experience. The Seattle Center was chosen for the site for its easy reach to downtown hotels and the stadium district, by way of public transportation, bicycles, walking, and cars.

The capacity of the Seattle Center is estimated to hold up to 20,000 people

Sound Transit Fall 2024 Service Changes

Changes to Sound Transit services started with the opening of the Link 1 Line extension to Lynnwood on August 30, followed by changes to ST Express service operated by Pierce Transit on September 1. Changes to ST Express routes operated by Community Transit, and the Link 2 Line will take effect on September 14, and Sounder N Line, on September 16.

Changes effective August 30

Link 1 Line revenue service began between Lynnwood City Center and Angle Lake stations. Trains arrive every eight minutes during peak hours, and serve four new stations at:

- Lynnwood City Center
- Mountlake Terrace
- Shoreline North/185th
- Shoreline South/148th

Changes effective September 1

ST Express route operated by Pierce Transit is affected:

- 590 – schedule adjusted to address on-board crowding, and one early morning trip added at 10th and Commerce.

Changes effective September 14

Link 2 Line – schedule adjustments to accommodate pre-revenue activities and simulated service between Downtown Redmond and Redmond Technology stations.

The following ST Express routes operated by Community Transit will be affected:

- 510 – aligning the schedule to align with Sounder N trips by offsetting departure times at Everett Station in the morning and at 4th Avenue South and Jackson Street in the afternoon.
- 512 – route will connect to the 1 Line at Lynnwood instead of Northgate.
- 513 – route will connect to the 1 Line at Lynnwood instead of Northgate.
- 515 – new temporary route connecting Lynnwood and Seattle.
- 554 – route will use Eastgate P&R Bay 1 instead of East P&R Freeway Station
- 556 – route will use Eastgate P&R Bay 1 instead of East P&R Freeway Station

Changes effective September 16

- Sounder N Line – additional trips to provide more service options between Snohomish County and Seattle, and schedule changes to reflect current demand.

Other ST Express routes may have minor adjustments. Please see the full list of affected routes on our website: [Changes that affect my ride | Service changes | Sound Transit](#)

For trip planning assistance or other questions, contact Passenger Care at 888-889-6368, TTY Relay 711, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A language line is available to provide interpretation assistance for passengers who speak languages other than English at 800-823-9230, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sound Transit remains committed to working closely with its partners to continue serving the public. Efforts will continue to prioritize serving riders who depend on Sound Transit's services, including seniors, people with disabilities, Title VI protected populations (race, color, national origin), low-income and limited-English-proficiency populations.

Riders can sign up to receive automatic email service alerts for Link light rail, ST Express, Tacoma Link, Sounder Seattle-Everett and Sounder Seattle-Tacoma/Lakewood. Rider Alerts provide information about schedule changes and help riders plan trips around inclement weather. Just go to soundtransit.org/Subscribe-to-alerts.

at any given time but SeattleFWC26 plans to host nine additional fan zones throughout the tournament to accommodate everyone. The locations for these fan zones will be released in the coming months, the organization said.

"We're excited to welcome the world to Seattle, and create an interactive, exciting fan experience here at Seattle Center," said Mayor Bruce Harrell. "In 1962, Seattle hosted the World's Fair – building the iconic Space Needle and the Seattle Center campus to showcase the Northwest and our unique arts, culture, and heritage. In 2026, we'll once again proudly show off our dynamic and diverse city. We're creating a welcoming and exciting place to watch the matches, engage with fans, and experience the best of our region."

FIFA unveiled that Seattle is one of 16 host cities for its 2026 World Cup back in June of 2022.

"We congratulate the 16 FIFA World Cup Host Cities on their outstanding commitment and passion. Today is a historic day – for everyone in those cities and states, for FIFA, for Canada, the USA and Mexico who will put on the greatest show on Earth. We look forward to working together with them to deliver what will be an unprecedented FIFA World Cup and a game-changer as we strive to make football truly global," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

Representative Rick Larsen (D-Everett), co-chair of the Congressional Soccer Caucus, applauded the decision of FIFA leadership and tournament organizers to name Seattle as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

"The Pacific Northwest represents the future of soccer in North America, and Washingtonians are passionate about the beautiful game. I look forward to sharing with the world all that makes the Evergreen State special!"

from page 1 FIFA

broadcasts every Seattle match day, be entertained by local artists, participate in on-site activities, and enjoy local food & beverage. It will be the best place in Seattle to watch a match outside of the stadium itself.

The Fan Celebration will broadcast all Seattle-based FIFA World Cup matches and include entertainment, hospitality areas, sponsorship activations, education displays, and showcases for Made in Washington products, arts and crafts, and food and beverage.

Hundreds attend VOAWW's Hope is Brewing fundraiser

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Volunteers of America of Western Washington held its fifth annual Hope is Brewing fundraising event at the Lynnwood Event Center Friday, September 27, with the goal of raising the \$185,000 to support ongoing operations.

With approximately 400 attendees, Friday's event was VOA's largest ever in 120 years of operation. The organization took in \$156,775 from Friday's event.

VOAWW in partnership with travel writer Rick Steves, and the cities of Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, and Edmonds is championing the upcoming \$26.6 million Lynnwood Neighborhood Center that broke ground at Trinity Lutheran Church back in April and will serve 20,000 South Snohomish County residents annually when it opens October 2025.

The 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, housing a VOA Community Resource Center, medical, dental and behavioral health clinics, an early childcare education and assistance program (ECEAP) preschool, a Boys & 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.

VOA's, and its partners, goal is to open the facility fully funded and debt-free to allow nonprofit partners below market lease rates. After securing federal earmark dollars, and donations from private and public entities, and a successful fundraising campaign that launched last spring, the nonprofit has only a sliver to go to actualize this goal.

Friday's event kicked off with a breakfast and networking hour beginning at 7 a.m. before Dr. Steve Woodard, Vice President of Community Engagement for VOA and emcee for the morning event, took the mic to share some words and read a land and service tribute. Former Washington state Senator and now Vice President of External Affairs, Kirk Pearson, then shared a quick invocation.

"Every year this event reminds us that together we can make an incredible impact on the lives of others in our community and right here," said Dr. Woodard.

Brian Smith, President and CEO of VOA, then shared some gratitude for the organization's Board of Directors and his staff of roughly 850 employees. Smith then shared a story about Tricia, a woman who slept in a car with her family and four young children and how, through the virtue of one of VOA's programs, she transitioned from homelessness to living in a house and having a stable job.

"That is the impact of your support," said Smith. "Our mission has always been to empower people and to strengthen communities in need and it's at the heart of everything we do."

Brenda Priest, Executive Director of Personal Support for VOA, followed



Brian Smith, President and CEO of VOA of Western Washington, speaking at the fifth annual Hope is Brewing fundraising event on September 27, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.



Dr. Steve Woodard, Vice President of Community Engagement for VOA and emcee at the fifth annual Hope is Brewing fundraising event on September 27, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

The Carl Gibson Center is a membership-based community serving adults 50+, veterans, individuals with disabilities, underserved communities, immigrants, youth, and families.

"As we continue this morning, I hope you can feel the profound impact your support has on each and every person we serve," said Priest.

Levi Van Dyke, Chief Behavioral Health Officer for VOA, reminded attendees that September is Suicide Prevention month and informed everyone about the tragic reality of suicide being the nation's second leading cause of death for young people aged 10 to 24.

"Last year our trained counselors answered nearly 155,000 calls and over 95,000 chats or texts. We provide support to thousands of young people each month including our work to support the national 988 chat to text service," said Van Dyke. "These aren't just numbers. These are cries for help from our neighbors, our children, reaching out for someone to tell them we're not alone. That's 250,000 moments when we were there to offer hope to someone who was lost, scared, and feeling like there was nowhere else to turn."

VOA's housing services program assisted over 3,000 households facing homelessness last year, and its 211 hotline connected people to services over 186,000 times, Marlydann Dugger, Site Director for VOA's Arlington Community Resource Center shared.

"This critical work saves lives and builds futures," said Dugger.

VOA Board Member Todd Brunner acknowledged the work and dedication of all of the VOA volunteers for their sacrifice and dedication to service but also pointed to need that only financial support can fill.

"Each of us has a power to create meaningful change. Your support will ensure that VOA can continue to offer lifesaving services, whether it's creating a lifeline to those in crises, shelter for families who have lost hope, or future for our youth who need someone to believe in them," said Brunner.

Prior to Brian Smith returning to the stage to close out the evening, Joe Hampson, Executive Director for the Community Resource Center programs, shared some updates to the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center.

"Rick Steves has this phrase he says the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center is a place where love and community connect, and I couldn't agree more," said Hampson. "It will be 40,000 square foot, one-stop shop for essential services designed to support our communities most diverse needs."

The fundraising event and breakfast were sponsored by FUSIONTEK, Puget Sound Energy, KTC, CPM, Coastal Community Bank, Paycom, and Fast Signs.

To donate to the Volunteers of America cause and upcoming Lynnwood Neighborhood Project visit: <https://www.voaww.org/donate>.

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Attorney Anne Bremner
 &
Mr. Krist Novoselic

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Smith to share some updates to VOA's food banks, senior and disabled people services, and assisting housing insecure individuals find housing and a job.

Priest referenced the VOA's Carl Gibson Center in Everett as example of provided much needed connection and activity for senior citizens.

The Grand Kyiv Ballet returns with Don Quixote

By KIENAN BRISCOE

ARLINGTON—Ukrainian-based ballet company Grand Kyiv Ballet is returning to Snohomish County on Friday, October 11, with their groundbreaking performance of Ludwig Minkus' *Don Quixote*, based on Miguel Cervantes' classic 1605 novel of the same name.

The ballet will be held at Arlington's Byrnes Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m., marking the ballet company's second Snohomish County appearance following its performance at the Edmonds Performing Arts Center on September 21.

Don Quixote is a ballet in three acts first performed by the Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet in 1869 with music written by Ludwig Minkus and choreography by Marius Petipa. Based on select chapters from Cervantes' eponymous tale about a low nobility man who reads so many chivalric romances he begins to believe himself to be a knight errant, Minkus' adaptation is an "enchanted performance filled with a fiery Spanish temperament paired with spectacular and technically difficult dance moves", the ballet company says.

The Grand Kyiv Ballet's performance revolves around the love story of the flirtatious Kitrig and the poor barber Basil, both prevented from being together by the bride's father, who plans to force his daughter to marry a more wealthy groom; Enter *Don Quixote* who attempts to assist the lovers receive Kitrig's father's blessing.

Headlining the cast of the Grand Kyiv Ballet's production is Viktor Tomashek (playing the role of Basil) and Anastasia Hurska (playing the role of Kitrig).



The Grand Kyiv Ballet performing *Don Quixote*. Photo courtesy of the Grand Kyiv Ballet

The decision to perform *Don Quixote*, which is jovial in nature and positive in theme, was directly influenced by the current war between Ukraine and Russia, Grand Kyiv Ballet Founder and Artistic Director Oleksandr Stoianov informed the Lynnwood Times.

"*Don Quixote* is a very positive ballet, it's very bright, has very nice costumes and very good music with a lot of technical movement," said Stoianov. "I think art is about positivity and healing for people, it's about joy. It's not about depression or politics. That's why I like to show beautiful productions...Most people know about the conflict in our country and the destruction of our cities but people must know about Ukraine from its art and cultural side. We have really beautiful and strong art."

Stoianov, originally from the Crimean peninsula in Ukraine, relocated to Seat-

tle after Russia invaded his home country in the winter of 2022 when he lost his home to the war. He founded the Grand Kyiv Ballet company in 2014 because most ballet dancers working in the country at the time worked for Russian Ballet companies, he said, and he wanted to showcase exclusively Ukrainian talent.

Stoianov has been dancing since the age of eight, beginning his career as a ballroom dancer. He made the swap to ballet after an esteemed ballet instructor saw one of his performances and convinced him to give it a try. Now, at the age of 36, 26 years of ballet dancing later, Stoianov strictly focuses on the business side of things as he informed the Lynnwood Times his age is no longer conducive to the technical maneuvers seen in his performances.

Before relocating to the Seattle area the Grand Kyiv Ballet has performed all

over the world with countries including France, China, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Poland, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, Chile, and many others. They have even performed for a list of royal families, politicians, and public figures.

What started as a group of about 25 ballet dancers, his company has now grown to approximately 60 dancers, spread between two teams (which is how the company can have two performances on the same night in two different locations).

Dancers in the Grand Kyiv Ballet now represent a diverse pool of different nationalities from Poland; to Spain; to the U.S.; to Italy and Iceland. Leading up to the opening performance of *Don Quixote* Stoianov informed the Lynnwood Times his dancers rehearsed for 10 hours a day for several months.

Tickets to the Grand Kyiv Ballet's performance of *Don Quixote* start at \$49 and can be purchased by clicking the link here.

Stoianov said that 20% of all ticket sales will be sent back to Ukraine to support art culture in his home country.

"Art is about finding strength and joy and bringing it to the audience even at times of dark terror, war and destruction. Resilience, strength and invincible spirit is what drives dancers to perform. They are not willing to let Russian aggression destroy their creativity and spirit and take away their lives," said Stoianov. "Art is not about politics, it is about people who refuses to give up and their unbreakable spirit, finding hope in the darkest moments"

from page 1 **TEACHER OF THE YEAR** authentically belong in the classroom."

State Superintendent Chris Reykdal thanked both Broomer and Morales, and the other nominees for their dedication to supporting children.

"You don't build a world-class economy like we have in Washington state without public education," Reykdal told attendees. "You don't create opportunities for 85,000 kids to leave the system every year to go into the workforce, to serve in the military, or go into a technical college, apprenticeship, or university. You don't do that without people you heard from here today."

"Kim Broomer represents the very best of Northshore School District," Northshore Superintendent Michael Tolley wrote to the Lynnwood Times. "Kim is unwavering in her commitment to inclusion and making sure that each and every student is supported, know they belong, and thrives academically and socially. We are all very proud of Kim and her work on behalf of our students. Congratulations to Kim on her recognition and being named the 2025 Washington State Teacher of the Year."

The Northshore School District is top ranked in student proficiency standards within Snohomish County school districts year-after-year. Approximately 23,230 students are enrolled in Northshore's schools with a 2023-24 school year 4-year high school graduation rate of 95.1%. The district has roughly 1,460 teachers with an average teaching experience of 12.4 years.

"Kim Broomer's commitment to creating spaces of belonging and connection while always magnifying the strengths of each student is remarkable," wrote Ruby Ridges Principal Cathi Davis to the Lynnwood Times. "She is deeply committed to the Ruby Bridges Elementary vision of inclusive community for each student and serves as a leader in our local, state and national engagement on inclusion. Kim is so deserving of this incredible award in recognition of her investment, her values and her legacy of service to students and families."

Broomer is a graduate of the University of Washington and holds a master's in teaching from City University. She has taught at Gig Harbor Academy, Lakeridge Elementary, and Kenmore Elementary schools prior to Ruby Bridges Elementary.

Her love of teaching stemmed from her mother, who for 33 years ran a small in-home daycare for birth to 5-year-olds.

Broomer has been recognized as "Ahead of the Class" by the Renton Chamber of Commerce, "Innovative Teacher of the Year" by the Northshore School Foundation and by the Seattle Seahawks as a "Hero in the Classroom."

NWESD 2025 Regional Teacher of the Year

A second Snohomish County educator was also nominated for Teacher of the Year, English teacher Kelly Guilfoil of Lake Stevens High School within the Lake Stevens School District. She was

named Northwest Educational Services District 2025 Regional Teacher of the Year.

Guilfoil received her bachelor's in education from Eastern Washington University and holds a master's in English from Bowling Green State University.

According to her nomination form, her favorite lessons are to get students solving problems and advocating for change. Her classes have designed special elections on district policy, built a website teaching teens how to become activists, and created "Teach a Boomer," a public collection of videos that share trending language, technology, and hobbies with older generations.

She brought Advanced Placement English Language to the Lake Stevens School District which provided access to college credit for hundreds of students. In 2021, she was selected as a state expert on standards-based grading and presented to the OSPI Student Learning Advisory Workgroup. Her classes have been featured in GOOD Magazine and the National Writing Project.

2025 Teacher of the Year Finalists:

- Teena Vaderholm, Washtucna School District, Northeast Washington Educational Service District (ESD) 101
- Lauren Thomas, Toppenish High School, Toppenish School District, ESD 105
- Rachel Lake, Ilwaco High School, Ocean Beach School District, ESD 112

- Andrew Landowski, Black Hills High School, Tumwater School District, Capital Region ESD 113
- Kristyne York, James Taylor High School, Belfair School District, Olympic ESD 114
- Kim Broomer, Ruby Bridges Elementary, Northshore School District, Puget Sound ESD 121
- Kristy Bishop, Moses Lake High School, Moses Lake School District, North Central ESD 171
- Kelly Guilfoil, Lake Stevens High School, Lake Stevens School District, Northwest ESD 189

2024 Classified School Employee of the Year Finalists:

- Tammy Ward, Mary Walker School District, ESD 101
- Erica Aparicio, Yakima Public Schools, Yakima School District, ESD 105
- Zach Claypool, Lexington Elementary School, Kelso School District, ESD 112
- Kathi Dahlstrom, Wishkah Valley School District, Capital Region ESD 113
- Carrie Johnson, Greywolf Elementary, Sequim School District, Olympic ESD 114
- Julie Herdt, Tukwila School District, Puget Sound ESD 121
- Maria Valle, Quincy School District, North Central ESD 171
- Geancarla "Carla" Shanks Morales, Orcas Island Elementary School, Orcas Island School District, Northwest ESD 189

from page 1 LYNNWOOD BUDGET

lion making an actual expenditure budget of just over \$159 million, not \$156 million as proposed. When comparing with approved biennium 2023-24 general fund budget of \$129.8 million, the proposed budget is a 20.3% increase or 22.8% with the additional unfactored “requests.”

In addition to the unfunded “requests” of \$3.3 million are additional monies for two maintenance workers for graffiti remediation and one human service coordinator—estimated at \$1 million—for other funds, Meyer told the Lynnwood Times. She expects to present the final numbers to the council on October 14.

The Mayor is proposing that the current deficit be covered by the estimated \$19 million end of year fund balance.

Meyer explained to the Lynnwood Times that the 2023-24 budget as proposed was balanced with General Fund revenues and expenditures equaling; however, the budget that was adopted in 2022 and then amended in 2023 reflected a lower property tax and additional expenditure levies approved by the council which created the “deficit” spending to start, subsequently reducing the fund balance.

In November of 2023, after heated debate from residents, the City Council approved a 5% increase (\$225,000) to the 2024 property tax levy, down from the mayor’s proposed 22% figure, or \$1 million.

In Monday’s proposed budget, the property tax is back; this time at an increase of 26.7% from its current rate of \$0.45 per \$1,000 to \$0.57 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would equate to an expected property tax revenue of \$12.9 million over two-years or an additional tax burden on homeowners of \$3.7 million (or an annual average increase of \$100 per household). Currently, the City has \$6.5 million in banked capacity which exceeds the proposed \$3.7 million property tax increase. Therefore, the council can approve the proposed 26.7% property tax increase without going to Lynnwood residents for a vote.

“When we start talking about levy rates, it’s immaterial. What we need to look at is what we are assessing as a budget amount for the property tax levy. So, it is a dollar figure, not a levy rate that we need to look at,” Council President George Hurst said after commenting on the higher-than-expected proposed property tax increase.

Historically, the Lynnwood property tax levy rate was \$0.57 per \$1,000 of assessed property value from years 2018 to 2020. The rate was lowered by 3 cents for 2021 and lowered to \$0.43 for 2023, then increased to its current rate of \$0.45 per \$1,000 later that year to begin in 2024.

According to historical tax levy rates compiled by the Lynnwood Times from the city of Lynnwood and property values from the Snohomish County Property Assessor, since 2018, the average home value within the city limits of Lynnwood has increased 80 percent, whereas the property tax levy rate by the City has decreased 21 percent over the same period.

To understand how this impacts the average homeowner’s bottom line, consider if the rate stayed the same at \$0.57 per \$1,000 of assessed property value until present day. The equivalent revenue (actual dollar amount) collected by the City from the levy for a homeowner

Year	Avg Home Value Lynnwood	Change In Value	% Change In Value	Tax Levy per \$1,000	Change In Rate	% Change In Rate
2018	\$ 340,200			0.57		
2019	\$ 387,900	\$ 47,700	14.02%	0.57	0	0.00%
2020	\$ 420,600	\$ 32,700	8.43%	0.57	0	0.00%
2021	\$ 450,100	\$ 29,500	7.01%	0.54	-0.03	-5.26%
2022	\$ 496,400	\$ 46,300	10.29%	0.53	-0.01	-1.85%
2023	\$ 643,400	\$ 147,000	29.61%	0.43	-0.1	-18.87%
2024	\$ 613,800	\$ (29,600)	-4.60%	0.45	0.02	4.65%
		\$ 273,600	80.42%		-0.12	-21.05%

Table of average home values in Lynnwood against property tax levy rates from 2018 to 2024. Table compiled by the Lynnwood Times with data from the city of Lynnwood and Snohomish County Property Assessor.

would be 80 percent more than it was in 2018. In other words, because the value of the home increased with time over the last seven years, even if the rate stayed the same at \$0.57 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the total out-of-pocket expense to the taxpayer would be 80 percent more today than in 2018.

When looking at the actual figures from the City and the County, and factoring in the 21 percent reduction in the levy rate against the 80 percent increase in home valuation over the last seven years, would equate to a net increase in tax dollars paid to the City from a homeowner of just over 59 percent. The city council agreed to property tax relief due to COVID impacts from 2021 to present day for Lynnwood homeowners.

Washington state law requires cities that impose a property tax to certify their levy for the subsequent year by November 30. A Public Hearing is scheduled for November 12 and the council is scheduled to vote on the property tax levy rate on Monday, November 25, 2024., and if approved, will take effect on January 1, 2025.

The General Fund’s largest revenue source, Sales Tax at 46%, is budgeted with a growth of 5.6% for 2025 and 4% for 2026 in accordance with the Puget Sound Economic Forecaster, a report published by the Center for Economic and Business Research at Western Washington University. The anticipated growth is due to the recent opening of the Lynnwood Light Rail station and the anticipated impact on development in the area, the City says.

In a bit of irony, Lynnwood, prides itself as a welcoming city, however the city is known for its redlight cameras. In anticipation for increase vehicular traffic due to the Light rail station and surrounding developments, the proposed budget has a 66.7% increase in “Fines & Forfeitures” to \$17 million from its current \$10.2 million.

During public comments, former Councilmember Ted Hikel questioned the \$25 million increase in operating budgets for departments.

“Executive Department (Mayor Christine Frizzell’s direct staff) is up almost a million, HR Department up half a million, IT budget up \$1 million, Legal up half a million, Courts up a million... Park and Recreation a million, Police Department...\$16 million,” Hikel said.

He requested that the council demand cost reduction opportunities from department heads and criticized their salaries stating it was substantially more than a typical person living in Lynnwood.

“We love the department directors, not the \$200,000 a year much love,” Hikel added. “You have department directors, virtually every one of them is making over \$200,000 a year, when a person who lives in this city is feeling lucky to be making \$65,000 a year.”

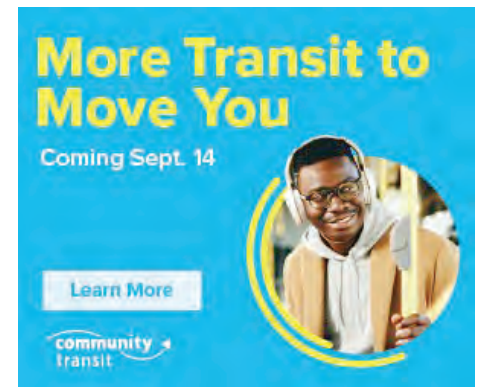
According to records obtained by the Lynnwood Times, 14 city employees made over \$160,000 in 2023, of which four clocked in at over \$200,000—three at \$208,769 and one at \$248,244—all of whom were senior staff each with decades of experience.

OTHER LYNNWOOD CITY BUSINESS

- A motion brought forward by Council President Hurst for the Planning Commission to conduct a review of the current zoning limitations and restrictions pertaining to retail cannabis within city limits to amend the zoning code to allow for pot shops in Lynnwood passed with a 4-3 vote. Councilmembers Josh Binda, Nick Coelho, and Deric Escamilla joined Hurst in the affirmative with David Parshall, Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, and Patrick Decker voting against the motion.
- The council unanimously confirmed Kelly Betts to fill Planning Commission Position #6.
- The council unanimously approved the Mayor to enter into

and execute on behalf of the City, property transfer documents, authorizing the transfer of parcels 11, 12, 13, and 14 from the City to the Lynnwood Public Facilities District.

- The council unanimously approved the Lynnwood Police Department’s request for the council to create a Jail Manager position that will oversee operations and compliance with state, federal and local laws and regulations. This action does not require the addition of a fulltime employee. The police department intends to repurpose the Records Manager position, converting it into the Jail Manager position
- The council unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Seattle Municipal Court and Lynnwood Municipal Court to temporarily fill the position of Assistant Court Administrator. The Municipal Court budget for 2023-2024 includes salary and benefits for a full time Assistant Court Administrator position. The Seattle Municipal Court will invoice Lynnwood Municipal Court monthly for the costs of salary and benefits.



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