

Holiday Hooves
12 Days of Reindeer
At the Port of Everett's Watersfront Place

Port of Everett invites community to annual Holiday on the Bay **P5**

Lynnwood honors all who served in the United States Armed Forces **P3**

Zulu's Board Game Cafe expands to Lynnwood **P4**

Real News
Real Impact

Real News
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Real News
Real Impact

Support 7 unveils new emergency response vehicle at Fire Station 21



Support 7's newest emergency response vehicle unveiled on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at South County Fire's Station 21. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Support 7 unveiled its newest emergency response vehicle on Tuesday, November 12, which will support first responders, victims and families experiencing trauma by offering a safe space away from the elements, media and public eye. It will also provide access to critical services

when disaster hits. The 2024 model RV has a Winnebago box with a Mercedes chassis equipped with a solar panel, charging stations, a Murphy bed, and restroom located in the back. Support 7 estimates the rig will be used about 5-8 times a month to respond to crises.

The unveiling of Support 7's new rig

came at a push-in and dedication ceremony located at South County Fire's Station 21 in Lynnwood on Tuesday, November 12, where former Lynnwood City Councilwoman and Support 7 Executive Director Shannon Sessions shared some words alongside South County Union Firefighters Local 1828 President Pat Moore, and

Continued **PAGE 5**

Boeing lays out ramp up plan as 33,000 machinists return to work

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Tens of thousands of International Association of Machinists (IAM) 751 & W24 union members returned to work Tuesday, November 12, following approval of a historic agreement with Boeing on November 4, ending a 53-day strike that cost the aerospace

juggernaut billion dollars in lost revenue.

The Boeing Production System follows a lean methodology utilizing Just-in-Time, CONWIP, and Job Shop philosophies. Because of this complexity, it will be several weeks before Boeing will be at steady-state—full production—of its 737, 767,

777/777X and military derivatives P-8 and KC-46A aircrafts, a Boeing spokesman said.

For its ramp up plan, Boeing will continue to comply with its Safety Management System policies that include employee training and certifications.

Airplanes that have been completed and certified will continue to be delivered from the Everett and Seattle delivery centers, as well as Boeing South Carolina.

The Boeing spokesperson shared with the Lynnwood Times that CEO Kelly Ortberg's four-point plan to

Continued **PAGE 4**

Hundreds speak out against proposed 8% property tax increase

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—Hundreds gathered in the Jackson Board Room of the Snohomish County Campus' Robert Drewel Building Tuesday morning, November 13, to speak out against a proposed general property tax levy increase of 8% drafted in County Executive Dave Somers' proposed \$3.07 billion biennial budget.

The Executive's proposed 2025/2026 budget increases the County's general property tax levy by the state-allowed 1% each year as well as taking banked capacity from previously deferred tax increases for a total increase of 8% over the biennium.

Weeks before the public hearing County Council Vice President Nate Nehring proposed a budget amendment to the property tax increase while proposing to make corresponding cuts to expenditures in the budget.

"Taxpayers in Snohomish County have been burdened by ever increasing taxes in recent years," said Council Vice President Nehring. "We can balance our County budget without tax increases while continuing to provide essential services our constituents expect. My amendment does just that by identifying cuts in unnecessary county spending to eliminate the need for a tax increase. Taxpayers have had to tighten the belt with regard to their own personal budgets and government ought to do the same."

Councilman Nehring's amendment removed budget increases over the previously budgeted levels and discretionary spending not connected to essential county government functions.

During the general election on November 5 Snohomish County residents resoundingly voted down a county-wide 0.2% sales tax increase to pay for public

Continued **PAGE 7**

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Liias, Lovick, Sims, Somers among Governor-elect Bob Ferguson's 53-person statewide transition team

By LAUREL DEMKOVICH, WASHINGTON STANDARD

State lawmakers from both parties, lobbyists, local elected officials, lawyers, tribes and unions all have a seat at Bob Ferguson's table as he moves into the role of governor.

Ferguson on Tuesday announced a 53-person team that will help with the transition from Gov. Jay Inslee to the new administration. They'll assist Ferguson as he works to implement his priorities in the first 100 days of his new administration and looks for ways for the government to better serve Washington's residents, according to the governor-elect's office.

"Transition is a critical time for our state," Ferguson said in a statement. "I'm grateful to this team for dedicating their time and energy."

Ferguson's picks include mayors like Lisa Brown in Spokane, Carl Florea in Leavenworth and Victoria Woodards in Tacoma. There's a host of current and former state lawmakers, including Democrats, Monica Stonier, House majority floor leader, and Andy Billig, former Senate majority leader, and Republican Rep. Tom Dent, of Moses Lake.

Former Democratic state Sen. Mark Mullet – Ferguson's opponent in the governor's race primary earlier this year – is also on board.

There's representation from the business sector, like lobbyist Denny Eliason, and Dave Mastin, vice president of government affairs at the Association of Washington Business. Labor groups also get space with April Sims, president of the Washington State Labor Council, and Sterling Harders, president of Service Employees International Union 775.

Ferguson also chose leaders from the

Kalispel, Snoqualmie, Puyallup and Quinault tribes, statewide environmental groups, police advocacy groups and Planned Parenthood of Washington.

"We will focus on delivering practical, commonsense solutions to the challenges facing our state," Ferguson said. "This team brings a wealth of knowledge and experience."

Along with helping Ferguson implement his initial priorities, the team will get a chance to help vet people interested in serving in Ferguson's cabinet and administration.

Inslee's office estimated last year there would likely be a 70% turnover among staff once the three-term governor's tenure was up. His administration has been preparing to transition for the last year by archiving records, determining staff buyout packages, and meeting with both final gubernatorial candidates ahead of the November election.

Ferguson's team will also identify "strategies to safeguard Washingtonians from the potential harms of another Trump administration and Project 2025," according to a press release. Ferguson and incoming Attorney General Nick Brown have already been prepping their legal teams to challenge Trump-backed policies that might violate Washington laws.

The transition team plans to meet for the first time Nov. 22.

Ferguson's transition team:

- Jennifer Allen, CEO, Planned Parenthood of Washington
- Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos, former director, State Department of Veterans Affairs
- Jorge Baron, King County councilmember
- Andy Billig, former state Senate majority leader

- Lisa Brown, Spokane mayor
- Mark Brown, former Department of Labor & Industries director and Lacey mayor
- Marty Brown, former Office of Financial Management director
- Nick Bumpous, president, UA Local 598
- Joan Crooks, former CEO, Washington Environmental Council/WA Conservation Voters
- State Rep. Tom Dent, Legislative District 13
- Djibril Diop, legislative and political director, Washington Education Association
- Denny Eliason, business advocate
- Luke Esser, former state representative, Legislative District 48
- Hugh Ewart, founder and manager partner of Aduna Healthcare
- Carl Florea, Leavenworth mayor
- Leo Fuller, attorney and member of the University of Washington Board of Regents
- Ollie Garrett, president TABOR 100
- Faye Guenther, president, UFCW 3000
- Sterling Harders, president SEIU 775
- Paul Harris, state senator-elect, Legislative District 17
- Toshiko Hasegawa, Port of Seattle commissioner
- Denny Heck, lieutenant governor
- Curt Holmes, vice chair Kalispel Tribe
- Gerry Johnson, founder and partner, Pacifica Law Group
- Mary Kipp, president, Puget Sound Energy
- Dennis Lawson, president, Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
- Marko Liias, state senator, Legislative District 21
- Marty Loesch, former chief of staff to former governor Chris Gregoire
- John Lovick, state senator, Legislative District 44

- Alyssa Macy, CEO, Washington Conservation Action
- Mamie Marcuss, former chief of staff to Attorney General Bob Ferguson
- Jaime Martin, Snoqualmie Tribe
- Dave Mastin, former state representative, Legislative District 16
- Anne Mcenery-Ogle, Vancouver mayor
- Sylvia Miller, vice chair, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Hamdi Mohamed, Port of Seattle commissioner
- Mark Mullet, former state senator, Legislative District 5
- Tim Probst, former state senator, Legislative District 49
- Paula Sardinias, small business owner and advocate
- Tana Senn, state representative, Legislative District 41
- Fawn Sharp, former vice chair, Quinault Tribe
- April Sims, president, Washington State Labor Council
- Dave Somers, Snohomish County executive
- Steve Strachan, executive director, Washington Association of Sheriffs and of Police Chiefs
- Neil Strege, Washington Roundtable
- Monica Stonier, state representative, Legislative District 49
- Rachel Smith, CEO, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Yasmin Trudeau, state senator, Legislative District 27
- Billy Wallace, Washington and North Idaho District Council of Laborers
- Victoria Woodards, Tacoma mayor
- Sam Virk, small business owner
- Sung Yang, former chief of staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine
- Christian Sinderman will serve as the transition coordinator.

Monroe youth racing nonprofit at risk of losing lease

By KAYVON BUMPUS

MONROE—Since 2007, the Washington Quarter Midget Association (WQMA) has been putting kids behind the wheel in Monroe.

The idea of 5-year-olds driving might turn some heads, but "safety is the club's number one concern," per the Evergreen State Fair's official website. "All drivers must have seat belts, racing jackets, gloves, full-face helmets, and neck and arm restraints."

And while youth racing is intended to put smiles on faces, participants stand to gain more than just a good time. Part of WQMA's mission is "to acquaint the younger generation with the handling of mechanical devices, coordination, alertness, and ability to handle motor-driven vehicles," as well as "to impress upon the younger generation the idea of fairness, generosity, good sportsmanship and a sense of responsibility."

Unfortunately for these school-age speedsters, WQMA is soon likely to lose their racetrack, which they have leased from Snohomish County for 17 years. "The county is opening the bid to for-profit businesses to take over our

lease. Us being a nonprofit competing... puts us at real risk of losing this track," said WQMA Secretary Vanessa Ferguson.

As of 2024, WQMA has operated for 67 years. Since its "official start" in 1957, it has hosted races around the Puget Sound area, including in North Seattle, Renton and Mukilteo.

But it's the Monroe facility, just west of Evergreen Speedway and the fairgrounds, that WQMA has put "blood, sweat, and tears" into, according to Ferguson. "The property was dirt before we came in. We built buildings, bathrooms... we built this track from the ground up," she explained.

This was echoed by fellow WQMA member and Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue Chief Jerry Helm, who spoke to Coupeville Sports blogger David Svien about the situation. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested by our non-profit organization to build and maintain the track and its facilities," Helm was quoted.

WQMA has been able to manage this kind of expensive construction and upkeep, but an auction against corporate bidders appears unwinnable. "The

county is... asking for a minimum 2.5 times what we pay now," Helm said in a statement. "Snohomish County is trying to sell [the track] out from under us," commented DyAnn Bauer, whose grandson races with WQMA.

Ferguson suggested that some companies have already displayed interest in the property, possibly eliminating the nonprofit's auction prospects. Due to errors in county paperwork, bidding has

been extended from November 15 to the 18th; in a long shot, WQMA hopes that Snohomish County officials will hear them out and reconsider beforehand.

"We've had a great relationship with the county since 2007. We just want to maintain it... This is for kids, please don't take their racetrack away," expressed Ferguson, emotion present in her words. "It's something kids look forward to, it gives them confidence,

Continued **PAGE 5**

LYNNWOOD TIMES

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

Lynnwood honors all who served in the United States Armed Forces

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—The city of Lynnwood, in partnership with the VFW Post 1040, hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11 at Veterans Park, honoring and thanking all who served in the United States Armed Forces.

“To the veterans who are here today, you have served and defended our country here and abroad in circumstances that most of us cannot even fathom,” Mayor Christine Frizzell opened. “It is a decision you didn’t take lightly and for some of you it was a requirement to answer the call from your country. Our country and the entire world is made a better place because of your service; we honor you and we are honored to have your presence with us today.”

Snohomish County is a region that is immensely proud of its veteran community. With over 50,000 veterans living in our area, according to census data, it is a community that is rich, diverse, and incredibly proud of defending the many freedoms our nation provides.

Mayor Frizzell and the City Council are committed to making Lynnwood a Veterans-Supportive and Ready city. Below are various services to veterans in Lynnwood:

- Heroes Cafe is a gathering of Veter-



Attendees attending a very windy outdoor Veterans Day ceremony on November 11, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

ans focused on outreach, interaction and welfare of the members of our Veterans community. These gatherings, as well as the food, are free and open to all Veterans and family members.

- Located at Heritage Park, the Northwest Veterans Museum honors the legacy of military veterans and ed-

ucate the public about the sacrifices made by the men and women who served in all military branches.

- City of Lynnwood adopted the United States Navy Ship William Sampson (DDG-102) to support community relationships between sailors and Lynnwood residents during community events, cele-

brations, and holidays. Lynnwood residents also have the opportunity to host sailors for holiday family meals.

- Gold Star Families Memorial Monument – a tribute to Gold Star Families and relatives who sacrificed

Continued **PAGE 5**

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Zulu's Board Game Cafe expands to Lynnwood

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—For years Zulu's Board Game Cafe in Bothell has offered local board game, trading card game, and role-play game enthusiasts a safe space to connect while indulging on great food and drink service; but now that opportunity is open to the people of Lynnwood.

At Zulu's Board Game Cafe Lynnwood, whether new to the board gaming community or lifelong aficionados, patrons can shop for new board games or the latest hot new Magic the Gathering set from its retail space, learn a new game by grabbing one off of the free lending library (with demo instructors available by request), or pick up a beer and bite before grabbing one of the many available tables for a pickup game of your choosing.

The cafe also has a private room, called the 'Dragon's Lair', complete with equipped sound-dampening panels so gamers can hear each other over the crowds in the main area. The Dragon's Lair is also available to rent out for private events.

The Lynnwood Zulu's falls within the umbrella of the Zulu's brand but is independently owned and operated as a franchise, separate to its Bothell counterpart, with business partners Sean Flinn and Gar at the forefront of its operations.

Matt Zaremba, the owner of the Zulu's Board Game Cafe in Bothell, and Flinn have been friends for many years so when Flinn, a software engineer by trade, began looking for a different life path, and had the "time and means" to accelerate Zaremba's long-term plans of expansion, the pieces just came together.

"Sean and I share the same love of building community, and this [franchise] is giving me a trial run on what it takes to order multiple products for multiple locations with the ultimate goal of doing this with other people," Zaremba told the Lynnwood Times. "The goal is not to spread the brand around but to build a playbook so other people can build a



Inside Zulu's Board Game Cafe of Lynnwood. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

board game cafe and that community... Me and Sean are in lockstep. He's doing great and I knew he would."

Zaremba added that further down the road he hopes to open more franchise expansions under the Zulu name in the future.

Zulu's Lynnwood Owner Sean Flinn is a lifelong board game fanatic and active volunteer within his community. Though he has never officially been employed at Zulu's Board Game Cafe he has volunteered at the Bothell location for a number of years running Magic the Gathering events, board game meetups, prereleases, and teaching Klask demos at conventions like Emerald City Comic Con, Sakura Con, and PAX West.

"It just seemed like a natural path for me," said Flinn. "I really enjoyed this space and it seemed like a good opportunity to take my passion, my skills, my DIY, my volunteerism and community-building and direct that into a new space to spread the hobby and bring as many people who are on the outskirts of even knowing these exist. I needed to get out of the corporate world and wanted to channel all of that energy into a positive, healthy, space."

Flinn's mission is to build the next gen-

eration of healthy gaming and gamers while steering people away from social media and their mobile phones as best as possible. The three pillars of his shop are board games number one, role-playing games second, and trading card games third. As far as tabletop war games like Warhammer go, with the not-too-distant Warhammer (formerly Games Workshop) store just down the street Flinn said it's not necessary a priority of his but may accommodate the community contingent on feedback and the community's needs.

"People want to be face-to-face, and I think they lost a bit of that social fiber during the pandemic, and it's taken awhile to get back into it," said Flinn. "My goal is just want to be a healthy, welcoming space where people can come explore at their own pace."

Zulu's officially announced the plan to franchise out a separate location in Lynnwood at Emerald City Comic Con back in February. After shopping for available retail around the Alderwood neighborhood the company ultimately decided on its current location at 5116 196th Street Southwest, which felt like a natural fit as this was the former site of Gamer's Heaven and the building already had existing infrastructure set up for a board game cafe.

After permits were acquired, the team "hit the ground running," as Flinn put it, to renovate the facility for an August 2024, opening. Zulu's Board Game Cafe Lynnwood officially celebrated its ribbon cutting on August 9.

Now a couple months into operation, Flinn notified the Lynnwood Times that it's been a lot of community engagement to make adjustments tailored to their patrons' needs and to prepare for the upcoming busy holiday shopping season.

In addition to its retail, board game library, playing space, and game demos, Zulu's Lynnwood offers a selection of alcoholic beverages and food including beer, wine, pizza, burgers, mini corn-dogs, mozzarella sticks, and nachos.

The idea was to initially bring onboard a Michelin Star chef to design a food menu, Flinn told the Lynnwood Times, but when their commute to Lynnwood ended up being too taxing, the cafe resorted to simple items that could be prepared in a much smaller, and limited, kitchen space than the Bothell location.

Unique to the Lynnwood location, however, is an entire bubble tea menu which is a passion of both co-owners Gar and Flinn. The decision to offer bubble tea was one of the first decisions made, as far as food operations go, to stand apart from Zulu's Bothell while offering a delicious option that wouldn't take too much operational overhead.

The food menu is still something the Board Game Cafe plans to expand as it gets more of a handle on its core operations.

Zulu's Board Game Cafe hosts daily events in addition to prereleases for new trading card game sets – such as Pokémon, MtG, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Lorcana. The cafe also has an active Discord server where gamers can organize games, meetups, and more. For a complete calendar of upcoming events and a link to join the Discord server visit: www.zuluslynnwood.com

from page 1 **BOEING**

"stabilize the business" is in full swing, which includes upcoming layoffs of approximately 17,000 employees or 10% of its workforce.

"As we've previously shared with our team, most affected U.S. employees will be notified mid-November and leave the company on January 17, 2025," a Boeing spokesman said. "We are supporting these teammates with additional resources such as severance pay and career transition services."

At its third-quarter 2024 earnings briefing on October 23, Boeing President and CEO Kelly Ortberg shared the grim reality of the company's financial challenges ahead and his four-point plan to "restore Boeing to the leadership position that we all know and want."

Ortberg framework is akin to Dr. W. Edwards Deming approaches to effective business management:

1. Culture change
2. Stabilize the business.
3. Improve execution discipline on new platform commitments
4. Build a new future

He also committed to a returned emphasis on core total quality management

(TQM) principles to "prevent the festering of issues" and "identify, fix, and understand root cause[s]."

After machinist voted to approve an historic contract with Boeing in November 4, IAM 751 President Holden said at the presser that it is "time for us to come together" and claimed "victory."

The average annual machinist pay at the end of this 4-year contract will be \$119,309. This is an increase of about \$43,700 from the previous contract's \$75,608 average. Below is a summary of key provisions in Monday's approved contract:

- 38% General Wage Increase (up from 35% in 10/19 offer). This is an effective 43.65% wage increase.
- Year 1: 13%, Year 2: 9%, Year 3: 9%, Year 4: 7%
- \$12,000 ratification bonus (up from \$7,000 in 10/19 offer)
- Boeing 401(k) match increased to 100% of first 8% of pay, plus automatic 4% company contribution (80% of our employees max out their 401(k) contributions).
- Commitment to build Boeing's next new airplane in the Puget Sound region.
- Annual bonus with 4% guaran-

teed annual payout, up to 6%.

- Retirement benefits also include:
- New 401(k) annuity option for guaranteed monthly retirement disbursement; Boeing pays the transaction fee.
- For employees with a Boeing pension (hired before Jan. 2014), offer increases pension multiplier from \$95 per year of service to \$105.

- For health care, 2025 paycheck contributions will be lower than 2024.

IAM workers could have return to work as early as the first shift on Wednesday, November 6, but today, all had to return no later than their beginning shift on November 12.



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Port of Everett invites community to annual Holiday on the Bay Festival

By **PORT OF EVERETT**

EVERETT—The Port of Everett invites you to kick off the holidays at Waterfront Place this season, offering a full lineup of winter fun for everyone from its annual Holiday on the Bay Festival and Holiday on the Bay 5k to NEW activations including live reindeer visits during Holiday Hooves: 12 Days of Reindeer and Sip and Sleigh drink bingo.

17TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY ON THE BAY – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Join us for a day of family fun at the waterfront during the Port of Everett’s 17th annual Holiday on the Bay festival taking place Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon – 6 p.m. at Waterfront Place.

Rain or shine, festivalgoers will gather in and around the Port’s Pacific Rim Plaza, near Hotel Indigo (1028 13th Street, Everett, WA 98201), to enjoy the day’s outdoor festivities including a pop-up holiday market, free kids’ activities from winter-themed crafts, face painting and balloon creations to touch-a-truck, s’mores roasting at fire pits, character meet-and-greets and more. The day’s fun leads up to the annual waterfront tree-lighting ceremony, an appearance from Santa and lighted boats on parade.

The annual holiday toy drive drop off, photo worthy lighting displays, food vendors, and holiday specials at select waterfront restaurants are also on the agenda.

Below is a snapshot of what’s planned, or click here for a printer-friendly schedule of the day’s events.

- Noon – 6 p.m.: Holiday pop up market featuring local vendors and select food trucks
- Noon – 6 p.m.: FREE family fun, including:
 - Winter-themed crafts with our partners at Imagine Children’s Museum
 - Touch-a-truck with local partners including the Everett Police Department, Snohomish County PUD, and more
 - S’mores roasting at fire pits around Pacific Rim Plaza
 - Air brush face painting and balloon twister creations by Giggles Entertainment
 - Live holiday steel drums music by Panessence

- Family photo opportunities
- 12:00 – 4 p.m.: A chance to meet and snap a photo with “Frozen”-inspired Ice Queen and Ice Princess from Enchanting Events
- 5 p.m.: Annual waterfront tree-lighting ceremony at the Port’s “frozen fountain” tree (SNOW is in the forecast!) and an appearance from Santa by boat
- 5:30 p.m.: Lighted boat parade organized by Mukilteo Yacht Club kicks off, departing from Guest Dock 5 at Pacific Rim Plaza to parade around the Marina

Learn more at www.portofeverett.com/holidayonthebay

HOLIDAY ON THE BAY 5K – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Port of Everett and Snohomish Running Company are partnering up once again to bring the second annual Holiday on the Bay 5K to Waterfront Place. Grab those running shoes and join us Sunday, Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. for a chip-timed 5K, sponsored by Everett Bone and Joint. Participants will enjoy a flat route with sweeping views of the Port of Everett Marina, Port Gardner Bay and the Olympic Mountains. Registration includes a race shirt (register by Nov. 17 to guarantee your shirt size) and a finisher medal. Adults and kids welcome.

Registration required. Learn more @ www.portofeverett.com/holidayonthebay5K.

NEW THIS SEASON! HOLIDAY HOOVES: 12 DAYS OF REINDEER – NOV. 30, DEC. 1, 8, 14-22

Create unforgettable memories this holiday season as Santa’s reindeer make special appearances at the Port of Everett’s Pacific Rim Plaza (near Hotel Indigo) on select dates and times from November 30 – December 22.

Stop by to enjoy this free, magical experience with an opportunity to see live reindeer up close in a festive waterfront setting. While you’re here, be sure to snap some photos with the reindeer and the waterfront lighting displays. See full schedule @ portofeverett.com/holidayhooves.

SIP & SLEIGH WINTER DRINK BINGO – DEC. 1 – 31

Fall’s drink bingo was such a hit we

Port of EVERETT | **WATERFRONT PLACE**
A PORT OF EVERETT

Holiday Hooves
12 Days of Reindeer

AT THE PORT OF EVERETT’S WATERFRONT PLACE
PACIFIC RIM PLAZA | 1028 13TH STREET, EVERETT, WA 98201
(PACIFIC RIM PLAZA IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HOTEL INDIGO)

Nov. 30 / Dec. 1, 8, 14-22

decided to extend the fun into winter with our new Sip & Sleigh Drink Bingo at participating Waterfront Place restaurants. Enjoy winter-themed drink specials from coffee, to mocktails and cocktails.

To participate, simply head to any participating waterfront restaurant location in December and ask for a bingo card, get a stamp for every bingo drink you buy and rack up the bingos. Turn in your completed bingo card at the blue “Letters to the North Pole” drop box located at the Port’s Pacific Rim Plaza (near Hotel Indigo) by January 10, 2025, to be entered into a drawing.

Learn more @ portofeverett.com/winterbingo.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE – NOW THRU DEC. 8

Looking for ways to give back this holiday season? The Port’s annual Holiday on the Bay toy drive for Marine Toys for Tots is back again, accepting NEW, unwrapped toys for children in need. Please bring toy donations now thru Dec. 6 to the donation box located inside the Port’s Waterfront Center lobby near the Scuttlebutt entrance or bring them by the Holiday on the Bay festival on Dec. 7. You can also “run” them by on Dec. 8 if you are planning to partici-

pate in the Holiday on the Bay 5K.

The Port of Everett’s winter festivities are made possible in part by assistance from the Snohomish County Hotel-Motel Tax Fund, as well as a Visit Everett contribution.

Visit www.portofeverett.com/winter to learn more and see schedules for each event and winter activation. For additional information, contact Kate Anderson, Port of Everett’s Media & Marketing Coordinator, at 425-388-0623 or katea@portofeverett.com.

HOLIDAY ON THE BAY 5K
AT THE PORT OF EVERETT’S WATERFRONT PLACE

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from page 1 **SUPPORT 7**

Support 7 Founder Ken Gaydos' two children, Kristin and Tim.

"This new rig represents such a variety in diversity for support in our partners, individuals, and organizations we serve," said Sessions. "And it really speaks volumes to the critical work we have had the opportunity to do in this community."

The decision to deploy the first generation of Support 7 Emergency Response Vehicles (nicknamed the Guppy and was in commission from 1995 through 2002) stemmed from a tragic event on the Edmonds Waterfront in 1981 when a man named David Smith lost his life due to a diving accident. Support 7 Founder Ken Gaydos thought in that moment that his organization needed a way to bring victims out of the elements, out of the media, and away from the public eye while offering them a private, heated, comfortable shelter to grieve and have access to critical resources.

Gaydos passed away in September of 2018 after a long battle with cancer. He was known to be the first person to respond when a call came in. Those who knew him well said he was dedicated to his faith and had a gentle sense of peace and compassion which reached victims and first responders far and wide. A plaque honoring Gaydos' legacy will be displayed within Support 7's new Emergency Response Vehicle.

"I would always hear dad say that it's foolish to try and satisfy spiritual needs with physical, and the opposite is true too. When someone is hungry and cold

they don't need a lecture on grace they just need a dinner and a warm blanket," said Ken's daughter Kirstin. "I want to extend our deepest expressions and gratitude and appreciation for the partnerships so many of you had with us that allows the ministry of Support 7 to be so meaningful in the lives of so many, especially to those who come to us hurting and broken."

To pay homage to David Smith, the diver who lost his life in 1981, Support 7's new vehicle displays a heart on the side of the RV with a QR code which directs people to his story on the nonprofit's website.

Speaking at Tuesday's push-in and dedication ceremony was David Smith's sister, Cindy, who shared how Ken Gaydos stayed with her and her family all day after that fateful accident and even invited them over to his house for dinner.

"I want to thank Shannon and Support 7 for honoring my brother on this special day, it's very meaningful to my family and I, and I want to thank Support 7 for all that you do to support not only families like mine, and victims, but also first responders," said Cindy.

The second generation of Support 7 Emergency Response Vehicles operated from 2002 through 2024. Sessions informed the Lynnwood Times that Support 7 is planning to sell the decommissioned vehicle "at a fair price," hopefully to another nonprofit with similar values.

The total cost of Support 7's newest vehicle was approximately \$200,000 according to Sessions paid for entire-

ly by donations from South County Union Firefighters Local 1828 (\$160,000), the Lynnwood Kiwanis Club (\$20,000), North Sound Church (\$15,000), Garneau Nikon Family Foundation (\$15,000), The Walker Foundation (\$12,000), and more than \$35,000 in total from individual donations.

In Kiwanis of Lynnwood's 60 years of serving the community, its \$20,000 donation to the Support 7 emergency response vehicle has been the largest donation the organization have ever been able to provide, the Lynnwood Kiwanis Club informed the Lynnwood Times.

"It's because we know the ministry and the service that's being fulfilled and with this rig, as beautiful as it is, it's going to help a lot of people during crises times in their life." Larry Merwin, Lynnwood Kiwanis Club Board Member, informed the Lynnwood Times. "We're happy to be able to support this particular club because it's so meaningful to the community and that's what Lynnwood Kiwanis Club is about - serving the community."

These donations also helped pay for the wrap and graphics by Printing Plus in Mountlake Terrace, and additional services provided by Menzel Installations, Brooks Products and Services, and the Design Paige.

"This has set us up to be more sustainable than ever and will bless first responders, victims, and families during traumatic events for than 15 to 20 years in the future," said Sessions.

A push-in ceremony is a tradition the fire service industry has practiced

since fire engines were horse-drawn in the early 1900's. At the end of the day these horse-drawn engines would be "pushed in" to the fire station by the community and fire fighters which has now become a ceremonious tradition for firefighting agencies whenever introducing a new fire engine to symbolize the unity between the community and the fire department.

For more than 40 years Support 7 has partnered with local first responders 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.

Support 7 offers assistance to South County Fire, Mukilteo Fire, Paine Field Fire, as well as eight other law enforcement agencies including Lynnwood PD, Edmonds PD, Mountlake Terrace PD, Brier PD, Woodway PD, Mill Creek PD, Mukilteo PD, and the South Precinct of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. The nonprofit also has chaplains within 911 dispatch and the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

It gets its name from the Greek word paraclete, which means counselor, advocate, or helper, and the number seven which refers to "God's perfect order of creation," according to Founder Ken Gaydos' daughter Kristin.

from page 2 **WQMA**

and creates lifelong friendships."

WQMA members and supporters have been using the hashtag #LetOurKids-Race to raise awareness, hoping to reach the Snohomish County Council or Tom Teigen, the county's former Parks and Recreation Director and current Conservation and Natural Resources Director.

IRS documents show that Washington Quarter Midget Association lost its non-profit status in March 2022; it was reinstated in 2023.

The Lynnwood Times contacted Snohomish County Parks and Recreation for comment and was provided with an updated FAQ document. A county representative stated that a successful bidder would be chosen based on "highest scoring", as opposed to placing the highest bid. Competition for the lease goes through an "RFP process"; this includes paperwork submitted as part of bidding.

Although the RFP had already been revised twice, language within still heavily gave the impression of a traditional auction. "The bid award will be issued after the highest bidder and Snohomish County fully execute the Option to Lease Land," an excerpt read. The Parks and Recreation Department claims this was a clerical error, stating "this RFP was created from a standard template... However, this RFP will be rated based on the highest scored application."

To avoid further confusing applicants, the "scoring criteria" has been added "as an amendment to the RFP", thus making the present document the fourth official version. As part of this update,

bids will close on the 18th instead of the 15th.

County emails obtained by the Lynnwood Times show that WQMA has had a license agreement with the Parks Department since 2007. The County is now foregoing licensure, instead offering bids for a property lease at market rate to rent the land to a vendor. According to SCC 4.46.211, the bidding process must now go through the County's Facilities & Fleet Department because the bid is no longer for a license agreement. Both Parks and Facilities fall under the authority of the Snohomish County Executive's Office, not the County Council.

from page 3 **VETERANS DAY**

their lives while serving in the military.

- Various road signs honoring veterans
- Monday's ceremony was emceed by VFW Post 1040 former Commander John Beam, US Navy Veteran.

After the ceremony, attendees attended a formal luncheon and resource fair at the Lynnwood Convention Center.

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NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT | PETITIONER: ASHLIE MARIE ANTONITIS | CASE NO.: 23D005073

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW)
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 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

ADVERSE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

PETITION-MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP
 ASHLIE MARIE ANTONITIS
 23D005073
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

LEGAL RELATIONSHIP (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

PETITIONER REQUESTS
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)
 NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Family Law)
 JUSTIN CAYSE BRANDT
 JUL 24 2023
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE
 Case No. 23D005073

from page 4 **PROPERTY TAX**

safety – by almost 14 points. Council Vice President Nehring said Tuesday it would be unfair for council to discuss raising property taxes just weeks after the public, who values public safety, clearly showcased that they are simply overburdened financially and now is not the time to ask them to pay more. He continued that placing the property tax increase on a ballot for voters to decide could be an option to explore.

Councilman Strom Peterson noted he speculates taxpayers may be frustrated with “regressive taxes” seeing as they supported three, out of four, ballot measures on November 5 which could be considered tax measures, including capital gains. He suggested the council look at progressive revenue streams to meet the needs of the county while stating that asking taxpayers to pay a modest \$10 a year is reasonable and helps pay for important county investments such as staffing a Victim’s Advocate for those who have been victims of a crime.

Council President Jared Mead agreed with Vice President Nehring stating that a 8% increase in property tax is “unreasonable and irresponsible,” especially before looking at the budget to see where cuts can be made before asking the taxpayers to pay more. However, he added, that raising taxes 0% while in a deficit would also be “unreasonable and irresponsible.”

However, Council President Mead rejected Dunn’s narrative agreeing with her that the county’s bank capacity is in the red and tough decisions will need to be made in four to five years from now. He continued to say the county’s proposed property tax increase alone will not solve the issue and there needs to be conservative cuts, legislative backing, and an economic stabilization – all out of the county’s control. Therefore, according to Mead, the decision to raise taxes for the public would simply delay the inevitable. He proposed an amendment to the ordinance, No 24-075, to reduce bank capacity usage as a solution.

Tuesday’s public comment section spanned roughly two-and-a-half hours featuring members of the public all voicing their existing financial tribulations caused by inflation and already unmanageable cost of living expenses.

Respondent Susan Tinker shared that she was “shocked” to learn that the county was considering raising property taxes when most people can’t afford to put food on their table due to grocery prices, and Washington State having one of the highest gas taxes in the country.

While it’s true Washington ranks within the top five states for gas price taxes at a rate of about 49.4 cents per gallon, according to Tax Federation, it’s still overshadowed with states such as California, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Washington also ranks among the five highest in the country for local and state taxes with Snohomish County, specifically, having the highest sales tax in the state.

“We have some of the highest taxes in the nation and you come to us for more? For our homes?!” Maribelle Williams, a Marysville resident asked

the council emotionally. “You’re turning the American Dream into the American nightmare.”

Dave Stuart, local business owner, seconded everything the crowd expressed adding that the tax increase is “not good timing that affects the working-class people as well as the retired people.”

“You’re taxing people out of their homes,” said Stuart.

These concerns were echoed by several others who claimed they are looking to move to Idaho or other states to escape the unaffordable cost of living and homeownership in Western Washington, some who have called Snohomish County home for 50 years or more.

Julie Johnson, Edmonds resident, urged council to trim the budget instead of asking taxpayers to pay more property taxes stating, “I am confident that the county can find ways of cutting costs while still being efficient.”

“Homeownership is expensive hence the need to be respectful and mindful of our taxpayer dollars,” continued Johnson. “Only raise taxes when proven absolutely necessary.”

Joseph Walkman from Lynnwood noted that the consumer price index has surged 45% in the last decade “eroding the purchasing power of every hard-working family.”

“This isn’t just numbers on a chart,” Walkman continued. “It’s parents struggling to put meals on their family’s table, seniors on a fixed income forced to choose between medication and utilities, and young people losing hope of owning a home here because the median income is not keeping up

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with the cost-of-living index.”

Tim Eymann, anti-tax activist and businessman, reminded council that voters overwhelmingly voted on an initiative that would not allow council to approve more than a 1% increase in taxes without voter approval but there has not been any discussion of asking voters on a proposed 8% increase.

Eymann brought attention to the hundreds of citizens who showed up on a Tuesday morning to voice their opposition to the 8% increase and asked the council to consider how many would turnout on the weekend, or outside of the average work hours.

Some residents living on a fixed income, such as combat veterans, disabled people, and seniors, came forward to voice that their property taxes have already been raised about 33% since moving in, and with raising costs in other fields the 8% increase will force them to have to sell their houses and move elsewhere more affordable.

Others reminded the council that this county was founded against “taxation without representation.”

The decision to vote on the ordinance was continued until the council’s meeting on November 23.

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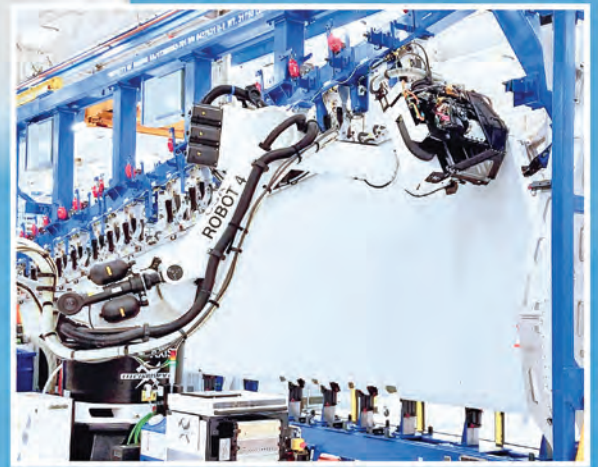
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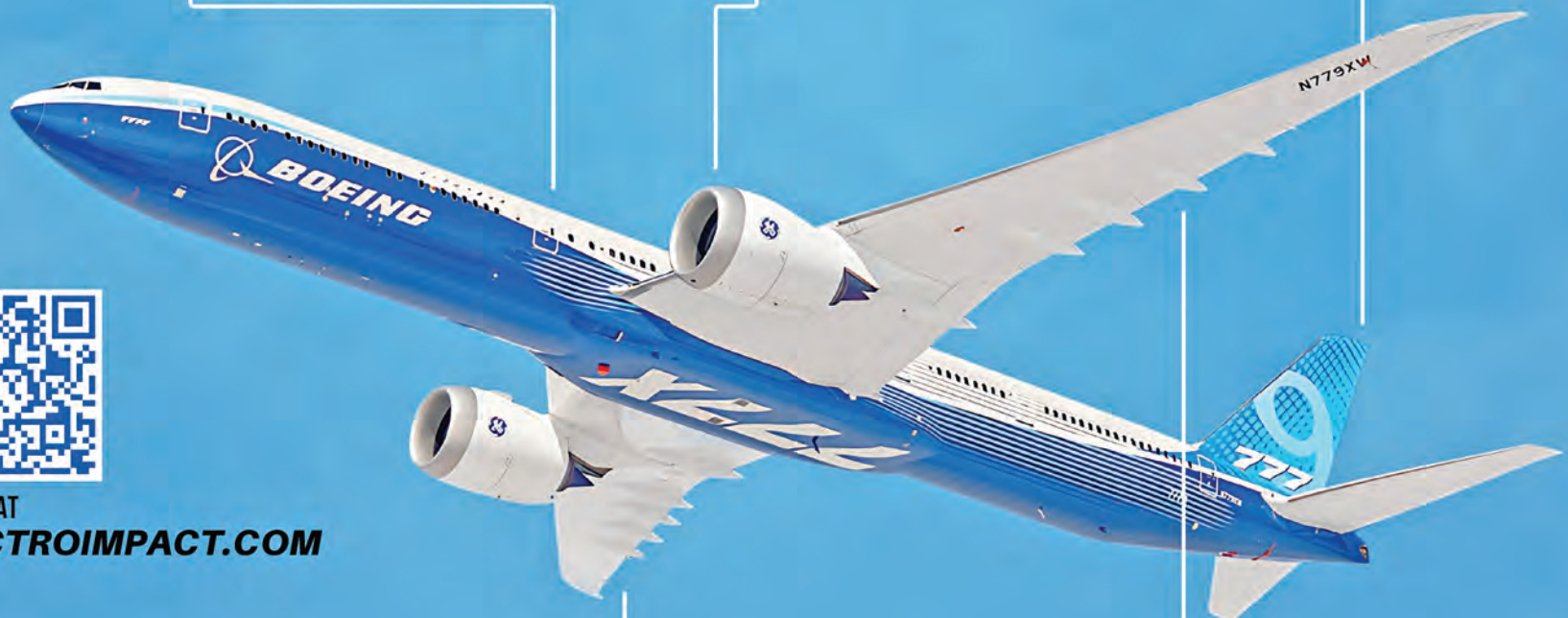
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