

### **Snohomish County recognizes International World AIDS Day**



World AIDS Day cookies at in recognition of Worlds AIDS Day by Lifelong in Everett. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

### Rep Larsen honors fallen Whidbey Island Navy Aviators

#### By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

### By MARIO LOTMORE vote,"

**EVERETT**—Snohomish County on November 27, recognized December 1, as World AIDS Day, to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS while honoring the lives that have been, and continue to be, affected by the epidemic.

"I am proud to sponsor this resolution recognizing December 1, 2024, as World AIDS Day in Snohomish County and I thank my councilmemvote," Councilwoman Megan Dunn released in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "HIV remains an urgent health issue that starts with listening and centering those with HIV. The current global health goal is to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030; and residents can take steps to help realize that goal. These steps include supporting education and prevention programs to help residents understand and reduce risks of getting HIV, including con-

vote," Councilwoman Megan Dunn released in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "HIV remains an urgent health issue that starts with listening and centering my attention."

> This marks the second year Snohomish County recognized World AIDS Day. Last year Frank Busichio, President of the AIDS Project Snohomish County, read a proclamation signed by County Executive Dave

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### Lynnwood City Council adopts \$420 million biennial 2025-26 budget

### By CITY OF LYNNWOOD

LYNNWOOD—After weeks of discussion, the Lynnwood City Council on Monday, November 25, adopted the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget and 2025 Property Tax Levy with a 4-3 vote. Council members voting in the affirmative were David Parshall, Nick Coelho, Joshua Binda and Derica Escamilla; with Council President George Hurst, Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, and Patrick Decker voting against.

The adopted budget lays out the City's estimates for revenue and expenses, with a \$420 million biennial budget for all funds including \$158 million general fund budget.

The City Council adopted a 2025 property tax levy of \$7,200,001. Over the past several years, City Council has kept the property tax levy low to provide relief to property owners in the face of rising inflation and cost of living in our area.

The anticipated impact for average residential property owner is approximately \$12 per month or \$144 per year. Snohomish County offers Property Tax exemptions to help reduce the financial challenge for qualified property owners. Click here to learn more about this program. The City of Lynnwood and Snohomish County PUD also offer utility rate discounts and bill assistance.

"With our rapid and planned growth, the City of Lynnwood is at a critical juncture. This biennial budget ensures that our city continues to thrive, creating the

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) honored Lieutenant Commander Lyndsey Evans, 31, and Lieutenant Serena Wileman, 31, two high skilled, combat-decorated Naval aviators who tragically lost their lives when their EA-18G Growler aircraft crashed near Mount Rainier on October 15 during a routine training flight.

Wileman's remains were transported to her home in Oak Harbor earlier this month and Evans' remains were transported to her home in Anacortes that same week.

"Lieutenant Commander Evans and Lieutenant Wileman were exemplary leaders who deeply believed in their country, their mission, and their fellow

Continued **PAGE 4** 

bers for the unanimous fidential and anonymous

### 24-year-old man killed in Lynnwood shed fire

### By **KIENAN BRISCOE**

LYNNWOOD—A twenty-four-yearold man is dead after a shed near Lynnwood caught fire this morning around 8:00 a.m. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Snohomish County Fire Marshall.

South County Fire firefighters and officers working for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office responded to a house fire call around 8:04 a.m. on Larch Way in unincorporated Snohomish County near Lynnwood.

Upon arriving on scene just five minutes

later, it was discovered that a 24-yearold man, who had appeared to have been living in the shed, had died. The official cause of death will be determined by the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

The identity and a description of the deceased has not been released at this time.

The fire was contained and extinguished by firefighters within five minutes of arrival. Despite the initial call reporting that the fire had spread to nearby trees fire fighters could not see any evidence of this, Christie Veley,

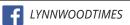
later, it was discovered that a 24-yearold man, who had appeared to have been living in the shed, had died. The official Times.

There were no other injuries or damages.

Snohomish County Major Crimes Unit was initially called but declined to get involved after no indication of foul play was observed.

The Fire Marshall and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office are still conducting an investigation on this matter and was unable to share any additional information at this time.

ISSUE 138 • DEC 5 - DEC 18, 2024



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### Local filmmaker's new rendition of A Christmas Carol hits streaming platforms

### By KIENAN BRISCOE

Local filmmaker Rose Kreider's latest film, a retelling of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol with a Pacific Northwest twist, is headed to Amazon Prime video and Tubi this December just in time for the 2025 Christmas season.

Kreider entered the world of filmmaking by way of modeling, which she picked up during the pandemic. From her modeling career she transitioned into acting, and from acting eventually made the leap to directing films of her own.

"Modeling is a dog-eat-dog world. I definitely didn't like the competitive nature. Acting is kind of the same," said Kreider. "When it comes to directing you make your own schedule, you make your own business structure. You're kind of at the top meaning if there's any questions from the cast or crew they come to you for an executive decision. I also don't trust other people to get the job done, I'd rather just do it myself."

Kreider added that as a Program Manager at Microsoft stepping into the director's seat was a natural fit.

Her first film, The Woman, released in 2022 and follows a struggling art student at the University of Washington who, upon learning that he was kidnapped at an early age, embarks on a search for his biological mother.

The film premiered at the Edmonds Community Center in 2022 to a sold-out auditorium.

The Woman released on streaming platforms to relatively favorable views and sits at a 6.5/10 on IMDB. However, after hitting some creative differences with her production company, Kreider decided to kickstart her own production studio, Rose Kreider Productions, shortly after its release.

"After The Woman. I decided I didn't want to partner with anybody. I wanted to do all of the casting, and hiring, and make all of the executive decisions," said Kreider.

In addition to writing, directing, editing, distributing, and casting, single handedly Kreider informed the Lynnwood Times her version of A Christmas Carol has a much larger cast than her first film, with a total of 62 actors. With more talent to direct, and more special effects,

she said this is her most ambitious project yet.

Starring in the film is Tobias Yuodelis as Scrooge, Jeff Barnaby as Bob Cratchit, and Christopher Kok as Fred. The story is set in the Seattle area with several locations filmed around Snohomish County including Lynnwood and the town of Snohomish. Kreider, originally from Kirkland, said Snohomish County has always had a special place in her heart as her family lives in Snohomish and she grew up visiting.

An example of the story taking a Pacific Northwest spin is making Scrooge a tech billionaire, and the countless references to coffee and popular Seattle locations.

Kreider finished her script on January 3 of this year, which is based on Charles Dickens' classic public domain tale of Scrooge learning the meaning of Christmas, heavily drawing inspiration from all of the retellings her family and her used to watch each year around the Christmas season.

As a self-proclaimed "huge Christmas fan," Kreider told the Lynnwood Times her decision to do A Christmas Carol stemmed from both her love of the holiday and being inspired by the A Christmas Carol starring Jim Carey which was released in 2008. Knowing that its source material had entered the public domain she decided to retell the Christmas classic, this time with a Seattle setting and revolving around the Pacific Northwest culture she grew within.

From January through the end of February Kreider and her cinematographer scouted locations around North Seattle, Lynnwood, and Snohomish. Filming took place from March 8 through July 7.

One of the questions Kreider asked auditioning actors was whether they like Christas.

"If they liked Christmas, then they're in," Kreider said. "I wanted everyone working on the project to love Christmas as much as I do. For me when I came up with the idea of doing a modern, Seattle version, of A Christmas Carol was because I love Christmas a lot and I wanted it to be a house movie staple every holiday season." Christmas Carol

ROSE KREIDER PRODUCTIONS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ROSE KREIDER FEATURING TOBIAS YUODELIS AS SCROOGE

Wrap Up the Year's

The film premiered at the Edmonds

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### LYNNWOOD TIMES

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# Five tips for staying connected during a storm



### Taking steps in advance can help keep you connected, updated and safe

The bomb cyclone that stormed into the Northwest in November was one for the books. Pouring rain and raging winds, with gusts up to 70 miles per hour, took out trees and powerlines, leaving thousands of people, including here in Snohomish County, temporarily without power and internet service.

It was one of the first major storms of the season, but it may not be the last. And while there's no way to avoid these powerful weather events, there are plenty of ways to prepare for them to help ensure you stay as safe and comfortable as possible.

One area not to neglect? The potential for an internet service outage.

"Severe weather events that take out power also impact internet service," said Todd Gorder, Vice President of Technical Operations for Comcast in the Pacific Northwest. "While our crews are out there working to restore service as quickly as possible, there are many factors involved that contribute to how fast that can be done. One way to minimize the impacts of a service outage is to prepare in advance so that you can stay safe, connected and still have access to important information."

Here are five tips for preparing for storm season outages.

### 1. Reach out

In advance of a storm, connect with family and friends to let them know what's coming and what your plans are. Share the potential of a communications disruption and share options for keeping in touch. You can also stay connected to utilities and internet service providers to get notifications regarding outage areas and when service will be restored. Xfinity customers can sign up online to receive text alerts about service outages – just be sure to do so before the storm hits.

### 2. Power up

If a storm is on the way, make sure your phone is fully charged and any backup power sources you have are ready to go. Charge portable power banks so that phones, tablets, laptops and other devices will have the juice to get through the storm. If you have a generator, check that you have plenty of fuel to run it safely outdoors. And consider investing in a backup battery for your modem and router. Another option is Comcast's Storm-Ready WiFi, which offers up to four hours of additional power and a backup cellular network, providing you ample time to connect with family, save important information and even download entertainment during an outage. (See sidebar story below.)

### 3. Download it

If an outage occurs, it's too late to access important files, emergency contacts, maps or weather updates. Before the first rain falls, download any important files you may need for work or school. Make sure your emergency contacts are downloaded or written down. Check in advance to see if any of your important apps have offline modes, which provide access to documents, maps and other files even if the internet's down. And don't forget to download movies, shows, games and other entertainment to help keep you company while the power's out.

### 4. Use a hotspot

Mobile phones are essential to modern-day life, but during a storm texting may be a more efficient method of communicating, as voice calls can overload networks. Cellular phones can also be used to set up mobile hotspots, which use cellular data to connect your laptops, tablets and even some televisions to the internet. Xfinity Mobile customers are able to do this, but not all providers offer this service. Check in advance of a storm to see if yours does.

### 5. Find public WiFi

Though your internet service may be down temporarily, public hotspots are widely available these days at coffee shops, libraries and elsewhere, as long as it's safe to venture out. You can also tap into hotspots provided by your internet service provider. Comcast, for example, has nearly 100,000 public WiFi hotspots in Washington State that are free for Xfinity customers. Here's where you can find them: www.xfinity.com/mobile/network/map.

We are lucky to live in a time with broad access to the internet and its resources. However, storms happen, power lines snap and the lack of power impacts internet connectivity. Even if you follow all of these tips, there may be times when you won't have power or internet. When

that happens, it's a good idea to have a batterypowered radio handy so you can still get news and updates related to the storm.

### Peace of mind during bad weather

### Xfinity's Storm-Ready WiFi provides four hours of service during an outage

What if an incoming storm knocked out your power and your internet service? Would you have taken steps in advance to backup files, communicate with family or download a few movies?

Xfinity's Storm-Ready WiFi device provides up to four hours of continuous internet service during a power outage with a backup battery and cellular network. Should an outage occur, your internet automatically switches to a 4G LTE backup network and you stay connected. Those four hours provide valuable time to back up files, download movies and shows for entertainment and connect with family and friends.

It's a little peace of mind available to anyone who has Xfinity Internet and a compatible Xfinity Gateway modem and router combination. Find out more at Xfinity.com.





### Lynnwood-based Elite Garage Door and Gate Repair offers same-day service from Bellingham to Vancouver

### By SPONSORED ARTICLE

LYNNWOOD-Elite Garage Door and Gate Repair knows that a faulty garage door can be a serious safety, security, and accessibility issue for households. That's why the Lynnwood-based garage door installation and repair company emphasizes immediate response sending highly trained technicians directly to your home, within an hour of making a call, and completing the repair within an hour of two upon arrival.

Elite Garage Doors is a family-owned company that offers garage door installation, repairs, and same-day service from Bellingham all the way down to Vancouver, Washington, and everywhere in between. The company also offers locksmithing and roofing services.

What sets Elite Garage Door apart from their competitors is their emphasis on customer service, offering phone support every day from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., free estimates and consultations, and using their own parts which, according to the company, is something many garage door companies do not do.

For garage doors Elite uses trusted brands such as Linear, LiftMaster, Raynor, Amarr and Clopay.

Elite Garage Door also offers a fiveyear warranty and, in some cases, a 10year warranty on parts depending on manufacturer. They even offer phone support from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. in case there are any issues with installation or questions.

At this time Elite is only doing residential installations.

Owners Ran Kroynish, Garage Door Specialist, and Gadi Vana, Marketing, have been in business together since 2008 and founded Elite Garage Doors in 2016. Prior to their business ventures



The Elite team repairing a garage door. SOURCE: Elite Garage Door and Gate Repair.

together the two have been longtime friends dating back before they relocated to Washington State from Israel - where they were born.

Kroynish brings with him years of experience working as a technician. He began getting into fixing garage doors in the Lynnwood and Snohomish County area, quickly expanding out to King and Pierce counties, so setting up shop in Lynnwood only seemed natural.

"Our reputation is really good in regards to our online reviews. We have over 150 reviews on Google in our Lynnwood location and over 200 in our Seattle location. Our customer service is excellent. If we have any problems with any customers we figure it out, whether it's a refund or sending someone to fix [a garage door] - even if it's something unrelated to a previous re-pair we do our best," Vana told the Lynnwood Times.

After making an initial call customers can expect Elite Garage Door to send a representative directly to their homes

for a free quote and in most cases, if they agree to the quote, installation can begin immediately as most representatives carry all of the parts on-hand unless it's a specialized system.

"In most cases we do repairs same day, but installation can take up to one week," said Vana.

Regarding emergency garage door services, Vana said, an Elite specialist can be onsite in less than an hour, in most cases. Repairs can be taken care of right away in just an hour-or-two upon arrival.

Prices for repairs can range anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500 depending on the type of system. Installation can range up to \$4,000 depending on the type of door. Vana informed the Lynnwood Times the price used to be significantly lower, but the price of supplies and inflation caused the company to raise their prices.

To make up for this Elite Garage Door offers several customer coupons including 10% online bookings, and safety inspections and lubrication starting at just \$99.

Elite Garage Door and Gate Repair also offers a variety of free resources on their website including blog posts, authored by Owner Ran Kroynish, with several troubleshooting and repair tips, proper maintenance to ensure maximum lifespan, safety tips to avoid injuries and childproofing your garage door systems, and more.

To speak to a dedicated garage door repair specialist, call Elite Garage Door and Gate Repair now on 425.336.3238 or send them an email at info@elitegaragelynnwood.us.



ing 50 years of women flying in the Flight Air Medals for her contributions Navy. This event also symbolized the to missions flown between December 21, 2023, and March 29, 2024.

#### from page 1 NAVY AVIATORS

Naval aviators," Larsen said during his House floor speech last Thursday.

Both natives to California, the aviators proudly served their country with the Electronic Attack Squadron or VAQ130, also known as "the Zappers," which is based in Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Larsen's district.

The two had recently returned from a nine-month deployment at sea, distinguishing themselves in combat operations to defend U.S. and coalition forces and ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Middle East.

In a tribute to Lieutenant Commander Evans and Lieutenant Wileman, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island wrote that "beyond their names and ranks they were role models, trailblazers, and women who influenced and touched countless people on the flight deck and

"My sympathies are with the families of Lieutenant Commander Evans and Lieutenant Evans during this very difficult time and on behalf of my constituents, I thank them for their service, and sacrifice," said Larsen honoring the combat-decorated naval aviators.

The pilots crashed east of Mount Rainier in a densely forested area about 6,000 feet above sea level. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Evans was commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) after graduating from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and earned her "Wings of Gold" as a Naval Flight Officer out of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola.

In 2023, she flew in an all-female Super Bowl flyover, a historic moment markprogress of women in aviation across all military branches, according to the U.S. Navy.

Upon completing a 12-week HAVOC graduate-level course at NAS Fallon (the Top Gun of the Growler community). Evans earned the honor and responsibility of becoming a Growler Tactics Instructor.

While deployed with the CVW-3 and the IKE Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG) in the Red Sea, Evans coordinated and executed multiple combat strikes into Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen, making her one of the few women to fly combat missions over land.

Evans was awarded two Single Action Air Medals for her exceptional performance during strikes on January 12 and 22, 2024. She also earned three Strike

Also a native Californian. Evans' co-pilot Wileman was a senior first-tour Naval Aviator. She assisted Evans in leading multiple successful strikes in Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen during her deployment from 2023-2024. Wileman's exceptional leadership was highlighted during VAQ-130's "Dirt Det," where she was designated the Officer in Charge.

Evans eventually oversaw all detachment operations enabling the support of multiple flights in the defense of U.S. and Coalition forces in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Prosperity Guardian. Due to her unrelenting efforts, Wileman accrued three Strike Flight Air Medals for her role in combat operations between December 17, 2023, and April 5, 2024.

### **Commentary: Lynnwood adopts budget** with a 52% property tax increase

#### By GEORGE HURST, LYNNWOOD CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Last week, by a vote of 4-3, the Lynnwood City Council passed a City property tax increase of 52%. That large of an

increase is something I could not vote for and as City Council President, I am concerned about the impact on residents with such a tremendous tax increase.

Please, I want to be clear, I am not saying all property taxes are going up by 52%. I found my latest property tax statement and for sure the Edmonds School District, the State and the South Snohomish County Regional Fire Authority all collect the bulk of the property tax that is assessed on my home. I do not have control over the taxes assessed by those entities. But, because of the decision by the City Council majority last week, the City of Lynnwood property tax on my home will increase from \$309.65 per year to \$471.87 per year. The 2% property tax increase that the County Council just passed increases the County property tax on my home from \$344.99 to \$351.89. The City of Lynnwood now collects more property tax on my home than the County does. How did this happen?

According to news reports I have read; hundreds of Snohomish County residents protested a proposed 8% increase in property taxes at a Snohomish County Council meeting in mid-November. At a contentious special budget public hearing held last week on November 25th the County Council passed a biennial budget that included a 2% increase in property taxes for 2025.

On that same night, the Lynnwood City Council met at our regularly scheduled business meeting to vote on the City's property tax levy and biennial budget. The majority of the City Council complied with the mayor's request to increase City property taxes, led by new council members who have had no previous budget experience. By a vote of 4-3 the Council adopted a biennial budget that includes a property tax of \$7.2 million. Last year's property tax levy for Lynnwood was \$4.725 million. This is a historic 52% increase in the City of Lynnwood property taxes. The three senior members of the Council, myself, Council Vice-President Altamirano-Crosby and Council Member Decker voted against the tax increase.

Back on November 12, the Lynnwood City Council held a public hearing on the City property tax levy. At that meeting, the mayor's staff submitted a City property tax levy of \$6.2 million. Most of that proposed increase in the tax levy was to fund additional police and custody officers, a Human Services coordinator and two added park employees. There were just three residents who spoke at the Lynnwood public hearing. Only one opposed the \$6.2 million tax levy. After the public hearing, a vote on the property tax levy was scheduled for two weeks later, November 25.

Before the vote on the property tax the City Council had a meeting on November 18. It was a Council work session, and the Council continued to deliberate on the mayor's proposed budget. At that meeting the City's Finance Director brought forward a list of additional funding requests. The Council saw these requests during the City Department budget presentations to the Council in October. During those presentations the Mayor told the City Council that they would have to find additional revenue if the Council wanted to include these "asks" in the budget. There were no options provided that decreased expenditures in the budget. At the November 18 meeting, the Finance Director presented an increase of over \$1.2 million in property taxes as the way to pay for these "additional funding requests."

A week later, on November 25, the City Council met to vote on the property tax levy. The Finance Director included two draft ordinances on the agenda. One was for the \$6.2 million tax levy, the subject of the public hearing held on November 12. The other draft ordinance set the property tax levy at \$7.4 million to pay for the added Department requests. I made the motion to approve the \$6.2 million tax levy. Council Members went through various amendments to that motion and eventually the property tax was amended to \$7.2 million. I proposed to reduce expenditures in the budget by 1.5% which would free up funds for the added requests and avoid any increase above the original \$6.2 million property tax. The newer Council Members rejected that proposal saying it was too late to consider any spending cuts. The first term Council Members passed the increased property tax of \$7.2 million by a vote of 4-3.

I have been surprised by the lack of media coverage or resident engagement regarding this 52% increase in the Lynnwood property tax. The proposed increase of 8% in Snohomish County's property tax resulted in a huge turnout at a County Council meeting. The local news media, both print and television, have provided wide coverage about the final decision to increase the County property tax.

I am not satisfied that the recent press release written by the mayor's staff sent out on November 26th is telling the whole story about the property tax and budget vote by the City Council on November 25th.

I hope this article provides some insights into the passage of the historic property tax increase in Lynnwood.

### George Hurst, Lynnwood City Council President

Hurst was first elected to the City Council in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. During his years on the Council, Hurst has focused on making Lynnwood a safer place to live and work. He was Chair of the committee that created the South County Regional Fire Authority and served on the Board that combined two 911 call centers into one efficient 911 system for all of Snohomish County. Hurst legislative priorities over the years have been focused on addressing housing shortages, controlling government spending, and providing a business-friendly environment.

Hurst was born in Seattle and for 27 years has lived in Lynnwood with his wife and their four children. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History/Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Arts in American History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**COMMENTARY DISCLAIMER:** The views and comments expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lynnwood Times nor any of its affiliate.

#### from page 1 LYNNWOOD BUDGET

future Lynnwood our community members want to see," said Mayor Christine Frizzell. "I want to thank our directors and employees who were instrumental in crafting this budget, our community members who provided their valued insight and feedback that shaped this budget, and the City Council for carefully reviewing this budget to ensure it reflects the needs of our community members and employees to operate effectively." overall cost of operating a city the size of Lynnwood, including increased fees for services, liability insurance, additional employees to address public safety concerns, maintaining and improving critical infrastructure, employee benefits, wage increases from collective bargaining agreements and addressing the substantial growth of the community Plan Act (ARPA) and COPS grants, Parks Maintenance positions that address graffiti and vandalism on City property, and the City's Human Services Coordinator position, which were all initially funded through ARPA grant funding.

Additionally, Council approved funding



The adopted budget will go into effect

on January 1, 2025, and will be avail-

able on our website in the near future.

The adopted 2025-26 budget also addresses the effects of inflation and the that the City has envisioned and planned for decades.

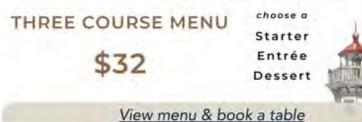
The budget secures funding for 27 fulltime positions approved by the Council over the past two years, including multiple police officer positions funded through one-time American Rescue and authorized the following new positions: Municipal Court Commissioner, three Municipal Court Clerks, Detention Lieutenant, three Custody Officers (to be hired in 2026), Information Technology Computer Support Specialist, and a Public Works Facilities Maintenance Worker.





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# Lynnwood Councilwoman Escamilla breaks silence on alleged association with criminals

### By MARIO LOTMORE

**LYNNWOOD**—Lynnwood City Council's newest member, Derica Escamilla, cleared the air about some recent allegations regarding some of her close family and friends' criminal histories.

In early November, an anonymous letter was sent to the Lynnwood City Attorney's Office, Lynnwood Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Lynnwood Municipal Court Judge Valerie Boufflou, Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon, Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, the Lynnwood City Council and the Alderwood Boys & Girls Club, early November which alleged that Councilwoman Escamilla assisted in hiding her "husband," a Duaine G. Belgarde Jr., from officers who were attempting to arrest him on a felony warrant.

According to Snohomish County records, Escamilla does not have a valid marriage license in Snohomish County nor in Hidalgo County, Texas, where she resided before relocating in 2011.

Escamilla was once in a relationship with Belgarde Jr., who is also the father of her 17-year-old son, but the two have been estranged for at least eight years after his substance abuse led to their breakup; the two never married.

Belgarde Jr. does occasionally visit with his and Escamilla's child at Escamilla's Lynnwood residence but,



Lynnwood City Councilwoman Derica Escamilla who was appointed to the council in July 2024 to Position No.1, which was vacated in May due to the resignation of Councilwoman Shirley Sutton. SOURCE: City of Lynnwood.

according to Escamilla, does not live there and has not for nearly a decade.

"When he has a phone, and he's around, he's still their dad," said Escamilla. "He's never been an absent father, or a loser dad, or anything like that."

Duaine G. Belgarde Jr. was arrested earlier this year with seven charges, two of which he served 90 days in jail at the Snohomish County Jail—one for possession/selling of a dangerous weapon and another for obstructing a law enforcement officer, both gross misdemeanors. The other charges, which he has not served time for, include refusing to comply with a police officer (misdemeanor), two counts of driving with a suspended license (misdemeanor), making false/misleading statements to a public servant (misdemeanor), and unlawful possession of a firearm (felony).

He was arrested for these charges at Escamilla's house on May 12, 2024, while visiting his son for Mother's Day. After having a family barbecue Escamilla hopped in the shower in preparation to visit her boyfriend's house but was interrupted by her son telling her that the house was surrounded by police.

"I knew that he had a warrant because I asked him about it a couple of weeks prior. I told him to turn himself in but he said the last time he was in jail they nearly let him die from withdrawal, so he was scared to death and there had been one or two deaths at the Everett jail in that time," said Escamilla.

According to Escamilla, several police officers, with drawn rifles, surrounded her house shouting for Belgarde to



come out. She said her son and mother were inside crying and she refused to let the police inside, scared to have their weapons so close to her family.

One of the claims the letter sent last month makes is that Escamilla obstructed officers and assisted in hiding Belgarde. According to Escamilla, she never got in the way of the officers, only requested to see their warrant, requested a de-escalation team, and urged them not to have their weapons close to her children.

"I think that incident could have gone way differently if someone had been mentally unstable or moved the wrong way," said Escamilla. "I was scared out of mind, I just wanted to see a warrant. He [Belgarde] wasn't a fugitive, he wasn't actively committing a crime, he just had a bench warrant because he was trying to get clean...But I love my city, and I don't want to paint these cops in a bad light because of what happened."

Escamilla shared that she last heard that Belgarde Jr. was homeless and staying with a friend in Mountlake Terrace while trying to get clean. According to Escamilla, Belgarde Jr. goes periods without a cell phone and is somewhat elusive.

The letter also alleged that Councilwoman Escamilla's brother Josh is a known drug dealer and active gang member with the Norteños gang, and is known to do illegal, dangerous drugs, while in her home.

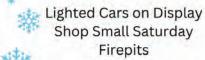
Escamilla denied that her brother is living with her or that he has ever committed any crimes while in her household, adding that he did live with her temporarily but an "incident happened" and she kicked him out; an incident involving him getting arrested for using a stolen credit card, a charge that has since been dropped.

Continued PAGE 7



### MEET ME IN ARLINGTON

### November 30



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### DEC 5 - DEC 18, 2024 | LYNNWOOD TIMES | 07

#### from page 6 **COMMUNITY TRANSIT**

According to Escamilla, her brother told her that he was purchasing a lottery ticket at a Fred Meyer when his friend passed him a credit card to use, a story security camera footage corroborated resulting in the charges being dropped. He claims that he did not realize that it was stolen at the time and just assumed that it was his friend's card.

While Escamilla's brother does have a checkered past, he abandoned that lifestyle around the time of having his daughter, Escamilla said. Although recently, just last summer, he began hanging out with a group she referred to as "troublemakers." Still, Escamilla denied her brother has any association with the Norteńos gang.

He did, she explained, hang around some known Norteńos members when living in Eastern Washington and was put on a registered gang member list with local law enforcement there. Still, to her knowledge, he has not been affiliated with anyone in the gang since moving to western Washington.

Lastly, the letter alleges that a convicted felon, a Lethel C. Torrence, who was arrested for strong-armed robberies of homeless people, possession of stolen firearms, attempt to elude, dangerous drugs, among other crimes, was seen driving Escamilla's white Ford F-150 truck.

"I've seen him, I know of him, but I never lent him my truck," said Escamilla. "I know of the name, and this is one of those guys my brother had just met I call 'bad kids' but I don't know that guy and I definitely did not give him permission to drive my truck... I'm not trying to associate with any criminals but I also am not scared of shying away from them and figuring out why they are who they are. I've walked into homeless camps, I can't tell you how many times, just to talk to them and figure out how they got there. That's just who I am."

According to Escamilla, the Ford F-150 truck belongs to her estranged ex-boyfriend Belgarde but is still under both of their names, having purchased the vehicle while together. When asked why she hasn't taken her name off of the registration she said because Belgarde needs to be present in order to do so, he's nearly impossible to get in contact with, and it's an expensive process. Having been unemployed for six months while getting her foot in the door in the engineering sector, it was just another expense to worry about.

Two separate meetings were held with Councilwoman Escamilla on these allegations, one with Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell and Council President George Hurst, and another with Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon.

Escamilla said during these meetings she was able to tell her side of the story and squash some of the falsities and misleading information.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Mayor Frizzell and Council President Hurst for comment on how these meetings went but both declined to do so.

"I'm clean as a whistle but I have family that has some things. Did I think about this before throwing my name in the hat? Yes, I did; but I knew that I could answer to it and it wasn't anything that I did and I deserve to be in





\*\*Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%. Effective - 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details.2The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." \*for those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMTMercer Group in Ohio. AR #0366920022, CA #1035795, CT #11C.0054905, FL #CC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #210612946, MM #iR731804, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #371045322, WA 193104952390, ON #486930, NV #0086990, NV #1149114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFNW822IZ, WW #WV056912.

this role," said Escamilla. "I haven't done anything to anyone and I'm not sure why I'm being attacked."

The Lynnwood Times reached out to

the Lynnwood Police Department, and Police Chief Cole Langdon, for comment multiple times but did not receive a response.

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### **08** | Lynnwood Times | DEC 5 - DEC 18, 2024

## At The Sound Pizza and Pub it's all about the people, says owner

#### By KIENAN BRISCOE

MUKILTEO—Owned by husbandand-wife duo Lance and Lisa Mitchell, The Sound Pizza and Pub, formerly Sully's Pizza, serves the residents of Old Town in Mukilteo with a completely revamped menu, remodeled interior, a full-on beer and wine bar, and a focus on customer service at its core.

Prior to Lance and his wife Lisa taking over Sully's Pizza the two held longterm careers working for the food and beverage industry. The bulk of Lance's career was with Deschutes Brewery, where he worked for 21 years, and most recently as a distributor for Rancho La Gloria, a startup which specializes in ready-to-drink margaritas.

Lisa Mitchell, on the other hand, is the daughter of former Mukilteo Mayor and Restauranteur Emory Cole who owned Emory's on Silver Lake in Everett. Separate to that, she works as Director of Sales for Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits.

Having both grown up in, and around, the food and beverage industry, the Mitchells had always wanted to open up a place of their own so when family friend Brian Sullivan, the owner of Sully's Pizza, was looking to sell his business in 2022 it only seemed natural they would seize the opportunity.

The Mitchell's purchased Sully's Pizza from Sullivan in October of 2022 but the pizzeria, which has since been renamed The Sound Pizza and Pub, officially opened in December of 2022 following a couple months' worth of renovations while awaiting permits and licensing.

But the name was not the only thing to change from Sully's Pizza. The Mitchell's repainted, remodeled the bar, renovated the kitchen, added more beer taps, installed new televisions, and revamped the menu to "elevate" the food while still paying homage to the neighborhood pizzeria many have grown up loving. An example of that homage is continuing to offer their "Sully's Pizza" which has been a crowd favorite in Mukilteo for years.

"The only thing the same now is the chairs," joked Mitchell.



(Top left) The Margarita: Olive oil, fresh garlic, mozzarella, roasted grape tomatoes, basil, cheese, balsamic glaze. SOURCE: The Sound Pizza and Pub.

(Top right) The Sound Pizza and Pub staff workers Mark Wall and Lisa Busby dressed up for Halloween. SOURCE: The Sound Pizza and Pub.

#### (Bottom left) Tempura Green Bean Fries. SOURCE: The Sound Pizza and Pub.

"We're generous with our toppings, our pizzas are big, our salads are big, you get hearty portions, we try to do most things in house. Because we are in an old house our philosophy is it should feel like walking into someone's home," said Mitchell. "You walk in and see all of the Christmas decorations, the fireplace, my mom's piano which is 57 years old by the front door, it's all like stepping into someone's home and that's how we want people to feel, and we also treat you like family."

The restaurant also has 12, constantly rotating, beer taps all craft brews that exhibit uniqueness and quality, Mitchell informed the Lynnwood Times. While the beer list constantly rotates he said, beer heads can always expect an IPA, a pilsner (which goes great with pizza), a bourbon barrel aged, and a nitro beer on tap. Other than that, beers tend to reflect the seasons. The fall and winter, for example, guests can expect to see a lot more darker beer choices.







The Sound Pizza and Pub serves a, onesized, thin crust pizza using a housemade sauce, locally sourced dough, and a five cheese blend. The restaurant does not serve single slices but it does offer smaller-sized pizzas for kids. In addition to its house-made sauce the restaurant makes all of its dressings from scratch in-house.

For first timers Mitchell recommends the garlic cheese bread, a crowd favorite according to him, tempura green bean fries, and the pub wings. Separate to that, he added you really can't go wrong ordering any of their pizzas, calzones, or salads – the restaurant's namesake.

The Sound also offers vegetarian and gluten-free options with the ability to sub out any pizza dough with cauliflower crust.

The Sound Pizza and Pub intentionally only serves beer and wine to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere.

With customer service at its core Mitchell said his staff are the true heart of operations with their servers taking time to remember guest's names, their children's names, and birthdays so when you walk in for your special day you can expect balloons attached to your seat and a candle affixed to your desert.

"Mukilteo is definitely a community and a lot of people have been here their whole lives. They've been here,



Inside The Sound Pizza and Pub. SOURCE: The Sound Pizza and Pub.

they've been raised here, they're raising their family here. We often say that it's a small world in Mukilteo. And that's what we wanted; we wanted a friendly neighborhood pub like they do in England. Every neighborhood had its pub where they go and that's their place," said Mitchell. "When you come here, you're going to leave full and you're going to leave happy."

To go along with that neighborhood and family feel, Mitchell said that whenever the restaurant makes adjustments to its menu they always bring out samples to their guests to weigh their input so guests feel like they are part of the process.

While the Sound Pizza and Pub only has eight tables, and seven seats at the bar, they offer takeout options and additional outdoor seating on their heated, and umbrella patio with spectacular views of the waterfront. The restaurant also utilizes seating in the nearby Lincoln Square courtyard as needed.

Continued PAGE 9

### **Governor-elect Ferguson prepares to fight** against Heritage Foundation's Project 2025

### By KIENAN BRISCOE

SEATTLE—On Monday, November 25, Governor-elect Bob Ferguson announced a Transition Team subcommittee that will focus on protecting Washingtonians from the Heritage Foundation's (a conservative think tank) Project 2025.

According to Ferguson, the Project 2025 agenda include gutting access to abortion, mass deportations, limiting access to the ballot box, rolling back LGBTQ+ rights, ending environmental protections, warrantless surveillance, undermining collective bargaining and the rights of workers, and more.

"We are preparing in case President Trump attacks Washingtonians' core freedoms," Governor-elect Ferguson

said. "We will keep Washington moving forward no matter what happens at the federal level."

Vice President Kamala Harris, the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee who lost to President-elect Donald J Trump, has warned Americans about "Trump's Project 2025" agenda — however, Trump has claimed publicly that he "knows nothing" about the 900-page Project 2025 document.

According to The Guardian, Trump's transition team will blacklist potential officials to be in his administration who have links to the creation of the Project 2025 manifesto.

The transition working group will be co-chaired by Jennifer M. Allen, CEO of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advo-

### from page 8 SOUND PIZZA

"We always say at the Sound it's not about the food, it's not about the beer and wine, it's about the people," said Mitchell. "The people that work for us, the people that come here.

The Sound Pizza and Pub frequently engages with its community offering catering services for parties or events at the nearby Rosehill Community Center and beyond, and participation in the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival.

The Sound Pizza and Pub plans to make minor adjustments to its menu, including adding new appetizers, and a featured 'Pizza of the Month' that will not be on the normal menu.

The Sound Pizza and Pub has a 4.8/5, out of 68 reviews on Google, and a 4.6/5, out of 19 reviews, on Yelp. Reviewers praised the food and celebrated the warm, and welcoming, customer service with some claiming it is some of the "best pizza in Mukilteo."



### **Apply for vacancies on boards** and commissions in Mukilteo

The City of Mukilteo encourages residents to actively participate



cates (PPAA), and King County Councilmember Jorge L. Barón. At PPAA, Allen oversees the work protecting and promoting reproductive health, rights, and justice in Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky and Washington. Councilmember Barón previously served as the Executive Director for the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project from 2008 to 2023.

"I am honored to assist Governor-elect Ferguson in his transition into this new role and to co-chair this important subcommittee," said Barón. "As an immigrant and as the proud parent of a trans daughter, I am particularly grateful that the Governor-elect is committed to protecting all Washington state residents, and especially those communities at greatest risk of having their rights attacked by the incoming federal administration.'

"This is a critical time in our nation as we look to the possibility of our communities being under attack from many different directions. I'm honored to serve on Governor-elect Ferguson's transition team and to co-chair this subcommittee to support his leadership in our state and country in championing and safeguarding reproductive rights and all of the rights of Washingtonians," said Allen.

The subcommittee's work will culminate in policy priorities for the first 100 days of Ferguson's term to shore up protections against the Project 2025 agenda.

### Apply to serve on Lynnwood's **Parks & Recreation Board**

The City of Lynnwood is looking for a member of our community to join its Parks & Recreation Board. The Board serves as an advisory body and its duties include advising and making recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, staff and other Boards and Commissions in the City with regard to parks, open space and recreation services and programs for the City of Lynnwood and the City's urban growth area. The Parks, Recreation



and Cultural Arts Department provides a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves the needs of residents and visitors of Lynnwood.

Each advisory body member is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council to a specific position number and term, and serves without compensation.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month. Hours are generally 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Robert's Rules of Order shall form the basis of the operation of the meetings.

#### **Requirements:**

No more than two member(s) of the board may be nonresidents, community stakeholder(s) of the City of Lynnwood.

There is a preference for city of Lynnwood residents over nonresident candidates. (Ord. 3410 § 6, 2021; Ord. 3248 § 2, 2017; Ord. 3150 § 4, 2015)

### **Board Responsibilities and Functions:**

In order to function well, the Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Lynnwood expects its members to:

- Attend regular meetings and work sessions and actively participate in discussions and decision-making, while respecting the Board's time constraints and the rights of other Board members to be heard.
- Serve on committees as appointed.
- Appear before the City Council in support of Board resolutions and interests.
- Attend Parks and Recreation Department-sponsored events.

in shaping the future of our community by serving on one of the City's Boards, Commissions, or Committees. These volunteer roles play a vital part in the City's policy development process, providing ongoing input to the Mayor and City Council.



Mukilteo's Boards and Commissions cover a wide range of top-

ics, from historic preservation to diversity, equity, and inclusion. While some are required by state law, others are created by local ordinance or special appointments by the Mayor and Council to address specific needs. All positions, except for the Hearing Examiner, are voluntary and unpaid, but they provide an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community.

#### **Current Vacancies:**

- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (1 hotelier)
- Historic Preservation Commission (1)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission (2)
- Parks and Arts Commission (1) •

Interested residents can complete the online Application for Boards and Commissions at any time. To learn more about each Board or Commission and the application process, visit https://mukilteowa.gov/306/Boards-Commissions-Committees.

- Have a commitment to safeguard and represent the public interest in the overall purpose of all parks, recreation, leisure time, community development, and natural area preservation activities in the City of Lynnwood and its anticipated growth area.
- Develop a knowledge of the policies, procedures, and goals of the Board.
- Become individually knowledgeable about Parks and Recreation issues so that our collective advice as a Board is credible. This includes reading appropriate literature, visiting sites, talking with citizens, and other actions. To advise means to give an opinion, to inform, to counsel, and to recommend.
- Encourage citizen involvement at all levels.
- Generate ideas, such as for community awareness or outreach, projects, education, workshops, fundraising, or special events, in keeping with the overall plan, and without creating additional burdens for existing staff. Board members may speak as members of the Board but must not represent their own views or recommendations as those of the Board, unless the Board has officially voted to nominate them as a spokesperson for the Board on a specific topic.

To learn more about the Parks & Recreation Board and to apply, visit: lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions/Parks-Recreation-Board.

### King County Judge orders influencer Steve Hickey to vacate million-dollar house

By **KIENAN BRISCOE** 

RAVENSDALE—A King County Superior Court Judge has ordered Steve Hickey, an on-leave King County Fire District 57 Commissioner and independent journalist, to vacate the \$1.4 million



home he has allegedly been squatting in for two years without paying rent.

Hickey made a name for himself in the Seattle area for his highly successful construction company Meridian Build Group but his business closed in 2022 following several lawsuits and complaints, with some customers alleging he failed to deliver on his promises and made off with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Now Hickey is an independent Journalist who publishes primarily on social media platforms and prides himself as being the "first on the scene" to report. Hickey's journalism efforts, which he monetizes, have garnered hundreds of thousands of followers.

Also a King County Fire District 57 Fire Commissioner, Hickey was put on leave from his position back in May after allegations surfaced of him abusing his position for personal gain while also allegedly using municipal equipment to promote his journalism channels.

Hickey also allegedly assisted Lynnwood City Councilman Josh Binda in making his Love Conquers All promotional video in December of 2022-a tour in which Binda profited at least \$14,000. The promo video was shot in Council Chambers after hours. During this time Binda lent his city ID card to Hickey so that he could go in and out of the building unchaperoned. The two also forgot to set the alarm upon leaving, jeopardizing city resources and security.

The Ravensdale house Hickey is currently living in was owned by husbandand-wife Lee and Denise Strom when he moved in. Hickey entered a lease agreement with the Stroms to rent the property for a monthly price of \$7,500, with an option to eventually purchase the property given he not be in default of the terms - including paying monthly rent and periodic option fees.

The lease Hickey signed also explicitly states that failure to make "the initial or subsequent annual renewal option fee Freitag personally served Hickey on payment will result in forfeit of [Hickey's] rights to purchase the property."



Fire Commissioner Steve Hickey walking out of the King County Fire District 47 meeting on Friday, May 24, 2024, after announcing an impromptu leave of absence after allegations surface of him allegedly misusing municipal equipment for personal gain and abuse of power. SOURCE: Screen shot from Jonathan Choe X account.



denied a motion to consolidate the two open cases on Hickey, both against the Stroms and new homeowner Freitag. Hickey's motion for Partial Summary Judgement was denied on October 25, 2024 for failure to properly note a hearing date.

Hickey then made another motion for Partial Summary Judgement on November 4, 2024, and a hearing was held on November 20 where both parties argued their case.

During that hearing King County Superior Court Judge Jaime Hawk concluded that Hickey had breached his duty to pay rent to owner Freitag effectively terminating their rental agreement and allowing her to remove Hickey from her property under RCW Chapter 7.28. The Judge also found that Hickey's claim of right to purchase property had been terminated and was no longer in effect.

The damages caused by Hickey's refusal to pay rent or vacate will be determined at subsequent briefings.

Freitag told Reporters she has not received a single rent payment from Hickey since purchasing the home seven months ago, equating to roughly \$50,000. This is separate to incurring

Aerial image of the Ravensdale, Washington, home Steve Hickey is allegedly staying in without permission from the property owner. SOURCE: Zillow.com

In early August, 2023, the Stroms sold the property to Katrina Freitag. As part of that sales agreement, which closed on August 31, Freitag was to assume Hickey's lease and with it all unpaid rent, utility fees, late fees, attorney fees, court costs, or financial breach of contract claims accrued by Hickey prior to the sales agreement closing.

to Pay Rent or Vacate the Premises, advising him that he still had until November 13 to pay all unpaid rent or vacate the premises and surrender the property to Freitag. Hickey failed to pay rent and failed to vacate the premises claiming that he had a right to purchase the property, a right that had been terminated back in June of 2022 for unpaid rent and an unclosed deal. roughly \$40,000 in attorney fees as well as damages to the property. According On November 21, 2023, Hickey was served with a complaint alleging him of to Freitag, Hickey has not maintained Breach of Contract, Ejectment, Waste, the property as well as he should have Trespass, and Slander of Title. Hickey either. She would guess the damages would range between another \$75,000 denied these allegation and motioned to \$100.000. for a Partial Summary Judgement on April 30, 2024, filing its cross-Motion

On May 31, 2024, a Chief Civil Judge

Based on this signed agreement, Hickey forfeited his rights to purchase the property when he stopped paying rent and failed to close on an agreed-upon Purchase and Sale agreement dated Mav 26, 2022. Hickey's purchase option was terminated on June 2, 2022, court documents state.

28, 2024.

September 8, 2023, with a notice that she was assuming landlord duties, where to tender unpaid rent, and a 90-day notice to vacate by December 31, 2023, as their tenancy would effectively be terminated so long as he did not pay all of his unpaid rent accrued.

At that point onward Hickey continued to refuse to pay his monthly rent of \$7,500. On October 10, 2023, Hickey was again served with a 30-day notice

for Partial Summary Judgement one Hickey now has 30 days to vacate unless the court finds it improbable to do month later with a hearing set for June so, in which case two additional 30-day

Continued PAGE 11



#### from page 1 WORLD AIDS DAY

Somers recognizing December 1 as World AIDS Day — the first time in the county's history since World AIDS Day was first started in 1988 by two World Health Organization (WHO) public information officers.

This year's theme, Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress, is dedicated to the progress that has been made through global and national HIV programs over the last forty years.

"Today, we pause to remember the estimated 39 million individuals around the globe with HIV, including approximately 1.2 million people here in the United States. We also remember the 42 million individuals worldwide who have died from HIV/AIDS. Their stories and their lives will continue to motivate and inform our work to end the HIV epidemic," Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released in a statement reinforcing the 2024 World AIDS Day theme.

This World AIDS Day, the Biden Administration published a final rule removing HOPE Act research requirements currently in place for transplants of kidneys and livers from donors with HIV to recipients with HIV. The ruling expands access to kidney and liver transplants for people with HIV by removing clinical research requirements for these transplants.

The World Health Organization reports an estimated 39.9 million people were living with HIV globally as of 2023 and approximately 630,000 people died from HIV-related causes that same year. An estimated 1.3 million people worldwide acquired HIV in 2023. Since its first reported case in June of 1981, an estimated 88.4 million people have been infected with the HIV virus. The African continent remains most severely affected region in the world with one in every 30 adults (3.4%) live with HIV which accounts for more than two-thirds of the people living with HIV worldwide.

According to its 2023 HIV Surveillance Report, the Washington State Department of Health reported approximately 15,000 people living with HIV in the state, with about 400 new cases diagnosed each year. There were 29 new HIV cases and 1,340 people living with HIV/AIDS in Snohomish County that same year.

A memorial resides in Everett at Plaza West of the Old Mission Building at Pacific and Wetmore avenues, that was dedicated on World AIDS Day in 2005 thanks to the combined efforts of volunteers, for those affected by HIV and AIDS.

#### A major breakthrough in HIV prevention

A new paper in the New England Journal of Medicine, has identified a new drug called lenacapavir, when injected twice-yearly to be "significantly more effective than the daily oral PrEP" antiretroviral medication in the infection of HIV.

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is highly effective at preventing HIV transmission through sex when taken as prescribed. However, early clinical trials funded by pharmaceutical company Gilead show a near 100% reduced risk of infection of HIV by those who were injected with lenacapavir once every 6 months. The Gilead-funded clinical trial is led by physicians at Emory University and Grady Health System.

Over the course of its 20 years, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has saved 25 million lives and enables 5.5 million babies to be born HIV-free across 55 countries to mothers living with HIV.

Here in the U.S., HIV incidence among people ages 13 and older has declined 21% in jurisdictions receiving Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative funding, as compared to 12% in the nation overall. EHE has saved over \$5.1 billion in lifetime medical costs due to the 9,500 fewer HIV infections in EHE jurisdictions in 2022 compared to 2017, the CDC reports.

#### from page 10 HICKEY

periods will be allotted for a total of 90 days. Officers working for the King County Sheriff's Office were also given permission to force him off of the premises if he refuses to do so. The Lynnwood Times reached out to Steve Hickey for comment, but he did not answer his phone, nor return our calls, after repeated attempts.



Community Center on November 3 to a sold-out auditorium and received favorable reviews from audience members. Kreider recommends people who may be interested in watching A Christmas Carol set in a modern setting, featuring local actors, and nods to Pacific Northwest culture to watch her rendition at least once.

Kreider's A Christmas Carol hits streaming platforms this December although a specific date has yet to be determined.

Kreider is already busy at work on her next two projects, an animated film which will hopefully begin production next March, and another feature film which is already undergoing preproduction.



### LEGAL NOTICE: SUMMONS DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

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



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