

# Ferguson, Larsen hear how SNAP cuts could worsen food insecurity in Washington state



Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) and Governor Bob Ferguson (right) serving bagged lunches to kids at Lynnwood Elementary School on Thursday, August 21, 2025, to highlight the risks of federal cuts to food and nutrition programs in Washington state. Followed by the opportunity to meet one-on-one with kids, they hosted a listening session with Edmonds School District staff, local nonprofits and families. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson and Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-D02) handed out free lunches to kids at Lynnwood Elementary Thursday, August 21, before hearing, firsthand -- from Edmonds School District staff, parents and community leaders -- how President Donald J Trump's spending bill could impact food insecurity in Snohomish County.

When the Congress passed the President's "One Big Beautiful Bill," or what Rep. Larsen calls the "Big Ugly Law," back in June, he opted to cut approximately \$186 billion in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding through 2034. Roughly one million Washingtonians rely on SNAP benefits each month to purchase food.

While many could see reductions in their benefits - or be required to meet new work requirements to keep their benefits, forcing families to scramble to afford childcare - an estimated 137,000 Washingtonians could lose their benefits altogether.

The reconciliation bill also reduces SNAP benefits to the average household under the Thrifty Food Plan by about \$56 per month and decreases the maximum allotment per household. For example, the maximum allotment for a family of four would drop from \$975 to \$848.

But the impacts grow deeper than food insecurity, Ferguson says. The effects of Trump's reductions to SNAP may cause a ripple through the state's economy from leaving it with an \$87.8 million administrative bill (from costs associated with the program), increasing

the state's cost share of benefits by, at minimum, \$100 million, and impacting Washington's agricultural sector.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that each dollar from the SNAP program produces more than \$1.50 in economic activity in grocery stores, farmer markets, and more. "This bill takes food from our most vulnerable Washingtonians to give tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy," said Ferguson. "This bill is only beautiful to billionaires."

President Trump's spending bill is the largest tax break in United States history. However, these tax breaks will largely benefit the nation's wealthiest Americans, Rep. Larsen added.

According to a Congressional Budget Office analysis, America's poorest individuals will likely see a drop

in roughly \$1,200 a year (in the form of benefits such as Medicaid and food assistance) while the richest 10% of Americans will see a salary increase of \$13,600 a year from tax cuts.

"This bill is literally taking food away from hungry families to pay for one of the largest tax breaks in American history that is largely going to the richest Americans and largest corporations," said Larsen.

Governor Ferguson, who has his own name for Trump's bill ("The Big Betrayal Bill"), added that it's the largest transfer of wealth, from the lowest income Americans to the wealthiest Americans, in the nation's history.

The Trump administration also cancelled \$1.5 billion in funding, back

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# ‘WA State will not be bullied!’ Ferguson vows to defend sanctuary policies against DOJ, DHS

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**OLYMPIA**—Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson (D), joined by elected leaders and community members, held a press conference Tuesday, August 19, addressing United States Attorney General Pam Bondi’s cease and desist letter sent Wednesday, August 13 – ordering Washington state to adhere to federal immigration enforcement efforts or risk federal cuts and criminal prosecution of officials over its sanctuary policies.

“Washington State will not be bullied, or intimidated, by threats and legally baseless accusations,” said Gov. Ferguson. “In the America that I love, and taught my children to revere, we resolve our differences peacefully through public discourse and if necessary, through the courts, not by threatening political opponents with imprisonment.”

The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) letter cited Executive Order 14287, titled “Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens,” that President Donald J Trump signed on April 28, 2025, as the baseline of its affairs.

Washington State passed the Keep Washington Workers Act (KWWA) during the 2019 Legislative Session which recodified state law ensuring “the state of Washington remains a place where the rights and dignity of all residents are maintained and protected in order to keep Washington working.”

The KWWA (RCW 43.17.425) does the following:

- Prohibits state and local law enforcement providing aid in federal civil immigration enforcement.
- Bans holding individuals in custody solely based on immigration status.
- Restricts sharing nonpublic personal information with federal immigration authorities.
- Limits interviewing or detaining people based only on immigration status, except in specific public safety scenarios.

Bondi’s letter to Ferguson states that she and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem were ordered to identify jurisdictions with sanctuary policies that hinder federal immigration enforcement, then notify these jurisdictions of their status, and evaluate options for adding immigration-related conditions to federal grants and contracts.

Bondi’s letter to Ferguson specifically identifies Washington state as engaging in sanctuary policies and practices that thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts, demanding a response by Au-



Joined at the state Capitol by legislators and members from numerous organizations, Gov. Bob Ferguson responded on Aug. 19 to a letter from U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi over sanctuary policies. Source: Office of Governor Bob Ferguson

gust 19, 2025, to commit to “complying with federal law” and identify “immediate initiatives you are taking to eliminate laws, policies, and practices that impede federal immigration enforcement.” She also shared that the DOJ and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are evaluating “options for adding immigration-related conditions to federal grants and contracts.”

Governor Ferguson, having been the former 12-year Attorney General of Washington State, in his official response letter to Bondi wrote that the letter “embarrasses and disgraces the officer of the United States Attorney General.”

“Washington State is proud to be a welcoming community that values immigrants’ and refugees’ contributions to our economy and out cultural fabric. We do so while accounting for and complying with applicable federal law. If you really believe Washington State is in conflict with controlling federal law, you would make some effort to explain that. You did not, because you cannot,” wrote Ferguson.

Ferguson’s response stated that he is prepared to “defend Washington” against any and all legal action the federal government attempts to pursue, adding that the state will not compromise its values, nor “bend the knee to the Trump Administration.”

“Day by day, drags us closer to authori-

tarianism,” wrote Ferguson committing to defending, “our democracy, the rule of law, and the people of my state.”

Then-Attorney General Ferguson, sued the Trump administration 99 times and of those cases, he won 55 and lost 2.

During Tuesday’s presser, Gov. Ferguson noted that Bondi’s letter made no

attempt to elaborate on how Washington State was identified as a “sanctuary jurisdiction” nor which specific federal laws were violated. Still, Bondi’s letter accused Washington State of “federal obstruction, conspiracy, and harboring statutes that carry criminal penalties of prison time.”

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# ‘Hit me with your best shot!’ Mata launches campaign for Lynnwood City Council

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**LYNNWOOD**—Isabel Mata, a freelance writer and mindfulness meditation counselor who identifies as an openly queer member of the LGBTQ+ community, officially kicked off her campaign for Lynnwood City Council Position 2, on Friday, August 15, at Peace of Mind Brewing in Lynnwood. The Position 2 seat is currently held by Councilman Patrick Decker who is not seeking re-election.

“Right now, our city and our country, we are at a crossroads,” Mata told supporters on Friday, “We can either double down on fear and division, or we can choose connection, care, and courage. Local leadership matters, and we have a chance to set the tone right here in Lynnwood.”

As the first openly LGBTQ+ candidate for the council, Mata seeks to create a more inclusive local government that addresses safety, affordable housing, and community care, ensuring “no one is left behind.”

Mata, who moved to Lynnwood in 2022 with her husband Richard after living in Los Angeles, originally hails from Rochester, New York. Her family relocated to Kirkland nearly a decade ago, and she returned to Puget Sound post-pandemic to be closer to family.

“I was shocked how beautiful the city [Lynnwood] was, from its parks, the schools, the community resources,” Mata told the Lynnwood Times in a June interview. “I saw the Rec Center and I was like we have to be here.”

Professionally, Mata runs her own business focused on writing about mental health and therapy, drawing from her experiences with anxiety and depression. She is extremely active



Lynnwood City Council Position 2 candidate, Isabel Mata, about to sing “Hit Me with Your Best Shot,” by Pat Benatar, dedicated to her opponent, at her campaign kickoff on Friday, August 15, at Peace of Mind Brewing in Lynnwood.

with the Washington State Jewish Historical Society and serves on the board of Limmud Seattle, a Jewish learning center, as well as We Move Seattle. Until recently, her volunteer efforts were primarily in Seattle’s Jewish community, but she has ramped up involvement in Lynnwood over the past six months by attending city events and bi-weekly council meetings.

Mata shared a personal story to illustrate the power of one voice, aligning to the theme of the night’s event. She shared how her lived experience from being a victim of online bullying in middle school led her to start a petition and found Heroes Against Hate, a club to combat isolation.

“When people are telling you how horrible you are, it really gets to you.

And in that moment when I saw that the same thing happened to somebody else [who ended her life because of it] and it could have been me, I knew that I had to do something about it,” said Mata adding that she rallied hundreds to support her cause.

“That was the first time that I saw the power that one voice can have,” she added.

That moment precipitated into her activism, that included marches for women’s rights in 2016 and Black Lives Matter in 2020. She is driven by a desire to represent the underrepresented such as immigrants, refugees, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community amid growing concerns over civil liberties.

“Today when I see our federal government attacking the LGBTQ+ community and immigrants, I just can’t stay silent,” Mata said. “I can’t just stay on social media or show up at a protest and call it done.”

Mata highlighted her Lynnwood neighborhood’s inclusive and welcoming nature and contrasted these with local crime, such as the shootings of two young boys, vowing to foster belonging and safety when elected. She also discussed her work on Confronting Pain Together, a program addressing redlining and prejudice among Black, Asian, and Jewish communities.

“Care isn’t charity, it’s how we lift each other up,” she said. “Care and safety go hand in hand. Safety isn’t about fear; it’s about prevention, preparation, and compassion. It means investing in first responders, a strong infrastructure, but also in mental health crisis response. It’s knowing our city can handle the unexpected, whether that’s a storm, a fire, a tragedy, and that we will take care of each other through it.”

In addressing her lack of political experience, she told the Lynnwood Times, “Everybody had to have their first time at some point. So I’m young, I don’t have any political experience whatsoever, but neither did anyone who was else on the council. They all had to start somewhere and I’m ready to start.”

She plans to knock on 10,000 doors, targeting 75 to 80 daily to win over voters.

Mata described her greatest strength as “my ability to make people feel seen and connected and heard,” add-

*Continued* **PAGE 9**

# Binda under new PDC investigation for unreported monies and expenses

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**LYNNWOOD**—Lynnwood Council Vice President Joshua Binda under investigation by the Washington Disclosure Commission (PDC) for alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 for failure to timely and accurately report campaign contributions and campaign expenditures, and WAC 390-16-043 for failing to timely provide inspection of his campaign books in the 2025 Primary Election.

According to PDC records obtained by the Lynnwood Times, a series of campaign violations dating from July 11, 2025, through August 6, 2025, have been filed against Lynnwood City Councilman Josh Binda, who is also listed as the Treasurer of his “Josh Binda For All” re-election campaign. The complaint was filed by Washington resident and attorney Conner Edwards.

Below is a partial list of the currently (2025) alleged Public Disclosure Commission violations (Case #175907) against Lynnwood Council Vice President Josh Binda:

- Failure to timely respond to a request to inspect the campaign’s

books of account during the 10-day window prior to the 2025 August primary election.

- Missing or unreported \$2,574.69 in 2021 campaign funds. Binda’s last C4 Report for 2021, indicated a closing cash on hand balance of \$2,574.69, yet, on his opening C4 Report for 2025, he indicated a \$0 opening cash on hand balance. What happened to the money?
- On June 28, 2025, Joshua Binda hosted a campaign kick-off (Binda’s Ball). There were a number of amenities at this kick-off including food, drinks, a DJ, video games, etc. There is no in-kind contribution/debt/expenditure has been reported for these items.
- There is no expenditure or in-kind contribution listed for his PO Box which is his campaign’s address. No expenditure or in-kind is listed for his campaign website.
- Binda failed to include the sub vendor information and quantity of door cards printed for the \$1200 expense paid to Vote Forward.
- C4 Expenditure Report for May 2025 was filed July 7, 2025, approximately 1 month after the reporting deadline.

Lynnwood Council Vice President Binda is no stranger to the PDC. He has faced multiple violations with Washington’s Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) related to campaign finance reporting, personal use of funds, and financial disclosures for which, under oath, testified that he couldn’t pay the \$1,500 in fines because he didn’t know how to write a check. In May 2025, just before filing for his 2025 re-election run, Binda settled his former debts with the PDC.

Below is a summary of Council Vice President Binda history of campaign finance violations dating from 2021 through 2023:

- Found in violation of misusing approximately \$2,742 in campaign funds for personal expenses (e.g., Versace clothing, dental work, haircuts, airfare, and event tickets) around October-November 2021, violating RCW 42.17A.445.
- Found in violation to timely file a post-election C-4 report (due December 10, 2021; filed 280 days late on September 16, 2022).
- Found in violation to timely file his annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) for calendar

year 2021, due April 15, 2022, violating RCW 42.17A.700.

- As a repeat offender, Binda again was found in violation to timely file his F-1 report for calendar year 2022, due April 17, 2023, violating RCW 42.17A.700.
- Binda failed to accurately report debts of \$2,400 or more on his F-1 reports for calendar years 2022 and 2023, violating RCW 42.17A.710. This was resolved via a Statement of Understanding (no fine imposed); case dismissed January 25, 2025.

Beside the current PDC investigation, Lynnwood Council Vice President Binda has been involved in city ethics complaints and Lynnwood residency issues.

With 33.3% of the vote in the 2025 Primary Election, Binda did qualify to advance to the General Election on November 4. He will face Bryce Owings who won the Primary Election with 34.83% of the vote.

PDC records show that Bryce is leading Binda in campaign contributions with \$3,994.12 to his \$2,123.



# New indoor basketball training center, Shoot 360, to open in Lynnwood

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—A brand new indoor basketball training facility, Shoot 360, is set to open in Lynnwood this Fall which will combine state-of-the-art technology with elite-level coaching to help athletes better their game on, and off, the court.

Shoot 360 considers itself a leader in basketball innovation and skill development and provides athletes of all skill levels with immersive and data-driven training. The brand’s proprietary software tracks and measures skill development across three key areas: ball handling, passing, and shooting to give athletes instant feedback on their performance.

It does this by tracking and measuring the three core skill areas (shooting, passing, and ball handling), using computer vision and proprietary software to capture every rep and provide instant feedback, and gamifies training with interactive drills and leaderboards to drive consistency and motivation.

The technology is designed to serve athletes, ages five-75, and to complement school/club training with year-round access and programming like adult shooting leagues. The same technology is used in 28 NBA training facilities across the country.

“When I was growing up, I did not have access to anything like this, and I can only imagine how much it would have changed my game,” said WNBA NY Liberty player Breanna Stewart.

Lynnwood’s upcoming Shoot 360, which will be located at 12410 Beverly Park Road, will be a 12,000 square foot space with a half court (for training purposes), six passing bays, and six shooting hoops. There will also be a companion app where patrons can upload and save their data to track their progress and share it to social media.

Danish Majeed, Owner of the upcoming Lynnwood location, informed the Lynnwood Times he didn’t even hear about basketball until he first visited the United States from Pakistan in 1992.

During that trip, he was invited to attend a New York Knicks game at Madison Square Garden, while staying with his father’s friend in New Jersey. He recalls sitting so high up in the stands he could “touch the ceiling” but, despite the nosebleeds, it was then when he fell in love with the game of basketball.

Majeed later returned to the U.S. to attend college in Upstate New York and moved to the Pacific Northwest after receiving his degree, going on to work sales at Washington’s most prolific tech companies such as Microsoft and Amazon.

When COVID hit in 2020, Majeed, like many, was working from home. He quickly grew bored of the remote environment and remembered, one day, while taking his son to play in an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball game, that the happiest he has ever been in life was when he was on the basketball court.



Example of Shoot 360’s gamified technology. Photo: Shoot 360

“We always tell our kids that they should follow their dreams, they should make money and do what they love to do. I thought, well I love basketball so how can I do this,” said Majeed. “But when I looked at basketball businesses, I found that traditionally these are businesses put together by people that have played at a high level, so it seemed like a high bar of entry because some of the foundational things needed for it, I didn’t have.”

But Majeed didn’t give up there. After visiting his first Shoot 360 location in Kirkland – owned and operated by Rodney Stuckey, former NBA point guard for the Detroit Pistons – he was immediately enamored by how the basketball training facility made basketball accessible to everyone.

“Through the use of technology, it tells the kids three things about a basketball shot – whether you’re shooting left, whether you’re shooting right, whether you’re shooting center, whether your arc is correct. Every single basketball shot you take it gives you that feedback constantly,” said Majeed. “But it wasn’t just what I saw then. It went deeper. Kids who were unable to walk, who were in a wheelchair, could come and learn to shoot. To me that was deeply personal, growing up in Pakistan without the means to play and watching my son continue to ride the pine. When I saw Shoot 360, I saw a model where every kid had a chance. You don’t need to be an elite player.”

Shoot 360, and its franchise opportunities, were the “perfect marriage” for Majeed, he said, adding that it was literally “my story,” yearning for a career in basketball but not having the necessary qualifications.

Majeed reached out to the company for franchise opportunities and the rest was history. He chose Lynnwood as his selected location, having been a Seattle-area resident for the last 20-years and watching Lynnwood “grow dramat-

ically” over the years.

“There’s 75,000 kids within the vicinity of this location so to me it was the perfect place to open a gym,” said Majeed.

Lynnwood’s Shoot 360 is set to open on October 19 provided everything runs smoothly, as far as construction, renovation, and permitting. Majeed plans to have an official ribbon cutting ceremony closer to the opening date of which details will come later.

Shoot 360 will have a drop-in rate of \$30 per session but that price will be on a sliding scale depending on how many sessions are purchased in bulk. The training facility will also offer unlimited session membership for \$175. It will be open from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekends. Sessions can be booked online or by using the Shoot 360 app.

### About Shoot 360

The first Shoot 360 was founded by Craig Moody in Beaverton, Oregon, in 2012. Moody’s idea began at home when his kids preferred video games over driveway hoops. He started tracking player stats on spreadsheets, which evolved into today’s proprietary system

that delivers personalized feedback on every rep and session – right to each athlete’s app.

Moody brought with him years of business owner and entrepreneurial experience, as well as a head basketball coach and administrator at the collegiate and high school levels.

Shoot 360 began franchising out in 2019 and now has 55 locations worldwide, with 50 more in various stages of development.

To learn more about Shoot 360 Lynnwood, including rates, discounts/deals, and to keep updated on construction and opening visit: [www.shoot360.com/lynnwood](http://www.shoot360.com/lynnwood)





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# Gear Up for a Bigger Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival for 2025

Delicious food, warm sunshine, laughter with friends, and bright fireworks...the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival is back for 2025! The Lighthouse Festival is set to run for three days, from Friday, September 5 to Sunday, September 7.

The Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival — originally named the Mukilteo Pioneer Festival — was created to increase awareness of Mukilteo history while simultaneously earning money for a future museum. The first ever festival took place on September 10, 1966, and though it was a resounding success, was unable to meet fiscal expectations.

By 1971, the City was unable to continue the festival due to waning funds and lack of volunteers. But despite financial challenges, unwavering support from city leaders, businesses, and individual volunteers enabled the festival to continue for over 50 years with minimal disruptions.

As in previous years, the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival will showcase its main attractions: the Mukilteo Lighthouse Parade on Saturday (new location in Old Town), September 6, starting at 10:30 a.m., Kiwanis Club of Mukilteo's annual Salmon Bake, Beer Garden (21+ adults only), Fireworks, unveiling of Totems, and the Mukilteo Fire Foundation Pancake Breakfast.

This year, the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival will be hosting more vendors than ever before, with 20 food vendors and 100+ marketplace, non-profit, and commercial vendors participating.

The children's area currently includes booths, bouncing houses including two obstacle courses.

Entertainment will also be different this year, from a Lion Dance to reptiles to bands, the Main Stage is completely booked out during the festival.

Because the Port of Everett purchased the old ferry terminal property across from Ivar's and turned it into a parking lot, this allows for more parking near the festival. Though this limited parking (less than 100 spots) is paid, it's an option for those who would rather not use the shuttle buses. Shuttle buses will still be available for those who prefer not to drive, offering transportation from locations such as Kamiak High School and Olympic View Middle School to/from the lighthouse.

## FRIDAY, SEPT 5TH

### KID'S CORNER (4 PM to 7 PM)

- Inflatables
- Kid's Booths

### BEER GARDEN LINE UP (4 PM to 10 PM)

- 4-5p Stacy Jones Band "Live Music"
- 5:30-6:30p Criminal Squirrel Orchestra "Live Music"
- 6:30-7:30p Line Dancing lessons
- 8-10p Rebel Canyon "Live Music"

### DRONE SHOW AT BOAT AREA (8:15 PM)



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Acupuncture & Wellness Center, P.S.              | • Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center |
| • Aetna  | • Defensive Driving School           |
| • American Family Insurance                        | • Designs By Heartponies             |
| • Annemarie's cakes and candid adventures boutique | • Dranchak Studio                    |
| • Auntie's Candies LLC                             | • Dwayne Lanes                       |
| • Author Event Network                             | • E Schosso Photography, LLC         |
| • binucho  | • EcoView Windows & Doors NW         |
| • Box of Good                                      | • Emollience Massage and Wellness    |
| • Caerulean Candle Co.                             | • Everett Rowing Association         |
| • Cat & Owl Creations                              | • Evergreen Crystals                 |
| • City of Mukilteo Surface water program           | • Fanglasstic                        |
| • Community Cat Coalition of Washington            | • Florabee Arts                      |
| • Corky Caps & Hilary's Gourmet Pantry             | • Fred & Garlock                     |
| • Country Cuttin's                                 | • Fur Baby Accessories by Linda      |
| • CrossFit Mukilteo                                | • Generatech inc                     |
| • Crystal Springs Co-op Pre-school                 | • Girl Scouts of Western Washington  |

## SATURDAY, SEPT 6TH

### LIGHTHOUSE GRAND PARADE (11 AM)

- Parade starts at 5th and Loveland Avenue and continues around the Rosehill Community Center.

### MAIN STAGE (11:30 AM to 3:45 PM)

- Reptile Lady
- Lion Dance / Martial Arts
- Unveiling of Totems
- Scandinavian Band

### KID'S CORNER (11 AM to 7 PM)

- Inflatables
- The Bubble Man
- Obstacle Courses
- Kid's Booths

### BEER GARDEN (5:30 PM to 10 PM)

- 5:30-6:30p Stomping Ground "Live Music"
- 7-8p The Davinos "Live Music"
- 8:30-10p The Machine "Live Music"

## FESTIVAL BOOTHS

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Hammered & Stoned                              | • Linked By Lauren                  |
| • Harbour Pointe Senior Living                   | • Mossy Rock Soap Co                |
| • Homes and Hope Community Land Trust            | • Mountain Sky Arts                 |
| • Humana   | • Mukilteo Lacrosse Club            |
| • Integrative Foot & Ankle Centers of Washington | • Mukilteo Memory Care              |
| • Island Raya                                    | • Mukilteo Senior Association       |
| • Jalani Collections                             | • Natural Way Chiropractic          |
| • JsLongMeats dba bobs freaking nuts             | • Nature Together                   |
| • JW World Resources                             | • Nordic Home Solutions             |
| • Kenneth L Fritts Photography                   | • Northern Wonders                  |
| • KJC Crafts                                     | • OddPetz Emporium                  |
| • Laurens Art Space                              | • Optum Care Washington             |
| • LeafFilter Gutter Protection                   | • Outdoor Lighthing Perspective     |
|  | • P's & Q's (and other things, too) |
|  | • PACIFISCENCE, LLC                 |
|  | • Packs for Kids                    |

## SATURDAY, SEPT 6TH CONT.

### FIREWORKS AT LIGHTHOUSE (8:30 PM)

## SUNDAY, SEPT 7TH

### MUKILTEO FIRE FOUNDATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST (9:30 AM to 11:30 AM)

### MAIN STAGE (12:30 PM to 4:30 PM)

- Taekwondoway
- Reptile Man

### BEER GARDEN (11 AM to 4 PM)

- 3:30-4:30p Joe Cook Blues Band "Live Music"

### KID'S CORNER (11 AM to 5 PM)

- Inflatables
- Kids Booths
- Foam Party (4-5pm)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Polar Bear NW                        | • Textile Arts                                     |
| • Puget Sound Woodworks                | • Sweet + Salty Silver                             |
| • RAM Mountain Studio                  | • Synthetic Turf Northwest                         |
| • Rapozza                              | • TaekwondoWay                                     |
| • Renewal by Andersen                  | • The Irish and Celtic Society of Snohomish County |
| • Resilience Behavioral Health         | • The Unsweetened Tooth                            |
| • Riley's Spice of Life LLC            | • T-Mobile Wireless Vision                         |
| • Robinson Paints & Improvements, Inc. | • Tristate Roofing Inc.                            |
| • Ron's Balms and Botanicals           | • Tutu2CuteShop                                    |
| • SB Layered Creations                 | • Twisted Tree Pens                                |
| • Shadow and Ember                     | • Uncle Jesse's Pottery                            |
| • Siberia Spirit                       | • Walker Art Glass                                 |
| • Simple brilliance                    | • Washington Satsang Society                       |
| • Simplicity Handcrafted               | • Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle & Charter                 |
| • Smith Brothers                       | • Wilder & Jean Co.                                |
| • Snohomish Candle Co.                 | • Winning Ways                                     |
| • Stitches N Bloom                     | • WM Waste Management                              |
| • Sugarcane Beauty                     | • YMCA Mukilteo                                    |
| • Sumac El Sol Handcrafted             |  |

## Kid's Corner Booths

- |                       |                      |            |  |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|--|
| • ABC Learning Center | • Seattle            | • Body Art | • Uncle Stinky's Magic & Entertainment |
| • British Swim School | • Creative Faces and | • Ethnica  |  |





# KNOW BEFORE YOUR GO

The 2025 Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival (known as MukFest for short) will entertain the kids and teens in your family with a number of different events planned at and near the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. Admission to the Festival is free!

## LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL HOURS

Festival Hours:

- Friday 4 p - 7p (Beer Garden open till 10pm)
- Saturday 11a - 7p (Beer Garden open till 10pM)
- Sunday 11 am – 5pm

Lighthouse Tours & Gift Shop Hours:

- Friday Closed
- Saturday 12 – 6 pm
- Sunday 12 – 4 pm

No ATMs at festival.

## LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL BEER GARDEN

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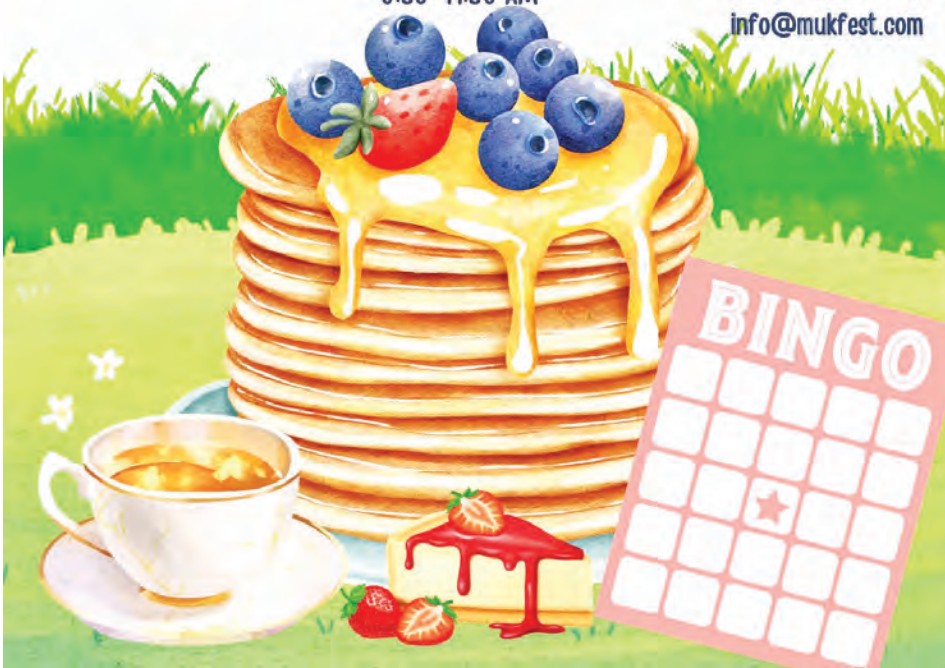
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**LYNNWOOD TIMES**

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# Mukilteo crypto founder accused of operating \$10 mil Ponzi scheme

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**MUKILTEO**—Mukilteo resident and Korean National Ga-ram “Andy” Park is being accused of operating a Ponzi scheme, targeting elderly Korean Americans, and resulting in investor losses of over \$10 million.

Park is Founder and CEO of the crypto to currency trading company Vehicle Mining Systems USA (VMS) which was founded in 2022 and promises high returns from Bitcoin and Ethereum mining. Through this crypto-based trading system, Park allegedly retained exclusive control over investors’ wallets (including MetaMask credentials) and is further accused of operating a “pump and dump” scheme involving VMS and VMS Classic coins, both of which were eventually delisted.

As of August 20, 2025, the value of one VMS is \$0.00008564 USD.

Park previously served as a missionary at a Korean church in Lynnwood and established a religious-based non-profit, Grace Frontier Mission, in Sacramento, CA, which his accusers now wonder is a cover up for his alleged fraud.

According to at least 50 of Park’s investors, and Victim Advocate Kory Hahn (also Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party Asian Pacific Islander Coalition), Park has intentionally been targeting vulnerable Washingtonians, Californians, and Oregonians, asking them to invest thousands before emptying out their wallets.

“There is a huge disconnect between ethnic communities and our justice system so without advocates like me, these victims would not know where to file complaints or retain an attorney,” Hahn told the Lynnwood Times.

Park currently has a house in Mukilteo worth \$2 million and has real estate in California. He reportedly just opened up a new restaurant in Los Angeles called Peokki where he has promised to give free crypto currency to those who order food.

Park is known to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on luxury items (including a recent purchase of a \$100,000 BMW SUV for his daughter) and Las Vegas gambling trips, according to Hahn.

On April 24, 2025, Park held a press conference denying his alleged victim’s claims, adding that VMS has been acting legally.

“Our company is a mining company that mines coins, by installing mining computers in vehicles, not a coin company,” said Park, adding that profits are returned to investors.

Just one day before Park held that press conference, his company, VMS, was accused of running a multi-level Ponzi scheme in the Los Angeles area.

Many of Park’s alleged victims fear speaking out against Park after he allegedly threatened to get their social security benefits cancelled. Some fear Park will take legal action.

However, one alleged victim, Young-Pok Kim, was willing to speak to the Lynnwood Times about his personal experience.

When Mr. Kim first met Park through an acquaintance he was asked, by Park, to recruit members of the Korean American community in Washington to invest in a crypto coin he invented called “Vehicle Binding System Coins.”

Park also set up MetaMask (a crypto wallet) platform on Mr. Kim’s phone, who is close to 70-years-old and didn’t understand how to maneuver setting up a crypto wallet. According to Mr. Kim, Park setup the passcode and identification himself – this information he kept instead of helping Mr. Kim navigate the software. Mr. Kim then paid admission via VMS coins.

Mr. Kim, and several other alleged victims who requested to remain anonymous also report that Mr. Park promised them a \$200 bonus when their accounts began to make money

but, two years later, he has made no attempt to pay that bonus.

When Mr. Kim began to see there was interest in his community of those wishing to invest in VMS coins, he decided to invest some of his own money, but Park wanted cash only, he told the Lynnwood Times with the help of a translator. He agreed to this, again not knowing how crypto transactions work, and purchased five million VMS coins from Park with cash.

Victim Advocate Kory Hahn suspects Park requested cash so that the deposit could not be traced.

In total, and through various transactions, Mr. Kim has purchased a total of \$60,000 worth of VMS from Park.

Around the time that allegations began to surface regarding Park’s crypto business being a “Ponzi scheme” in the Los Angeles area, back in April, Mr. Kim logged in to his MetaMask account and noticed that his coin balance had been withdrawn. According to Mr. Kim, several other elderly Korean Americans in his community, who, like himself, had Park help set up their MetaMask accounts also found that their accounts had been withdrawn to zero.

Now Mr. Kim is asking Park’s other victims to have the courage to step up and speak out. In the United States alone Park is estimated to have allegedly stolen over \$5 million from approximately 50 Korean Americans. Globally – including those in Korea, United Arab Emirates, and Taiwan – this amount leaps to \$10 million in total since Park’s first reported “scam” in 2022.

In addition to VMS, Park has also orchestrated another crypto currency he calls VMS Classic which at one time was worth \$2,800 a coin but has now crashed to \$80 a coin.

Park is currently being investigated by U.S. and Korean authorities and has reportedly fled to South Korea. In the U.S. these investigating agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investiga-



Ga-Ram “Andy” Park

tions (FBI) and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions.

Hahn, as victim advocate, has filed a report with the DFI and has begun compiling evidence to build his case and submit it to the Department of Justice. He hopes to get a travel ban in place which would prevent Mr. Park from escaping to a Third World country, which may prolong his victims’ restitution.

“Time is of the essence since some of these victims have emptied out their life savings,” said Hahn. “One of Park’s victims in Oregon, who has dementia, lost their house because of him.”

Korean crypto currency scams have been on the rise as of late. In 2024 a South Korean influencer, along with 215 others, were arrested for leading a \$232 million crypto scam, Korean news outlet Yonhap reported.

In the U.S., back in June of this year, four North Korean Nationals were charged in a five-count wire fraud and money laundering indictment arising from a scheme to be hired as remote IT workers and then steal and launder over \$900,000 in virtual currency.

from page 2 **FERGUSON-BONDI**

Joining Ferguson at the podium was State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti, Insurance Commissioner Patty Kuderer, State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, representatives of One America, Asian Counseling Referral Services, The Council on American Islamic Relations, Community to Community in Whatcom County, ACLU, Columbia Legal Services, Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, Washington State Labor Council, and several Senators and Washington State Representatives.

Senator Lisa Wellman (D41-Mercer Island), Primary Sponsor of the Keep Washington Working Act, and Representative Julio Cortes (D32-Everett), Vice Chair of the Latino Democratic Caucus, spoke Tuesday supporting Ferguson’s defiant stance against the Trump administration.

Sen. Wellman was skeptical on whether the FIFA World Cup will be allowed to continue in Seattle given ICE’s relentless raids and the United States being on several nations’ “do not travel” lists.

Rep. Cortes, an immigrant himself, added that Washington State believes in communities that are safe, welcoming, and strong; the “Washington Promise”, as he called it. He added that the federal government’s immigration enforcement policies seek to undermine this promise.

“It’s a promise that anyone, no matter where they come from, can live and contribute in our state without the fear of being torn away from their family, or targeted because of who they are,” said Cortes. “Our immigrant community are at the heart of our economy and culture. They are the small business owners that keep our communities thriving, they are the farm workers, just like my family was and I was, who put food on our tables, they are the engineers, the teachers, the health care workers that power our state forward. Washington State is stronger because of their hard work, their resilience, and their dreams.”

Cortes echoed Gov. Ferguson’s firm position stating, “Washington will not be bullied; we will not be intimidated. We will not allow fear to dictate how we treat our neighbors.”

In answering media’s questions on

Tuesday, Ferguson repeated that he cannot begin to postulate whether the U.S. Attorney General’s Office will pursue criminal charges against him, state officials, and/or the state, but reiterated that he is prepared for whatever course the Trump administration takes.

Independent Journalist Brandi Kruse asked Gov. Ferguson how sanctuary laws align with Washington State’s values when some criminals, notably Raul Benitez-Santana who killed Washington State Trooper Christopher Gadd in May of 2024, have had multiple run-ins with law enforcement and could have been deported, preventing future crimes, but were shielded by sanctuary laws.

Gov. Ferguson replied that the state will continue to try criminals as criminals, regardless of immigration status, which is in fact consistent with Washington State’s values.

During a February presser with Attorney General Nick Brown, Governor Ferguson doubled down on his commitment that “state and local resources” would not be used as part of the Trump administration’s crackdown on undocumented immigrants. He described the Keep

Washington Working Act as beneficial not only to the state’s economy, but to statewide law enforcement: “We cannot afford to divert scarce law enforcement resources away from solving crimes and making our communities safer.”

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) echoed Ferguson’s sentiments on Tuesday, “Our limited state and local law enforcement resources are needed to fight violent crime and fentanyl. Washington law prioritizes public safety and provides due process. The Trump administration should stop threatening states and focus on upholding the rule of law and the U.S. Constitution.”

Also during the February presser, Ferguson spoke against that the Trump administration’s classification of all undocumented immigrants as criminal offenders. “It’s one thing if the President wants to invest additional resources in deportation actions against undocumented Washingtonians who commit serious crimes,” Ferguson said. “However, the overwhelming majority of undocumented residents of our state, and every other state for that matter, are



# The new USX-1 Defiant: Puget Sound is leading autonomous naval readiness

By **MARIO LTOMORE**

**EVERETT**—The USX-1 Defiant was christened at Everett Ship Repair on Monday, August 11, marking a key ceremonial milestone for unmanned surface vessel developed under DARPA's No Manning Required Ship (NOMARS) program, that aims to re-define naval operations through fully autonomous, crewless platforms that enhance efficiency and increase lethality in contested environments.

"In the name of the United States of America, I christen thee USX-1 Defiant. Bless this ship and all who operate her," said Mattie Hanley, Defiant Sponsor, as she christened the ship by breaking a bottle of champagne on the starboard side of the USX-1 Defiant's deck.

The Defiant stands out as the world's first ship designed entirely without provisions for human crews, adopting a "clean sheet" approach that eliminates features like bridges, galleys, berthing, heads, passageways, handrails, and life support systems. This unique design provides greater hydrodynamic efficiency, stealth, tamper resistance, survivability against sea states and adversary actions, and a higher payload fraction for modular adaptations.

"The United States of America is a technological and maritime superpower. And that is why Defiant is so important," said Navy veteran and DARPA Director, Stephen Winchell. "It stands really at the intersection of advanced technology and maritime power. And I'll add to that manufacturing excellence — all the fundamental elements of our nation's past, present, and future."

The 240 metric ton 180-foot vessel boasts a slender 10-to-1 aspect ratio giving it enhanced hydrodynamic efficiency. Besides operating up to 1 year at sea without human intervention with a 90% at-sea reliability, Defiant

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decent, hard-working, law-abiding residents who contribute significantly to our economy and our communities."

Ferguson, in closing out Tuesday's presser, recalled a story while serving as Attorney General during President Trump's first presidency to express what he called a road to "authoritarianism."

His daughter, 8 at the time, asked how her dad could challenge a president without getting into trouble. Ferguson replied that they are lucky to live in a country where anyone can speak out against, and be critical, of their government. Now, years later, he said, he isn't so sure anymore.

"The idea that now I have to have that conversation with my daughter where now I'm not so sure about that. We now live in a country where the U.S. Attorney General threatens elected officials going to jail, but for what?" said Ferguson. "We just really got to be honest with what's going on in our country. We really do. This is just taking things to a whole new level."



**The christening of the USX-1 Defiant at Everett Ship Repair on Monday, August 11, 2025. (L-R) Serco CEO Tom Watson, DARPA Deputy Director Rob McHenry, Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02), Tiia Karlén, Mattie Hanley, Defiant Sponsor, DARPA Director Stephen Winchell, Lieutenant Commander Tim Boston, Executive Officer, Unmanned Surface Vessel Division (USVDIV) 1, and Gavin Higgins, CEO of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders and Everett Ship Repair. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.**

includes autonomous features such as self-navigation, collision avoidance, weather evasion, autonomous refueling, and dynamic positioning for sideways maneuvering and pier departures without a crew. Its modular open deck can be used for sensors, standard shipping containers, or armaments like BAE Adaptable Deck Launchers and up to 16 Mk 41 missile cells. Additional capabilities include masts with commercial navigation radars and antennas.

"Defiant-class vessels are going to provide cost-effective, survivable, manufacturable, maintainable, long-range, autonomous, distributed platforms, which will create a future of naval lethality, sensing, and logistics," said Winchell.

Built using commercial off-the-shelf components, the Defiant emphasizes manufacturability in Tier 3 Shipyards like Nichols Brothers Boat Builder, which is located in Freeland on Whidbey Island, allowing for scalable production of distributed fleets at lower costs. Critical systems are housed in removable ISO modules, enabling rapid swaps—such as replacing engines in just 16 hours—while "graceful degradation" ensures sustained performance, such as maintaining 15 knots after a year at sea even with component failures.

The Defiant's design is rated Sea State 5, meaning it can operate safely at wave heights up to 13 feet and wind speeds of 24 mph.

Lieutenant Commander Tim Boston, Executive Officer, Unmanned Surface Vessel Division (USVDIV) 1, will be leading the attachment operating the Defiant on her maiden voyage. During his speech, he emphasized a paradigm shift in naval warfare leading with unmanned surface vessels like Defiant.

"This vessel represents not just innovation, but a transformation in surface warfare.... We have evolved from sail to steam to nuclear power, from cannons to the Aegis Combat System. Now, with Defiant and future unmanned surface vessels, we're entering a new era, one that gives our fleet a competitive edge to deter aggression, dominate in combat, and win decisively," said Boston adding his excitement in the anticipation to integrating Defiant into the Navy's fleet operation.

Below are some key production milestones that led up to Monday's ceremony:

- 2020: DARPA launched NOMARS to explore unmanned ship designs
- 2022: SERCO awarded contract to build and design Defiant.
- September 2024: Successful test of autonomous refueling with USVs Mariner and Ranger simulating Defiant's system.
- January 2025: Additional at-sea refueling testing in collaboration with the U.S. Navy.
- February 2025: Defiant construction completed at Nichols Brothers Boat Builders in Whidbey Island.
- March 4, 2025: Official launch of Defiant into water for testing.
- Spring 2025: Two months of dock-side and open-ocean testing commences.
- August 11, 2025: Christening of Defiant at Everett Ship Repair marking readiness for advance sea operation.

Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02), whose district is home to Nichols Brothers Boat Builder and Everett Ship Repair, spoke on the Defiant's economic benefits for the Pacific Northwest.

"The jobs created by this project cre-

ate concrete, very real impacts in the communities they serve," said Larsen. "This construction of the Defiant, it represents groceries on the tables of hardworking families. It represents school supplies and backpacks. It represents gas in minivans."

Larsen described Defiant's design as transformative stating, "It's a first of its kind autonomous maritime platform with the potential to really transform the way the ships are designed, built, and maintained."

The Defiant is a working prototype which Serco CEO Tom Watson told the Lynnwood Times he is hopeful that the Navy will request bids for mass production creating jobs in the region.

During the ceremony, Watson described the Defiant as the world's first no-manning required ship, redefining naval architecture by eliminating human-centric features to unlock new efficiencies, endurance, and operational capabilities.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, Serco specializes in providing outsource services to governments and organizations. For North America, the company focuses on engineering and information technology.

Key partners who brought Defiant to life were Caterpillar Power Systems providing diesel engines, Leonardo DRS who supplied the electrical motors, Submersions Group for the navigational autonomy package, Precise Power Systems for integrating the MMRs and AMRs, Beier Integrated Systems for the machinery control systems, and Thrustmasters of Texas who provided the propulsion systems.

Gavin Higgins, CEO of Nichols Broth-

*Continued* **PAGE 12**



from page 1 **SNAP**

in March, for schools and food banks making it harder to purchase food from local farmers and suppliers. In nearby Whatcom County, for example, the Bellingham Food Bank had to cancel \$200,000 in contracts to local farmers who are contracted to grow food for their local food bank.

In Snohomish County, the Edmonds Food Bank saw a 27% increase in the number of people they served in 2024 compared to the previous year. That same year, the Washington State Department of Agriculture reported that one in four Washingtonians visited a food bank.

At the Everett Food Bank delivered a stark message: “Nobody wants to be the last person handing out the last bag of food while there’s still a line.”

Rep. Larsen announced Thursday that he wants to see this funding restored. He plans to introduce legislation that would strengthen and expand summer nutrition programs through the Summer Meals Act which would help children get regular, healthy, meals regardless of season. That bill is currently awaiting a Republican co-sponsor, Larsen told the Lynnwood Times, and will likely be reintroduced after gaining bipartisan support.

Governor Ferguson, on the other hand, wants to make free lunch programs universal across Washington State, he said Thursday, similar to the State of Minnesota.

Though the State of Washington is in a \$15 billion shortfall, Governor Ferguson still allocated approximately \$128 million for food insecurity in the form of grants, with millions more allocated to other social services, in his budget passed back in May.

The Lynnwood Times asked Governor Ferguson if, after hearing from community leaders Thursday, he plans to reallocate some of those social service grant funds to bolster available food insecurity moneys. Gov. Ferguson replied that his team is still working out its supplemental budget and will await updated budget forecasts (on the state’s revenue) before making any solid decisions.

“That work is going on now, to make sure we’re plugging as many holes as possible, and maintain as much funding as possible,” Ferguson told the Lynnwood Times. “Even when times are challenging from a budget standpoint, I still believe in prioritizing the most important things.”

Speakers Thursday included Edmonds School District Superintendent Rebecca Miner, Deborah Brandi with the Foundation for Edmonds School District, Alyssa Jones with the Lynnwood Food Bank, John Glennon with Volunteers of America, Ceil Erickson with the Verdant Health Commission, Wally Webster with the ACCESS Project, Ericka San Juan Perez with the Latino Educational Training Institute, Stephanie Sarantos with Well Being Community, and Pastor Chris Goldman with Northwest Church/Community Life Center.

After these nonprofit leaders gave their remarks, parents were then invited to share how food insecurity is a constant stress in their ever-day-lives.

Prior to the listening session, the free lunches Governor Ferguson and Rep. Larsen handed out to the kids were provided by the Foundation for Edmonds School District as part of its Summer Meals Program. Each year the Foundation hands out approximately 600 free lunches/a week to kids who need them most, from June 25 through August 21. The program is part of a series of pro-

grams which began 12 years ago called Nourishing Network.

“We often say that our families have more month than they have money and now that they’re going to have reduced SNAP benefits, we are gearing up for a 30% increase in food services that we anticipate serving for our families during out-of-school times,” said Deborah Brandi Executive Director of the Foundation for Edmonds School District. “During the pandemic we gave out about 400 weekend meal kits. We served 600 this year and anticipate serving 900 weekend meal kits soon.”

44% of students enrolled in Edmonds School District schools qualify for free or reduced lunches but, as Superintendent Miner put it Thursday, just because most families miss the cusp of qualifying for free or reduced lunches doesn’t mean they’re not struggling to make ends meet.

Just las week, two hours after distribution ended, two grade school-aged kids rode up to the Lynnwood Food Bank on bicycles and said they don’t have any food at home. According to Lynnwood Food Bank Executive Director Alyssa Jones “that’s not something you should ever have to do.”

“We’re busier than we have ever been. In 2024 we served 175,000 people, that’s more than four times an increase since 2019. We’re buying more food than we’ve ever had to buy but the prices of that food are not going down,” said Jones. “I might be able to spend \$1,000 on produce every week but the amount of produce I’m getting is getting less. It’s stretching our budget thin, it’s stretching our staffing thin, and our capacity is completely an issue with our building being too small with the amount of people we need to feed.”

John Glennon, Executive Director of Hunger Prevention Services at Volun-

teers of America Western Washington, suspects Trump’s reduction to SNAP could mean “less food for more people” at the food banks in Everett and Sultan he oversees.

He added that an anticipated 26% reduction to TFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) would mean 21,000 pounds (the amount Foundation for Edmonds School District receives from TFAP) would be reduced to 15,000 pounds of food while seeing double-digit increases to children who need them.

“Our TFAP programs are not perfect, but they afford our food banks and our meal programs a foundation in which we do the work that we do. If we see further cuts to TFAP, on top of cuts to SNAP, we’re going to be open we’re just not going to be able to serve to the level of impact,” said Glennon adding that the recent closure of the Casino Road Fred Meyer in Everett, which was an affordable, walkable source of food for many South Everett residents, will further exacerbate the issue.

Also in attendance Thursday was Senator Jesse Salomon (D-32), Washington State Representative Lauren Davis (LD-32), Mountlake Terrace City Councilman and Volunteers of America VP of Community Engagement Dr. Steve Woodard, and Snohomish County PUD Commissioner and Lynnwood Food Bank Board Member Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby.

“I’m extremely appreciative of Gov. Ferguson and Congressman Larsen for coming to my legislative district. It’s a real honor and I appreciate their mutual support for school feeding programs, particularly in light of cuts to SNAP,” Rep. Davis told the Lynnwood Times. “Kids can’t learn when they’re hungry.”

from page 11 **USX-1 DEFIANT**

ers Boat Builders and Everett Ship Repair, thanked DARPA’s Dr. Greg Avicola for his visionary leadership and Serco for the opportunity to build Defiant.

“The build part only came after years of design development, which we were very appreciative to have been involved with,” said Higgins. “I’d also personally would like to thank the Nichols build team, particularly Luke Reed, the project manager, and Jim Shea, the construction manager, and everybody else on the Nichols team that built such a truly. beautiful boat.”

Higgins emphasized the importance of how innovation in his Tier 3 Shipyard by building the Defiant has enhanced Nichols Brothers as a strategic manufacturing asset to U.S. Navy readiness.

“We look forward to the opportunity to incorporate the lessons learned from this build and with the use of robotics and automation, demonstrate that shipyards the size of Nichols Brothers can

be significant suppliers of these to become very important ships to the US Navy and the defense of our country,” said Higgins.

DARPA Director Stephen Winchell reinforced Higgin’s sentiment on readiness stating, “Again, the ship [Defiant] can be built and maintained at nearly any port facility or Tier 3 shipyard out of commercial components, and that unlocks huge untapped elements of the U.S. industrial base, both here and in many other shipyards around the country.”

DARPA is an acronym for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Founded in 1958, it is an independent research and development agency within the United States Department of Defense where the best and brightest in the country work on cutting-edge top-secret projects that revolutionize industry and national security — paradigm shifts in the human experience.

DARPA research in the 1960s brought the internet to homes in the 1990s, it invented GPS in the 1970s which be-

came publicly available in the 1980s and is now essential to navigation apps and ride-sharing services, and cloud computing is because of DARPA research.

Winchill shared how his team at DARPA successfully took all the performance and technical requirements for Defiant and delivered.

“Greg and his team tackled all of these things simultaneously,” said Winchill. “They didn’t take a little bite out of the elephant. They had to swallow the elephant whole. And so, you know, hats off to the team, because none of those things on their own, none of those innovations on their own are easy, and together, they’re massive. But each one of them was required to make the whole thing happen and to really be transformative.”

Dr. Greg Avicola, NOMARS Program Manager at DARPA, expressed gratitude to his support team and specifically Mike Maloney for exhaustive efforts, joking about the team checking in on him ensuring he was “sleeping”

and “eating.”

“Mike Maloney, he, I don’t know if we keep records of the hardest working person, hardest working VP on any DARPA program, but I guarantee it’s that man right there,” said Avicola. “He has spent many months every day, day and shine, getting this ship ready for over six months.”

He reflected on the rarity of completing a DARPA program from start to near-finish and hinted at an upcoming “grueling test campaign,” positioning Defiant as a “tough little ship” defying traditional manned designs.

“In a couple weeks, she’s going to leave the beautiful Pacific Northwest and begin a grueling test campaign,” said Avicola. “And I’m not going to spoil the story for you on what we’re going to do, but if you pay attention in the news, I think you’re going to see a lot of Defiant news in the upcoming months.”



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