



Cho launches campaign for Lynnwood City Council **P3**



SPECIAL PULLOUT **P5**
INSIDE: MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL

Real News Real Impact

CAP at Edmonds College gives workers an upper hand in the job market, at no cost



Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program (CAP) students working on carpentry skills. Photo Credit: Edmonds College

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT— At the Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program (CAP), Edmonds College students can undertake intensive training with hands-on experience, granting them an upper hand in the job market, at absolutely no cost to them.

The CAP is an eight-week, 300-hour tuition-free intensive program held at the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center (AMSC) at Paine Field. CAP is inten-

tionally designed to remove financial barriers, making high-quality training accessible to a diverse range of learners. Graduates leave the program with foundational knowledge, practical experience, and a clear pathway into well-paying careers.

Students enrolled in Edmonds College's CAP program learn electrical, plumbing, carpentry, iron work, knot tying, and basics from reading a tape measurer to safely operating power and hand tools at absolutely no

cost to them, though other courses through the AMSC — such as the aerospace manufacturing program — still require payment.

By the end of the course students will be certified in operating a fork life and have OSHA-10 certifications, and flagging cards.

The class is intentionally capped at just 10 students at a time to get the most out of hands-on instruction. There is currently a waitlist of approximately 25 students in

queue, according to the college.

Through the CAP program's duration, students will have the opportunity to tour approximately eight (about one a week) local unions to learn, firsthand, how to pave cement, lay pipes, or tour construction sites.

Upon completion, Students are also gifted "care packages" consisting of starter tools, boots, hard hats, and

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South County Fire restores paramedic staffing to Station 76

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—The South County Fire Board of Commissioners voted 4-2 to restore paramedic staffing to Station 76 in Mill Creek following public and city backlash, lack of transparency and public outreach, as well as recent allegations of OPMA violations brought forth by a fellow board member. Fire Chief Bob Eastman expects the transfer to take place either today, September 3, or tomorrow at the latest.

The decision took place at the board's Tuesday, September 2, meeting — a week after the Board's intergovern-

mental committee met with Mill Creek Mayor Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Vignal, and Council member Sean Paddock. Also at that meeting were South County Board members Edward Widdis, Micah Rowland, and David Chan who discussed issues the RFA has had, the decision behind the redeployment, and why, ultimately, they did the things they did.

After a heated public comment section, Commissioner Widdis made a motion to move A21 back to Station 76 as well as a paramedic, transferred in from somewhere else (decided at a later date), which would restore staffing ser-

vice levels back to where it was prior to the annex. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chan.

Widdis explained that the decision to transfer out Medic 76 was that it was out of the response area about 76% of the time. Also, seeing as Station 76 is not centrally located within the City of Mill Creek, Medic 76 is not first on call in the north end of the City or the east end. Still, transferring back the paramedic would restore service levels to pre-annex levels pursuant of the promise South County Fire made to voters

Continued **PAGE 11**

CA, OR, and WA form new West Coast Health Alliance to counter Trump's CDC overhaul

By MARIO LOTMORE

OLYMPIA — In a move to counter the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines coming from the Trump administration, the governors of Washington, California, and Oregon will be launching a new upcoming West Coast Health Alliance.

Joint statement from Governors Gavin Newsom, Tina Kotek, and Bob Ferguson: "President Trump's mass firing of CDC doctors and scientists — and his blatant politicization of the agency — is a direct assault on the health and safety of the American people. The CDC has become a political tool that increasingly peddles ideology instead of science, ideology that will lead to severe health consequences. California, Oregon, and Washington will not allow the people of our states to be put at risk."

In June, California, Oregon, and Washington condemned HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s removal of all 17 members of the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), an advisory committee that makes recommendations on the safety, efficacy, and clinical need of vaccines to the CDC.

"Today we are prioritizing the restoration of public trust above any specific pro- or anti-vaccine agenda," Kennedy Jr said in his June statement on the removal of all 17 members of CDC's vaccine advisory committee. "The public must know that unbiased science—evaluated through a transparent process and insulated from conflicts of interest—guides the recommendations of our health agencies."

Secretary Kennedy Jr has voiced skepticism about the vaccine regulatory process and stating that enforcement is "weak to nonexistent." He has also alleged that ACIP members frequently disregard conflict of interest guidelines because of ties to large pharmaceutical corporations, the Federalists reports.

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USDOT Secretary to Washington state, comply or lose federal funding

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy on August 26 announced California, Washington, and New Mexico will lose federal funding unless they adopt and enforce English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements for commercial motor vehicle drivers. The three states have 30 days to come into compliance before the Department will withhold up to 100% of funding from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP).

“States don’t get to pick and choose which federal safety rules to follow,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy. “As we saw with the horrific Florida crash that killed three, when states fail to enforce the law, they put the driving public in danger. Under President Trump’s leadership, we are taking aggressive action to close these safety gaps, hold states accountable, and make sure every commercial driver on the road is qualified to operate a 40-ton vehicle.”

The MCSAP formula grant provides financial assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies to increase commercial motor vehicle-related enforcement and safety activities nationwide.

Secretary Duffy announced on August 19 that his department’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) launched an official investigation into how failures at the Department of Licensing in the states of Washington and California led to the issuance of a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) to Harjinder Singh, 28, a citizen of India, and an undocumented immigrant. Singh allegedly killed three on August 12 near Lucie County, Florida, while executing an illegal U-turn on the Florida Turnpike.

An investigation by FMCSA found significant failures by California, Washington, and New Mexico to properly place drivers out-of-service for ELP violations. In addition to the data, California Highway Patrol has also publicly stated it has no intention of following this important federal regulation.

These actions also come as Secretary Duffy advances its nationwide audit of non-domiciled commercial driver’s license (CDL) issuance – part of a broader effort to enhance safety on America’s roads and restore order to the trucking industry.

California, Washington, and New Mexico on Tuesday received notices, known



(L-R) Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson, Harjinder Singh, and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy.

as Notices of Proposed Determination of Nonconformity, which open a formal process that would result in the suspension of millions of dollars in federal funds through the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program if the states do not demonstrate full compliance with federal English Language Proficiency standards—that is roughly \$10.5 million for Washington state alone, California could lose \$30 million, and New Mexico, \$7 million in federal funds. An investigation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration found significant failures by all three states to follow federal guidelines to properly place drivers out-of-service for ELP violations. From June 25 to August 21:

- California – California has failed to adopt and enforce compatible ELP laws and regulations. From June 25, 2025 through August 21, 2025, of the roughly 34,000 inspections resulting in at least one reported violation, only one inspection involved an ELP violation resulting in a driver being placed out of service. Notably, at least 23 drivers with documented ELP out-of-service violations in other states were later inspected in California – yet the state failed to honor those violations or enforce ELP, allowing unqualified drivers to continue operating on our roads.
- Washington – Washington has adopted the ELP regulation but is failing to enforce it. From June 25, 2025 through August 21, 2025, of the more than 6,000 inspections

resulting in at least one reported violation, only four inspections involved an ELP violation resulting in a driver being placed out of service. Moreover, two inspections resulted in ELP citations but the driver was not placed out-of-service—contrary to Federal requirements. In addition, at least 4 drivers with documented ELP out-of-service violations in other states were later inspected in Washington – yet the state failed to honor those violations or enforce

ELP, undermining federal safety standards and leaving dangerous gaps in enforcement.

- New Mexico – New Mexico has adopted the ELP regulation but is failing to enforce it. From June 25, 2025 through August 21, 2025 the state reported placing zero drivers out-of-service for ELP violations and allowed at least seven unqualified drivers already found unable to meet ELP standards to keep driving and endangering the lives of others.

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‘Protect what matters, Build what’s next!’ Cho launches historic City Council bid

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—Scores of residents gathered at Master Cho’s Black Belt Academy to celebrate the historic campaign launch of Lynnwood City Council Position 2 Candidate Ki Seung Cho—a 9th degree Taekwondo black belt (Grand Master), 30-year local businessmen, and 34-year Lynnwood resident—who, if elected, would be the first Korean American (and first member of the Asian diaspora) elected to the Lynnwood City Council. His campaign raised an astonishing \$17,300 during Saturday’s kickoff eclipsing his opponent’s total reported campaign contributions, as of August 22, of \$9,208.

“During nearly 30 years of living in Lynnwood, I discovered a new dream, to give back to the community that gave me so much. That dream brings me here today, running for the Lynnwood City Council,” Cho told supporters.

His “Protect what matters, Build what’s next” campaign has three priorities: public safety, economic growth, and fiscal responsibility.

“I will work with local businesses to provide resources and create an effective violence prevention program,” said Cho before stressing his commitment to supporting economic opportunities for Lynnwood’s diverse population, “As a small business owner, I know how important it is to support local, family-owned, and minority-owned businesses.”



Lynnwood City Council Position 2 Candidate Ki Seung Cho speaking at his “Protect what matters, Build what’s next” campaign focused on public safety, economic growth, and fiscal responsibility. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

Cho, the successful owner of Master Cho’s Black Belt Academy, for over 30 years has mentored thousands of young men and women in both physical and mental discipline to develop at their “own pace” to achieve “personal victory.”

“I have had the honor of serving thousands of families.... With your help and support, we can make our city safer, stronger, and better prepared for the future,” said Cho. “Together, we can protect one another and build what’s next; so that the next 30 years

will give us a community we can proudly call home.”

Having manage his own business has provided him 30-years of experience in spending “wisely” to “make every dollar count.”

“I will bring that discipline to city council to make sure taxpayer dollars go directly to community needs. I love this city,” Cho emphasized.

Noted speakers at Saturday’s launch were Mukilteo City Councilman Ja-

son Moon, Snohomish County PUD Commissioner and former Lynnwood City Council Vice President Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Lake Haven Water and Sewer District Commissioner Leonard Englund, Greater Seattle Korean Association President Won Jun Kim, Washington State Korean American Day Celebration Foundation Chairman Joseph Hong, and two fellow Lynnwood City Council candidates, just to name a few.

A common theme by all who spoke were integrity, humility, modesty, selfless volunteerism for both the youth and elderly, and “the ability to show up and get the job done.”

“Master Cho has guided generations of youth — teaching not just discipline and strength, but also values like respect, perseverance, and community spirit,” said Commissioner Altamirano-Crosby. “That lifelong commitment to empowering young people is exactly the kind of leadership Lynnwood needs. Our Korean community is the second-largest in Lynnwood, and an essential part of who we are. Master Cho not only represents this community with pride, but he has also built lasting bridges across cultures and generations.”

Cho played a key role in establishing the official Sister City partnership between Lynnwood and Damyang, South Korea, “a vision that brought our city new opportunities for cultural exchange, friendship, and global con-

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Lynnwood Police Guild endorses Boucsiequez, Cho, Mata, Owings, and Leutwyler for City Council

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD—The Lynnwood Police Guild, the union representing the men and women of the Lynnwood Police Department, has endorsed Dio Boucsiequez for Position 1, both Lynnwood City Council candidates for Position 2 — Ki Seung Cho and Isabel Mata—Bryce Owings for Position 3, and newly appointed councilman Robert Leutwyler for Position 5.

Current council members Derica Escamilla, Position 1, and Josh Binda, Position 3, did not receive nor sought their endorsement.

Escamilla, who admitted to giving Binda rides to his alleged Everett address, also failed to inform council members and Mayor Frizzell during her council appointment process in 2024 of her alleged family associations with the Norteños gang and also of the Lynnwood Police raid on her home for allegedly harboring a fugitive.

Lynnwood Council Vice President Joshua Binda is under investigation by the Washington Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) again for campaign finance violation. Binda is no stranger to the PDC. He has faced multiple violations with the 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 be-

cause 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. In May 2023, Binda signed a settlement agreement, from a City Ethics Attorney, to misusing public facilities for personal gain.

Statement from Dio Boucsiequez, Lynnwood City Council Position 1



“I am honored to receive the Lynnwood Police Guild’s endorsement as the trusted public safety candidate for Position 1. Our I Love Lynnwood campaign puts residents’ safety, hard earned money, values, and recreational opportunities first.

“As your city councilman, I commit to continue investing in our Lynnwood Municipal Courts, Lynnwood Police, and regional public safety partnerships. I’ll advocate for after school and vocational programs, and the return of School Resource Officers to combat youth violence.”

Statement from Ki Sueng Cho, Lynnwood City Council Position 2

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Lynnwood Police Guild. I am a strong supporter of the Lynnwood Police and appreciate all they do for



our community. They are an integral part of fostering a safer environment for our residents. I believe the Lynnwood Police need a pay scale competitive with other state police agencies so Lynnwood can retain current officers and hire quality candidates to fill vacancies.

“The Lynnwood police demonstrate courage and dedication as they respond when a crime occurs or help is needed. They deserve our respect. I have taught the importance of respect to my students through my martial arts school and respecting the police is part of the training.

“Supporting the Lynnwood police helps us work towards a city where residents and businesses can feel safe and prosper.”

Statement from Isabel Mata, Lynnwood City Council Position 2



“I am so grateful our campaign has received the endorsement of the Lynnwood Police Guild. Their support reflects our shared commitments to building a safe, caring, and inclusive commu-

nity. As we build trust and collaboration with the community, together we can ensure that safety is for all people. From accountability to restoration, we will continue to move Lynnwood forward where no one is left behind.”

Statement from Bryce Owings, Lynnwood City Council Position 3



“I am truly honored to receive the endorsement of the Lynnwood Police Guild. The men and women of our police department serve with courage and dedication every

single day, and their commitment to protecting our community deserves our full respect and support. Having their trust is something I value deeply.

“A safer Lynnwood begins with strong partnerships between our officers, city leadership, and the community. That means ensuring our police have the resources, training, and staffing they need to serve effectively. When our department is understaffed, it places too much pressure on the officers who remain, leading to fatigue and increasing the risk of mistakes, something our community should never have to accept.

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Snohomish County Elections Receives National “Independence Award” for Outstanding Service

By SNOHOMISH COUNTY ELECTIONS

EDMONDS—Last month, Snohomish County Elections was presented with the 2025 Professional Practices Independence Award by the National Association of Election Officials at its 40th Annual National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. This award recognizes Snohomish County Elections’ outstanding service and commitment to accessibility through its Elections Explained initiative, a comprehensive voter education effort. The initiative combined community partnerships, targeted marketing, and direct voter engagement opportunities to ensure voters had access to clear, reliable election information ahead of the 2024 November General Election.

The initiative’s success was rooted in strong community partnerships with the Snohomish County League of Women Voters, Sno-Isle Libraries, and other local community groups. Together, these partnerships supported the planning, moderating, and hosting of in-person Q&A events where voters could ask questions and access reliable election information. To further enhance the initiative’s impact, Snohomish County Elections paired these events with a multi-platform marketing campaign that delivered short, informational content to voters online and in their local communities.

“Our goal was to meet voters where they were, offering opportunities for open dialogue and direct engagement,” said Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell. “Being recognized for this work is truly an honor, and I’m incredibly proud of the work our team put into Elections Explained. This initiative allowed us to connect with voters face-



Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell (second from left) and Elections division staff pictured with the “Independence Award” from the National Association of Election Officials. Photo Source: Snohomish County

to-face, answer their questions, and explain how elections are run locally. Thanks to Sno-Isle Libraries and the Snohomish County League of Women Voters, we were able to create an environment where voters felt comfortable asking questions.”

The Independence Award is presented annually at Election Center’s National Conference as part of its Professional Practices Program, which highlights excellence in election professionalism. A national committee of professional election administrators selects the award recipients. Election Center, also known as the National Association for

Election Officials, is the largest national professional association for election officials in the United States.

“Libraries are where people come to learn and ask questions, where they walk in curious and leave empowered,” said Susan Hempstead, Sno-Isle Libraries Assistant Director of Strategic Relations. “That’s why we were proud to partner with Snohomish County Elections on Elections Explained, and we congratulate them on their recent award recognizing outstanding service and commitment to Snohomish County voters. By hosting these events at our libraries, we created opportunities for community members to learn more about the voting process. Elections Explained made election information more accessible, reflecting Sno-Isle Libraries’ commitment to supporting experiences that matter to our community.”

The initiative had a measurable impact across Snohomish County. The multi-platform campaign generated over 11 million impressions through more than 200 digital, print, transit, email, and radio ad placements. Residents encountered key messages an average of seven to ten times, helping connect voters to trustworthy election

information and encouraging participation in the in-person events. The Q&A events drew engaged audiences who asked thoughtful and focused questions.

“We’ve partnered with Snohomish County Elections on many efforts over the years, and Elections Explained is a great example of how that partnership continues to grow,” said Lisa Utter, Snohomish County League of Women Voters President. “Connecting directly with voters in the community and fostering transparent, open dialogue is exactly the kind of outreach we value. Seeing voters walk away from Elections Explained events feeling more informed was deeply rewarding, and we’re proud to support that work.”

In June, Snohomish County Elections was also presented with the Washington Secretary of State’s Accessibility All-Star of the Year Award by Secretary of State Steve Hobbs at the Washington State Elections Conference. The award recognized Snohomish County Elections’ efforts to provide exceptional public service to eligible voters, remove barriers, and increase engagement.

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The bottom section of the poster features a grid of logos for various sponsors. From left to right, the logos include: PAE Paine Field Airport Snohomish County; Port of Everett; American Family Insurance (Cisneros Agency, LLC); LP Outdoorlighting Perspectives; Tires Les Schwab; Humana; Beacon Publishing (Mukilteo, Edmonds, Mill Creek); CORT Party Rental; Lynnwood Times; Angel of the Winds Casino Resort; Audio Engineers Northwest; and Pacific Seafood.

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.
- Aetna
- American Family Insurance
- Annemarie's cakes and candid adventures boutique
- Auntie's Candies LLC
- Author Event Network
- binucho
- Box of Good
- Caerulean Candle Co.
- Cat & Owl Creations
- City of Mukilteo Surface water program
- Community Cat Coalition of Washington
- Corky Caps & Hilary's Gourmet Pantry
- Country Cuttin's
- CrossFit Mukilteo
- Crystal Springs Co-op Pre-school
- Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center
- Defensive Driving School
- Designs By Heartponies
- Dranchak Studio
- Dwayne Lanes
- E Schosso Photography, LLC
- EcoView Windows & Doors NW
- Emollience Massage and Wellness
- Everett Rowing Association
- Evergreen Crystals
- Fanglasstic
- Florabee Arts
- Fred & Garlock
- Fur Baby Accessories by Linda
- Generatech inc
- Girl Scouts of Western Washington
- Hampered & Stoned
- Harbour Pointe Senior Living
- Homes and Hope Community Land Trust
- Humana
- Integrative Foot & Ankle Centers of Washington
- Island Raya
- Jalani Collections
- JsLongMeats dba bobs freaking nuts
- JW World Resources
- Kenneth L Fritts Photography
- KJC Crafts
- Laurens Art Space
- LeafFilter Gutter Protection
- Linked By Lauren
- Mossy Rock Soap Co
- Mountain Sky Arts
- Mukilteo Lacrosse Club
- Mukilteo Memory Care
- Mukilteo Senior Association
- Natural Way Chiropractic
- Nature Together
- Nordic Home Solutions
- Northern Wonders
- OddPetz Emporium
- Optum Care Washington
- Outdoor Lighthing Perspective
- P's & Q's (and other things, too)
- PACIFISCENCE, LLC
- Packs for Kids
- Polar Bear NW
- Puget Sound Woodworks
- RAM Mountain Studio
- Rapozza
- Renewal by Andersen
- Resilience Behavioral Health
- Riley's Spice of Life LLC
- Robinson Paints & Improvements, Inc.
- Ron's Balms and Botanicals
- SB Layered Creations
- Shadow and Ember
- Siberia Spirit
- Simple brilliance
- Simplicity Handcrafted
- Smith Brothers
- Snohomish Candle Co.
- Stitches N Bloom
- Sugarcane Beauty
- Sumac El Sol Handcrafted
- Textile Arts
- Sweet + Salty Silver
- Synthetic Turf Northwest
- TaekwondoWay
- The Irish and Celtic Society of Snohomish County
- The Unsweetened Tooth
- T-Mobile Wireless Vision
- Tristate Roofing Inc.
- Tutu2CuteShop
- Twisted Tree Pens
- Uncle Jesse's Pottery
- Walker Art Glass
- Washington Satsang Society
- Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle & Charter
- Wilder & Jean Co.
- Winning Ways
- WM Waste Management
- YMCA Mukilteo

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

- Hampered & Stoned
- Harbour Pointe Senior Living
- Homes and Hope Community Land Trust
- Humana
- Integrative Foot & Ankle Centers of Washington
- Island Raya
- Jalani Collections
- JsLongMeats dba bobs freaking nuts
- JW World Resources
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- Mossy Rock Soap Co
- Mountain Sky Arts
- Mukilteo Lacrosse Club
- Mukilteo Memory Care
- Mukilteo Senior Association
- Natural Way Chiropractic
- Nature Together
- Nordic Home Solutions
- Northern Wonders
- OddPetz Emporium
- Optum Care Washington
- 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
- Puget Sound Woodworks
- RAM Mountain Studio
- Rapozza
- Renewal by Andersen
- Resilience Behavioral Health
- Riley's Spice of Life LLC
- Robinson Paints & Improvements, Inc.
- Ron's Balms and Botanicals
- SB Layered Creations
- Shadow and Ember
- Siberia Spirit
- Simple brilliance
- Simplicity Handcrafted
- Smith Brothers
- Snohomish Candle Co.
- Stitches N Bloom
- Sugarcane Beauty
- Sumac El Sol Handcrafted
- Textile Arts
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- Synthetic Turf Northwest
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- The Irish and Celtic Society of Snohomish County
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- Washington Satsang Society
- Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle & Charter
- Wilder & Jean Co.
- Winning Ways
- WM Waste Management
- YMCA Mukilteo



KID'S CORNER BOOTHS

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

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

Come enjoy music from local bands with wine, beer and cider available. This is a 21+ event – please be prepared to present ID. No animals. No babes in arms. No outside drinks.

Tickets available at the gate only. \$8 admission/cover charge, \$8 beer/wine/cider

Bear Garden Hours:

- Friday, Sept 5: 4 pm - 10pm. Country Night, FREE admission (4-6PM) for anyone wearing a cowboy hat
- Saturday, Sept 6: 5:30pm - 10pm
- Sunday, Sept 7: 11 am – 5pm. Slow Sip'n Sunday. Free admission if wearing Seahawks Gear.

2025 MUKFEST BEER GARDEN LINE UP

FRIDAY
 4-5 PM STACY JONES BAND
 5:30 - 6:30 PM CRIMINAL SQUIRREL ORCHESTRA
 7-8 PM SOUTH FORK COUNTY KICKERS LINE DANCING LESSON
 8:30 - 10 PM REBEL CANYON

SATURDAY
 5:30-6:30 PM STOMPING GROUND
 7-8 PM THE DAVINOS
 8:30-10 PM THE MACHINE

SUNDAY
 3:30-4:30PM JOE COOK BLUES BAND

**MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE PARK
 SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025**

CO-SPONSORED BY
 CITY OF MUKILTEO
 SPONSORS
 Add'l Engineers Northwest, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE, GLP, KXA, DRES LES SCHWAR, COM, WASHINGTON

MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL PARKING
 Please Note: There is NO PARKING at Lighthouse Park. Shuttle is \$2 per/person suggested donation.



PUBLIC PARKING LOCATIONS
 Shuttles run continuously to Lighthouse Park.

- P1** ADA AND PUBLIC PARKING
 Olympic View Middle School
 2602 Mukilteo Speedway
- P2** PUBLIC PARKING
 Kamiak High School
 1801 Harbour Pointe Blvd.
- P3** PUBLIC PAID PARKING
 Port of Everett (Across Ivar's Mukilteo Landing)
 711 Front Street



🍓 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 🍓

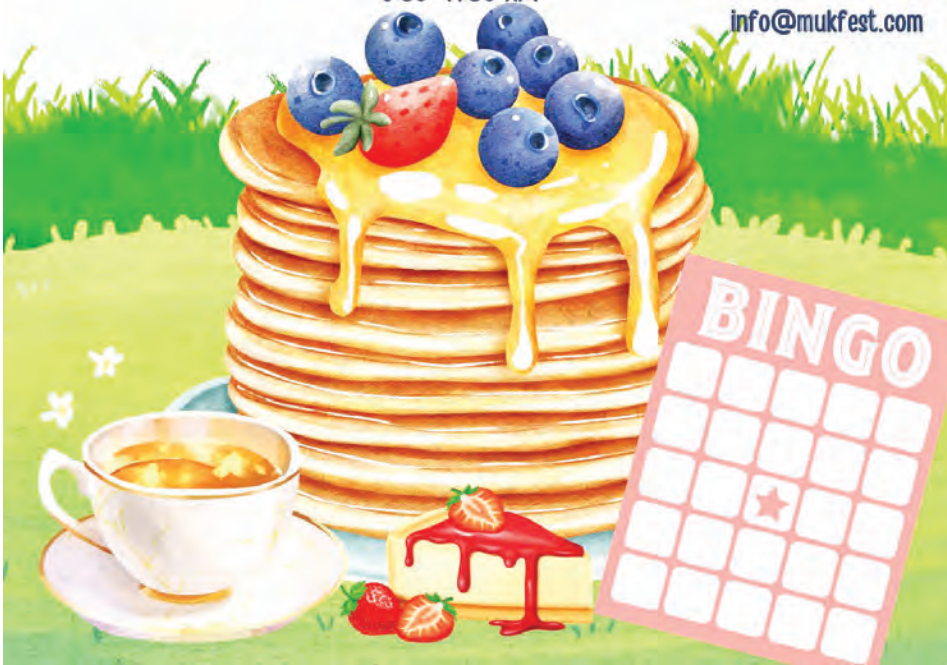
Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast and a fun game of Bingo hosted by the Mukilteo Fire Foundation. By donation only. All are welcome!

SUNDAY, SEPT 7 2025

MUKILTEO LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL - LIGHTHOUSE LAWN

9:30-11:30 AM

For more info contact
info@mukfest.com



CALLING FOR Volunteers

We are seeking dedicated volunteers who are eager to get involved in a range of roles throughout the festival!



Join Us!

[www.https://mukfest.com/volunteer/](https://mukfest.com/volunteer/)



LYNNWOOD TIMES

The premier news source for Snohomish County

Firefighters to host 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in Edmonds

By SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

EDMONDS—Firefighters from South County Fire will host a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11, 9:11 a.m., at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Park at Downtown Edmonds Fire Station 17, 275 6th Ave. N. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The ceremony will be held in front of the 9/11 Memorial built around a 1-ton beam recovered from the collapsed World Trade Center. The beam is supported by two stainless steel towers above a pentagonal foundation.

Flanking the beam are two walls of glass tiles honoring each of the nearly 3,000 people killed, including 343 firefighters, 60 police and 10 emergency medical services workers.

The ceremony, presented by South County Union Firefighters IAFF Local 1828, will feature the South County Fire Honor Guard; bugler Debbie Dawson, a retired Edmonds Police Department officer; and guest speaker retired Snohomish County Fire District 1 Capt. Andy Speier, a former New York

firefighter who returned immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks to search



for his fallen colleagues at Ground Zero.

In addition to honoring 9/11 victims, firefighters will also remember South County Fire Captain Dean Warren, who died in the line of duty from occupational cancer.

from page 3 **CHO**

nection,” Altamirano-Crosby shared.

On February 22, 2016, the City of Danyang, South Korea was officially approved as the Sister City to the City of Lynnwood. Prior to the pandemic, high school students from both cities participated in cultural exchanges.

In 2022, Cho was appointed as president of the Korean Sports Association of Washington state and served as the director of the Taekwondo Association in Washington State. Cho was a long-term member of the American Taekwondo Association, served as auditor of the Korean Taekwondo Association in America and was President of the Seattle Washington Korean Association.

Cho was one of 8 applicants selected to fill the 2024 vacancy on the Lynnwood City Council of Shirley Sutton, who resigned in protest to the fiscal management of the City. Coun-

cilwoman Derica Escamilla, in July 2024, received the majority of votes by the council to fill the vacant seat.

Prior to immigrating to the United States to state a new life, Cho completed military service in the Army for Republic of Korea in February of 1986. He holds a Master of Arts degree after studying at Songwon and Chosun Universities and is an internationally ranked Taekwondo Grand Master in World Taekwondo — an achievement of which there are currently less than 50 in the world.

Ki Seung Cho is endorsed by Victoria Woodards, Mayor of Tacoma, Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby, Snohomish County PUD Commissioner and former Lynnwood City Council Vice President, Patrick Decker, Lynnwood City Councilman, Jason Moon, Mukilteo City Councilman, Shannon Sessions, Former Lynnwood Council President, and more.

from page 3 **THE GUILD**

“At the same time, true public safety goes beyond policing. Every Lynnwood resident deserves to feel safe in their home today, but we also need to build long-term solutions that reduce crime at its root. That includes creating pathways to good jobs and expanding opportunities for apprenticeship programs so our younger generation has opportunities beyond college, especially when it isn’t affordable.

“By supporting both our officers and our community, we can build a Lynnwood that is safe, strong, and welcoming for everyone.”

Statement from Robert Leutwyler, Lynnwood City Council Position 5



“I’m honored to receive the endorsement of the Lynnwood Police Guild. As a Councilmember, public safety is a top priority for me. Everyone in Lynnwood deserves not only to feel safe, but to be safe in our community.

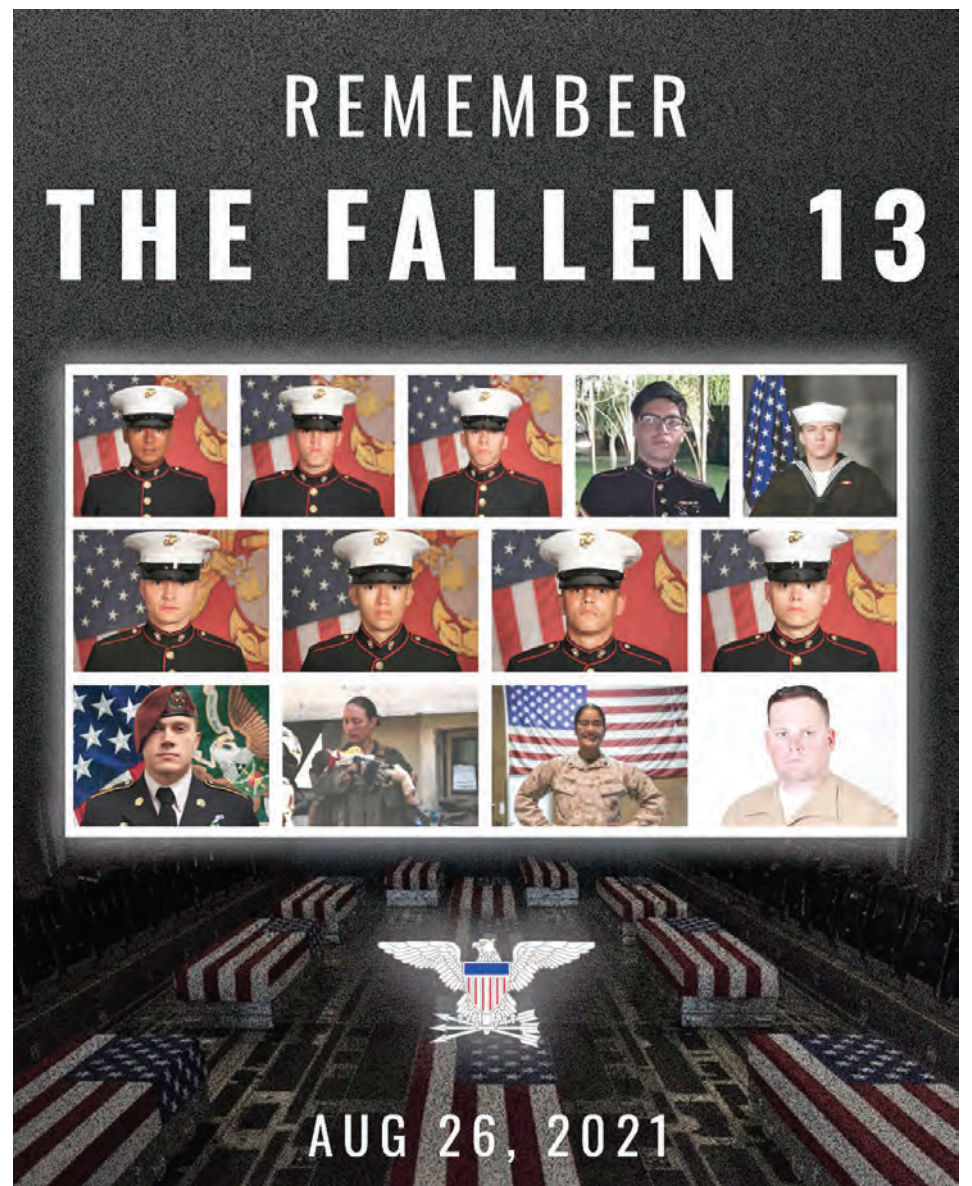
“Our police work tirelessly on our behalf every day. Our police are committed not just to responding to crime, but to connecting people in crisis with the resources they need. By combining enforcement and accountability with access to vital services, we can reduce repeat offenses, support those in need, and make our city safer for everyone. I’ve proudly supported increased funding to restore our police staffing levels. I’ve voted to fund a social worker embedded with our police, as well as funding for Medication Assisted Treatment at the Lynnwood Justice Center.

“We’ve made progress, but there’s so much more work to be done to make our city safe for everyone. Vote to retain veteran leadership for City Council Position 5!

“Voters can learn more at robertleutwyler.com or <https://www.facebook.com/robert4lynnwood/>”

About the Lynnwood Police Guild

Established in 1994, the Lynnwood Police Officers Guild serves as the voice and advocate for the dedicated members of the Lynnwood Police force. The union ensured LPD Officers have the resources, training, and representation needed to carry out their duties to res-



2025 Korea Night!

You're invited to the 2025 Korea Night hosted by The Korea Times and the Greater Seattle Korean Association. All participants will receive a premium Mariners T-shirt, and will be entered into a prize drawing for a round-trip ticket to Incheon, sponsored by Asiana Airlines.

Saturday, September 13, 2025 – 6:00 PM

VS

Seattle Mariners vs LA Angels

Hosted by The Korea Times • Greater Seattle Korean Association

Supported by

Discounted june66@koreatimes.com / creatorborosl@gmail.com
(Please note: Email inquiries only. Phone inquiries not accept.)

idents.

The Guild stands alongside LPD officers, helping them fulfill the department’s mission to provide proactive, competent, and effective public safety services with the highest regard for human dignity.

Its vision is “to be recognized by the community as a key contributor to the quality of life in Lynnwood” leading with innovation, professionalism, and a commitment for positive change, continuously improving services to Lynnwood residents.

11 Tren de Aragua narcoterrorists killed in US military strike off coast of Venezuela

By KIENAN BRISCOE

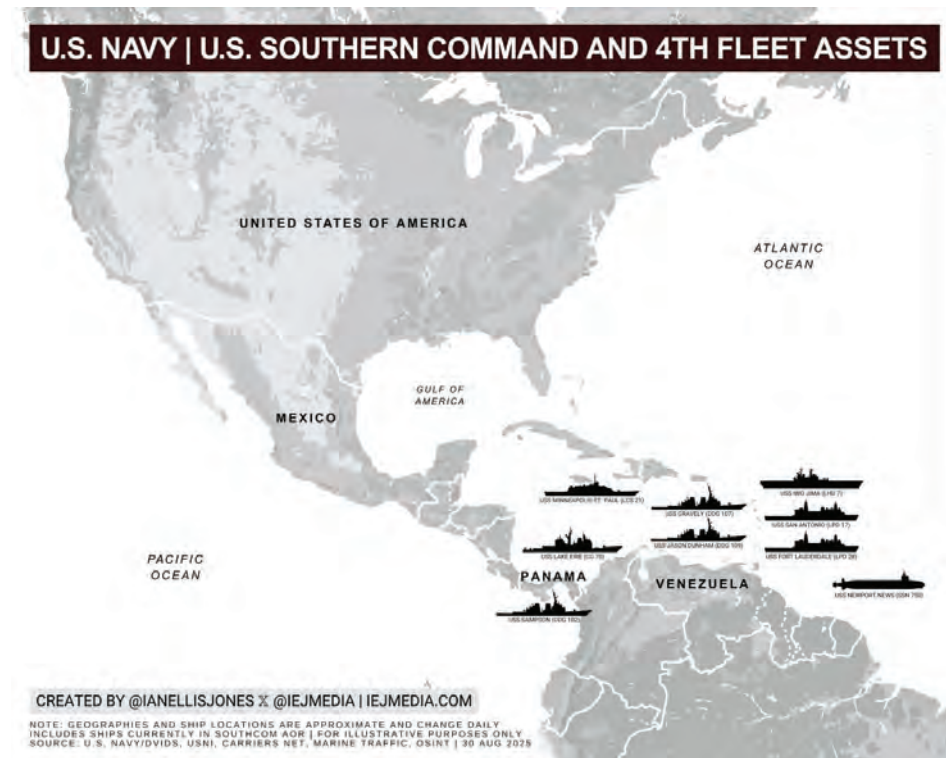
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Earlier Tuesday morning, September 2, under the orders of President Donald J Trump, U.S. military forces conducted a kinetic strike in international waters against what it called “positively identified Tren de Aragua Narcoterrorists,” allegedly transporting illegal narcotics from the Venezuelan coast. The strike resulted in the death of 11 terrorists. No U.S. Forces were harmed in this strike, President Trump disclosed.

“Please let this serve as notice to anybody even thinking about bringing drugs into the United States of America,” President Trump said. “BEWARE! Thank you for your attention to this matter!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

The U.S. designated the Sinaloa Cartel, Tren de Aragua, and the Cartel of the Suns as global terrorist organizations in February 2025, expanding military authority to target these groups. The US alleges that Tren de Aragua and the Cartel of the Suns are operating under the control of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

“So, the president has been very clear that he’s going to use the full power of America and the full might of the United States to take on and eradicate these drug cartels, no matter where they’re operating from and no matter how long they’ve been able to act with impunity, that those days are over,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a response to Tuesday’s military strike.

Since mid-August 2025, the U.S. has deployed a substantial naval force to the Southern Caribbean and Venezuelan waters. This buildup was triggered by the Trump administration’s renewed focus on disrupting narco-trafficking



networks, with Venezuela identified as a key hub.

The US deployment includes three Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers (USS Gravelly, the USS Jason Dunham and the USS Sampson), an amphibious ready group with the USS San Antonio, USS Iwo Jima, the USS Lake Erie (CG-70) and USS Fort Lauderdale, carrying approximately 4,500 personnel, including 2,200 Marines. Additionally, a nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine and Boeing P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft are involved, capable of intelligence gathering and targeted strikes, if authorized.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday said his country was at “maximum preparedness” and he would constitutionally declare a “republic in arms” if the U.S. attacked Venezuela in responding to deployment of 4,500 military and naval personnel

off his country’s coast in recent weeks.

Maduro’s government has deployed troops along the Venezuelan coast and border with neighboring Colombia and has urged civilians to enlist in a possible military confrontation with the US.

During his presser, Maduro accused Secretary of State Marco Rubio of trying to stain Trump’s hands “with South American blood, with Caribbean blood, with Venezuelan blood.”

Except from Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Monday speech:

“President Donald Trump, Mr. President Donald Trump, you have to watch out because Marco Rubio wants to stain your hands with blood, with South American blood, with Caribbean blood, with Venezuelan blood.

“They want to lead you to a bloodbath

and stain your last name Trump with blood forever and ever, with a massacre against the people of Venezuela, with a terrible war against South America and the Caribbean, because this would be a full-blown war across the entire continent.

“They want to stain Donald Trump’s hands with blood.”

The only other South American leader to be indicted for operating a narco-terrorism operation was former dictator of Panama, Manuel Noriega, in the late 1980s for drug trafficking racketeering, and money laundering. He threatened to close down the Panama Canal if the US invaded his country to capture him.

Noriega was captured and eventually convicted on July 10, 1992, to serve 40 years in prison which was reduced to 17 years for good behavior. He was released on September 9, 2007, but his incarceration was extended due to extradition requests from other countries. Noriega was ultimately extradited to Panama, where he faced additional charges but died in 2017 while serving his sentence there.

On August 7, the U.S. Department of State placed a \$50 million bounty on Maduro due to his alleged leadership of the “Cartel of the Suns,” a drug trafficking network linked to the Venezuelan government. The U.S. Treasury Department designated the Cartel of the Suns as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist organization on July 25, 2025.

The Maduro’s regime is allegedly linked to narco-trafficking, money laundering, and support for terrorist groups, such as Hezbollah and the ELN (National Liberation Army) in Colombia.

Fair on 44th Sept 6!

The City of Lynnwood is hosting this Saturday, September 6th from 10:00am -2:00pm for the Fair on 44th, Lynnwood’s Health & Safety Community Block Party. 44th Street will be closed from the Fire Station to the Police Station during this time.

- EXPLORE the many vehicles on-site for tours and pictures with Fire Trucks, Ambulances, Police and SWAT Robot, Loader and Bucket Truck, mini excavator, a vintage Tractor, Support Seven, and more.
- PARTICIPATE in Soccer Shots Seattle free soccer sessions, learning new soccer skills.
- DONATE single-serving, shelf-stable, quick heat or ready-to-eat food items for Foundation for Edmonds School District’s Nourishing Network food drive. www.FoundationESD/nourishing-network
- WATCH demonstrations from Police K-9, disaster preparedness tips & skills, pipe band, fitness & exercise demos, and more.
- ENJOY lunch or a delicious snack from a local food truck.
- LEARN what’s happening in the City of Lynnwood such as new development, construction projects, Light Rail, and more.
- CELEBRATE culture with various organizations celebrating the good they do within the Lynnwood community.
- GET information on health insurance coverage, dental care, blood pressure checks, health & wellness programs, and more.
- PLAY games, do craft projects, and other fun activities for the whole family, and smile for the photo booth.
- SIGN UP for a vaccine through QFC Pharmacy!
- FIND Clark the Shark roaming around being silly.
- BRING home free goodies, giveaways and great memories!

There will be limited parking available at the Lynnwood Recreation Center (enter from 188th St) and at the Library and City Hall (enter from 194th St). Attendees are encouraged to carpool, take public transportation, walk or bike to the event!

Missing Person Alert!

The Lynnwood Police Department is asking for the public’s help in locating 24-year-old Wicheng Deng (Case #25-4135). If you have any information regarding her whereabouts, please contact Detective Helm at 425-670-5531.



from page 1 **THE ALLIANCE**

Secretary of Health for Washington State Department of Health, Dennis Worsham in a statement supports the upcoming West Coast Health Alliance criticizing the recent policies of HHS as lacking science-based decision-making which poses a direct threat to the nation's health security.

"When federal agencies abandon evidence-based recommendations in favor of ideology, we cannot continue down that same path," Worsham released in a statement. "Washington State will not compromise when it comes to our values: science drives our public health policy. Public health at its core is about prevention — preventing illness, preventing the spread of disease, and preventing early, avoidable deaths. We stand firmly with trusted medical professionals and organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as fellow West Coast health agencies — whose guidance remains rooted in rigorous research and clinical expertise. Our commitment is to the health and safety of our communities, protecting lives through prevention, and not yielding to unsubstantiated theories that dismiss decades of proven public health practice."

ACIP was created to provide recommendations on the use vaccines in the U.S. with the CDC utilizing their rec-

ommendations to devise immunization schedules for children and adults.

The new smaller ACIP, appointed by Kennedy Jr, included epidemiologist Martin Kulldorff as chair and Dr. Robert Malone. The revamped panel's first meeting on June 25, focused on forming workgroups to evaluate cumulative vaccine effects (e.g., interactions, total numbers, ingredients, and timing), review older vaccines like the hepatitis B shot given at birth, and address issues such as religious objections to measles vaccine timing.

The revamp ACIP's goal has been re-directed to assess potential links from vaccinations to conditions like autism, allergies, and autoimmune issues.

According to the Governor's Office, the West Coast Health Alliance will coordinate health guidelines aligned to immunization recommendations approved by the three state's— California, Oregon, and Washington—trusted scientists, clinicians, and other public health leaders.

"This will allow residents to receive consistent, science-based recommendations they can rely on — regardless of shifting federal actions," the Governor's Office says.

Residents can expect guidelines from the new West Coast Health Alliance in the coming weeks, but Tribes will be exempt from following the body's rec-

ommendations.

Wednesday's announcement by Governor Ferguson comes days after the recent firing of CDC Director Susan Monarez by President Donald J Trump on August 29, after she resisted aligning with new vaccine policies. Also, in mid-August 600 CDC employees received termination notices.

On March 27, Secretary Kennedy Jr. announced a restructuring plan for HHS to align with President Trump's Executive Order on workforce opti-

mization. The plan includes: reducing the HHS workforce by 20,000, from 82,000 to 62,000; consolidating HHS's 28 divisions into 15, including a new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), and centralizing functions like HR and IT while cutting regional offices from 10 to 5; prioritizing the elimination of chronic illness through safe food, clean water, and reduced environmental toxins; and improving efficiency and responsiveness while preserving Medicare, Medicaid, and other essential services.

from page 1 **STATION 76**

leading up to the approval of the annex, according to him.

Commissioner Laurence, who voted no, called the public and city uproar a "political move," that their comments were "embarrassing" and that the public is unknowledgeable of the operations of the fire authority. He added that their criticisms of the board were "insulting."

Commissioner Rowland called Laurence's comments "disturbing," adding that calling the public "hairbrained" and that "people are whispering in their ears" is demeaning to those who put them in office.

"To insinuate that the public is being manipulated and is doing anything other than looking out for their community is wrong and we can do better," said Rowland. "We're elected to represent the people. We're not elected to defend the staff if they've made mistakes. We're elected to make sure they don't happen again and hold them accountable."

Rowland concluded by apologizing to the public, on behalf of the board, for letting them down.

Chair Jim Kenny, who also voted no, added that the board needs to follow the recommendations of their experts and make data-driven decisions.

South County Fire Chief Bob Eastman said, now that the motion to restore service has passed, he expects A21 and Paramedic staffing transfer to take place either today, September 3, or Thursday at the latest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leading up to the vote, Mill Creek residents came in force to express their disapproval of the Board's decisions and

perceived dismissiveness of the public and City of Mill Creek's concerns.

Mill Creek resident and retired labor lawyer Carolyn Drake criticized Chair Kenny while commending Commissioner Rowland for his "commitment, courage, and integrity," adding that the reduction in paramedic staffing at Station 76 is "putting [her] life in jeopardy" given her family's propensity for stroke.

"You are the one responsible for the reduction in force at Station 76. It is your job to save lives not put them in jeopardy. You have betrayed the people who have elected you and I'm here tonight to tell you, face-to-face, that we put you in and we can take you out," said Drake. "I personally have lost all confidence in your leadership ability. You don't have the power nor authority to unilaterally break your promise to voters."

Audrey Johnson, another Mill Creek resident, who shared that she had to reach out for paramedic services when her newborn son turned blue in her arms, also bashed Chair Kenny for adjusting the RFA's allowable response times for medics, not disclosing potential staffing cuts during annexation, failing to consult with the fire fighters union (which has opposed the change), and not offering residents the opportunity to ask questions or engage in dialogue.

"I've respected this agency for over 25 years. I urge you tonight to reflect honestly if this is really the best deployment model for the people you serve. Lowering standards to fit reduced service is not leadership," said Johnson. "Placing a paramedic on a fire engine and adding an aid unit does not provide the ALS transport service this area needs."

Jeff Miller, Mill Creek resident, shared a story about his daughter suffering

from cardiac arrest and being safely transported to the hospital. He feared now, with current staffing levels, that the outcome of that emergency could have gone differently. He added that the Board's "dismissiveness towards the citizens of Mill Creek" is "appalling" and will work as hard as he can to replace every Commissioner who voted in favor of the paramedic transfer.

Nancy Balthazar, another Mill Creek resident, echoed many of the former residents' concerns — mainly about Mill Creek traffic and lack of faith that paramedic service coming from Martha Lake would be able to respond to the southern, and eastern, parts of the city adequately.

Fire Commissioner Micah Rowland also spoke at public comment because he believes the public deserve "more than just technical justifications and closed-door deliberations" — "they deserve honesty, humility, and accountability," adding that when the Board removed paramedic services from Station 76 they did so without public engagement.

Not only that, Rowland continued, but when the Board was met with backlash from City leadership and citizens it "acted not with reflection but with criticism." What's more, the Board deliberated in Executive Session shielded from public view, Rowland said, in what he believes to be a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act.

"Transparency isn't optional, it's foundational," said Rowland. "We were elected to represent our districts. That means showing up with humility, not hubris, it means respecting our city partners, not undermining them, and it means listening to the people we serve even when it's uncomfortable."

Connor Holttunn, Political Director for Local 1828 union, during his union report, also stood in solidarity with the

residents of Mill Creek stating that he, and other union members, "feel like liars" after door knocking on resident's doors asking them to support the annexation.

BACKGROUND OF ANNEX, PARAMEDIC TRANSFER, AND BOARD CONTROVERSIES

In 2021 the City was faced with a tough decision to either extend its contract with SRFR (Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue) or look for other fire service options. Fire service costs for residents would jump in every option but, due to negotiations with SRFR falling through and promising conversations with South County, the city ultimately decided an annex to South County was best for residents and urged their voters to support it.

A main factor in that decision was South County Fire's promise, and commitment, to maintaining staffing levels at Station 76 which was even engrained in the fire authority and city's contract. Despite these promises and contractual obligations, South County Fire — without a majority vote of approval by the board, and without any public outreach or communication with city staff — relocated Station 76's paramedics to Station 21 in Martha Lake, as part of a new Redeployment Plan.

Station 76 in Mill Creek. Photo: Kienan Briscoe, Lynnwood Times
Back in 2011 Mill Creek residents approved an EMS levy proving additional funding of fire and emergency services. Part of the justification for that increased funding was to hire a paramedic position for Station 76.

Since then, both the City of Mill Creek and Mill Creek residents have been vocal about their disapproval of both the paramedic transfer as well as the Board's handling of the situation.

from page 1 CAP

other resources that are often required prior to beginning a job in a chosen field. These care packages are made possible through Cares of Washington as well as certain construction companies.

Through a partnership with Cares of Washington students can even be eligible to receive free gas cards (to get them to-and-from work/class), work clothes, and boots.

The CAP program is instructed by union carpenter and Lynnwood resident Bryce Owings.

“This is a great program. We need to make sure we keep this funded to ensure all people can come in here because no matter what your background is financially you’re able to get some real skills here, where if it was charged from their [the student’s] pocket it would really cut off a lot of people who couldn’t afford it,” said Owings. “These are the kinds of skills that are needed in the future, in my opinion, because with the rise in A.I you’re not going to see many of these tech jobs that everyone’s going for. But A.I. is never going to replace someone with a hammer or an electrician running wire.”

Edmonds College’s CAP program started in 2021, when Sound Transit partnered with the City of Lynnwood and Edmonds College to begin a pre-apprenticeship program. At that time the transportation authority was having a hard time building up its workforce for the incoming, extremely ambitious, light rail project. One of the board members, who also sat on the Board for Edmonds College, approached then Mayor of Lynnwood Nicola Smith with a solution; a solution which eventually became the Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program (CAP).

It quickly became evident, however, that the capacity of the program could not be effectively operated on Edmonds College’s main campus in Lynnwood. Instead, it was set up due north at the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) in Everett, which opened in 2010 as an educational resource for career pathways in the aerospace and manufacturing industry through an operating agreement with the Aerospace Futures Alliance (AFA).

The WATR center is also located near Paine Field Airport for a very specific reason – a requirement beset by Boeing, one of WATR’s primary partners, who, during initial conversations with the college in 2009, was in dire need of assembly workers with “skills, not degrees,” Sheila Dersham, Associate Director for the WATR, told the Lynnwood Times.

“The movement away from skills-based training has caused us to have a huge deficit in people who actually do jobs that require skilled labor,” said Dersham. “There’s only so many jobs for people with degrees and we’ve neglected the trades for a while, but I think that’s on the upswing.”

Both the CAP program and the college’s 12-week Aerospace manufacturing program fall within its AMSC which used to be a Business Training Center until being converted to cover more divisions of the manufacturing sector.

Since its inception, the CAP program has had 112 students enrolled (since October of 2021) with 106 of them graduating – a 93% completion rate. Of these students, 50% were members of the BIPOC community and 17% were women, both underrepresented demographics in the trades. Additionally, nearly 23% of graduates exited the program with apprenticeships (at least in union-based jobs, non-union based career opportunities are harder to track via data).

“Our graduates are preferred. They have a leg up, so to speak. If there is an interview process and people are coming from everywhere, and graduates from the pre-apprenticeship program, unless something goes wrong, they are on the top of the list,” said AMSC Executive Director Matt Poishbeg.

On average, graduates of the CAP program make \$5 more an hour compared to prior to completing the program.

Cindy Fisher, Student Services Coordinator with the AMSC, works in constant communication with the region’s largest trade employers for job opportunities and works closely with graduating students to help them develop key skills beyond the trades (such as resume building, interviewing skills, and so on.) She keeps in contact with graduates long after their eight weeks to put them in touch with job opportunities or help them build their resumes.

“One of the biggest things for us is making sure they [the students] have the skills for, not only interviewing, but doing math and agility tests,” said Fisher. “What we try to do is hit a little bit on every trade so that they’ll be high on the list of candidates.”

When a student of the CAP program first enrolls, Fisher interviews them to figure out what trade they’re most interested in entering. She then actively works with them on goal setting, coordinates mock interviews with unions such as L&I, and connects them to additional certification programs such as electrical certifications offered by the Construction Industry Training Center (CITC).

The CAP program is currently a non-credit program though the college is looking into changing that soon. While other programs offered through the AMSC are eligible for college credits they are all non-tuition funded, which creates a unique funding model. For one, it does not have FTE (full time enrollment) requirements to receive funding (like most college programs) but that also means it does not receive state funding, leaving it almost completely reliant on grants. Despite this, the AMSC has been historically successful in securing grants



(Top) Edmonds College’s CAP instructor union carpenter and Lynnwood resident Bryce Owings with a student. Photo: Edmonds College. (Bottom) AMSC Executive Director Matt Poishbeg (left) and Cindy Fisher (right), Student Services Coordinator with the AMSC, at the cargo deck of a 63-foot-long Boeing fuselage, nicknamed the “Gray Ghost.” Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.



(such as the recently awarded \$300,000 grant from Jobs for the Future and an additional \$500,000 grant from WSDOT to support its CAP program). Because of these successes, not only is the AMSC not worried about recent state and federal dollar restrictions to keep afloat, but it has its heart set on expansion soon offering even more trade field training in a (hopefully, if all goes according to plan) brand new building.

“I’m not too worried about our programs because we promote employment. We’re getting people jobs and we’re giving opportunities to people who have a hard time getting jobs. I think in the grand scheme of things I think we’re probably going to come out okay,” said Associate Director Sheila Dersham. “Even if there are not as many state or federal opportunities we look for other options and we work with other organizations that have the same goal – working with people who

don’t always have the opportunity to go to school.”

According to AMSC Executive Director Matt Poishbeg, the hope – as it relates to expansion – is to one day have a designated CAP space where students can create sawdust, for example, without contaminating other spaces.

Poishbeg continued that he would also like to one day get to a point where the AMSC can buy students the necessary tools and equipment needed to start a job day one.

“It’s what we call wraparound services. Where you’re not just offering the program, they come in, and it’s a passive thing. We want to give them the support they need,” added Dersham.

Students interested in learning more about the CAP program can attend a tour and open house on Wednesdays.



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