

Arts & Culture program could go

Two police jobs may be next

BY CARLY B. DYKES
FOR THE BEACON

The Edmonds City Council's Public Safety, Planning, Human Services and Personnel committee met Tuesday afternoon to approve a parks department reorganization focused on improving what they say is operational efficiency, and to review an update to the City's authorized employee positions.



Angie Feser

Senior HR analyst Emily Wagener presented the City's updated authorized employee positions ordinance, reflecting changes incorporated into the 2026 budget. The changes mean the City could eliminate two police officer positions, end the Arts and Culture Program for 2026, defund two parks maintenance worker positions, and reduce staffing at the wastewater treatment plant by one full-time equivalent (FTE).

(According to the City's employment opportunities page, there are three opening at the treatment plant: manager; sup-

see **POSSIBLE CUTS** page 12 ▶



Photo courtesy Christine Mitchell

Hell's Belles headlines the Edmonds Block Party main stage in August.

Hell's Belles and Nite Wave headline Edmonds Block Party

The music lineup for the second annual Edmonds Block Party - formerly known as Taste Edmonds - includes Hell's Belles, the all-female AC/DC tribute, and Nite Wave, which plays '80s new wave dance party anthems.

The Edmonds Chamber of Commerce event is 3-10 p.m. Aug. 7 (21-plus only); noon-10 p.m. Aug. 8 (21-plus after 8 p.m.) at Civic Center Playfield. Music from the main stage can be heard throughout the event, but the stage is accessible only to those 21 and over.

The main stage lineup also includes:

- **The Little Lies:** Fleetwood Mac tribute.
- **Queen Mother:** Queen tribute.

see **BLOCK PARTY** page 12 ▶



Candidates for the open state House seat in the 32nd Legislative District, clockwise from top left: Jenna Nand, Will Chen, Keith Scully, and Chris Bloomquist.

It's getting **CROWDED** in the 32nd

Jenna Nand and Will Chen have competition from former mayor, startup founder

BY JAKE GOLDSTEIN-STREET
WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD

Four Democrats are on track to battle this year for an open Washington state House seat in a district stretching north from Seattle.

Longtime Rep. Cindy Ryu's decision to challenge Sen. Jesse Salomon, a fellow Democrat, is opening up her seat in the 32nd Legislative District. The safely blue district represents a slice of northwest Seattle, Shoreline, Lynnwood and Edmonds.

Ryu has said she's trying to unseat Salomon because she believes he's too moderate. Both she and Salomon are already backing different contenders in the House contest.

Three local city council members, two from Edmonds and one from Shoreline, and a startup founder have leaped into the race.

Salomon and the district's other delegate in the statehouse, Rep. Lauren Davis, D-Seattle, have endorsed Chris Bloomquist, the owner of an environmental-

see **32ND CROWDED** page 7 ▶

Councilmembers Paine and Eck endorse Scully for House seat

Councilmembers Jenna Nand and Will Chen have already announced for the seat

BY BEACON STAFF
EDMONDSEDTOR@YOURBEACON.NET

Keith Scully, a Shoreline City Council member who served a term as mayor, has formally launched his campaign for State House in the 32nd Legislative District, with an early lead in fundraising and local endorsements. The district includes a portion of Edmonds. Edmonds Councilmembers Jenna Nand and Will Chen are vying for the same seat, as is Chris Bloomquist.

Scully is endorsed by leaders in

see **KEITH SCULLY** page 7 ▶

Lunar New Year adds an event

BY BEACON STAFF
EDMONDSEDTOR@YOURBEACON.NET

Festive red lanterns once again adorn downtown Edmonds as the Multicultural Association of Edmonds (MAE) presents its fifth annual Lunar New Year Edmonds (LNYE) community event on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Downtown Edmonds and Salish Crossing Edmonds merchants will participate in the festivities with a Red Envelope Walk Feb. 15-28. Participating shops will hide a "lucky horse" (in celebration of the Year of the Horse) for visitors to find and earn a stamp on their Red Envelope Walk card.

After collecting stamps from 12 or more businesses, participants can return their card to receive a red envelope filled with small treats. All completed cards submitted during the event will be entered into a drawing to win a basket of local goods from participating businesses.

On Friday, Feb. 27, at 9:30 a.m., the Edmonds Bookshop hosts a children's story time. MAE board member Dina Soy-Olson will read from "A Sweet New Year for Ren."

The day of Lunar New Year Edmonds kicks off on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m., with a storytime for kids at the Edmonds Library.

New this year: the ECA gym will be transformed into Celebration Hall, with family-friendly activities including art activities, Seattle Go games area, Jaiya tea station, community support space, Chinese calligraphy, and face painting. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are available now.

"We are so excited for our fifth annual celebration," said Multicultural Association of Edmonds Board President Karin Mei Butler.

More information: maedmonds.org.



Photo courtesy Lee Lageschulte

Chinese New Year's lanterns can now be seen throughout downtown Edmonds and other parts of town.

Through Your Lens |
Beacon lights up evening sky?



Photo courtesy Mary Ann Macomber

Sunday evening, during Mary Ann Macomber's walk, she photographed the sun alignment behind the lighthouse, creating an optical illusion and making it appear the beacon was illuminating the sky.

Bring your appetites ... and antacids

2nd annual Mukilteo Kiwanis chili-chowder cookoff set for March

BY PAUL ARCHIPLEY
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The Mukilteo Kiwanis Club is back with its second annual chili-chowder cookoff Saturday, March 7, building on the success of last year's inaugural event with a larger venue, more competitors, and an expanded judging format.

After drawing an estimated 250-300 attendees in its first year, the event has moved from Rosehill Community Center to the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club, allowing for significantly more seating, better flow, and expanded parking options, including overflow parking at the nearby YMCA.

"We outgrew Rosehill in our very first year," said Kiwanis president Pam Taylor. "That was a good problem to have."

The new location offers space for up to 25 tables and 250 chairs, nearly doubling seating capacity. Kiwanis has also streamlined check-in, separating online ticket holders from at-door purchases to reduce wait times.

Taylor said up to 20 chili and chowder entries are expected this year, including restaurants, community organizations, the police and fire departments, and new participants such as Sno-Isle Tech's culinary program.

Parking, a challenge last year, will be eased through coordination with the YMCA for overflow use.

As in year one, judging will be conducted through a blind tasting process, with each entry

identified only by number. Judges receive detailed scoring sheets covering multiple criteria for both chili and chowder, including flavor balance and spice level.

Returning judge Dode Carlson said the structure makes it easy to stay impartial.

"You don't know who made what, and the sheets are really clear," Carlson said. "You're just judging what's in the cup."

Judges pace themselves with small tasting cups, bottled water – and, last year anyway, a bottle of Tums on the judges' table.

Based on participant feedback, Kiwanis has expanded awards this year to include first, second, and third place finishes for both chili and chowder. Separate People's Choice awards will again be determined by attendee voting.

Last year's People's Choice chili winner, The Red Cork, and chowder winner Ivar's are both expected to return to defend their titles, Taylor said.

Doors open to the public at 5 p.m., with tasting running until 8 p.m. Beer and wine will be provided by Tapped, and background music will play throughout the evening.

After awards are announced, the space will transition into a casual social atmosphere, with dancing scheduled from 8 to 10 p.m. for those who want to stay.

To keep judging focused, no toppings such as cheese or sour cream will be allowed – entries will be judged strictly on the chili or chowder itself.

The cookoff serves as a major fundraiser for Kiwanis youth programs. Last year's event netted about \$15,000, with all proceeds going toward scholarships and community grants.

Combined with other fundraisers, Kiwanis expects to award about \$45,000 in scholarships to local students this year.

Fundraising features will also include a silent auction with about 15 items and a popular "gift card tree" raffle, expanded this year to two trees, featuring donations from local restaurants and businesses.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Taylor said community response has already been strong, with early ticket sales coming in before formal advertising began.

"With everything going on in the world, people want something fun to get out and do," she said. "This event just hits the right note."



Spread your wings with flight school scholarship

Cascade Warbirds, an organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation, operation and public display of historically significant military aircraft, is offering scholarships for Private Pilot Ground School with introductory flights. The program is designed to inspire young people to pursue careers in aviation.

Scholarships will be awarded in time for students to begin training with participat-

ing flight schools at the start of the season in April.

Cascade Warbirds has partnered with several Puget Sound-area flight schools to provide scholarship recipients with tuition, books and supplies, along with two introductory instructional flights. Successful completion of the ground school qualifies students to take the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam.

The scholarship includes two instructional flights in a light aircraft, with the make and model matched to the student. The first flight will take place part way through the ground school course, based on the instructor's recommendation.

The second flight will occur after successful completion of the course. Each

see **FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP** page 10 ▶

KAMIAK

Athlete of the Week



Congratulations to Meilin Overturf and Ryan Wicken on being named Kamiak's Athletes of the Week! Meilin and Ryan had outstanding performances at the district basketball tournament. Both showed incredible grit, determination, and leadership. Meilin made crucial defensive stops that shifted momentum and kept her team competitive, consistently setting the tone with her hustle and awareness. Ryan delivered in key moments, hitting important shots that helped propel the team back into the championship game. His confidence and composure under pressure stood out. Together, they embody the true spirit of Unified athletics – perseverance, teamwork, positivity, and heart. Congratulations!



Meilin Overturf
Unified Basketball



Ryan Wicken
Unified Basketball

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Asian Service Center names board of directors

The Edmonds-based Asian Service Center has elected and reelected their board of directors for 2026.

Alison Alfonzo Pence of Edmonds was reelected chair, while Michael Chong of Auburn was reelected treasurer. Two new members are Charles Liu of Mukilteo, vice chair, and Ridhima Tharad of Redmond, secretary. David Chan of Everett will remain on the executive board as the former past president.

"This has been a very successful year for the ASC," said former ASC Vice Chair Will Chen, a Edmonds City councilmember. There are now three free English as a Second Language classes being offered at ASC headquarters on Highway 99 in Edmonds. "We have one student who is 97 years young. This shows that you are never too old to learn something new."

Executive Director Robert Ha is looking into citizenship classes for an immigrant population eager to become U.S. citizens.

The ASC has already started the planning for the third annual Dragon Boat Festival July 31 at the Edmonds Waterfront



Photo by Brian Soergel/Edmonds Beacon
Asian Service Center members David Chan, left, Alison Pence, and Will Chen with U.S. Rep Rick Larsen at a Lunar New Year Edmonds event in February 2025.

Center.

Recently, the Lynnwood mayor and City Council honored the ASC with a proclamation for their work in the community. "We are absolutely thrilled to be recognized in this way," board President Pence said. "Our work continues in the community whether we are recognized or not. We do this because it's the right thing to do."

Port of Edmonds introduces free maritime workshop series

The Port of Edmonds, in partnership with Hookup Hut, is launching Beyond the Breakwater, a free workshop series designed to strengthen the local boating community through hands-on learning and direct engagement with industry professionals. The series invites participants to build hands-on skills, connect with experts, and enjoy the vibrant culture of the Edmonds waterfront.

Each Thursday evening session runs from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Port of Edmonds Commission Room and features a different maritime partner sharing practical knowledge, classroom training, and on-the-water experience:

- Feb. 26: Tengu Charters
- March 26: Coast Guard Auxiliary
- April 23: To be announced
- May 21: Compass Courses

Participants may attend any or all sessions.

The inaugural workshop features Captain Kyle Hanada of Tengu Charters, who will introduce participants to one of the Pacific Northwest's signature fishing tech-



Photo courtesy Tengu Charters
Captain Kyle Hanada of Tengu Charters.

niques, salmon mooching. Hanada will guide attendees through tying mooching leaders and rigging cut-plug herring using the traditional Tengu method. With more than 30 years of experience, Hanada is known for making fishing approachable and enjoyable for anglers of all levels.

No prior experience is required.

All workshops are free and will be held in the Port of Edmonds Commission Room on the second floor of the Port Administration Building at 471 Admiral Way. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP on the Port's website to help staff plan for seating and refreshments, though drop-ins are always welcome.

The Hookup Hut is a vending machine located at the Port of Edmonds next to the boat launch near Anthony's Seafood Restaurant in front of H Dock.

RSVP: portofedmonds.gov/news/edmonds-events.

Edmonds Civic Roundtable to host founders of Building Bridges

The Edmonds Civic Roundtable, a non-partisan group created to fostering civil discussions of Edmonds politics and other issues, will host a Snohomish County nonprofit group founded in the wake of the Jan. 6 assault on the nation's capital to promote local collaboration and civil dialogue.

Building Bridges was formed by two members of the Snohomish County Council from different sides of the political spectrum who share a commitment to public service.

Founders Nate Nehring, of Arlington, a Republican who represents North Snohomish County, and Jared Mead, a Democrat of Everett who represents south county communities, have turned "Building Bridges" into a resource for schools, colleges and nonprofits.

"The Building Bridges program has never been more relevant than today, when we need genuine civil communication and collaboration to solve our problems," said Gil Morgan, Civic Roundtable chairperson. "We are pleased to bring them to Edmonds

as our own City government is facing key political and financial decisions."

Mead and Nehring will present a history of their program and its operation and lead a tabletop exercise in which they will help participants understand and use some of the techniques they have developed to foster communication and trust.

The program is 6:30 p.m. March 2 at the Edmonds Waterfront Center, 220 Railroad Ave. There is no charge to attend the event, but seating is limited.

Register edmondscivicroundtable.org.

Sudoku solution
(Solution for last week's Sudoku)

5	2	8	9	7	1	6	4	3
1	7	3	4	6	5	8	9	2
4	6	9	2	3	8	5	7	1
2	8	4	1	9	7	3	6	5
9	3	6	8	5	2	7	1	4
7	5	1	6	4	3	2	8	9
6	9	5	7	2	4	1	3	8
3	1	7	5	8	9	4	2	6
8	4	2	3	1	6	9	5	7

Answers to last week's crossword

1	G	U	N	S	2	P	A	S	S	3	I	D	Y	L	S
4	A	M	E	N	5	E	C	H	O	6	N	O	D	A	L
7	G	A	G	A	8	L	I	E	U	9	H	A	S	T	Y
10	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	I	S	11	L	E			
12	I	V	E	Y	13	K	A	V	A	14	A	H	S		
15					16	D	E	A	D	17	I	T	A	L	I
18	P	A	T		19	A	V	A	I	20	L				
21	U	S	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	22	S	L	A	N	D
23	L	O	Q	N	24	S	A	M	O	25	G	U	Y		
26	L	A	R	D	E	D	27	Y	O	28	D	A			
29	S	K	Y	30	G	N	A			31	E	T	T	A	
32					33	O	A	H	U	34	A	N	D	C	U
35	M	A	R	D	36	O	B	E	Y	37	O	R	A	L	
38	A	N	T	I	S	39	L	E	O	S	40	S	P	C	A
41	A	D	E	P	T	42	E	R	N	E	43	T	S	K	S

News Tips

The Beacon invites readers to share story tips and ideas. If you see or know of some news deserving of coverage, email the editor at mukilteoeditor@yourbeacon.net or edmondseditor@yourbeacon.net, or call the newsroom at 425-347-5634.

Athlete of the Week

MEADOWDALE

Junior Captain Jamier Perry is our Mav Athlete of the Week, as his work ethic sets him apart. Beyond daily practice and school, he lifts, runs, and travels to Arlington twice a week for club training. That commitment shows in his 32-10 record, a district title, and a no. 2 state ranking in 3A. One win from placing last year, Jamier now has his sights set high. As a vocal leader, he keeps teammates accountable and focused.

Jamier Perry
Boys Wrestling

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MUKILTEO POLICE BEAT

Feb. 16

ALARM: 11700 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Two alarms were reported at the same location; officers checked and found the business closed all day with nothing suspicious.

DV: 10000 blk 64th PI W: Subject was arrested for domestic violence assault.

CIVIL: 12100 blk Greenhaven Ln: Officers conducted a civil standby.

FOLLOW UP: 10500 47th PI W: Follow-up investigation conducted.

COLLISION: 10700 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Officers responded to a two-vehicle blocking collision in the northbound lanes of SR 525; no injuries were reported and one vehicle was towed.

911: 10000 blk 50th PI W: 911 call reported.

911: 704 10th St: 911 call reported.

TRAFFIC: 900 blk Front St: Traffic-related incident reported.

FOLLOW UP: 10500 47th PI W: Follow-up conducted.

FOLLOW UP: 4600 blk Chennault Beach Rd: Follow-up conducted.

PUBLIC ASSIST: 8500 blk 46th PI W: Public assistance provided.

PUBLIC ASSIST: 300 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Public assistance provided.

911: 11200 blk Mukilteo Speedway: 911 call reported.

Feb. 15

FIREWORKS: 600 blk Front St: Officers checked the area and surrounding neighborhoods after a report of fireworks but found nothing observed.

WARRANT: 7600 blk 44th Ave W: Officers contacted subjects working on a broken-down vehicle; warrants were not arrestable and subjects were warned.

FOLLOW UP: 12500 blk Evergreen Dr: Follow-up investigation conducted.

911: 11800 blk Mukilteo Speedway: 911 call reported; no additional information available.

ANIMAL: 12400 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Two dogs were found and transported to PAWS.

CIVIL: 11100 blk Chennault Beach Rd: Caller asked questions regarding court orders.

FOLLOW UP: 4100 blk SR 526 WB: Follow-up conducted related to a prior incident.

SUSPICIOUS: 7600 blk 44th Ave W: Suspicious activity reported; no further details available.

TRAFFIC: SR 526 SW / Paine Field Blvd: Traffic-related incident reported.

ALARM: 7200 blk 44th PI W: Alarm reported.

Feb. 14

ORDER VIOLATION: 4100 blk SR 526 WB: Officer observed an order violation during a traffic stop; the respondent was arrested and booked into Snohomish County Jail.

ANIMAL: 8900 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Officer located a small dog in the roadway and transported it to the police department.

911: 5000 blk 88th St SW: 911 call reported.

911: 5700 blk 94th PI SW: 911 call reported.

FOLLOW UP: 10500 47th PI W: Follow-up conducted.

COLLISION: 900 blk 1st St: Traffic collision reported.

ALARM: 11900 blk Preswick Ln: Alarm reported.

TRESPASS: 8500 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Subject was formally trespassed at the request of staff and left afterward.

PAPER SERVICE: 10500 47th PI W: Paper service conducted.

WELFARE CHECK: 11100 blk Chennault Beach Rd: Welfare check requested; subject was OK.

CIVIL: 5200 blk 87th PI SW: Civil issue reported.

911: 11900 blk 59th Ave W: 911 call reported.

PUBLIC ASSIST: 600 blk Possession View Ln: Public assist provided.

ALARM: 11800 blk Beverly Park Rd: Alarm reported.

SUSPICIOUS: 1900 blk Clover Pl: Officer located an abandoned vehicle linked to a warrant subject; the vehicle was impounded for blocking a driveway.

SUSPICIOUS: 11700 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Officer contacted a male in a running vehicle; he was a cleaner.

SUSPICIOUS: 11700 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Vehicle parked after hours; the subject was advised of the city's camping and sleeping ordinance and left.

SHOTS HEARD: 13200 blk Harbour Heights Dr: Caller reported hearing shots; officers found no evidence and received no other calls.

DV: 9400 blk 48th Ave W: Officers investigated a disturbance; no crime was reported after contact with the involved party.

Feb. 13

ALARM: 11800 blk Beverly Park Rd: Burglary alarm reported; officers were canceled before arrival.

DUI: 11200 blk Mukilteo Speedway: Report of erratic driving; officers found no impairment and no crime occurred.

DV: 11100 blk Chennault Beach Rd: During investigation of a disturbance, a subject struck an officer and was arrested for Assault 3 and Harassment DV.

COLLISION: 11600 blk Beverly Park Rd: Collision reported.

PUBLIC ASSIST: 11100 blk Chennault Beach Rd: Public assistance provided.

ASSIST: 800 blk Goat Trail Loop Rd: Assist call reported.

SUSPICIOUS: 10700 blk 58th Ave W: Suspicious activity reported.

POLICE BEAT ALSO ONLINE AT
MUKILTEOBEACON.COM

EDMONDS POLICE BEAT

Feb. 10

FRAUD: Adult female had unauthorized transactions made from her online accounts. 1100 block 12th Ave. N.

BIC: Adult male had a uncontained fire in a wooded area. He was arrested and booked into Snohomish County Jail. 21900 block Highway 99.

WEAPONS: Adult male was booked into SCJ for weapons violation 21900 block Highway 99.

Feb. 9

FUNNY MONEY: An adult male used fraudulent money at a business. He was not located. 9600 block Firdale Ave.

THREATS: Mother leaves voicemail mentioning her adult children. 8700 block 238th St. SW.

BURGLARY: Burglary from a construction site that occurred over the weekend. No suspect information. 22100

block Highway 99.

ADULTING: Adult male and adult female shoplift from store. 23600 block Highway 99.

ARREST: Adult female booked for misdemeanor warrants. 23700 block Highway 99.

Feb. 8

DUI COLLISION: Adult male under the influence of alcohol caused collision. 21900 block Highway 99.

SHOPLIFTING: Adult female trespassed from WinCo after shoplifting. 21900 block Highway 99.

BONNIE & CLYDE: An adult male and adult female stole property from a business. They were trespassed from the business. 21900 block Highway 99.

YOU CAN RUN: An adult male stole property from a business and ran away from law enforcement. The adult male

was arrested and booked into jail. 24100 block Highway 99.

NOT NOVEL: Adult male booked for theft 3 and additional theft warrants. 23600 block Highway 99.

Feb. 7

YOU CAN'T GO THERE: One adult female cited for a trip permit violation. 8400 block 244th St. SW.

GONE: Responded to a disturbance. Unable to locate involved parties. 300 block Sunset Ave. N.

WARRANT: Adult male arrested on his outstanding warrant. 7200 block 212th St. SW.

KEYS: Male drops off found keys at police station for safekeeping. 300 block Sixth Ave. N.

HOSPITAL ASSAULT: Hospital employee assaulted by patient. Charges referred on suspect. 21600 block 76th Ave. N.

Feb. 6

COLLISION: SUV collided with mailbox, fled scene, and caused damage. 16100 block 75th Place W.

FIGHTING: Adult females fought. Informational report. 23900 block Highway 99.

FRAUD: Adult male had fraudulent account opened for phone services. 19900 block 82nd Place W.

THEFT: Adult male stole electronics from hardware store. 500 block Fifth Ave. S.

SURRENDERED: Resident turned in firearm to police for destruction. 1100 block Fifth Ave. S.

PIRATESS: Female steals delivery package from residents. 100 block 12th Ave. N.

Feb. 5

TRESPASS: Adult male attempted to gain entry into occupied residential home. 20300 block 92nd Ave. W.

ID THEFT: Resident reports identity theft, case is ongoing. 300 block Sunset Ave. N.

OBSTRUCTING: Juvenile male arrested for obstructing. 21100 block 76th Ave. W.

THEFT: Juveniles detained for shoplift and released to parents. Case has been forwarded to juvenile court. 21900 block Highway 99.

TRESPASS: A property manager requested law enforcement trespass and/or criminally charge anyone on their properties not conducting official business. 7800 block 220th St. SW.

Feb. 4

SUSPENDED: Adult male driving while suspended. Male booked into jail. 21900 block Highway 99.

YARD WORK: Juvenile drove truck into yard, causing property damage. 20600 block 77th Place W.

CHECK THE CHILDREN: Resident reported suspicious phone call. 600 block Glen St.

900 PINE ST.: Adult male found deceased in residence. Police and medical examiner conduct investigation.

Feb. 3

FOR A GOOD TIME: Graffiti was discovered in the bathrooms. 0-100 block Railroad Ave. N.

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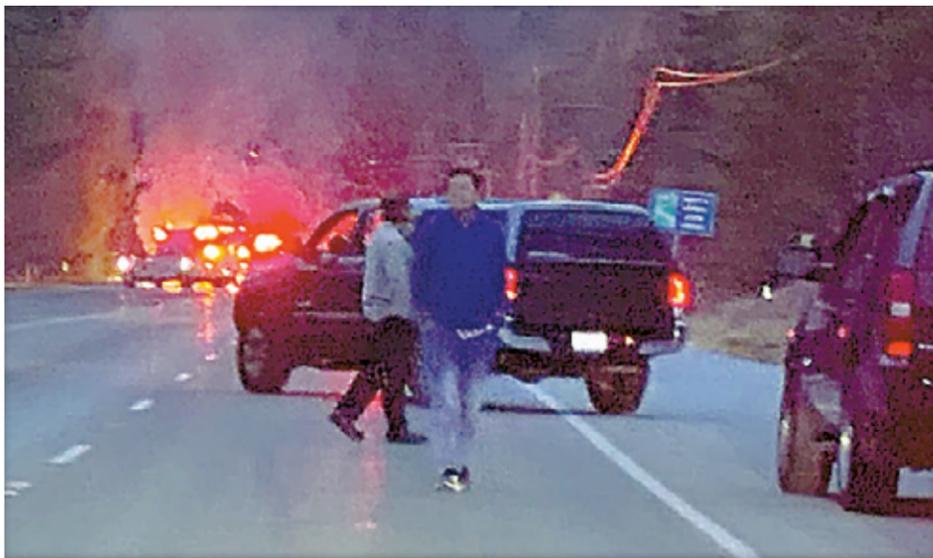


Photo courtesy Les Bagley

A fatal crash on Highway 2 Feb. 12 claimed three lives.

Mill Creek man among 3 dead in SR 2 crash

A 30-year-old Mill Creek man is dead following a three-car crash after 5 p.m. on Feb. 12 on Highway 2 east of Gold Bar.

Colin Brown was westbound in a 2016 Ford Fusion and crossed the center line, according to the Washington State Patrol. The vehicle struck an eastbound Ford F-150 with Woodinville residents James Khezi, 56, and Elham Javadi, 52, inside.

All three died.

Meanwhile, a third car, a Honda CR-V, struck the Ford F-150 and landed in a ditch off the eastbound shoulder. The 20-year-old driver and 19-year-old passenger from Seattle were taken to Providence Medical Center.

Highway 2 was blocked for hours. Detours were at the east end of the closure at Index Galena Road and at the west end at Reiter Road.

Tips for lithium-ion battery safety

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters, bikes, cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, cars, and more. If damaged or used incorrectly, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were over 25,000 incidents of fire or overheating involving lithium-ion batteries between 2017 and 2022.

Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has observed a rise in lithium battery fires on U.S. flights, with 89 incidents in 2024, representing a 16% increase over 2023.

For lithium-ion battery equipment, the State Fire Marshal's Office recommends following these safety tips to help keep you and your family safe:

- Choose devices that have been certi-

fied by a reputable testing laboratory.

- Always use the charging cords provided with the device.
- Avoid charging devices under pillows, on beds, or on sofas.
- Unplug the device or battery once it is fully charged to prevent overcharging.
- Use only batteries specifically designed for the device.
- Store batteries in a cool, dry place, away from flammable materials.
- Insert batteries correctly, following the device's instructions.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible and avoid charging them in extreme conditions below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360-596-3904 or wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office.

LOCAL COUNTY

Rep. Peterson bill on housing passes Senate

On Monday, the House of Representatives passed standards to encourage the siting of emergency shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, and permanent supportive housing (STEP).

Sponsored by Rep. Strom Peterson, D-Edmonds, House Bill 2266 brings stability and predictability to the siting process while still preserving some local control for local governments.

"We need to recognize that all housing is housing," said Peterson, whose 21st Legislative District covers Edmonds and Mukilteo. "For our neighbors who need these types of housing, failure to site these facilities means homelessness and poverty without a viable path forward." The bill prohibits unreasonable, restric-

tive standards from being imposed on the construction of STEP housing. This means cities must largely follow the same standards for STEP housing siting as they do for residential housing or lodging. Certain accommodations are made to allow cities to reasonably request operations plans and avoid certain areas by working with developers to find appropriate siting.

"Housing should be placed where it makes the most sense," Peterson said in a news release. "We are not going to turn the tide on the housing crisis without building more housing - all types of housing for all income levels. This bill creates predictability for STEP housing developers, and it will bring more housing for our neighbors who need it most."

House Bill 2266 passed the House with a vote of 56-40 and is headed to the Senate for consideration. The 2026 legislative session lasts 60 days and is scheduled to end March 12.



Strom Peterson

A YOUNG HEART NEVER GROWS OLD.

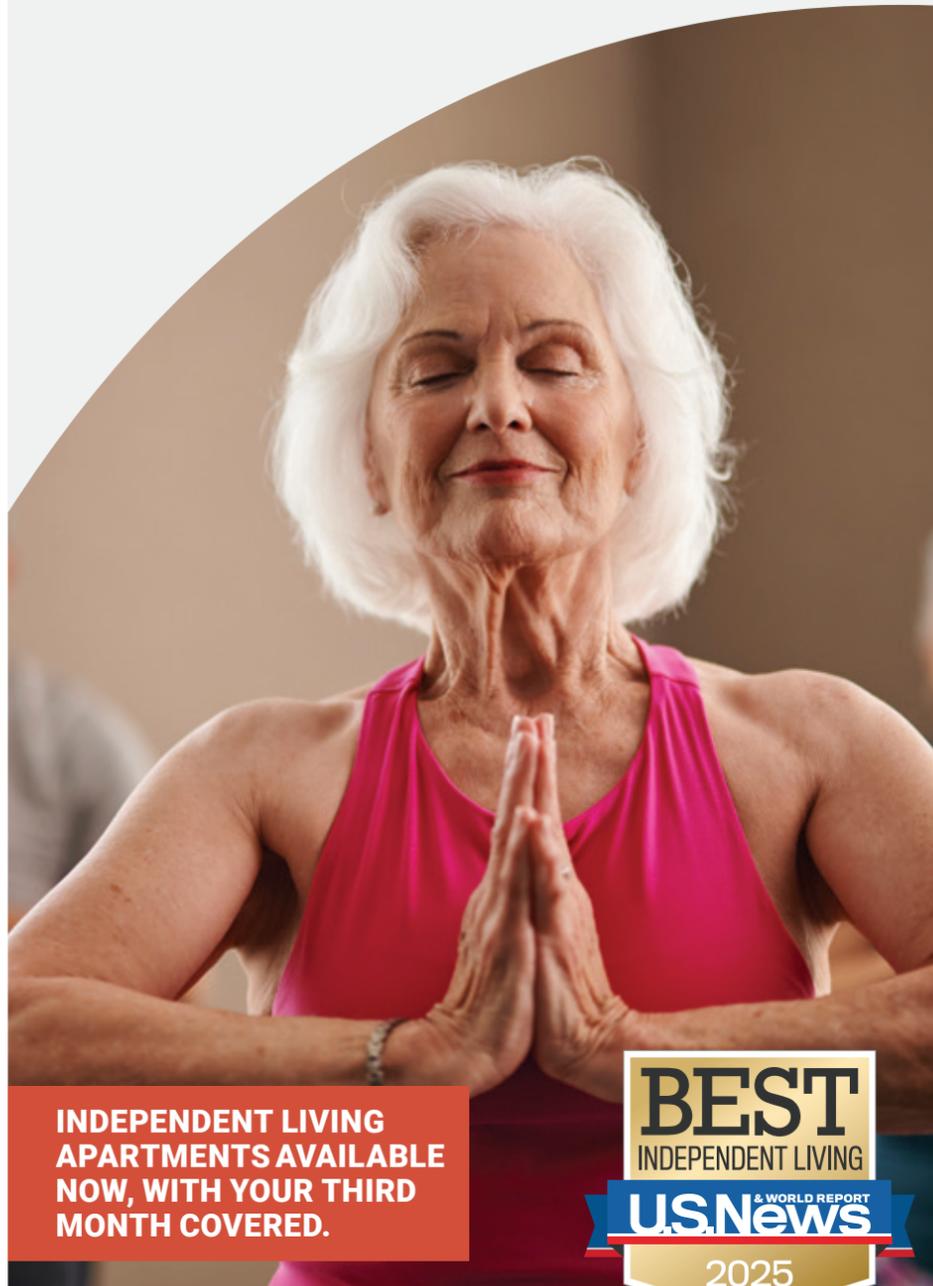
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DIANE'S CORNER

Legal advice? Or political, financial, developmental fodder?

It was a typical Tuesday night in 2023, with one agenda item being the evaluation of the contract attorney.

Rather than move into executive session to discuss the yearly evaluation, the council did something remarkable: They approved a five-year contract sight unseen with no terms or conditions. Carte blanche.



BY DIANE BUCKSHNIS
EDMONDS RESIDENT,
FORMER CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Over the past decade, Seattle-based Lighthouse Law Group has become less a legal adviser and more an eighth council member. As it occupies that dual role – part legal adviser, part legislative partner – employee disputes have multiplied and settlements mounted.

Whistleblowers such as Ross Hahn and employees such as Debi Humann, David Levitan, Megan Menkveld, and Pamela Randolph and (others) have raised claims of retaliation, privacy violations, or defamation. Repeat pattern: An allegation surfaces, staff are quietly placed on leave with pay and, eventually, a severance package appears on the consent agenda.

The details are wrapped in “personnel confidentiality,” requiring public records requests.

Along the way, one of the most basic

protections in public law – the executive session – turned from guardrail to afterthought. State law (42.30.110) sets out when sensitive personnel or real estate matters must be discussed in closed session to protect rights and preserve the executive session veil.

Yet a very public case involving Police Chief candidate Sherman Pruitt comes to mind. Veteran councilmembers Kristiana Johnson and I asked to move a personnel discussion started by Councilmember Vivian Olson into executive session, the attorney left it to council and let the conversation continue in open session.

It did not happen, and Lighthouse did not cite the law, liability, or reasons why council should go into executive session. The conversation continued in open session. Lawsuits against the City, Mayor Mike Nelson, and Olson followed. Despite legal rationale being offered, taxpayers picked up the tab.

Then came a different kind of meeting – the Planning Board made up of citizen volunteers with no final policymaking power were ushered into an executive session – an executive session they were never meant to have. Behind that closed door, a recommendation to protect the Critical Aquifer Recharge Area found in the Deer Creek Watershed excluding underground injection control wells ... was changed and

see **DIANE BUCKSHNIS** page 7 ▶

GUESTVIEW

City responds to Diane's Corner column

The Beacon asked the City of Edmonds to respond to comments made by former Councilmember Diane Buckshnis – in quote marks here – in her Diane's Corner column, published above. City comments are in italics.

“They approved a five-year contract sight unseen with no terms or conditions. Carte blanche.”

GUESTVIEW

BY CITY OF EDMONDS
425-775-2525

On April 25, 2023, council decided by a 4-2-1 vote to continue

contracting legal services with Lighthouse Law Group. Four months later, Aug. 15, 2023, they approved (6-1) a contract that council had previously reviewed and deliberated during the Aug. 2, 2023, meeting, and was also reviewed by a third-party legal counsel.

To assure that there were no conflicts of interest, that third-party firm had no past or current business connections with Edmonds or Lighthouse.

“Over the past decade, Seattle-based Lighthouse Law Group has become less a legal adviser and more an eighth council member. As it occupies that dual role – part legal adviser, part legislative partner – employee disputes have multiplied ... and (others) have raised claims of retaliation, privacy violations, or defamation.”

The city attorney is an appointed official whose responsibilities and ethical obligations are to provide legal advice about what the law permits and the legal risks of different options, and to represent the City in certain litigation. City staff and elected officials develop recommendations and make decisions within their respective roles; the city attorney does not direct policy outcomes or operational decisions.

The author also attributes responsibility to the city attorney for various personnel matters and disputes. That attribution is not supported by the information available to the public, because the key facts needed to assess the attorney's role – attorney-client communications, legal advice, executive-session discussions, etc. – are confidential. In other words, no amount of public fact checking can reliably validate the author's conclusion about what the city attorney advised, whether advice was followed, or why decisions were made.

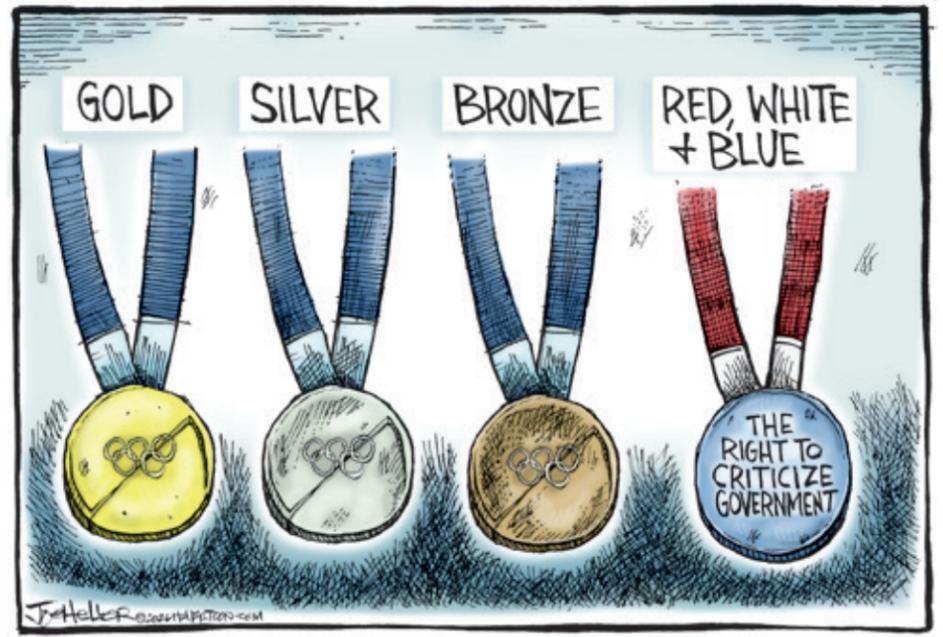
“Along the way, one of the most basic protections in public law – the executive session – turned from guardrail into afterthought. ... Yet a very public case involving Police Chief candidate Sherman Pruitt comes to mind. Veteran councilmembers Kristiana Johnson and I asked to move a personnel discussion started by Vivian Olson into executive session as the law requires. Rather than move immediately into executive session, the attorney left it to council and let the conversation continue in open session.”

In the cited instance regarding Pruitt, the City Council considered whether to move a personnel discussion into executive session. While the law permits such discussions to occur in executive session, it does not require them, and a majority of the council ultimately chose to continue in open session.

Assertions that the outcome would have differed had the matter been discussed in executive session are speculative. Based on the dynamics at the time, there is no clear indication that a different process would have led to a different decision or avoided the associated costs.

“Then came a different kind of meeting

see **CITY RESPONSE** page 7 ▶



GUESTVIEW

Hail to you, dark primeval water

GUESTVIEW



BY DAWNA LAHTI
EDMONDS RESIDENT

Editor: Dawna Lahti submitted the following to the Edmonds City Council regarding about the Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA).

Hail to you, dark primeval water

You curl, sweet and fresh, your back against the salt sea

You gathered yourself through pages of time so slowly it's incomprehensible to us

But there you lie, pristine beneath this part of earth's crust we call Edmonds and home.

Our forebears came and topped you harmlessly for their needs; they rightly saw life – “living water” – a priceless, abundant harvest which they could not sow – a treasure.

In this tiny moment, who will stand to protect you? Will you now be sullied when we know better? Will hearts cover from the shadow of greed or from willful ignorance, ending for all generations to come the purity and sanctity of your essence?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lynnwood buying Edmonds property near treatment plant

Mayor Rosen, councilmembers, and fellow residents:

As you have heard, there is growing community concern regarding the lack of transparency surrounding the Lynnwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project. These concerns span multiple areas, including the overall cost of the project and Edmonds' share, potential environmental impacts, construction-related impacts, and the approach Lynnwood has taken in advancing this project.

Perhaps I missed it, but I do not recall Lynnwood presenting its plans for this project to the Edmonds City Council or outlining how it may affect our city. Additionally, I see no acknowledgment of the potential financial impact on Edmonds residents in our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), or any other city financial documents.

Despite this lack of discussion, the project is already underway. Lynnwood has purchased additional property within the City of Edmonds, adjacent to the street leading towards the construction site.

This raises several important questions:

- Can a city unilaterally purchase property in another city for its own municipal purposes?

- What was the legitimate municipal purpose Lynnwood used to acquire the property in Edmonds when it's not in the vicinity of the WWTP itself? Did Edmonds agree?

- Is property owned by the City of Lynnwood within Edmonds subject to Edmonds zoning and building codes?

- Does Lynnwood need Edmonds' approval to make changes to the two recently purchased homes?

- What oversight, if any, is Edmonds providing regarding future construction activities on property within our city now owned by Lynnwood?

Depending on the answers to these questions, should—or could—Edmonds explore acquiring property within Lynnwood that could serve a public benefit for Edmonds residents? After all, we have our own sludge storage issues, and property values are lower in Lynnwood.

Jim Ogonowski
Edmonds

Bad Bunny: Not a fan

I would like to respond to Maria Montalvo's review of Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime show (“Chasing rabbits, Feb. 12). She asks, “Why, exactly, was the NFL's decision an affront to some American sensibilities?” I can answer that question without hesitation.

I was initially impressed by the visual storytelling: the power poles, the street vendors, the boy, the wedding couple. It all seemed quite wholesome. The next morning, I looked up the lyrics to his songs, curious about what he'd been singing, as my Spanish is so rusty.

I was disappointed to learn that Bad Bunny, like many rappers, promotes a toxic brand of sexism. Misogyny is deeply embedded in almost every song he sings. Women are disposable objects of desire, a set of interchangeable body parts, without personality or intelligence. I would give you examples, but they're not suitable for printing.

The versions he sang that afternoon were edited, but that's not the point. Why would the NFL and the Grammys platform a man who hates women? The left claims to abhor “hate speech,” yet applauds this misogyny. Listening to liberal women sing his praises is particularly painful. Do we want our daughters dating men who think like Bad Bunny?

My attempts to call out his sexism on social media were met with charges of

see **LETTERS** page 12 ▶

▶ from **32ND CROWDED** page 1

technology-focused recruiting firm who hasn't held elective office previously.

Shoreline City Council member Keith Scully boasts Ryu's endorsement.

Edmonds City Council members Jenna Nand and Will Chen announced their candidacies more recently.

Salomon and Davis said they've "seen Chris Bloomquist lead in many ways, from advocating for school funding as a parent to creating PNW Climate Week's inaugural career fair."

"As a Latino leader from an immigrant family, he understands what our neighbors are facing during ongoing I.C.E. raids and is prepared to represent our district with energy, passion, and heart," Davis said in an email.

Before supporting Scully, Ryu said she asked herself a few questions: "Does he reflect the values of the 32nd LD voters and me? Does he have a proven record of working well with others? Does he bring skill sets that will make him an effective legislator? And will he make a difference in the Legislature?"

"My answers are YES," she said in an email. No Republicans have filed to run.

Subtle differences

All the candidates for Ryu's seat said they would support Democrats' proposed income tax on millionaire earners that the Legislature is considering this year. Though Nand, a lawyer, doesn't think it'll stand up to legal scrutiny.

They don't disagree on much, but do differ on some priorities.

Nand, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Fiji, was ramping up to run for the seat when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had access to a mammogram that caught it early, but she knows others don't have the same opportunity, especially with federal cuts to Medicaid and health care subsidies.

Her priorities include protecting health care access, expanding education opportunities and addressing homelessness.

"There are things that I think that we could be more aggressive on as a party at the state level and the local level, and I'm not really seeing that a lot from the establishment," Nand said.

Chen, who is an accountant, said he's running because families, seniors and small businesses feel "squeezed from every direction and too often conversation in Olympia doesn't reflect what people are actually experiencing day to day." Given the state's budget woes, he thinks it's particularly important to have people like him involved in these discussions.

Otherwise, he's focused on making Washington more affordable, supporting immigrants and improving public safety.

Bloomquist lists immigration, funding public schools and the environment as priorities. He's not concerned about being the only candidate without experience in office.

"I've ran five marathons in my life. I've survived cancer, I've founded multiple companies," he said. "I've done new things my whole life. I'm not worried about this."

Scully is zeroed in on the state's regressive tax structure and housing, as well as, like Bloomquist, school funding and the environment.

Scully, who is a lawyer, points to work done in Shoreline to fund pedestrian infrastructure, get behavioral health co-responders working alongside police and firefighters, and build housing around the new light rail stations, all without having to make budget cuts like other local governments.

"You go to Shoreline and there's cranes everywhere," Scully said. "The multifamily really is getting built." He thinks this track record distinguishes him from the three fellow Democrats he's running against.

Scully, who jumped into the campaign first, leads the early fundraising race, with nearly \$31,000 in campaign contributions so far, according to filings with the Public Disclosure Commission. Bloomquist has raised almost \$26,000.

Nand and Chen, who got into the race later, trail in fundraising.

'Spirited primary'

The district's other House seat also faces a Democrat-on-Democrat clash, as

Imraan Siddiqi, the executive director of the Washington chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, recently announced he was challenging Davis, who was first elected in 2018. Siddiqi ran for Congress in 2024 against incumbent U.S. Rep. Kim Schrier, D-Sammamish, and didn't advance past the primary.

In a statement, state Democratic Party Chair Shasti Conrad said she looks forward to a "spirited primary" for the district's two seats, but the party is neutral in Democrat-on-Democrat races.

A spokesperson for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee said it doesn't engage with races before the primary, but it is targeting Washington as a state where Democrats could get a supermajority in its House. Though the already deep-blue 32nd District won't play a role in that goal.

Prospective candidates have until May 8 to file to run. The primary is Aug. 4.

▶ from **KEITH SCULLY** page 1

the Snohomish County portion of the district, including Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn and Edmonds Councilmembers Susan Paine and Chris Eck.

"We need leaders in Olympia with proven experience," said Eck in a release from Scully's election team. "Keith has delivered affordable housing, expanded shelter and services, and expanded transit and connectivity. He's a dad with kids in our local schools. Keith is invested in making sure all of our communities thrive."

Scully is an attorney and public-school father who began his career as a paramedic, is looking to replace outgoing state Rep. Cindy Ryu, who is running for a Senate seat. Ryu has endorsed Scully, leading a growing list of support for the open seat.

"I am excited by the momentum we are building," Scully said. "The early endorsements are great, but the real excitement comes from meeting voters at their homes, where we can discuss critical issues of housing affordability, tax reform, making needed investments in our schools, and protecting our communities from Trump violence and overreach. I'm running to address these issues with the urgency they deserve, and with the unique and proven experience I'll bring to take on these challenges."

Scully is endorsed by longtime King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, who represents the North Seattle and Shoreline precincts of the 32nd District.

"Keith is a fighter for our kids, families, and communities," Dembowski said. "I've seen him take on powerful interests to make Shoreline more welcoming and affordable, and we need that energy and drive in Olympia. Keith stands out in this field of candidates as the one who gets the job done. He deserves our vote."

A champion and ally for underrepresented communities and vulnerable populations, Scully will use his political and legal experience to continue helping protect the rights of all people—building on his experience in Shoreline and professionally.

"Keith knows that our diversity is our strength and is committed to the well-being of every community in our region and state," said Shoreline Deputy Mayor Eben Pobe. "I know Keith will stand up for all of us in Olympia, and help provide the opportunities we all deserve."

A long-time conservation leader and former Washington Conservation Voters volunteer and board member, Scully said he is also running to ensure climate action to ensure Washington invests in the clean energy jobs, transit investments, and equity-driven solutions needed to adapt to the economy and communities.

"Our future is at risk because we continue to delay meaningful climate action. I want to step up and lead on the plans and policies needed to create jobs, generate green energy, expand clean transportation, and ensure our homes and communities are safe and resilient."

Scully lives in Shoreline and is the father of four, including two sons in Shoreline Public Schools, an adult daughter who works as a middle school teacher, and an adult son working as an EMT in Snohomish County. His wife is a former Shoreline School Board director.

More information: KeithScully.org.

▶ from **DIANE BUCKSHNIS** page 6

now the recommendation allowed them, all in the name of avoiding a "takings" claim.

The city attorney's fear came in part from a recent case where the City's attempt to enforce an aggressive tree-retention and replacement conditions ran headlong into the Constitution.

You might have heard of that one: the Rimmer case. It was a lawsuit challenging the overreach of the tree code. A single ornamental tree between a homeowner and a building permit.

The City demanded extra replacement trees and a permanent conservation area as conditions of approval.

The state court ruled that those conditions were unconstitutional. The outcome costs the City roughly \$400,000, excluding attorney costs.

Now, the City is appealing the decision, extending the fight and the expense. Many questions linger over whether the council ever clearly authorized Lighthouse to continue the appeal, so taxpayers continue to pay for those costs.

By now, you might be thinking of another name that has soaked up hours of staff and consultants' time and millions of dol-

▶ from **CITY RESPONSE** page 6

– the Planning Board made up of citizen volunteers with no final policymaking power, were ushered into an executive session – an executive session they were never meant to have. Behind that closed door, a recommendation to protect the Critical Aquifer Recharge Area found in the Deer Creek Watershed excluding underground injection control wells ... was changed and now the recommendation allowed them, all in the name of avoiding a "takings" claim. The City Attorney's fear came in part from a recent case where the City's attempt to enforce an aggressive tree retention and replacement conditions ran headlong into the Constitution. ..."

Under the Edmonds City Code, the city attorney is an appointed official authorized to represent the City in litigation. Filing a notice of appeal is a procedural act within that delegated authority and preserves the City's appellate rights while next steps are evaluated. The code does not require the City Council to hold a public meeting or vote, though the council retains authority to direct whether an appeal proceeds or is dismissed.

The Edmonds City Code provides: "The city

lars: Landmark or the Burlington Property. A massive project, a tangled agreement, and a final price tag that had been publicly estimated in the millions. Yet Lighthouse, which should guide the City on contracts and risk management, was not even involved in crafting the deal, nor was an executive session ever announced for potential land purchases.

A similar story played out in Perrinville, where environmental review – SEPA, the State Environmental Policy Act – was challenged by a citizen alarmed at the City's repeated claim of "no significant impact" in this sensitive area.

The citizen spent more than \$50,000 pursuing the appeal. The City, drawing on its attorneys, staff, consultants, and the hearing examiner, probably spent 10 times that amount. Ultimately, the examiner remanded the decision to the City for resolution.

After, the City applied for an emergency permit that bypassed the SEPA review altogether. It was an expensive five-day, taxpayer-funded ordeal. And, councilmembers did nothing publicly to answer the community's concerns.

All of this brings us back to Lighthouse and the larger question: Is our contract at-

see **ADVICE OR FODDER** page 12 ▶

attorney shall represent the city in all actions brought by or against the city or against city officials in their official capacities ..." ECC 2.05.020(B). Given short appellate deadlines, timely filing is often necessary to protect the City's legal interests.

"By now, you might be thinking of another name that has soaked up hours of staff and consultants time and millions of dollars: Landmark or the Burlington Property. A massive project, a tangled agreement, and a final price tag that had been publicly estimated in the millions. ..."

A similar story played out in Perrinville, where environmental review – SEPA, the State environmental Policy Act – was challenged by a citizen alarmed at the City's repeated claim of 'no significant impact' in this sensitive area."

City Council has codified in chapter 2.05 ECC the manner in which legal professional service providers are evaluated and consideration is conducted of whether those contracts should be continued, reevaluated competitively, or brought in house.

2019: Council conducted an assessment of the performance of Lighthouse Law Group, and enters into a new three-year contract for legal services covering 2020 – 2022 with a monthly flat-rate fee compensation.

see **COLUMN REACTION** page 12 ▶

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'Give to Gain': Eighth annual Edmonds International Women's Day

Tickets are now on sale for the eighth annual Edmonds International Women's Day at the Edmonds Waterfront Center March 7 from 11:30 to 4:30 p.m. Beacon columnist Maria Montalvo will be one of the panelists.



This year's theme, "Give to Gain," celebrates generosity, collaboration, and the powerful impact women create when they invest in one another and their communities. When women thrive, we all rise.

The half-day event brings together women, allies, community leaders, and change-makers for a brunch, keynote presentations, breakout sessions, networking, and a hosted happy hour. Designed to spark connection, inspiration, and collective action, the event invites participants to explore how giving - through time, resources, advocacy, and mentorship - can create positive effects.

Opening keynote speaker Alexandria ("Lexi") Lutz, founder of Opt Inspire, Inc., and senior corporate counsel at Nordstrom, will share insights on how small acts of service can lead to change.

The program will conclude with a closing keynote from Angelique Leone, vice president of the Community Foundation of Snohomish County, whose three decades of nonprofit leadership and philanthropic advising offer a perspective on generosity and community transformation.

Tickets are \$75 at tinyurl.com/2xdkmhe8.

- Beacon Staff

Submissions open for Driftwood's Festival of Shorts

Edmonds Driftwood Players is now accepting submissions for its 15th Annual Festival of Shorts. The annual playwriting festival provides an opportunity for playwrights to have their works brought to life on stage, as well as to gain recognition and potential awards.

Driftwood is a volunteer-based nonprofit community theater founded in 1958, making it one of the oldest continually operating community theaters in the state.

The theme for 2026 is "Milestones: Markers in Time of Significant Achievements or Events." "We would love to see both comedic and dramatic stories with uplifting endings," said Katie Soulé, managing director.

The festival will be presented in five performances June 25-28, 2026, featuring eight shorts finalists that include eight directors and eight casts.

The finalists are selected from submissions from around the globe. Volunteer readers and judges are local Seattle-area theater lovers and playwrights. To keep the process as fair as possible, readers are only given blind copies of script submissions for judging.

After the closing performance, winners will be announced for first, second, and third-place judges' awards and overall audience favorite.

More information, submission guidelines: edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org/festival-of-shorts.



The DeMiero Jazz Festival features local choirs and jazz groups.

Photo courtesy Bart Hauser/DeMiero Jazz Festival

DeMiero Jazz Festival celebrating 50th year

For the 50th annual DeMiero Jazz Festival, more than 40 jazz choirs will gather for a noncompetitive chance to perform and work with professional jazz artists March 12-13.

This music education event has daytime performances, clinics, and master classes at Edmonds College in Lynnwood. They are free and open to the public.

At 7 p.m. March 12, professional jazz artists will perform for students and the public at the Edmonds Center for the Arts. Tickets are available at the door and at tinyurl.com/muw9svj.

Headline artists for 2026 include New York Voices with Jake Bergevin and the Jazz Punishments Big Band, Greta Mattassa, and Soundsation. Celebrating their 38th year, New York Voices is the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble renowned for their extraordinary scope of music and the art of group singing.

New York Voices has recorded numerous CDs covering jazz-based genres, from traditional swing to bebop, Brazilian, and beyond. In addition to their own CDs, NYV has collaborated with a variety of artists, including Paquito D'Rivera, the Count

Basie Orchestra, the WDR Big Band, Nancy Wilson, the Danish Radio Big Band, Bob Mintzer, and others.

The DeMiero Jazz Festival is a nonprofit organization and relies on community support, sponsorships and donations for its funding. They are supported by the Edmonds Arts Commission, the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, the Hubbard Family Foundation, the American Choral Directors Association, ArtsFund, Plaza Insurance, the Snohomish County Arts Commission, Arts WA, the City of Edmonds, Edmonds Harbor Inn and others.

DeMiero Jazz Fest founder Frank DeMiero died at age 84 in 2025. A celebration of life is 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 14, in Woodway Hall at Edmonds College in Lynnwood. In lieu of flowers or cards, the DeMiero family invites you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the 50th Annual DeMiero Jazz Fest, ensuring that Frank's legacy of music education continues for generations to come.

For volunteer inquiries: Louise Uriu at 425-252-7327.

For more information: demierojazzfest.org.

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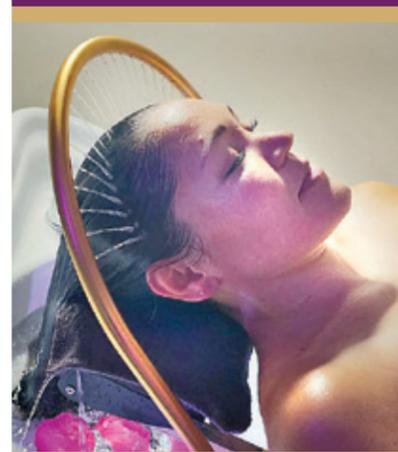


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Volunteers welcome at Picnic Point winter shoreline restoration event

The Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds (OFF), in partnership with the Snohomish County Healthy Forest Project, is inviting volunteers to an annual winter shoreline restoration event at Picnic Point Park on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers of all ages and ability levels are welcome. Tools, seeds, plants, and all necessary materials will be provided. Now in its third year, the partnership focuses on restoring and strengthening native shoreline habitat at Picnic Point through hands-on, community-based stewardship.

"Our partnership shows what's possible when local volunteers come together around a shared responsibility for a place we all value," said Rolf Mogster, Olympic Fly Fishers co-president. "Conservation isn't something we talk about in the abstract - it's something we show up for."

This year's winter planting will look different from past efforts. Volunteers will focus primarily on direct seeding along the shoreline, using native coastal grasses and wildflowers selected specifically for Picnic Point's beach environment.

Seed-based plantings like these help stabilize sandy soils, reduce erosion, and



A volunteer cleanup at Picnic Point Park is Feb. 28.

Photo courtesy Snohomish County Healthy Forest Project

establish long-term native ground cover that supports insects, birds, and near-shore marine life.

In addition to seeding, volunteers will also plant beach strawberry, a native species that has thrived at Picnic Point in previous years. Beach strawberry spreads naturally, helps hold sand in place, and provides low-growing shoreline cover, making it a natural complement to this year's seed-focused restoration work.

"When we restore native plants along the shoreline, we're doing more than improv-

ing how a place looks," said Helena Puche, Olympic Fly Fishers conservation chair. "Native vegetation helps stabilize soils, protect vulnerable shoreline areas, and support habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Over the years, we've watched this shoreline become healthier and more resilient, and that's been incredibly rewarding to see."

Volunteers will work in areas previously cleared during earlier restoration efforts. Representatives from Snohomish County and local stewardship partners will be on site to guide the work and share insight

into how these plantings contribute to shoreline health.

A vegetated shoreline helps slow erosion, improves habitat for birds and nearshore life, and enhances one of the region's most valued saltwater beaches.

Participants should dress in layers for cold winter weather and be prepared for wet, muddy conditions. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended, along with sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Fleece jackets, sweatshirts, or a heavy coat are encouraged, as well as rain gear if rain is in the forecast. Volunteers should also bring water and a snack.

Hand tools and gloves will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own if preferred. Power tools and herbicides are not permitted.

Meet at Picnic Point Park, 7231 Picnic Point Road. Volunteers should meet near the pedestrian overpass at the west end of the parking lot.

Free parking is available in the park's main lot, which can fill on weekends and during favorable weather. Participants are encouraged to arrive early or carpool when possible.

For more information and to register: cerv.is/0282x270.

Performing Arts Student of the Week

KAMIAK



Victor Zhang has been playing violin since he was 9 years old and is currently principal second violin player in the Kamiak Philharmonic Strings Orchestra, and a member of the select ensemble Kammerstreich.

"Not only is the Kamiak Orchestra community warm and welcoming, we also have tons of great players. While playing in orchestra, it feels wonderful to play united as one." Victor hopes to inspire future students to explore the areas of music and math. Upon graduation he plans to attend college to study engineering.



Victor Zhang
Orchestra

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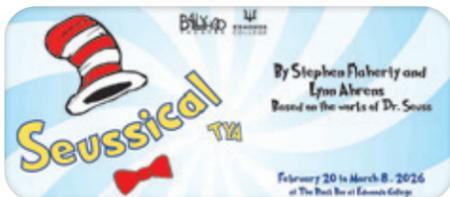
Feb. 21

TECHNO TOTS DANCE PARTY: 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. A techno-inspired dance party for babies and toddlers 0-3 years. Mill Creek Library, 15429 Bothell-Everett Highway, Mill Creek.

TEEN VOLUNTEER HOUR: 11:00 a.m.-noon. Students grades 6-12 earn community service credit by helping out at the library. Prepare crafts for programs, pick up/clean up, sort books, more. Meet in teen area, first Saturday of the month through May. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

READING WITH ROVER: 11:00 a.m.-noon. Children build reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog. For children ages 6-9, with an adult. Edmonds Library, 650 Main St., Edmonds.

SEUSSICAL TYA: 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.



KIDS SELF-PORTRAIT ART: 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Create self-portraits using a variety of arts & crafts supplies, which are provided. Bilingual class. For Kids. Mariner Library, 520 128th St. SW, Everett.

Feb. 22

SEUSSICAL TYA: 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

BOOK GROUP FOR KIDS: 3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. A club for kids ages 8-12 (with adult). The book being discussed is "Impossible Creatures," by Katherine Rundell. Activities centered around the book are planned. Edmonds Bookshop, 111 5th Ave. S., Edmonds.

Feb. 23

MUKILTEO MONDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Gather the last Monday of every month for book discussions. "James," by Percival Everett, will be discussed. Register for space: tinyurl.com/3z5c3fh. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

Feb. 23

MOBILE BLOOD DRIVE: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Donate blood to help save lives. All blood types welcome. Register for space: tinyurl.com/3ca8ubty Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

Feb. 24

SEUSSICAL TYA: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

TEEN SCENE - COLD WEATHER KITS: 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For this week's Teen Scene hang-out, help South County Fire assemble cold weather kits for the community. This week's program is intended for ages 11-18. Mariner Library, 520 128th St. SW, Everett.

WA CARE BASICS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Learn about the WA Cares Fund, from what care includes to how to take benefits when moving out of state. Q&A follows. Register required: tinyurl.com/bvz92mz. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

FIBER ARTS CLUB: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Fiber artists, bring your projects to gather at Kelnero in the Sunset Room. Meets every fourth Tuesday. Kelnero, 545 Main St., Edmonds.

Feb. 25

TAILS AND TALES: 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The popular event occurs the first and third Wednesday this month. Kids read stories aloud to trained therapy dogs. For independent readers with adults. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

READING WITH ROVER: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Children build reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog. For children ages 6-12, with an adult. Mill Creek Library, 15429 Bothell-Everett Highway, Mill Creek.

SONGWRITER'S OPEN MIC: 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Open mic every last Wednesday of the month at Musicology, 420 5th Ave. S., #107, Edmonds.

HOLI STORYTIME AND CRAFT: 6:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m. Also known as the Festival of Colors, Holi is a celebration of song and dance. Create cards and gift tags. Wear your rainbow colors. Mill Creek Library, 15429 Bothell-Everett Highway, Mill Creek.

Feb. 26

WHYS AND WHENS OF CAR MAINTENANCE: 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Chaya Milchtein, the author of Mechanic Shop Femme's Guide to Car Ownership goes over basic car maintenance in layman's terms. Register for zoom link: tinyurl.com/mscy5kdh Sno-Isle online event.

Feb. 27

LUNAR NEW YEAR CULTURAL STORY TIME: 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. In honor of Lunar New Year, A Sweet New Year for Ren by Michelle Sterling will be read for story time. Edmonds Bookshop, 111 5th Ave. S., Edmonds.

NATIONAL POKÉMAN DAY: 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Come in anytime to celebrate the day doing Pokémon arts & crafts, and scavenger hunt. Wearing gear is a plus. Prizes while supplies last. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.



SENSORY BIN FUN TIME: 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Come dig, scoop, and shape during this hour of sensory play. Bins provided with a variety of materials and textures. Touch stations rotate at kids' own pace. Mariner Library, 520 128th St. SW, Everett.

SEUSSICAL TYA: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

Feb. 28

LUNAR NEW YEAR STORYTIME: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Enjoy this interactive celebration of The Year of the Horse. Stories, songs, rhymes, creative play and arts & crafts. Edmonds Library, 650 Main St., Edmonds.

CHILDREN'S AD ASTRA CONCERT: 10:00 a.m. Mukilteo Orchestra presents a cosmic musical journey highlighting compositions with space themes. There will be an art contest; grand prize winners get an orchestra experience; "instrument petting zoo," where you can view and try out instruments. Wear a costume as your favorite astronaut, alien, or star, etc. Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo.

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Vendors, business owners and wellness practitioners are on hand for community members interested in feeling good and living well/healthy. Town Center, 15117 Main St., Mill Creek.

SEUSSICAL TYA: 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

Feb. 28

CRAFT, CHAT, CHILL - EVERETT: 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Make crafts in this monthly bilingual gathering. Every month is a new theme. Supplies provided Register for space: tinyurl.com/y528erba. Mariner Library, 520 128th St. SW, Everett.

March 1

SEUSSICAL TYA: 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Running through March 8, specific days and different times. This is a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Get free tickets here: events.humanitix.com/ballyhooseussical. Black Box Theatre at Edmonds College 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

March 2

EDMONDS LIBRARY BOOK GROUP: 10:30 a.m.-noon. Gather for book discussions. This month: "On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes," by Alexandra Horowitz. Edmonds Library, 650 Main St., Edmonds.

XANADU WORKSHOP & AUDITIONS: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Come for a look at the audition process in the audition workshop for the production of Xanadu on Monday. Auditions will be held Tuesday. Based on the film of the same name. Black Box Theatre, 20310 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood.

Ongoing

ROTATING CARD GAMES: 10:00 a.m.-noon. Every Tuesday, enjoy a variety of rotating card games such as Rummikub, cribbage, hand and foot, hearts, and solitaire. Bringing other card games is welcomed. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Ages 55 and up. Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo.

TECH HELP THURSDAYS: 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Library staff are available to assist you to learn how to access library resources such as eBooks, digital audiobooks, streaming media, and online learning databases. Bring your device for help getting started or assistance with basic troubleshooting. Edmonds Library, 650 Main St., Edmonds.

TUESDAY WALKERS: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Every Tuesday. Meet outside by the wedding circle for a group walk around downtown Edmonds. Register at 425-774-5555 or at second-floor reception. Edmonds Waterfront Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds.

PARTY BRIDGE: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Every Tuesday through April 28, brush up on your Bridge skills playing this form of the game. Bring your own snacks and beverage. Ages 55 and up. Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beacon publishes FREE events, open to the public in Edmonds, Mukilteo, Mill Creek, and some surrounding areas. Submit events for consideration online at mukilteobeacon.com/calendar or edmondsbeacon.com/calendar and select "Post an Event."

Mukilteo Connections

Students show seniors plenty of heart for Valentine's Day

BY PAUL ARCHIPLEY
PAUL.BEACONPUB@GMAIL.COM

On a mission to spread positivity through crafts and connections, more than 35 Kamiak High School students walked to Harbour Pointe Senior Living last week where they handed out 80 roses, 75 chocolate bags, and Valentine's Day cards to the retirement community's residents.

The students were members of Kamiak's Care Crafts Club

For club president Katie Chandrabalan, a junior, the event reflected the purpose of the group. "It's a huge, unique opportunity for us to make people feel loved with such a simple task," she said.

Katie founded the Kamiak chapter about a year and a half ago after learning about the four-year-old nonprofit organization online.

"We're on a mission to create positive relationships," she said. Toward that end, they regularly visit retirement homes and health care facilities.

Among their recent visits was to the Everett Clinic in Harbour Pointe. In addition, they donated 100 ornaments to the Fred Hutch Cancer Center in Seattle and donated to Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett.

Katie admitted she wasn't good at crafts; it was the opportunity to connect with others that attracted her interest. In a short time, the club grew to more than 30 members. "It's an amazing group of kids," she said.

Priyanka Ponniah, Katie's mother, said her daughter was already accomplished - she's on the Mukilteo Youth Advisory Committee and is part of a kids' ministry at her church - and has big plans after high school. She took part in a Seattle



Photos by Paul Archiplew/Mukilteo Beacon

Above, members of the Kamiak High Care Crafts Club hold up some of the roses, Valentines and chocolates they brought to Harbour Pointe Senior Living last week to give to residents. Pictured are, from left, adviser Kirsten Lewis, Sonja Garcia, crafts coordinator Lewis Simmons, Elena Andrea Zauli, and Daniela V. Almaraz. Top right, Care Crafts Club president Katie Chandrabalan, center, who launched the club at Kamiak, sits with Harbour Pointe Senior Living residents Dolores Lemmon, left, and Barbara Nelson. Bottom right, resident Bill Day, left, and Kamiak student Jeremiah Pineda became fast friends when members of the Care Crafts Club visited Harbour Pointe Senior Living last week to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Children's Hospital program last year and plans to major in pediatric medicine in college.

Other club members are equally ambitious. Jeremiah Pineda said Katie invited him to join even though he's not "a crafts person."

"I thought it was an awesome idea," Jeremiah said. "I like the social work. It's a really unique club." He also envisions going into a medical field after high school.

Mayor Joe Marine and City Council President Jason Moon joined the students.

see **SHOWING HEART** page 11 ▶

▶ from **FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP** page 2

flight includes a pre-flight briefing, taxi and runway procedures, an introduction to radio communications, takeoff, in-flight maneuvers, landing and post-flight procedures.

Both flights will be logged in the student's personal logbook and count toward the minimum flight time required to earn a private pilot license.

Recognizing the cost of flight training, the scholarship program also offers a \$2,500 Continuing Aviation Education Grant to

one recipient who plans to earn an FAA private pilot certificate within one year.

To be eligible, applicants must complete the ground school, both introductory flights, and submit an essay by Nov. 30 of the scholarship year.

The scholarship is open to students ages 16 to 21 at the time of award and is valued at \$1,350. More information and the 2024 scholarship application are available at <https://www.cascadewarbirds.org/youth/>

The application deadline is March 1, 2026.

Saying 1 word at Johnny Mo's Pizzeria will pay off

Every Tuesday through March, Johnny Mo's Pizzeria at Main Street Commons is donating 15% of proceeds to Homage Senior Services' nutrition programs when customers say one word: "Homage" (pronounced "HOM-ij").

A meal purchase helps an older adult neighbor get a hot meal, a margarita, or mocktail supports someone on a fixed income, and mentioning "Homage" turns a Tuesday dinner into community impact.

In Snohomish County, an estimated 8,000-11,000 older adults face food insecurity and are forced to choose between groceries, medication, or keeping the heat on. Many live on fixed incomes stretched impossibly thin by rising costs.

For over 50 years, Homage has helped seniors and adults with disabilities age in place - delivering meals, providing transportation, coordinating health care, repairing homes, and offering mental health support to more than 25,000 people annually. For many home-bound seniors, a Meals on Wheels delivery



Photo by Dannie Mullene/Homage Senior Services
From an event at Johnny Mo's., from left: Lauren Or-Farris, Amber Burton, John Genna, co-owner.

may be the only face-to-face interaction they have all day, providing not just nourishment, but human connection, dignity, and care.

- How to participate
- Visit Johnny Mo's Pizzeria (558 Main St., Suite 200, Edmonds) on any Tuesday through March 31.
 - Order anytime between noon and 9 p.m.
 - Say "Homage" when you order. Only orders that mention "Homage" qualify for the donation.

EDMONDSSCHOOLS Rep. Peterson hosts Gemma Hoag, Ian Sellstone, as pages



Photos courtesy Strom Peterson's office
Strom Peterson with page Ian Sellstone, left, and page Gemma Hoag.



Gemma Hoag and Ian Sellstone recently spent a week in Olympia as pages for Edmonds resident and State Rep. Strom Peterson.

Ian Sellstone is a student at Edmonds-Woodway High School. His parents are Linda Bliss and Christopher Sellstone. He's passionate about politics, history, geography, transit and video games, according to the Washington House Democrats in a news release. Hoag is a student at Leadership Education Academy For Families - LEAF, a Snohomish County homeschool co-op.

"She's passionate about gymnastics and piano," Peterson said on his Legislative

Facebook page," and she brought that same focus and energy to the page program. I asked her if her week in Olympia made her consider going into politics and she replied, 'Maybe.' I'll take that as a win."

Pages assume a wide variety of responsibilities, from presenting the flags, delivering messages to members on the House floor, and distributing materials throughout the Capitol campus. Pages support the efficient operation of the Legislature while also receiving daily civics instruction, drafting their own bills, and participating in mock committee hearings.

Tickets on sale: Meadowdale Sports Booster auction is March 28

Meadowdale High School's annual Sports Booster Club auction is March 28, at the Lynnwood Neighborhood Center, 19509 64th Ave W.

This year's auction, "Boots, Bucks & Bids," aims to raise over \$100,000 to support Maverick athletics. The 21-plus event will include games, drinks, dinner, and a dessert dash. For the auction, businesses from across Snohomish and King counties have donated items, including Delille Winery, Edmonds Kwik N Kleen Car Wash, Fox and Bottle, Lynnwood Honda, Milltown Nails, Pro Golf Discount, Seattle Select Basketball, Shoot 360, Starbucks, and The Hook.

Meadowdale High School serves approx-

imately 1,500 students, with 48.4% qualifying as low income. One-third of the student body participates in sports. The Meadowdale Sports Booster Club has existed for decades, fundraising through its annual auction and its concessions program, affectionately known as "The Feedbag." These fundraising efforts supplement participation and sports fees when district funds are limited. The club also manages team bank accounts so that coaches can focus on coaching.

Boosters believe that every student who wants to play sports should be able to do so, regardless of financial circumstance.

More information: mavsportsboosters.org, mavsboosterauction@gmail.com.

- Julianne Repman, director of Communications in the Mukilteo School District, contributed to this article.

from SHOWING HEART page 10

Moon, who recently lost his grandmother, said while visiting her in her final weeks at a nursing home, he noticed that few residents had visitors.

"I noticed that 90% of the residents never seemed to have visitors," he said. He encouraged more interaction between members of the community and isolated seniors. Katie hopes the experience inspires more teens and adults to spark even the smallest conversations with others, noting that simple moments of connection often "lead to more connection."

"It is so special to meet those seniors who have so many stories to share and to talk about our lives, even if we only just met them," she said.

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Sudoku solution appears next week on page 3

Athlete of the Week

MARINER

M Aundra Evans is the Mariner Athlete of the Week! Aundra joined Unified Basketball this season for the first time. Her enthusiasm and mentorship have been a wonderful addition to our team. She is always ready to do anything that it takes to support our athletes. She not only leads the team with her dribbling skills on the court, but she also created posters and grab bags for all of the players for the Stinky Shoe game. We will miss her inspiring presence and leadership, but know she has big things ahead in her life. Congratulations Aundra!

Aundra Evans
Unified Basketball

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- Across**
1. Tempe sch.
 4. Oyster baby
 9. Syrup flavor
 14. Range part, abbr.
 15. Breathing blockage
 16. Deja vu
 17. Tennis shots
 20. Wrinkly fruit
 21. Now Thailand
 22. Bean holder
 26. Hinged knob
 31. Mins. and mins.
 32. The euro replaced it
 34. Escalator alternative
 35. Lady of Spain
 37. Closely confined
 38. Key moments in tennis
 42. Adrenaline trigger
 43. Beef stick, for example
 44. Slow tempo movements
 47. Famous sitarist
 48. Printer specification, abbr.
 51. Wild
 53. Revelatory
 55. Just slightly
 57. Not written
 58. Tennis returns
 65. Prince William's mother
 66. Most populous African city
 67. Place for a drive
 68. Regulate
 69. Observers
 70. Lode load
- Down**
1. Hidden trap
 2. Play maker
 3. Family men
 4. Contemptuous utterance
 5. Antipollution org.
 6. Raggedy doll
 7. Many wines
 8. Kind of surgery for the eyes
 9. Rockies' rodent
 10. "A long time ____, in a galaxy far ..."
 11. Neighbor of Iran, abbr.
 12. The ____ of the land
 13. Naval rank, for short
 18. Young goat
 19. Gets some sun
 23. Tell it to the judge
 24. Farm sound
 25. Refuse
 27. Resort isle near Naples
 28. Chicken ____
 29. Shore soarer
 30. Letter series
 33. What crowds let out
 35. Sealy rival
 36. Chopin's "Polonaise in ____ Major, Op. 53"
 38. "It's ____ real!"
 39. Spout
 40. Menu option
 41. Expressionist painter Nolde
 42. Winter illness
 45. Warren Buffett, for one
 46. Bristles
 48. ____ dream: optimist's philosophy
 49. Gambler
 50. "Maybe"
 52. The turkey trot, e.g.
 54. Internet laughter
 56. An invasion time
 58. Testing org.
 59. Van Gogh's "Irisess," e.g.
 60. Truly international Bollywood star (last name)
 61. High school subj.
 62. Compete (for)
 63. Hockey star Bobby, for one
 64. West coast city part

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Answers appear in next week's issue on page 3

► from **POSSIBLE CUTS** page 1

ervisor; and operator 1, 2, or 3.) Parks Director Angie Feser presented a proposal to add a second parks lead position by converting an existing senior parks maintenance worker role, a change she described as addressing a span of control problem that has created bottlenecks in day-to-day field operations.

Under the present structure, a single parks lead serves as the primary point of contact for 12 to 15 parks maintenance workers, coordinating daily work assignments entirely by phone and verbal communication, as the department does not currently use an electronic work order system.

"It's minimal," Feser said. "We can absorb it in our budget, and we will create a much more efficient system with individuals."

The proposed change would promote an existing staff member already in the City's aquatic operations into the new lead role. The chosen individual would continue performing hands-on field work alongside supervisor duties, consistent with how park leads operate. The restructuring would also effectively split the current crew into two groups of roughly six workers each, with only one lead overseeing each unit.

The budget impact would be about \$5,500 annually in salary, Feser said. The committee reached consensus to forward the item to the consent agenda.

The committee agreed to send the parks maintenance conversion to consent first, then bring the broader ordinance amendment to consent the following week once the prior item had been approved.

► from **LETTERS** page 6

racism. But brown skin is not a get-out-of-jail-free card when it comes to hateful conduct. Rebranding his sexism as "machismo" does not make it OK. Hate is hate, whatever language it's sung in.

"Tití Me Preguntó." "Safaera." "El Apagón." "Party." These are some of the songs he sang. I encourage Ms. Montalvo to Google these lyrics and reflect. Are you still a fan? Or does his disregard for half the human race cast a pall on his performance? I await your answer.

Jess Grant Perrinville

Maria A. Montalvo responds: I appreciate the comments and understand how it would be difficult to translate the lyrics accurately and with cultural context. It is important to be thorough in our assessments of men, especially during these times. A female academic from Puerto Rico has written a book translating and, more importantly, interpreting Bad Bunny's lyrics. Bad Bunny has been vocal in his condemnation of sexual violence, has promoted women's autonomy, and has expressed extremely respectful positions on gender norms, women's rights, and the LGBTQ+ community, which again, is very important with so many critical areas where women and girls are being exploited and abused.

► from **BLOCK PARTY** page 1

- **Nite Wave's Whiplash Smile:** *Billy Idol.*
- **Outshined:** *Soundgarden and Chris Cornell.*
- **Nikki & The Fast Times:** *Edmonds '80s rock band.*
- **Richard Taylor Jr.:** *Rock, pop, and R&B.*

A VIP section includes limited seating and bistro tables for Main Stage viewing, plus ac-

cess to a VIP bar and portable toilets.

Announcements are forthcoming on food vendors, new additions, and the Saturday Family Zone. Two-day \$100 VIP tickets (\$113.79 with fees) and one-day \$25 (\$31.44 with fees) general admission tickets are on sale now at an early bird rate; one-day VIP and general admission tickets on sale starting March 1. Tickets are not refundable for any reason, the chamber

► from **ADVICE OR FODDER** page 6

torney acting as a guardian of the public interest? Despite yearly "attorney evaluations," there has been no independent, big-picture review of the cumulative legal costs, risks, and outcomes.

When you add up the disputes, settlements, appeals, and high-stakes projects, we are easily past millions of dollars in legal spending. Lighthouse's contract runs through 2028, but the City Council can issue a new request for qualifications.

There is something you can do. Ask questions via public comment, request

that the council open up the process and bring in an independent legal perspective, and finally, scrutinize whether the current representation truly serves Edmonds taxpayers.

Many public records requests have already been filed; the fragments of the story are there. What's missing is a public decision to change course.

Edmonds needs a new legal partner who defends taxpayers and the rule of law without opinions. You can voice your opinion.

And now you know the rest of the story. *Documents relating to this column can be found at dianebuckshnis.com.*

► from **COLUMN REACTION** page 7

2022: Council intends to conduct an assessment of the performance of Lighthouse Law Group, but does not have enough time due to Council workload. Lighthouse Law Group contract will expire at end of 2022. Council approves a one-year contract to Lighthouse, and specifically selects an hourly rate compensation option.

2022: Council adopts Ordinance 4279, updating ECC 2.05 The city attorney and city prosecutor. The code revision added a permanent standing legal assessment committee of councilmembers to conduct an annual evaluation of the city attorney. (This section was updated in 2023 to further clarify that this legal assessment committee may make a recommendation to the entire council to continue with the professional service contract, publicize a request for a proposal process, or

seek transition to legal services provided by in-house employees of the City.

2023: Council receives an assessment of the services of Lighthouse Law Group, conducted by the legal assessment work group.

2023: Council receives a comparative analysis of legal service models and costs of cities similar to Edmonds. Council makes decision to continue contracting legal services with Lighthouse Law Group. Council later approves a five-year contract with Lighthouse.

2024: Legal Assessment Committee is formalized for annual assessments for city attorney and prosecutor. Assessments to then be presented to council.

2024: Legal Assessment Committee conducted assessment of the city attorney, presented to city council.

2025: Legal Assessment Committee conducted an assessment of the city attorney that is presented to city council.

Classified Ads

EMPLOYMENT MEDIA SALES

Outside Media Sales Executive

Location: Everett, Mill Creek & Lynnwood, WA
Company: Family-Owned Community Newspaper & Magazine Publisher
Position Type: Contract (Commission-Based)
Time Commitment: Minimum 20 hours per week

About Us: We are a family-owned community media company proudly serving the Mukilteo, Edmonds, and Mill Creek areas. Our publications include trusted local newspapers and a quarterly lifestyle magazine that highlight the people, businesses, and stories that make our communities unique. We believe in local journalism, strong relationships, and helping local businesses succeed.

Position Overview: We are seeking a motivated Outside Media Sales Executive to sell print and digital advertising solutions to local businesses across our three communities. This is a relationship-driven role ideal for a self-starter who enjoys being out in the community, connecting with business owners, and helping them grow through effective local advertising. This is a contract position with commission-based compensation and a minimum commitment of 20 hours per week.

Key Responsibilities:

- Prospect, develop, and manage advertising accounts with local businesses
- Sell advertising solutions across our community newspapers and quarterly magazine
- Build long-term relationships with new clients
- Conduct in-person and phone sales meetings

EMPLOYMENT MEDIA SALES

- Meet/exceed individual sales goals
- Collaborate with internal team on ad placement, deadlines, and client needs
- Represent the company professionally within the community

Qualifications:

- Previous sales experience preferred (media or advertising sales a plus)
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated with the ability to manage time independently
- Comfortable with commission-based compensation
- Reliable transportation for local travel
- Personal computer with Microsoft Word & Excel software, and to access company email and documents

Compensation:

- Uncapped commission-based pay
- Flexible schedule with a minimum of 20 hours per week
- Opportunity to grow income through strong performance and repeat clients

Why Join Us?

- Work with a respected, family-owned local media company
- Flexible contract arrangement
- Meaningful work supporting local businesses and community storytelling
- Established publications with strong community presence

How to Apply: Please submit a brief introduction and resume outlining your sales experience and interest in community media, to: gm@yourbeacon.net. Please be sure to include ATTN: HIRING in the subject line. The company is an Equal Opportunity Employer and supports diversity in the workplace.

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