



State of Washington

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In RE COMPLIANCE WITH
RCW 42.17A

Respondent.
Tacoma Weekly

PDC Case 77415

Report of Investigation

I. Background, Complaints and Allegation

- 1.1 On September 19, 2020, Luke Byram filed a complaint against the Tacoma Weekly with the PDC alleging violations of RCW 42.17A.480 for soliciting money or other property for candidates as consideration for endorsements, articles, or other communications promoting those candidates, in a news medium. **Exhibit #1.**
- 1.2 On October 14, 2020, Evelyn Fielding Lopez (Fielding Lopez) filed a complaint against the Tacoma Weekly with the PDC alleging violations of: (1) RCW 42.17A.480 for soliciting money or other property for candidates as consideration for endorsements, articles, or other communications promoting those candidates, in a news medium; and (2) RCW 42.17A.320 by sponsoring political advertising that failed to contain the proper sponsor identification language. **Exhibit #2.**
- 1.3 According to its website, the Tacoma Weekly is a “weekly community newspaper published by Pierce County Community Newspaper Group. The paper started in 1987 as the Tacoma Monthly and in 1994 became the Tacoma Weekly. The free newspaper is distributed on Thursdays to hundreds of businesses and public spaces in the Tacoma area.”
- 1.4 On August 5, 2020, the Tacoma Weekly sent e-mails to an unknown distribution list noting that the August 2020 primary election was just conducted the previous day and included a solicitation for service following the “Subject: Let’s Get You Elected.” The solicitation stated it was limited to only four candidates and solicited an offer to purchase advertising in the Tacoma Weekly, for the following:
 - 12 quarter-page print ads
 - 2 full page ads
 - 4 front page ads

- 1 “maga block” ad for 12 weeks
 - 4 8 ½ x 11 inserts
 - Weekly editorial
 - Cover story
 - Tacoma weekly endorsement
- 1.5 In response to a pre-complaint inquiry, John Weymer, Tacoma Weekly publisher, provided the PDC information on corrections made to the original Tacoma Weekly solicitation, which substituted what was described as an “advertorial ad” for the endorsement. **Exhibit #3.**
- 1.6 On November 23, 2020, the PDC held an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review Hearing), after opening a formal investigation for the Tacoma Weekly, PDC Case 77415.

II. Investigative Findings

- 2.1 RCW 42.17A.480 prohibits a person from soliciting “from a candidate for public office, political committee, political party, or other person money or other property as a condition or consideration for an endorsement, article, or other communication in the news media promoting or opposing a candidate for public office, political committee, or political party.”
- 2.2 In her complaint, Fielding Lopez provided a copy of an August 5, 2020 email sent to candidates from Matt Nagle (Nagle) and John Weymer (Weymer). The email stated in part “the Tacoma Weekly is here to help get you elected” and included a cost of \$2,500 for items, which included a Tacoma Weekly endorsement. The email stated the package was limited to four candidates based on space available. **Exhibit #2.**
- 2.3 On October 16, 2020, Matt Nagle, Tacoma Weekly managing editor, provided a written response to the complaints, noting “The Tacoma Weekly has already been in contact with Kim Bradford per her email to us on Aug. 21. As we explained to her, an uncorrected version of our sales promotion flyer was attached to email sent to select candidates. We corrected our mistake immediately and re-sent our email to these candidates. Bradford replied with a simple “thank you” and the matter was settled.” **Exhibit #3.**
- 2.4 In the response to the complaints, Nagle also stated that The Tacoma Weekly “has an editorial policy of not endorsing candidates. We are hands-off in telling voters whom they should vote for, and we certainly would not accept money in exchange for endorsements.” The corrected solicitation included the same information concerning 12 quarter page ads, two full page ads, four front page ads, one “maga block” ad for 12 weeks, and four “insertions of your flyer” limited to 8 ½ x 11. The changes in the Tacoma Weekly solicitation included one “Advertorial” ad, and a meeting with Weekly editorial staff. **Exhibit #3.**
- 2.5 On November 22, 2020, Nagle and Weymer provided a follow up response to the complaints, stating: “This letter is in response to the PDC complaint filed by Lucas Byrom and Evelyn Lopez. The Tacoma Weekly exchanged no money for an endorsement or promotion of any candidate in the 2020 General Election. Nowhere in the Tacoma Weekly were any endorsements given for any candidate at all in this election.” **Exhibit #3.**
- 2.6 Nagle and Weymer also stated in the November 22 response that the Tacoma Weekly “provided advertising for three candidates who contracted with us for advertising only. We

can provide you with any records or invoices that you may require. As we have explained, an uncorrected version of our sales promotion flyer was attached to email sent to select candidates. We corrected our mistake immediately and re-sent our email to these candidates.” **Exhibit #3.**

- 2.7 Nagle also stated in the November 22, 2021 response that the updated version, provided to the PDC on August 21, 2020 changed the package from offering a Tacoma Weekly endorsement to an Advertorial Ad. No other changes were made. **Exhibit #3.**
- 2.8 PDC staff queried information in the PDC contributions and expenditures database. Based on the timing and the amount of the candidate expenditures reviewed, staff determined that at least two 2020 candidates purchased a Tacoma Weekly package. Those two candidates were identified as Javier Figueroa (Figueroa), a three-term Lakewood City Councilman and current Mayor, and Jason Whalen (Whalen), a three-term Lakewood City Councilman and current Deputy Mayor. Both Figueroa and Whalen were 2020 candidates seeking the office of Pierce County Council.
- 2.9 On January 8, 2021, the PDC received a completed Statement of Understanding (SOU) from Figueroa acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to disclose the required sponsor identification on paid political advertising sponsored by his Campaign that ran in the Tacoma Weekly. In addition, Figueroa paid a \$150 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), resolving the issue concerning his failure to include the required sponsor identification in a Tacoma Weekly cover story about his 2020 Pierce County Council candidacy, published on August 18, 2020. **Exhibit #4.**
- 2.10 In response to a PDC staff request, the Tacoma Weekly provided all advertisements and a cover story paid for by Javier Figueroa. The items provided included advertisements that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly of the sizes noted in the August 5 solicitation and a cover story, with a byline, that appeared in the August 19, 2020 edition of the Tacoma Weekly. There was no information noting the story was a paid advertisement or advertorial ad. **Exhibit #5.**
- 2.11 On January 11, 2021, the PDC received a completed Statement of Understanding (SOU) from Jason Whalen (Whalen) acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to disclose the required sponsor identification on paid political advertising sponsored by his Campaign that ran in the Tacoma Weekly. In addition, Whalen paid a \$150 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), resolving the issue concerning his failure to include the required sponsor identification in a Tacoma Weekly cover story about his 2020 Pierce County Council candidacy, published on September 2, 2020. **Exhibit #6.**
- 2.12 In response to PDC staff request, the Tacoma Weekly provided all advertisements and a cover story paid for by Jason Whalen. The items provided included advertisements that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly of the sizes noted in the August 5 solicitation and a cover story, with a byline, that appeared in the September 2, 2020 edition of the Tacoma Weekly. The advertisements all included the required sponsor identification however there was no information noting the story was a paid advertisement or advertorial ad. **Exhibit #7**
- 2.13 Both Whalen and Figueroa stated in their responses they were not aware the Tacoma Weekly cover story was paid political advertising that required them to include their respective sponsor identifications. However, after both candidates had a chance to further

review the information, they both indicated they believed the articles should have been identified as paid political advertising and included the proper sponsor identification.

- 2.14 Specifically, in his written response to the PDC dated November 12, 2020, Whalen stated: “To the extent that the cover story was part of the advertising package paid to the Tacoma Weekly, and was written (by Tacoma Weekly staff) to “appeal for votes,” then it arguably falls within the definition of “political advertising” and should have had the requisite sponsor information identified, as was included on all print ads prepared by the Whalen Campaign.” **Exhibit #8.**
- 2.15 In addition to the two 2020 Pierce County candidates listed above, the Tacoma Weekly also sold an advertising package to a third person, Dr. Elizabeth Kreiselmaier, a candidate for US Representative in the 6th Congressional District in 2020. As noted in the two cases involving Whalen and Figueroa, the Tacoma Weekly advertisements for Dr. Kreiselmaier consisted of all items listed in both of those cases, including the cover story.
- 2.16 However, regarding Dr. Kreiselmaier, the Oct. 7 – 13, 2020 edition of the Tacoma Weekly, included an article entitled “Smashing the glass ceiling in the 6th Congressional District” but added that it was a paid advertisement and included the proper sponsor identification. This paid advertisement appeared in the Tacoma Weekly edition that was published after the PDC complaints had been filed. **Exhibit #9.**
- 2.17 On November 23, 2020, PDC staff requested the Tacoma Weekly provide examples of other “Advertorial Ads” that ran or were published in the newspaper. In response to staff’s request, Nagle provided copies of ads and stories the Tacoma Weekly ran for the General Election, stating “Also attached are three examples of advertorials that we’ve run for Tacoma Sister Cities, Calvary Cemetery, and the Adventist Community Food Bank, all of which are paid content through our Friends of Tacoma Weekly program.” **Exhibit #10.**
- 2.18 Staff’s review of the information provided by the Tacoma Weekly indicated that all these stories appeared with a “By Matt Nagle” byline. They are written and displayed in the same format as the advertorial ads highlighting the accomplishments of Whalen, Figueroa and Dr. Kreiselmaier. As noted above and confirmed by Nagle, these provided advertorial ads are paid advertising. However, the stories provided by Nagle as examples of advertorial ads include no indication they are part of the paid advertising program. **Exhibit #10.**
- 2.19 Based on staff’s review concerning information produced and shown on its website, the Tacoma Weekly appears to promote itself as news media, and its LinkedIn¹ profile states: “Our philosophy is to cover local news and events tailored to the communities we serve. While other newspapers often stretch out their coverage over a wide geographic area, we choose to focus on specific cities. Pierce County Community Newspaper Group (PCCNG), a locally owned and operated newspaper organization, has been the proud publisher of its flagship newspaper Tacoma Weekly for 20 years.” **Exhibit #11.**
- 2.20 The Tacoma Weekly LinkedIn profile also states: “Over the past two decades, Tacoma Weekly has developed a solid reputation as a reliable source of information for Tacoma. Our emphasis is on events that impact the lives of our readers – action taken by local governments, how local high school sports teams are faring, what’s happening on local

¹ LinkedIn Corporation (www.linkedin.com) provides online services, operated via website and mobile apps, used for professional networking.

stages and where to go when readers have free time to enjoy. PCCNG also publishes two newspapers serving suburbs of Tacoma. The Fife Free Press covers news from the city of Fife, Fife School District, and local businesses. The Milton-Edgewood Signal serves the cities of Milton and Edgewood, covering news from both city governments as well as local school and business news.”

- 2.21 PDC staff was not able to otherwise verify this information as there is no information regarding its history on the Tacoma Weekly website, as its “About Us” page has no text. The Fife Free Press website does not appear to be a news publication and The Milton-Edgewood Signal does not have any web presence.

III. Scope

- 3.1 PDC staff reviewed the following:

- The complaint and exhibits filed against the Tacoma Weekly.
- Responses from the Tacoma Weekly showing advertorials, advertisements, and cover stories.
- PDC database for contribution and expenditure information paid to the Tacoma Weekly.

IV. Statutes and Rules

- 4.1 **RCW 42.17A.480:** Solicitation of endorsement fees. “A person may not solicit from a candidate for public office, political committee, political party, or other person money or other property as a condition or consideration for an endorsement, article, or other communication in the news media promoting or opposing a candidate for public office, political committee, or political party.”

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of August, 2021.

Electronically signed,
Alice Fiman
PDC Compliance Officer

List of Exhibits

Exhibit #1	Luke Byram complaint against the Tacoma Weekly
Exhibit #2	Evelyn Fielding Lopez complaint against the Tacoma Weekly
Exhibit #3	Tacoma Weekly response to PDC complaints
Exhibit #4	SOU from Javier Figueroa
Exhibit #5	Ad campaign in Tacoma Weekly for Javier Figueroa
Exhibit #6	SOU from Jason Whalen
Exhibit #7	Ad campaign in Tacoma Weekly for Jason Whalen
Exhibit #8	Jason Whalen response to PDC
Exhibit #9	Ad campaign in Tacoma Weekly for Elizabeth Kreiselmaier
Exhibit #10	Tacoma Weekly provided examples of other advertorial ads
Exhibit #11	Tacoma Weekly page on LinkedIn

Exhibit 1

Respondent Name
Tacoma Weekly
Complainant Name
Lucas Byram
Complaint Description
Luke Byram (Sat, 19 Sep 2020 at 11:27 PM) The newspaper Tacoma Weekly is selling their endorsements to campaigns listed above.
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
Does not help voters make informed decisions when campaigns pay for their endorsement in newspapers and advertising. The newspaper Tacoma Weekly is selling their endorsements to campaigns.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
Images of the political ads in Tacoma Weekly.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
Evelyn Lopez, Sean Robinson
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works:
This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- (12) 1/4 Print Ads
- (2) Full page Ads
- (4) Front Page Ads
- (1) Mega Block Ad 12 Weeks
- (4) 8 1/2 by 11 Inserts
- Weekly Editorial
- A Cover Story
- Tacoma Weekly Endorsement

Cost \$2500



GET 10,000 MAILERS OUT EVERY WEEK FOR FREE

Contact:
 John Weymer 253-405-4893
 jweymer@tacomaweekly.com
 Matt Nagle 253-267-3278
 matt@tacomaweekly.com

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works:
This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- [12] 1/4 Print Ads
- [2] Full page Ads
- [4] Front Page Ads
- [1] Mega Block Ad 12 Weeks
- [4] 8 1/2 by 11 Inserts
- Weekly Editorial
- A Cover Story
- Tacoma Weekly Endorsement

Cost \$2500

Contact:
 John Weymer 253-405-4883
 jweymer@tacomaweekly.com
 Matt Nagle 253-267-3276
 matt@tacomaweekly.com



Exhibit 2

PDC Case 77415 Tacoma Weekly - ROI exhibits
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Respondent Name
Tacoma Weekly
Complainant Name
Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Complaint Description
Truetacoma (Wed, 14 Oct 2020 at 1:12 PM) The information supporting this complaint is in the attached document.
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
The public is fooled into thinking that news articles in the Tacoma Weekly, and the paper's endorsements, are honest journalism. In fact, they are paid advertisements. The public will lose confidence in the media and political process, and candidates who have purchased endorsements and coverage appear to be more credible and qualified than they should be.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
The attached complaint has the information on these issues, and I will provide answers to any questions. Most of the information has come from the Tacoma Weekly website and the PDC database.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Evelyn Fielding Lopez

Email: TrueTacoma@gmail.com Phone: (253) 229-2362

Public Disclosure Commission

VIA pdc.wa.gov website

Dear Commission Staff,

Please accept these campaign finance complaints against: (1) the Tacoma Weekly newspaper, (2) Jason Whalen, candidate for Pierce County Council District 6, and (3) Javier Figueroa, candidate for Pierce County Council District 4.

A. Overview:

After the August 2020 primary, the Tacoma Weekly newspaper offered advertising packages to Tacoma candidates which included payment for a Weekly editorial, cover story, and Tacoma Weekly endorsement. Candidates Jason Whalen and Javier Figueroa purchased the \$2500 packages and have received flattering cover stories in the Tacoma Weekly. This “pay for play” scheme has resulted in numerous campaign finance and campaign advertising violations.

B. Background:

In August 2020, I was contacted by a candidate about an email he received from the Tacoma Weekly after the primary election. As you can see, the Tacoma Weekly offered a special advertising package, limited to four candidates, that would include “Weekly Editorial, A Cover Story, Tacoma Weekly Endorsement.”

Here is a copy of the email:

From: Matt Nagle <mnagle@tacomaweekly.com>
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 2:59 PM
To: "[\[REDACTED\]](#)" <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
Subject: Let's Get You Elected

Dear :

With the Aug. 4 primary over and candidates now chosen for the upcoming General Election, the Tacoma Weekly is here to help get you elected. Let us brand you as the best candidate for the job while you support independent community journalism.

Attached to this email is information on how the Tacoma Weekly can be a resource for you before and after you are in office. *We are limiting this offer to just four candidates, so act now to reserve your spot.*

Thank you!

Matt Nagle
(253) 267-3276
matt@tacomaweekly.com

John Weymer
(253) 405-4893
jweymer@tacomaweekly.com

Two information sheets from the Tacoma Weekly were also provided:

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works:
This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- (12) 1/4 Print Ads
- (2) Full page Ads
- (4) Front Page Ads
- (1) Mega Block Ad 12 Weeks
- (4) 8 1/2 by 11 Inserts
- Weekly Editorial
- A Cover Story
- Tacoma Weekly Endorsement

Cost \$2500

Contact:
John Weymer 253-405-4893
jweymer@tacomaweekly.com
Matt Nagle 253-267-3276
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The image shows a collage of 'VOTE' buttons and a preview of a Tacoma Weekly newspaper cover featuring a candidate and the headline 'ELECTION RESULTS REVEAL MAJOR CHANGES IN PUNJAB TRIBAL COUNCIL'.

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works:
This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- (12) 1/4 Print Ads
- (2) Full page Ads
- (4) Front Page Ads
- (1) Mega Block Ad 12 Weeks
- (4) 8 1/2 by 11 Inserts
- Weekly Editorial
- A Cover Story
- Tacoma Weekly Endorsement

Cost \$2500

GET 10,000 MAILERS OUT EVERY WEEK FOR FREE

Contact:
John Weymer 253-405-4893
jweymer@tacomaweekly.com
Matt Nagle 253-267-3276
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The image shows a collage of 'VOTE' buttons and a preview of a Tacoma Weekly newspaper cover featuring a candidate and the headline 'Want Leavitt Delivers Results for Pierce County Families'.

Upon receiving this information, I searched the PDC expenditure database to see if any 2020 candidates had paid money to the Tacoma Weekly. I found that Jason Whalen, a candidate for Pierce County Council District 6, paid the Tacoma Weekly \$2500 for advertising on August 24, 2020.

On September 1, 2020, the Tacoma Weekly ran a frontpage feature story on Mr. Whalen and his campaign: <https://tacomaweekly.com/featured-news/jason-whelen-in-the-running-to-bring-his-collaborative-approach-to-problem-solving-to-pierce-county-council/>

Any person reading this article would not realize that it was in fact an advertisement and that it had been purchased as part of an advertising package offered to candidates. As a campaign advertisement, it lacks the required sponsorship information regarding the funds used to purchase this media coverage.

Because there were other, prominent cover stories regarding local political candidates, I searched their expenditures to see if anyone else had purchased the Tacoma Weekly's \$2500 advertising package. Javier Figueroa, a candidate for Pierce County Council District 4, was featured in a Tacoma Weekly cover story on August 18, 2020: <https://tacomaweekly.com/front-page/javier-figueroa-bringing-an-independent-vote-to-pierce-county-council/>

I reviewed Mr. Figueroa's expenditures and found that he has been misreporting his spending, and that on August 8, 2020 he paid \$2500 for "Tacoma Weekly Ad Campaign." The misreporting of expenditures is significant. When I used the advanced search feature on the PDC database to look for all expenditures

to the Tacoma Weekly across all campaigns, I did not see the purchase from Mr. Figueroa. That's because he has been paying for campaign items from his own pocket, and then reporting reimbursement to himself as expenditures. So, if you were to search expenditures you would only find his spending by looking for payments to himself. He has noted what the reimbursement to himself was for, but that does not fix the misreporting, and does not go into the database. In the case of the Tacoma Weekly advertising, he has also characterized it as an in-kind contribution, apparently from himself. None of that provides useful information to the public.

In addition to the cover story, the Tacoma Weekly has been featuring photos of Mr. Figueroa on its paper boxes around Pierce County. These are all advertisements, but do not contain the required sponsor identification.

Photos of the Tacoma Weekly Boxes:



C. Tacoma Weekly Violations:

RCW 42.17A.480 provides: “A person may not solicit from a candidate for public office, political committee, political party, or other person money or other property as a condition or consideration for an endorsement, article, or other communication in the news media promoting or opposing a candidate for public office, political committee, or political party.” (Emphasis added.)

The Tacoma Weekly violated this statute by soliciting for an advertising package that included promoting the candidate through positive cover stories, editorial content, and the paper's endorsement of the candidate.

RCW 42.17A.320 requires that all political advertising contain sponsor information identifying who paid for the advertisement. The Tacoma Weekly sold their articles as political advertising, but did not include sponsorship information on the cover stories.

RCW 42.17A.340 indicates that the candidate is responsible for sponsorship information on campaign advertising, but the advertiser may also be responsible if it has changed the content of the advertisement. Both the candidates and the Tacoma Weekly should be held responsible for failure to include sponsorship information on the paid advertisements that were masquerading as newspaper articles.

D. Candidate Whalen Violations:

As noted above, RCW 42.17A.320 requires that all political advertising contain sponsor information identifying who paid for the advertisement. Mr. Whalen purchased the advertising package from the Tacoma Weekly that included cover stories, editorials, and the newspaper's endorsement. He knew that the cover story was not journalism, but was advertising purchased by his campaign. He should have ensured that appropriate sponsorship information was included in all Tacoma Weekly stories about his campaign after he paid them on August 24, 2020.

Mr. Whalen is an attorney in Tacoma, and has represented parties in campaign finance matters (representation of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County in the recent settlement of a case against the Port of Tacoma, Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Board).

E. Candidate Figueroa Violations:

As with the Whalen campaign, Mr. Figueroa was required by RCW 42.17A.320 to ensure that all campaign advertising contained sponsor information identifying who paid for the advertisement. Mr. Figueroa purchased the advertising package from the Tacoma Weekly that included cover stories, editorials, and the newspaper's endorsement. He knew that the cover story was not journalism, but was advertising purchased by his campaign. He should have ensured that appropriate sponsorship information was included in all Tacoma Weekly stories about his campaign after he paid them on August 8, 2020.

In addition, Mr. Figueroa's practice of reporting reimbursements to himself as "expenditures" and hiding the actual recipient of funds in the notes section of his reports is a violation of RCW 42.17A.240. Campaigns are required to report the "name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made." Mr. Figueroa did not do that. Instead he listed himself as the recipient of funds, and then added the actual recipient, the party that provided services, in the notes field. This practice denied the public of information that should have been easy to discover and effectively hid his expenditures from review.

Mr. Figueroa is an experienced candidate, has run numerous campaigns, and has been a member of the University Place City Council.

F. Impact on the Public:

We live in perilous times. The public has lost much of its faith in politicians, elections, and the media. Now one of our small, local newspapers in Tacoma is selling its content and endorsements. It's shocking and wrong. No one reading the Tacoma Weekly will be able to believe any of its political content, and

we are all harmed as a result. (Note that there are likely two other candidates who purchased the Tacoma Weekly advertising and endorsement package, but they are candidates for federal office and not subject to the PDC's jurisdiction.)

Please investigate these complaints and contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Tacoma, Washington
Email: TrueTacoma@gmail.com
Phone: 253-229-2362

Exhibit 3

Matt Nagle (Thu, 15 Oct 2020 at 3:56 PM)

Hello, and thank you for allowing us to reply to this allegation.

The Tacoma Weekly has already been in contact with Kim Bradford per her email to us on Aug. 21. As we explained to her, an uncorrected version of our sales promotion flyer was attached to email sent to select candidates. We corrected our mistake immediately and re-sent our email to these candidates. Ms. Bradford replied with a simple "thank you" and the matter was settled.

The Tacoma Weekly has an editorial policy of not endorsing candidates. We are hands-off in telling voters whom they should vote for, and we certainly would not accept money in exchange for endorsements.

Thank you,

Matt Nagle & John Weymer

by **John Weymer** on **Fri, 21 Aug, 2020**

A un-corrected version of our sales promotion was attached to and emailed to all candidates. We did re-email all of the candidates with the correct information the very same day. See attached. Let me know if you have anymore questions.

Friends Of Tacoma Weekly

Let's Get You Elected

We have 12 weeks to brand your name as the best candidate for the job!

Here's how it works:
This offer is limited to only 4 candidates based on space available.

- 12 1/4 Page Ads
- 2 Full Page Ads
- 4 Front Page Ads
- 1 Block Ad 12 Weeks
- 4 Insertions Of Your Flyer
- Limited to 8 1/2 by 11
- 1 Advertorial Ad
- Meet with Weekly Editorial Staff.

All advertising must include:

(Paid Advertisement) Paid for by the friends to elect.



GET 40,000 MAILERS OUT

Contact:

John Weymer 253-405-4893

jweymer@tacomaweekly.com

Matt Nagle 253-267-3276

matt@tacomaweekly.com

Nov. 22, 2020

To: Peter Lavallee, PDC Executive Director
Fm: John Weymer & Matt Nagle, *Tacoma Weekly*

Dear Mr. Lavallee,

This letter is in response to the PDC complaint filed by Lucas Byrom and Evelyn Lopez. The Tacoma Weekly exchanged no money for an endorsement or promotion of any candidate in the 2020 General Election. Nowhere in the Tacoma Weekly were any endorsements given for any candidate at all in this election. We provided advertising for three candidates who contracted with us for advertising only. We can provide you with any records or invoices that you may require.

As we have explained, an uncorrected version of our sales promotion flyer was attached to email sent to select candidates. We corrected our mistake immediately and re-sent our email to these candidates.

Please let us know how we can of any further assistance in clarifying this matter.

Thank you,
John Weymer
Matt Nagle
Tacoma Weekly

Exhibit 4



RECEIVED

JAN 08 2021

**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908

(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

PAID JAN 11 2020

Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding

Javier PDC Case 78781

I JAVIER FIGUEROA, as a candidate seeking election to the Pierce County
(Printed Name) Council in 2020, hereby acknowledge that:

I violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include the required sponsor identification on political advertising in the form of newspaper advertising sponsored by my 2020 Campaign that ran in the Tacoma Weekly.

RCW 42.17A.320 requires all written political advertising, including newspaper political advertisements, to disclose the sponsor's name and complete mailing address, and party preference if required in the advertisement.

- On September 11, 2020, the Friends to Elect Javier (Campaign) filed a Post-Primary Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) report with the PDC, disclosing the Campaign made a \$2,500 expenditure on August 8, 2020 for a Tacoma Weekly advertising campaign.
- The political advertising package, priced at \$2,500 and offered to Figueroa by the Tacoma Weekly, included print newspaper advertisements, banner advertisements, some wrapped advertisements around Tacoma Weekly newspapers boxes, endorsement advertisements and the opportunity for a cover story.
- The political advertisements paid for and sponsored by the Figueroa 2020 Campaign that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly included the required sponsor identification information in accordance with RCW 42.17A.320, except for the cover story.
- The Tacoma Weekly cover story about his 2020 Pierce County Council candidacy published on August 18, 2020, did not include any sponsor identification. The cover story did not indicate or identify it was paid political advertising.

Javier Figueroa would like to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) being scheduled by Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff.

Jason Whalen
PDC Case 78780
Statement of Understanding

Therefore, in lieu of PDC staff scheduling a Brief Enforcement Hearing, Javier Figueroa is completing this Statement of Understanding, and enclosing a check or money order in the amount of \$150 as a penalty payment to resolve this matter.

The \$150 penalty being assessed against Javier Figueroa is for one acknowledged violation of RCW 42.17A.320. The \$150 penalty is being assessed in accordance with the Penalty Schedule, and the mitigating and aggravating factors adopted by the Commission for Brief Enforcement Hearings set forth in WAC 390-37-143.

Javier Figueroa understands that by completing this Statement of Understanding, he acknowledges one violation of RCW 42.17A.320 as set forth above and is waiving his right to a hearing in this matter.

Javier Figueroa further understands that this will resolve the issue of failing to disclose sponsor identification on the one political advertisement that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly.

s/ Javier H. Figueroa
signed by

12/30/2020
Date Signed

Please make your check or money order payable to the "Washington State Treasurer" and be sure to include the PDC Case number in the memorandum field, and print, sign and mail this Statement of Understanding along with your payment to:

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JAVIER FIGUEROA

Bringing an independent vote to Pierce County Council

In the primary race for the Pierce County Council District 4 seat, Javier Figueroa won his place on the Nov. 4 General Election ballot. With 29.28 per cent of the vote, he will be facing off against Ryan Mello, who received 30.04 percent. Given the primary turnout, it will be an interesting contest come November, and Figueroa is determined to provide an independent voice on the County Council.

As an Independent, Figueroa sees this as another way in which he can work outside of the box and make decisions more freely. “When you say that you are Republican or Democrat, it’s because you believe in their platforms. I cannot believe in either platform solely,” he

said. “As an Independent, I feel that I can choose the best of both and how it can work in our communities. Running as an Independent grants me the freedom to do that.”

In terms of the areas of the county Figueroa would represent, District 4 encompasses University Place and Fircrest, parts of Tacoma (north and south ends, Hilltop and downtown) and the Port of Tacoma. He is well acquainted with University Place and Fircrest as a member of the University Place City Council, mayor pro tem and mayor of U.P., and his community service reaches further: Board Director for Tahoma Audubon Society, The Grand Cinema,

▶ See **JAVIER** / page 5

THE PEACE BUS PRESENTS ‘MR. BROWN’S PIES’

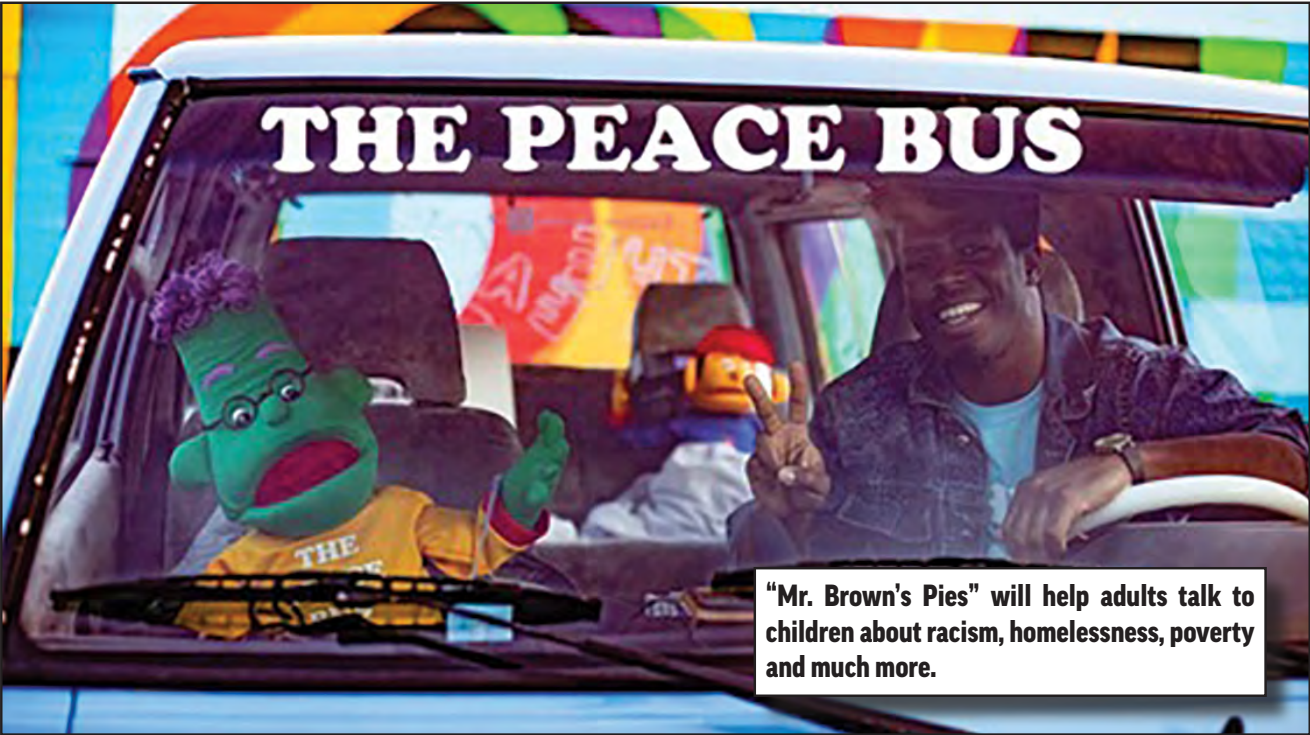
New pilot TV show aims to educate children on difficult topics

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

People throughout Tacoma already know Kwabi Amoah-Forsen and his Peace Bus for all the good things he does to bring humanitarian aid, build community and spread love across Tacoma and beyond. Now he is taking on a new role as children’s television show writer and producer. This month, the pilot episode of “Mr. Brown’s Pies” premieres on Facebook Live on Aug. 16 and Aug. 19 at 7:30 p.m. to educate children on the subjects of homelessness, poverty, incarcerations, hunger, racism and how they can help with the environment. A community drive-in showing is being planned for next month, with more details on this coming later.

Filmed entirely in Tacoma, “Mr. Brown’s Pies” features zany humor and lots of laughs to communicate with its young audience about serious topics. Kwabi, the cast and crew are taking a cue from classic programs like “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” “Reading Rainbow” and “Sesame Street” to speak directly to kids, and to help parents and adults talk about these subjects that they may find difficult to explain to their young ones.

“That’s what it’s about,” Kwabi said. “We



“Mr. Brown’s Pies” will help adults talk to children about racism, homelessness, poverty and much more.

want to have the humor and the friendliness to be able to open up the dialog so that we can all have conversations about these heavy topics.”

The main theme of the show is humanism. “In every episode, we’re going to

humanize an individual in our society that is not always necessarily humanized whether that’s someone who is incarcerated or dealing with racism.” The show will also engage young viewers about respecting the earth by recycling and

using environmental practices that are healthy for the planet.

Behind the wheel of the Peace Bus, Kwabi has done some amazing things.

▶ See **PEACE BUS** / page 3

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▶ Page 1 JAVIER



Javier with wife Mary Catherine (right) and daughter Amylena

and State Council on Aging; Pierce Court Appointed Special Advocate; Arbitrator, Better Business Bureau; and the White House Task Force on Climate Change during the Clinton Administration. He is also past elected president of the Rainier Communications Commission.

Figueroa's overall position on issues facing the county is best outlined by this statement from his campaign literature: "Quality of life begins with a livable wage that includes medical and retirement benefits. In light of the pandemic, we must focus on putting people back to work in a new economy by restarting small businesses and expanding larger businesses in a way that is safe for the public. Unemployment is creating hardship for our families and communities. As a County Council member, I will focus on jump-starting our economy that will provide employment opportunities for all."

With an eye to the environment, Figueroa is mindful of climate change and energy sustainability to preserve the natural resources in our state. He promotes quality education for all children because he knows personally of its transformative powers and said that he would continue to push for stronger elder abuse protections from his position on the County Council.

Having a job and earning a living is the foundation of our communities and families, according to Figueroa, and the decision to close small businesses

with employee layoffs over these past months put everyone in a dire situation.

"If businesses are not up and running and people are not working, society cannot afford anything," he said. "Yes, there are safety nets, but they are not sustainable, especially with our tax base – our businesses are being strangled to death. Institutionally, we've set the whole system up for failure. You don't have to pay your rent now, but nobody is talking about six to nine months from now. The bill is going to come due and how will people pay the bills that accumulated during those months?"

Right now, the County Council is made up of four Republicans and three Democrats, and there are four district seats open for election. For District 2, Republican Hans Zeiger outdistances Democrat Sarah Rumbaugh by nearly 10 percent of the vote; in District 3, Republican Amy Cruver, at 42.58 percent of the primary vote, is ahead of Democrat Marcus Young's 21.04 percent; and in District 6, it's neck-and-neck between Republican Jason Whalen at 49.18 percent and Jani Hitchen at 50.64 percent.

For Figueroa, he said that the District 4 race is about not letting extreme political ideology drive residents out of Pierce County.

"I certainly don't want a mini-Seattle City Council member mentality take control of the council. When you have extreme, excessive principles and policy

▶ See page 6 JAVIER

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For nearly 40 years, the Tacoma Weekly has worked to preserve journalism and independent media in Tacoma. We are the watchdog of local government, the source for community events, and a voice for businesses, non-profits and residents. Last year, we launched the Friends of Tacoma Weekly to get information to the public consistently and creatively.

The Tacoma Weekly has no plans to end our decades of publishing, but we need your help to grow and continue our mission as a government watchdog, a source of information on local news and events, and a voice for the people who live here. As an adjudicated newspaper, we are approaching local governments to expand our service to run legal notices, and we are meeting with local candidates to help in their campaigns prior to the upcoming November election. We always welcome volunteers from the community to write stories and help deliver the paper around town.

To learn more about the variety of ways that you can help support the local news, contact

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Support neighborhood businesses at Hilltop Business Crawl

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, innovation has shown itself in an array of ways, especially in bringing people together somehow as we're all told to keep our distance. In Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood, the Tacoma Housing Authority and Hilltop Action Coalition, in partnership with The Community Market, are doing just that, co-hosting a Business Crawl event to get people out and about while also supporting local entrepreneurs who are struggling these days.

The event will be held on two days – Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – along the Martin Luther King Jr. Way corridor through Hilltop from South 9th Street to South 13th Street, and on South 11th Street between M and I Streets. It will include many brick and mortar businesses and micro-businesses that don't have a physical storefront but will participate as vendors in booths set up at the Tacoma

Housing Authority's parking lot (902 S. L St.) and at Fab-5 (1120 S. 11th St., across from People's Park). So far, 32 businesses and vendors have signed up and the list is growing.

A map of the event route and all participating businesses is included in the Hilltop Business Crawl passport. The passport is available for printing

Hilltop Action Coalition office (1116 Earnest S Brazill St.). Get four stamps from businesses you visit then turn in your passport to win great raffle prizes from these local businesses, and vote for your favorite business for the People's Choice Award. Businesses will also have signs in their windows showing that they are part of the Crawl.

Everyone coming to take part is required to wear a face mask and stay socially distant. Pick up a free face mask, and bottled water, at the Hilltop Action Coalition office during the event.

The Hilltop Business Crawl is being held not only to help neighborhood businesses impacted by COVID-19, but also to bring in shoppers while the area contends with the heavy street construction for the new Link light rail that's going in. Both of these situations have contributed to making the Hilltop core more difficult lately, but the Crawl is completely walkable and will have signage placed to guide participants along the streets.

Alyssa Torrez works with Tacoma Housing Authority and spends a lot of time in Hilltop. "It's so different to walk around and not be able to do the things we're used to doing, so hopefully the Business Crawl will encourage people to just get out on a nice weekend, bring the family, grab some food and visit the vendors

and businesses," she said. "We'll have some music and fun stuff for people to do safely to help support the businesses and give people a sense of positive community engagement that we haven't had in a while."

In the past, the Housing Authority and Hilltop Action Coalition have helped to organize the popular Hilltop Pop-Up Market, but can't this year due to the virus. The Hilltop Street Fair has also been cancelled this year, so the Business Crawl will be a fun way for locals to still enjoy a summertime Hilltop experience.

"We knew that it would be important to somehow bring the community together to enjoy the history and culture that Hilltop provides," Torrez said. "This is the first time for something like this to happen in Hilltop. We thought this would be a good opportunity for some form of community engagement in absence of the big street fair that usually happens, to encourage people to safely and comfortably visit businesses without gathering a lot of people in one space."

A partial list of participating business and vendors: Grit City Ciderworks, The TSM Shop, Red Elm Café, Tacoma's No. 1 Fried Rice, Johnson's Candy Company, Mr. MAC's LTD, Sam & Terry Barbershop, The Eleven Eleven, Love by the Slice, Hilltop Loans Pawn Shop, Goodfellas Barbers, Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit, The Fish House Café, Manifesto Coffee, Lavonne's Room and many more.

The Crawl is being sponsored by Sound Transit and with assistance from the City of Tacoma and Downtown On the Go. Learn more at Hilltop Action Coalition's Facebook page



Hilltop businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 and Link rail construction. The Crawl offers families a way to have a fun summertime experience in Hilltop. Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Support neighborhood businesses at Hilltop Business Crawl

in advance at www.ActivateHilltop.org and for pick-up during the event at the

on a nice weekend, bring the family, grab some food and visit the vendors

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► Page 1 6TH DISTRICT

ofthem, have gotten way off course. The House has been rife with dirty tricks and foul play. Our children’s future is on the line.” Thus, Kreiselmaier’s charge to “Clean Up The House” seems to be resonating with voters, considering her strong lead in the Primary. As a Constitutionalist, Kreiselmaier believes preserving the principles of the United States Constitution is paramount and foundational. All else emanates from there, starting with families first, which she sees as the cornerstone of a strong society and strong America.

For families, Kreiselmaier will fight for good jobs and reopening safely to restore our pre-COVID growing economy, with working people keeping more of what they earn, with a particular focus on rural economies that have lagged in recovery; quality health care, with access to excellent care, affordable prescription drugs and the right to choose health care providers and insurance plans; and solid schools based on education, not indoctrination, that nurture students to be responsible, self-sufficient adults, with parents having a choice about where and how their children are educated. For safe and secure communities, Kreiselmaier promotes both accountability and unwavering support for our military and law enforcement, especially in these times when police are being vilified; preserving law-abiding citizens’ right to keep and bear arms; and curtailing homelessness by taking proactive measures to address ever-spreading homeless encampments and human suffering with compassionate solutions while protecting the health and safety of local communities.

For strong country, she brings a respect for the Constitution and all of the rights and freedoms that it enshrines; protecting the safety, security and prosperity of our people and sovereignty of our country, which requires securing entry into the U.S. by land and sea, cutting off illegal immigration and strengthening the legal immigration process; an “America-First” foreign policy; and ensuring free and fair elections by tackling voter registration fraud and allowing only proven U.S. citizens to vote.

This is just a thumbnail sketch of Kreiselmaier’s guiding principles, as more detail is given at her website, www.CleanUpTheHouse.com, and on her Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/ElizabethforCongress.

Kreiselmaier attributes her Primary win to her results-driven, common-sense approach to issues facing our state and nation, combined with her natural gift for engaging authentically with people to get to know them and hear what is important to them. “We came through strongly based on the message I’m bringing, and also because people can sense that I truly do care about and listen to them,” she said. “People in this district are ready for a change. They deserve a choice, and I’m here to provide it.”

Kreiselmaier emphasized that she is in no way a career politician, and that running for Congress is not about her. “It’s about something bigger. It’s about America and Americans, Washington and Washingtonians – people like you and me who live here, and love it here.”

Looking at the big picture, Kreiselmaier believes that America is at a critical crossroads and could benefit from her brand of common-sense leadership with a moral compass. Combined with her life experiences as a professional in the workforce, her demonstrated commitment as a member of her community and church, her “ferocious devotion” as a wife and mother, she brings elements to the table that others have often noted will serve her District well.

“We are a wonderful country with an amazing and inspiring story of freedom, perseverance, and prosperity. My parents were both legal immigrants, so I am a first-generation American. I can honestly tell you that there is no place on earth like America with the freedoms we enjoy. I want to preserve and protect those freedoms for my own and others’ children in the future,” she said.

Read the rest of this story at TacomaWeekly.com.



Elizabeth with son Brent (left) and husband Paul.

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Here's the chance to get your Fair fix both onsite and online. Starting Sept. 4, get Fair food-to-go, shop online at the virtual marketplace, join the virtual Run The Puyallup fun run, or participate in the virtual Round Up Auction. Fair Food-To-Go (presented by Columbia Bank): Your Fair food-to-go experience will be even better with new vendors added, and improved traffic flow. Plus, enjoy shopping, sights and sounds of the Fair during your journey. Be on the lookout for a few barn yard animals along the route.

Select vendors will have food available for purchase to-go at various stops with something for everyone: scones, BBQ, Krusty Pups, fiesta corn, turkey legs, piroshky, caramel apples, elephant ears, cotton candy, funnel cakes and more. Plus, it's a burger extravaganza with the classic fair burger, Juicy's burgers and even Monster burgers.

Virtual Vendor Marketplace (presented by Mattress Firm): Get your retail fix, Sept. 4-Oct. 15. The Fair shopping experience has been this year and moved some of your favorites online. Access vendor shopping, virtual entertainment, vendor demonstrations and more. Plus, this is an opportunity for the community to help support our valued vendors, who have been heavily impacted as a result of the pandemic.

Run The Puyallup: The third annual fun run has gone virtual. Join the virtual fun run and support the Fair Foundation. To participate, register online then take and post photos, and tag the Washington State Fair and foundation on event day, Sept. 5. The last day to register and receive swag, is Aug. 31.

Round-Up Auction: The 2020 Round Up Auction has gone virtual. Register online to participate in this virtual auction, Oct. 19-23, to support the Fair Foundation's educational programs.

For more info. on how to get your Fair fix, visit www.thefair.com/get-your-fair-fix/.

TACOMA ARTS LIVE ADJUSTS WITH THE TIMES

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

When COVID-19 descended upon Washington state, the arts took a big hit. Live theater experiences were brought to a screeching halt, leaving venues like Tacoma Arts Live (TAL) with empty venues and the unpleasant task to cancel previously scheduled shows that ticketholders were very much looking forward to attending and TAL staff was excited to bring to the stage. In fact, stage sets for performances of the award-winning "Tribes" at Theater on the Square

which we're waiting on," Fischer said, noting that TAL is engaged in ongoing discussion with the governor's office concerning a re-opening plan.

Just like every other arts organization, Tacoma Arts Live had to readjust in creative ways, which includes staying afloat financially and meeting its non-profit mission during a time of quarantine. As COVID has negatively impacted City of Tacoma finances, the City has suspended TAL's management contract, which



Presented virtually, four-event series "The Muse Hour" will feature (from left) Karamo Brown, Lila Downs, Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi, and Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes of Pink Martini

still in place, ready for when the seats are once again filled with arts patrons.

"It's one of those projects that we'll have ready at a moment's notice to share with the community," said TAL Executive Director David Fischer. TAL has numerous artists lined up and ready to take the stage when Pierce County reaches that level of re-opening.


"Some of the artists can do so under social distancing rules, which means 25 percent of a normal house for us, so some are ready to go when the governor gives the all-clear for indoor convening,

means TAL staff is receiving no fees for the work they continue to do. This meant laying off about 30 part-time and seven full-time staff, with the remainder working reduced hours.

"It's been painful to furlough so many of my team who have tremendous talent and move them into the ranks of the unemployed," Fischer said. "We're not alone, of course, but doesn't make it any easier."

For the rest of this go to www.tacomaweekly.com

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PAGEANT WINNER WORKS TO EXPAND LITERACY

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Jayne Alexis Reyes Brunner has been selected as Mrs. Washington America United, a title that she will carry for the coming year in community service, being a good neighbor, and supporting first responders and military personnel.

Brunner's plan is to partner with children's literacy nonprofit Reading Partners and local legislatures on pro-literacy policies, and create resume workshops for at-risk populations such as foster care students, veterans, domestic abuse survivors, and other at risk people who may need strong literacy skills to obtain work.

When asked why she ran for this title, Brunner said, "I wanted to serve my community, state, and personal platform in a way that was beyond what I do as an educator and first responder. I know that from being involved within pageantry, being a titleholder creates opportunity to amplify solutions to our concerns. What better year than to compete in 2020 to find answers to our most difficult questions and to be an advocate in unprecedented times."

Brunner said that students learning online presents a great opportunity to start volunteering with Reading Partners in working with virtual tutoring services, and to work with legislators to ensure the passage of pro-literacy policies for Washingtonians.

From feeding bottle calves on a family farm in rural South Dakota to living up and down the West Coast where she now resides in the Seattle area, Jayme has had the opportunity to work in higher education for the last decade in many facets and loves to watch students acquire basic life skills, go from backpack to



Jayne Alexis Reyes Brunner has been selected as Mrs. Washington America United

briefcase, and fulfill their lifelong goals. She currently serves as the Director of Housing and an instructor for a first year seminar course at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

Brunner received her Bachelor of Science from South Dakota State University and her Master of Science in College Counseling from Azusa Pacific University. She also owns her own coaching company, Jayme Alexis LLC, that specializes in career, competition and life coaching, specifically with transitions and implementing values.

As Mrs. Washington America United, Brunner will be supporting the values of the America United Pageant and her personal platform of achieving literacy in the digital era. As an adoptee, along with parents who provide foster care, and in her higher education career where she predominantly had foster care students and survivors of domestic abuse, Brunner wants to use her literacy platform to ensure that people have the ability to create a new life, which often starts with a new resume and cover letter.

"I hope that by the end of my year, I will have contributed to increased literacy efforts through more volunteers in

Washington for Reading Partners, additional data that supports policy changes that are pro-literacy for all Washingtonians, and I hope to make changes that without me in the equation, are a long term benefit to all people," Brunner said. "I'd love to achieve as a community to provide more resume and career related services to at-risk populations so a new chapter of life does not feel so far out of reach."

Brunner will compete for America United Mrs. in Seattle on June 23-26, 2021. The America United Pageant (www.

americanpageantunited.org) focuses on community service and platform, supporting first responders and military, and loving your neighbor. The pageant consists of 50 percent interview, and the rest being on stage question, gown, and fun fashion. The pageant is for ages 13-100.

Brunner wants to reach all four corners of Washington. If you'd like to partner with her for first responder support projects, literacy work or invite her to make an appearance, connect with her at info@jaymealexis.com.



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Cover Story

TRANSFORMING Hilltop

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PRODUCED BY FAB-5 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MITHUN

soon closed, leaving the site an eyesore and source of frustration for Hilltop residents tired of seeing their neighborhood ignored and left in blight.

Since 2012 the building sat vacant, empty and waiting for some type of renewal. Finally, the wait was over when Forterra purchased the property in September 2019.

Things started to look up, and in the best manner possible.

Renowned for their commitment to sustainable cities and regional land conservancy for 30 years, the non-profit Foterra secures urban and rural lands to ensure equity and livability in community development. For the Rite Aid property, Forterra purchased the 1.7 acres following conversations with community stakeholders and Tacoma’s elected leaders about how the organization could help address displacement in the neighborhood due to rising costs. Based on community guidance, Forterra

intends to develop the property with a mix of housing that is affordable to rent and own, as well as offices for nonprofits and local businesses, and additional resources like community meeting space.

“Our number one goal with this project is to fight displacement of long-time residents and businesses in Hilltop,” said Forterra President and CEO Michelle Connor. “We’re committed to listening closely to residents as we design this project. We want the development to address the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood’s rich history and culture.”

With Sound Transit’s Hilltop Link Extension going in, it fits hand in glove with new development at the Rite Aid property. Scheduled to open in 2022, the Link will carry riders through downtown and up to the Hilltop terminus and new transit station. Committed to partnering with the people who call Hilltop home, Forterra

approached Fab-5, a Hilltop-based non-profit launched 20 years ago to organize community youth and to be a leader in Hilltop’s future. Linking up with Fab-5 would ensure a plan for community-driven design so that the project could provide long-term affordability and sustainability to Hilltop residents.

“Although we have team members with a history in Tacoma, none of our team is from Hilltop,” said Rebecca Bouchey, Forterra’s managing director of community development. “When you’re working in a community, you can’t just walk in as an outsider and expect to have a true conversation. To grow this into a partnership, we had to build trust.”

The Hilltop Community Investment Council was born from this outreach, a 12-member group of teachers, artists, social workers, business leaders, elders and neighbors that came together to advise Forterra on early project planning for the Rite Aid project.

Together, Forterra and Fab-5 have issued a call to Black artists with roots in

Hilltop to apply their skills in transforming the Rite Aid site. Artists can submit a proposal for two projects: “Celebrating Hilltop – Get Ready,” an opportunity to use art to activate the vacated buildings right now and signal to the community that this space is changing as we “Get Ready” for new opportunities ahead; and “Celebrating Hilltop: Lasting Legacy,” which is for pieces that will be permanent fixtures in the new development, leaving a “Lasting Legacy.” This artist call is under the umbrella of Fab-5’s “#DesignTheHill” community development initiative.

The #DesignTheHill Design Event and Business Forum series will kickoff on Sept. 24, 6-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. This “Hilltop Resident Zoom Conversation” is an opportunity for current and former Hilltop residents to come together to check in, to learn a bit more about what is to come, and to talk about how they want to partner in planning this work. Those who wish to attend are asked to contact Ash at aarhin@forterra.org.



Fab-5 has a proud history of activating community energy.



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Former Pierce County Executive
Joe Stortini (D)



“I endorse Javier because he is a military veteran who has shown great interest in people all of his life. He is committed to public service. He has had a variety of experiences in government through his previous positions, and I know that he will do a great job.”

Willie Stewart, Educator, Veteran and Greater Tacoma Peace Prize recipient (2019)

Javier
Figueroa

For P.C. County Council Dist.4

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"Javier supports small business. I've seen his name out there when I'm driving around, and he came out one day, sat down and talked. I respected and enjoyed what he was saying."



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"I own a business and I feel like Javier is going to be really good for the county. Javier supports businesses and employees – businesses first then businesses can hire more people and put them back to work. This is what we need right now and for the future." Tina Lee & Max Lee, Owners, Sapporo Steak House & Sushi



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OCTOBER 14TH - OCT. 21ST/2020

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BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

EQC CASH FOR VOTES

Whenever election season arrives is when the Puyallup Tribal Council pulls out the checkbook, spending tribal members' money on buying influence with candidates the membership most likely aren't familiar with and have no idea what these candidates will actually do for the tribe. These payouts include state and federal candidates, Democrats and Republicans alike, in an attempt to play both sides of the aisle with a multi-million dollar price tag for Puyallup tribal families and to the detriment of everyone else in the state of Washington.

A Seattle Times article this week headlined "Washington tribes find new energy to vote in 2020 election, pour cash

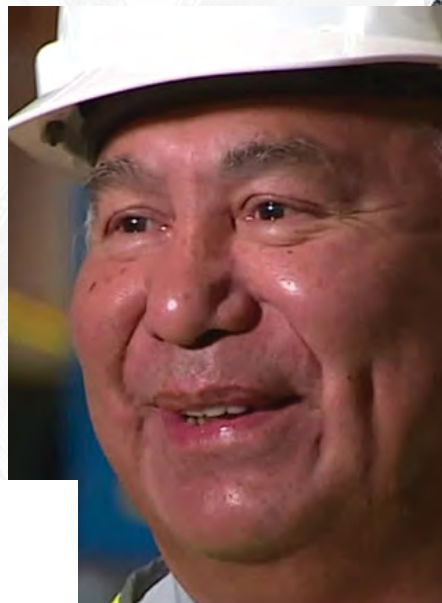
into races" reports that Washington tribes have donated more than \$1.3 million to local candidates for this election, with the Puyallup and Muckleshoot tribes contributing to nearly half that total. However, when it comes to national political donations, the Puyallups lead the way.

"The Puyallup Tribe is in a class by itself for campaign contributions so far on federal campaigns this year since January 2019, with more than \$2.2 million spent, far and away more than any other Washington tribe, according to data from the Federal Election Commission reports of contributions for 2019-20," the article states. The Puyallup Tribe has given nearly \$240,000 to

Democrats in state and local races, including \$100,000 to the state Democratic Party, and about \$70,000 to Republicans, with \$35,500 going to the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

The tribe spends big bucks on lobbyists as well in order to get what they want, with Puyallup tribal lobbyist Ehren Flygare receiving a healthy paycheck to cuddle up with Republican politicians in particular. Flygare plays fast and loose in the game of politics.

Whether or not what he lobbies for the tribe truly benefits the membership makes no matter. For example, Flygare raised more



CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

RYAN MELLO

Democratic candidate wants to help bring a shift in power to the County Council

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

After serving 10 years on Tacoma City Council, Ryan Mello now has his sights set on the District 4 seat on the Pierce County Council. It was a close race in the primary, with just 245 votes separating Mello, a Democrat, and his opponent, Javier Figueroa, who is running as an Independent.

When asked why he chose to be a political candidate at a time when there is so much chaos in government stemming from dealing with the COVID pandemic, Mello referred back to his experience on Tacoma City Council.

"I joined the Tacoma City Council at the height of the Great Recession, and we immediately had to deal with a \$60 million budget deficit," he said. "Those were tough times, and these times are looking even tougher. It's definitely not going to be a V-shaped recovery like the President is saying. That's not what I see."

It is this type of insight that Mello feels prepared him well to broaden his impact throughout the county.

"In my time on the Tacoma City Council, I learned a lot. One of the major things I learned is that the work we're doing on some of the most critical issues facing our city need to be worked on at the regional level to really have an impact. I want to work regionally at the county and central Puget Sound level."

Affordable housing, homelessness, behavioral health and the climate are issues that Mello said he cares deeply about, all magnified by the public health and economic crisis brought on by the COVID pandemic.

"These are regional issues that need regional cooperation and attention, and where we need to be spending a lot of policy and resource time at the county," he said, noting that the many challenges and opportunities that growth provides for the county is another pressing need for the council to focus on.



Mello intends to bring his Tacoma City Council experience to serve the county.

Among Mello's priorities, human services stand out as a critical need at this time when the pandemic is having an ill affect on people's finances and their security in keeping a roof over their heads. Early in his term on Tacoma City Council, human services leaders came to him for help in getting the city to pass a be-

havioral health tax to fund these services.

"Today it generates \$4.5 million of dedicated resources for behavioral and mental health in our community," he said. He wants the county to pass this same tax.

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BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

CITY SEEKS FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED BUDGET

BY MATT NAGLE

matt@tacomaweekly.com

The City of Tacoma has scheduled several opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the City's proposed budget for 2021-2022, which will be adopted at the end of November.

Facing a \$40 million general fund shortfall due to impacts from COVID-19, as well as decreased revenues in many of the City's special revenue and enterprise funds, the proposed budget addresses this projected deficit by utilizing savings resulting from spending reductions in 2020, retaining reserves, focusing on efficiencies in service delivery and applying one-time breaks in service and program enhancements.

Racial equity has been made a priority in developing the proposed budget, reflecting City Council Resolution No. 40622, which directs City staff to keep anti-racism at the top in budget development and to prioritize anti-racism in the planning of an economic recovery strategy. This was developed through a program and services review performed by the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and through adoption of the City's first Departmental Racial Equity Action Plans. Also reflecting community input, while the police department budget for staff has been reduced, additional budget is being proposed for body camera implementation. In addition, the proposed budget includes two new positions outside of the police department, allowing for the analysis and support necessary to structure, and later staff, an Office of Community Safety consistent with the needs and vision of our community. Project PEACE Phase II, led by the City's Office of Equity and Human Rights, is also funded in the proposed budget.

"This budget proposal comes during an unprecedented time," City Manager Elizabeth Pauli states in the City's budget highlights document. "The uncertainty surrounding economic recovery from COVID-19 contrasts with the certainty of the Council and community commitment to transformational change to address systemic racism. However, even what is certain is coupled with the ambiguity of a yet-to-be completed process



City Manager Elizabeth Pauli

that will actualize our community's vision and transformation."

The City's total 2021-2022 proposed budget is \$3.7 billion. Within that budget, the City provides a variety of services, ranging from public safety to street repair to utilities to funding for human services. Tacoma's citywide budget includes Utilities & Enterprise Funds at \$2.022 million; Trust, retirement & Special Revenue Funds at \$877 million; Internal Services \$213 million; and Capital & Debt Funds at \$59 million.

Of the total proposed budget, \$505 million, or 14 percent, is allocated to the General Fund, which is associated with traditional city services such as police, fire and libraries. Expenditures listed in the proposed budget are: Fire \$129.09 million; Police \$172.32 million; Public Safety Related \$13.57 million; Libraries \$27.57 million; Public Works \$6.60 million; Public Works Related \$24.20 million; Neighborhood & Community Services \$22.49 million; Finance Dept. \$10.52 million; Other Departments (Municipal Court, City Attorney, Planning & Development \$32.12 million; Other Non-Departmental: \$66.74 million.

To take community input into consideration, two virtual public hearings will be held during regular City Council meetings at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 10. Access details will be posted at cityoftacoma.org/budget.

Community members seeking to provide feedback on the proposed budget may continue to do so using the City of Tacoma's interactive budgeting tool, Balancing Act, through Nov. 13. Visit www.cityoftacoma.org for more details.

The EQC Bug Is back

On Oct. 9, the Puyallup tribe announced that a resident at the House of Respect elder care facility and two tribal employees tested positive for COVID-19. One of the employees works for Puyallup tribal law enforcement. The other works at the House of Respect elder residence, which prompted rapid testing of all residents there and the discovery of this elder's positive status.

Less than a week later, the tribal Administration Building closed for two days following a positive diagnosis for another tribal law enforcement employee. The tribe's small business incubator building was also closed for the day on Oct. 14.

This news comes as positive COVID tests rose in 39 states during the same time period as the tribal infections, with nine states setting new seven-day records for infections last week. Nationwide, more than 43,500 new cases and 705 deaths were reported on Oct. 7 alone, according to Johns Hopkins data.

In our state, more than 98,000 confirmed cases have been reported and 2,258 deaths. More than 9,000 of those cases are in Pierce County, which has seen 219 deaths to date.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



NEW SCHOOLS TAKE SHAPE

BY MATT NAGLE

matt@tacomaweekly.com



New construction has won new schools praise for design and function.

Construction for the new Downing Elementary School and Hunt Middle School continues to move forward, part of the voter-approved 2020 bond measure to replace or renovate eight more aging Tacoma public schools in addition to the 13 schools that were replaced or renovated since 2013.

At Downing, experts are on site conducting soil surveys of the ground to study the composition and structure of the subsurface. Backhoe and water truck infiltration testing at the storm pond is also in progress. This will help determine the project's onsite detention and water-quality treatment system needed for managing stormwater.

A historical expert reviewed the site and building and will supply feedback on any historical artifacts or components that should remain in the new school. Behind the scenes, a team of Downing staff members and representatives from Kormo Construction and TCF Architecture are meeting regularly to set up goals for the building design and map out space needs for the new building.

The new Downing opens in the fall of 2022. Downing stu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Exhibit 6

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Jason Whalen PDC Case 78780

I Jason Whalen, as a candidate seeking election to the Pierce County
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I violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include the required sponsor identification on political advertising in the form of newspaper advertising sponsored by my 2020 Campaign that ran in the Tacoma Weekly.

RCW 42.17A.320 requires all written political advertising, including newspaper political advertisements, to disclose the sponsor's name and complete mailing address, and party preference if required in the advertisement.

- On September 9, 2020, the Jason Whalen Campaign (Campaign) filed a Post-Primary Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) report with the PDC, disclosing the Campaign made a \$2,500 expenditure on August 24, 2020 to the Tacoma Weekly for newspaper advertising.
- The political advertising package, priced at \$2,500 and offered to Whalen by the Tacoma Weekly, included print newspaper advertisements, banner advertisements, some wrapped advertisements around Tacoma Weekly newspapers boxes, endorsement advertisements and the opportunity for a cover story.
- The political advertisements paid for and sponsored by the Whalen 2020 Campaign that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly included the required sponsor identification information in accordance with RCW 42.17A.320, except for the cover story.
- The Tacoma Weekly cover story about his 2020 Pierce County Council candidacy published on September 2, 2020, did not include any sponsor identification. The cover story did not indicate or identify it was paid political advertising.

Jason Whalen would like to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) being scheduled by Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff.

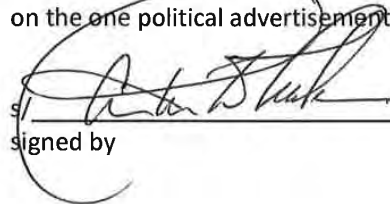
Jason Whalen
PDC Case 78780
Statement of Understanding

Therefore, in lieu of PDC staff scheduling a Brief Enforcement Hearing, Jason Whalen is completing this Statement of Understanding, and enclosing a check or money order in the amount of \$150 as a penalty payment to resolve this matter.

The \$150 penalty being assessed against Jason Whalen is for one acknowledged violation of RCW 42.17A.320. The \$150 penalty is being assessed in accordance with the Penalty Schedule, and the mitigating and aggravating factors adopted by the Commission for Brief Enforcement Hearings set forth in WAC 390-37-143.

Jason Whalen understands that by completing this Statement of Understanding, he acknowledges one violation of RCW 42.17A.320 as set forth above and is waiving his right to a hearing in this matter.

Jason Whalen further understands that this will resolve the issue of failing to disclose sponsor identification on the one political advertisement that appeared in the Tacoma Weekly.


signed by

12/28/2020
Date Signed

Please make your check or money order payable to the "Washington State Treasurer" and be sure to include the PDC Case number in the memorandum field, and print, sign and mail this Statement of Understanding along with your payment to:

Public Disclosure Commission
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Exhibit 7



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FAMILY PLEDGES JUSTICE FOR BENNIE

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The family of Bennie Branch has pledged to keep fighting for justice, as Pierce County Prosecutor Mary Robnett legally cleared a Tacoma police officer of wrongdoing in the shooting death of the 24-year-old last year.

The decision was announced on what would have been Branch's 25th birthday. His family is not giving up in winning justice for Branch nor in fighting for fundamental change within police departments, said Branch's sister Janae Baker.

"I thought I had prepared myself for this officer getting to walk away unpunished, but I need all the prayers today," Janae Baker told a crowd gathered outside the Prosecutor's Office on the day that Robnett's decision was announced, with Branch's family and friends releasing balloons into the air in tribute to Branch.

"That decision doesn't mean this is the end of our fight," Baker said. "I don't want the officer to only face charges; there needs to be real change within the department so that this won't happen again, another family won't feel what we are feeling."

Branch's case became a notably high-profile police shooting case when nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorneys Ben Crump and Dale K. Galipo joined as co-counsels with



The decision was announced on what would have been Branch's 25th birthday

► **BENNIE** / page 4

JASON WHALEN: A WORK TOGETHER APPROACH

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The Primary Election race for Pierce County Council Pos. 6 was akin to a photo finish, with Jason Whalen (R) and Jani Hitchen (D) separated by just 358 votes after all ballots were counted. Both candidates will now square off in the General Election this November, with Whalen looking to appeal to voters across party lines, given his proven record of getting things done through active collaboration with residents and elected leaders alike.

Currently, Whalen is in his 11th year serving on the Lakewood City Council, and his seventh year as deputy mayor. In his business life, he is an attorney and partner at Ledger Square Law, P.S. in Tacoma, serving individuals and small business owners in business and real estate related matters. Whalen also works as a mediator, hired by local parties to resolve their legal conflicts in his areas of expertise.

With many notable accomplishments while on the Lakewood City Council, and having served on a variety of



In the running to bring his collaborative approach to problem solving to Pierce County Council

PHOTO CREDIT MICHAEL PALERMITI

local boards and commissions, Whalen believes he is well prepared to serve the broader community as a member of the Pierce County Council.

"In local government, experience matters. I look forward to building on my foundation of collaborative work in Lakewood, combined with the years of experience I've had on a number of local boards and commissions, to move Pierce County forward on issues of common

concern," he said. "Doing the public's work is personally very satisfying – especially when good ideas come together to solve real problems." According to Whalen, government works best when residents and their elected representatives work together to craft solutions.

Whalen is familiar with county government. Before being elected to the Lake-

► **JASON WHALEN** / page 3

WEEKLYWEEDLY

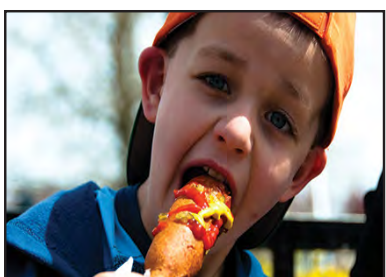
Back Page



"Marijuana (cannabis) law reform is part of a greater social justice movement"

Paul Armentano
Deputy Director, NORML
Cannabis Advocacy Certificate

THE MORE ACT: One step closer to federal legalization



STATE FAIR: Enjoy food favorites and more Page 6



TACOMA ARTS LIVE: COVID can't stop the arts Page 6



CHUSEOK FESTIVAL: Korean harvest celebration goes virtual Page 4

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HUMANE SOCIETY TEAM UP WITH LOCAL RESTAURANTS

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

ORDER TAKEOUT, SAVE LIVES

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County is teaming up with restaurants, bars, and coffee shops around Pierce County for Takeout Thursdays. Takeout Thursdays is an opportunity to support two critical areas in the community that continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: local businesses and pets in need. Each Thursday, the shelter will partner with a different local eatery. A percentage of the

Takeout Thursdays are just another way the shelter has pivoted during the ongoing pandemic. “Back in March, we were working with Brewers Row and Wooden City for an event we had to cancel due to the pandemic. Takeout Thursday provides an exciting new way for us to team up with local restaurants, bars, and coffee shops. We’re so grateful to Brewers Row, Wooden City, and Doyle’s Public House for their continued support of our community’s pets during these difficult times,”



restaurant’s takeout proceeds will be donated to the Society. The donations will help the shelter continue to care for animals. Since mid-March, the shelter has taken in 3,293 dogs, cats, and critters and more continue to arrive every day requiring food, shelter, and lifesaving medical care. The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County does not turn any animal away and does not humanely euthanize pets for length of stay or for lack of space.

said Ashley Taulbee, Director of Development and Community Engagement at the shelter. The first three restaurants have already been named, and spots on the calendar are filling up fast: Thursday, Sept. 3, Doyle’s Public House; Thursday, Sept. 17, Cielo Restaurant in Auburn; Thursday, Oct. 1, Incline Cider House Tacoma. If you’re interested in partnering with the shelter, please visit thehumanesociety.org/takeout.

JASON WHALEN COVER STORY

wood City Council, voters chose Whalen in 2006 to serve on the Pierce County Charter Review Commission. He stayed involved in Lakewood as well through a volunteer position on the Lakewood Planning Advisory Board. “I got a great taste for all things Lakewood while I was on the Planning Advisory Board,” he said. “I learned about key issues, the importance of public input in the decision-making process, and built great relationships with a variety of local leaders and community groups.” Voters recognized his commitment as well, choosing him for a Lakewood Council seat in 2009. Whalen has won three four-year terms, gaining the trust of his fellow council members who have chosen him every two years since 2013 to serve as deputy mayor. Deputy Mayor Whalen represents Lakewood on the Pierce County Regional Council, the city’s Arts Commission, and recently served as chair of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County, the organization responsible for much economic development activity and investment here in Pierce County. Trust and confidence are important to Whalen, and he turns to his growing list of endorsements to illustrate his cross-over appeal to Republicans and Democrats alike. West Pierce Fire Fighters Local 1488, Pierce County Deputy Sheriff’s Independent Guild, the Pierce County Corrections Guild, Master Builders Association of Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors have all endorsed him, along with

Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Pierce County Council Chair Doug Richardson, Pierce County Council Member Dave Morell, the mayors of Lakewood and Steilacoom, as well as council members in Lakewood, Steilacoom, and DuPont, Port of Tacoma commissioners, Tacoma City Council members, and many other community members and elected leaders, listed on his campaign website, www.whalenforcouncil.com. “It’s about trust and confidence – that you can get the job done. I would like to think that so many folks support me because they know I can work well with others to get the job done, regardless of party affiliation.” **THE ‘ELEPHANT’ IN THE ROOM** That Whalen has gained the respect of so many diverse political leaders as a non-partisan voice on the Lakewood City Council reflects his politics overall. Because the County Council races are, by Pierce County Code, partisan, he gets asked often about his political principles as a Republican, which he good-naturedly puns as the “elephant” in the room. As a small business owner who serves other business owners, Whalen identifies his political philosophy as fiscally conservative but socially moderate. “I am a common sense guy who gets along with people,” he said. “In Lakewood, we often say that there are no Republican potholes or Democrat potholes – there are simply potholes and we have to fill them as best we can. That’s the approach I take to local government.



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Many of the issues facing local government are not partisan issues—they are people issues. I’m willing to sit down and listen to people to coalesce the best ideas because good ideas are not necessarily Republican or Democrat – they are ideas that work for the majority of the people. That’s the approach I take and I don’t plan to change that approach to the way I do business on the County Council.” His balanced outlook is a direct reflection of his legal training, Whalen’s skill set as an attorney will serve him well on the County Council where he will be the only attorney serving on the body that makes laws for the county. He is used to reviewing lots of data, and looking at both sides of an issue, in order to find consensus for a common path forward rather than engaging in partisan gridlock. “I have a track record,” he said. “I am a community player who wants to do the right thing. If someone has a positive idea and it makes sense, whether they’re on the left or the right, we should look at it. It’s about getting good things done to improve lives in our community.” Whalen has plenty of examples of engaging in issues in Lakewood that had little to do with partisan politics – issues that some might find interesting for a Republican to promote. For instance, Whalen is proud of the City Council’s work in improving public safety, while increasing investment in parks, recreation programs, public gathering facilities and public art, roads, sidewalks, and street lighting – all within a balanced budget with significant rainy day reserves. He is a strong supporter of the Council’s non-motorized transportation plan, reducing auto traffic and

enhancing bike and pedestrian ways in Lakewood. He is a staunch believer in the value of art and culture in community, working with other Council members to create a dedicated arts fund in the Lakewood city budget. His law firm supports local artists by sponsoring quarterly art shows at their firm for artists, their patrons, and members of the community. He also is a defender of low- and middle-income renters, having fully supported the city’s Rental Housing Safety Program, and is an advocate for increasing housing supply through creative density, like Lakewood’s Cottage Housing and Accessory Dwelling Unit codes. As he explained it, “Everyone deserves safe and affordable housing. Lakewood had a history of some absentee landlords who failed to adequately maintain their properties, creating hazardous conditions for their tenants and blight for the neighborhoods. It’s not good for anyone when properties become blighted and in disrepair. We passed a law that requires rental housing in Lakewood to be inspected every five years to meet basic health and safety standards. While not a popular decision with everyone, we are seeing very positive results for our housing supply. Investors are also taking note and are continuing to invest in Lakewood.” Climate change is another of Whalen’s areas of interest. He said that he fully supports Pierce County’s draft 2030 Sustainability Plan, which includes attainable goals and actions plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Pierce County. “We all respect, appreciate and value



Whalen with wife Gael (right) and youngest daughter Alison.

PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL PALERMITI

a healthy environment here in Pierce County,” he said. “Climate change is real. We cannot afford to wait; our community demands that we take responsible action.”

NEXT STOP: COUNTY COUNCIL

As a County Council member, among Whalen’s priorities are public safety, economic development and opportunity, and improving mental health services. Rather than de-funding the police, Whalen supports the County Council’s decision to fully fund the 24 vacancies in the Sheriff’s Department to enhance response times throughout the entire county. “There are some areas in the county that have not had their fair share,” he noted. “And we need to make sure our deputies are safe, superbly trained and have the best equipment so that we can provide 21st century community policing that values all members of our community.”

Whalen said that he is thoroughly dedicated to helping the county recover from the economic hits that have occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The big task coming out of COVID is to make sure we’re open for business and that the county comes out of this recession stronger than before, with an even more diversified economic base,” he said.

In addition to working with the EDB and other partners to attract new businesses and investment in Pierce County, Whalen wants to support Joint Base Lewis-McChord to maintain its viability as the largest single point employer in the state, with an economic impact on the region of more than \$9 billion a year.

Another task is to build a better jobs/housing balance in the county. “Pierce County has advantages over King County. We have a beautiful environment, affordable housing, and a skilled work force, but we need our fair share of the region’s economic activity,” Whalen said. “Pierce County residents should not have to travel north on I-5 to obtain higher paying jobs. By creating more livable wage jobs here, we impact our climate positively with fewer cars on the road; we impact people’s lives positively because they’re not spending two hours of their life on I-5; we impact our community positively by keeping dollars in our local economy, supporting our many small businesses.”

To better address the county’s mental

health needs, Whalen supports the one-tenth of one percent sales tax for behavioral health funding at the county level, provided the County Council finalizes its strategic plan for use of the additional resources.

“The county has a lot of behavioral and mental health needs and we would do well to put more resources toward the needs,” he said. “We have great social service agencies – they just need more help delivering needed services.”

As Whalen said, “The universal truth, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, is that everyone loves their family and wants to see their kids and family thrive and their community thrive. Our elected leaders have to work together, across the political aisle, to help our residents thrive.”

A FAMILY LEGACY

Whalen comes from a family steeped in hard work and service to community and country. Both of his parents were born in Montana and lived through the Great Depression. The Whalen family roots in the Pacific Northwest go back to Jason’s grandfather on his mother’s side, an immigrant from Sicily to Ft. Benton, Mont. in the early 1900s, and his Irish grandfather on his father’s side, who worked in the copper mines in Butte. His maternal grandfather served in the U.S. Army in WWI, after training at Camp Lewis in 1917, returning to Ft. Benton to raise his family. Whalen’s father was a Naval officer, who served in the Pacific during WWII, and later in Astoria, Ore., during the Korean War. Jason is also a veteran, having served on active duty in the U.S. Army as a Field Artillery Officer (1985-1989), and as a U.S. Army Reservist (1989-1992).

Although born in Whitefish, Whalen and his family were not destined to stay in Montana. Whalen’s father was a small town doctor and worked himself to the point that his blood pressure grew to life threatening levels.

“His doctor told him that if he didn’t quit what he was doing, he wouldn’t live another year,” Whalen recalled. “He was in his early-50s with four kids and I was the youngest. He had to make the decision with my mom to give everything up to save his health and his family.” From there launched years of travel as his dad pursued his medical career in different states starting when Whalen was of kindergarten age – Oklahom

Colorado, back to Montana, then to

Oregon, Alaska and finally Spokane, Wash. Every two years, Whalen had to start a new school with new teachers and new friends. He handled it well, though, and got noticed for his gregarious nature. In other words, the kid liked to talk.

In eighth grade at Nine Mile Falls Elementary School near Spokane, Whalen’s teacher, who would become a great mentor and friend to him, said something that had a profound effect on his life. As Whalen tells it, “Mr. Burns was the superintendent, the principal, the bus driver and my eighth-grade teacher. Thankfully, he took a liking to me. I was the nerdy kid who talked a lot in class and he said, ‘Whalen, you need to think about doing debate in high school with that mouth of yours.’”

So that’s what Whalen did at Spokane’s North Central High School. He joined the debate team and became the Washington State Debate Champion in 1980, among many other debate awards. After attending the national competition in 1980 and again in 1981, he caught the attention of the debate coach at Gonzaga University and received a two-year scholarship to debate for the Zags.

Later, Whalen signed up with Gonzaga’s ROTC program, receiving a three-year scholarship, committing to serve in the Army for a period of seven years of active and reserve service. Upon graduation, Whalen was commissioned as a Regular Army Second Lieutenant, and was honored as a Distinguished Military Graduate; only the top 20 percent of Army ROTC graduates nationwide achieve this prestigious designation.

While at Gonzaga, Whalen started his political career in student government and was elected as the Academic Vice President for the student body. He created a popular speaker series, “Issues and Answers for Action in the ‘80’s,” which hosted a number of national speakers to the campus, attracting hundreds of students and community members to each forum.

Following graduation from Gonzaga, Whalen completed his initial officer training at Ft. Sill, Okla. followed by additional schooling in “special weapons,” otherwise known as battlefield

nuclear weapons training. After a stint at Airborne School, jumping out of perfectly good planes, Whalen was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, assigned with a nuclear capable field artillery battalion. It was during this time that he married his wife Gael, now celebrating 33 years together with daughters Olivia, Clare and Alison (plus two dogs, a cat and “a bunch of fish,” Whalen laughed).

Upon completion of his active duty service, Whalen returned to Gonzaga University to study law, earning his Juris Doctor degree. There, he engaged in moot court activities with a former Gonzaga debate partner and fellow law student, Debra Stephens, who now serves as Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court.

Fresh out of law school, Whalen landed a clerkship position in Olympia at the Washington State Supreme Court, with Justice Richard P. Guy, a major accomplishment for an up-and-coming attorney. Following his clerkship, he hired on with the Tacoma law firm Eisenhower Carlson PLLC, and was with them for the next 21 years as a young associate and then partner. Six years ago, Whalen and four of the partners opened Ledger Square Law in downtown Tacoma where Whalen practices today. The firm employs 12 attorneys and staff.

When asked why he chose to run for political office, he replied, “Service is in my DNA. I enjoy the challenge and the opportunity to make my community better.” The Jesuits at Gonzaga apparently inspired him as well.

“At Gonzaga, we were encouraged to pursue lives of leadership and service for the common good. I often say that none of us can do it all, but if we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot. Public service is my small way of making good on that commitment.”

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The Tacoma Weekly has no plans to end our decades of publishing, but we need your help to grow and continue our mission as a government watchdog, a source of information on local news and events, and a voice for the people who live here. As an adjudicated newspaper, we are approaching local governments to expand our service to run legal notices, and we are meeting with local candidates to help in their campaigns prior to the upcoming November election. We always welcome volunteers from the community to write stories and help deliver the paper around town.

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pandemic.”

The Swiss and C.I. Shenanigans have also closed their doors for good. Swiss owners Jack and Carole Ann McQuade also expressed their sorrow. “We are broken heartened to have to announce that we have come to the thoughtful and beyond difficult decision to permanently close... There are several factors that have brought us to this decision, and it has come with many, many sleepless nights, but we know that this is the right decision given the current and unforeseeable future of our industry.”

There is no doubt of more closures to come as downtown business owners grapple with how to stay afloat, restaurants and retail alike. People want to help, but money is tight these days. It doesn’t help either that big box stores, Amazon and online shopping take business away from brick-and-mortar commerce.

The Hotel Murano is another source of concern. Even though the hotel plans to reopen this coming January, the plywood covering its windows is a disturbing sight – an omen of what is going on all around this centerpiece of downtown Tacoma. The Greater Tacoma Convention Center remains closed as well, adding another layer of worry for our city’s critical tourism and trade industry.

“Think of the trade that we generated by the convention center,” said Jason Whalen, chair of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County. “If it is not operating and the Hotel Murano is not operating, all those little restaurants and folks that were serviced by the volume of people coming to visit Tacoma is drying up.”

According to a report just issued by the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA), almost two-thirds (65%) of hotels remain at or below 50 percent occupancy, below the threshold at which most hotels can break even and pay debt. Consumer travel remains at an all-time low, and four out of 10 hotel employees are still not working.

“While hotels have seen an uptick in demand during the summer compared to where we were in April, occupancy rates are nowhere near where they were a year ago,” said AHLA President and CEO Chip Rogers. “Thousands of hotels can’t afford to pay their mortgages and are facing the possibility of foreclosure and closing their doors permanently.”

On top of this, the city budget is facing tough times as well. Over the summer, City of Tacoma officials projected a deficit of up to \$67 million for its 2021-2022 budget. City Council member Robert Thoms said that figure has since come down to roughly \$20 million, but significant belt-tightening is still in order.

“We need to have a better discussion with the community of whether they want a lot of things to happen on a budget or first class,” he said. “I’m open to having this conversation. For me, it’s making sure that the community is safe, the infrastructure is solid and that we’re growing our economy.”

How to grow the city economy is the question, and it’s a big one. The temporary closure of University of Washington-Tacoma has made an obvious impact on the row of shops near campus along Pacific Avenue. Then there’s the Tacoma Dome. What will its function be in the future with its use as a large gathering space in the midst of the pandemic?

“What I hope we can do from this is to incentivize foot traffic,” Thoms said of his vision for strengthening downtown. He is thinking in terms of working with the state Liquor Board to create an entertainment district that stretches



from City Hall to 9th Avenue, a place where people can move about freely with drinks in hand and spend their money at multiple venues.

“Maybe you want to eat at the Matador but have drinks first at Wooden City and sit in the little park there,” he said. “I think that there are ways to help them create an experience that activates our city.”

Thoms said he has always thought that Tacoma was an amenities-challenged community, and that the closure of some places could provide additional locations for other businesses to bloom.

“There aren’t enough things going on in downtown, enough places to eat and drink in a city of 220,000 people. If you take Old City Hall to 9th Avenue, I would say about 30 percent of those building storefronts are fallow, and that is a very active part of our downtown. I want to get an assessment of how much square footage we’re talking about and what we can do to incentivize the re-population of these places.

“Figuring out ways to make it an even more enhanced experience for the consumer is the way to go. That is what I’m working toward.”

He noted that there are positive signs on the horizon, with TOTE Maritime Alaska relocating its headquarters to downtown Tacoma from its current address in Federal Way, and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) relocating its Northwest/Arctic Regional headquarters from Auburn to the Columbia Bank Center.

“That’s something like 600 people right there,” he said of the coming influx of employees, “and the GSA people make two or three times what employees at the State Farm call center made.”

After being given the option to reopen by Governor Inslee last month, Tacoma’s Museum District – Washington State Historical Society, Museum of Glass, LeMay-America’s Car Museum, Foss Waterway Seaport, and Children’s Museum of Tacoma – will begin opening their doors to the public starting Sept. 25. Plans are underway for Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) to tentatively reopen to the public on Friday, Oct. 9.

Housing is another important aspect of bringing downtown Tacoma to life. The Washington Building at 9th and Pacific is more than halfway done with its renovations for 12 floors of residential housing, which will bring even more people living downtown.

“The COVID contraction we’re having right now is all over the country. All that we can control from the city’s perspective is how to make the opportunities better here,” Thoms said. “There will be opportunities; it’s just a matter of how we make sure that we court them and

resulted in these shutdowns that have a lot of repercussions.”

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber CEO and President Tom Pierson agreed that boarded-up windows are doing no favors for downtown.

“Our goal has been to at least get some murals down there to cover the plywood up,” he said, noting that the wood coverings do serve a practical purpose in some cases. “Some of those windows are historic, so replacing historic windows is an issue.”

He, too, is mindful of the fate of landmark Tacoma places like Hotel Murano, but remains confident that downtown will weather the storm amid the recent, and coming, business closures.

“It gives new opportunity for someone else to enter the market where they might not have had a place to enter before,” he said.

The Murano, for example, is prime real estate and its future should not be cause for heightened worry. “I’m sure that if they’re having struggles, there’s someone else who would be more than happy to take over ownership if that were to be the case,” he said.

“When you think about it in a new COVID world, it’s live, work, safety as well as systemic racism in terms of a region that actually understands and is working toward eliminating systemic racism. With all those things combined, Pierce County has a huge opportunity. We have a balance of leaders from different walks of life, and you’ve got an affordable housing stock and businesses that are paying good wage jobs. People love Tacoma and Pierce County. As you see a lot of folks moving out of large cities in our region, we have what people are looking for.”

Whalen

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jason will fight for our values.

- ✓ GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK AND SUPPORT OUR SMALL BUSINESSES
- ✓ REFORM AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY
- ✓ IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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COVER STORY: VIRTUAL MOON FESTIVAL



with everything that 2020 has brought to us so far, it is even more important for us to continue to share the diverse spirit that Tacoma has to offer. We know it's not easy for every family, and we are hoping that through the Festival, we can bring some comfort and festivities to everyone, and that everybody knows that in spite of all that is going on, we have so many unique and talented cultures to share with each other."

What visitors to the site will see will be a beautiful graphic representation of Chinese Reconciliation Park to visit from home. As you move around the map on your screen, you can visit the welcome information booth, the Ting, vendor booths, kids activity booths, story booth, calligraphy booth, tea ceremony location, food vendor stalls, beer and wine garden, and even the much-loved T-shirt and poster sales booth.

By hovering over the locations on the map (the Ting, for example), a list of performances and/or activities at that location will pop up. You can click to see entertainment from the heritage groups, make a recipe from a food vendor, hear a historical reading, watch a traditional tea ceremony, or print a kid's activity. In short, it will be a comprehensive Moon Festival experience right on your computer.

A professor of music at Pacific Lutheran University, Youtz is in charge of lining up performers for the festival. Each board member brings their own connections to the table for populating the festival with everything it features, and he produces the live entertainment.

This year, virtual performance groups include Cambodian Classical and Folk Dance Northwest, Lanuola Samoan Performing Arts Academy, Kabuki Academy, Fuji Taiko, Hwa Sheng Chinese

Opera Club, Sabor Flamenco, UWT Asia Pacific Islander Group, UWT Filipino Group, Mak Fai Dragon and Lion Dance Group, Seattle Chinese Orchestra, Bailadores de Bronce Mexican Dance, Morning Star Korean Group, The South Sound Gospel Choir, classical Indian dancer Ameera Nimjee, and more. Several films by KBTC Tacoma Television will be linked as well, one on Japan Town in Tacoma and one on the expulsion of the Chinese in 1885. Other videos will feature cooks, tea experts and other educational crafts.

Youtz said that conscious effort is put into bringing all kinds of cultures to the Festival since, despite its name, Chinese Reconciliation Park is not only about China.

"The park is called that because the original act of ethnic cleansing in Tacoma was not just against the Chinese, but all kinds of groups - the indigenous population, the Japanese who were sent to internment camps, other immigrant groups that were sidelined or were otherwise oppressed by politics and immigration laws, the African American community being redlined in certain neighborhoods - this park is about all of that," he said.

"And it's about the city of Tacoma committing to reconcile itself with those heinous historical acts and with those communities who were harmed. It's a place where anybody in Tacoma can come and think about all those issues but be surrounded by beauty."

The Moon Festival was created in 2012 to bring people from different heritage groups all across the city to this specific park to experience the Festival and build on the hope for a harmonious, modern city.

"We may have some Cambodian danc-



Live performances bring a wide embrace of Tacoma's heritage communities.

ers onstage, but waiting in the wings is a Korean group of drummers and dancers, and behind them is another dance group from Chief Leschi School, and just pulling into the parking lot is a Black

Gospel choir," Youtz said. "It's meant to be a really wide embrace of Tacoma's heritage communities."

Learn more at www.TacomaChinesePark.org.

Moon Festival: Special wine sale at the Pacific NW shop

This year's Moon Festival will include limited edition wines bottled and labeled just for the event. Going for \$18 a bottle, there are just four cases of cabernet sauvignon (48 bottles) and two cases (24 bottles) of pinot gris, so when it's gone, it's gone. All proceeds will go to the Chinese Reconciliation Park Foundation.

Foundation treasurer Bill Evans is supplying the wine, which is from St. Hilaire Cellars, a small, family-run winery in West Richland. Each bottle is labeled on the front with the image from this year's Moon Festival poster, and the story of the Jade Rabbit is on the back.

'This 'gold-medal' wine has been made for the Moon Festival and it is sold exclusively at the Pacific Northwest Shop in Proctor," Evans said. "It's really great wine and people love it."



Whalen

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL

JASON WHALEN:




A veteran for County Council

COMMISSIONED SECOND LIEUTENANT, U.S. ARMY

FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER, 1-75 FIELD ARTILLERY IN GERMANY

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12TH MAN COVER STORY



Blitz, Coach Matsumoto and Seahawks legend Lawyer Milloy.

have football, but look at the people I'm feeding and how I have the opportunity to bless these people," Matsumoto said. From the middle of July and to September, the coach and some players volunteered at the Mission every Tuesday and Thursday during lunch hours – four to five different players each time, with some returning multiple times. It was a great lesson for the players to experience when they were shown how doing the right thing and helping others for that sole purpose can lead to more blessings along the way. KING 5 News

got wind of it and produced a story for the station's "Prep Zone" high school sports program, then the Seahawks learned of it as well. Seahawks legend Milloy surprised the football team on their weekly Zoom call announcing that Coach Matsumoto was selected to raise the 12 Flag. Then Milloy and Seahawks mascot Blitz attended a 12 Flag raising at Lincoln on Wednesday to raise the 12 Flag on the school's roof.

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 **ELIZABETH**
FOR CONGRESS WA-06

A MOM ON A MISSION *to* CLEAN UP THE HOUSE

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| STRONG FAMILIES. <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reopen Our Economy & Bring Back Our Jobs✓ Health Care Quality, Access & Choice✓ Education NOT Indoctrination | STRONG COMMUNITIES. <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Restore Law and Order✓ Preserve 2nd Amendment Rights✓ Tackle Root Causes of Homelessness | STRONG COUNTRY. <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Secure Our Borders✓ America-First Foreign Policy✓ Proof of Citizenship to Vote |
|---|---|---|

Vote **DR. ELIZABETH KREISELMAIER** for CONGRESS

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Wanted: Citizen Journalists

Tacoma Weekly needs writers. We welcome submissions from the community – stories and photos – as we serve to give an equal voice to all areas of the city. Whether you're a young student looking to get published, retired and enjoy contributing to your community, or you're somewhere in between, tell us about what's going on in your neighborhood. Email: matt@tacomaweekly.com



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Find your
Vision

Wrap up the summer with a refreshed look for the new school year. Whether it's on a zoom meeting or in class, we can provide you with the frames that will make every day a little better!


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A younger Chad Wright failed to win a council seat in 2010. Maybe he'll run again in the spring, since he quitting his job with MVV.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

and steelhead. Now the tribe is stating its determination to have the dam taken out completely. During the height of the LNG battle, tribal chairman Bill Sterud told the media, “We will fight this thing; we owe it to our ancestors, who are still out there. What would they say? They would say we are disrespected, and mother earth is being disrespected.” However, as self-proclaimed “water warriors” that hold the Puyallup River sacred, the tribe consistently commits its own infractions against the waterway. Thousands of pounds of fish netting have been left in the river, and little if anything is done to keep its banks clean of litter and debris. What is the tribe’s financial responsibility to take care of its own river? If it can pledge “every dime” to stop Electron Hydro, why are those funds not being used in more practical ways right on the reservation? Just as with Electron Hydro, the tribal council filed lawsuits against the LNG plant as well – and lost. Then after months of protesting against LNG, tribal leaders ultimately went quiet on the

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Chad Robert Wright

Tribal Council

My grandfather, Frank Wright Sr., always told me about the importance of education. He taught me to take every opportunity to learn. Unfortunately, he passed away before I followed through on his wishes, attending Boston College, Pepperdine Law School, and Stanford Graduate School of Business. Upon completion, I returned to assist the Tribe. I am grateful for the tuition assistance that the Tribe provided me. The Tribe's tuition program helped me achieve my academic goals and better prepared me for the work that is before us now.

**The time for change is now
and the time to act is now.
That change begins with your vote.**

Chad Robert Wright
PO Box 1781
Tacoma, Washington 98401
206-321-2055
chadwright@msn.com



Tribal council vice chair Sylvia Miller seen here with a big smile told the Seattle Times that the tribe “will do whatever we have to, to protect those lands and waters; we will take every dime if we have to.” at the old River Boat Casino presenting troyer with a \$50,000 donation.



The 116-year-old Electron Hydro channels power to 20,000 homes.

mation campaign to educate people on the real facts about LNG. The tribal membership has no input on the council using their money to file lawsuits like these, lawsuits that apparently result in the tribe getting nothing. So far, the tribal council has filed for and received \$58 million in federal COVID relief funds, but none of it has been distributed to the membership yet. Tribal members have grown angry over these types of financial flubs, but the tribal council doesn’t seem to learn from it. Spending money on frivolous lawsuits during the time of the coronavirus points to just plain bad decisions being made on the part of the tribal council, which impacts everyone in the tribe. Tribal council decisions affect the broader population as well. Desperate for money, the council and management at the Emerald Queen Casino are taking risks that no other local tribal casino is taking. As a protective measure to help stop the virus from spreading, no other casino in the county allows patrons to smoke, but the EQC does. Now the EQC is making plans to bring back concerts, again ignoring that the virus shows no signs of letting up. This week, Washing-

ton State passed the 90,000 mark in the number of positive cases, with local case numbers in Pierce County remaining steadily high. Between this and a COVID super-spreader in the White House, leadership is failing across the board, from the Puyallup tribal council to the Oval Office. In more troubling tribal news, long time Marine View Ventures CEO Chad Wright has announced his plans to quit. Wright’s departure indicates turbulent waters ahead for the tribe’s economic development arm, as MVV’s economic development initiatives would seem to be key now more than ever. On the other hand, Wright received a stout income, which will no doubt free up some tribal finances for the time being. For the tribal council, they saw the writing on the wall long ago where Wright’s poor job performance is concerned, yet did nothing. Under his leadership, MVV was no powerhouse in helping the tribe diversify its income base, with only the marina and a handful of gas stations and convenience stores. Now a new MVV leader has to be found, compounding an already urgent need for the tribe to pay its bills.

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PDC Case 77415 Tacoma Weekly Report of Investigation
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Jason Whalen

for County Council

“

My pledge to you is to work hard to make your life better. I will fight to increase mental health services, reform our police, and take the COVID-19 response seriously to keep people healthy.”

Jason Whalen



As Lakewood's Deputy Mayor, Jason:

- 1 Increased mental and behavioral health services
- 2 Reviewed police use of force and de-escalation policies to find reforms
- 3 Made a mental health professional available on police calls for those in crisis
- 4 Ensured a healthy rainy day fund to respond to emergencies and economic downturns like the COVID-19 pandemic
- 5 Increased affordable housing options
- 6 Improved health and safety standards for rental housing

Your vote for **Jason Whalen for County Council** will ensure we get these important results for all Pierce County residents.



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Jason Whalen

for County Council

“

My pledge to you is to work hard to make your life better. I will fight to increase mental health services, reform our police, and take the COVID-19 response seriously to keep people healthy.”

Jason Whalen



As Lakewood's Deputy Mayor, Jason:

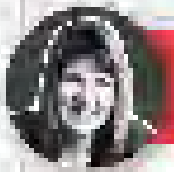
- 1 Increased mental and behavioral health services
- 2 Reviewed police use of force and de-escalation policies to find reforms
- 3 Made a mental health professional available on police calls for those in crisis
- 4 Ensured a healthy rainy day fund to respond to emergencies and economic downturns like the COVID-19 pandemic
- 5 Increased affordable housing options
- 6 Improved health and safety standards for rental housing

Your vote for **Jason Whalen for County Council** will ensure we get these important results for all Pierce County residents.



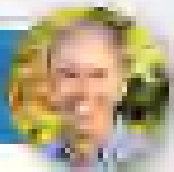
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THE DIFFERENCES ARE CLEAR.



JANI HITCHEN

- ✗ Defund police
- ✗ Opposes more police on the street
- ✗ Supports income tax
- ✗ Supports higher property taxes
- ✗ Opposes \$10 car tabs
- ✗ No track record of getting results
- ✗ Not endorsed by bipartisan group of community leaders



JASON WHALEN

- ✓ Reform police
- ✓ Supports increasing police presence
- ✓ Opposes income tax
- ✓ Opposed to higher property taxes
- ✓ Supports \$30 car tabs
- ✓ Long track record of getting results
- ✓ Endorsed by bipartisan group of community leaders

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Jason
Whalen
for County Council!



ENDORSED BY

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Whelan, 57, offers the complete packaged experience... Whelan's work as a small-business attorney grew him through into COVID shutdown impacts his decade on Johnson City Council gives him insight on government budgets and policy, and his background as an energy lawyer gives him realistry on JELM and with the district's industry trends.

He actually sealed it for us in Wilmette in a special support for a one cent of a person, and we have helped build. "The time is now," he told me with a boldness that's not coming out of Republicanism.

**A track record of getting results
as Lakewood's Deputy Mayor:**

- ✓ Increased mental and behavioral health services
- ✓ Reviewed police use of force and de-escalation policies to find reforms
- ✓ Made a mental health professional available on police calls for those in crisis
- ✓ Ensured a healthy rainy day fund to respond to emergencies and economic downturns like the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Increased affordable housing options
- ✓ Improved health and safety standards for rental housing

[illegible]

Exhibit 8

PDC Case 77415 Tacoma Weekly - ROI exhibits
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Jason M. Whalen
Whalen for Pierce County
Council, District 6
7201 Holly Hedge Lane SW, #2
Lakewood, WA 98499
253-327-1701
www.whalenforcouncil.com

November 12, 2020

Sent via e-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer
Washington Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way S., # 206
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: PDC Case Number 78780
Whalen, Jason

Allegation: Violations of RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to disclose sponsor identification on paid political advertising in the Tacoma Weekly.

Dear Ms. Fiman:

Pursuant to your email dated October 30, 2020, this email serves as my timely response (due November 12) to the above allegation, filed as PDC Case Number 78780.

The Allegation. The allegation as described by the complainant, is as follows:

D. Candidate Whalen Violations: As noted above, RCW 42.17A.320 requires that all political advertising contain sponsor information identifying who paid for the advertisement. Mr. Whalen purchased the advertising package from the Tacoma Weekly that included cover stories, editorials, and the newspaper's endorsement. He knew that the cover story was not journalism, but was advertising purchased by his campaign. He should have ensured that appropriate sponsorship information was included in all Tacoma Weekly stories about his campaign after he paid them on August 24, 2020. Mr. Whalen is an attorney in Tacoma, and has represented parties in campaign finance matters (representation of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County in the recent settlement of a case against the Port of Tacoma, Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Board).

The Facts.

As noted in the complaint, I (like other candidates, as indicated in the complaint) received an email solicitation from the Tacoma Weekly offering an advertising package.

I had previously seen the edition of the Tacoma Weekly that had a cover story of Javier Figueroa, as well as one of his campaign ads.

The package price of \$2,500 included a number of print ads, banner ads, some wrapped boxes with our campaign ad, and the opportunity for a cover story, which I understood would be similar to the background piece done for Mr. Figueroa. Although the original information sheet provided by the Tacoma Weekly (included in the complaint) referenced a “Tacoma Weekly Endorsement,” I did not purchase, nor did I ever receive, an endorsement from the Tacoma Weekly. I did, on the other hand, receive the election endorsement from *The News Tribune*. I know the difference.

I paid and reported my \$2,500 expenditure with the Tacoma Weekly, as noted in the complaint. There is no allegation that the expense was improperly reported.

Thereafter, my campaign staff prepared and submitted print ad copy to the Tacoma Weekly for our weekly advertisements. All of our printed campaign ads, prepared by our campaign and submitted to the Tacoma Weekly, contained the required sponsorship disclosure, as required by RCW 42.17A.320. Copies of the campaign ads we prepared and submitted, as well as the “box wrap design”, are attached hereto.

I disagree with the complainant where she alleges that I “knew that the cover story was not journalism, but was advertising purchased by his campaign.” For the cover story, I sat down for an interview with Tacoma Weekly reporter, Matt Nagle. From *his* interview, Mr. Nagle wrote a background, human interest story on me, similar to what had been done for Mr. Figueroa. There was no statement of the Tacoma Weekly’s “endorsement” of me or of our campaign in the article whatsoever. Frankly, the article, while positive, was mostly background information about me, my family, and my reason for running—similar to other articles about other candidates I had seen during the 2020 campaign. It did not read to me as “political advertising,” but I understand now that is a matter of statutory definition.

I was provided a draft of Mr. Nagle’s article to review for substantive accuracy. Unlike our campaign’s preparation of all print ad copy, in which we included the campaign’s (as sponsor) name and address, we did not control the final preparation and formatting of the article or otherwise prepare it for publication. It was Mr. Nagle’s journalistic story, based on his interview of me. If the Tacoma Weekly understood the article to be sponsored content, based on its own advertising package, it should have included the requisite disclosure.

The article was published in the September 2, 2020 edition of the Tacoma Weekly, which has now been removed from their publication. The election was held over 60 days later, on November 3, 2020. I did not win the election to the Pierce County Council, District 6 position.

The Statute.

RCW 42.17A.320(1) provides, in relevant part:

All written political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name and address. . . . For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, that party or independent designation shall be clearly identified in electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising.

RCW 42.17A.005(40) defines "Political advertising" as including "any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign."

RCW 42.17A.005(21)(a)(i) – (iii) defines "Electioneering communication" as meaning any broadcast, cable, or satellite television, radio transmission, digital communication, . . . billboard, newspaper, or periodical that (i) clearly identifies a candidate for state, local, or judicial office . . . (ii) is broadcast, transmitted electronically or by other means . . . or otherwise published within sixty days before any election for that office in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is seeking election; and (iii) either alone, or in combination with one or more communications identifying the candidate by the same sponsor during the sixty days before an election, has a fair market value or cost of one thousand dollars or more.

However, under RCW 42.17A.005(21)(b)(iii), the statute states that "Electioneering communication" does not include: A news item, feature, commentary, or editorial in a regularly scheduled news medium that is: (A) Of interest to the public; (B) In a news medium controlled by a person whose business is that news medium; and (C) not a medium controlled by a candidate or a political or incidental committee.

Notwithstanding the fact that the cover story was published greater than 60 days prior to the November 3 election, it may not qualify as "Electioneering Communication." To the extent that the cover story drafted by the Tacoma Weekly staff, from the interview conducted by the Tacoma Weekly staff, and formatted and published by the Tacoma Weekly staff, it was a feature story in their regularly scheduled news medium that was (a) of interest to the public; (b) in the news medium controlled by the Tacoma Weekly, and (c) not a medium controlled by this candidate or campaign. If so, then the cover story was not "Electioneering Communication."

To the extent that the cover story was part of the advertising package paid to the Tacoma Weekly, and was written (by Tacoma Weekly staff) to "appeal for votes," then it arguably falls

within the definition of “political advertising” and should have had the requisite sponsor information identified, as was included on all print ads prepared by the Whalen Campaign. Frankly, the largest value of the \$2,500 advertising package to the campaign was the weekly political ad copy that was published—all of which had the requisite sponsor identification included, as indicated in the attached ads with this letter.

When I first learned of the issue (from commentary on Ms. Lopez’ social media on or around September 17), I emailed the Tacoma Weekly staffer and advised of the issue and asked that Tacoma Weekly check out the concern and, as appropriate, run a correction that the cover story was sponsored content. I am not aware whether a correction was subsequently run or communicated in the Tacoma Weekly.

Certainly, there was no intent on my part or on the part of our campaign to violate campaign disclosure laws, including RCW 42.17A.320, which is why our campaign prepared ALL print ads used in the campaign—all of which included the requisite sponsor name and address. Unlike our print and banner ads, our campaign did not control the formatting and final publication preparation of the cover story article, written by the Tacoma Weekly.

After learning of this issue, I publicly acknowledged (in a Tacoma City Club candidate forum, in response to a question on this precise issue) that the cover story likely should have been identified as “sponsored content.” I have publicly acknowledged the issue and addressed the concern in a good faith effort to comply.

Moreover, in a subsequent advertising package with The Ranger – Northwest Airlifter, we ensured that an article written and approved by our campaign indeed included the identification and address of the campaign, as sponsored content. A copy of this article, published in the September 17-23, 2020 edition of The Ranger is also attached hereto.

There was certainly no intent to avoid transparency in campaign finance reporting in this case. The \$2,500 advertising expense (most all of which was for the print ads) was properly reported on my C-4; there is no allegation that the expense was not properly reported. Moreover, in the same September 2, 2020 issue that published the cover article at issue, our campaign also published our first political advertisement (on page 7 of the newspaper), in which the campaign, as sponsor of the ad, was clearly identified: “Paid for by Whalen for County Council (R), 7201 Holly Hedge Lane SW, #2, Lakewood, WA 98499.”

At the time, I thought that a cover story, like I observed had been done with Mr. Figueroa, was not “traditional” political advertising – unlike the ads we prepared for the campaign, which were clearly political advertising. Whether or not the cover story met the definition of “electioneering communication” or “political advertising,” I understand that more, not less, sponsor disclosure meets the intent and purpose of the statute.

Jason Whalen
Candidate for Pierce County Council, District 6
November 12, 2020
Page 5

I believe we made good faith efforts to comply, as soon as we learned of the possible problem with sponsor identification in the cover article. First, I contacted the Tacoma Weekly and asked for review of the concern and necessary correction. Second, I acknowledged the issue of concern in a public candidate forum. Finally, we ensured, in the subsequent article in The Ranger, that we included the proper sponsor identification. All of our print ads and campaign flyers have included proper sponsor identification.

I trust, by this thorough response, that the PDC Staff acknowledges my efforts to comply and to take responsibility, as appropriate, for this limited, one-time issue.

There is no indication that this issue affected the outcome of our election, as it was published greater than 60 days prior to the election AND I lost the election, nonetheless.

I appreciate your consideration and review of this complaint and response and ask that the complaint be expeditiously resolved through reminder or warning. My partisan campaign days are over and the likelihood of a future violation, albeit minor, is remote.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jason M. Whalen

Jason M. Whalen

JMW
Encls

Exhibit 9

ELIZABETH KREISELMAIER

‘Mom on a Mission to Clean Up the House’

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Elizabeth Kreiselmaier has always been the type of person who gives back. Whether to her family, church or community, she finds great satisfaction in lending her skills, enthusiasm and dedication to making life better for those around her. Now she is working to serve an even broader constituency by running for the U.S. House of Representatives for Washington state’s 6th Congressional District.

The Republican candidate facing off against District 6 Democrat incumbent Derek Kilmer, Kreiselmaier made a strong showing in the August Primary. With five candidates on the Primary ballot challenging Kilmer, Kreiselmaier outdistanced all of them despite Democrats having spent close to \$1million on this Primary race, more than 10 times the amount spent by Kreiselmaier in the same amount of time. Kreiselmaier and Kilmer will be on the General Election ballot this November as the two choices for the 6th Congressional District, which encompasses most of the city of Tacoma and the Kitsap Peninsula as well as the Olympic Peninsula. The District covers Pierce, Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, Grays Harbor, and Kitsap counties.

‘Mom on a Mission to Clean Up the House.’

This message is at the top of Kreiselmaier’s campaign literature and propels her drive for strong families, strong communities and a strong country through kindness, fairness and firmness as an elected leader. She says U.S. House leadership for Washington’s 6th Congressional District is weak and ineffective, and she intends to change that. “It’s public service not only with a smile, but with a spine,” she said of her campaign.

“House leadership has pushed a big-government agenda that’s killed jobs, rewarded wrong behaviors, and spawned crushing debt and bureaucratic bloat. House Democrats, along with our current Representative who votes in lockstep with the worst

▶ See **6TH DISTRICT** / page 5



CITY’S OUTDOOR SEATING PROGRAM GAINS GROUND



Amitie Wine Company is just one local establishment to put in outdoor seating.

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Back in June, hopes were high that Pierce County would soon move into Phase 3 of Gov. Inslee’s plan to reopen the state, but a resurgence in positive COVID-19 tests brought those hopes to a screeching halt. We’re still stuck in Phase 2 with no clear sign of when Phase 3 will be approved, leaving many local businesses remaining in limbo about the future.

City officials continue trying to help, working to assist food and drink establishments in particular since, as a whole, they have suffered a significant loss in business during the pandemic. Over these past months, City Council member Robert Thoms has focused on expanding the city’s existing Sidewalk Café Program to make it easier, and at no cost, for restaurants, cafés and taverns to serve more customers than what is limited to indoor capacity restrictions.

So far, the city’s Curbside Cafés and Markets pilot program has attracted a good number of applicants. Dystopian State Brewing Co., Shakabra, The Olive Branch Tearoom, Zeeks Pizza, The Spar,

Amitie Wine Company, Incline Cider House, Doyle’s Public House and more have set up outdoor seating, with more applications currently being processed. Thoms said that the spirit behind the new pilot program is to help business owners take action as soon as possible to increase their revenue, keep their employees and stay in business.

“I’d like to see everybody apply if they need to so that they can stay open,” he said. “I’d love for anyone who has a license to apply for it. Fees are being waived and we’re trying to promote it now so they can take advantage of the next three months while the weather is still decent.”

It takes little time to process applications, and the city is waiving application fees, street use fees and the cost of on-street parking related to the program. City staff can help owners determine whether they need to go through the process at all in order to set up an outdoor service area, as some establishments are situated on private property such that there is no need to apply with the pilot program.

▶ See **OUTDOOR** / page 3

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► Page 1 6TH DISTRICT

ofthem, have gotten way off course. The House has been rife with dirty tricks and foul play. Our children’s future is on the line.” Thus, Kreiselmaier’s charge to “Clean Up The House” seems to be resonating with voters, considering her strong lead in the Primary. As a Constitutionalist, Kreiselmaier believes preserving the principles of the United States Constitution is paramount and foundational. All else emanates from there, starting with families first, which she sees as the cornerstone of a strong society and strong America.

For families, Kreiselmaier will fight for good jobs and reopening safely to restore our pre-COVID growing economy, with working people keeping more of what they earn, with a particular focus on rural economies that have lagged in recovery; quality health care, with access to excellent care, affordable prescription drugs and the right to choose health care providers and insurance plans; and solid schools based on education, not indoctrination, that nurture students to be responsible, self-sufficient adults, with parents having a choice about where and how their children are educated. For safe and secure communities, Kreiselmaier promotes both accountability and unwavering support for our military and law enforcement, especially in these times when police are being vilified; preserving law-abiding citizens’ right to keep and bear arms; and curtailing homelessness by taking proactive measures to address ever-spreading homeless encampments and human suffering with compassionate solutions while protecting the health and safety of local communities.

For strong country, she brings a respect for the Constitution and all of the rights and freedoms that it enshrines; protecting the safety, security and prosperity of our people and sovereignty of our country, which requires securing entry into the U.S. by land and sea, cutting off illegal immigration and strengthening the legal immigration process; an “America-First” foreign policy; and ensuring free and fair elections by tackling voter registration fraud and allowing only proven U.S. citizens to vote.

This is just a thumbnail sketch of Kreiselmaier’s guiding principles, as more detail is given at her website, www.CleanUpTheHouse.com, and on her Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/ElizabethforCongress.

Kreiselmaier attributes her Primary win to her results-driven, common-sense approach to issues facing our state and nation, combined with her natural gift for engaging authentically with people to get to know them and hear what is important to them. “We came through strongly based on the message I’m bringing, and also because people can sense that I truly do care about and listen to them,” she said. “People in this district are ready for a change. They deserve a choice, and I’m here to provide it.”

Kreiselmaier emphasized that she is in no way a career politician, and that running for Congress is not about her. “It’s about something bigger. It’s about America and Americans, Washington and Washingtonians – people like you and me who live here, and love it here.”

Looking at the big picture, Kreiselmaier believes that America is at a critical crossroads and could benefit from her brand of common-sense leadership with a moral compass. Combined with her life experiences as a professional in the workforce, her demonstrated commitment as a member of her community and church, her “ferocious devotion” as a wife and mother, she brings elements to the table that others have often noted will serve her District well.

“We are a wonderful country with an amazing and inspiring story of freedom, perseverance, and prosperity. My parents were both legal immigrants, so I am a first-generation American. I can honestly tell you that there is no place on earth like America with the freedoms we enjoy. I want to preserve and protect those freedoms for my own and others’ children in the future,” she said.

Read the rest of this story at TacomaWeekly.com.



Elizabeth with son Brent (left) and husband Paul.

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Smashing the glass ceiling in the 6th Congressional District

A win for Congressional candidate Elizabeth Kreiselmaier would begin a new chapter for this seat long held by men.

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With more than 60 years of political involvement, Marlyn Jensen (right) is Kreiselmaier's honorary campaign manager.

Kreiselmaier (middle) with young supporter KellyAnna Brooking (left) and Maia Espinoza, candidate for state school superintendent.

This year, America celebrates the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. On Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, bringing victory to the movement for women's suffrage that had begun about 100 years earlier.

In this light, the 2020 race for Washington's 6th Congressional District seat takes on historic meaning. Never in the history of this political position has a woman run and made it to the General Election, until this year. Having won the Primary Election in August, Elizabeth Kreiselmaier now faces off with incumbent Derek Kilmer in next month's General Election.

A win for Kreiselmaier would impact the overall balance of power in Congress in two significant ways: Politically, it would shift this District seat from Democrat, as it has been for decades, to Republican – a change Kreiselmaier believes is urgently needed right now, given what she describes as "the radicalization of the Democrat party as a whole and its shift away from common-sense compassion toward the underserved, and toward a more socialistic type of control that undermines the dignity and freedom of all individuals as people, not just projects or pawns. This isn't your parents' Democrat party anymore – what's being pushed, if it were fully implemented, would make America, as we've known her to be, completely unrecognizable."

Second, and notably, a win for Kreisel-

maier would be a move toward eliminating the gender inequity that's persisted in Congress even in today's world. Right now, the makeup of Congress stands at 25 percent women, with only 3 percent being Republican women – just 13 out of 435 members, two of whom are from our state: Cathy McMorris Rodgers in the 5th District and Jamie Herrera Beutler in the 3rd District.

"I say, let's make it three!" Kreiselmaier smiled. "There is an imbalance in Congressional diversity for sure, in terms both of gender and of thought."

Kreiselmaier emphasized that she is not a person that dwells upon identity or gender politics. "I really do look at life through the lens of merit-based assessment and selection, where hard work and strong performance really do pay off, no matter who you are," she said. She is simply pointing out that "more women are needed in public office to *'smash the glass ceiling'* so that the makeup of Congress better reflects the makeup of the population as a whole."

When asked what she thought was the biggest barrier to more women getting involved in politics, she replied, "There are lots of reasons, but I think the biggest one is simply the *status quo*. I think that all of us can become complacent, and without specific internal impetus or external encouragement, we just tend to let things stand as they are. But we really do need more women to get involved, and I believe the key lies in mentoring. It was certainly instrumental in my case, and I'm already paying it forward to others I meet along this journey."

Stepping Up to Make a Difference

When asked how she came to be running for this Congressional seat, Kreiselmaier said, "I was asked by others to run because of what they saw in me," arising

from her various community volunteer roles, particularly within the Republican Party, over the course of her 15 years in Pierce County. "In the past when I've been asked to run for various things, I've always been too busy with my career or my family. But this time, with so much at stake in this election, I decided to consider it." After praying about it and getting the green light from everyone she consulted about it, she ultimately stepped up to the challenge after being urged initially by her friend and fellow activist Marlyn Jensen to run.

Now she calls Jensen her honorary campaign manager. "If things go well, Marlyn will get all the credit. And if they don't, I'll take all the blame," Kreiselmaier laughed.

Jensen has a long and proud legacy of more than 60 years of political involvement with 46 of those years in Pierce County's 26th District. She has worked with and mentored many Republican candidates running for Congress and feels that Kreiselmaier "has the best chance of anyone, anytime, anywhere to win this race," Jensen said.

"I've worked with a lot of people over the years and I thought Elizabeth would be a great candidate at a higher level. She is able to get so many people supportive of her because of her intelligence and common sense. She is probably the most brilliant lady I've ever known. We need great leaders like that at a national level."

Engaging Our Leaders of Tomorrow

Jensen noted that Kreiselmaier is also an engaging speaker, especially in front of a crowd. "Wherever she speaks, people love her. She has a powerful, unifying message and people like her on both sides and the middle of the aisle. She is just amazing and can get everyone to work together. And young people just love Elizabeth. They're coming out of the woodwork to help her campaign."

One such young person is KellyAnna Brooking, a 12-year-old middle school student in Kitsap County and an outspoken conservative. She is actively campaigning – distributing flyers, door-belling and giving other such support – for her favorite candidates like Kreiselmaier, as well as starting a local chapter of Turning Point USA.

Brooking met Kreiselmaier at a recent fundraising event where they both had a chance to speak to the crowd. The two hit it off immediately. "I really liked her speech at the Ladies of Liberty event," Brooking said. "We were both speaking about women's involvement in politics." Brooking described how she appreciates Kreiselmaier's mentorship and excitement in helping young people like her get politically active. As she put it, "I feel it's important for kids to get involved early so that we can speak our voice when we're older."

Mom on a Mission to Clean Up the House

As a "Mom on a Mission to Clean Up the House," Kreiselmaier is confident that being a woman, wife and mother with a Ph.D. and a successful career in educational program evaluation will help bring needed change to the District. She is not coming from a political career perspective, but rather from a sense of urgency in wanting to help people to address real concerns and make a real difference.

"I bring both a strong professional background and the bold heart of a Mom. I call it fierce devotion, kind of a mama bear mentality," she said. "I love this country the way I love my own child. It's currently in a state of unrest, and the things we hold dear are being threatened. Our freedom is fragile and we have to fight for it. I'll bring the soul of a Mom to this job."

In campaigning across the six counties, Kreiselmaier said she noticed a common thread emerging: "My opponent's views and votes just don't reflect the desires of our District. Honestly, he's better suited to Seattle. The 6th Congressional District is ready for a change and deserves a better choice, and that's what I'm offering."

To illustrate her own belief in working together to bring the 6th Congressional District to new levels of opportunity and prosperity, Kreiselmaier turned to a quote from late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg: "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that would lead others to join you."

"That pretty much says it all," Kreiselmaier said. "She exemplified the ability to disagree politically with someone, yet remain very close friends. She did that with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia; they would share meals and holidays together, and I find that inspiring. It's something we all could learn from."

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SISTER CITIES STORIES AROUND THE WORLD

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

For as long as mankind has existed, origin stories have been part of every culture and belief system on earth. How did we get here? What universal forces have come into play to influence our existence? As a unifying form of communication, they all share a common thread: a striving to make sense of what seems unfathomable to grasp in our humble existence. Best of all, origin stories help us to relate to others and bring us all together as we contemplate the mysteries of the world.

To share the power and richness of these stories, Tacoma Sister Cities is presenting “In the Beginning: Origin Stories from Tacoma’s Sister Cities from Around the World.” Among the stories that will be shared by Tacoma Sister Cities members will be a Slavic origin story (Russia, Ukraine and Croatia) titled “Bird of Gamayun,” a prophetic creature of Slavic folklore with the body of a large bird and the head of a beautiful woman. She is said to live on an island near the Euphrates River and is held in esteem for her knowledge of everything that occurs within the world, including man and animal, gods and heroes. Honoring Tacoma’s sister city Stari Grad, founded by Greek colonists in 385 BC, the creation of the world through the eyes of the Greeks will be told as well.

Walter Allen and his family will talk about the origin of the Milky Way, and Rose Coggins’ daughter Stella McShera will share the Philippine origin story, “Pan de Sal Saves the Day,” an award winning children’s story authored by Norma Olizon-Chikiamco and illus-



Gamayun of Slavic folklore as depicted by artist Viktor Vasnetsov.

trated by Mark Salvatus. In this story, a young girl, embarrassed by how she is different, learns that these differences in culture are reasons to celebrate and cherish. This story tells that even in America, where many people of color feel ashamed of their ancestry, differences in cultures can be embraced and

even revered if we take our time and muster the courage to share them. Following the presentations, Tacoma Sister Cities chair Clare Petrich will talk to viewers about telling their own story, addressing the question, “How do you say who you are with your origins?” Funded by Tacoma Creates and in part-

nership with the Tacoma Public Library, the program is being shared in two sessions, with the second session scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29, 1-2:30 p.m. Registration is required at https://bit.ly/originstories_tsc. Registrants will receive a Zoom link via email one hour prior to the event.

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Sources: opensecrets.org, Rep. Derek Kilmer; votesmart.org, Derek Kilmer

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The Tacoma Weekly has no plans to end our decades of publishing, but we need your help to grow and continue our mission as a government watchdog, a source of information on local news and events, and a voice for the people who live here. As an adjudicated newspaper, we are approaching local governments to expand our service to run legal notices, and we are meeting with local candidates to help in their campaigns prior to the upcoming November election. We always welcome volunteers from the community to write stories and help deliver the paper around town.

To learn more about the variety of ways that you can help support the local news, contact

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TACOMA IS BOARDED-UP



BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Take a drive through downtown Tacoma and what you see speaks for itself – boarded up windows, noticeably fewer cars on the streets and fewer people on the sidewalks. Even before the coronavirus arrived in Washington state, downtown Tacoma was looking a bit deserted in certain areas, but now it has spread throughout the city core, making our great city look like a victim of a modern

day Great Depression.

The coronavirus certainly has played a key role in this and continues to, given downtown’s abandoned atmosphere of historic proportions. Businesses are being hit hard, especially the restaurants that once provided a major attraction for diners with money to spend.

After 15 years as Tacoma’s most award-winning restaurant, the Pacific Grill announced its permanent closure this week. Owner and chef Gordon Nacarato bid farewell on the restaurant’s website: “It is difficult to type these words – such a shock after being open for 15 successful years. It’s like knowing you have to speak to someone you love who just lost a family member and wanting to choose the *perfect* words. But sometimes words fail, and nothing sounds right. ...It is impossible to move forward during this unforeseen

► See **CLOSED** / page 3

EASTSIDE PRIDE

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The Tacoma Adventist Community Services food bank on Portland Avenue is looking sharp these days thanks to generous souls who donated materials, skills and time to give the building a brand new paint job and repairs inside and out.

Given the urban location of the food bank in what can be called an oftentimes rougher part of town, it tends to attract graffiti and general damage such that it was desperately in need of a fresh coat of paint and overall TLC. So, food bank volunteer coordinator Lori Caley-Thorne got busy lining up a crew to get the job done. She has worked at the food bank for more than 20 years and usually does any painting herself, but this time she needed to call in the troops for help to cover the whole building.

“By the time it gets graffitied a hundred



This "before" photo shows the food bank's need for a good paint job

times and you keep painting over that with different colors, it ends up looking terrible,” she said.

Since the food bank relies on donations of paints, including leftover paints, she tends to mix colors together so that there is enough of one shade, whatever that shade may turn out to be after mixing. Sometimes, you just get grey so she goes with it.

“When you mix enough paints together, you get grey so the inside and the outside were all shades of grey, grey

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WEEKLYWEEDLY

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GUESS WHO?:
Page 9



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PDC Case 77415 Tacoma Weekly - ROI exhibits
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Page 71 of 87

Cover Story

TRANSFORMING Hilltop

#DesignTheHill

OUR FUTURE OUR VISION

PRODUCED BY FAB-5 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MITHUN

soon closed, leaving the site an eyesore and source of frustration for Hilltop residents tired of seeing their neighborhood ignored and left in blight.

Since 2012 the building sat vacant, empty and waiting for some type of renewal. Finally, the wait was over when Forterra purchased the property in September 2019.

Things started to look up, and in the best manner possible.

Renowned for their commitment to sustainable cities and regional land conservancy for 30 years, the non-profit Foterra secures urban and rural lands to ensure equity and livability in community development. For the Rite Aid property, Forterra purchased the 1.7 acres following conversations with community stakeholders and Tacoma’s elected leaders about how the organization could help address displacement in the neighborhood due to rising costs. Based on community guidance, Forterra

intends to develop the property with a mix of housing that is affordable to rent and own, as well as offices for nonprofits and local businesses, and additional resources like community meeting space.

“Our number one goal with this project is to fight displacement of long-time residents and businesses in Hilltop,” said Forterra President and CEO Michelle Connor. “We’re committed to listening closely to residents as we design this project. We want the development to address the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood’s rich history and culture.”

With Sound Transit’s Hilltop Link Extension going in, it fits hand in glove with new development at the Rite Aid property. Scheduled to open in 2022, the Link will carry riders through downtown and up to the Hilltop terminus and new transit station. Committed to partnering with the people who call Hilltop home, Forterra

approached Fab-5, a Hilltop-based non-profit launched 20 years ago to organize community youth and to be a leader in Hilltop’s future. Linking up with Fab-5 would ensure a plan for community-driven design so that the project could provide long-term affordability and sustainability to Hilltop residents.

“Although we have team members with a history in Tacoma, none of our team is from Hilltop,” said Rebecca Bouchey, Forterra’s managing director of community development. “When you’re working in a community, you can’t just walk in as an outsider and expect to have a true conversation. To grow this into a partnership, we had to build trust.”

The Hilltop Community Investment Council was born from this outreach, a 12-member group of teachers, artists, social workers, business leaders, elders and neighbors that came together to advise Forterra on early project planning for the Rite Aid project.

Together, Forterra and Fab-5 have issued a call to Black artists with roots in

Hilltop to apply their skills in transforming the Rite Aid site. Artists can submit a proposal for two projects: “Celebrating Hilltop – Get Ready,” an opportunity to use art to activate the vacated buildings right now and signal to the community that this space is changing as we “Get Ready” for new opportunities ahead; and “Celebrating Hilltop: Lasting Legacy,” which is for pieces that will be permanent fixtures in the new development, leaving a “Lasting Legacy.” This artist call is under the umbrella of Fab-5’s “#DesignTheHill” community development initiative.

The #DesignTheHill Design Event and Business Forum series will kickoff on Sept. 24, 6-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. This “Hilltop Resident Zoom Conversation” is an opportunity for current and former Hilltop residents to come together to check in, to learn a bit more about what is to come, and to talk about how they want to partner in planning this work. Those who wish to attend are asked to contact Ash at aarhin@forterra.org.



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“Javier is truly a ‘People’s Advocate’ - always placing people before politics. He is an experienced policy decision maker, always helping to spread prosperity to his community. Javier is a voice for the marginalized and disadvantaged in society.”

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“I endorse Javier because he is a military veteran who has shown great interest in people all of his life. He is committed to public service. He has had a variety of experiences in government through his previous positions, and I know that he will do a great job.”

Willie Stewart, Educator, Veteran and Greater Tacoma Peace Prize recipient (2019)

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12TH MAN COVER STORY



Blitz, Coach Matsumoto and Seahawks legend Lawyer Milloy.

have football, but look at the people I’m feeding and how I have the opportunity to bless these people,” Matsumoto said. From the middle of July and to September, the coach and some players volunteered at the Mission every Tuesday and Thursday during lunch hours – four to five different players each time, with some returning multiple times. It was a great lesson for the players to experience when they were shown how doing the right thing and helping others for that sole purpose can lead to more blessings along the way. KING 5 News

got wind of it and produced a story for the station’s “Prep Zone” high school sports program, then the Seahawks learned of it as well. Seahawks legend Milloy surprised the football team on their weekly Zoom call announcing that Coach Matsumoto was selected to raise the 12 Flag. Then Milloy and Seahawks mascot Blitz attended a 12 Flag raising at Lincoln on Wednesday to raise the 12 Flag on the school’s roof.

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MELLO COVER STORY



Mello joined many other community members at a vigil in Tollefson Plaza following the mass killings at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

“At the county level, they still haven’t done it and it’s more than frustrating – it’s criminal. It would generate \$14.5 million in the rest of Pierce County if they could pass that revenue stream for really critical services.”

Mello also got out in front in setting up Tacoma’s very first dedicated affordable housing trust fund to build permanent affordable housing in the city. He turned his attention as well to the conditions of Tacoma’s neighborhoods.

“I took the lead to bring stakeholders together to make the case to the public to pass two ballot measures to have dedicated resources to invest in our neighborhood streets, sidewalks and failing bridges,” he said.

As executive director of the Pierce Conservation District, the climate and environment are on Mello’s radar too, particularly in creating good paying jobs and housing so that Pierce County residents don’t have to drive to King County to work.

As he wrote in the 2020 Pierce County Voters’ Pamphlet, “Neighbors are worried about how to afford their daily lives. Housing, traffic congestion and rising costs in our region are at the forefront of our minds. Each of these concerns must be tackled at the regional level.”

As a Democrat, Mello said that this year is an opportunity for Democrats to make a difference in the make-up of the County Council.

“In my race in general, the majority matters and we have an opportunity this

year to have majority, and not just for the sake of Democrats having a majority. It’s been since 2004 that Democrats have had a majority and I think Pierce County is really paying for it. We have not passed a behavioral health tax. There’s not an affordable housing trust fund for Pierce County. Traffic is getting worse. I’m fighting for the majority because the investments we’re going to make and policies that we’ll pass will make a real difference in people’s lives.”

When all is said and done, Mello said that he just wants people to exercise their right to vote. As he is out campaigning, he said that he makes it a point to explain to voters why it’s important for those of any political leaning to fill out their entire ballot, and to not stop at the top with only checking the box for U.S. President.

“When you look at the number of people who fall off and don’t vote down the ballot, like for county council races, it’s quite a lot, close to 10 percent or more in the last election,” he said. “By all signs, we’re going to have astronomical turnout of voters for the President and Congress, predictions at close to 90 percent turnout. I’m trying to spend a lot of my time this election season explaining why down ballot races matter.”

Learn more about Mello’s campaign at www.RyanMello.com.

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FREE LITTLE LIBRARIES TEACH BLACK HISTORY, CULTURE

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

We’ve all seen the free little libraries that have sprung up in neighborhoods around Tacoma, and now there are those dedicated to educating the community on Black history and culture.

Organized by the local Black History Mindfulness Community Club (BHMC), two of these little libraries have been planted outdoors – at The Co Lab, 3808 N. 27th St., and Fern and Foster, 1402 S. 11th St. – and another one inside Campfire Coffee at 553 Market St.

According to BHMC’s mission, the purpose of these little libraries is to “create visual voice and knowledge for our Black/African American children and communities and also other children and people who want to learn more and



be ready to be actionable and mindful for the changes needed.” BHMC calls them “accountability boxes” so that we can value, protect and receive acknowledgment that will spread, through visual and actionable change, throughout communities.

Tesa Morse founded BHMC. She, her husband and four young children live in University Place, with three of the children attending schools there. She said BHMC started out as a protest group in the wake of the death of George Floyd, and has since grown to embrace improving education about Black history and culture through little libraries and working for change within our local schools in curriculum and teaching staff.

“We owe our students of color to know that we’re working on these things and that parents are working on building trust with the schools,” she said. “I want to make sure my children are being treated fairly – that they’re reading a book about John Henry where he’s not a folk tale but an actual person in history. There are a lot of things that are missing, and I think we need to be accountable in our schools about that.”

Morse said she wasn’t seeing Black lives sufficiently reflected in University Place schools in curriculum or teaching staff, so she decided to do some-

thing about it. She wasn’t getting a lot of response initially, but was persistent. That’s when her friend and now organizing partner Nicole Reed stepped up to help, and the two have been working hard to bring positive change to U.P. schools and Tacoma as a whole.

“We started this because we felt like we weren’t getting any direct action from the things we were putting out,” Morse said. “I felt that if we did these libraries, it would help bring more knowledge about what we’re lacking in our community, and force the community to see that it’s going to take community to take care of something this small as a little Black library that lifts Black authors, culture and history.”

The reception to the little Black libraries has been positive overall, Morse said, although she received some resistance when placing one of the little libraries in Proctor District.

Morse, Reed and BHMC supporters built and painted these first little libraries themselves, but know that it’s going to take some help to keep it going.

“My hope is that this turns into a bigger thing,” she said. “You can have ‘likes’ from a million people and people to fund you in the moment, but it takes continuous effort, and I’m definitely learning that.”

Funding and support from the broader community will be key in making BHMC’s work extend into the future. “We need people to see that we are here in your community and there are people in your community who are going to help us with that mission,” Morse said. “We used up our budget pretty quickly, and my hope is that this turns into a bigger thing,” Morse said. “I can’t see us doing another (little library) planting until we get a sponsorship for that planting and funding. I don’t think we’ll be there until next year unless we get a big amount of money out of nowhere.”

There are two ways to donate to BHMC’s efforts. To support the little libraries program, give to BHMC’s PayPal account at <https://tinyurl.com/y3kemxfu>. To contribute to BMCH’s community and schools goals, give to their GoFundMe effort at <https://tinyurl.com/y4r78xdd>. Or, visit www.BlackHistoryMindfulnessCommunity.com to learn more about both initiatives and the various ways you can help.

“I have a huge want and need to grow into a legacy for what we’re doing,” Morse said. “If anybody can help with ideas on how to progress, I’d love that opportunity. I also want to connect with more Black businesses that would also have the same initiative to work together.”

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October 14, 2020 Deadline for Legal Advertising is noon Friday for the next Wednesday’s publication. Contact Jody: ppclegalads@nwlink.com

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (rcw46.55.130), GRAHAM TOWING #5124 WILL SELL ABANDONED VEHICLES TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON October 21, 2020 AT 11:00am. PRIOR INSPECTION WILL BE FROM 10:00am UNTIL 11:00am. THIS COMPANY CAN BE CONTACTED AT 253-262-2869. FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AUCTION. THE SALE IS LOCATION IS: 10015 213TH ST E GRAHAM, WA 98338 Published in the Dispatch October 14, 2020

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The Board of Commissioners of South Pierce Fire & Rescue will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed 2021 Budget (including revenue sources and any potential tax increases) on Monday, October 19th at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend by phoning in at: GoToMeeting You can dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (872) 240-3311 Access Code: 366-582-133 Published in the Dispatch October 14, 2020

Superior Court of Washington, County of Pierce In re the Custody of: Child(ren): KAREEM ARKEE ROSE JR KARMAH NIYAJA TAPEEKA WILLNELL ROSE KO'RON MALACHI EZEKIEL ROSE Petitioner/s: WILLIE B PHERGSON And Respondent/s: KARLA MICHELLE MCGRUFF KAREEM ARKEE ROSE SR No. 20-3-02484-7 Summons Served by Publication (SMPB) Summons Served by Publication To (other party's name/s): KAREEM ARKEE ROSE SR I have started a court case by filing a

petition. The name of the Petition is: PETITION FOR NON-PARENTAL CUSTODY You must respond in writing if you want the court to consider your side. Deadline! Your Response must be filed and served within 60 days of the date this Summons is published: October 7, 2020. If you do not file and serve your Response or a Notice of Appearance by the deadline: -No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and -The court may approve the requests in the Petition without hearing your side (called a default judgment). Follow these steps: 1. Read the Petition and any other documents that were filed at court with this Summons. Those documents explain what the other party is asking for. 2. Fill out a Response on this form (check the Response that matches the Petition): [X] FL Non-Parent 415, Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition You can get the Response form and other forms you may need at: -The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms -Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org, or -The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee). 3. Serve (give) a copy of your Response to the person who filed this Summons at the address below, and to any other parties. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on how to serve, read Superior Court Civil Rule 5. 4. File your original Response with the court clerk at this address: Superior Court Clerk, Pierce County County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 110, Tacoma WA 98402 5. Lawyer not required: It is a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may file and serve your Response without one. Person filing this Summons or his/her lawyer fills out below: /s/ Willie B. Phergson 09/29/2020 WILLIE B PHERGSON I agree to accept legal papers for this case at (check one): [X] the following address (this does not have to be your home address): c/o PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT 5501 6TH AVENUE, TACOMA WA 98406 (If this address changes before the case ends, you must notify all parties and the court in writing. You may use the Notice of Address Change form (FL All Family 120). You must also update your Confidential Information Form (FL All Family 001) if this

case involves parentage or child support.) Note: You and the other party/ies may agree to accept legal papers by email under Superior Court Civil Rule 5 and local court rules. This Summons is issued according to Rule 4.1 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the state of Washington. Published in the Dispatch October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4 & 11, 2020

Superior Court of Washington, County of Pierce In re the Custody of: Child(ren): KAREEM ARKEE ROSE JR KARMAH NIYAJA TAPEEKA WILLNELL ROSE KO'RON MALACHI EZEKIEL ROSE Petitioner/s: WILLIE B PHERGSON And Respondent/s: KARLA MICHELLE MCGRUFF KAREEM ARKEE ROSE SR No. 20-3-02484-7 Summons Served by Publication (SMPB) Summons Served by Publication To (other party's name/s): KARLA MICHELLE MCGRUFF I have started a court case by filing a petition. The name of the Petition is: PETITION FOR NON-PARENTAL CUSTODY You must respond in writing if you want the court to consider your side. Deadline! Your Response must be filed and served within 60 days of the date this Summons is published: October 7, 2020. If you do not file and serve your Response or a Notice of Appearance by the deadline: -No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and -The court may approve the requests in the Petition without hearing your side (called a default judgment). Follow these steps: 1. Read the Petition and any other documents that were filed at court with this Summons. Those documents explain what the other party is asking for. 2. Fill out a Response on this form (check the Response that matches the Petition): [X] FL Non-Parent 415, Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition You can get the Response form and other forms you may need at: -The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms -Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org, or -The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee). 3. Serve (give) a copy of your Response to the person who filed this Summons at the address below, and to any other parties. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on

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Superior Court of Washington, County of Pierce In re the Custody of: Child(ren): TIMBER LYNN ROSE MARIE YEARY Petitioner/s: TAMMIE MARIE GIBSON JEREMY NEAL GIBSON And Respondent/s: JADE MARIE GIBSON JOHN DOE No. 20-3-02563-1 Summons Served by Publication (SMPB) Summons Served by Publication To (other party's name/s): JOHN DOE I have started a court case by filing a petition. The name of the Petition is: NON-PARENT CUSTODY PETITION You must respond in writing if you want the court to consider your side. Deadline! Your Response must be filed and served within 60 days of the date this Summons is published (Publisher enter date of first publication here): September 9, 2020. If you do not file and serve your Response or a Notice of Appearance by the deadline: -No one has to notify you about other hearings in this case, and -The court

may approve the requests in the Petition without hearing your side (called a default judgment). Follow these steps: 1. Read the Petition and any other documents that were filed at court with this Summons. Those documents explain what the other party is asking for. 2. Fill out a Response on this form (check the Response that matches the Petition): [X] FL Non-Parent 415, Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition You can get the Response form and other forms you may need at: -The Washington State Courts' website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms -Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org, or -The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library (for a fee). 3. Serve (give) a copy of your Response to the person who filed this Summons at the address below, and to any other parties. You may use certified mail with return receipt requested. For more information on how to serve, read Superior Court Civil Rule 5. 4. File your original Response with the court clerk at this address: Superior Court Clerk, Pierce County County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 110, Tacoma WA 98402 5. Lawyer not required: It is a good idea to talk to a lawyer, but you may file and serve your Response without one. Person filing this Summons or his/her lawyer fills out below: /s/ Tammie Marie Gibson 09/02/2020 TAMMIE MARIE GIBSON /s/ Jeremy Neal Gibson 09/02/2020 JEREMY NEAL GIBSON I agree to accept legal papers for this case at (check one): [X] the following address (this does not have to be your home address): 21804 MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY EAST, PMB #136, SPANAWAY WA 98387 (If this address changes before the case ends, you must notify all parties and the court in writing. You may use the Notice of Address Change form (FL All Family 120). You must also update your Confidential Information Form (FL All Family 001) if this case involves parentage or child support.) Note: You and the other party/ies may agree to accept legal papers by email under Superior Court Civil Rule 5 and local court rules. This Summons is issued according to Rule 4.1 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the state of Washington. Published in the Dispatch September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7 & 14, 2020

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Now & Then ANSWERS

#1 The Fabulous Wailers. Late 1950s band that performed saxophone-driven R&B as one of the very first garage bands.

#2 The Ventures. Instrumental band that formed in 1958 and helped popularize the electric guitar worldwide.

#3 The Sonics. Founded in 1960 and a major influence on garage and punk music worldwide.

#4 Little Bill & the Blue Notes. An institution since 1956 and national chart-toppers with the teenage love song "I Love an Angel."

Who's Who ANSWERS

#1 Elinor Donahue, TV Actor

#2 Jerry Cantrell, Guitarist

#3 Jon Lester, Baseball Player

#4 Marissa Meyer, Novelist

TACOMA SISTERS PUT THE CITY IN YOUR HANDS

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

While everyone is pretty much staying put lately in keeping with COVID precautions, Tacoma born and raised sisters Nancy and Julia Glen are providing a way to get out and about through the pages of their book series Glen Creations City Adventures.

In the short time that they've been partnering to produce their books – Nancy as writer and Julia as illustrator, since 2018 the pair has produced six of their city adventure books focusing on specific places where they live. With Julia now residing in the San Diego area, the sisters started there and produced “Oceanside Adventures,” “Carlsbad Adventures” and “Encinitas Adventures.” Then they turned their attention to the Northwest where Nancy lives. She still makes Tacoma her home, as she and Julia are fourth generation Tacomans. Together, they created “Puyallup Adventures,” “Olympia Adventures” and “Tacoma Adventures,” with “Seattle Adventures” coming up next in the series.

While the books are geared toward young readers, these wonderful tales appeal to adults as well. The books are both entertaining and educational about historic events and places that make each city unique.

“A lot of people tell me they have them on their coffee table and share them when family comes over and give them as gifts,” Nancy said. “They’re for the whole family.”

“Tacoma Adventures” is the fourth book of the Glen Creations City Adventure series. It is also the first of their Northwest edition and the bestseller so far. In the story, main character Stuart, a reluctant raccoon, is asked to write a report on Tacoma as part of his school lesson on Washington State. He is bummed, though, because Tacoma is his home and thereby deemed “boring.” The reader is invited to follow Stuart and his grandpa as they spend the weekend traveling throughout the city to get reacquainted with all the amazing attractions this city has to offer in its history and positive energy.

Stuart and his grandpa visit fun city attractions like the LeMay Car Museum and Frisko Freeze, but the book also takes into account Tacoma’s less stellar past by including Chinese Reconciliation Park.

“I didn’t want to gloss over that,” Nancy said. “Even though it’s a kid’s book, I



Nancy Glen (pictured here) and Julia Glen have produced six books so far.

wanted them to know that there were some mistakes in the past.”

In “Puyallup Adventures,” young readers learn that the Washington State Fairgrounds were used as internment camps for Japanese families. This provides a perfect opportunity for teachers and parents to approach this type of difficult subject matter. Nancy is a teacher and librarian at Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup, so she experiences this firsthand.

“One of the students said that’s why we study history, because we learn from our past. Even kids can take that in,” she said. The books help to spark conversations in other ways as well. “We purposefully waited until this fall to do the Olympia one because it’s an election year and we wanted to have the theme of compromise, patience and listening to each other,” as Nancy explained. “I don’t think you should talk down to kids. In the classroom with the read aloud, you can stand up and say, ‘What does that word ‘compromise’ mean and when have we done that?’ You can always introduce it and talk about it.”

Each of the sisters’ books comes with its own curriculum that can be downloaded at www.GlenCreations.com. Visitors to the site can order the books there, or find them at local shops. “Tacoma Adventures” is available at the Pacific Northwest Shop, Compass Rose, Teaching Toys, The Curious Bear Toys & Books, Kings Books and other locations around town. The full list is on the website.

“We didn’t want to go the Amazon route. We wanted to have local businesses sell it so that they would benefit,” Nancy said as she expressed a lot of gratitude for Tacoma and the people who live here. “I am so grateful to the people in Tacoma who are so supportive and passionate about their city. Tacoma really supports its own.”

Read It On The Web
www.tacomaweekly.



FORT NISQUALLY OFFERS VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Fort Nisqually, originally planned as a fur trading outpost in 1833, became the headquarters of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company; a 160,000 acre agricultural business with a global reach until 1869. For the full story visit www.tacomaweekly.com



GET YOUR HOME READY FOR THIS WINTER

Although preparing your home for winter is a fairly consistent process year-to-year, many homes have seen significantly more use this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. If your home will serve as your office or school throughout the winter months, it’s important to address issues that may have been noticed but tolerable during winters past.

Consider these tips from the experts at the National Association of the Remodeling Industry to help ensure your home is ready before winter weather strikes.



Improve indoor air quality. Beyond proper physical and structural considerations of winter preparations, the increased daily usage of your home naturally increases the importance of indoor air quality.

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NOMINATIONS DUE FOR MLK AWARDS

The City Events and Recognitions Committee (CERC) is now accepting nominations for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award through Friday, Nov. 6. Nominations are open in two categories: Lifetime Service (individual or group) and Emerging Leader (individual).

Nominations for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6 to be considered by the Committee. Nominations can be filled out online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HVMZ7D.

The award winners will be selected by the Committee and recognized at the City of Tacoma's 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration virtual program, premiering on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021, at 8 p.m. on tvtacoma.com, and streamed live on Facebook at facebook.com/cityoftacoma. The event will also be televised throughout January on TV Tacoma.

For more information about the event and a list of previous years' awardees, visit cityoftacoma.org/MLK. Questions or requests for hard copy nomination forms can be directed to MLK@cityoftacoma.org.



Kiara Daniels, 2020 winner for Lifetime Service Award

CITY ESTABLISHES REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

Micro businesses of five or fewer employees eligible for up to \$10,000 In an effort to mitigate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on Tacoma's micro businesses, defined as five or fewer employees including owners, the City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department has established a COVID-19 Revitalization Grant Program. The application period ends Oct. 23 at 5 p.m.

"Tacoma is a city powered by the spirit of entrepreneurship," said Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards. "In addition to adding jobs and powering up our local economy, small businesses are a vital part of the unique character of our community. At the same time, Tacoma's smallest businesses are also most vulnerable to the economic threats of COVID-19. Supporting micro businesses is an important way that we can strengthen Tacoma's resiliency and work together to diminish any long-term impacts of the pandemic on our local economy." Micro businesses must be located within Tacoma city limits, with a current busi-

ness license, and have been operating for at least a year as of March 16, 2020. The majority owner must have a household income of no more than 80 percent of area median income and they must be able demonstrate that they have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19. Some home-based micro businesses may qualify if they are located within lower economic opportunity areas in Tacoma.

Fifty micro businesses will be selected for \$10,000 grants from all qualified applications submitted by the application deadline via a lottery method. There is no cost to submit an application. Application details are on makeit-tacoma.com. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Shari Hart at resiliencygrant@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5208. As the situation evolves, general information about the City's response to COVID-19 will be posted on the "What's Going On" section of the City's website. Information about COVID-19 is available at TPCHD.org/coronavirus.

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dents will stay in their existing building during construction of the new school. Downing Elementary School serves approximately 350 preschool through fifth-grade students in Tacoma’s North and West ends. The current building was constructed in 1949, with several additions in the 1950s.

The new Hunt Middle School is taking shape as well. The recent smoke, haze and lightning storms that have moved through the Puget Sound area haven’t stopped the crew from moving forward on the project. After the stormy weather cleared, workers jumped right back in to complete soffit framing in the science, career and technical education, and general classrooms.

Siding and large storefront windows are in plain view if you drive by the construction site at Mildred and South 10th Street. And you can’t miss the raised roof trusses at the covered play area, new gutters and exterior stairs at the general classroom spaces.

On the rooftop, workers recently installed mechanical units, eave flashing and roof membrane over classroom areas. Also happening atop the gym are skylight curbs.

Interior framing and doors are in development on the first and second floors at the administration area and library, while drywall is going up at the science and general classrooms spaces. Masonry interior and exterior walls are now complete in the gym, music and stage areas and are almost complete in the locker room area. Electrical equipment installation in the building starts in the next few weeks.

The eight schools and their anticipated opening dates after replacement or renovation are Hunt Middle School, 2021; Downing Elementary, 2022; Skyline Elementary, 2022; Fawcett Elementary, 2023; Bryant Montessori, 2024; Oakland High School, 2025; Lowell Elementary, 2026; and Whittier Elementary, 2027. The bond will also provide for needed improvements and/or safety upgrades

Birney Elementary is complete, and Hunt Middle School (inset) will be ready to open in 2021.

to all neighborhood schools across Tacoma, including replacement of aged and deteriorating roofs; retrofitting buildings for earthquake safety; updating fire alarm, sprinkler, and intercom systems used in emergencies; improvements on playgrounds, playfields and athletic facilities to meet safety standards; up-to-date technology infrastructure; Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements; and heating, ventilation and plumbing upgrades for clean air and safe water.

Two already completed schools have gotten a lot of attention. The new Mary Lyon Elementary School, opened in September 2019, captured a grand prize award in the new construction edition of “Learning by Design.”

“Shared learning spaces are physical and visually connected, and they are thoughtfully designed as extensions of the classroom setting,” the judges commented. They also shared kudos on the library’s design.

The new Birney Elementary School features beautiful exposed wood engineered in the design and it caught the eye of scientists and engineers from the American Plywood Association (APA) who, in a recent case study, describe the new Birney as sustainable, cost-effective and aesthetically appealing. The case study explored the benefits of engineered wood in school construction.

A primary driver of the Birney design was maximizing the school’s open feel. Choosing exposed wood instead of steel was not only better looking, but also a cost-effective choice. The engineered wood panels also make it acoustically sound, a benefit to Birney’s deaf and hard-of-hearing students and staff. Learn more about Tacoma’s new schools and take virtual tours at www.Tacoma-Schools.org.



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Pierce County’s Catholic Cemetery † Est. 1905

Calvary Cemetery has roots deep in Tacoma’s history; founded by Tacomans, built by Tacomans and operated by Tacomans. Calvary Cemetery today is a well managed and well maintained full service cemetery providing the finest services to Tacoma’s Catholic community and all denominations.

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Exhibit 10

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TACOMAWEEKLY

NEWS

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City launches Curbside Cafés and Markets Pilot Program

New effort seeks to expand city’s Sidewalk Café Program

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

With the coronavirus having hit small businesses hard over the past several months, Tacoma City Council Members Robert Thoms and Kristina Walker are working to help them recoup some losses and perhaps bring a new aspect to how their business is done from now on.

On June 12, the city launched the Curbside Cafés and Markets pilot program, an extension of the city’s Sidewalk Café Program. Curbside café/markets, also known as streateries or parklets, are similar to sidewalk cafés and are also located in parking spaces in the right-of-way. This new pilot program allows for restaurants, diners and cafés to take a portion of their services outside in order to serve more customers but still be in keeping with Gov. Inslee’s Washington Safe Start Plan and its Phase 2 requirements under which Pierce County is now operating. Retail businesses are also invited to apply and use areas of the right-of-way to expand their ability to serve customers.

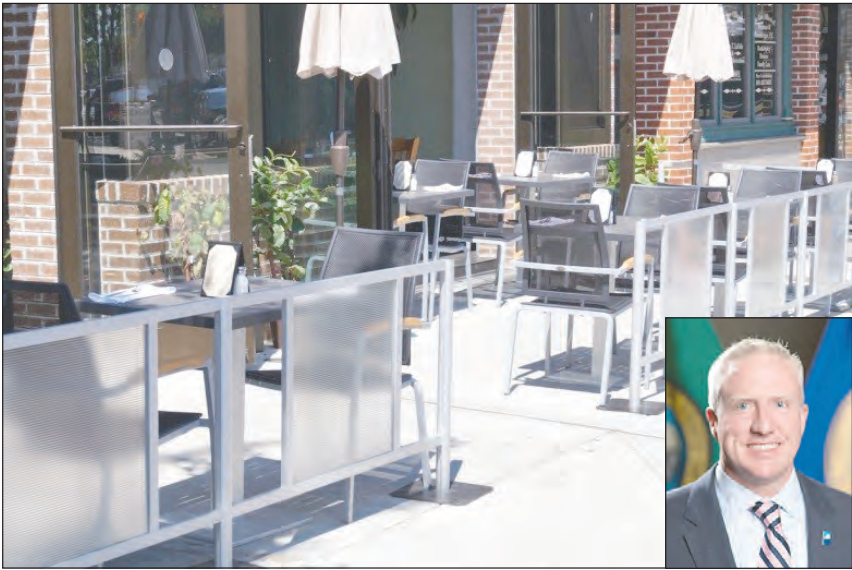
The city is waiving application fees,

street use fees and the cost of on-street parking related to the pilot program. Tacoma Venues and Events and Public Works are partnering to provide railings, as availability allows, to those businesses that would like to use them instead of providing their own. A permit for the Curbside Café and Market Pilot Program can accommodate temporary structures such as tables, chairs, planters and shade coverings.

“The Sidewalk Café Program has been extremely successful in Tacoma and has allowed businesses and community to activate public space,” said Thoms. “I sought this expansion to help stabilize our great local restaurants after the Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order. It is more important than ever that we continue to find ways to be a good partner to our entrepreneurs.”

As executive director of Downtown On the Go, Council Member Kristina Walker got involved in the project since a big part of its work involves the use of public spaces around the city.

“It feels connected to my work and something I am interested in,” she said, noting that the pilot project is an example of the strength and resili-



FILE PHOTO
City councilman Robert Thoms, pictured here, is envisioning the pilot program to help restaurants and retail shops to serve more customers and remain in keeping with Gov. Inslee’s Phase 2 plan that limits how many customers can be served indoors at one time.

iciency that public-private partnerships can achieve. “I also have a great interest in making sure the employees are safe, too. I think it’s great that we can all enjoy our restaurants at this point, but for those frontline essential work-

ers who are either cooking or serving in those restaurants, we need to make sure we’re protecting their health as well. This allows for fewer people to be

► See **STREATERIES** / page 5

Tacoma Sister Cities gifted with 3,500 face masks from Taiwan

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Thanks to Tacoma Sister Cities’ close ties with Taichung, Taiwan, the Taiwanese government has donated 3,500 triple-layer, medical grade protective face masks to our city.

To receive them on Thursday last week, Tacoma Sister Cities Chair Clare Petrich and Taichung Committee Chair Hunter White met in Tacoma with Alex K.S. Fan, Director General of Seattle’s Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO).

“From my point of view, Tacoma is blessed to have such generous friends who are supporting us as we work to stay safe and healthy through this pandemic,” Petrich said. “We are grateful!”

“The Tacoma-Taichung Sister City Committee has had a running relationship with the TECO-Seattle office for some time, and they are a key partner and supporter for many of our events focused on Taiwanese culture,”

said Tacoma-Taichung Sister City Committee Chair Hunter White.

White said that the mask effort is part of a huge effort by the Taiwanese government and TECO across the country and the world. As he explained, TECO-Seattle represents the interests of the ROC (Republic of China) Taiwan in the Northwest, so the office is responsible for services in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

“The office is responsible for a wide range of services, including consular services (passports, visas, etc.) for Taiwanese citizens in the Northwest and American citizens traveling to Taiwan,” he said. “Thus the contacts I work with have been donating masks to various communities in all of these states, all part of a global effort from the Taiwanese government.”

According to globalatlanta.com, where 100,000 masks were donated to the state of Georgia, Taiwan has pledged to donate more than 10 mil-



TACOMA SISTER CITIES
Tacoma Sister Cities Chair Clare Petrich (middle) and Tacoma-Taichung Sister City Committee Chair Hunter White (left) met with Alex K.S. Fan, Director General of Seattle’s Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) to receive the masks.

lion masks to its friends and diplomatic allies.

Tacoma and Taichung have been sister cities since 2000. As told on the Tacoma Sister Cities website, the story goes like this: As of 1999, Seattle and

Kaohsiung, Taiwan were sister cities, while Port of Seattle had a sister port relationship with Port of Taichung, and Port of Tacoma with Port of Kaoh-

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TACOMAWEEKLY

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EQC: SUPER-SPREADER

Pierce County COVID-19 numbers leap as the Emerald Queen Casino invites you in to gamble your life away

BY JOHN WEYMER
jweymer@tacomaweekly.com

Once Washington State entered Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee’s “Safe Start” plan on June 5, positive tests for COVID-19 began to rise back up to numbers not seen since April.

“I am no longer in a hopeful place. Because the health of our community is my top priority, I am withdrawing my recommendation for Pierce County to apply for an expanded Phase 2,” Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Director Anthony Chen said this week. “I talked with several of our board members, including our Board of Health chair and vice chair, and they agree this is the right call for our situation right now.”

What is causing Pierce County to revert back to higher case numbers? Some have suggested that recent public protests and street marches have contributed to the coronavirus surge, as the national tally of new cases has reached an all-time high. However, that does not appear to be the case. The biggest protests locally have occurred in Seattle, but according to Dr. Jeffrey Duchin, health officer of Public Health – Seattle & King County, “Neither here in King County, or elsewhere in the county, where health care authorities are looking, have we been able to document that or find strong evidence.”



Tribal council member Annette Bryan (left) visits the casino and stops for a photo op with her mask off and no social distancing, as who appears to be EQC manager Frank Wright is seated to the right wearing no mask at all.

EQC: SUPER-SPREADER

Since the coronavirus is spread primarily among people who are in close contact indoors with one another, it stands to reason that the enclosed environment of the Emerald Queen Casino is contributing to Pierce County’s increased case load.

For next week’s issue, the Tacoma Weekly is sending questions to tribal leadership about this and other pressing matters, and we’re giving them a week to respond. Tribal council member Sylvia Miller has already stated that the Tacoma Weekly is “hurting” the community by publishing recent hard-hitting stories about the council’s, and EQC manage-

ment’s, activities, but tribal members and everyone who lives and works in Pierce County are entitled to know the truth of what is going on – that the EQC is nothing more than a super-spreader of COVID-19 and the populace is being lied to about it.

▶ See EQC / page 5

“Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted.” Calvary Cemetery offers a wellspring of peace for all

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

As the only Catholic cemetery in Tacoma, Calvary Cemetery has held a special place in the hearts of locals for more than a century. Its beautifully kept grounds serve as a blessed oasis amid the bustle of the city – a place where everyone living or deceased is welcome to receive the tranquil gifts that can be found in this special place of eternal rest.

Strolling among the headstones there will take you on a journey through time, with some dating back to the turn of the century. Incorporated in 1905, Calvary Cemetery was built on 55 acres adjacent to Pioneer Catholic Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Pierce County. To date, 29,772 people have been laid to rest at Calvary Cemetery, revered as one of the finest cemeteries in the area.

Calvary’s story goes back to 1873 when John and Eliza Rigney sold A.M.A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nisqually, four acres of land for \$1 that became the

“Old Cemetery,” or Pioneer Cemetery. In 1904, Bishop Edward O’Dea granted a committee permission to form a Catholic cemetery association. The committee chose 34 acres east of the Old Cemetery and the first board meeting was held in 1906. Over the next 25 years the cemetery grew and developed – the memorial altar with its stunning statue of the crucifixion was dedicated above the burial plot of Father Peter F. Hylebos in 1921, the main entrance was moved from Lakewood Drive to 70th Street West in 1935, and the Soldiers Memorial Plot was dedicated on Memorial Day 1937. In 1957, the Garden Mausoleum and the Visitation Chapel were dedicated, and in 1994 the monument to the unborn was placed in the baby section by the Knights of Columbus, who also replaced this section’s damaged angels in 2009.

Founded by Tacomans, built by Tacomans and operated by Tacomans, today Calvary is operated by a six-member board of directors who live, work and worship in our community.

“I remember being 3 or 4 years old,



The altar in the middle of the cemetery is surrounded by nuns from three different orders: Sisters of the Visitation, Franciscans and Dominicans.

coming out here with my grandparents,” said Board President Tony Anderson. “From Easter until bad weather came in October, my grandparents were

out here every week.”
Calvary is a full-service cemetery,

▶ See CEMETERY / page 5

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BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

37 YEARS SERVING TACOMA | ALWAYS FREE



BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

Take a drive through downtown Tacoma and what you see speaks for itself – boarded up windows, noticeably fewer cars on the streets and fewer people on the sidewalks. Even before the coronavirus arrived in Washington state, downtown Tacoma was looking a bit deserted in certain areas, but now it has spread throughout the city core, making our great city look like a victim of a modern

day Great Depression.

The coronavirus certainly has played a key role in this and continues to, given downtown’s abandoned atmosphere of historic proportions. Businesses are being hit hard, especially the restaurants that once provided a major attraction for diners with money to spend.

After 15 years as Tacoma’s most award-winning restaurant, the Pacific Grill announced its permanent closure this week. Owner and chef Gordon Nacarato bid farewell on the restaurant’s website: “It is difficult to type these words – such a shock after being open for 15 successful years. It’s like knowing you have to speak to someone you love who just lost a family member and wanting to choose the *perfect* words. But sometimes words fail, and nothing sounds right. ...It is impossible to move forward during this unforeseen

► See **CLOSED** / page 3

EASTSIDE PRIDE

BY MATT NAGLE
matt@tacomaweekly.com

The Tacoma Adventist Community Services food bank on Portland Avenue is looking sharp these days thanks to generous souls who donated materials, skills and time to give the building a brand new paint job and repairs inside and out.

Given the urban location of the food bank in what can be called an oftentimes rougher part of town, it tends to attract graffiti and general damage such that it was desperately in need of a fresh coat of paint and overall TLC. So, food bank volunteer coordinator Lori Caley-Thorne got busy lining up a crew to get the job done. She has worked at the food bank for more than 20 years and usually does any painting herself, but this time she needed to call in the troops for help to cover the whole building.

“By the time it gets graffitied a hundred



This "before" photo shows the food bank's need for a good paint job

times and you keep painting over that with different colors, it ends up looking terrible,” she said.

Since the food bank relies on donations of paints, including leftover paints, she tends to mix colors together so that there is enough of one shade, whatever that shade may turn out to be after mixing. Sometimes, you just get grey so she goes with it.

“When you mix enough paints together, you get grey so the inside and the outside were all shades of grey, grey

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WEEKLYWEEDLY

Back Page



200 PINTS OF BLOOD:
Page 5



GUESS WHO?:
Page 9

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Exhibit 11

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About us

Our Mission


Our philosophy is to cover local news and events tailored to the communities we serve. While other newspapers often stretch out their coverage over a wide geographic area, we choose to focus on specific cities.

Pierce County Community Newspaper Group (PCCNG), a locally owned and operated newspaper organization, has been the proud publisher of its flagship newspaper Tacoma Weekly for 20 years. Over the past two decades, Tacoma Weekly has developed a solid reputation as a reliable source of information for Tacoma.

Our emphasis is on events that impact the lives of our readers – action taken by local governments, how local high school sports teams are faring, what's happening on local stages and where to go when readers have free time to enjoy.

PCCNG also publishes two newspapers serving suburbs of Tacoma. The Fife Free Press covers

news from the city of Fife, Fife School District and local businesses. The Milton-Edgewood Signal serves the cities of Milton and Edgewood, covering news from both city governments as well as local school and business news.

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Editor at Tacoma Weekly Newspaper



Dave Davison

Designer/Writer at Tacoma Weekly Newspaper



Barbara Rock

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