

Edmonds Beacon

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Ed Hartman will debut an original composition, "Mika's Song," at Civic Park Sept. 23.

Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

Who should own the Edmonds Marsh?

Mayor objects to getting governor involved

BY BRIAN SOERTEL
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

Over strong objection from Mayor Mike Nelson, the City Council on Tuesday voted to send a letter to Gov. Jay Inslee asking for the state's support in the restoration of the Edmonds Marsh.

The letter requests a meeting between Inslee and members of his administration, as well as representatives of salmon recovery groups, to explore ownership options of the Unocal property for preservation and restoration purposes.

At a news conference at the marsh, half an hour before the council's 7 p.m. start, Nelson forcefully voiced his disapproval of the letter, saying that in previous talks with Inslee the governor had expressed no interest in the marsh.

"We have tried and tried to find ways to somehow get this marsh restored," he said. "And what I've concluded is that at the end of the day the only way this will work is if we work with those who own the marsh and find ways to collaborate."

That owner is the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Some background: From 1923 to 1991, Unocal operated a bulk fuel terminal at the site. It was used for storing, blending, and distributing petroleum products including gasoline, diesel, and bunker (ship) fuel. An asphalt plant operated on the site between 1953 and the late 1970s.

WSDOT entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Unocal in 2005, which set conditions for the transfer of ownership of the marsh, the primary condition being the remediation of the existing environmental contamination on the property.

The Chevron Environmental Manage-

see **EDMONDS MARSH** page 12 ▶

Totally Tubular

Edmonds musician Ed Hartman creates a composition on Civic Park installation

BY BRIAN SOERTEL
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

Ed Hartman, an award-winning composer for films, TV, and radio, was previously profiled in the Beacon for composing new music for a 1930s silent film.

The Edmonds resident wasn't looking for a new project in June when he visited Civic Center Playfield during its grand opening and made his way to Mika's Playground.

The percussionist was immediately struck by seven tubular chimes on site. Rubber mallets are there for those who want to take a stab at making some music – think steel drums.

"I started playing around with them," Hartman said last week before giving a

demonstration to parents and kids gathered at the playground.

"And they sounded pretty good. I mean, for an installation, it's very well made. My understanding is (the tubes) are made in Europe. And that kind of told me something about the quality."

Hartman, taken with the sounds he could create, went on to create a composition on the bells called, aptly enough, "Mika's Song."

He will debut the composition with a free live performance Saturday, Sept 23, at 2:30 p.m. at Mika's Playground.

Hartman chose the title after reading about the playground's back story. It was named for Mika Zimbalist, born with cerebral palsy and who died just short of his

11th birthday in February 2019.

Mika loved being outside, especially visiting parks, even though he was confined to a wheelchair.

Mika's family worked with the City of Edmonds, the Rotary Club of Edmonds, the Hazel Miller Foundation, and other donors to create an accessible and inclusive park where people of all ages and abilities could engage with one another in a positive and playful environment.

"The whole aspect of the park being inclusive for wheelchairs was really kind of interesting. And with my own health issues in the last few years, it kind of took a deeper meaning to me."

see **MIKA'S SONG** page 11 ▶

Main Street Commons will be home to coffee shop 20 years in the making

Edmonds couple Brian and Kristin Eastland envision Stillhouse Coffee as a community hub

BY NATALIE KAHN
FOR THE BEACON

Nearly two decades ago, Brian Eastland came up with the idea for Stillhouse Coffee as part of a college assignment. His capstone project at Baylor University in Texas was to create a business plan and present it to investors for feedback.

He chose to design a coffee shop named Stillhouse Coffee. He didn't know then that the name would grow in significance for him, or that his idea would finally become a reality 20 years in the future.

He ended up on a different career path after college, working as a pastor in Seattle and then Edmonds, and starting a family with his wife, Kristin,

who works in real estate. Today, they are raising six kids in Edmonds.

Over the years, Brian never stopped thinking about opening his own cafe one day.

"Ever since I met Brian, he's been wanting to open up a coffee shop. It's always been a dream [of his]," Kristin said. Both she and Brian drink "way too much coffee" and opening a shop of their own soon became a shared dream.

"All along," she said, "we've always been looking for spaces and dreaming about where we could potentially open something."

Seven years ago, Kristin bought Brian a small at-home coffee roaster for Christmas.

"He fell in love with the craft," she

said. He started perfecting his roast and sharing the coffee he made with family and friends. He eventually purchased a commercial-sized roaster. He continued learning more about roasting coffee, creating different flavor profiles, and sourcing beans from new places.

Using Brian's own coffee roasts became part of he and his wife's vision for their coffee shop – something he said will help set it apart from the other "amazing coffee shops" in downtown Edmonds. Last fall, Brian left his pastor job, and he and Kristin started thinking more seriously about opening a coffee shop.

"We knew [that] if we're doing this, we wanted to do it in Edmonds," said

see **COFFEE SHOP** page 10 ▶



Photo courtesy of Natalie Kahn

Kristin and Brian Eastland at their coffee shop in Edmonds.

Through Our Lens | Pretty as a picture

The Edmonds Marsh is always a beautiful sight/site. But even more so as the day progresses and the light begins to fade, bringing splendid color to the skies and illuminating the 22.5-acre treasure in the heart of Edmonds.

Beacon photo by Brian Soergel



Mindy Woods named 2023 City of Edmonds Employee of the Year

Mindy Woods has been recognized as the 2023 City of Edmonds Employee of the Year.

Each year, staff is invited to nominate a co-worker for their outstanding work, accomplishments, achievements, and/or contributions to their department and/or the City.

The announcement of Employee of the Year is made during the annual employee appreciation picnic, which was held this year at City Park Sept. 7. Woods began her role as Human Services program manager in May 2020. She has focused on establishing relationships with service providers and organizations to connect people with the resources they need – including household support grants, motel vouchers, food, and free cellphones. “Mindy’s work has been recognized by the Governor and by Snohomish County,” said Deputy Director Shannon Burley.

“She is a respected and integral part of the community, with a personal drive to better

the lives of everyone she meets. It is difficult to put all that she brings to the City in this form, but as her supervisor I can say that she is relied upon by many both internal and external stakeholders, and she always goes above and beyond and gives it everything she has.”

In the past year, Woods has coordinated services for over 150 individuals in Edmonds. In 2023, she was able to secure \$400,000 from the Washington State Department of Commerce to fund motel vouchers for people experiencing homelessness in Edmonds.

In addition to her day-to-day work, Woods serves the broader community locally, regionally, and at the federal level.

Some of her work includes an appointment by Gov. Jay Inslee for the State Advisory Council on Homelessness; participating in the National Low Income Housing Coalition, working with HUD and White House

see **MINDY WOODS** page 11 ▶



Mindy Woods, left, with Mayor Mike Nelson and Deputy Director Shannon Burley.

Photo courtesy of City of Edmonds



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However, letters must include a first and last name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We also reserve the right to edit letters as necessary for brevity, grammar and taste.

Published letters will include the author's name and city of residence.

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ECA names Kathy Liu executive director

Edmonds Center for the Arts has named Kathy Liu executive director, succeeding ECA's founding executive director Joe Mclalwain, who left in August after 17 years.



Kathy Liu

Liu begins her work Nov. 1. ECA's Associate Executive Director Lori Meagher will serve as interim executive director until then.

"Kathy's passion for the performing arts, commitment to community and partnerships, clear investment in ECA's mission, vision, and values, and specifically ECA's commitment to equity and becoming an anti-racist organization, is truly inspiring," said Meagher.

"Kathy will be joining a talented team of enthusiasts, and I look forward to our partnership as ECA's executive leadership team. I am excited to welcome Kathy's vision for ECA and enhancing our impact in the communities we serve, especially as we enter this next chapter in our organization's history."

Liu's appointment comes after an extensive, nearly year-long executive search. ECA

staff and Edmonds Public Facilities District (EPFD) board members formed in September 2022 to partner with m/Oppenheim Executive Search to find the new executive.

EPFD board President Ray Liaw said: "We feel strongly that Kathy, as ECA's next executive director, is the kind of collaborative and dedicated leader who can lead us forward through our strategic planning and visioning of the organization's future. Her strengths in contributed revenue generation, authentic relationship building, and community engagement and outreach efforts will take ECA to new heights."

Working in partnership with Meagher and staff, ECA said in a news release that Liu will help expand recognition of ECA as a premier performing arts center in Washington and beyond, expand education and community engagement experiences to meet the needs of the community, attract a new and diverse generation of performing arts patrons and supporters, and work diligently to ensure the accessibility of inclusivity of ECA and its programs.

"It's an honor to be asked to lead Edmonds Center for the Arts as its second executive director following Joe Mclalwain," said Liu.

"ECA is a strong voice for the performing arts and their impact on a vibrant community, and I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining the ECA team, contributing to its future success. I look forward to immersing myself in the greater Edmonds community and working closely with our external partners."

"Together with the talented ECA team, I'm eager to continue bringing excellent and exciting artistic programming to Edmonds, Snohomish County, and beyond, and serving our local communities through our dynamic and diverse education and community engagement programs."

Said ECA board President, Lindsay Geyer: "Throughout her career, Liu has led teams of varying sizes and worked closely with Boards, committees, volunteers, local government, and community stakeholders."

"She brings to ECA a deep dedication to arts and culture, collaboration, diversity, teamwork, and transparent communication. These values will undoubtedly serve her well as she joins the ECA team, lending her experience and skills to stewarding ECA's mission into the future."

see **ECA EXECUTIVE** page 11 ▶

AREACOMMERCE Local winery opens tasting room at Edmonds Commons

BY BRIAN SOERGER
EDMONDSEditor@YOURBEACON.NET

The wine-tasting experience in Edmonds keeps growing.

Following on the heels of Dusted Valley at Second and Main and Vie & Vin at Slish Crossing, Virtue Cellars on Wednesday, Sept. 20, opened its doors at Main Street Commons next to Molly Moon's.

It followed a soft opening. The Virtue Cellars tasting room will offer tastings and glass pours from opening until early afternoon every day, and then transition to a wine bar after 4 p.m. for glass pours and small bites. Bottle sales will always be available.

Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday; noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The tasting room is owned by Kevin and Kathryn Mueller, who say they process everything by hand, without mass production. There are no artificial flavors, colors, or additives.

Virtue specializes in Bordeaux- and Rhone-style reds, but also produces whites and rosés.

As the Beacon explained in an August 2021 article, the Muellers operate their winery from a licensed production facility adjacent to their Richmond Beach home.

The Muellers, along with co-winemaker and business partner Jakob Edens, produce award-winning, small-batch wine gathered from nine eastern Washington vineyards.

"We're very much focused on wines that are built to showcase a vineyard's uniqueness, as well as the varietals," Kevin Mueller told the Beacon.

More pavement overlay work coming to Edmonds

You may have noticed a lot more paving and roadwork on Edmonds streets lately. It's not over.

The City has begun working on about 1.2 lane-miles of streets at various locations throughout the city this week. The work is scheduled to be completed in October.

The work involves grinding off the top layer of old pavement and replacing it with new asphalt pavement. After the work is complete, residents will notice an improved pavement surface and smoother street, according to the City.

The project will require a detour of north-

bound traffic from 76th Avenue West to Highway 99 between Edmonds Way and 238th Place SW. The detour is ongoing, but drivers can go to edmondswa.gov/overlays and see digital signs posted on the roadway as weather conditions could cause project delays.

The detour will allow crews to pave two-thirds of the street on the same day to provide a durable and lasting product. The remaining section will be paved on the following day.

Community members are encouraged to visit the website for a map of impact-

ed streets, information on what to expect during construction, a detour map for northbound traffic at 76th between Edmonds Way and 238th Place, and regular schedule updates.

Drivers should expect delays for lane shifts and traffic control operations between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Drivers should use caution when driving through the construction zones for the safety of construction workers, the traveling public, and pedestrians.

More info: Ryan Hague at 425-771-0220. ryan.hague@edmondswa.gov.

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OURSCHOOLS

Join me in learning about entry plans

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! I'm grateful to have the opportunity to serve as a monthly guest contributor for the Edmonds Beacon this year. I hope my columns will be an informative way for you to stay connected with what is happening in your school district.

Since my selection as the ongoing superintendent, I have enjoyed having the opportunity to meet many community and staff members over the summer at community and school events.

OUR SCHOOLS



BY REBECCA MINER
SUPERINTENDENT,
EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

As the year progresses, I can't wait to meet more of you and engage in the critical work of serving our community's children.

Throughout the summer, thousands of hours were invested to make this a wonderful school year. As part of that work, you may have noticed some projects around our schools this summer.

Thanks to the voter-approved capital levy, we were able to replace the roof and gym floor at Seaview Elementary and install new playground equipment at Hilltop Elementary and Sherwood Elementary.

We know our students and community will benefit from these efforts and upgrades.

In addition to what's happening to our buildings, we're making improvements to our teaching and learning, too. Our staff have been working hard this summer to prepare for the year ahead.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, the district undertook a curriculum adoption process to identify, pilot, and select new phonics materials for use in our schools.

This summer, 559 staff members participated in training for the use of our newly adopted 95 Phonics Core curriculum, and we are excited about its implementation in our classrooms.

I'm working on my entry plan which you can learn more about at tinyurl.com/3f8c99au. I would appreciate having the benefit of community member insights and I hope you will choose to engage in one of the forums so that I can learn from you.

These events will be held Sept. 25 via Zoom, Sept. 27 at the Edmonds-Woodway High School library, Oct. 11 at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, and Oct. 26 at the Lynnwood High School library.

They are open to everyone in our community.

If you know of any groups who might be interested in having me come to talk with them about the district or the entry plan, there's a place on that page to suggest a group.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning from your experiences and knowledge of the district and community.

DARNWRIGHT

Who's mentoring artificial intelligence?

Although it seems to be a common gospel that anything is possible, James Madison wrote in *The Federalist* in 1789 that, "As long as the reason of man continues fallible, and he is at liberty to exercise it, different options will be formed."

Could Madison have been future-thinking about artificial intelligence (AI)? Probably not.

But it is still a possibility that Madison, as did my way-out-there 1966 philosophy professor, glimpsed into what early IBM programmer George Fuechsel had in mind when he said, "Garbage in, garbage out."

This "rubbish in, rubbish out ... applies to all logical argumentation: soundness implies validity, but validity does not imply soundness."

Another way to think about this concept is it doesn't matter how much garbage goes in. It will eventually be released and mingled with the non-garbage. It is then left up to the reader to be suspicious about what are alternative facts and what is factual information.

So where does AI rubbish come from?

Of course, the simple answer is the myth/information and biases were programmed into the AI system by its expert, experienced, and trusted human mentors.

Common implemented errors generally fall into one of these two categories: user-related errors or design-related errors.

An example of this came in 2018 when Amazon had to backtrack from using AI as a hiring tool because its AI was probably discriminating against over half of our county's population: women.

How did this rubbish-in lead to garbage-out?

Well, Amazon fed into its AI program the resumes of successful male individuals. This male bias was used to help Amazon hiring managers determine which candidates to hire.

With the machine's mentor's advice, this rubbish led to the machine rejecting females whose resumes listed the name of all-girls schools or women's colleges.

DARN WRIGHT



BY CHUCK WRIGHT
LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL AND
CERTIFIED TRAUMATIC
STRESS SPECIALIST

see **WRIGHT** page 5 ▶

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MOMENT'S NOTICE

What everyday heroes can create

"We could be heroes, just for one day."

– David Bowie

Walking down a long hallway the other day, looking at statues of important figures from American history, I saw an unambiguous demonstration of how we used to choose our heroes from a relatively small pool.

MOMENT'S NOTICE



BY MARIA MONTALVO
MOMENTSNOTICE@GMAIL.COM

Some were certainly deserving but, of course, many did not even have to compete with the vast majority of that population to be considered great. (100 years ago, the U.S. population was a third of the size it is today, and nearly 60% of that population was functionally prohibited from working or participating at a high level in most careers or sports).

As much as those inequities are worthy of a spotlight, this is not a column about who deserves a statue or to be memorialized in history.

What I thought about as I studied the faces preserved in stone or photograph – those recognized for breaking the mold or setting the bar or embodying our independent spirit or any other familiar phrases about the American standard for greatness – was not what they had done but why they were immortalized.

The words from the David Bowie song "Heroes"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for turning in key job

My husband and I wanted to thank the person who found our Ford Escape fob on Sunset Avenue.

We looked everywhere and, this morning, Monday the 18th, we called the Edmonds police. Some anonymous wonderful person took the time to give it to them.

It has been gone for over two weeks, but we kept hoping. It would have cost us about \$500 to replace it.

Thank you, you considerate person.

Cindi Paris
Lynnwood

City should take hard stance on saving tree canopy

The trees proposed to be cut along the City right-of-way adjacent to the proposed housing unit next to the library parking lot, should not be allowed.

Enough!

The City needs to take a harder stand on saving the canopy. Let's not rationalize this decision just to make it "convenient" for the developer.

Also, let's not take down mature trees with the promise to plant a few more baby trees somewhere else.

This is a slippery slope and keeps repeating itself all over town.

Chris Walton
Edmonds
(Council public written comment)

Durbin Drive trees are worth saving

I am specifically concerned about the five large trees on Durbin Drive bordering the east side of the proposed development at 627 Dayton St.

The section shown on street trees sounds great, but according to the Tree Board, if trees aren't determined by the City to "be part of a healthy, sustainable urban forest 5, 10, 20 plus years from now," they can be removed.

Maybe the determining factor should be that the trees are alive, owned by the public, and must be protected during the private construction project.

Do the laws in ECDC 23.10.060 apply only to the trees on the site to be developed, or to both the trees on the site to be developed plus the abutting right-of-way?

I am also greatly concerned that chapter 18.85 of the ECDC gives the director of Public Works the authority to have City employees remove street trees

see **LETTERS** page 8 ▶

We want to know what **YOU** think.
The BEACON welcomes letters to the Editor

Please send your letters to Edmonds Beacon Editor,
728 3rd Street, Suite D, Mukilteo, WA 98275
or email us at edmondseditor@yourbeacon.net

SAVVY SENIOR

3 vaccines seniors should get this fall

Dear Savvy Senior,
Which vaccines are recommended for Medicare seniors this flu season?
— Just Turned 65

Dear Just Turned,
There are actually three different types of vaccines seniors should consider getting this fall to protect against a repeat of last winter's "triple-demic" of respiratory illnesses, which included flu, RSV, and coronavirus. Here's a rundown of the different vaccines the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending and how they are covered by Medicare.

Senior-specific flu shots

For people age 65 and older, there are three flu vaccines (you only need one) that the CDC recommends over traditional flu shots.

SAVVY SENIOR



BY JIM MILLER

These FDA-approved vaccines provide extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot does, which is important for older adults who have weaker immune defenses and have a greater risk of developing dangerous flu complications compared with younger, healthy adults. The three senior-specific options include the:

- Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine, which contains four times the amount of antigen as a regular flu shot does, creating a stronger immune response for better protection.
- Flud Quadrivalent vaccine, which contains an added ingredient called adjuvant MF59 that also helps create a stronger immune response.

• FluBlok Quadrivalent vaccine, is a recombinant protein (egg-free) flu vaccine that contains three times the amount of antigen as compared with a regular flu shot.

There isn't enough evidence yet to indicate whether one of these three vaccines provides superior protection over the other two for seniors.

As for side effects, you should know that the Fluzone High-Dose and Flud vaccines can cause more of the mild side effects that can occur with a standard-dose flu shot, like pain or tenderness where you got the shot, muscle aches, headache or fatigue. While the side effects of Flublok tend to be a little less frequent.

All flu vaccines are covered 100% by Medicare Part B as long as your doctor, health clinic or pharmacy agrees not to charge you more than Medicare pays.

New RSV vaccines

Anyone age 60 and older, especially if you have any heart or lung conditions, diabetes, kidney, or liver disorders that make you vulnerable to the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) should consider getting one of the new FDA approved RSV vaccines (either Arexvy or Abrysvo).

These vaccines, recommended by the CDC, will help protect older and immunocompromised adults from respiratory illness, which is responsible for 6,000 to 10,000 deaths and at least 60,000 hospitalizations each year in seniors 65 and older.

The new RSV vaccines are covered by Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plans.

Updated COVID booster

If you haven't had a COVID-19 booster shot lately, you should consider getting one this fall. Even though the COVID public health emergency has ended and the number of cases has gone way down, it has been surging in recent months causing an increase in hospitalizations, especially among the elderly.

The updated COVID vaccine targets the XBB omicron subvariants that are some of the most dominant coronavirus variants circulating in the U.S. It will also provide protection against the EG.5 variant (Eris), which is closely related to the XBB.

COVID booster shots are covered 100% by Medicare Part B.

When and where

Most health officials agree that it's safe to receive the flu and COVID booster at the same time. But because the RSV vaccines are new this year, many doctors are recommending a two-week window between an RSV shot and the flu and/or the COVID shots.

You can find all three vaccines at most pharmacies, medical clinics and health departments, or you can do a search at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

▶ from **WRIGHT** page 4

Another big garbage-out example comes from IBM. In this instance, the Watson Health case, this too-big-to-fail corporation used AI to dip into health care. This \$62 million dollar AI disaster was another embarrassment for AI's evolving image.

One of many more examples is the failure of AI to be able to single out people through its face recognition programming. This

was especially true when it came to Black individuals.

For more examples, Google "8 famous analytic and IT disasters."

These examples further support the truth that even a little piece of garbage can destroy one's future.

Dam right, even with those damaging examples, AI is in our future. But those examples are warning signs that the computer writing is on the screen and we must always be vigilant regarding who we are letting mentor our AI machines.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Senior suicide prevention: A caring approach to saving lives

September is Suicide Prevention Month. When people think of those that die by suicide, many do not think of seniors. Yet the elderly have significant higher rates of suicide than other age groups. According to the National Council on Aging, while older adults comprise just 12% of the population, they make up approximately 18% of suicides.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



BY MICHELLE REITAN
HEALTH & WELLNESS DIRECTOR, EDMONDS WATERFRONT CENTER

In 2020, among the nearly 46,000 suicides that took place in the U.S., 9,137 were attributed to people aged 65 and up. Older adults tend to plan suicide more carefully. They are also more likely to use more lethal methods. Men 65 and older face the highest overall rate of suicide.

Senior suicide is a deeply concerning and often overlooked issue in society. As our population ages, the importance of senior suicide prevention becomes increasingly significant. Seniors face unique challenges and circumstances that can contribute to feelings of hopelessness and isolation.

Senior suicide is a complex issue with multiple contributing factors. Some of the common factors include:

- Physical health issues: Seniors often deal with chronic illnesses, pain, and disability, which can lead to depression and suicidal thoughts.
 - Loss and grief: The loss of loved ones, friends, and spouses can be overwhelming, leading to loneliness and despair.
 - Social isolation: Seniors may experience isolation due to physical limitations, retirement, or the loss of social connections, which can increase the risk of suicide.
 - Financial stress: Many seniors face financial difficulties, especially if they are living on fixed incomes or struggling with health-care costs.
 - Mental health: Undiagnosed or untreated mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety, can contribute to suicidal thoughts.
- Early intervention is crucial in preventing senior suicide. Identifying warning signs and providing support can save lives. Some warning signs to look out for include:
- Expressing suicidal thoughts: Seniors who openly discuss or hint at suicidal thoughts should be taken seriously.
 - Sudden withdrawal: If a senior becomes withdrawn, stops participating in activities they once enjoyed, or isolates themselves, it could be a sign of trouble.
 - Neglecting personal care: A sudden decline in personal hygiene and self-care can be indicative of emotional distress.
 - Giving away possessions: Seniors who start

giving away their belongings or making final arrangements may be contemplating suicide.

How to support someone with suicidal thoughts

• Ask. Don't be afraid to be direct with the person at risk. Ask questions like, "Are you thinking about suicide?" and "How can I help you?" to initiate a conversation in a supportive and unbiased way.

• Be there. If you're able to, be physically present for the person in order

to ease feelings of isolation and provide a sense of connectedness. If a face-to-face visit is not possible, be there for them via phone or video calls.

• Keep them safe. Find out if the person has already made any attempts on their life. Do they have a specific plan or timing in mind? The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) can serve as a valuable resource for helping you determine the next steps.

• Help them connect. If a senior in your life is thinking about suicide, it's important for them to establish support systems they can rely on now and in future moments of crisis. This includes suicide prevention hotlines such as the Lifeline, as well as resources available in their local community.

• Follow up. Studies have shown that following up can reduce suicide-related deaths in high-risk populations. Once you've had an initial conversation with the vulnerable person and helped them establish a support network, make sure to check in. This can be done with a quick phone call, text message, or even a card.

Senior suicide prevention is a vital cause that requires attention, compassion, and action. By understanding the unique challenges that seniors face, recognizing warning signs, and implementing compassionate approaches, we can work towards reducing the incidence of senior suicide.

Help is available for those with suicidal thoughts:

- Call 988
- [wecare.edmondswa.gov](https://www.wecare.edmondswa.gov)
- South County Fire has a free community outreach call program for those who need someone to talk to. You can call 425-320-5800 or email outreach@southsnofire.org
- Snohomish County 24-hour local crisis line: 800-584-3578
- 24-hour chat service: [imhurting.org](https://www.imhurting.org)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Snohomish County Crisis Resources: bit.ly/39tCm9V



▶ from **MONTALVO** page 4

Even the stranger who noticed you might need someone to ask you how you were doing at just the right moment.

Those moments may not seem like acts of heroism, but what if the people who you remember had not come into your life?

We all struggle at some point or another, and most of us eventually learn that we cannot succeed or achieve happiness all alone.

Psychologists will tell you that the more we engage with others and the more we are kind, in even the tiniest of ways, the happier and healthier we all become.

Simply by being a small force of happiness for another human that may help in the moment, a person can boost both their own and other's physical and mental well-being.

Someone dear to me recently

quoted author Jodi Picoult when talking about how we can create a chain reaction of people willing to help each other by simply choosing to take a moment to empower or uplift someone else.

"Heroes didn't leap tall buildings or stop bullets with an outstretched hand; they didn't wear boots and capes. They bled and they bruised, and their superpowers were as sim-

ple as listening and loving.

"Heroes were ordinary people who knew that even if their own lives were impossibly knotted, they could untangle someone else's. And maybe that one act could lead someone to rescue you right back."

It may not get a statue, but there is true hope in what everyday heroes create.

Sudoku solution

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

Our apologies. The Puzzle Maker was at a loss for words this week.

Crossword may return next week, Sept. 28.

The Beacon is sorry for any inconvenience.

News Tips

The Beacon invites readers to share story tips and ideas. If you see or know of some news deserving of coverage, email Editor Brian Soergel at edmondseditor@yourbeacon.net or call the newsroom at 425-347-5634 ext. 235.





Photo courtesy of Dale Sutton

Driftwood Players' cast highlights Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express." Driftwood Players opens its 65th season with the mystery classic.

All aboard for Driftwood Players' 'Orient Express'

THEATER REVIEW

BY KAREN BENNETT HERR
FOR THE BEACON

Driftwood Players opens its 65th season with the Agatha Christie classic, "Murder on the Orient Express," skillfully directed by David Alan Morrison with assistant directorship from Paul Fleming.

The play, adapted by Ken Ludwig from the original Christie novel, takes place in 1934 aboard the Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe. It features a cast of colorful, quirky characters, not least of which is the charming, eccentric Hercule Poirot.

Not far into the journey, one of the pas-

sengers is brutally murdered and Poirot must put his detective prowess to work to unravel the truth. Once the pieces have come together, his deep reverence for the law is challenged by this play's unbelievable culminating scenario.

Driftwood's production is a triumph on all fronts. The production team (a long list of extremely talented folks) has created an eye-catching train's interior with clever transitional capacity, well deserving of the audience's spontaneous burst of applause at the first scene change on opening night.

Props, lighting, audio, and cinematic elements enhance the ingenious scenic design by Brian Fletcher. The result is just the right amount of fullness for an aesthetic that

see **ORIENT EXPRESS** page 9 ▶

WANDERLUST

Splendid art, views at Olympic Sculpture Park

An icon of Seattle, the park has been a staple since 2007

Outdoor art is a boon for urban areas. It enhances a city, adds color and vibrancy to its cultural fabric, and provides unique spaces for artists to showcase their work.

WANDERLUST



BY DEBBIE STONE
TRAVELSTONE@COMCAST.NET
TRAVEL WRITER

Bringing art from behind the walls also offers an opportunity for people to be exposed to different forms of creativity without having to set foot in a museum. And it's a great way to engage the senses and possibly spur interest in self-expression.

The Olympic Sculpture Park has been a Seattle icon since 2007. Located downtown, the park operated by the Seattle Art Museum was formerly an industrial site before the museum transformed it into an elegant green space.

This noted outdoor museum is situated on 9 picturesque acres. Its zig-zag-shaped design descends 40 feet from the city to Puget Sound and boasts views of the skyline and Elliot Bay. The park melds with the landscape while connecting Seattle's dynamic urban core to its waterfront.

Large-scale modern and contemporary sculptures are positioned throughout the area. Some are visible from everywhere in the park due to their monumental size. Others are semi-hidden alongside trails, waiting to be discovered.

Alexander Calder's "Eagle," for example, is hard to miss. This massive 39-foot-tall, bright red, steel piece resembles an origami figure on steroids.

Although it's an abstract work, the bird references are obvious. There's a grace to the sculpture, as it soars upwards into the sky in majestic fashion.

Richard Serra's "Wake" is another towering behemoth. Featuring five undulating, acid-washed, steel slabs stretching 125 feet, the piece offers a multitude of perspectives depending on your vantage point.

Walk between them for a "Honey I Shrank the Kids" sensation. Then gaze down upon them from the elevated platform and they might take the form of rolling waves.

"Seattle Cloud Cover" by Teresita Fernandez is an Impressionist-like stunner. It's a glass, canopy bridge, which displays the changing images of the sky as you walk under it. Nature and art come together with the play of light.

Industrial materials and geometric forms come together in Beverly Pepper's "Perre's Ventaglio III." All hard edges and sleek in design, it appears frozen in a semi-collapsed state.

At the shoreline is "ECHO," a 46-foot-



Photo courtesy of Debbie Stone

Alexander Calder's "Eagle" at Olympic Sculpture Park is 39 feet tall.

tall, marble dust-coated sculpture by Jaume Plensa. The piece was named for the mountain nymph of Greek mythology, who offended the goddess Hera by distracting her from spying on one of Zeus's lovers.

As punishment, Hera took away Echo's free speech, allowing her only to repeat the last words of another. Plensa's notable creation depicts the face of a girl with her eyes closed, as if in meditation. It is a luminous beacon that rises above the park.

Also near the shoreline is "Father and Son," by Louise Bourgeois. An emotionally evocative work, the sculpture is comprised of two naked forms, a father and son, installed in a fountain.

The figures are reaching out to one another and as the water spouts up, one of them is engulfed in it, while the other remains dry. Each hour, the effect switches, yet the figures remain separated, unable to make contact.

Nearby is another Bourgeois installation titled, "Eye Benches I, II and III."

These black granite pieces resemble giant, disembodied, eyeballs that seem to be all-observant. I initially found them disturbing because they seemed to be watching my every move, but then I saw that they doubled as outdoor seating.

Once I sat in them, they ceased to be creepy. Additional benches dot the park, giving viewers places to rest and absorb the art, while contemplating its effects on the environs.

For some visitors to the park, the sculptures take centerstage; each appreciated for its distinct qualities and impressions. For others, the works are integrated within the landscape, and seen as a complete canvas.

As a greenspace, the park offers respite from the hubbub, a place to picnic, room for kids to run around and even a pocket beach to dip your toes in – all within the heart of Seattle.



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Edmonds Art Studio Tour 2023



Clockwise from top left: Cyndi Brown is a lifelong artist who six years ago discovered her perfect medium – clay sculpting. Jenny Duntz dressed up a mannequin to lead the way to Doug Lofstrom's studio. Doug Lofstrom points to his portrait of Jenny Duntz, while she does the same for her portrait of Lofstrom. They participated in the Edmonds Art Studio Tour from Lofstrom's studio.

This annual Edmonds Art Studio Tour offered the public in-person engagement when it opened 19 studios to 39 artists over the weekend. Artwork was for sale, and visitors could learn more about each artist's creative process and even watch some artists create a piece on-site.

Beacon photos by Brian Soergel



Octoberfest 2023

There was plenty going on Friday and Saturday at the Edmonds Rotary's annual Oktoberfest at the Frances Anderson Center playfield. There were food trucks, a beer garden, and music both days. Entertainment for kids and a pet parade were featured Saturday.

Beacon photos by Brian Soergel



From the top down: 6-year-old Sirena Snyder and her dog won for best costume during Oktoberfest's Pet Parade, sponsored by Edmonds College. There were plenty of friends made during Oktoberfest's Pet Parade. Edmonds PD's Community Engagement Coordinator Tabatha Shoemake was busy painting faces at Oktoberfest. The Edmonds Rotary's Daina Boden led the Pet Parade.



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Sept. 23

Council Chat

10 a.m.-noon. Councilmember Richard Emery invites residents to chat and have coffee with him to discuss concerns and hopes for Mukilteo. Mukilteo Library Meeting Room, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

10 a.m.-noon. United Way of Snohomish County will help interested families register their children with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to get a free book delivered in the mail every month until their 5th birthday. Bilingual books in Spanish/English are available. Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave. W, Lynnwood.



Fiber Arts Show Opening Reception

4-6 p.m. The Pacific NW Needle Arts Guild presents its 2023 fiber show, "And the Stitch Goes on..." at ArtWorks, 201 Second Ave. S., Edmonds.

Sept. 25

Mukilteo Pub Run

6 p.m. Take off running or walking every Monday from Tapped Mukilteo, 10809 Mukilteo Speedway, Mukilteo.

Sept. 26

Smart911 Sign-up

11 a.m.-2 p.m. With Smart911 (emergency phone system with Snohomish County 911), you can provide 9-1-1 call takers and first responders critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency. Edmonds Waterfront Center-Community Lounge, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds.

Sept. 26

Bats Overhead

Choose 4-5 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. Look up at dusk, and you're likely to see a bat flying across the sky. Join wildlife habitat specialist Niki Desautels from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and learn about bats through stories and crafts. For school-aged kids. Registration required at 425-493-8202. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.



Sept. 27

Quilt Making - Project Linus

10 a.m.-3 p.m. For ages 50 and up. The Snohomish County Chapter of Project Linus provides blankets to help kids birth-18 years in hospitals, foster care, and camps that help grieving, disabled, burned kids, and more. Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave., Mukilteo.



Sept. 29

Children's Author Story Time

9:30-10 a.m. Join Barbara Herkert as she reads from her new book, "This Old Nadrone Tree." Edmonds Bookshop, 111 Fifth Avenue S., Edmonds.

Sept. 30

Making Local Market

10 a.m.-4 p.m. 120-plus small, local and handmade businesses. Food trucks, family-friendly, pet-friendly. Downtown Bothell.

Oct. 3

Narcan Training

6 p.m. Free and open to the public. With Amy Wheat, Snohomish County Opioid Outreach Specialist. Attendees will receive Narcan kits to take home while supplies last. No registration required. Everett Public Library Main Branch, 2702 Hoyt Ave., Everett.



Oct. 5

Silver Screeners Film and Discussion

10 a.m.-noon. Feature movie: "Murder by Death" (1976). Silver Screeners Cinema Club is a free senior outreach program presented by Scarecrow Video, convening the elder community with movies. Mukilteo Library, 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

Oct. 7

Perrinville Palooza

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Organized by Edmonds "Reimagining Neighborhood and Streets" initiative. Wheels parade (bring your bicycle, scooter, stroller, roller skates, wheelchair), chalk art, bouncy house, face painting, cake walk, food trucks, live music and more. 76th Avenue W, Edmonds (between Olympic View Drive and 180th Street SW). Street will be closed. <https://tinyurl.com/2jvhkhn6>.



Teen Volunteer Hour

10:30-11:30 a.m. (First Saturday of each month). Earn Community Service credit by helping out doing various tasks at the Mukilteo Library. Meets in the teen area of the library. For grades 6-12. No registration required. 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo.

Ongoing

Art Exhibit

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. "Majestic Menagerie: Animals of Earth & Ocean" exhibit featuring over 60 pieces from 35 artists (acrylics, oils, watercolor, photography, pastels, pen and ink, and more). Lynnwood Event Center, 3711 196th St. SW., Lynnwood.



Edmonds Summer Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m. About 90 vendors every Saturday through Oct. 14. Fifth Avenue North and Bell Street, Edmonds.

Everett Farmers Market

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Fresh and local produce, meat, seafood, baked goods, artisan products and more. Open every Sunday at Wetmore Avenue in downtown Everett.

Schacktoberfest

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m. Through Sept. 30. Free admission. Harvest-themed exhibit featuring a glass pumpkin patch and over 100 artworks by local artists. Schack Art Center, 2921 Hoyt Ave., Everett.



MORE AROUND TOWN AT EDMONDSBEACON.COM/CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beacon publishes FREE events, as space allows, open to the public in Edmonds, Mukilteo, Mill Creek, and surrounding areas. Submit calendar events for consideration two weeks in advance of publication date, online at edmondsbeacon.com/calendar and select "Submit Event."

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▶ from **LETTERS** page 4

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Existing trees are worth protecting! What is the downside?

*Ann Christiansen
Edmonds
(Council public written comment)*

Too much money for Landmark property

Why does it seem that our Edmonds City Council is great at fixing something that is not broken and not fix what is broken?

The list under both items seems to be growing. The Landmark property is not theirs to fix, let a private individual or group go about that task.

One of my concerns is the amount of

money the council wants to spend, vis-a-vis increased taxes to homeowners. We are retired with a fixed income, and continually see our property taxes increase every year.

Between staff ideas and recommendations, the mayor's off-the-wall ideas, and certain members of the council, who is looking out for the fiscal responsibility of a budget for the citizens of Edmonds?

Certainly not "the staff," mayor, and part of the council.

*Susan Lang
Edmonds
(Council public written comment)*

Landmark Project is speculative property development

To the Edmonds City Council, I would like to echo the sentiments of the citizens who spoke in opposition to the city's involvement in the Landmark Project.

For the City to consider speculative property development during a period of deficit spending could prove further lack of stewardship of taxpayer's funds.

Our city is not in the best shape - our roads need repairs, the municipal park is over budget, and the water treatment plant needs attention.

These are just a few reasons why the city should leave the business of developing to those who are in that business.

If the members of the council want to become developers, I encourage them to do it as private citizens and stick to the business of managing our local government when using taxpayer money.

*Jeff Scherrer
Edmonds
(Council public written comment)*



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Photo courtesy of Arutyun Sargsyan

Edmonds College President Amit B. Singh will collaborate with other college presidents in an attempt to advance reforms on equitable student outcomes as part of the Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship program.

EC President Singh gets Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has selected Edmonds College President Amit B. Singh for the inaugural class of the Aspen Presidents Fellowship.

This program, with financial support from JPMorgan Chase & Co., focuses on developing a sustainable and comprehensive reform agenda in an attempt to advance equity in student outcomes.

Singh will work with a faculty of leading community college presidents and senior staff from the Aspen Institute over the next year.

They will learn about practices at field-leading colleges, analyze their students' graduation and post-graduation outcomes, and advance reforms to improve student success.

"I am honored to be selected and looking forward to working with the Aspen leadership and collaborating with such a dedicated group of college presidents," said Singh, who completed the Rising Presidential Fellowship offered by the Aspen Institute in 2017-18.

"Edmonds College is already committed

to improving outcomes for all students. I look forward to continuing that work, along with our faculty and staff, as I gain new skills and knowledge within this program."

This class of fellows represents the diversity of the nation's community colleges. They lead institutions across 14 states that collectively educate over 280,000 students.

"Scaled improvements in student outcomes at our nation's community colleges requires excellent leadership," said Josh Wyner, College Excellence Program executive director.

"I am continually inspired and motivated by the dedication and expertise that our fellows bring to the work of advancing excellence and equity on their campuses, and I look forward to supporting them as they improve outcomes for their students."

JPMorgan Chase's philanthropic support for the Aspen Presidential Fellowship is part of the firm's New Skills at Work initiative to prepare young people for the future of work and meet the growing demand for skilled workers.

Meet the superintendent and candidates for Edmonds School District

Want to know about budget issues in the Edmonds School District? The story behind declining attendance and graduation rates? What the priorities are for the months and

years ahead? On Sept. 28, citizens in the Edmonds School District will have a chance to engage with Superintendent Rebecca Miner

and the candidates for the Edmonds School Board at a forum sponsored by the Edmonds Civic Roundtable.

to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Edmonds Waterfront Center, 220 Railroad Ave.

In addition to a presentation by Miner, voters can meet Carin Chase, Nancy Katims and Nick Jenkins, who will appear on the Nov. 7 general election ballot.

The Edmonds School District includes the cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Brier, Woodway, and unincorporated areas of Snohomish County.

Board candidates will address their own plans for improvement of student outcomes, as well as answer questions from the audience.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/yck676en>

The forum will be held from 5:30 p.m.

► from ORIENT EXPRESS page 6

complements, rather than competes with, the actors.

And speaking of the actors – there is not a weak link among this stellar cast of 11.

David Hayes as Poirot, with his tidy mustache and persnickety manner, carries his role with impeccable precision. He has mastered the nuance of his principled, iconic character who feels pulled by forces of empathy and ethics.

Kim Ferse, as Helen Hubbard, is suitably over-the-top with her Min-nes-ohhh-tan dialect and her penchant for accumulating husbands and bourbon.

Her artful use of physical humor – big, expressive movements from her lithe frame – provides a steady comic pulse to the unfolding story.

And Skye Stafford, as the beautiful Countess Andrenyi, exudes strength and poise – it is no surprise that her character catches the eye of the usually unruffled master detective.

Rounding out the cast with further excellence are Brian Harper (Monsieur Bouc), Karli Reinbold (Mary Debenham), Giovanna Cossalter Walters (Hector MacQueen), Brandon Jepson (Michel the Conductor), Carol Richmond (Princess Dragomiroff), Elora Coble (Greta Ohlsson), Landon Whitbread (Colonel Arbuthnot), and Thomas A.

Class (Samuel Ratchett).

Most of the characters have distinguishable accents, and all are authentic-sounding thanks to the guidance of dialect coach Grace Helmcke.

Costuming by Audrey Herold is right on point – smart, attractive, and true to the period.

To the producers, directors, actors, and production team, a hearty "well done" for this fantastic journey of a play.

And to local theater-goers, a big nudge to hop on board for a delightful ride. The show runs through Oct. 8.

Tickets: edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org

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

Sudoku solution on page 5

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MEADOWDALE Athlete of the Week
Eben-Ezer Eskinder Sarka is a 6'4" first year member of the Meadowdale Boys' Basketball program and a welcome addition to the Mavs on the hardwood. During the last game before the Winter Break, Eben stepped up when an injured teammate went down and led the team in scoring for the week, including a 13 point performance at home vs. Marysville-Pilchuck. In addition to his efforts on the court, Eben likes to hang out with friends and is working hard on his studies to study electrical engineering. That is why Eben Sarka attend the University of Washington where he would like to study electrical engineering. Proudly Sponsored by Meadowdale High School Athlete of the Week.

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Jerry F. Ray: 1933-2023

It is with a heavy heart that we honor and remember the life of Jerry F. Ray. Jerry, a loving father, passed away on September 2, 2023, in Edmonds, at the age of 89, peacefully passing away in his sleep due to natural causes.

Jerry's journey began on September 25, 1933, in Ada, Oklahoma; however, if anyone asked him where he was from, he would say San Francisco. San Francisco was a place he moved to as a young boy, where he went through school, and delivered newspapers as his first job.

Jerry then worked at Safeway, and was a manager at a movie theater in downtown San Francisco. He joined the Merchant Marines and set sail around the world, notably crossing the Panama Canal, and docked in many ports as far as Japan.

Following his service as a Merchant Marine, he served his country during and after the Korean Conflict (not in combat) with honor and dignity.

It was during his Active Duty service in Munich, Ger-

many, that he met the love of his life, Rosemarie Feuerabendt, whom he married and shared many beautiful years together. A romance that brought their two daughters, Susanne and Cynthia, into the world.

Following his service in the Air Force, Jerry embarked on a fulfilling career as a Court Reporter for the Department of Defense, stationed at Sembach Air Force Base in Germany. His dedication and commitment shone through in every aspect of his work, leaving a lasting impact on those he encountered.

Jerry's passion for storytelling led him to author



two memorable autobiographical books. His first book delved into the fascinating chapters of his own life, while the second book lovingly depicted Rosemarie's experiences as a refugee at a young

age during World War II in Nazi Germany. cremated and transported to The Columbarium in San Francisco, joining those of his beloved wife, Rosemarie, who pre-deceased him. It is a comforting thought that they will forever rest together, united even in eternity.

Jerry was a private person, and he requested that any celebration of him be privately held. Jerry will be remembered as a loving father, a dedicated veteran, and a gifted storyteller. His memory will continue to inspire and touch the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing and loving him.

Jerry's legacy lives on through his daughters, Susanne Pearson and Cynthia Ray, and his son-in-law, James Pearson. They were a constant source of pride and joy for him. He cherished every moment with his daughters, instilling in them a sense of love, strength, and resilience.

May his soul find eternal peace, and may the memories of his life bring those who knew him comfort in this difficult time.

Jerry proudly self-published the book, "Goodbye Homeland," and it received wide acclaim in local bookstores throughout Washington state. Through his writing, Jerry shared poignant insights into the often untold stories of resilience and courage.

In accordance with Jerry's wishes, his remains will be

Mary (Gregory) Putney: 1940-2023

We are devastated to say Mary passed away.

Mary was born March 5, 1940, in Hasty, Arkansas. She was the fourth of 13 children by Delbert and Ona Mae Gregory. In 1945, Delbert moved his wife and then-six children to Seattle for a job at the Sand Point Naval Station.

Mary married Gary Putney in 1960 and they had three daughters, Kerri, Gina, and Joni. Gary was in the Coast Guard, so the family lived at different locations along the Oregon and Washington coast.

In 1971, the family moved back to the Seattle area and Mary went to work at National Bank of Commerce/Rainier Bank as a telephone switchboard operator. Over her career at the bank, Mary worked her way up to Loan Officer, where she retired many years later.

Mary had many obstacles in her life due to medical issues with her neck and back, but that never stopped her from doing ANYthing! She loved life and had many interests. Mary loved gardening and her flowers, danc-

ing, and reading John Grisham novels.

She read the newspaper daily, front to back, starting with the sports section. Mary loved shopping for a good deal and garage sale-ing with Aunt Rose. And, of course, Mary loved the Mariners and Seahawks!

More than anything, though, Mary loved God and her family. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and was small but mighty, as well as determined and stubborn!

Mary leaves behind three daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and 10 siblings. We will miss your sweet smile and sparkling blue eyes. We will love and miss you forever.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held Saturday, October 21, from noon to 4 p.m. at 11525-19th Ave. SE Everett, WA 98208

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Providence Hospice of Snohomish County: <https://foundation.providence.org/wa/snohomish>.

Margaret "Hedy" Vila: 1933-2023

Hedy died peacefully in her sleep Sunday, Sep. 10, 2023 at the age of 90, at her Mill Creek residence.

Hedy was born July 9, 1933, in Kingsville, Ontario, Canada. She excelled in school and pursued a degree at Assumption College, Windsor, Ontario.

She interned as medical technologist at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan, then worked at St. John Hospital in Detroit. In 1957, early in her career, mom and her good friend

adventured by car across the American West. When they reached Seattle, they found jobs at Doctors Hospital on First Hill (now Swedish). She soon met our dad, José, who lived in the same Capitol Hill apartment building. Mom and dad married in 1960 in mom's hometown.

Hedy and Jose were happily married until dad's death in 2006. They raised their children in North Seattle (St. Luke's Parish), and Edmonds (Holy Rosary Parish). Mom returned to med-tech work in the late 1970s at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland.



In retirement, they lived in Mill Creek with their dogs, traveled, and volunteered together. Mom enjoyed gardening, travel, community service, and her many good friends. She was committed to her Catholic faith and her faith community, and mostly she loved her family deeply.

Hedy is survived by her children: Elisa, Jose (Lydia Hatch), Clare (Kurt) Nance, and Marie; and three grandchildren: Jacob Brady, Patrick Brady, and Carley Nance.

Hedy is preceded in death by her parents, Margaret and Matthew Dorn, and her dear sister and brother-in-law, Elizabeth "Betty" and Michael Morouse.

A funeral mass will be held Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2316 180th St. SE, Bothell. A reception will follow at the church hall. A Rosary will be held before mass, at 10 a.m.

We are heartbroken but heartened knowing that mom made such a positive impact on the people around her. We will miss her immensely and will carry her inspiration forward in our lives.

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TAKE OUR SURVEY

► from COFFEE SHOP page 1

Kristin. The couple looked at about half a dozen potential locations in the city.

Two years ago, Brian pitched the idea of making his coffee shop a part of Main Street Commons to Mike McMurray, owner of the Commons development project.

"I think it was a little early in the project," Brian said, "And I think [Mike] was looking for a little more of a proven concept. But we developed a friendship and stayed connected."

When Brian came back to him with a more developed plan this spring, McMurray "jumped on the opportunity."

Brian isn't sure how he came up with the name Stillhouse in college. But when it

came time for him and his wife, Kristin, to pick a name for the Edmonds shop, they decided to stick with the name he came up with nearly 20 years ago.

They felt that the name spoke to the significance of "honoring stillness," something they hope to do with their shop.

Brian said he wants Stillhouse to be a place where people can connect with the community, recharge, and enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a moment of calm.

Adds Kristin: "When you're actually being still, you can take in the beauty around you. And I think with [Stillhouse Coffee], it's the beauty of community, the beauty of good coffee, the beauty of connection. And so I think we felt like there was power in that name."

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▶ from **MIKA'S SONG** page 1

Hartman has a full life in music. He's choosy with his projects.

"I'm not just doing them for the money," he said. "I'm trying to find things that actually have some pretty deep meaning for me."

Hartman has performed in Edmonds in the past, working with the City's Arts Commission at concerts in the parks. During the pandemic, he worked with the commission on a public Zoom presentation of "As the Earth Turns," the silent film he created music for.

"I've been evolving 'Mika's Song' over the last several months," he said, noting that Paul Cogley, a member of the commission and a noted Edmonds musician in his own right, helped him with lyrics.

"It started as, can I even write a simple melody, but what intrigued me about doing this is that there's seven notes to this instrument; it's what might be called an A minor pentatonic scale."

Hartman had to experiment to figure out where the notes sounded best on the tubes. He worked it out in musical notation.

"Basically from left to right, you have kind

of a descending A minor chord from left to right. There are three notes left that are fourths apart, but you play in the middle and work your way out, like a kalimba (a wooden soundboard with metal prongs). Again, the bigger notes are in the middle, and they get smaller as you move out.

"Everything that I play on keyboard percussion instruments is set up like a piano. So this is like playing a steel drum to me; it kind of defies all my logic. But I could find things, and when I created a test piece I submitted to the commission I tended to look at it as chord plus kind of some melody notes and I didn't really see the bigger picture."

Musical theory aside, all you need to know is that the composition is appealing to the ear.

"It has a nice form and a nice color to it," said Hartman. "It actually changes from kind of a major to a minor to major, which I wanted. I wanted to have that sort of thing, because that tells the story of anybody going through disability."

"And Mika's story, what spoke to me, was the idea that, in spite of his disability, whatever you want to call it, he was able to find happiness in parks."

▶ from **ECA EXECUTIVE** page 3

Liu brings more than 15 years of nonprofit arts administration and fundraising experience to ECA. She is most recently director of advancement for the Asian Cultural Council, a global arts and culture nonprofit, where she leads the marketing, communications, and development departments.

Previously, she was director of major gifts for the Metropolitan Opera, where she led a team responsible for \$30 million-plus in annual gifts alongside special campaign fundraising and various donor and ticketing services.

She has held prior leadership roles at New York City Center and American Ballet Theater, where her accomplishments included developing and implementing cultural membership benefits for the city-wide IDNYC program, coordinating annual and capital funding between nonprofit organizations and local and national government, and managing artist fellowships.

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs has invited her to serve multiple terms on the funding panels for music, dance, and multidisciplinary organizations, and she has presented and taught at various

industry conferences.

She is an amateur violinist and frequently plays with community orchestras and chamber ensembles.

▶ from **MINDY WOODS** page 2

Officials on a Tenant Bill of Rights in Washington D.C.; serving as a board member for Housing Hope; serving on the Puget Sound Regional Council Equity Advisory Committee; and serving on the YWCA Public Policy Committee.

Woods is on the state of Washington Low Income Housing Alliance Board of Directors and the Snohomish County Homeless Policy Taskforce.

"This is a huge honor. I don't do this work for accolades. I do this work because I feel like it's my calling," said Woods.

"I've been through homelessness twice, and I just feel it's a great privilege to be able to serve my community in this way."



The tubes make music by hitting them with a rubber mallet.

Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

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▶ from **EDMONDS MARSH** page 1

ment Company has undertaken cleanup efforts after the purchase was completed.

WSDOT had explored plans to move the Edmonds ferry terminal from Main Street to the south side of the marsh and that had been part of the City's comprehensive plan. But the plan was nixed due to high costs.

Now, WSDOT no longer wants or needs the property.

As the Beacon reported last week, once the Washington State Department of Ecology has certified the success of the cleanup effort – which it says is mostly complete – the property title will be transferred due to a purchase and sale agreement with Unocal.

This May, the council approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with WSDOT to guide a potential purchase of the 22.5-acre property. That means the City has the first right of purchase of the property.

If Inslee and the state determine the purchase of the marsh is not going to happen, the City and WSDOT could continue to pursue the City's purchase of the property.

Nelson did not attend Tuesday's council meeting, where Councilmembers Neil Tibbott, Diane Buckshnis, Vivian Olson, Will Chen, and Dave Teitzel voted to approve the letter. Councilmember Susan Paine voted against it, while Councilmember Jenna Nand abstained.

"Now's not the time to go behind the back of the agency we're trying to work with," said Nelson, referring to WSDOT.

"We can acquire this marshland so we can restore it. This is the closest we've ever been to be able to restore the marsh. And if WSDOT walks away from this, they will sell it to the first person to buy it, and that's going to be a developer.

"I can't even think of something that is more contentious. It's undermining. It just baffles me."

At the council meeting, Paine agreed with Nelson, saying the path to restoring the marsh lies with the MOU with WSDOT, not with the state.

Olson disagreed, saying that having the



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson makes a point about his idea of saving the Edmonds Marsh during a news conference at the south end of the marsh walkway Tuesday evening, Sept. 19.

marsh as state-owned with City of Edmonds input would be a "more favorable" approach and would "strengthen our position" with WSDOT.

In August, the council sent a letter to WSDOT saying it was exploring the option of the state purchasing the marsh. Transportation Secretary Roger Millar confirmed receipt of it.

Support from marsh advocate

Edmonds resident Joe Scordino, a retired marine biologist and vocal supporter of restoring the marsh, said he agrees with send-

ing the letter to the governor.

"The letter to the governor is a critical, necessary step to ensure future use of the old Unocal property will be for salmon recovery, without a huge financial burden on citizens of Edmonds," he wrote in an email to councilmembers.

"The City needs to team up now with Gov. Inslee's salmon recovery priorities to explore how we collectively can ensure the Unocal site can and will be used for a nontoxic salmon channel across the site.

"Ensuring that this occurs may require that

the property stay under state ownership, and the only way to determine that will be for Council to meet with (the governor).

"The MOU signed with WSDOT says nothing about WSDOT committing to ensure the property will be cleaned to the extent necessary for a nontoxic salmon channel across the property.

"If the City withdraws its interest in the property pursuant to the MOU, it leaves WSDOT free rein to sell the property to the highest bidder for purposes other than salmon recovery."

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