

Edmonds Beacon

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

728 3rd St., Ste. D Mukilteo, WA 98275

Volume XXXVI

Number 18

March 31, 2022

City Hall annex opens on Highway 99

Mayor Nelson: 'We are changing how we serve you'

BY BRIAN SOERGEL
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It took a while, but the Edmonds City Hall Neighborhood Office had its grand opening March 24 in the Aurora Marketplace shopping center on Highway 99 and 238th Street SW.



Providing opening comments were Mayor Mike Nelson, Municipal Court Judge Whitney Bennett, Police Chief Michelle Bennett, and Community Engagement Officer Tabatha Shoemake.

"For too long, our city has ignored the most diverse and most underserved part of our community," said Nelson. "No more. We see you. And we are here for you. We are changing how we serve you. Before it was about you coming to the City (down-town) government for help."

The principal uses for the space consist of the following functions:

- A dedicated City staff member who will serve members of the public with ques-

see **CITY HALL ANNEX** page 15 ▶

WA State Ferries: Restoration of full service a top priority

BY BRIAN SOERGEL
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When will full service be restored for those relying on the Edmonds-Mukilteo ferry?

Since October 2021, the route has operated on an alternate service plan or reduced service. Only one vessel is in use, and late-night sailings have been suspended. Traditional winter, spring, and summer service have both two vessels and late-night sailings.

Washington State Ferries (WSF) says a return to full capacity of the system depends on several variables:

- The trajectory of the pandemic and

see **STATE FERRIES** page 14 ▶



Officer Tyler Steffins was frequently used in police promotional materials.

Photo courtesy of Edmonds PD

Police: Petting dog led to fatal attack on Edmonds police officer

Tyler Steffins: 'A loving father, husband, son, sibling, friend, and colleague'

BY BRIAN SOERGEL
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Bev Eckmann felt she had to stop by the Edmonds Police station Monday for a news conference on the death of Officer Tyler Steffins, stabbed Saturday while off-duty in Las Vegas.

"He stopped by our neighborhood, as officers do on a regular basis," she said, tears in her eyes.

"And we just love him. My son-in-law told me about it. Any kind of police activity, he tells me about it. He's a K-9 officer at the Port of Seattle."

Steffins, 33, was attacked by a man armed with a knife, according to the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Steffins was taken to the University Medical Center, where he died at 12:01 a.m. Sunday.

According to Acting Assistant Chief Josh McClure, Steffins is the first Edmonds police officer killed while either on- or off-duty.

Steffins is survived by his wife, 12-year-old daughter, 9-year-old son, stepmother, father, brothers, sister, friends, and loved ones.

"Our hearts go out to his family," said Edmonds Police Chief Michelle Bennett on Monday during the news conference at the Public Safety Complex.

"It's been a very difficult time for law enforcement, in general, this past week, and this has been really difficult for our staff." Said Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson: "I can't think of anything more horrible than talking about a City employee, a police officer, a dad. His two kids are very close in age to my children."

"And my heart goes out to our City employees, our police officers, and Tyler's coworkers, who are also his friends.

They're really going to need your support, as well as his family and his loved ones, during this really tragic time."

Acting Assistant Police Chief Josh McClure became emotional when remembering Steffins.

"Tyler was off duty at the time, just enjoying Las Vegas as anyone else would. Our staff had been pulled in many different directions since Friday, with the tragic loss of the Everett police officer while he was on duty. So many of our detectives and peer support personnel have been helping Everett, all while law enforcement in the region was dealing with the loss of the Pierce County deputy."

Everett Police Officer Dan Rocha, 41, was killed Friday, March 25, shot in the parking lot of a Starbucks. Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Dom Calata, 35, was killed Wednesday, March 16, while he and another deputy served a warrant in Spanaway.

Calata was shot in the head. Sgt. Rich Scanliffe was shot in the leg, and is recovering.



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

A memorial for Officer Tyler Steffins continues to grow at the Edmonds Police Department.

see **OFFICER STEFFINS** page 12 ▶



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Gloria Hoppler: 1931-2022

Gloria Ann Youngren Hoppler joined her Lord on March 22, 2022, in Olympia, Washington. She was 90 years old. A graveside service will be held for Gloria on Thursday, March 31 at 1:30 pm at the Edmonds Cemetery and Columbarium at 820 15th St. S.W. in Edmonds.

Gloria was born to Carl Youngren and Agnes Bell (Montgomery) Youngren on Oct. 25, 1931, in DeKalb, Illinois, but lived over 50 years in Western Washington, most of that time in Edmonds. She had one sister, Judith, who preceded her in death.

Gloria graduated from Joliet High School in 1949. She studied nursing at the University of Illinois, Cook County School of Nursing. Shortly after graduation she married Jarvis "Bud" Hoppler, her high school sweetheart. They had three children: Jann Marie in 1953, Craig Jarvis in 1956, and Wesley Carl in 1961.

Bud's career led the family to reside in many communities, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Anaheim, California; Beaverton, Oregon; Northfield, Minnesota; and from 1967-1969,

Camberley, Surrey, England.

In 1969, the family relocated to Lynnwood. Bud and Gloria divorced in 1974. Gloria moved to a house near downtown Edmonds.

Gloria returned to full-time nursing. To refresh her skills, she attended Coronary Care Nurse's Training at Cornell University Medical School in New York City. She worked at Harborview Hospital in Critical Care for many years.

In 1977, she was the first nurse at Harborview to become a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN). She was a member of the staff of Stevens Hospital (now Swedish Edmonds Campus) for over 18 years, finally retiring at 72.

Gloria was honored by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses for over 30 years of continuous certification as a CCRN, one of only 35 nurses nationwide with that



distinction.

Gloria was a confident and inspiring presence in any room. She had a big personality and a vision for every project she was a part of. She was always ready to take on a new challenge or hobby. Over her life, she became an integral part of many communities, and always believed in contributing to any group she joined.

Family was very important to Gloria. She nursed her mother and sister

before their deaths and brought her father to live near her in Snohomish County when he was no longer able to live in his house in Illinois. Her deep love for her children and grandchildren will continue to be felt long after her passing.

Gloria was a life-long Lutheran, who held a strong faith in Jesus and was very involved in her church. After her re-

irement, she was active in Neighbors in Need, an outreach program of Trinity Lutheran church in Lynnwood, where she was a member of the congregation for many years.

Gloria had a lovely voice, and always sang in church and community choirs. She was a long-time member of the SnoKing Community Chorale. She was registrar and rehearsal manager of the Chorale for the first eight years of its existence.

While in Edmonds, she always had two dogs, short and long-haired collies, who were shown in competitions. She said that while some were champions, all were her good companions.

Gloria is survived by her three children: Jann and her husband, Bruce Treichler, of Olympia; Craig and his wife, Susan, of Federal Way, and Wesley of Ballard; and by her two grandchildren, Emily Brockway Hoppler Treichler of San Diego; and Kristina Else Hoppler of Federal Way.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association, Puget.sound@heart.org.

▶ from **OFFICER STEFFINS** page 1

Recently hired Edmonds Assistant Police Chief Rod Sniffen knew both Rocha and Steffins. He was hired from the Everett Police Department.

"It's an incredibly difficult time, coming from the police family in Everett just two weeks ago and having to deal with that tragedy," he said. "Now coming here to Edmonds to my new family and another tragedy happens.

"It's very trying. It's not easy. I think it's important that both agencies, their families come together, to be there for each other. And I can't say enough good things about the City of Edmonds and what they've done to support me."

Verbal altercation

Las Vegas officers were alerted to a stabbing at about 9:39 p.m. Saturday, March 26, on a pedestrian bridge near the 3900 block of Las Vegas Boulevard South and Tropicana Avenue, which connects the New York-New York and MGM Grand hotels.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal (bit.ly/36TGr8G), which received a copy of the police report, police said they located a man in the area of the bridge named Dean Cattorini, who said he was on a pedestrian bridge near the Excalibur a day earlier when Steffins approached and "grabbed his dogs (sic) face aggressively, and it upset Dean."

The next day, just prior to the stabbing, Cattorini said Steffins approached him and



Suspect Freddy Allen

his dogs on the pedestrian bridge again as a man named Freddy Allen was standing nearby, the Review-Journal reported.

"Dean and Freddy (Allen) were approached by Tyler, who stopped to pet the dogs," police wrote in the report. "Dean asked Tyler not to be rough with them."

Cattorini said Steffins petted the dogs aggressively again, and Steffins and Cattorini started to quarrel, according to the newspaper. Steffins then said to Cattorini, "get a job."

Allen, standing nearby with his hands be-

see **FATAL STABBING** page 16 ▶

Lori Anne Peña: 1957-2022

True to her fire spirit, Lori was born in Seattle on July 19, 1957, the hottest day of the year, reaching 84.4 F. She was previously married to Mac Ross, and forever wed to Edmonds, her port in a storm, her haven.

Though she had no children of her own, by way of the therapeutic stylist's chair she nurtured an entire community, her extended family. Her passion for art, expression, and helping others look and feel their best kept Salon Peña open for 32 years.

We will never forget her laugh; it shook us all, contagious, powerful. Her sass, her wisdom, her heart that loved as big as the ocean. She will be dearly missed by her sister Terry; brother Frank; eight



nephews, five nieces, seven great-nephews, and four great-nieces; and thousands of clients and friends.

Today we cheer to her life, with a chilled dirty martini and three blue cheese olives, of course, and count our blessings to have felt her beautiful fire.

A service will be held on April 2 at 1 p.m. at Becks Tribute Center in Edmonds, followed by a private family service at 3 p.m.

There will be a live, online service for anyone who cannot attend:

www.BecksTributeCenter.com.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Kidney Fund www.Kidneyfund.org.

Verdant awards over \$1.5 million to local nonprofits

Verdant Health Board of Commissioners recently approved more than \$1.54 million in grants to 14 local nonprofit organizations in support of community health through its recent competitive application process.

The following grants were approved:

- **American Heart Association** – Stop the Silent Killer: Hypertension in South Snohomish County – \$66,997
- **Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County** – Behavioral Health Uplift Initiative – \$100,000
- **ChildStrive**: Early Intervention – \$346,255
- **Compass Health**: Emergency Motel Voucher Program – \$29,700
- **Edmonds Food Bank**: It Taste Like Home (Culturally Relevant Food) – \$39,900
- **Foundation for Edmonds School District**: Summer Meals Program – \$25,000
- **Interfaith Family Shelter**: Homelessness Prevention – \$10,000
- **Kindering**: Early Intervention – \$175,000

- **Korean Womens Association**: Everyday Prevention and Senior Nutrition Program – \$146,212
- **Millennia Ministries**: Mobile Manna/MFSTT – \$191,785
- **Pacific Treatment Alternatives (Sound Pathways)**: Mobile Syringe Service Exchange – \$161,522
- **Refugee Immigrant Services Northwest**: Refugee and Immigrant Navigators – \$100,000
- **Snohomish County Legal Services**: Housing Justice Project – \$50,000
- **YWCA**: Emergency Shelter – \$30,000
- **YWCA**: Access to Healthcare – \$62,645



"On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we recognize the important work these grant recipients do to support the health and well-being of residents in South Snohomish County," said Dr. Jim Distelhorst, board president.

The next application window for funding will be April 11 through April 22 for grants starting July 1, 2022. The multiyear health program funding application can be ac-

see **VERDANT DONATIONS** page 14 ▶

▶ from **GREEN EDMONDS** page 11

The following events have been scheduled:

- Edmonds Chamber Community Update with the City of Edmonds April 12, 12:30-1:15pm over Zoom. Presentation by Development Services Director Susan McLaughlin on the City's visions and initiatives for climate action and sustainability.
- Earth Day City Parks Cleanup Events, April 23, 10 a.m.-noon. Habitat Restoration

and Cleanup at Marina Beach Park, Brackett's Landing, Yost Park and Pine Ridge Park. Pre-Registration Required: soundsalmonolutions.org/events.

Edmonds Chamber Foundation Earth Day Art Event April 23, noon-2 p.m. at Edmonds Waterfront Center.

All Ages Art Contest, "Trash or Treasure" Game, Sound Disposal Truck

For more information: erica@edmonds-wa.com or 425-670-1496.

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► from **FATAL STABBING** page 12

hind his back, suddenly lunged at Steffins, according to the report.

The Review-Journal reported that Cat-torini said he thought Allen simply shoved Steffins, but after Allen ran away, Steffins said, "I think he just stabbed me."

"Tyler took off his shirt and a few seconds later he collapsed on the ground," the report said, which added that police later found a hunting knife with a 6-inch fixed blade suspected in the attack.

Allen, 58, has a record of run-ins with Las Vegas police, the Review-Journal reported, including a previous stabbing in which he served three months in jail.

Allen was taken to the Clark County Detention Center and booked for murder with a deadly weapon. Allen was scheduled to appear in Las Vegas Court Monday morning, but his "disruptive behavior" canceled the appearance, according to the Review-Journal.

Hired in 2018

Tyler Steffins was hired in 2018. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps (corporal, 2007-2011), with recognition for his service during Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I was fortunate to be part of the hiring team that brought him in with three other fantastic officers who graduated the academy in March of 2019," McClure said.

"He was No. 1 in his class, and a proud United States Marine. And don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Because all Marines are proud, right? Tyler completed field training without a hiccup and was working towards day-shift-night-shift patrol at various times since completing field training.

"He was a loving father, husband, son, sibling, friend, and colleague. He's incredibly missed here in our building already, just the last 12 hours or so, and I can only imagine what his family is going through as well."

A statement from the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office recognized the heavy sorrow felt by Steffins' family and



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

Chief of Police Michelle Bennett addresses the media Monday, March 28, about the death of Edmonds Police Officer Tyler Steffins.

loved ones, his law enforcement colleagues, and the entire Edmonds community.

"His tragic and untimely death comes as a shock to us all," said Snohomish County Prosecutor Adam Cornell, who lives in Edmonds. "We will be forever grateful for his immense and selfless commitment to keeping our community safe and for all his fine work."

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers also released a statement: "One of Edmonds' finest was taken from our community much too soon. Our prayers and deepest condolences go out to Officer Tyler Steffins' family, his colleagues in the Edmonds Police Department, and all who are impacted by this unimaginable tragedy.

"Our region has seen too much loss of life over the last few weeks, and we must never lose sight of these profound sacrifices. Police officers choose a career in law enforcement because they want to serve the community, even though that service comes with ex-

treme risk. We offer any support Edmonds needs in this time of mourning."

A chill individual

McClure said Steffins was liked by all, and was used in several recruiting efforts, including one where he had a handshake with a citizen walking downtown.

"Tyler was a very chill individual. He spoke with an even, steady tone. He didn't say much, but when he did it was usually funny."

McClure said he couldn't speak for his colleagues, but he said Steffins' death has affected him. That was evident at the news conference.

"I have two daughters that ask why we still have jobs that seem a little chaotic. It's just what we do. When you become part of this profession, you realize this is what I was meant to do. When I was sitting at home on Friday, enjoying my day off and learning about the tragedy in Everett, all I wanted to

do was go to work.

"People just want to be part of the great thing we have here. Because they know they've got a great group of people to rely on."

Growing memorial

On Monday, the Edmonds Police created a memorial for Officer Steffins located in front of the south entrance to the Public Safety Complex.

Among those placing flowers on Mondays was Pauline Bucklin, who has lived in Edmonds for 71 years.

She is the wife of Mark Bucklin, a retired defense attorney who worked with the Edmonds police union.

"I just feel terrible about what is happening to our police officers," said Bucklin, who placed a bouquet of daffodils and a planter with tulips.

"I don't understand how people can be so cruel, and what's happening in our world. I feel like the lunatics are running the asylum."

Health insurance for the family

On Wednesday, The City of Edmonds said that it "recognizes that in the event of an employee's death, the surviving family members will be impacted by the loss of health insurance coverage and additional costs of COBRA required to continue such coverage."

In order to assist the surviving family members with this transition, the City enacted the following policy: When an active employee dies, the surviving spouse and surviving dependents who are enrolled in the employee's active health insurance (medical, dental, vision) at the time of the employee's death, will receive up to three months of continuation of health coverage (COBRA) paid for by the City.

In order to receive this benefit from the City, the surviving spouse and dependents must enroll in COBRA in compliance with COBRA regulations and per the City's COBRA administrator requirements.

The City will pay for the cost of COBRA directly to the COBRA administrator.



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