

# Mukilteo Beacon

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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

Volume XXX

Number 19

December 1, 2021

## Diamond Knot serves up Thanksgiving meals



Beacon photo by David Pan

Diamond Knot regular customer Collin Beck and employee Emilie Severns prepare to serve free Thanksgiving meals to community members Thursday, Nov. 25, at Diamond Knot Brewery and Alehouse in Mukilteo.

*'We've got former employees calling and coming back to do it. It's the greater Diamond Knot family'*

BY DAVID PAN  
REPORTER@YOURBEACON.NET

For Diamond Knot assistant manager Jayden Riley, Tuesday and Wednesday likely were the two hardest days of work of the entire year.

Riley toiled in the kitchen at the Mukilteo brewery and alehouse for 32 hours.

What was on the menu?

Sixteen turkeys, 150 pounds of potatoes, 100 pounds of green beans, and tons and

tons of gravy.

Riley, who oversees the company's kitchen operations, along with about 15 other volunteers and representatives from Hand in Hand, did their best to make sure less fortunate members of the community were well-fed with a free Thanksgiving meal Thursday, Nov. 25, at Diamond Knot Brewery and Alehouse in Mukilteo.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 130 families enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and pumpkin pie.

After so much time in the kitchen, Riley was finally able to take a breath Thursday morning. This was the seventh year Riley has cooked a Thanksgiving meal for the community. It was her first time at the Mukilteo location. She previously cooked at the Mountlake Terrace location, and also at a local church that offers a Thanksgiving meal.

"I just want to give back and do

see **DIAMOND KNOT** page 16 ▶

## Schools to place two levies on Feb. ballot

*Board votes unanimously to put replacements to voters in 2022*

BY DAVID PAN  
REPORTER@YOURBEACON.NET

The Mukilteo School District Board of Directors has unanimously voted to put two replacement levies on the February 2022 ballot.

Board member Shaun Olsen was not present, but the other four directors approved resolutions authorizing two ballot measures during a Nov. 22 meeting. The special election is scheduled for Feb. 8.

The Educational Programs Levy provides money for programs and services that are not funded by the state. A four-year levy was approved by voters in 2018 and will expire at the end of 2022. The measure on the February ballot will ask voters to renew funding a replacement levy that will begin in 2023 and continue through 2026.

The levy funds elementary instrumental music programs, athletics and extracurricular programs, extended-day lessons for students, pay for substitutes, new curriculum, and services for special-needs students.

Extra-curricular and enrichment activities, such as elementary music programs and athletics, are not funded by the state. The district has spent \$5 million on average for the past five years beyond what the state has provided in order to support students.

The district receives funding for some of the programs, such as those for special-needs students, but it is less than what the district is spending, according to Mukilteo School District communications and public

see **LEVY** page 15 ▶

## Kick off the holidays with Merry Mukilteo, Tree Lighting Festival

*Holiday lights will be turned on at 5 p.m. Saturday at Totem Park*

BY DAVID PAN  
REPORTER@YOURBEACON.NET

For many people, the start of the holiday season coincides with the day after Thanksgiving, otherwise known as Black Friday, to shoppers and retailers.

But Mukilteo residents tend hold off a few days in anticipation of the city's annual lighting of the holiday tree.

The pandemic canceled last year's

event, though Public Works employees still decorated the tree, located at Totem Park (700 Third St.) and adjacent to the Mukilteo Speedway.

This year, the City of Mukilteo and the Chamber of Commerce are coming together for an all-new outdoor holiday celebration – Merry Mukilteo and Tree Lighting Festival – Saturday, Dec. 4, in Old Town.

The festival starts at 4 p.m. and runs through 7 p.m. Be sure to arrive by

5 p.m. when the holiday tree will be lit up.

"I think this will be a super fun event for families and kids of all ages, and look forward to seeing the community come out to celebrate the holidays together," Mayor Jennifer Gregerson said.

Mukilteo Chamber President and CEO Kandace Barnes said

see **MERRY MUKILTEO** page 7 ▶



Beacon photo by David Pan

Public Works employees put up the star on the holiday tree in anticipation of Saturday's Tree Lighting Festival.

**'Tis the Season to Advertise**  
 Call Today to Schedule Your Advertising  
 in **The BEACON**  
 425-347-5634 | edmondssales@yourbeacon.net

All Ad Packages Include Print and Web Ads



Beacon photos by David Pan

Diamond Knot employee Ally Wilson grabs two Thanksgiving meals from the kitchen.



Above: About 15 volunteers from Diamond Knot worked throughout the day to provide meals to the community. Below: Volunteer Alex Watson dishes up Thanksgiving meals from the Diamond Knot kitchen.



a meal with their families later in the day. Just the opportunity to serve someone else makes them more thankful to have a meal with their family."

Employees often share the experience with their families.

"Employees bring their kids in to show them the importance of serving others," MacKenzie

said.

Watson's daughter Charlie and son Alex were among the volunteers.

Customer Collin Beck, a plumber who eats twice a week at Diamond Knot, also was helping to bring out plates of food for guests.

"I'm a regular customer. I'm here every Tuesday and Thursday," Beck said. "I don't have



Diamond Knot President and CEO Andy Eason and Charlie Crosson (right) get slices of pumpkin pie ready.

family, so Stephanie talked to me about this. I said I'd be here."

Hand in Hand development and communications manager Terry Lott appreciated the support from Diamond Knot the last seven years. He noted that last year the restaurant provided to-go meals for the community when COVID restrictions nixed any indoor dining.

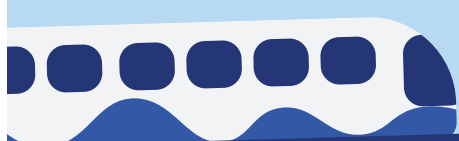
"It's been a really good partnership," he said.

Hand in Hand contacted its families and others in the community, who were in need.

"It's all from south Snohomish County," Lott said. "It's families who may not be able to have dinner on their own. We just want to make sure that we reach out to them and make sure they're taking care of their loved ones at this time. It could be people who just don't have family or can't afford to provide a meal at this time. A lot of people are still struggling. We've partnered with a great company like Diamond Knot to provide a high quality meal for Thanksgiving."

After spending the better part of two days in the kitchen, Riley said she was thinking about letting someone else in her family do the cooking for Thanksgiving.

"I'm tired. I may or may not do anything tonight. We'll see."



# Take the Bus to Light Rail

## Northgate Station Now Open



With light rail closer than ever, you'll soon have new options for getting to Northgate, University of Washington, Seattle and beyond.

Discover new places to go and new ways to get there when you take the bus to light rail.

- Frequent buses and trains make for fast, easy connections
- Spend less time driving for a more relaxing trip
- Skip the worst traffic and get there faster

**GET GOING:**  
[communitytransit.org/get2northgate](https://communitytransit.org/get2northgate)

