I grew up right here in Grays Harbor and I’m a proud member of the working-class. I come from working-class timber workers. My dad was a log-truck driver and my step-dad a millwright and a saw filer. My grandfather was also a saw filer. I’m a nurse. Our legacy is one of a strong work ethic and solidarity.

Our immediate ancestors had jobs with adequate pay and benefits because they fought for it. They organized across languages and differences to win huge gains for working people. 100 years ago, thousands of working people—loggers, mill workers, waitresses, longshoremen and more—marched in unity together down the streets of Hoquiam and Aberdeen demanding better pay and better working conditions. At the time, working people were living in terrible housing and working for poverty wages. They gave speeches in different languages because they knew they would be more powerful if they came together across lines of ethnicity and language.

They knew, despite differences, that as working people, they were on the same side against the timber barons who pillaged Indigenous lands and made their profit off poor workers’ backs. Together, these workers won historic labor laws that meant many families thrived for a long time here on the Harbor.

They showed us that when working people come together and defend one another, we can make a good life possible. We’ve done it before and I believe we must do it again. In my lifetime we have seen life in Southwest Washington crumble in many ways. Our small businesses are suffering, our housing is rotting, our worker protections and wages slide to the wayside because corporate executives and their paid politicians have done all they can to fight back the gains working people fought and died for.

Both of my father-figures died with nothing to show for a lifetime of work. For a long time, corporate tycoons and the wealthy 1% have spread lies to keep us distracted, divided and powerless. They tell us our problems are caused by black people, or immigrants, or poor people. They tell us to be scared. They distort us so we don’t know which side we’re on any more. And while we’re busy distracting other working people and competing for scraps, they run off with billions. In recent weeks since the pandemic began, 40 million of us have filed for unemployment while corporate billionaires increased their wealth by over $550 billion.

Sunday, I saw some of these lies false rumors were spread in a coordinated campaign by national white supremacist groups—the exact same language was sent out to small towns all over...
Unintended consequences
Not all unintended consequences are alike

It’s no surprise that we live in a world of unintended consequences. Yet we rarely stop to think that our very existence as humans is nothing but the result of a long chain of events in the material world which, combined with the laws of evolution and ecology, cannot be described as the result of some plan of conceived by nature, a creator, or the processes of the inter-subjectivity of the human species. But nature, being nature, doesn’t plan anything. It exists according to the laws and processes of its being, of which we humans are also part. This is the first unintended consequence we as humans must face, and it is a fortunate one, because this knowledge offers the opportunity to be free, to determine our course of action and our future based on our convictions, without the tutelage of extraterrestrial entities or even other terrestrial ones.

August: When money is the measure. Do you spend more at Walmart because stuff is cheaper? Can we afford to measure a college education by anything other than how it will improve our job and earning prospects? Do businesses pay their workers less than a living wage because to do otherwise would make them unprofitable? How should we value old businesses or new developments? Send us your thoughts on these and any other money topics. Deadline: July 16.

September: Hoping, doping, cop- ing & shopping. A recent book says that people are reaching for one of these strategies to survive in today’s economy. That public institutions are falling apart, bosses are over-whelmed or incompetent; businesses are dysfunctional. Do you find any of this to be true? Do you need a strategy? Deadline: August 15.

October: The struggle for justice. WIP’s mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, political and environmental realms and to the expansion of participatory democracy across classes, races and genders. October 2020 marks the 50th year that Works in Progress (WIP) has been trying to live up to that mission. This publication produced and distributed by volunteers. The paper has shaped and reshaped itself across the years, depending on who puts in the time and energy to make it happen. We invite anyone who has contributed to or helped produce the paper to send their memories, critiques, old copies, artifacts etc. that have been part of WIP’s journey. Be sure to save the date for an anniversary celebration of this issue.

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UPCOMING THEMES

THINKING OUT LOUD

Not all unintended consequences are alike: The case of climate change

Tackling climate change is one of the most troubling challenges facing our planet. But are we doing enough to prevent climate change from becoming irreversible? We invite our readers to share their thoughts on this topic.

STORY OUTLINE

Working people must stand together

Health and safety is underfunded—except for the police

Not all unintended consequences are alike

What is social housing?

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How the new faces of fascism hide the old rhetoric

Defunding the police—interview with Angela Davis

The lessons of the Wyonoce River Dam

More than marching: creative support for BLM

Spotlight

Copy deadline for October issue: September 13

Work in Progress (WIP) is a community newspaper based in Olympia WA, that has been published monthly since 1990. WIP’s mission is to contribute to the struggle for justice across economic, social, environmental, and political realms, and to expand participatory democracy across classes, races, and genders.

Our priority is to focus on stories that are ignored or misrepresented in the media, especially those that relate directly to our mission. We seek well-researched news stories, serious analyses of issues confronting our communities and account of personal experiences or reflections by local writers. We encourage articles that relate to the monthly theme, but material on other topics is also welcome.

Informed opinion pieces are accepted when accompanied by facts, examples, and sources. We discourage writing where a key point is stated as fact when it’s unproven or in serious dispute. Writing that stereotypes groups or categories of people won’t be accepted.

Once we receive a submission, we may choose to publish it or not. While the views expressed in the material we print are those of the author alone, WIP aims to print material that is consistent with our mission. WIP reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, length, and clarity of expression. WIP will work with writers if there is a need for editing that extends beyond those areas.

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Quarter page $160

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Contact WIP: olympwip@gmail.com or PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507 by email, mail, comment or donate at our website www.olympwip.org

July 2020
YOU WRITE TO WIP

What is social housing?

Dear Editor,

I am a faithful reader but could not find a definition of “social housing,” which occurred in a number of articles. If you or one of your staff could offer a definition, I’d be much obliged.

As a retired fishery biologist, I write the show in order to probe about climate change, but the current crisis has opened my eyes to the broader range of interrelated issues we must address. Thanks for any help you can offer.

Joe Hiss

Dear Joe,

Social housing is basically affordable housing. That’s because it’s housing protected in some way from the swings of the market-place—and the power of investors. Often “social housing” refers to rental housing that is owned and managed by the state or non-profit organizations or a combination of the two. There usually some kind of means test.

The Thurston Housing Authority owns housing units and makes them available to low-income families. Across the state, various nonprofit agencies manage subsidized apartment complexes. Yakima farmworkers have access to some government assisted housing, but others have to live in housing provided by farm owners.

There are also trust and co-oper-ative arrangements for housing priced according to a standard of affordability or cost. These arrangements allow for accumulation of equity, but at the end of a tenure, the departing resident gets their equity plus accumulated interest. The dwelling doesn’t go on the market, but reverts to the trust or co-op so that it remains within reach of families who rely on salaries and wages for a living. An example of trust-structured housing is Lopez Community Land Trust. In Olympia, a local group just started the Thurston Community Land Trust with the goal of acquir- ing housing to manage outside the market. Woodward Lane Co-housing in Olympia is an example of an- other approach to social housing.

Some cities have created programs to offer qualified buyers access to deserving social housing. Others have created programs to be protected from market forces. Cambridge MA has such a program. We don’t know of any in Washington.

The Editors

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The Editors

Books to Prisoners awarded a Sustaining Fund spring grant

Desde Dawning

In the spring and fall each year the Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) accepts applications for grants up to $1000 for projects meeting certain criteria intended to fulfill its mission. Usually, around 6-10 individuals or groups apply for grant funding for their projects each cycle, held twice a year.

The Spring Grant Cycle this year fell in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The leadership team for CSF met and agreed by consensus that the focus for funds should be on work in our community that aimed to address this global health crisis.

Books to Prisoners (BTP), an organization that sends books to prison inmates around the country, was awarded a Spring cycle grant. Work at the Olympia chapter of BTP is handled totally by volunteers. A social change aspect of their work centers around their efforts to give marginal communities the opportunity to ask for, and have their needs met. With the current political strife taking place not only in the US but globally, their work also addresses the systemic issues of mass incarceration in our prison system, especially the disproportionate number of black people imprisoned.

Prisoners who have access to this program can request specific books or simply receive the 3-4 books selected by the organization. These often serve as a lifeline to the outer world. If a specific book is requested, volunteers do their best to find that book, or something similar, sometimes paying for a book from their own pocket. The only books they don’t send are ones that promote white supremacy and racism.

Their funding comes primarily through yard sales and benefits, with some books collected at Dumpster Values in downtown Olympia. Due to the pandemic, they have not been able to bring in the money needed to pay the mailing costs.

Because the work they are doing for our community was deemed very valuable, because they humbly asked for even less than the grant limit and because there were no other eligible applicants during this grant cycle, it was decided to award Books to Prisoners the full amount possible—$1,000, with the stipulation that $250 of the amount be set aside to purchase specific books not available from their book stockpile.

The small number of applicants for the 2020 spring grant cycle may have occurred due to a technical glitch and as a result of these difficult times. In order to maintain physical distancing, all CSF meetings will be held through Zoom, including grant interviews. Remaining funds from this cycle will be added to whatever comes to the Sustaining Fund from the “Round Up At the Register” option at the Olympia Food Co-op. Look for an announcement of the Fall grant cycle here in Works in Progress, or on the CSF webpage.

You can find details about the Sustaining Fund and its mission, or make a donation via PayPal at www.oly-wa.us/csf. Donations can also be made by check mailed to 2103 Harrison Ave NW #2715, Olympia WA 98502.

Desde Dawning is an active member of the Olympia Food Co-op

Then this happened...

...workers who struck for better protection in the Yakima apple sheds have died from COVID 19. The deaths came after a historic strike where the workers gained an agreement from management to improve conditions and wages... but too late for some.

...ouch! It turns out that the poorest 20% of Washingtonians pay 17.8% of their income while the richest 1% pay 3% of theirs. Since half of our state budget comes from sales tax, the shut down looks to drop revenue by $4.5 billion this year. Maybe we should bump up the tax contribution of the 13 Washington- tonians whose combined wealth is $441 billion? A 1% tax on their stocks & bonds over $1 billion would bring in $4.4 billion - just about enough to wipe out the deficit.

...WIP’s story about rent reform was confirmed when the Fed painted a grim view for the economy: unemployment will remain elevated for years, undermining the health of cities and towns as people are unable to pay rent and other basic expenses.

...Thurston, we have a problem.

Recent data from the WA Assn. of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs shows that our public safety officers jailed blacks at 9.8 times the rate of the white population in 2019. 13.3% of the average daily jail population consisted of black people, even though they represent only 2.7% of the population in Thurston County.

...oops—Transmountain pipeline spilled 40 gallons of oil just across the Canadian border. It’s the 80th spill since the pipeline began operating in defiance of opposition by theTitle-XWastush Nation.

About the cover

Deborah Sioux Cano Lee, Noel Farrish and Beverly Farris perform a Native American cleansing ceremony as part of a Juneteenth silent vigil on the Fourth Avenue Bridge in Olympia on June 18 with Sky Cosby looking on. The ceremony raises a prayer for peace and justice and land acknowledgement. The Olympia event was one of hundreds taking place around the country in recognition of a date connected to the end of slavery and the beginning of the ongoing struggle for equality.

See the story on Page 9. Photo by Ricky Osborne

This month Works in Progress debuts new Instagram and Twit- ter accounts with hyper-local coverage of the unique and diverse nature, art, food and agriculture, volunteerism, cultural actions, and other important events that occur between issues of the paper.

For expanded coverage of local calendar events, see our interactive calendar page at olywip.org/calendar. These calendars have been handled through Zoom, including grant interviews. Remaining funds from this cycle will be added to whatever comes to the Sustaining Fund from the “Round Up At the Register” option at the Olympia Food Co-op. Look for an announcement of the Fall grant cycle here in Works in Progress, or on the CSF webpage.

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Desde Dawning is an active member of the Olympia Food Co-op

More ways to get WIP

https://localmotive.org/how-to-send-us-a-link-to-your-google-calendar/

Works in Progress Olympia’s Facebook page has also been updated with more links, new graphs and information on current local happenings. If you haven’t already, “like” us to see our posts on your newsfeed.

Have a social media tip? Contact Heather Susan, WIP’s social media maven, at olywip@gmail. com and in the meantime, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @OlyWIP

July 2020

Works In Progress

3
Olympians want their City to address police misconduct

Dear Mayor,

In light of the recent protests across the nation in the name of George Floyd and many others who died at the hand of police, I would like to request that the City of Olympia, and the Olympia Police Department,

I am also requesting that the Mayor’s office demilitarize the city’s police. In addition to reducing their access to military weaponry of all kinds, I would like the Mayor to ban the use of less than lethal weapons like flash balls, rubber bullets, tear gas or choke holds of any kind by the city’s police department on citizens peacefully protesting or otherwise.

However, we know that this is not an isolated incident. Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, POC residents of Olympia in imminent danger.

We are calling for the immediate firing of Officer Tiffany Coates. This is the appropriate and fair response to her posing for a photo with a known white supremacist militia while the citizens of Olympia, whom she has sworn to protect and serve, are living under threat from these same groups. At best she displayed a lack of sound judgement and at worst, she has unashamedly shown us what she truly believes in, which puts all Black, Brown, Indigenous, and POCS residents of Olympia in immediate and imminent danger.

We demand that the information requests from the family of Yvonne McDonald be honored and filled and that her death be covered up no longer.

At 17, [my first boyfriend] broke into a nearby house for the sole purpose of stealing alcohol. The noise frightened the homeowner and his family, who called the police. My boyfriend was apprehended without a hair on his head harmed. It was the final weekend of the summer for us nerdy teens, but he ended up only serving a few weekends in juvenile and doing a fair amount of community service. No one wanted his grades or his bright future harmed, and the next year he headed off to a prestigious college, his record expunged. It was, overall, a reasonable response to a kid stealing alcohol.

I learned last week of an armed militia group, welcomed by our own Olympia PD, congregating in our community in order to “protect” us. The day before, my 4-year-old daughter’s passion about the Black Lives Matter movement, demonstrated peacefully with her dad for three hours on the corner of Harrison and Plymouth. I felt a huge sense of pride and also very safe knowing that a group of armed people are just a smile and a “thank you!” away from themselves together as a military company or organize or parade in public with firearms. Any person participating in any such unauthorized organization shall be guilty of a misdemeanor "RCW 9.41.270 outlaws the carrying of any weapon “apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection above shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and if convicted shall lose their license to carry a concealed weapon.

We have a problem in Olympia, and we are in serious trouble. Our police department has become a police department with two scandals this week: hav- ing a smiling officer pose with an anti-government arm, with a group that has been recognized by a local business owner to protect them from Black Lives Mat- ter protesters... then allegedly she and her partner thanked them for showing up to support the police.

Olympians want misconduct addressed

Policies changed advocated in messages to the city

1) Ban the use of knee holds, chokeholds and other lethal holds

2) Amend the Use of Force Continuum with at least six levels of steps and clear rules on escalation

3) Provide for denial of re- certification credentials when it is determined that an officer’s use of force was unwarranted under federal guidelines

4) Make officer misconduct information and disciplinary histories available for public scrutiny

5) Establish a Citizen’s Review Board with authority to review agreements between the police guild and sergeants and the City in order to hold the police department accountable and reestablish trust with the public.

6) Study and implement budget alternatives for public safety funding and address police misconduct.

You’re under arrest! Yes, no, I mean “thank you!”

State RCW 38.60.120 forbids unauthorized groups to “associate themselves together as a military company or organize or parade in public with firearms. Any person participating in any such unauthorized organization shall be guilty of a misdemeanor”

RCW 9.41.270 outlaws the carrying of any weapon “apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection above shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and if convicted shall lose their license to carry a concealed weapon.

This is a very important moment. You have an opportunity to make a real difference. I urge you to advo- cate for a budget that reflects the needs and priorities of our community. I urge you to advocate for a reallocation of funds away from policing and towards social pro- grams and resources that support housing, jobs, education, health care, child care, mental health, and public health. I also want [you] to address the issue of the legitimately certifying militia of white men... with long guns, bullet proof vests and ammo strapped to their chests who have been walking in groups through my neighborhood. I have seen them all over downtown.

I don’t know if [Officer Coates] and the other officer attending the group of armed men] should be fired or not. However, it is hard for me to believe that she was that ignorant of what she was doing because that would indicate a gross level of misunderstanding of who these people are. If OPD does not know who they are, that symbolizes your office and the chief of police have more serious issues to deal with than a grossly misinformed uniform cop. If she in fact did know what these folks represent, she and her fellow officer probably did need to go.

Every day I work with people around issues of trauma. I know that crime, addiction, domestic violence and abuse are products of generational, systematic and institution- alized violence. In order for our community to become stron- ger and healthier we need creative and trauma-informed responses that address some of the real problems: generational poverty, systematic racism and blatant dis- regard for black, brown and Indigenous lives, a broken health care system, the war on drugs and its legacy, and a lack of investment in services that support and improve community health and wellness.

The experiences of Chaplin and Thompson, whose crime was shop- lifting alcohol Chaplin and Thompson deserved for the justice system to treat them as gently as if my daughter deserved for something an officer’s aim was terrible), dragged through a media circus, and then imprisoned for something she was never charged with by the state or a community. Their case was barely punished for. How the officers handled that incident is shameful, as is the fact that the involved officers were not fired.

What am I supposed to tell her? Should I tell her that her first amendment right is void and her voice should be silent if someone who disagrees with her is present with an automatic rifle or weapon? Should I tell her that it doesn’t matter if she asks the police to protect her first amendment right, should the police invited this group to come to our community and instill fear? Unfortunately, this is how I have to explain it.

Mayor Selby, this is a very difficult thing to tell someone so young and full of passion.

I know that crime, addiction, domestic violence and abuse are products of generational, systematic and institutionalized violence. In order for our community to become stronger and healthier we need creative and trauma-informed responses that address some of the real problems: generational poverty, systematic racism and blatant disregard for black, brown and Indigenous lives, a broken health care system, the war on drugs and its legacy, and a lack of investment in services that support and improve community health and wellness.

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Olympians want misconduct addressed
Underfunded
From page 1

first as adverse health and safety conditions will, if not addressed, predictably lead to serious negative outcomes—including criminal behavior. Those outcomes are here now. Elected leaders have chosen not to devote the resources needed to address these conditions directly. They refuse to acknowledge the failure of the market to provide affordable housing; the failure of the community mental health model; to treat mental illness; to acknowledge that our young people see our priorities and question whether they even have a future. Instead, more and more funds go to the police to deal with the consequences of these failures and their budgets swell accordingly. Armed police respond to mental health crises at home and on the street. Armed police respond to domestic disputes and arguments. Adolescents wandering around at night are considered suspect. The halls of our school are patrolled by armed ‘school resource officers.’ Businesses complain that homeless people downtown present difficulties, but arresting them cannot solve the problem, so it simply fester. The roster of jail inmates is filled with people arrested for drunkenness, shoplifting, minor theft, failure to comply, resisting arrest, and so on. The rate of violent crime has actually been diminishing. At the same time that we have enlarged the role of armed police officers to respond to social conditions that require judgement and understanding, we give police ‘non-lethal’ weapons that turn out to be lethal at times, along with cast-off military armaments and uniforms more suitable for an occupying army. Institutional failings revealed by the pandemic shut-down and the death of George Floyd have produced a new awareness and a growing demand for a restructuring. The demand to ‘defund’ the police is an urgent one of those. The refrain is repeated: reallocate funds away from policing to support affordable housing, family wage jobs, generous education, affordable childcare, mental health facilities, ready access to health care for everyone. The bias in favor of funding the police instead of public goods and services shows up in many places. It is illustrated in how we rely on nonprofits, faith communities, idealistic volunteers to house the homeless, create programs for youth, intervene in crises. The bias is illustrated by two funds that Olympia put to voters a few months apart. The ‘Housing Fund’ was in the form of a 1.1% increase in the sales tax, which brought in $1.3 million in 2019, but will rise or fall with tax receipt fall. The ‘Public Safety Levy,’ was an increase in property taxes that brings in $2.8 million a year for the police department. The bias shows up in smaller details. PHS anticipates the retirement of some of its leaders in the next biennium but needs resources it doesn’t have for the transition and to provide for training newly hired staff. The Lacey Police Department also needs to address ‘succession planning’ due to anticipated retirements. Its budget already provides for three new officers to back fill the retirement positions ‘for two or three years.’

As is shown in the accompanying graph, the story of defunding social services and overfunding police services is true across the country. The demand to ‘defund the police’ turns out on examination to be a demand to restore public services that are the basis for reducing the need for policing.

Bethany Weidner lives in West Olympia and is the volunteer editor of Works in Progress.

Who are the terrorists?

Tom Murphy

Mayor Selby, your description of the incident wherein protest- ers spray-painted “BLM” on your house is like a White supremacist declaring his house as “like domestic terrorism.” Nothing is “like” domestic terrorism. Vandalism is not considered a terrorist act under the Geneva Convention! It is not a crime to spray paint someone’s house. The Olympia Police Department is investigating these incidents, but no one should ever get to investigate themselves without adequate community oversight. Whether or not OPD eventually claims it’s a hate crime, police are the basis for reducing the need for policing.

Mayor Selby, your description of the incident wherein protest- ers spray-painted “BLM” on your house is like the Boston Marathon bombing! Having your house spray-painted is like the Pulse Nightclub mas- sacre! Having your house spray-painted is like a White supremacist murdering Black parishioners in Charleston! You are an elected official and it matters what words you choose to employ. And the words that you chose have the potential to incite violence. What happens if someone decides to murder protesters because the Mayor of Olympia described those protesters as carrying out an action “like domestic terror- ism?” Nothing is “like” domestic terrorism. Vandalism is not comparable to mass murder and murder in the streets. Destruction of property is an inconvenience to capital, not a capitol offense. How could you dare to conflate them? But you did, Mayor Selby. Your police force used chemical weapons on protesters: weapons that are banned from use in war- fare under the Geneva Convention! So…

Who are the terrorists, Mayor Selby? Here’s a hint: they aren’t the fed-up kids spray-painting a rich person’s house. Timothy Murphy lives in Tumwater and is a graduate of The Evergreen State College.

Law and order versus social welfare

Public spending on law and order (police, prison and courts) versus welfare (TANF, food stamps, supplemental security income as share of national income.

Police misconduct

From previous page

It would be easy to claim ignorance or a rookie mistake by the officer, except that earlier this week, a woman of color alleged that as she was trying to leave a protest, she was arrested and dur- ing processing, an officer ‘joked’ to her… ‘I could put my knee on your head.’ The Olympia Police Department is investigating these incidents, but no one should ever get to investi- gate themselves without adequate community oversight. Whether or not OPD eventually claims it’s a hate crime, police are an inconvenience to capital, not a capitol offense. How could you dare to conflate them? But you did, Mayor Selby.

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Bethany Weidner lives in West Olympia and is the volunteer editor of Works in Progress.
Olympia bans use of tear gas—for a while

Mindy Chambers

[Ed note: The police union and city attorney have sued the state to strike down state laws banning chokeholds and crowd control weapons like tear gas as "safety issues" that must be bargained]

The use of chemical weapons for crowd control no longer will be an option, at least for now, for the Olympia Police Department and for the Washington State Patrol officers who work in the state Capitol.

Olympia police used chemical devices to scatter protesters during recent demonstrations in downtown Olympia in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The policies and protocols for their use, the number of devices used and the cost to city taxpayers were requested from the city, but were not immediately available.

The Olympia City Council voted unanimously to ban the use of pepper spray, pepper bombs and tear gas at its June 9 meeting, voting on a proposal brought forward by first-year Council member Dani Madrone.

She and other City Council members have requested extensive information on police policies regarding chemical weapons for crowd control, but the data were not available.

"Trust us, we don't have a lot. We have to regain it or gain it for the first time," said Council member Lisa Parshley.

"Reliance on the old ways and tools for the Police Department requires innovation and change. Can we do this better? Yeah, we can, if it takes elected bodies of government to take away some of those tools so that we have innovation, we have change and evolution, it will happen," Parshley said.

Similar bans on the use of chemicals for crowd disbursement are in place in Seattle and Portland. On June 12, the Chief of the Washington State Patrol announced its officers also will not be using tear gas on demonstrators during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mindy Chambers is a 30-year Olympia resident with many years of experience in newspaper and magazine reporting and editing.

A question about cops and steroid use

A reader reports

Anabolic steroid use by law enforcement officers has been identified by numerous organizations and researchers as a factor in the increasing aggression and violence of police. Derivatives of hormone testosterone, steroids have been a controlled substance since 1968, ostensively available only by prescription.

Sought for their ability to increase muscle mass and enhance physical stamina, hundreds of brand name steroids are available to those who know how to find them. Injected directly into the muscles, chronic misuse of steroids is associated with increased mood swings, depression, impairment of memory, nervousness, extreme irritability, delusions, hostility, and aggression. Steroid abuse among police officers creates what the Drug Enforcement Agency calls an "invincible mentality" when performing law enforcement duties.

In the last decade officers from Indiana, Connecticut, Oregon, Georgia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida have been indicted and/or convicted on steroid possession.

Prompted by the public revelation of illicit steroid use by hundreds of the police and fire departments in 2008, the Phoenix Police Department commenced random steroid testing of their department. The officer in charge of testing, Kim Humphrey, noted in a Phoenix magazine that officers with rage or depression should not be carrying firearms.

As evidence mounted that steroid use was, in fact, a serious problem, the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2008 issued a recommendation calling on local and state law enforcement agencies to create a policy prohibiting steroid use by the LEO community. The recommended never passed and by 2014, the Phoenix Police Department had ceased steroid testing altogether.

Rigorous steroid testing has largely been abandoned for three reasons: cost, in ability to determine use with testing, and organized resistance. The most common steroid testing method costs at least $200 to administer and involves expensive chemicals and equipment (as compared to urinalysis for narcotic use at roughly $20 per test). Most police department simply do not have the budgets for more than occasional random tests.

The second factor is the growing ability of users to mask their steroid use with other substances, which can result in negative or inconclusive tests.

Other sources suggest that power ful police unions may protect officers from testing. And though the Fraternal Order of Police insists they do not sanction steroid use among police, they also support limiting the use of testing. Even when they are performed and the officer found to be "juicing," there are no guarantees that convictions will not be overturned, fired officers reinstated, or legal consequences otherwise nullified.

Because there is no national standard for testing and no repository for the collection of data, no one knows for sure how many law enforcement officers may use steroids, but in his book Dopers in Uniform, John Hoberman, professor at The University of Texas, Austin, estimates that the number runs into the "tens of thousands."

For more information, see Dopers in Uniform. The Hidden World of Police on Steroids by John Hoberman, University of Texas Press.

Banned for use abroad but not at home

The key ingredient of tear gas is actually a solid powder. To use the gas, you need a dispersal agent, such as the solvent methylene chloride, to carry the particles through the air. A typical tear gas grenade contains a variety of additional chemicals for heat dispersal of the irritant. The grenade can be shot or thrown. The gas recently used against protesters is banned in warfare by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The US signed the ban with the reservation that they could continue to use the gas against their own civilians.

Beyond causing pain in people’s eyes, tear gas can do other significant harm to a person’s body. “Tear gas is most often associated with making people’s eyes stream with tears. But tear gas actually affects many parts of the body, and can cause vomiting, digestive problems, respiratory problems, skin irritation and burns. In severe cases, it can contribute to asphyxiation and cardiac attacks. It has also been linked to miscarriages and higher rates of cancer.”

Anna Frigebow, author of Tear Gas. From the battlefields of WWI to the streets of Today.
Together

From page 3

keeps working people powerless, we knew police violence happens on the Harbor, and we know that our working class black brothers and sisters stand up for us so we should stand up with them.

What we were met with was a large number of people with guns. It is legal to open-carry in Washing- ton, that was not the prob-

lem. The problem was that these people, mostly white, had left the side of work-

ing people. These people, mostly men, considered us, a group of blue-collar working people, exercising our constitutional rights to speak up for the dignity of all of us, to be so terrifying that they responded with spitting and yelling in our faces, threatening us with violence while cradling their weapons, and using racial and gender slurs meant to demean and provoke us.

This is exactly what the rich and powerful want. They want you and me to be more enraged at other people, at people who do not have the same amount of basic dignity as we do and are there for stealing our dignity in the first place. They hang out exclusively with some of my brothers and sisters and have taken the lie.

As we moved about the town we were followed. We saw the lie rear its head again. I was told that the four men initially following us were coming to confront us.

Two of the four verbally confronted my friend and me insisting, “You have no right to be here.” They seemed genuinely surprised to hear that we are living residents of Grays Harbor County. That is our real foundational issue for me.

Far too often, we’ve all allowed people at the top to exploit any perceived divisions—race, religion, geography, sex, national origin, and sexual orientation—and where has it gotten us?

It’s our turn. It’s time we choose to keep us distracted and divided.

Let’s build up individuals and the community instead.

Let’s build up individuals and the community instead.

RETHINKING EVERYTHING: Defunding the police?

It turns out that reform hasn’t worked: more training; lethal holds; new guidelines for use-of-force, new leadership; more training. These reforms assume that the police are neutrally enforcing a set of laws that are beneficial to everyone. Instead of questioning the validity of using police to wage an inherently racist war on drugs, advocates of procedural reforms politely suggest that police get anti-bias training, which they will happily deliver for no small fee.

Have the police do it

What “procedural justice” leaves out are questions of substantive justice. Over the last 40 years we have seen a massive expansion of the scope and intensity of policing. Every social problem in poor and non-white communities has been turned over to the police to manage. The schools don’t work; let’s create school policing. Mental health crises are decimated; let’s send police. Overdoses are epidemic; let’s criminalize people who share drugs. Young people are caught in a cycle of violence and despair; let’s call them superpredators and put them in prison for life.

Why a “war” on crime?

Police have also become more militarized. The Federal 1033 program, the Department of Justice’s “Cops Office,” and homeland security grants have channeled billions of dollars in military hardware into American police departments to advance their “war on crime” mentality.

A whole generation of police officers have been given “warrior” training that teaches them to see every encounter with the public as potentially their last, leading to a hostile attitude towards those police and the unnecessary killing of people falsely considered a threat, such as the 12-year-old Tamir Rice, killed for holding a toy gun in an Ohio park.

What’s the alternative?

The alternative is not more money for police training programs, hardware or oversight. It is to dramatically shrink their function. We must demand that local politicians develop non-police solutions to the problems poor people face. We must invest in housing, employment and healthcare in ways that directly target the problems of public safety. Instead of criminalizing homelessness, we need publicly financed supportive housing; instead of gang units, we need community-based anti-violence programs; trauma services and jobs for young people; instead of school police we need more counselors, after-school programs, and restorative justice programs.

Let’s build up individuals and the community instead.

A growing number of local activists in Minneapolis like Reclaim the Block, Black Visions Collective and MPD 150 are demanding just that. They are calling on Mayor Jacob Frey to defund the police and shift those resources into “community-led health and safety strategies.” The Minneapolis police department currently uses up to 30% of the entire city budget. Instead of giving them more money for pointless training programs, let’s divert that money into building up communities and individuals so we don’t “need” violent and abusive policing.

Alex S Vitale is professor of sociology and coordinator of the Policing and Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College. This is an excerpt from his article in The Guardian, May 31, 2020: “The answer to police violence is not reform. ‘It’s defunding.”

Dana Walker

While corporate criminals de-

stroy lives...

It is estimated by the US Bureau of National Affairs that the dollar cost of corporate crime is over twenty times greater than the combined lariness, thefts, robberies, and burglaries com-

mitted by individuals.

These corporate thefts and embezzle-

ments ruin millions of lives, and they wreak untold havoc upon stockholders, employees, retir-

ees, and the overall economy.

These crimes often wipe out the life savings of countless numbers of people, yet they go largely unpunished.

Large corporations also constant-

ly get away with fining their con-

spiracies to commit mass mur-

der for profit—the GM ignition switch scandal of the deadly, decades-old scandal, the Ford Pinto explod-

ing gas tank scandal, on and on—and yet the perpetrators of these conspiracies not only suffer no consequences for their horrific crimes but they often get a large bonus.

Corporate criminals are rarely caught and when they are caught, they rarely go to prison, and when they go to prison, it is usually for one or two years at a minimum-security coun-

try-club that does not even have any walls or fences surrounding it.

Police are tasked to deal with the side effects

In this hierarchy, the street cop is the equivalent of the garbage man in that they are sent to take care of all the problems that no one else wants to deal with. Cops are constantly con-

fronting the very worst at humanity and they have no right to be here. They see too much of what goes on behind their closed doors. They find themselves uncomfortable socializing with normal people during their off times because they themselves have become so abnor-

mally powerful that they become socializing exclusively with other cops, thus further reinforcing their commu-

nity neurosis.

As their shell thickens, they become ever more out of touch with the world of light and beau-

ty. They exist within a highly insulated bubble world that is cyni-

cal, cruel, and debased. Since cops must constantly stifle many of their most basic human qualities, only other cops can understand.

They hang out exclusively with people who can do that whilst yet main-
A timber industry strike that echoes today

Return of the “outside agitator”

Aaron Goings

As millions of people take to the streets to protest racism and police violence, voices of the Right—both its fascist and corporate incarnations—cry out to blame a favorite bogeyman, the “outside agitator,” for trying to import chaos to otherwise serene places.

A list those labeled “outside agitators” in the twentieth century reads like a “who’s who” of social movements: much of the Civil Rights Movement (including MLK), the Wobblies, and the 1999 Seattle WTO protestors. “Outside agitators” this spring are in good company.

Depression in the Pacific NW lumber industry

The Evergreen State has its own history of using this label to suppress social movements. People might hear echoes of a powerful 1935 lumber strike in the media response to today’s uprisings. The Evergreen State has its own civil rights movement (including MLK), the Wobbly’s, and the 1999 Seattle WTO protestors. Outside agitators this spring are in good company.

As we’ve seen in the recent uprisings, as soon as elites blame protests on “outside agitators,” armed agents of the state join vigilantes to brutalize, jail, even kill those working for change. In a statement that could have been written in the twenty-first century, one conservative union leader blamed the spreading strike on a “flying squadron of Red coming from Portland.”

In 1935, lumber bosses had allies in city halls and the state capitals. To protect property, police round- up picketers. Bosses recruited strikebreakers, both on the Harbor and in the wider Pacific Northwest. In May 14, a car driven by scabs ran through a picket line at the Aberdeen plywood factory, seriously injuring one picker. In July, a Hoquiam scab fired a shotgun into a picket line, wounding four men and a boy.

The state and National Guard move against the strikers

Governor Martin took an active role in breaking the strike. Using “right to work” rhetoric, he ordered the state patrol to “protect workers” in eastern Grays Harbor, where employers complained that “outsiders” were picketing and threatening scabs. On June 8, the state patrol and Longview police blocked a blockade that prevented traffic from entering the Long-Bell and Weyerhauser mills. To justify his use of state forces, Martin red- haired the strikers.

Investigation has revealed such interference and threats come primarily from agitators, including some professional communists who are taking advantage of the situation to foment discontent and violence. These forces are determined to promote industry-wide conflict even to the extent of undermining our institutions and government. Now, as governor, I serve notice such communist activities, professional agitation, coercion and intimidation must not be tolerated in Washington.

In late June, Martin sent the National Guard to Tacoma to forcibly reopen the mills. They set up a machine gun and attacked picket- ing workers with tear gas. Brigadier General Carlos A. Pennington of the Guard thanked the operators who went to the streets to protest racism and police violence against “others.”

Those in power will fight movements by inciting violence against “others”

Northwest employers never stopped blaming outsiders in their efforts to divide and conquer the labor movement. A few years after the strike, the Business Builders, a far-right organization, claimed outsiders were responsible for labor troubles. “That the loyal citi- zens of Grays Harbor settle their own problems, rather than permit outsiders to come in whose only desire is to establish conditions which can be used as examples for other districts.”

Call out the “outside agitator” narrative

Today’s global demonstrations against police violence and a lumber strike 85 years ago aren’t the same, but both cases, those in power fought movements demanding humane treatment for the oppressed by “outside agitators” and inciting violence and vigilantism against them. Bosses, politicians, and militarized police forces will always wage class war from above. Elites know what they’re doing when they employ dishonest “outside agitator” rhetoric.

The 1935 Pacific Northwest Lum- ber Strike, like practically any grassroots uprising for social jus- tice, is proof that when people take to the streets, those in power will rush to their podiums to announce and denounce the arrival of “out- side agitators.” I’ve seen folks on social media mocking politicians and bosses for rolling out this ol’ standby—the outside agitator—to sow dissent among workers and outsiders. Keeping the re- jecting and calling out the dishonest “outside agitator” narrative is a step toward countering the power and propaganda of those seeking to quash dissent.

A history of labor activism in the Pacific Northwest, written by Aaron Goings and published by the U.W Press this summer.
How the old face of fascism hides in the new rhetoric

The image of far-right groups as just hooded Klansmen or goon squads Nazi is seriously outdated, and dangerously minimizes the real threat of fascism. Banishing the KKK to get rid of far-right terrorism is like banning McDonald’s in order to get rid of copycats. Fascist groups these days don’t just spout racist slurs. They are more sophisticated, starting with issues you might agree with: anti-corporate free trade, anti-elitist corruption, anti-poverty, anti-war, even anti-police! But they use a fake-populist, conspiratorial analysis of how the world works, rather than a real critique of economic hierarchies. Only when they hook in new recruits is their true fascist agenda revealed.

Fascism and white supremacy are not always the same thing

White supremacy is an ideology that centers people of European descent of all classes at the top of social hierarchies. Fascism is a far-right revolutionary movement that wants to replace capitalist democracies with extreme authoritarian states that may be liberal, or even progressive. White supremacy is an objective and institutional, and has been around since colonialism and slavery began. While it’s important that running anti-racist campaigns is anti-fascist, the far-right groups, they’re only scratching the surface of the underlying institutional racist systems that give birth to fascism.

Not all white supremacists are fascists

White supremacy is common in business, government, police, political parties, and unions, where it becomes Fascist, liberal, or even progressive. White supremacy is pervasive and institutional, and has been around since colonialism and slavery began. While it’s important that running anti-racist campaigns is anti-fascist, the far-right groups, they’re only scratching the surface of the underlying institutional racist systems that give birth to fascism.

Not all fascists are white supremacists

Fascism is a specific movement that started in the 20th century—it isn’t just shorthand for any racist movement. Fascists can be white American racist militias, but they can also be the Japanese Imperial Army, Latin American or Philippine death squads, Hindutva paramilitaries, Saudi-backed jihadists, or Israeli settler militias. They can even be People of Color in the US who join far-right groups because they’re anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-Native, or anti-leftist. Far-right groups love having token members of color to confuse the public about their true ideology.

Trump is a racist who’s enabling fascism to grow

Fascism today takes different forms, and it goes far deeper than Trump. The fascists might not be the obvious gun-toting “rednecks,” but portray themselves as “patriots” or “peacekeepers” who express anger at big government, unemployment and repression, and praise “peaceful protesters” while demonizing leftists or black “separatists.” Dig a little deeper, in their Facebook pages, perhaps, and you’ll uncover their racist connections, Christian supremacist beliefs, or violent threats against “un-American” dissenters or noncitizens.

Don’t be fooled or silenced

Educate yourself and friends about the growing threat of fascist militias on our streets. See The Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights (IREHR.org), Southern Poverty Law Center (spclcenter.org), Political Research Center (politicalresearch.org), Western States Center (westernstatescenter.org), and Research for Progress (researchforprogress.us).

This editorial analysis was submitted by an astute observer of history and current realities.

An exchange between Angela Davis and Amy Goodman

Defunding the police—it’s about revisioning and building anew

Amy Goodman: You write in Freedom Is a Consequence of Laureate ideology that drives us to focus on individuals, ourselves, individual victims, individual perpetrators. But how is it possible to solve the massive problem of racist state violence by calling upon individual police officers to bear the burden of that history and to assume that by prosecuting them, by exacting our revenge on them, we would have somehow made progress in eradicating racism? Explain what exactly you’re demanding.

Angela Davis: Neoliberal logic assumes that the fundamental unit of society is the individual, and I would say the abstract individual. According to that logic, if we can combat racism by pulling ourselves up by our own individual bootstraps. That logic recognizes—or fails, rather, to recognize that there are institutional barriers that cannot be brought down by individual determination. If a Black person is materially unable to attend the university, the solution is not affirmative action, they argue, but rather the person simply needs to work harder, get good grades and do what is necessary in order to acquire the funds to pay for tuition. Neoliberal logic detests us from thinking about the simpler solution, which is free education.

Angela Davis: The call to defund the police reflects only one aspect of the process represented by the demand. Defunding the police is not simply about withdrawing funding for law enforcement and doing nothing else. It’s about shifting public funds to new services and new institutions—mental health counselors, who can respond to people who are in crisis without arms. It’s about shifting funding to education, to housing, to recreation. All of these things help to create security and safety.

What we’re calling for is a process of decriminalization, recognizing that threats to safety, threats to security, come not primarily from what is defined as crime, but rather from the failure of institutions in our country to address issues of health, issues of violence, education, etc. So, abortion is really about rethinking the kind of future we want, the social future, the economic future, the political future. It’s about revolution, I would argue.

Amy Goodman is the host of Democracy Now, which you can hear locally on KAOE (89.9), KOWA (106.5) or KBCS (91.3) or streaming. The full interview with Angela Davis ran on June 12, 2020.

The Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, which tracks white supremacist and far-right extremists at protests in the United States over the past few weeks. Alexander Reid Ross, a researcher at the Center for Analysis of the Radical Right and author of Against the Fascist Creep, separately counted scores of such appearances, 1,2 of which involved police collaboration or support.

Many officials, including President Donald Trump, have repeatedly blamed protest violence on the anti-fascist movement known as antifa and the “radical left.” But the violence in Albuquerque isn’t the first instance of right-wing vigilantes beating criminally charged for actions during recent protests. On June 2, federal prosecutors in Nevada charged three members of the Boogaloo movement, which seeks to accelerate the collapse of the political system via civil unrest, with conspiracy to damage and destroy by fire and explosives. An Army Reserve member and two military veterans were allegedly headed to downtown Las Vegas with gas canisters and Molotov cocktails. On Tuesday, federal prosecutors in California charged a U.S. Air Force sergeant linked to the Boogaloo with murder for killing a federal agent near a courthouse in Oakdale. He was also charged separately for killing a sheriff’s deputy in Santa Cruz County.

[Note: Watch this video for a straightforward account of the people who came to intimidate Ozymus residents, including their links to other far-right organizations and even a politician https://youtu.be/qaJv8k65QCE]
The lessons of the Wynoochee River Dam

The era of dam building is over. As the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is now more robust, people have realized it is not too late for the Wynoochee as the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will release a comprehensive analysis of the comments at its upcoming July meeting. Within the next year, a final EIS will be issued. This fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will release a National Environmental Policy Act draft (NEPD). As the debate rages over constructing a dam on the Chehalis, there is much to learn from mistakes of the past.

Exploiting a dynamic river

The headwaters of the Wynoochee River are in the Olympic mountains. One of the larger tributaries of the Chehalis River, the Wynoochee is about 60 miles long and joins the Chehalis River between Montesano and Aberdeen. Wynoochee means a lake or lakefulness in the Lower Chehalis language.

The Wynoochee Dam sits on the upper Wynoochee River about 52 miles upstream from the Chehalis confluence. Engineers designed the dam to control flooding and to increase the reliable supply of water for current and planned industrial uses. In addition to supplying water for two large pulp and paper mills in Aberdeen and Hoquiam, stored water would replace the Chehalis River water closed all operations in 1992 and never reopened. The other—Weyerhaeuser Company, shut down in 2005. Six years later, a private equity firm, purchased the former Weyerhaeuser Mill and opened Cosmo Specialty Fibers.

While it may not be apparent, flooding is essential to a healthy river, especially here in the Pacific Northwest. High water creates wetlands, recharges groundwater, maintains riparian stream-side forests, and so much more.

Impact on Salmon

The Wynoochee Dam was not built for salmon. Electricity. It did not improve the environment for salmon during water releases. In times of low flow, Wild salmon populations in this river have significantly declined since the dam’s completion. The area that is now Lake Wynoochee was an important spawning ground for wild salmon. They are gone. Instead of improving conditions, the dam blocked 12 miles of excellent mainstem habitat and even more high-quality habitat in the tributaries above the dam.

Before the dam, the tributaries and upper 12 miles of river were refugia of cold water—water that could be vital in the face of climate change. Now this water is too warm, affecting water quality above and below the dam.

The dam contains no fish passage facilities. Adult wild Coho and Steelhead going upstream past the Wynoochee Dam through a trap and haul operation. The few adult wild Chinook salmon are not transported downstream. Juvenile fish passage is allowed through a 45-day run-of-the-river operation each spring when no turbines operate. Juveniles must survive a 175-foot plunge from the reservoir surface into the river below. Mortality rates from this plunge vary from 14% to 68%.

Benefits of natural flow and flooding

All dams alter the hydrograph (flow regime) of rivers, which impacts the habitat and character of the river for miles downstream. Wild fish populations that were adapted to formerly running rivers in the Wynoochee have had to adapt to the new conditions, or perish. Wood, essential for habitat and structure, cannot pass over the dam. Furthermore, a section of the river downstream of the dam is starved of gravel, which is necessary for spawning grounds. While it may not be apparent, flooding is essential to a healthy river, especially here in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to delivering wood, the high water moves, sorts, and distributes the gravel required for spawning. High water creates and maintains deep pools and healthy side channels that are juvenile fish nurseries. High water sustains wetlands, recharges groundwater, maintains riparian stream-side forests, and so much more.

Have we learned the lesson?

Above the dam and lake, the upper Wynoochee River is still a river. Here is our lesson: there are deep pools of gravel distributed by high flows, and there are giant logs delivered by storms and floods. This is what a river should look like. Rivers teach us, again and again. Dams kill rivers. The good news is it’s not too late for the Chehalis.

A comparison of the Olympic, Lacey and Tumwater Police Departments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (1)</th>
<th>Olympia Police Department</th>
<th>Lacey Police Department</th>
<th>Tumwater Police Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Governing laws</td>
<td>OMC Chapter 2.38 &amp; RCWs</td>
<td>LMC Chapter 2.48 &amp; RCWs cited</td>
<td>TMC Chapter 2, 10.040, 9.00 &amp; RCWs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authority to hire/fire</td>
<td>City Manager Jay Burney</td>
<td>City Manager Scott Spence</td>
<td>Mayor Pete Kmet</td>
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<td>Population</td>
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<td>$20,961,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>As a percent of general fund</td>
<td>21.5% (increased from prior year)</td>
<td>24% (increased from prior year)</td>
<td>24% (increased from prior year)</td>
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<td>Bargained contracts (3)</td>
<td>Police Sergeants Association</td>
<td>Police Management Association</td>
<td>One agreement covers both levels</td>
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<td>Officers’ Guilds</td>
<td>Police Officers’ Guild</td>
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<td>Total employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Salary &amp; Compensation</td>
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<td>Range of pay 2018</td>
<td>$77,210—$109,530</td>
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<td>First yr vacation accrual</td>
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<td>12 days</td>
<td>12 days</td>
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<td>Open positions 2020</td>
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<td>5 officers, 2 admin</td>
<td>3 officers</td>
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<td>Minimum qualifications</td>
<td>Age 21, HS grad/GED, WDL, qualify for firearm</td>
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<td>Minimum starting salary</td>
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<td>Initial training</td>
<td>19.5 wks Police Academy Burien</td>
<td>Not separately indicated</td>
<td>18 wks Police Academy + 3 mos field</td>
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(1) Information in this chart comes from city web pages (finance, police department, municipal code) using the most current postings, usually 2018-19. (2) Different jurisdictions have given police departments a variety of roles not typically under-planned as “police.” Salaries and budgets may reflect such differences. (3) Police working conditions and salaries are governed by contracts that are posted on line. The contracts establish base pay for all officers and provide for percentage increases to the base for “premium” and “special assignment,” incentive bumps for education and fitness, for longevity among other opportunities to exceed base salaries. In addition to other benefits, each contract contains grievance procedures, a “bill of rights” and many, many other stipulations useful for understanding the status of our police. (4) Annually, the Olympian posts a “Searchable Salaries” database for cities in Thurston County. The figures here are for maximum and minimum gross actual pay for 2018 for Olympia and Tumwater officers. The data for Lacey 2018 was missing. You can find the agreements with the three cities posted at www.olywip.org.

Lee First

“Lee First is a Twin Harbors Waterkeeper.”

July 2020
More than marching: creative support for Black Lives Matter

In addition to the vigils, marches and protests taking place daily in the streets and parks of Olympia after the death of George Floyd, groups and organizations throughout our area found ways to make clear that they want the Black Lives Matter movement to continue, to grow and succeed. Here are a few examples of what else happened:

Grays Harbor Strong
In the days immediately following the murder of George Floyd, sole individuals and small groups showed up at Zelasco Park in Aberdeen to protest his death. Since then there have been more protest rallies, vigils and marches in support of the Black Lives movement in Hoquiam, Ocean Shores and Aberdeen. As few as 20 and more than 100 people gathered to make their views known first by showing up and then on dozens of signs they carried. These ranged from “All lives can’t matter until black lives matter,” to “Rednecks against police brutality,” and the reminder, “White privilege doesn’t mean your life hasn’t been hard. It means the color of your skin isn’t one of the things that makes it harder.” — Reported by Dana Stumpf

Bear Dietz
North Thurston making black lives matter
On June 19, students from all over North Thurston were on Martin Way from 10:30 - 5pm, waving signs promoting actions to support black lives: hire more black teachers, mandate black history and ethnic studies, end zero-tolerance discipline and fund counselors not cops, among other goals. Dozens of students signed up for 2-hour shifts, wore masks and observed social distance and made their points as drivers passed, honking and waving in response. Organizers from the River Ridge Black Students Union reported an overwhelming positive response from active participants, local businesses and community supporters.

United Churches of Olympia
On Juneteenth, members and others from United Churches of Olympia met in the parking lot at 11th and Capitol Blvd. to kneel for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to express their grief for lives lost due to racism and to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter. About 50 people gathered, wept and prayed for peace and healing. Numerous similar actions are still occurring across the state.

Downtown Olympia murals
When Olympia Mayor Cheryl Sorley and City staff suggested that businesses board up their storefronts because “outsiders” were coming to Olympia to “wreak havoc,” an unintended consequence was the appearance of protest art throughout the downtown. Overnight, people created a dozen or more murals, ranging from elegant backgrounds for listing the names of those killed by police, to classic “graffiti-style” messages. A standout was a mural featuring George Floyd painted by Robert Upham. Go to www.olywip.org to see more of the murals.

Yvonne McDonald’s birthday party
Music, candlelight and a joyous vigil celebrating the “heavenly” birthday of deceased Olympian Yvonne McDonald took place in front of City Hall on June 23. The event served as a reminder that McDonald’s death was minimized and mishandled by the Olympia Police Department. Yvonne’s friends and relatives continue to demand a full investigation.

Orca Books sheltered protesters
Orca Books Co-op along with other downtown businesses decorated their storefront with signs and banners promoting the Black Lives Matter movement with posters in remembrance of those slain by the police. They opened their doors to protesters, offering water, a bathroom, a safe place to rest. Early in June, Orca Books Co-op had a rock through a window during a protest and in response they simply replaced the window. Orca Books Co-op engages first hand with its belief that people matter more than property: maybe it’s not the most fun to cover up graffiti or fix a broken window, but it’s better to deal with that than to see civilians harmed or killed at the hands of armed militia or the police.
At a Friday morning June 5th press conference, Mayor Selby stated that people from “outside Olympia” were coming to our city for one purpose: “to incite Violence, destruction and wreak as much havoc on our community as they can.” She and City staff were suggesting that businesses should board up their storefronts.

We want to thank all the local downtown businesses for NOT boarding up and for refusing the offer by the armed vigilantes to “defend them” from this non-existent threat.

Community defense happens when people see, know and support each other and that’s true for locally owned businesses as well.

We don’t know why men with the Three Percenters dress in army fatigues and pose with weapons of war in Olympia. We also don’t know why armed vigilantes are welcomed by Olympia police officers.

Nevertheless, we neither need nor want armed vigilantes in our neighborhoods or downtown. Our community is safer without them.

Signed by
A. Lee Miller
Melissa Roberts
Beverly Farris
Rod Tharp
Susan McRae
Peter Bohmer
Kathleen Byrd
Nancy Koppelman
Corey Thompson
George Sullivan
Edie Harding
Dave Smith
Jennifer B
Robert Shirley
Becky Liebman
Dan Leahy
Nicholas Hefling
Jane Morgan
Paul B
Chris Hempleman
Stefanie Randolph
Steven Kant
Kate Fehsenfeld
Gerald Apple
Helen Johnston
Kate Tossey
Jeannine Godfrey
Nancy Sullivan
Valerie Anderson
Brenda Warner
Phil Cornell
Darcy Thaden
Anthony Zaragoza
Economics for Everyone
Angela Rush
Susan Tuzzolino
Olivia Archibald
Michael Vavrus
Bill Fishburn
Tamara Fischer-Bird
Allegra Hinkle
E.J. Zita
Joanne McCaughan
Emily Calhoun Petrie
Ann Heitkemper
Bob Zeigler
Rowan Green
Peter Sanderson
Black Leaders in Action and Solidarity Thurston
Nadine Tussey
Larry Mosqueda
Patty Mosqueda
Ann Vandeman
Esther Grace Kronenberg
Ellen Shortt Sanchez
Brooke Beecher
Hal Beecher
Dick Stamey
Janine Lindsey
Jake Lind
Joanna Bries
Dave Harris
Cynthia Salazar
Yanah G. Cook
Susan Davenport Moore
Rachid Benkhalti
Dellores Nelson
Sandra Ware
Beverly Bassett
Sky Myers
Shawn Munger
Helen Lee
Doug McCaughan
Michael McDonald
Kathleen Bellefeuille-Rice
Anne Fischel
Melissa Davis
Adam Pearson
Terra Sullivan
Jean Eberhardt
Theres Sprunger
Kathy Baros Friedt
John Hardy
Debbi Hardy
Bob Delastra
Sherri Goulet
Erik Steinhoff
Stan Lewis
Kathy Harrigan
Aristides Pappidas
Jane Pappidas
Sarah Stockholm
Kevin Hansen
Keoki Kauanoe
Rosalinda Noriega
Steve Brink
Liz Dalton
Caroline Lacey
Shaw Osha
Hugo Flores
Reuben Yancey
Sandy Mayes
Dan Ryan
Mary Kasimor
Fred Silsby
**Community Spotlight**

**Orca Books Solidarity Co-op**

Orca Books has converted from a commercial bookseller to a solidarity co-operative, in which different membership categories—worker, low-income consumer, and organizational member—have voting power. Solidarity indicates that members have the shared values of cooperation. The cooperative is in the process of finalizing its bylaws and looks forward to holding its first Membership Meeting and board election this fall. Currently, seven board members oversee the coop and eight staff members manage the coop operations, including online sales and organizing the move. Orca Books plans to open Sooent (stay tuned). Previous owner, Linda Beirenz, remains at Orca as a worker member and treasurer of the co-op. For more information, contact Clare Follman, Co-op President, at clare@orcabooks.com.

**#BlackoutDay 2020**

This movement is an awakening of the national consciousness of black people in America and abroad and it requires economic solidarity in America amongst all black people unequivocally. In order to break free from the chains of financial servility, we will organize days, weeks, months, and years if necessary when not one black person in America will spend a dollar outside of our community. Blackout Day’s mission is to create an international community of economic solidarity and national consciousness unified around our common experience and ancestry as Emancipated Peoples of America.

**The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

The Coalition meets via online video during the Coronavirus pandemic, the third Thursday of each month. The July 16 meeting will be at 5:00 pm through a Zoom video conference. To participate, contact Glen Anderson at 360-491-9093 or email glenanderson@integra.net in advance to receive the meeting link.

**Students Stay Woke**

The River Ridge High School Black Student Union along with other local student-led organizations is planning demonstrations at schools throughout the summer. Tentative dates and locations are: Saturday, July 11 at North Thurston High School, in preparation for the Tuesday, July 14, North Thurston School Board meeting. Please read the Black Student Union Black Lives Matter in Schools 4-Point Program (download at studentsagainstwhiteliability.com) and email superintendent@nthurston.k12.wa.us at least a week ahead of time to be on the agenda of the board meeting. Follow up event tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 25 at Timberline High School.

**Economics For Everyone, Rally and March to Defend the Police**

Speakers will address the long history of police racism; movements to defend the police locally and nationally; and building a movement against racial capitalism. Everyone who supports Black Lives Matter is welcome.

**July on Parallax Perspectives: Jesus Taught and Practiced Nonviolence**

Most people—including most Christians—do not adequately understand that Jesus taught and practiced profound nonviolence. Glen Anderson interviews Dave Bellefeuille-Rice and discusses the radical, practical message that Jesus taught and practiced. Viewers everywhere can watch the interview or read a summary online at parallaxperspectives.org under “religion” and “nonviolence,” or on TC Media Video on Demand. To participate, contact Glen Anderson at 360-491-9093 or email glenanderson@integra.net in advance to receive the meeting link.

**Rachel Corrie Foundation—Beyond Connecting the Dots**

Co-sponsored by Eyewitness Palestine, this virtual summit will offer powerful analysis and an exploration of justice-based frameworks in the effort to build a united racial justice movement from the US to Palestine. Participants will have the opportunity to make connections with movement leaders and will also leave with a toolkit of actions that they can immediately use in their communities to work toward collective liberation. July 18, 2020, 12 pm—7:30 pm (EST). Information on goals, speakers, registration costs and more at summit.eyewitnesspalestine.org

**Orca Books Solidarity Co-op**

For more information, contact Glen Anderson at 360-491-9093 or email glenanderson@integra.net orcabooks.com.

**Primary voting for seats in Congress, the state legislature and more**

In Washington state, register to vote or update your existing registration online, by mail, in a voter registration drive—it has to get to the Auditor by July 27. If you forget, you can register or update in person by going to the Auditor’s office or other designated location up to 8 pm on Election Day Aug. 4. If you’ve had a felony conviction your right to vote is automatically restored once you’re out of the criminal justice system (even if you still owe court ordered fines). Excellent! But you still have to register before you can vote. Go to lwvthurston.org/voter-registration and ask for Ballots will go out July 15. July 15—July 27 mark your ballot and send it in!!! No postage needed.

**Primary candidate forums on TCTV**

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County, in association with Mason and Pierce County Leagues and Thurston Community Media have hosted moderate virtual candidate forums with candidates of all political affiliations for the following primary races: WA State Legislative Districts 22, 2, and 35. Thurston County Board of County Commissioners, Thurston County Superior Court Judge. Links to all forums can be found at lwvthurston.org/forums. The airtime schedule for TCTV Channel 77 can be found at TCM.com. Videos are also available at TC Media Video on Demand.

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Make check payable to Works in Progress and mail to PO Box 293, Olympia, WA 98507. More info at wipwp.org.

**July 2020**

**Works In Progress**

Never miss an issue! Have it delivered to your mailbox for $35/year. Buy two and get a subscription for a friend!
I want to thank
COVID 19
I have been waiting a very long time
For voices in the streets
To come alive
And speak/rage at the inequities occurring
Minute by minute,
Second by second,
Day by day,
The injustices mount
To a point of gagging
And without the virus,
Would we be out
In the streets,
No job to go to, no health to proclaim.
The street seems to be
The obvious place to congregate.
To declare once and for all
No Justice, No Peace.

~ Toni Lawrence