How a father-son duo is adding flavor to the Olympia food scene, 5A

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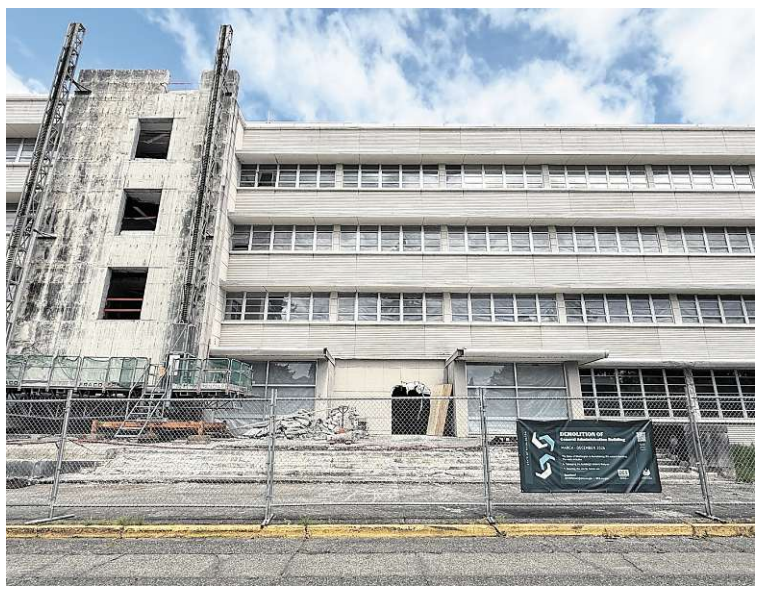
BY SIMONE CARTER
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Visitors to the Capitol Campus in Olympia might be wondering what will come of the site where the General Administration Building once stood.

Now the state is one step closer to nailing down an answer.

Thursday morning, the Joint State Capitol Committee and Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee discussed a recommendation to turn the former GAB site at 210 11th Ave. SW into the future home of the Washington State Library and Archives Building. Committee members voted Nov. 12 to ask state lawmakers to make it official via legislation.

SEE CAMPUS, 2A



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The former General Administration Building on the Capitol Campus in Olympia has been demolished.



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Nearly 200 people attended a rally outside Madison Elementary School in Olympia on Nov. 12 before marching to the Olympia School District Board of Directors' meeting and vote on closing three elementary schools. The board voted 4-1 to close three schools.

Olympia School District moves forward with school closures

BY TY VINSON
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Sobs, expletives and pleas for a change of heart rang out at the Olympia School District Board of Directors' Nov. 12 meeting after the board voted 4-1 to close Madison, McKenny and LP Brown elementary schools.

Director Maria Flores was the sole vote against Superintendent Patrick Murphy's proposal to consolidate the three schools.

Nearly 200 people attended a rally at Madison Elementary School ahead of the meeting. The group then marched around the block, through the streets with a police escort, then rallied in front of the district office with musical hits such as "Revolting Children" from Matilda The Musical.

District parent Marissa Smith told The Olympian after the vote that her family is already planning to file a lawsuit against the district.

Director Renee Fullerton originally planned to propose during the Nov. 12 meeting that the board postpone the school consolidation vote to Dec. 14.

Fullerton retracted her proposal during the meeting, following Murphy's response ahead of the meeting to her request for additional information about any non-closure alternatives that would address the same financial deficit as the closure proposal. She said his response alleviated some of her concerns. There was no point in delaying the vote and risking deep cuts across the district, she said, and she ultimately voted to close the schools.

Murphy has said the closures are necessary amid declining enrollment and financial challenges facing the district, The Olympian has reported.

According to previous reporting from The Olympian, Murphy's proposal calls for moving students from McKenny Elementary into Pioneer Elementary and Centennial Elementary ahead of next school year. Madison Elementary students would instead go to Roosevelt Elementary, and LP Brown Elementary students would be moved to Hansen Elementary and Garfield Elementary.

The estimated recurring savings are about $3.1 million annually, according to Murphy's plan. That's $829,368 from McKenny, $1,122,856 from Madison and $1,076,618 from LP Brown. Murphy's proposal says that closing the three elementary schools also helps the district avoid $136 million in modernization costs that would be needed to best serve students if the schools were to stay open.

According to previous reporting from The Olympian, the plan to close the three schools involves four phases. The district is already halfway through phase two.

The first phase involved developing the framework for the consolidation process, gathering community feedback and beginning to form transition teams for students and staff. The second phase, which goes through January, involves laying out new school boundaries, transportation plans and staffing.

The third phase, called Transition Preparation, would take place from January to September of next year, when the 2027-2028 school year begins. It will involve implementing student, staff and family transition team plans. Murphy's timeline shows that student, family and staff orientations would take place during the spring.

The fourth phase involves officially closing the three schools ahead of the 2027-2028 school year and providing continued support to the students and staff who need to move. Staff would then monitor enrollment and the effects of consolidation.

Murphy said during the Nov. 12 meeting that he recognized how difficult a decision this was for families, staff and the com-

SEE CLOSURES, 4A

Crafted Restorations permanently suspended at Olympia Market

BY ROLF BOONE
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Crafted Restorations, a knife maker and former vendor at the Olympia Farmers Market that had sought reinstatement to the market after they were suspended last month, has been permanently suspended, the owners announced on social media.

The owners, Kevin and Stacy Box, were waiting on an answer about their market status via certified letter, which they received on Saturday. They posted about the news on social media the next day.

"As of the November 7th letter from the Olympia Farmers Market director, Crafted Restorations has been permanently suspended from the market," the social media post reads.

It didn't come as too much of a surprise, owner Kevin Box told The Olympian on Wednesday.

"I figured that's how it would go," he said.

The letter, which was shared with The Olympian, spells out an appeals process that goes through the farmers market board. Box said they plan to appeal and are also pursuing legal action, although he declined to comment on what the legal action might be.

In the letter from market director Alvinita J. Stuart, also known as Alvi Stuart, she zeroed in on the vendor's decision to share their concerns about the market on social media as her reasons for permanent suspension.

"Beginning October 13, 2026, you published statements on Facebook and Instagram about the market and the market director," she writes, and then proceeds to recap those various posts in the letter.

Here's one example:

"Suggestion that the suspension was retaliation for speaking out. Your publications state, 'This is what happens when you speak up and speak out about what you believe is wrong.'"

"The Market disputes this characterization," she writes.

Crafted Restorations, which had spent about three years at the market, had originally taken to social media because of what they felt were new requirements at the

SEE VENDOR, 7A

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