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TIMES




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WSU Everett to launch 1st all-incident public safety data portal



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From Vietnam vet to stockbroker and felon, Dennis Gibb making amends



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Buttigieg asks \$88.4 M for Lynnwood Link Extension

Real News ⚡
Real Impact

Students explore careers in healthcare with ECHO Tour



Members of the Everett Fire Department speaking to students about the emergency medical service profession at ECHO Tour on March 19, 2024. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

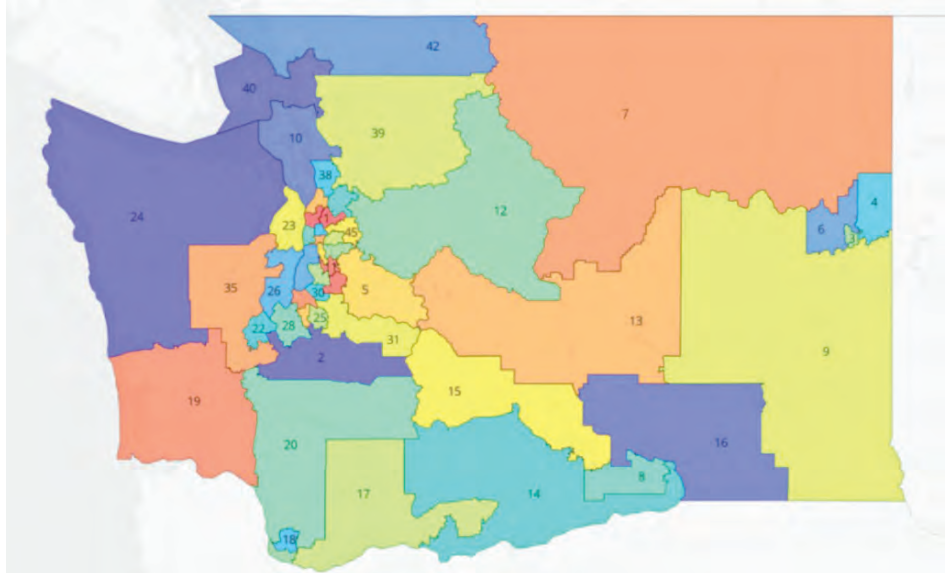
EVERETT—Approximately 600 students from 24 Snohomish County high schools are gaining hands-on exposure to healthcare careers by in-field professionals in the county’s first Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities (ECHO) work-based learning tour that began on Monday, March 18, at Everett Community College.

“I like the specializing of everything, and the time is good; the sessions aren’t too long,” Emiko with Monroe High School told the Lynnwood Times. Both she and her friend Eva said they love learning and enjoyed the 30-minute workshop on chiropractor care.

Throughout the day, students rotated from room-to-room learning from real-life career professionals in the fields of nursing, medical assisting, emergency medical services, pharmacy, dentistry, and even healthcare administration. ECHO was modeled after Career Connect Washington Northwest (CCWNW) Regional Network’s success of their Washington Apprentices-

Continued **PAGE 11** >>

Clinton-appointed judge redistricts out Washington Republican lawmakers



The Lasnik-approved map that redistricts 13 legislative districts, scheduled to take effect this year if not overturned.

By MARIO LOTMORE

SEATTLE—Judge Robert Lasnik, of the United States District Court for

the Western District of Washington, ordered the adoption of a redistricting map that impacts the boundaries of 13 legislative districts—12 Republican

Sno-Isle shares how the library decides what books to carry

By KIENAN BRISCOE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—Three Sno-Isle Libraries has a vast collection of over 1.4 million items for residents to check out as they see fit but what goes into the decision-making process when determining which books to carry, or not to carry?

Russell leads the team who selects materials for the library system, maintains the collection catalog, and orders and provides interlibrary loan support for all Sno-Isle Library’s customers.

The library is guided by its collection development board policy as well as a collection development selection guideline, an administrative policy which establishes the parameters and

Continued **PAGE 08** >>

This fall WSU Everett to launch nation's first all-incident public safety data portal



Dr. David A. Makin, Associate Professor at Washington State University. Join him for a free engaging community conversation titled *Democratizing Data: Empowering Our Community Through Open Public Safety Data* on Thursday, March 28, 5-8 p.m. at Washington State University Everett, 915 N. Broadway, Everett, WA 98201. Scan barcode to learn more.



By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Washington State University's Everett Campus is currently beta testing a new, state of the art, public safety data center that, when it launches this fall, will be the nation's first ever publicly accessible portal that collects, organizes, and delivers information related to all things public safety across Washington.

The program is an effort to "democratize data," Dr. David Makin, Associate Professor at WSU's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, informed the Lynnwood Times. By "democratizing data," he means to make data useful for communities.

While several tools, that compile police data already exist, including the WASPC's annual report, and the National Incident-Based Reporting Sys-

tem (NIBRS), the data in which these reports encompass are arrest-based. The totality of what a police agency does, however, revolves around far more than just making arrests.

"We work with law enforcement agencies where about 10 percent of what they do is making arrests," Dr. Makin told the Lynnwood Times. "It's not the inability to be transparent, it's how can you bring all of this data together so that people can see what public safety looks like - discover what's working and what might not be working in a community."

What's more, many reports—such as the WASPC annual crime report—are published annually meaning if a data-based decision needs to be made immediately you would need to wait a whole year until that report was published to assess its findings. Dr. Ma-

kin's program could make data available weekly.

Solely focusing on arrest-based data can skew the public's perspective on law enforcement agencies and what they do but it can also affect how a law enforcement operates, Dr. Makin continued. For example, if a city's crime rates are going down and a police department approaches a City Manager for more funds to hire more police officers the city may look at arrest data and think it's unnecessary. The reality may be, however, that police officers are conducting more non-arrest-related calls such as mental health-related contacts or welfare checks, both of which are not represented in current publicly available data reports.

"As much as we talk about transparency, and policing, and law enforcement, it really is about true transparency - understanding how, and what the police do, and making that available to the public so that we can discover what's working and what's not," said Dr. Makin. "As we make changes in policing, such as policy, where things are not becoming arrestable offenses that doesn't mean the police are not involved, or responding in some way, those contacts. If we're really going to address some of the misperceptions of what the police do, we need to bring data to bear to have an honest conversation about what they are doing."

He went on to share that pulling all incident data instead of only arrests would generate better statistics.

"In our state we have cities whose day time population is three times higher than its live-in population, so if you use 'use of force rates' based on this census that's a disingenuous comparison because their [law enforcement] contacts

are so much higher," said Dr. Makin. "Our ability to use police incident data allows us to generate better per contact, or per incident, rates."

The data center is currently in its beta testing phase and Dr. Makin's team hopes to have some data available by late this fall. When it launches community members will be able to set up an account (to save configurations and share with other users), log in to a website, and download complete data sets with the exception of some redactions to protect the privacy of officers and the people with whom they interact.

"It's about maximizing teaching, research, and service," said Dr. Makin.

The website will be based on an intelligent dashboard model where if users are unsure what exactly they're looking for, they can simply query the system. The goal is to make the information as accessible as possible and the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistics and Research (CISR), an outreach mechanism for the university, will even be available to answer any questions.

The project is being funded by Washington State Senate Bill 5259, concerning law enforcement data collection, which was signed into law by Governor Inslee on May 18, 2021.

Following the George Floyd incident in 2020, Dr. Makin received an email from the Washington State Attorney General's Office asking two questions: if he was to be able to build a use of force data collection system and two, how much would it cost? Dr. Makin replied that if he were to create a passive system—meaning all the data is law enforcement supplied—and his team's

Continued PAGE 10 >>

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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LYNNWOOD TIMES

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Community Block Party on March 30th to celebrate opening of the Swift Orange Line

By COMMUNITY TRANSIT

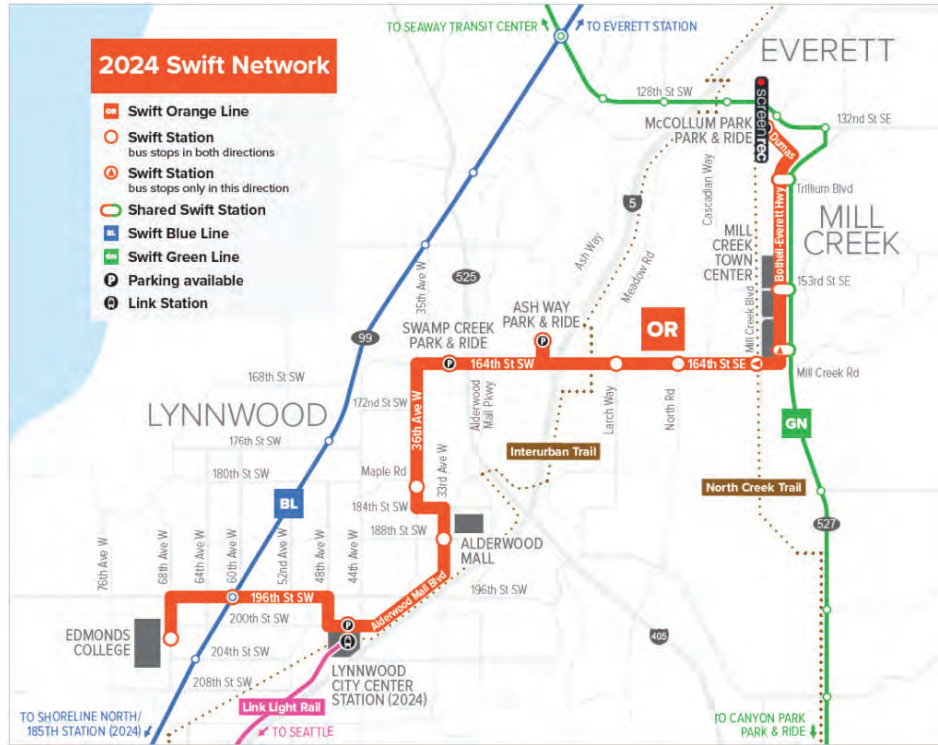
LYNNWOOD—Community Transit is celebrating the grand opening of the Swift Orange Line on March 30 and the whole community is invited to join a family-friendly, taste-tantalizing, bus-loads-of-fun Block Party!

Whether you're a transit enthusiast, foodie, or just looking for a fun day out, mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this! The block party is near Brier Hall, just west of the Edmonds College Transit Center on 68th Ave W.

- **WHAT:** Block Party for the whole family
- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 30 from 12 to 3 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Edmonds College, 20000 68th Ave. W Lynnwood, WA 98036

Block Party attendees will enjoy delicious eats from Triton Taste, Flyin Taco, GoodBelly, and Dreamy Drinks food trucks. Dive into a world of creativity with face painting, balloon art, and temporary Henna tattoos. Challenge your friends to yard games or simply relax and enjoy live bands. Capture memories with hand-drawn portraits. Take pictures with characters and superheroes from your favorite books and movies.

Attendees can pick up a special passport sticker booklet and go on a learning journey with local organizations who will be present, including:



- Edmonds College
- Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County
- City of Lynnwood
- Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC)
- Latino Educational Training Institute (LETI)
- ORCA
- Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (Snotrac)
- Sno-Isle Libraries
- Sound Transit
- Transportation Choices Coalition
- Verdant Health Commission

Take the bus to the Swift Orange Line Block Party! Kids ride free every day!

Riders can plan their bus trip and view schedules by going to communitytransit.org and clicking on:

- Maps & Schedules – View March 30, 2024 preview schedules as there will be some changes to routes that day.
- Plan My Trip – Enter a start and end location and get schedules, fares, and other trip information. Set the departure or arrival time to March 30 to see new schedules.
- Rider Alerts – Subscribe and get email updates about route changes.

Riders can also get help with personal-

ized trip planning or request a printed schedule for any route by calling Customer Care at (425) 353-7433 (RIDE) or emailing riders@commtrans.org. Don't forget your ORCA Card, and if you need one, there will be commemorative cards to take home as a keepsake.

ABOUT SWIFT ORANGE LINE

The Swift Orange Line, Community Transit's third BRT line, will connect to the existing Swift Blue Line and Swift Green Line to provide a network of fast, frequent bus service along major corridors.

The Swift Orange Line will travel between Edmonds College and Mill Creek. Notably, it will make a stop at Lynnwood Transit Center, allowing people to connect to Link light rail this fall. Swift Orange Line riders can also connect to rideshare services from the Swift Orange Line, including Zip Alderwood Shuttle and Vanpool.

Swift BRT service serves begins at 4:15 a.m. weekdays, 6 a.m. Saturdays, and 7 a.m. Sundays. Buses run every 10 minutes on weekdays, and every 15–20 minutes on early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

Community Transit provides bus and paratransit service, vanpool, and innovative transit options in Snohomish County, Wash. The agency is expanding the Swift bus rapid transit network to connect to light rail and provide fast, frequent service throughout the county.



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New police academy coming to Snohomish County, cities recognize new graduates

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY—With passage of Engrossed Senate Bill 5950 on March 7, a new regional police training academy is now funded to open in Snohomish County this year, with hopes to close the gap of police shortages across Washington state.

For 13 years, according to the Washington Association of Sheriff's & Police Chiefs (WASPC), the state has ranked last in the county with 1.36 commissioned law enforcement officers per 1,000 people in 2022, the lowest on to date on record. The national average is 2.31 officers per 1,000 people.

Data from 2022 shows a dramatic drop in commissioned law enforcement officers across Washington state starting in 2020 and persisting to the end of the reporting period. To address this shortage, Governor Jay Inslee during a July 2022 press conference, revealed a plan to add four law enforcement training centers across the state—Pasco, Everett, Bellingham, and Vancouver—to relieve the then four-month backlog of training recruits at the state's only Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Burien.

Senator John Lovick (D-Mill Creek) led the effort in 2023 and in the 2023-25 Operating Budget passed that year, monies were appropriated for three regional police training centers in the city of Pasco, and in Skagit and Clark counties. In the supplemental budget passed on March 7, lawmakers agreed to the Senate's proposal of replacing Skagit with Snohomish County.

police academy

A new regional police training facility opened in Pasco in 2023 and in Vancouver, Clark County in January of 2024. Although the Snohomish County location for the new police training academy has not been made public yet, recruits should be graduating from it later this year. The 2024 supplemental budget appropriated \$6.987 million in 2024 and \$4.968 million for 2025 to establish and provide basic law enforcement training at the three locations.

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission establishes and provides uniform training standards for all city, county, and state law enforcement professionals. All city and county entry-level law enforcement officers in Washington state must complete training at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) in order to be fully commissioned by their hiring agency.

To be an entry-level police officer in Washington state, one must be at least 18 years of age (varies by city), have a high school diploma or GED, have no criminal record, be a US citizen or a DACA recipient, and possess a valid Washington driver's license to even be considered an eligible candidate at a law enforcement agency.

After being hired by an agency, the recruit is on a probationary status and is required to successfully complete the following:

- Pass a series of examinations and screenings such as a polygraph test, mental health evaluation and background check.
- Pass a physical agility test.

- Pass a 720-hour Basic Law Enforcement Academy program.
- Successfully complete in-field training which involves partnering with field training officers to gain policing experience.

According to the latest WASPC crime report in 2023 for 2022:

- Crimes Against Persons showed an increase of 4.9% with 109,963 offenses reported; compared to 2021 offenses reported of 104,842.
- Crimes Against Property showed an increase of 9.8% with 400,304

offenses reported; compared to 364,614 offenses reported in 2021.

- Crimes Against Society showed an increase of 3.0% with 16,857 offenses reported; compared to 16,370 offenses reported in 2021.
- Violent Crimes showed an increase of 8.9% with 32,397 offenses reported; compared to 29,750 offenses reported in 2021.

The number of reported assault cases against law enforcement officers increased 20.7 percent in 2022 to 2,375 incidents.

Lynnwood homicide victim identified

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—The Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office identified the 32-year-old Lynnwood man who was found dead in his condominium, in February, as Brandon J Lloyd. The manner of death is deemed a homicide by "sharp force injuries" consistent with stab wounds, incised wounds, and/or chop wounds.

On March 6, a 17-year-old boy was taken into

custody for second-degree murder in connection with the death of Brandon Lloyd who lived at Brio Condominium in Lynnwood. The juvenile was arrested in the 15600 block of 35th Avenue West, less than 600 feet from the murder scene, and was booked into Denney Juvenile Justice Center.

During the investigation, detectives learned the 17-year-old male suspect was residing with the 32-year-old male victim

for several months prior to an altercation on February 26.

Deputies responded to an assault with weapons call around midnight on February 26. When they arrived on scene, they located an adult male deceased inside where he was living at the Brio Condominium complex at 15415 35th Avenue West, just north of Lynnwood in the Picnic Point area of unincorporated Snohomish County.

TEDxEdmondsCollege seeks speakers on 'Rethinking Resilience'



By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Edmonds College is seeking 12 speakers for its inaugural TEDxEdmondsCollege event on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at the Black Box Theatre.

The event's theme will be "Rethinking Resilience," and it will feature passionate speakers who believe in the power of collective action and community support to build resilience and inspire paradigm shifts in the conversation surrounding personal versus community resilience.

TEDxEdmondsCollege seeks to explore the intersection of community

nonprofits, resilience, and diversity, equity, and inclusion through the innovative speaker series. By showcasing nonprofit organizations and community leaders dedicated to dismantling racism and other forms of oppression, the college strives to foster a collective consciousness that champions inclusivity and empowers communities to support each other in the face of adversity.

Edmonds invites the community to join this important conversation on reshaping the narrative around resilience. If you are passionate about redefining resilience through community action, please apply to be a speaker.

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Marysville-based Gravitics paves new way for next generation space living

BY KIENAN BRISCOE

MARYSVILLE—Startup companies are far from a foreign concept for the Seattle metro area but startups that manufacture space stations are few and far between. Gravitics, a Marysville-based startup manufacturing the next generation of spacecraft, hopes to forever change the landscape of orbital space travel by significantly cutting costs while offering more livable space for off-planet travel.

Mike DeRosa, Co-Founder and CMO at Gravitics, made an appearance at Economic Alliance Snohomish County's annual meeting at Tulalip Resort and Casino posing an important question: What would happen if our earth was just a little bit larger?

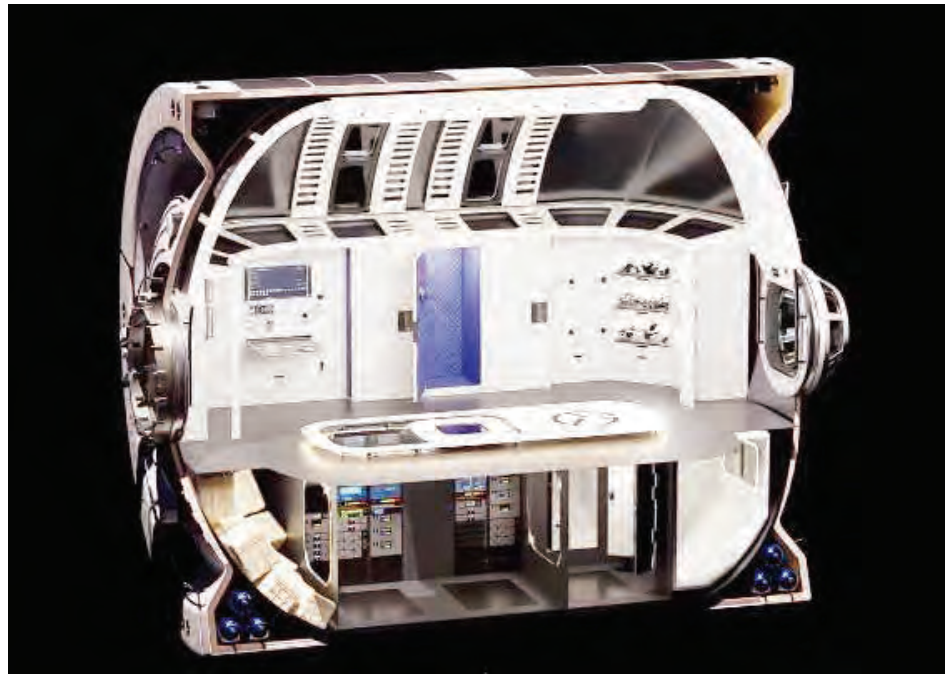
DeRosa commented that the earliest form of the human species is known to exist about 2 million years ago but spaceflight, and flight at large, has only existed for a small sliver of that history—the Wright brothers creating the first successful powered airplane in 1903, and successful space missions only entering the picture in the 1960's.

Orbital spaceflight, which differs from suborbital spaceflight in that it circles the earth at least once, stably, and achieves an orbital velocity of at least 17,500 miles per hour of speed. To put this into perspective, commercial airplanes go approximately 400 to 500 knots, which is about 460 to 575 miles per hour when traveling at an elevation of 36,000 feet. This is the fastest thing we do other than space travel.

Beginning from zero, going sideways that fast, obviously requires an extraordinary amount of energy, or a rocket that's basically all fuel. All modern rockets that go into space separate into stages with only the tip of the rocket housing staying in space. This is done because the more mass an object has, the more energy it takes to move (Force = mass x acceleration and Work = Force x distance).

In space travel, the rocket is discarded after a single use with the engines alone costing millions of dollars. If air flight was the same way, it would be way too expensive for any airliner to do. For example, when an airplane lands safely, its passengers deboard and the next group boards the same aircraft without the airliner requiring a new fuselage or set of engines.

Going back to DeRosa's original question: even if the earth were 5% more massive, or a super earth, it would be more than 5% harder to get to space as the laws of physics are not linear—Escape velocity is equal to the square root of 2 x Gravitational constant x Mass of the Earth all divided by the radius from the center of the Mass. It would require



A peek inside a Gravitics StarMax module. SOURCE: Gravitics

more fuel to overcome the new escape velocity requirements of a bigger earth, because gravity would be stronger, for one. It would then require even more fuel to maintain the necessary velocity to remain in orbit.

Launch companies are just beginning to revolutionize how to reuse components in space travel, and trending in the direction of being more efficient like in the aviation industry. There have already been dramatic reductions in cost in recent years but companies like SpaceX are working hard to cut these costs further. Blue Origin, located in Kent, Washington, is also working on a reusable spacecraft.

Gravitics is unique in the industry, in that it's a "space station startup," which you don't really hear all that often about startup companies. For there to be a space station startup, on the other hand, there needs to be a thriving space station industry.

As of 2023 there are two active space stations in orbit, China's Tiangong Space Station where two people are currently living in orbit, and the I.S.S. (International Space Station)—a collaborate effort by five space agencies representing 15 countries—where six people live at a time. These space stations are manufactured by the companies who operate them but there has been no company that manufactures space stations for sale... until Gravitics.

"We're not here to be space station operators in the near term. We looked at the business landscape and saw there is no company that's building the next generation of space stations for sale right now — so that's what we're doing and we're doing it right here in Snohomish County" said DeRosa.

Gravitics operates out of a 42,000 square-foot facility in Marysville with up to 50 employees, with hopes of growing to the

space startups begin—but ultimately decided on Marysville for its proximity to water (for shipping purposes), its ecosystem, and workforce.

"If you can build an aircraft for Boeing, you can build a spacecraft for us," said DeRosa.

Gravitics products include its flagship 4, 6, and 8-meter module StarMax, named because it maxes out the starship class experience. Most space stations currently use 4-meter modules so the 6 and 8-meter are quite the step-up in terms of space. On Gravitics' website it states, "humans need large living spaces" and the company lives by this with its 400-meter cube of real estate with each StarMax product.


The StarMax has flexible configuration and can be customized per order. Its diameter is 7.6 meters (25 feet) and height of 9.8 meters (32 feet) provides 400 meters cube of internal volume. The company also claims it's the most robust, safest

hundreds in the next couple of years.

The company looked at several places when deciding where to open shop—Florida, Texas, California, where many


Continued PAGE 09 >>

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From Vietnam vet to stockbroker and felon, Lynnwood man now set on making amends



Dennis Gibb

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—Lynnwood resident Dennis Gibb, Vietnam veteran, former stockbroker, and convicted felon now-turned author, is set on rebuilding his life and making amends for his crimes by assisting fellow veterans to re-enter society after prison.

Gibb has just released his second published novel, *An Da Shelladh*, the sales of which, he says, will 100% be used to pay back the money he stole from his clients through a Ponzi scheme he managed at his former brokerage firm.

Gibb's father was a career Army officer who served in WWII and Korea, before

retiring as a Colonel in 1960. Because of his father's career, the family moved frequently throughout the country. After returning from Korea, he was given command of an anti-aircraft missile battalion protecting the steel mills in western Pennsylvania. The family lived in Johnstown for 10 years where Dennis graduated from high school in 1964 before graduating from the University of Iowa in 1968.

Gibb enlisted in the U.S. Army that year, immediately after graduating university, and then was initially commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer before undergoing flight school to become a helicopter pilot.

"I thought at that point I was headed toward Vietnam because I was a helicopter pilot and a field artilleryman and they needed both over there," said Gibb.

The Army sent Gibb to Fort Ord, California, instead, where there was neither aviation nor field artillery, and his responsibility was to train infantry troops.

"When I went to Fort Ord, the only thing I knew about infantry was their brand insignia," said Gibb.

Gibb trained infantry soldiers for about a year. In July of 1971, while working as Officer of the Day on an assigned post, Gibb came across a couple of individuals breaking into an armed weapons storage facility. When he confronted them, one of the individuals began to

run. Gibb commanded them to stop and, when they didn't, he drew his pistol and fatally shot one of them. The man was an 18-year-old civilian on the base illegally.

Because of that incident, Gibb was Court Marshalled by the Army before a citizen authority could try him for murder charges. He was found innocent and, as a result, was ordered to go to Vietnam.

In August of 1971, Gibb arrived in the Republic of South Vietnam. He was sent to the northern part of the country as part of the 101st Airborne Division as a helicopter pilot where his responsibility was to fly around looking for enemy soldiers on the ground to send artillery on them.

"It was extremely dangerous work because we were flying at low speeds and low altitudes. I was shot down three times in a six-month period," said Gibb. "Finally, the Army could no longer withstand those kinds of losses, so they told me unit to stand down."

After that Gibb commanded an artillery battery in Da Nang for a short while before flying helicopters again, this time in a different unit close to the demilitarized zone at the 17th parallel in Quang Tri province.

During the Eastern Invasion of 1972, Gibb's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft missiles leaving him severely wounded

spending the next 15 months in the hospital. While recovering from his injuries, Gibb was approached by a recruiter who had worked for the late Henry Ross Perot—businessman, politician, and philanthropist—who at that time owned the second largest brokerage firm in the United States that was exclusively hiring Vietnam veterans. Gibb said he'd consider the offer and was discharged from the Army in August of 1973.

Returning to civilian life was difficult, Gibb shared, joking that "there's not a lot of civilian demand for field artillery officers, I don't understand why." Not having any luck in finding a job, Gibb decided to take the recruiter's offer and began the journey of becoming a stockbroker.

Gibb graduated from brokerage training in 1974 only to learn that Perot's firm, DuPont Walston, Inc. was closing after a series of mergers and consecutive months of losses forced the firm into bankruptcy.

Having new specialty training, Gibb was still quick to find work, however, starting his brokerage career at Dean Witter in Paulo Alto, California, then to Morgan Stanley in New York City.

After working at Morgan Stanley, Gibb became partner at Bear Stearns where he began working for Native American communities for which he garnered

Continued **PAGE 07** >>



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from page 6 **DENNIS GIBB**

quite a bit of notoriety—testifying before Congress on Native American issues and helping Native communities sell bonds to finance infrastructure on their reservations. Gibbs assisted in writing more than \$3 billion worth of bonds for Native tribes across the country.

While assisting Alaskan native tribes with financial issues during the 1980's, Gibb would pass through the Seattle area regularly—ultimately falling in the love with the region and deciding to find his own firm in Redmond, Washington, in 1989, called Sweetwater Investments.

Gibb ran Sweetwater Investments for approximately 30 years but during this time he began to abuse alcohol after going through a stressful divorce. Through his firm, he also began committing a Ponzi scheme using his clients' money to keep his company afloat when times were tough. At the end of the day, Gibb had taken about \$4.8 million from his clients.

"I made a lot of stupid decisions which felt right at the time," said Gibb. "I did not get wealthy off of my crime. I used the money to pay salaries at my firm, and expenses at my firm."

Gibb's fraud led him to a five-year federal prison sentence in Sheridan, Oregon on June 28, 2019, at the age of 72. In prison, Gibb worked as the librarian, overseeing over a 10,000-book collection, and from this work, began to form a love for the written word. He began writing down his experiences in the military and working in finance in several compound notebooks to entertain himself.



Dennis Gibb in the pilot seat on April 2, 1972, in Vietnam. He was flying administrative missions and taking a man from the hospital to his unit. Seven days later, while flying along the southern side of the demilitarized zone carrying a Vietnamese observer, an anti-aircraft shell hit the upturned part of the far landing skid. The blast blew all the windows out and showered Gibb and his observer with metal and glass fragments require hospitalization. Gibbs got the aircraft home, and it is still flying today for the Kansas State Police. SOURCE: Dennis Gibb.

In 2020, Gibb contracted COVID while in prison becoming deathly ill.

"If you want to transmit an aerial-borne disease there's no better place than a prison," said Gibb. "We were in an 11 by 16-foot cells with four people. There's just no way to separate people."

After Gibb recovered from the coronavirus, the federal public defender's office in Seattle took his case and applied for him to get a compassionate release, having a high probability of death if he were to contract the virus again.

Strangely enough, on Veterans Day, in

2020, a federal judge in Seattle ruled that Gibb was approved for a compassionate release and he was released from prison on November 25.

The federal government had seized all of Gibb's property, money, cars, and liquified his assets leaving nothing to his name.

"I was literally dumped on the streets of the International District wearing a gray prison jumpsuit—no phone, no money, no housing," said Gibb.


Luckily for Gibb the public defender's office, realizing this was likely to hap-

pen, had arranged for someone to pick him up with clothing and transport him to a housing complex in Burien where he began to rebuild his life. His first step was to set up his VA benefits and social security to have an income while taking a job at Goodwill.


"I was fortunate because I was a little older than most folks, I had a better education, I hadn't been down as long, so I wasn't institutionalized," said Gibb.

In 2021, Gibb learned of Edmonds College's HVRP program—a Department

Continued **PAGE 11 >>**



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Buttigieg proposes \$88.4 million for Lynnwood Link Extension project

By MARIO LOTMORE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In his \$4 billion funding recommendations for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program and Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg included \$88.4 million for the Lynnwood Link Extension that is expected to open by fall of 2024. This proposed funding would, if appropriated, complete the CIG grant agreement contribution toward the construction of the project.

According to the Federal Transit Administration, a total of \$921.98 million in federal funding has been appropriated through Fiscal year 2023 towards Sound Transit's Lynnwood Link Extension project.

“Sound Transit Light Rail is coming to Snohomish County, and that means more jobs and opportunity for Northwest Washington,” said Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02), the lead Democrat on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee who recently met with Secretary Buttigieg on improving accessibility for members of the flying public with mobility issues. “The Lynnwood Link light rail extension, along with expanded bus service options from Sound Transit and Community Transit, are critical parts of connecting communities like Lynnwood, Mukilteo and Everett to Seattle and Tacoma. I will continue to work with Sound Transit, elected officials and community leaders to expand and improve light rail, reduce congestion



Aerial picture of Lynnwood Link Transit Station progress as of January 2024. SOURCE: Sound Transit.

and provide a reliable transit option for commuters in the Pacific Northwest.”

In December of 2022, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), who chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, secured \$254 million of in CIG funding for Lynnwood Link Extension in the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

“Lynnwood Transit Station is already a central hub for riders to access reliable and convenient public transportation, and with Lynnwood Light Rail Station opening on the horizon, that access will be more critical than ever,” Senator Cantwell released in a statement on the opening of Sound Transit's Transit Center Parking Garage in 2023 that will serve the Lynnwood Link Extension.

On April 17, 2023, Sound Transit opened the new parking garage at the Lynnwood Transit Center to serve current transit riders and future Link light rail riders. The new garage contains 1,670 parking stalls in a five-story structure. Along with adjacent surface lots containing 226 stalls, the Lynnwood City Center Station will have nearly 1,900 parking stalls, approximately 500 more stalls that are on the current transit center site.

Secretary Buttigieg traveled to Washington state in July of 2023 to highlight infrastructure investments from the Biden's Administration's Investing in America agenda that included nearly \$100 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support transit agencies.

On Monday, March 11, Lynnwood Link

Extension was one of 14 large transit projects in 11 states Secretary Buttigieg's recommended that to receive nearly \$4 billion in federal support for construction as part of President Biden's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget Request to Congress.

“Public transportation connects people to jobs, school, family, and more – and when transit reaches more people and communities, its impact is even greater,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “The Biden-Harris Administration is proud to support funding for 14 large projects that will expand transit for millions of Americans across the country.”

The Capital Investment Grants (CIG) and Expedited Project Delivery Pilot programs are the Federal government's primary grant programs supporting new large transit capital projects that are locally planned, implemented, and operated. This includes investments such as new and expanded subway systems, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit.

Seven of the 14 recommended projects would receive funding recommendations through FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program for the first time (see below), while others on the list are already under construction or far along in the process required to receive a capital construction grant. The projects, which require a local funding match, seek funding through FTA's CIG and EPD Pilot programs.

from page 1 **SNO-ISLE**

criteria the library uses when selecting material.

Additionally, customers can submit a request for materials by using a tool called suggest-a-purchase which was first introduced in 2021 and has been widely used since. Materials suggested by customers are evaluated using the same guidelines as any other materials.

“I would say that the number one reason why items get denied is they're just not available for us to purchase,” said Russell. “Book vendors and publishers are not keeping as much stock on hand as they used to so just the inability to purchase is the number one reason, we can't fulfill a customer's request.”

If a customer makes a request for an item that cannot be fulfilled, there is a back-up option, where Sno-Isle borrows books from other libraries to try and get the customer's requested item in their hand within one to three weeks from the time of request.

When beginning a library collection, the “must haves” or “staples” of that collection change all of the time, Russell said, but the classics (referred to as “evergreen” or “long tale” by librarians because) are continual pieces of interest. Ultimately which books the library decides to carry falls on which books the community expresses interest in.

“The must haves for us might not be the must haves for another library sys-

tem because we really value that local input and curation,” said Russell.

Sno-Isle Libraries constantly receives feedback on its collection from community members because it serves such a diverse community, both positive and negative. The library's approach to negative feedback has always been that the book must not have been the right fit for the customer, rather than remove the book from its collection.

“Because we serve such a diverse community, we have books that serve the needs of a wide range of people so not every book is going to be for every reader,” said Russell. “Whenever we encounter that mismatch between book and reader that's really the opportunity for our library staff to step in and say hey, we have books that we think you'll enjoy because we collect for everyone – what do you enjoy reading, how can we help you connect to a book that's going to meet your needs?”

Sno-Isle Libraries' Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Department constantly continuously engages with those it serves and through frequent demographics reports, ensure its collection remains current. Community library staff also communicate with the collection team which items are frequently requested by customers.

The library also carefully considers usage patterns, what kinds of formats and materials resonate with customers while taking topical deep dives to discover what people are most interested

in.

“What [customers] check out and use is really a sign of their interest,” said Russell.

Sno-Isle's collection is in both print and digital. For their printed works a weekly report is generated to gauge usage patterns and is also used to predict order volume. For its digital collection, holds are managed through a tiered approach where the holds are managed in relation to the cost of the item, to be more conscious of taxpayer's money.

The library uses Overdrive for its eBook collection, a parent company of Libby. What's unique to Sno-Isle is its use of demand-driven acquisition which is basically a fancy way of saying the library can load a lot of items to its catalog without paying for them until a customer checks it out.

“If you were to open up Libby and look at our collection, you would see tons of stuff that we don't own yet and if you were to check it out it would then be added to our collection,” said Russell. “It adds an additional element of letting our purchasing be driven by our customers interests, preference, needs.”

For those interested in picking up a book but not knowing where to start, Sno-Isle also offers a personalized reading list where customers can input their individual interests, and their preferred format, and the library will customize recommendations they feel best suited, leveraging the library's staff's

talents surrounding their knowledge of books.

“A lot of our staff are here because they love books, they love stories, they love information. They read a lot,” said Russell.

Given Sno-Isle's massive collection, staff levels, and budget, it's simply unrealistic that staff can review every item requested by customers but there are still several overlapping layers used to figure out if the library will purchase an item or not, including professional reviews, and staff recommendations based on engagement with community members.

Sno-Isle loves its local authors, Russell added, allowing local authors to submit their works to be considered in the library's collection. The library frequently holds “writer talk” events featuring many local authors who write a variety of different works and genres from children's books to poetry.

Sno-Isle puts on thousands of events such as its upcoming Sno-Isle Reads Together which will feature author Kira Jane Buxton reading her debut novel Hollow Kingdom. Buxton will be making appearances at various libraries throughout Snohomish and Island counties.

For a full list of upcoming Sno-Isle events visit: <https://www.sno-isle.org/reads-together/>.

South County Fire Chief Thad Hovis to retire



South County Fire Chief Thad Hovis

By SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

EVERETT—South County Fire Chief Thad Hovis has announced he will be retiring on July 1.

“It has been a gift to be part of the fire service and this organization. I am extremely proud of the men and women of South County Fire who do amazing work and serve the people of southwest Snohomish County with passion and compassion. They are truly the heart and soul of South County Fire,” Hovis said.

Hovis has led the county’s largest fire agency since 2020. The regional fire authority serves more than 300,000 residents in Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace and unincorporated southwest Snohomish County.

Earlier this year Hovis informed the Board of Fire Commissioners of his plans to retire in 2024. He will be stepping down from his duties as fire chief on April 1 and will serve as a transitional consultant until his retirement on July 1.

from page 5 GRAVITICS

hull ever to launch with external and internal mounting options.

The startup also has its own software team which is moving into flight software, navigation and control, and propulsion.

DeRosa said you can imagine Gravitics’ products like a large metal balloon floating up in space because it traps the air in while also shields from radiation (MMOD shielding), has solar cells affixed to the outside to manage energy coming from the sun (at a rate of 8 kilowatts of electricity), and manages kinetic energy from any impacts.

“We’re really excited for the future of when you can get bigger and bigger things into space,” said DeRosa.

The use for the type of product Gravitics builds goes beyond commercial space travel. It could be used for cargo delivery, cargo storage, orbital compute, space tourism, space stations, pharmaceutical production (3D printing organs, for example, which would fall apart on earth due to the weight of gravity), and even manufacturing—being able to offer

a zero-gravity environment for manufacturing purposes.

DeRosa speculates that within the next 10 years space tourism will be as accessible for people as a family trip to Disneyland in terms of cost.

“We are aspiring to look at production in the space industry differently than has been traditionally. Traditionally, you build one spacecraft, maybe two...maybe a backup, maybe a pathfinder for it. What we’re building is the tooling to be able to repeat it. We’re hiring more and more manufacturing people, we already have a few, who are going to be able to crank these out,” said DeRosa adding that the company wants the manufacturing so simple that a “high schooler could press a button on the assembly line.”

Gravitics raised \$20 million in 2021 and has already spent at least \$10 million of that in Snohomish County. The startup only has one challenge; it needs more power in its facilities so it’s looking at upgrading its breaker boxes.

The company also recently signed a contract with the United States Department of Defense which has an undisclosed use for the StarMax and its other products.

The board has selected Assistant Chief Bob Eastman to serve as the next fire chief. He will be sworn-in at the commissioners meeting on April 2.

Hovis has spent his entire fire service career serving the people of south Snohomish County. He grew up in Edmonds. He started out as a volunteer with the Edmonds Fire Department in 1995 and was hired by the Mountlake Terrace Fire Department in 1996. Hovis moved up through the ranks over the next two decades as five local fire agencies combined to become South County Fire.

Hovis took the helm as fire chief in 2020 during the early days of the COVID pandemic. He encouraged and supported countywide fire service collaboration to provide unified response planning and secure crucial resources so firefighters could safely serve the public throughout the outbreak.

During Hovis’ tenure, voters overwhelmingly approved a benefit charge to provide a more sustainable way of funding emergency services. Hovis also played a key role in the successful annexations of three cities into the regional fire authority: Mill Creek in 2022 and Brier and Mountlake Terrace in 2023.

“Chief Hovis has given so much heart and leadership to this community,” Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell said. “From his early days as a firefighter in Mountlake Terrace, to his leadership through the transition to a regional fire

authority, and now through the early years as South County Fire, Chief Hovis has helped us navigate through many changes and challenges. He has helped SCF become not only a regional model, but a national model for excellence in fire and medical service. I am thankful to Chief Hovis for leading such an amazing group of fire and emergency response individuals with immense passion and commitment to our communities in south Snohomish County. I wish Thad a wonderful retirement!”

North County Regional Fire Authority Deputy Chief Dave Kraski described Hovis as “a trailblazer for fostering agency cooperation and regionalization, recognizing the power of collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of our ability to provide emergency response.”

“His visionary leadership has laid the foundation for a stronger more resilient fire service that will continue to thrive long after his departure,” said Kraski, president of the Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association.

South County Fire Commissioner and retired fire chief Ed Widdis said, “Chief Hovis has done an outstanding job leading our regional fire authority through a time of unprecedented challenges and growth. Most importantly, he leaves a legacy and a culture of supportiveness and excellence that has been embraced at all levels within the organization. We are grateful for his service and wish him well in his retirement.”

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from page 2 **DR. MAKIN**

role would simply compile the data into information for the public, then it wouldn't be financially doable.

"It's transparency without any accountability or mechanisms," said Dr. Makin.

Dr. Makin then worked with Dr. Matt Hickman, from Seattle University, with stakeholders while the legislature worked on the bill that would eventually fund the project. Dr. Makin's responsibilities, through WSU, then became creating the architecture, the research plan, and the necessary partnerships (Seattle University and various technology partners) and as of August 2021, WSU became the official data custodians for the project.

Dr. Makin has spent his entire career working with law enforcement agencies and noticed that these agencies typically go through a third party vendor to create and manage their data collection system, which makes it difficult for that agency to timely extract the data. For example, if an agency wants to refer to incidents where drugs were present, which many needed to do following the state's Blake Decision in 2021, it took six to nine months, in some cases, to get reliable data.

"We saw more and more agencies were not able to operationalize their data - it's your data but is it really your data?" said Dr. Makin. "That was the moment when we began our conversation, internally at WSU, on if we're going to apply to be the data custodians for this project, what should it look like? I was adamant that if we only built a use of force data collection program, like New Jersey has built, and other states, that would be a disservice because all we'd capture is how many? We would not get the context; we would have no conceptualizing of what's working and what's not in this state. But if we could get police incident data, at the same cost, we could help every single police department modernize."

Dr. Makin continued that some police agencies simply don't have the staff and resources to release annual reports.

Dr. Makin will be delivering a speaker series event on March 28, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Washington State University's Everett campus, highlighting how community members can use open data to make informed decisions, improve relationships, and work together for a safer future, as well as going over this new program in further detail.

To register to attend that event visit: <https://everett.wsu.edu/everett-empowered/>

from page 1 **REDISTRICTING**

candidates of choice."

Judge Lasnik denied the plaintiff's requests for an injunction to not implement the legislature-approved Washington State Redistricting Commission map in place for the 2022 election cycle. The case went to trial in June of 2023, where Judge Lasnik ruled on August 10, 2023, that the legislature-approved Washington State Redistricting Commission map violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act—prohibiting voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership—and must be redrawn.

"[T]he Court finds that the boundaries of LD 15, in combination with the social, economic, and historical conditions in the Yakima Valley region, results in an inequality in the electoral opportunities enjoyed by white and Latino voters in the area," Judge Lasnik wrote in his August opinion.

The decision was appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on September 8, 2023, and on November 3, a petition for a writ of certiorari was filed to the U.S. Supreme Court. On February 20, 2024, the Supreme Court denied the intervenor-defendants' petition.

An evidentiary hearing took place in March 2024 for which Judge Lasnik made his ruling on Friday, March 15, selecting Remedial Map 3B that was drawn by consultants, not the bipartisan Washington State Redistricting Commission.

"WA voters should be disturbed by the opinion issued today from federal Judge Robert Lasnik in the matter of WA's recent legislative redistricting plan," Jim Walsh, Washington State Republican Party Chair and House Representative of the 19th District posted to X. "The opinion is a heavy-handed, partisan usurpation of the Washington Redistricting Commission's lawful and orderly work."

In a press release by Latina Senator Nik-

ki Torres (R-Yakima Valley), who represents Legislative District 15, center of the map dispute, she calls the judge's actions a "mockery of the Voting Rights Act."

"The Voting Rights Act was supposed to empower affected minority populations," she wrote, "This map DECREASES the number of Hispanics in the Majority Minority district and redistricts out the first Hispanic Senator in eastern Washington history."

If the map stands, Republican Senator Torres along with fellow Republican senators Curtis King, who represents the 14th Legislative District and is the ranking Republican on the Senate Transportation Committee, and Brad Hawkins, who represents the 12th Legislative District and is the ranking Republican on the District Early Learning & K-12 Education, to be redistricted out.

Torres also alleges that three House Republican members will also be redistricted out. No Democratic Party lawmakers from either chamber of the legislature will be redistricted out, according to the Lasnik map.

"This map DISENFRANCHISES Hispanics - all to help the Democratic party gain seats towards a supermajority in the legislature," she adds.

In an X post on October 12, 2023, Washington State Democratic Party Chair, Shasti Conrad, signaled that her goal was for her party to be a supermajority by 2026.

Conrad praised Judge Lasnik's decision of choosing Remedial Map 3B.

"Today is a great day for democracy as Washington state gains a new legislative district map that prioritizes diverse voices," Conrad wrote. "We greatly appreciate that Washington's judiciary recognized the need to rectify systemic racism in the central region of our state. This is a sensible map which upholds our state's Constitutional requirements and empowers voters in Central Washington. Our Party will be working over-

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time to engage and activate constituent communities in the 14th Legislative District in this year's elections and build our Democratic majority."

Washington Republican Party Chair, Jim Walsh, told the Lynnwood Times in a phone conversation that Republican House Minority Leader, Andrew Stokesbary, an attorney who is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, has filed an emergency appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Lasnik's opinion is a mistake," wrote Walsh on X. "It actually DILUTES the number of Latino voters in the key district. It makes a mess of a dozen LDs. It needs to be stayed & appealed. A less-partisan appeals court will likely develop a more reasonable solution to WA's redistricting issues."

Republican Senate Leader, John Braun, called the Lasnik map, "shameful."

"That this judge would allow the Voting Rights Act to be used to redistrict Sen. Torres out of her district is frankly outrageous," wrote Braun in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. "The Voting Rights Act was designed to help our minority citizens, not disenfranchise them. In this case, the judge also reduces the number of Hispanics in central Washington's majority minority district."

He shared that Washington State Senate and House Democrats refused to reconvene the bipartisan Redistricting panel "because they knew that the bipartisan mechanism in it would foil their desire for gerrymandered maps. This decision is not a repudiation of the Commission. It is a repudiation of current Democratic legislative leadership."

Below are the known impacts, according to Senator Torres, of the Lasnik-map for Washington state:

- **LOWERS** the numbers of Hispanics from the current 52.6% to 50.2% (comparing LD's 14 and 15).

- Moves the first eastern Washington Latina elected Senator – Senator Nikki Torres – from the district which she won handily into a wholly new district with another incumbent Republican Senator – LD 16.
- Redistricts out Sen. Curtis King (LD 14).
- Redistricts out Sen. Brad Hawkins (LD 12).
- Likely redistricts out three Republican House members.
- Eliminates the Yakima Valley district that is a "toss-up" swing district (+1.8% GOP) and packs the other Yakima Valley district, which is already heavily Republican (+9.4% GOP), with more Republicans (+21.7% GOP). This allows the "toss-up" district to become solidly Democrat (+12%).
- Transforms a SW Washington district (LD 17) and another central Washington district (LD 12) into much more competitive districts for Democrats.
- Makes a massive disruption of people throughout the state. More than 500,000 people are moved affecting 13 districts – 12 of which are Republican and 1 Democrat. In comparison, the intervenors offered a map with around 80,000 people moved in only three districts. The intervenor map was rejected. Legally, maps are supposed to make the minimal changes needed to remedy the violation.

Judge Robert Lasnik was nominated to the federal District Court of Western Washington by former President Bill Clinton (D) on May 11, 1998, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on October 21, 1998. He received his commission the following day and is now a senior judge for the court.

Prior to his appointment, Lasnik served as a superior court judge on the King County Superior Court and worked in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as a senior deputy prosecutor and chief of staff.

from page 1 **ECHO Tour**

ship Vocational Education (WAVE) Tour in April of 2023 that focused on the construction trades.

Michelle Dickinson, Technical Education Manager for the Monroe School District, applauded the effort of Career Connect Northwest (CCNW) for organizing the ECHO event to help in getting back to normal in career pathways for students after the COVID shutdown.

“The students are responding to really good information, really in-depth,” Dickinson said. “I love the presentations which have a lot of visual aids with engaging pieces.”

She added that it was a benefit for her 24 students to not only be on a college campus but experiencing the workshops in the actual rooms [and labs] for a specific healthcare specialty.

To organize such a panoptic healthcare career connected learning event, Jenny Veltri and Alyssa Jackson, both Co-Directors for CCNW, collaborated with the Northwest Educational Service District 189, Snohomish STEM Network, Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) a dozen healthcare organizations and two dozen high schools in the area.

“Today’s students are the architects of tomorrow’s workforce, and we know that the demand of healthcare careers is on the rise,” Jackson said. “So, the ECHO tour is a unique opportunity for industry and education to collectively invest in building our workforce together. The ECHO tour is a dynamic career exploration program designed to provide interactive multidisciplinary experiences to high school students.”

Students we saw at the event on Tuesday, March 19, were from Arlington, Weston, Kamiak, Lakewood, Mea-



Alyssa Jackson (left) and Jenny Veltri (right), Co-Directors with Career Connect Washington Northwest speaking to invited guests on March 19, 2024, for the ECHO Tour. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



The Nursing Lab at Everett Community College. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

dowdale, Lake Stevens, Glacier Peak, and Granite Falls high schools, along with Sno-Isle Tech.

Jackson emphasized that besides a proactive approach to the workforce “pipeline” employers participating in the ECHO tour introduce their “brand into community highlighting the range of careers available” in the healthcare field.

“The students get hands-on activities with real world experiences with real

world examples, and they get engagement with healthcare professionals in an educational setting; so this is something they [the students] remember forever,” she added.

In July of 2023, the Office of Recovery and Resilience—established to manage the \$160 million of federal APRA funds in Snohomish County for COVID recovery and led by Dr. Kara Main-Hester, Ph.D.—awarded \$4.3 million to seven projects with the goal of connecting individuals to stable

jobs or career pathways aligning with Executive Dave Somers’ commitment to continued post-pandemic recovery efforts in workforce development for Snohomish County.

Economic Alliance Snohomish County and Snohomish STEM Network were one of those recipients with a one-time \$1.2 million award with the goal of expanding youth career exploration programs through partnerships with K-12, higher education, and career connected learning organizations. The ECHO tour at Everett Community College was a product of this ongoing effort.

Wendy Poischbeg, Interim President and CEO of Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) emphasized on Tuesday the importance of looking ahead in the “pipeline of skills” to fill the hundreds of vacancies currently in the healthcare industry right here in Snohomish County.

EASC and their partners Snohomish STEM Network and Career Connect Northwest intend to replicate the WAVE and ECHO career connected learning models to other industries such as sustainability and clean energy, computer science, information technology, and advance manufacturing in Aerospace, with the hopes of it expanding to a regional model for other counties.

Although this ECHO Tour was geared for high schoolers, a second event for middle schoolers is coming to Edmonds College this fall.

Some of the businesses participating in the ECHO Tour were The Everett Clinic, EvergreenHealth Monroe, Mukilteo Memory Care, Snohomish County Health Department, Skagit Regional Health, the Everett Fire Department, and Edmonds College.

from page 7 **DENNIS GIBB**

of Labor initiative designed to help veterans who are either incarcerated or homeless to reenter society—which he promptly entered.

“One of the things the prison system and a lot of people don’t think about are the problems people have when they re-enter society from prison,” said Gibb.

In 2023, when the grant that funded the program ended, Gibb was hired as a Navigator for the program to keep it going. Through his position, he contacts every veteran who is in the Department of Corrections custody and walks them through the process of re-entry, while creating a pathway which prevents them from reoffending.

“Over the last few years with the program I’ve had some successes, I’ve also had some notable failures, but it hasn’t been for lack of trying,” said Gibb. “There is a tremendous network of services to provide help for people, especially veterans, who are coming out of prison. The problem is that they’re scattered all over the place, so accessing them is very difficult for people. Imagine you’ve been locked in a cell for 15 years and you come out, do you call Workforce, WorkFirst, or WorkSource? The state legislatures don’t know either.”

The answer to Gibb’s question is WorkSource but for those who mistakenly make the wrong call they might be shrugged off completely, he added.

“What I realized is that these people need is a navigator who, if necessary, will literally take them by the hand and walk them to the right people,” said Gibb.

Edmonds College’s HVRP Program provides job placement, all kinds of support for those having dif-

ficulty reentering an education environment, its own food pantry, emergency financial grants to assist people when needed, representatives from WorkSource and other places.

Representative Cindy Ryu (D-Shoreline) sponsored a bill this legislative session, HB 2057, that would have supported this program for five more years and added another Navigator in Eastern Washington. The bill did not move out of committee for the 2024 Legislative Session.

“Every year about 140 or so veterans who are incarcerated are rereleased back into society after paying for their crimes,” said Rep. Ryu during her virtual Town Hall in February. “Fortunately, Edmonds College has a program that connects with them, I believe, six months before they’re released, so they are getting the help they need to make sure they continue education as well as access housing. I wanted to make sure this program continues and, hopefully, expands.”

Ryu said during the 32nd Legislative District virtual Town Hall that she plans to continue working on the bill through the interim to bring it back to the table next session.

In addition to his working as Navigator for Edmonds College’s HVRP Program, Gibb is an author of several books including his first novel Exordium, which is what eventually became of the journals he wrote in prison.

His latest novel, An Da Shelladh, is about Scotch-Irish people with a psychic ability to predict the future living in the 21st century—a world dominated by science, reason, and facts. An Da Shelladh was published in January 2024 and is available for purchase on Barnes and Noble. It was featured under the New Author section at the London Book Fair in March and



On the very top are the wings Dennis Gibb earned as helicopter pilot. The medals Gibb has earned during his distinguished military career. SOURCE: Dennis Gibb.

will be featured at the American Library Association this June.

All the profits Gibb makes from his book sales go towards paying back a \$1.8 million federal restitution from the crimes he committed at his firm. He shared with the Lynnwood Times that he is determined to pay “every dollar back.”

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