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50 Washington high school seniors commit to STEM careers **P6**



Lynnwood-based rapper embarks on out of state tour opening for Phora **P7**

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The City of Everett presenting Marilyn Quincy, founder of the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee, her Legacy Award at the Red and White Banquet on April 29, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

# Lynnwood Mayor's release plan to resolve \$4.27 million budget shortfall

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Finance Director Michelle Meyer shared with Lynnwood Finance Committee members on Wednesday, May 28, the mayor's Budget Management Plan to address a projected \$4,273,038 General Fund biennium budget shortfall.

The plan identifies opportunities over the next two years (until December 31, 2026) for across-the-board reductions in General Fund department operating expenditures. The opportunities identified in the Budget Management Plan were provided to the mayor by the City's directors, the Lynnwood Times was told, except for the \$33,402 target presented to City Council President Nick Coelho in Wednesday's meeting. The city council plans to discuss the details of the Budget Management Plan in an upcoming Business Meeting sometime in mid-June.

The proposed plan does not reflect any reductions in force from adopted staffing levels and does not include any formal cuts to specific city services, according to the Meyer. Below is a breakdown of Mayor Frizzell's Budget Management Plan by department:

- The Mayor's office / Executive Team: \$137,268 in contractual reductions
- Municipal Courts: \$182,149 in vacancy/salary savings and contractual reductions
- Human Resources: \$80,333 in contractual reductions
- Finance: \$257,077 in vacancy savings
- Information technology: \$213,061 in delayed hardware/

Continued **PAGE 12**

# Beloved Snohomish County legend, Marilyn Quincy, passes away at 81

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**EVERETT**—Marilyn Quincy, founder of the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee and Snohomish County legend, passed away on June 4. She was 81.

"Your selfless service and extraordinary contributions have left a profound and lasting impact on our community. You helped shape a brighter, more hopeful future for generations to come. Though your passing leaves a great void, one that cannot be filled—we remain deeply grateful for the time God allowed us to share with you," said DanVonique Reed with the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee.

Marilyn Quincy was a name so ingrained in Snohomish

## Snohomish County leaders statements regarding Ms. Quincy's life, legacy, and contribution to Washington state history

**Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin:** "Marilyn Quincy lived a life of purpose, compassion and service. Her passing is a great loss, not only to those who knew her personally but to the entire Everett community. Marilyn's story is woven into the fabric of our city, and her legacy will continue to inspire those who work for a better, more just and inclusive future. She will be missed."



only to those who knew her personally but to the entire Everett community. Marilyn's story is woven into the fabric of our city, and her legacy will continue to inspire those who work for a better, more just and inclusive future. She will be missed."

**Dr. Steve Woodard, Mountlake Terrace City**

**Councilman and Vice President of Community Engagement for Volunteers of America:** "Snohomish County is blessed to have had Ms. Quincy as one of our champions of equity and justice. Her influence lives on through the many educators and activists who have directly experienced her servant-leadership and been inspired by her example."



champions of equity and justice. Her influence lives on through the many educators and activists who have directly experienced her servant-leadership and been inspired by her example."

**NAACP President John Agyapong:** "The sudden

Passing of Ms. Quincy was a shock and huge loss for the Black community, and larger Snohomish County community members who knew her well. She made the county a better place than she found it. Her tireless commitment to all things righteous was evident in the work she did with the NAACP, the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee, and many other organizations. She will be missed. May she rest in perfect peace."



community members who knew her well. She made the county a better place than she found it. Her tireless commitment to all things righteous was evident in the work she did with the NAACP, the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee, and many other organizations. She will be missed. May she rest in perfect peace."

Continued **PAGE 12**

# Countdown Clock unveiled commemorating one year until the FIFA 2026 World Cup

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**SEATTLE**—The Seattle FIFA World Cup 26 Local Organizing Committee (SeattleFWC26) unveiled a new “One Year to Go” Countdown Clock today, June 11, in Seattle Center right outside the Museum of Pop Culture (MOPOP). The clock will count down the days, hours, and minutes until the 2026 FIFA World Cup comes to Seattle in exactly one year’s time.

“In one year, fans from across the globe will experience what makes our city special: the energy, the diversity, and the unmatched love for the beautiful game,” said Peter Tomozawa, CEO of Seattle FWC26. “In one year, fans from across the globe will experience what makes our region special: the energy, the diversity, unique culture, and the people. We cannot wait to bring Washington to the World.”

Speaking at Wednesday’s event, Seattle Center Director Marshall Foster announced how pleased and honored he is to have Seattle Center be the official site of the FIFA World Cup Fan Celebration.

Up in Snohomish County, the City of Everett was named one of nine official host cities for the World Cup to ensure as many Washingtonians as possible can be part of this historic event.

“Everett is the place to be for the FIFA World Cup in 2026! As the home of AquaSox Baseball, Silvertips Hockey, Jets Soccer and Wolfpack Football, Everett is an incredibly proud sports town. We look forward to welcoming passionate and energized soccer fans for FIFA World Cup fun at our Fan Zone and throughout our city,” said Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin.

The countdown clock is part of a coordinated effort across all 16 Host Cities to commemorate a milestone moment on the road to be “the most inclusive FIFA World Cup™ in history,” the FWC26 said.

“Seattle is proud to be a Host City for FIFA World Cup 26™ — a once-in-a-generation moment that will showcase our city’s global spirit, diverse communities, and deep passion for soccer,” said Mayor of Seattle, Bruce Harrell. “As we unveil this countdown clock at Seattle Center — the heart of our city’s civic and cultural life — we mark not just the days until kickoff, but our readiness to welcome the world. From the roar of



Former Seattle Sounder Steve Zakuani, FWC26 CEO Peter Tomozawa, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Seattle Center Director Marshall Foster, and FWC26 staff pose in front of the new countdown clock. Photo: Kienan Briscoe, Lynnwood Times

the fans to the unity of the game, Seattle is ready to deliver a world-class experience.”

Harrell continued that Seattle will soon host visitors from all over the world. Just yesterday he sat down with Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson and Attorney General Nick Brown to speak out against the travel bans proposed by the federal government in an effort to be a more welcoming and inclusive city.

Also speaking Wednesday was former Seattle Sounders midfielder Steve Zakuani who shared that his love for soccer stemmed from watching the World Cup back in the 90’s.

“To think that that’s going to be coming here, to Seattle, a place that is home to me now that I love so much. Where I was fortunate enough to play for some of the best fans in the world,” said Zakuani. “We know how special this city is when it comes to this sport and we get a chance now to show that to the whole world with proof that there is reason why we were chosen to be one of the host cities.”

Seattle, and its surrounding metro area, will be one of 16 U.S. cities to host this momentous sporting event which broke records in viewership in 2022 at over 5 billion – more than half of the global population. Other U.S. hosting cities include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Atlanta, Boston, Miami,

It’s estimated that the World Cup will bring in approximately 700,000 visitors which is just 100,000 shy of the entire population of Snohomish County.

## About Seattle FIFA World Cup 26™ Local Organizing Committee

SeattleFWC26 is the local organizing committee for Seattle’s participation as one of the 16 host cities selected for the FIFA World Cup 26™. As a not-for-profit organization, SeattleFWC26’s vision is to foster a lasting legacy for our region, guided by the spirit of soccer, innovation, and inclusion. To keep up to date on the latest news and involvement opportunities with SeattleFWC26, please visit [Seattlefwc26.org/get-involved](http://Seattlefwc26.org/get-involved).

## About FIFA WORLD CUP 26™

FIFA World Cup 26™ will be the biggest sporting event ever, with three Host Countries, 16 Host Cities, 48 teams and 104 matches uniting an entire continent to showcase a momentous new tournament format. With more countries, cities, teams, and games, FIFA World Cup 26™ will be the most inclusive tournament ever, engaging millions of fans across 16 unique stadiums and billions worldwide. The tournament will take place in June and July 2026. For the latest FIFA World Cup 26™ information please visit the FIFA World Cup 26™ website.

## LYNNWOOD TIMES

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# Verdant Health memorializes the legacy of Fredrick Langer



The Urgent Care entrance of the Langer Building showing a timeline wall display of the history of community health and wellbeing in South Snohomish County. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

By MARIO LOTMORE

**EDMONDS**—Verdant Health Commissioners celebrated the completion of the two-year, \$9 million, renovation of the Kruger Medical Building, located on the Providence-Swedish Edmonds Campus, with a renaming ceremony dedicated to former Public Hospital Commissioner Fredrick “Fred” Peter Langer. Snohomish County Public Hospital District No. 2, now operates as Verdant Health Commission.

“I love that this facility is being renamed for an individual who said, ‘We have a need in this community, and we can and should do better,’ and he set out to do it,” Edmonds Mayor Mike Rosen said at the dedication ceremony. “I love that Verdant looked at this building and said we need to do better, and we can, and we should, and we did, and it shows.”

Mayor Rosen emphasized his appreciation to the healthcare workers who, now because of the renovation, will provide residents “the health and healing they deserve.”

The newly renamed Langer Medical Building houses Swedish Urgent Care, gastro providers Swedish Gastroenterology and Gastro Health, Swedish Hyperbarics, Swedish Pediatrics, Swedish Wound Center, Edmonds Medical Clinic, the dental office of Raymond Liu, and Swedish Operational Support.

“I can tell you that my son loved each and every one of you,” Carole Wilson, mother of Fred Langer said shortly after the unveiling of his plaque at the newly renamed building. “My son was very proud of what he did... We are very lucky to have had him. We will miss him, but you

have memorialized him and I thank you.”

After a three-year battle with cancer, Commissioner Langer passed away on December 17, 2021, shortly after resigning from his position in October 2021 to focus on his health.

“I really miss Fred, he was a driving force,” Commissioner Deana Knutsen, who worked directly with Commissioner Langer, shared with attendees. “He and I worked as a team all those years to do a lot of really important things for the community.”

Langer’s service to Snohomish County began in 1998 as a commissioner for what was then Steven’s Hospital. Langer was an instrumental part in negotiating the lease of the hospital to the Swedish Healthcare system and in the formation of the Verdant Health Commission.

“The building needed some love and some TLC,” Lisa Edwards, Superintendent of Verdant Health Commission told the Lynnwood Times. “To retain the tenants we have and to maximize the use of the facility we needed to update it.”

Edwards shared that the \$9 million in renovations included a new HVAC system, new carpets, doors, walls, windows, signage, electrical infrastructure, and even new backup generators.

“Dr. Kruger built this building in 1986 for out patient services connected to the hospital. Through the renaming, we actually met his widow and took the plaque of Dr. Kruger and gave it to the family so they will have it at their house,” Edwards added.

Continued PAGE 10

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LEISURE CARE

# City of Lynnwood cuts the ribbon on its brand-new Scriber Lake Boardwalk Trail

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—For the last 40-years Lynnwood’s Scriber Lake Boardwalk Trail floated through peatlands, providing access to nature for generations but over time its infrastructure began to deteriorate and fail. At that time the City of Lynnwood was presented with a difficult decision: Either close the trail permanently or completely replace it.

Choosing the latter, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department embarked on an ambitious plan that many stakeholders didn’t believe was possible. To receive crucial Washington Recreation and Conservation (RCO) funding, for example, the team needed to bring the project to 60% completion in just six months. It was a plan so ambitious that at the time Henry Smith, with the RCO, denied the grant request.

“When this project applied, we were dealing with COVID, we were dealing with escalated costs, and changing regulatory environments,” said Smith. “[But] ultimately the project is done and of all the projects that applied in 2022 this is the only project that can say its complete.”

The RCO did eventually fund the project in the amount of \$2,500,000 – a large portion of the project’s \$5.5 million price tag – but not without the “mad dash,” as Monica Thompsen, Planning Superintendent put it, to get it to that completion mark.

“They [the team] all brought their A-game,” said Monica Thompson, Planning Superintendent. “This really was the best team we could have had on this project.”

That decision proved fruitful Wednesday, June 4, when the City of Lynnwood cut the ribbon on the trail’s completion, which adds a new 8-foot-wide elevated boardwalk with steel pin-piles and fiberglass mesh decking, providing year-round, ADA compliant, access to a beautiful greenspace less than a mile away from Lynnwood’s City Center.

Other funding included a City Council-approved, \$2 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds, \$30,000 from Snohomish County Partnership Projects, \$2,500 from Lynnwood Parks Foundation, and over \$1 million in local funds. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, and Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) were pivotal in securing the federal funding.

“Lynnwood is home to some of the region’s most beautiful public parks and Scriber Lake is an amazing gem right in the middle of our bustling city,” said Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell. “The trail can envelope you and if you stand silent, for just a brief moment or two, maybe you’ll feel like you’re on a trail in the Cascades.”

The trail also adds two open water viewpoints as well as several “bump outs” (seating areas), in addition to interpretative signage, restrooms, a water fountain, and wetland enhancements which will increase the lake’s stormwater storage capacity.



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell and Lynnwood Parks and Rec Director Joel Feber cutting the ribbon on the public debut of the Scriber Lake Boardwalk Trail on June 4, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

Scriber Lake Park’s original wood-chip trail was built on fill material—including pressure treated timbers, classic Geotech style fabric, and woodchips, said Joel Faber, Lynnwood Parks and Rec Director, Wednesday.

“Our mission is to create a healthy community through people, parks, programs, and partnerships and really it all starts with the people,” said Faber. “It just makes me so excited to come to work each and every day to work with an amazing staff and then be able to share their amazing work with the entire community.”

Lynnwood City Council President, and parks enthusiast, Nick Coelho spoke Wednesday sharing his memories of walking Scriber Lake Park with his former dogs, enjoying a cup of coffee on a bench, and volunteering to plant trees.

“Memories like these are priceless and I will carry these for the rest of my life. I know this is true for countless other neighbors and I know this will continue to be true going into the future for the countless new residents who will be joining us in the decades to come,” said Coelho.

Also in attendance were Lynnwood City Council members Derica Escamilla, George Hurst, David Parshall, Joshua Binda, Robert Leutwyler, Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon, and former Lynnwood City staff Sarah Olsen and Lynn Sordel.

The project improves connections to a floating dock, updates the parking and the route from the parking lot to the boardwalk and adds three new benches.

With 24 acres of wetlands, a lake, streams, trails, forest and hillsides, Scriber Lake Park is home to a variety of waterfowl, osprey, largemouth bass, perch, river otter and a resident beaver. Scriber Lake Park has nearly 25 acres

of wetlands, lake, ponds, streams, trails, forest and hillsides, providing a haven for wildlife, and a respite from the urban environment for visitors.

The Boardwalk Trail project adds approximately 1,100 linear feet of elevated boardwalk trail and two viewpoints over water. This is key to providing year-round recreation while removing all 40 identified ADA barriers to the City’s only lake.

The project could also not have been possible without Herrera Environmental Consulting, the City said Wednesday.

In 2020, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act that authorized \$900 million annually for permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation fund which supports projects like Lynnwood’s Scriber Lake Boardwalk Trail by protecting the environment and improving access to parks.

## 2025 EVENTS

- June 27
🎵
CELEBRATE!
- July 12
🚌
HISTORY AND HERITAGE DAY
- July 8  
August 12
👫
MEET ME AT THE PARK
- July 17, 24, 31
🎭
SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
- July 27
🐾
PAWS IN THE PARK
- August 7, 14, 21
🎬
SANDLOT CINEMAS
- Sept. 6
🎉
FAIR ON 44TH

# Frontier Airlines now serving Snohomish County's Paine Field International Airport

By MARIO LOTMORE

**EVERETT**—Frontier Airlines, “America’s Greenest Airline,” made its debut at Seattle Paine Field International Airport (PAE) on Monday, June 2 with its inaugural flight from Phoenix arriving shortly after 10:30 a.m. Approximately 1,000 new Frontier Airlines’ passengers are expected on days of flying into and from Paine Field enjoying affordable non-stop flights to Denver, Phoenix, and Las Vegas.

“On behalf of Paine Field and Propeller, we are really excited for more people to experience coming here and not having to deal with all the traffic at another airport down south which we love. Welcome to Paine Field and thank you so much... We are really happy to have the greenest airline in the country,” Brett Smith, CEO of Propeller Airports said just prior to Monday’s ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“Welcoming Frontier Airlines to Paine Field is an exciting milestone as we look toward a bright future for the most economically impactful airport in the Pacific Northwest,” Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers said. “Our residents appreciate being able to fly from their own community, and new flights by Frontier increase their options and destinations. Being able to fly direct to Denver from Everett means travelers can reach a major connection point for just about any of their next destinations, as well. The future of Paine Field Airport is promising, with increased commercial service, growing economic impact and employment, game-changing sustainability work, and more convenience and flexibility for anyone who wants to fly Paine Field. And if you haven’t flown Paine Field yet, I’d encourage to try it and see how low-stress air travel can be.”

Today’s inaugural flight to Paine Field Airport was greeted with a water cannon salute, and passengers enjoyed complimentary Frontier swag and desserts, and got to meet Griswald the Bear, one of the airline’s animal-themed brand ambassadors. Aligning with the company’s commitment to conservation, each of Frontier’s planes features an animal-themed “plane tail” depicting rabbits to wolves, puffins to eagles, and beavers to manatees to name a few.

Woodland Park Zoo featured ambassador animals Buddy the Owl and Sk-yanna, a “gentle and confident” North American Porcupine. The Seattle-based wildlife conservation-focused zoo features over 900 animals representing 250 species; and will be hosting its annual Jungle Party on July 11— a fundraiser where attendees can get close and personal with animals and enjoy animal keeper-led tours.

Both Frontier’s and Woodland Park Zoo’s animal ambassadors were a hit with passengers in the terminal, especially children; travelers at nearby Alaska Airlines also came over to check out the excitement.



Water cannon salute of the first Frontier Airlines flight arriving at Paine Field Airport from Phoenix around 10:30 a.m. on June 2, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.



Propeller CEO Brett Smith and Frontier Airlines Griswald the Bear cutting the ribbon of the inaugural flight from Paine Field Airport to Phoenix on June 2, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

“Any day you can welcome a new airline to your community is a good one,” said Joshua Marcy, Director of Paine Field Airport. “We look forward to Frontier’s success in the Puget Sound market and their continued growth here at Paine Field.”

All of Frontier’s fleet are newer fuel-efficient Airbus A320 aircraft giving it the title “America’s Greenest Airline,” according to the company, with 44% more fuel efficiency than other U.S. airlines—metric: average U.S. airline per seat-mile. This cost avoidance is passed down to consumers aligning with Frontier’s slogan, “Low Fares Done Right.”

Frontier’s commitment to sustainable and environmentally conscience travel extends to daily operations by transitioning from plastic to biodegradable cups and also going paperless in the flight deck.

“Frontier coming to PAE is another step in the right direction in having a strong viable option for Snohomish County residents compared to congested Sea-Tac,” Snohomish County Councilman Sam Low (R-Lake Stevens) wrote in a statement to the Lynnwood Times. “I am proud of the great work and vision Brett Smith and Propeller Airports have

done in partnership with our county during my time on council.”

During his County Update on May 20, 2025, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers signed an executive order to “advancing efforts for future commercial service expansion at Paine Field Airport.” The order mobilizes county resources to move forward with the adopted 2040 Master Plan for the airport with studies and analysis, environmental review, capital planning, budgeting, intergovernmental relations, public and private partnerships, and community

Continued PAGE 10



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# 50 Washington high school seniors commit to STEM careers at Signing Day event

By **MARIO LOTMORE**

**RENTON**—High school seniors and new graduates from across Washington state were honored Friday, June 6, at STEM Signing Day, hosted by Boeing in collaboration with the Seattle Seahawks and Partnership for Learning. Held at the National Football League’s Virginia Mason Athletic Center in Renton, the annual celebration recognized students committed to pursuing post-secondary education and credentials in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Graduating with a bachelor of science in Engineering Physics from the Leinor-Rhine University, Dereke Young, a Wide Receiver for the Seattle Seahawks, shared advice to the students he would have told his younger self prior to entering college:

- Set goals and celebrate the small wins; soon they will turn into big wins.
- Build a good relationship with your professors.
- Take advantage of your professor hours outside of the classroom to better learn the subject.

“You have to put in time and effort in both in order to succeed. My advice to you guys would be to do that, and that takes a lot of discipline. Like I said, you’re going to be on your own. You’re not going to have mommy or daddy by your side, but use the things that they taught you growing up because they groomed you for this next step that you’re about to take in life,” Young said.

Modeled after signing days for college athletes, STEM Signing Day featured students signing letters of intent to enroll in STEM-related programs at colleges, universities, or technical schools. The event drew parents, community leaders, educators, elected officials, and business representatives who gathered to commend the students’ dedication and encourage their pursuit of careers driving innovation and economic growth in Washington and beyond.

“These students represent the incredible promise of the next generation of STEM professionals,” said Gina Breukelman, Senior Manager, Northwest Region, Boeing Global Engagement. “They’ve worked hard to discover their interests and develop their skills. We’re proud to support their continued growth and look forward to the impact they will make in our communities and across industries.”

The 50 students honored, plan to pursue an array of STEM disciplines, including aerospace engineering, computer engineering, neuroscience, nursing, microbiology, symbolic systems and more, at colleges and universities including University of Washington, Washington State University, Sanford, and California Institute of Technology.

Henry M. Jackson High School senior Shreya Karthik, one of six Snohomish County students participating in STEM Signing Day, will pursue a career in medicine beginning this fall at Brown University with degrees in Neuroscience and Environmental Science. Neuroscience is the study of the body’s



**Washington State STEM Signing Day 2025 honorees on June 6, 2025, at the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC) in Renton, WA. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore**

nervous system—the body’s communication and control network, responsible for coordinating and regulating nearly all bodily functions, from movement and sensation to cognition and emotion.

“I think that my story with neuroscience really started with my dad’s fight against encephalitis,” Karthik said. “He was diagnosed with severe encephalitis, and it was just like a really turbulent time for my family. And being able to see the doctors work through that, feeling their care and their compassion, and how that uplifted my family, I wanted to give that to other people... especially working with neurodivergent youth.”

Karthik volunteers in the stroke department of a local hospital and at a camp for neurodivergent youth. Her favorite dessert is fried ice cream and enjoyed reading the book by Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*.

Her mother, Vinodhini, a civil engineer by trade, and father, Selvakumar, an Engineering Manager at Microsoft, both shared that Shreya always displayed empathy and compassion towards others.

“Even from childhood she was very fixed on medicine,” her mother Vinodhini told the Lynnwood Times. “We were actually scared because we are like family of engineers and we didn’t know this route, especially in the US because we both studied in India; so, we were worried, but she figured it out.”

Avery Wolf and Shyla Weeks, both Snohomish High School students, this fall will be attending the University of Washington and Central Washington University respectively.

Weeks, decided to pursue a Biophysics STEM path after learning about biomedical research using venom-derived antibodies to identify and target cancer cells.

“I’m a big science girl,” Weeks told the Lynnwood Times. “I really like anything math and science. It just clicks with my brain.”

Outside of academics, Weeks is a varsity



**Henry M. Jackson High School senior Shreya Karthik and her parents, Vinodhini (left) and Selvakumar (right) at Washington State STEM Signing Day 2025 on June 6, 2025, at the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC) in Renton, WA. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.**

wrestler—current team captain—and is part of her school’s theater club—she also enjoys performing in a community theater.

“She’s a blessing, always an adventure, a surprise,” Shyla’s mom Molly shared. “She always comes up with something new, which is fun.”

Wolf, who is pursuing an Earth and Space Sciences STEM path is currently enrolled in the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA) program at Everett Community College.

Wolf is also in the theater club with Weeks at Snohomish High School as its public relations officer. She is an avid reader of scientific journals and loves learning about other people’s life stories through reading biographies.

“She’s amazing,” Avery’s mom Adrienne said. “She’s just creative and intelligent and fun to be around.”

Avery’s mom, a current preschool teacher, is a strong believer in early childhood learning and stressed the importance of playtime in a child’s development, especially as it pertains to STEM career paths.

“We need to let them be imaginative,

creative, innovative, solve their own problems so that they become these stronger students when they need to be,” Adrienne added.

All three Snohomish County students attending STEM Sign Day appreciated their teachers and spoke positively of their respective high schools. Other Snohomish County students recognized were:

- Amelia Stahlke of Lake Stevens High School, who will be attending UCLA to study Mechanical Engineering
- Leo Guan of Snohomish High School, who will be attending the University of Washington-Bothell to study Computer Science
- Melinda Soeung of Glacier Peak High School, who will be attending the University of Washington to study Environmental Science and Resource Management

Boeing has supported STEM Signing Day in Washington since its inception in 2017, recognizing students who are committed to building the skills and knowledge needed to power the future. The company created STEM Signing Day because innovation and problem solving, key STEM skills Breukelman

# Lynnwood-based rapper, Shane Diamanti, embarks on out of state tour opening for Phora

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**LYNNWOOD**—Lynnwood-based rapper Shane Diamanti is hitting the road this summer on a several weeks-long, multi-state, tour opening for well-known California-based rapper Phora.

Diamanti, 30, was born and raised in Lynnwood. He recalls the first moment he got the spark for music production, making a mixed tape with his father's blank cassettes as a kid.

He began getting into rap music while attending Meadowdale High School, getting into artists like J. Cole, Mac Miller, and Atmosphere – all of which, he said, inspired his sound.

It was during his Senior year of high school when he got his “first little buzz,” he said after posting a dictionary freestyle on Facebook, which garnered over a thousand likes. After that he began performing at local venues like the Fun House in Seattle, the Vera Project, and local breweries like Peace of Mind.

Diamanti works with several music producers for his beats. His writing is a mixture of freestyle and a more thoughtful writing process, depending on the song.

“Sometimes I just hear the beat and I feel like I’m a therapist at times, like if you were to ask me questions and my lyrics were the answers for what you’re going through,” said Diamanti. “But if it’s more of a fun vibe then I’m just trying to spit some bars.”

The themes of Diamanti’s music chang-

es depending on the headspace he’s in while writing, he told the Lynnwood Times.

Diamanti will be heading down to Los Angeles this September to finish recording his upcoming E.P., which will be independently produced. Though he is not currently signed to a record label he said his priorities are just to “have fun,” to take his time, and “wait for the proper move.”

“I’ve been working with a lot of different producers, and it’s been a long time coming,” said Diamanti. “I’m just thankful that I can still be in contact with them and make sure I can get this project taken care of. I’ve been doing a lot of deep music lately, but this one will be coming out for the summertime and be something that I think a lot of people can enjoy.”

The album will have six tracks. Diamanti hopes to have it done by September 13 so that he can promote it at a scheduled performance at the Vera Project.

Diamanti’s tour will be hitting California, Idaho, Texas, Utah, Arizona, and more. Though he has performed on several tours before locally, this will be his first out-of-state, and biggest tour yet.

“I’m just trying to have a good time with good people because you never know what’s going to happen on tour so it’s good to have people who’ll ride with me, and care for me, so if anything happens we got each other,” said Diamanti.

He informed the Lynnwood Times he hopes the tour will grant him more ex-



Lynnwood-based rapper Shane Diamanti is hitting the road this summer. Source: Shane Diamanti’s Instagram account.

posure and an opportunity to share his music with different crowds.

Diamanti also has his own production company, Diamanti Visions, that puts on shows across the Seattle area. He manages an up-and-coming artist named Dante Rivers.

“There’s not a lot of artists coming out

of Lynnwood. I got a lot of love for Lynnwood. I worked at the Grocery Outlet, I play the Peace of Mind Brewery, when I walk around, I get a lot of love. People are cool here in Lynnwood,” said Diamanti. “You can do shows in Seattle, you can do shows in Everett, but I bring people back to Lynnwood and it’s just appreciation for my city.”

from page 6 **STEM**

said, are critically important to keeping Puget Sound a leading global aerospace and technology hub.

“Today you are not just making a decision picking a college or major, you are making a choice,” Doug Ackerman, Vice President of Quality for Boeing Commercial Airplanes told students Friday. “You’re choosing to solve problems. You’re choosing to solve problems that matter. You’re choosing to contribute to human knowledge. You’re choosing to build a future not just for yourselves but for other people as well. And that is an honorable path to pursue.”

His words of wisdom to early-career STEM students were to stay relentlessly and passionately curious, be brave and stick by what you believe in, and keep showing up to find the next problem to solve.

The Renton School District, in King County, partners with Boeing on its pre-employment training program and programs like the Renton Promise, which offers full tuition and fee coverage for Renton Technical College for the first two years for all Renton School graduates.

“We’re lucky to have such strong partners in Boeing and the Seahawks, who support the growth and well-being of our young people through innovative programs like today’s event,” Armando Pavone, Mayor of the city of Renton

said.

Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, quipped that she started her STEM career path in accounting with the hopes of making “good money.”

“I don’t know if they [her teachers] were accurate in the really making really good money, but it was a good living,” Mayor Backus said. “I worked for the Boeing Company for 25 years in finance; so, I am really proud of the time that I was at Boeing and in fact, the Boeing Company helped pay for my last two years of my college career.”

Snohomish County is home to the largest concentration of aerospace jobs in the western United States, anchored by Boeing’s Everett facility and a skilled manufacturing workforce. The county offers a strong value proposition for companies focused on innovation, sustainability and supply chain such as space station manufacturer Gravitics, Everett-based transportation electrification company MagniX, quantum computing company ionQ, fusion research companies Helion Energy and Zap Energy, Everett-based Off Planet Research (OPR), Marysville’s green-maritime manufacturer Echandia, and the new Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Research and Development Center at Paine Field.

Rep. Alex Ybarra (R-Quincy) shared the unorthodox career path to achieving one’s goals from not learning to speak and write English until High School which led to a bachelor of science de-

gree in Mathematics and then a Master of Business Administration, to becoming a rocket scientist then an engineering analyst doing mathematics and statistics alongside being a state legislator.

“Everybody has a different route, including every one of these students in this room,” Rep. Ybarra said. “You can’t write your own rules on how you get there, but when you get there, it’s fabulous. It’s great. I mean, I’m so glad to be a STEM major.”

Washington was ranked fifth overall for most innovative in an assessment by WalletHub released in March 2025 that included criteria such as the share of STEM professionals, projected STEM jobs, and student scores on Advanced Placement exams. WalletHub

also ranked Washington as the third strongest state economy in the country in 2024 with criteria that included the number of exports per capita and start-up activity.

Major employers such as Boeing, Microsoft, Costco, Amazon, and Electroimpact still call Washington state home. Boeing was founded in a shipyard on Seattle’s Duwamish River in 1916, launching the state’s reputation for STEM careers in addition to lumber, fishing, and agriculture industries.

According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, aerospace is the state’s top export; in 2024, almost \$18 billion of the state’s nearly \$45 billion in exported commodities was related to aircraft that year.

# Ninth Circuit sides with state in Olympus Spa transgender lawsuit

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—The Ninth District Court of Appeals ruled that Olympus Spa – a Lynnwood-based, female-only, Korean spa that requires patrons to be fully nude – cannot sue the Washington State Human Rights Commission on First Amendment grounds for requiring transgender women into its facilities.

“The HRC’s enforcement action against Olympus Spa was a straightforward application of Washington’s statutory scheme—WLAD—which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender expression or identity in places of public accommodation. As applied, the statute does not abridge the Spa’s rights to free speech, free exercise, or free association. We affirm the district court’s dismissal of the complaint,” the court opinion states.

Olympus Spa, located on 196th Street near the Lynnwood Event Center, is fashioned after “Jjimjilbang” — a health and wellness facility where patrons are required to be nude in some procedures per its Korean-inspired tradition. Because of this, it has held the requirement for members to have female genitalia – a requirement held throughout its 20 years of operation. Transgender women are only admitted at Olympus Spa if they have undergone post-operative sex confirmation surgery.

The spa contains a bath area with multiple whirlpools, a traditional Korean body-scrub service area, standing showers, sit-down showers, a steam room, and a dry sauna. Patrons are nude when utilizing these services and have visual access to other nude patrons. Nudity is not optional, adhering to the Korean tradition of “Seshin,” and employees refuse to perform massages on fully nude patrons with male genitalia.

“The tradition has existed for about 500 years from Korean ancestry,” Olympus Spa Owner Sun Lee told the Lynnwood Times. “Where women, particularly women, go through a traditional, ceremonial, act of cleansing and the person has to be naked.”

Transwoman Haven Wilvich sought access to the Lynnwood spa in 2020 but was allegedly told that her request was declined because, “transgender women without surgery are not welcome because it could make other customers and staff uncomfortable.”

“It felt really terrible to be invited to an event and find out I can’t attend because the spa is willing to reduce me to my genitalia and not see me as the woman that I am,” Wilvich told the Lynnwood Times.

Wilvich felt discriminated against by this dismissal and took the issue up with the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC) in February of 2020. The commission then sent notice of the complaint to Olympus Spa in November of 2020. In March 2021, Olympus received a second complaint, this time requesting a written response by the spa owner.

Olympus Spa owner Sun Lee remained firm to his beliefs stating he “firmly be-



(L-R) Haven Wilvich, the transwoman who launched the complaint against Olympus Spa and Ninth Circuit Court Judges who ruled on the case: Margaret McKeown, Ronald Gould, and Kenneth Lee. McKeown and Gould authored the majority opinion, while Lee dissented.



Dual Pro Olympus Spa and Pro-Trans rallies at the Lynnwood Event Center on June 17, 2023. Lynnwood Times | Gerti Katro.

lieve it is essential for the safety, legal protection, and well-being of our customers and employees that we maintain adherence to this adaptation of a female-only rule” adding they feared exposing female customers to male genitalia, especially minors, could result in criminal penalties under the state’s laws on lewd conduct. He also cited his Christian faith in which they hold that it is “inappropriate” for a man and a woman to be naked together unless they are married.

Lee filed a lawsuit against Andreta Armstrong, Executive Director of WSHRC, in March of 2022, alleging violations of the company’s first amendment rights under exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of association. However, Western Washington District Court Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein, rejected the claim on Monday June, 2023.

Lee and his legal counsel, Tracy Tribbet with the Pacific Justice Institute, then filed a lawsuit against the WSHRC on the grounds that the state violated his First Amendment rights, arguing that the mandate went against his Christian faith and Korean traditions.

In Thursday’s ruling, however, the Court sided with the WSHRC in that, in accordance with Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD) – which prohibits public facilities from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, defined as including gender expression or identity – the spa’s entrance policies violated state law.

“The Spa did not challenge this definition or the language of the statute nor did it argue that the statute was vague or that the Spa’s conduct did not fit within the statute’s definition of discrimination on the basis of gender expression or identity. Rather, the Spa alleged that WLAD, as enforced against the Spa’s entrance policy, violated its First Amendment rights,” the court’s ruling states.

The court further concluded that the WSHRC’s actions, under the WLAD, did “not impermissibly burden the Spa’s First Amendment rights to free speech, free exercise of religion, or free association,” and that the Spa’s religious expression was only “incidentally burdened” and the WLAD was both neutral and generally applicable.

Ninth Circuit Judge Kenneth Kiyul Lee, who is South Korean-born, dissented

with the court’s opinion stating:

“Korean spas are not like spas at the Four Seasons or Ritz Carlton with their soothing ambient music and lavender aroma in private lounges. Steeped in centuries-old tradition, Korean spas require their patrons to be fully naked, as they sit in communal saunas and undergo deep-tissue scrubbing of their entire bodies in an open area filled with other unclothed patrons.

“Given this intimate environment, Korean spas separate patrons as well as employees by their sex... Now, under edict from the state, women—and even girls as young as 13 years old—must be nude alongside patrons with exposed male genitalia as they receive treatment... This is not what Washington state law requires. While the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD) forbids discrimination based on (among other things) sex and sexual orientation, its text and structure make clear that it does not cover transgender status. Washington has perversely distorted a law that was enacted to safeguard women’s rights to strip women of protections. The women and girls of Washington state deserve better.”

# West Coast Attorney Generals congregate in Seattle for Community Impact Town Hall

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**SEATTLE**—All three West Coast Attorney Generals gathered in Seattle on Monday, June 3, for a press conference and Community Impact Town Hall where they outlined their collaborative efforts to defend democracy and uphold the rule of law, highlighting recent victories in consumer protection and voting-rights enforcement, and discussed ongoing challenges in holding powerful interests accountable.

“We are in a very unique moment in this country and right it is more important than ever to have people standing up to fight back, to lead, and to address some of the harms we are seeing all across this country,” said Nick Brown, Washington State Attorney General. “I cannot think of any other position that I would rather be in, because Attorney Generals across this country are standing up to fight back against the lawlessness of the Trump administration, to address the harms we see in our state, and to make sure that we reaffirm the principles of fairness, justice, and the rule of law.”

Joining Brown was newly elected Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield, who, like Brown, has been serving since the beginning of the year, and served as Speaker of the House and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee prior to his term, as well as Rob Bonta, Attorney General for the State of California.

Bonta was sworn in as California’s 34th Attorney General in 2021 – the first person of Filipino descent to occupy the position. Bonta’s passion for justice stems from his parents who fought on the frontlines of some of America’s most important social justice movements. Bonta decided to practice law to fight to help right the historic wrongs and fight for those who have been harmed. Prior to being elected California Attorney General he served as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Francisco.

Monday’s town hall is the sixth time these Attorney Generals, all Democrats, have gathered in this type of format to hear from the public directly to ensure they are representing their respective state’s best interests.

Prior to the town hall the Attorney Generals took questions from members of the press where AG Brown declared the country to be in a time of crisis.

“We are in a crisis because we have a President that disregards the laws, who disregards the separation of powers, who does not care about precedent or constitutional authority – he does what he wants, and he is doing it with such brazen disregard for the truth,” said Brown.

Washington State, joined by several other Democratic states across the nation, have led a series of legal challenges against the Trump Administration.

First to speak, following AG Brown’s opening remarks, was AG Rayfield



**West Coast Attorney Generals Nick Brown of Washington state, Dan Rayfield of Oregon, and Rob Bonta of California gathered in Seattle on Monday, June 3, for a Community Impact Town Hall on their collaborative efforts to defend democracy and uphold the rule of law. Source: Snapshot from YouTube feed of the event.**

who shared a story about a conversation he had with Oregon Governor Tina Kotek where she shared that during the first Trump Administration she kept seeing then-Washington AG, now Governor, Bob Ferguson on the news. With 23 current lawsuits filed against the Trump Administration Rayfield compared himself to “Oregon’s Bob Ferguson.”

Ferguson sued the federal government 97 times between 2017 and 2021.

“Back east we have an administration that’s constantly making decisions in the dark without public input. That is not how a democracy is supposed to work,” said Rayfield.

California has also filed 23 lawsuits against the Trump Administration. With 19 weeks into Trump’s second term this equates to nearly one lawsuit a week. These include, but are now limited to, challenging Trump’s birth-right citizenship, protecting essential federal funding for healthcare, housing, food, college, and disaster relief, and non-elected private citizen Elon Musk’s access to sensitive information.

AG Bonta, the son of a Filipina immigrant, saw firsthand what it was like when a Dictator took over his family’s country, he said, and what it meant to him and his family to see the people fight back.

“I learned from an early age that people power is the most potent power that there is. And Trump’s bosses are not his billionaire buddies or greedy corporations, his bosses are you, and me, and us – the American people,” said AG Bonta. “The people will always have the first and last word... Democracy thrives on activism and participation and engagement. It dies with neglect, and it dies in the dark with apathy.”

During the public portion of Monday’s town hall, a cancer researcher, Paul Nghiem, who specializes in a rare but aggressive strain of skin cancer, noted that his research was approved for funding by the NIH prior to the Trump

administration but was halted after Trump’s federal spending cuts. These funds, Nghiem added, mean life or death for his patients who are currently awaiting treatment.

AG Brown responded saying this is a perfect example of some of the criticism he gets by State Republicans for focusing on national issues instead of local, adding that in cases like Nghiem’s – where federal spending cuts puts Washington lives at stake – the fight at the national level has direct impacts for Washington residents.

Other topics of conversation from

the public involved environmental issues, diversity, equity, and inclusion, Planned Parenthood closures and abortion, immigrants and ICE, healthcare, police accountability, and more.



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# GUILTY verdict in tragic death of WSP trooper Christopher Gadd

By MARIO LOTMORE

**EVERETT**—A jury delivered a guilty verdict on June 4, 2025, convicting Raul Benitez-Santana, 33, of vehicular homicide and vehicular assault in the death of Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Christopher Gadd. The decision, reached after just two hours of deliberation, marks a somber milestone in a case that has gripped the region since the fatal crash on Interstate 5 in March 2024.

Trooper Gadd, a 27-year-old husband and father, was killed in the line of duty on March 2, 2024, while parked on the shoulder of southbound I-5 near Marysville. Benitez-Santana, a Lynnwood resident, was driving a GMC Yukon Denali at a staggering 112 mph, under the influence of alcohol and marijuana, when he veered onto the shoulder and struck Gadd's parked patrol cruiser, killing him instantly and sending Benitez-Santana's vehicle careening into a van carrying six passengers, injuring its driver.

"This is a day of justice for Trooper Gadd, his family, and our community," said Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tobin Darrow, who, alongside Deputy Prosecutor Isaac Wells, led the case. "No verdict can undo the loss, but we hope this brings some measure of closure to those who loved Chris."

Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Karen Moore presided over the case. Benitez-Santana's defense attorneys were Tiffany Mecca and Emily Hancock who are members of the Snohomish County Public Defender Association. The prosecuting attorneys in the Christopher Gadd death

case were Tobin Darrow and Isaac Wells from the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Court documents revealed Benitez-Santana admitted to drinking two Coors Light beers and smoking marijuana earlier that evening, with a blood alcohol content of 0.047 measured hours after the incident.

Deputy Prosecutor Darrow argued that Benitez-Santana's actions were not merely reckless but a blatant disregard for human life. "Driving 112 mph on a freeway is dangerous enough," Darrow told jurors. "But to do so on the shoulder, impaired by alcohol and drugs, is a choice that cost Trooper Gadd his life."

The defense contended that Benitez-Santana mistook the shoulder for a travel lane and that Gadd's cruiser lacked visible lights. However, the jury rejected these arguments as insufficient, unanimously finding Benitez-Santana guilty on both counts.

The jury returned special verdicts alongside the guilty verdicts for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault. Specifically, the jury found that Benitez-Santana was impaired by alcohol or drugs at the time of the fatal crash. This special verdict was based on evidence that Benitez-Santana admitted to consuming alcohol and smoking marijuana earlier that evening, with a blood alcohol content of 0.047 measured hours after the incident, as well as testimony regarding his erratic driving at 112 mph.

The special verdict of impairment serves as an aggravating factor, potentially increasing the severity of his

sentencing, which is scheduled for 1 p.m. on July 2, 2025.

Trooper Gadd's death sent shockwaves through the state, where he was remembered as a dedicated officer, a loving husband to his wife Cammryn, and a devoted father to his 2-year-old daughter Kaelyn.

Benitez-Santana, a Mexican national who was illegally in the U.S., has a history of traffic violations and a 2019 domestic violence charge, remains in custody at Snohomish County Jail without bail, pending his sentencing in July. He now faces up to life in prison for vehicular homicide, with additional penalties for vehicular assault.

As sentencing approaches, the Lynnwood Times joins our readers in reflecting on Trooper Gadd's sacrifice and the enduring strength of his family and colleagues. We invite the community to share memories of Gadd or messages of support on social media or in the comments below.

## Message from Chief John R. Batiste on Verdict in the Benitez-Santana Trial

Below is a statement released by WSP Chief John B. Batiste on the guilty verdict in the Gadd trial:

*The Washington State Patrol would like to thank the people of Washing-*

*ton for their outpouring of support for our fallen Trooper Christopher Gadd, his family, loved ones, and those who served our state and system of justice by serving on the jury of his killer.*

*On March 2, 2024, Trooper Gadd was pronounced dead at the scene, after being struck by driver Raul Benitez-Santana. Benitez-Santana was driving over 100 miles per hour and impaired when he struck Trooper Gadd's vehicle. Benitez-Santana was charged with vehicular homicide and vehicular assault while under the influence.*

*The jury's unanimous verdicts of guilty of vehicular homicide and vehicular assault are just and welcomed. With this decision, one more dangerous driver is removed from our streets, something Christopher Gadd dedicated his life to doing with every shift, by committing himself to conducting 'one more stop' on every day he served our state as a Washington State Trooper.*

*While the verdict does not take away the pain of losing Chris, it does offer a modicum of relief for those who served with and loved this fine young man. Our thoughts and enduring support remain with his widow and young daughter as well as his mother, father, and sister.*

*We will never forget Trooper Chris Gadd.*

### from page 3 VERDANT HEALTH

Verdant Health Commission, a publicly owned public hospital district, acts as a steward of the hospital campus in Edmonds that is leased to Providence-Swedish and has the responsibility to ensure a full range of acute hospital and outpatient services for residents of South Snohomish County.

Revenue from Providence-Swedish Edmonds Campus, which included the newly renamed Langer Building (formerly Kruger Medical), are invested in programs that enhance the overall health and wellbeing of South County residents. Since Verdant's inception in 2011, upwards of \$87 million has been reinvested back into the hospital district to enhance overall health and wellbeing of South County residents.

Verdant Health Commission is currently accepting 2026 funding applications from June 2 through July 11, 2025. Learn more at [www.verdant-health.org](http://www.verdant-health.org).

**WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?**  
The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate. Email [editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com](mailto:editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com).

### from page 5 FRONTIER AIRLINES

engagement for expansion.

Paine Field Airport has served 3.2 million passengers since the terminal opened and is a critical transportation and manufacturing hub for the region, contributing nearly \$60 billion in annual economic impact and supporting the employment of more than 150,000 workers, according to the county.

With the addition of Frontier Airlines providing new travel services, residents may see up to seven additional gates, the airport's CEO, Brett Smith told KING5. Paine Field currently operates with just three gates and Alaska Airlines as its other service partner.

"The region deserves a better option and Sea-Tac needs the relief," Smith added during his KING5 interview.

**SUMMER READING**  
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THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW

# Larsen introduces the PROTECT Act to combat drug trafficking within tribes

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA), joined by Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT.), U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) announced a bipartisan Protection for Reservation Occupants Against Trafficking and Evasive Communications Today (PROTECT) Act which aims to combat drug trafficking within tribal communities.

If passed the PROTECT Act would expand Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) to allow tribal nations to prosecute non-Native offenders for drug trafficking. It would also allow tribal courts to execute warrants for electronic material to better combat drug traffickers and other criminals.

“The opioid epidemic has devastated Northwest Washington,” said Rep. Larsen. “Tribes in my district have continually told me about the unique challenges their courts and law enforcement face to stop drug trafficking on Tribal land. This bill would give Tribes the tools they need to protect tribal sovereignty, save lives and keep Tribes and communities across Northwest Washington safe,” said Larsen.

Representatives Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (D-Wash.), Jeff Hurd (R-Colo.), Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) also joined as original cosponsors of the bill.

Back in August of 2024, Rep. Larsen visited the Tulalip Tribes headquarters in Snohomish County to hear testimonies of how Native American tribes’ inability to prosecute non-Native drug traffickers has wreaked havoc on their communities.

Since the landmark 1978 Supreme

Court ruling, *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, tribal courts have been unable to prosecute non-American Indians for most crimes including drug trafficking. In a time when opioid-related deaths are at an all-time-high, this has rendered many tribes helpless to combat the wave of organized crime that has taken advantage of, what Tulalip Tribal leaders consider, a broken law “very much steeped in racism.”

“The cartel, the people that bring the drugs in, they’re not dumb – they understand jurisdictional issues and they fully capitalize on it,” said Tulalip Tribes Vice Chair Misty Napeahi. “I hope this [the PROTECT ACT] gets passed, I hope you stand strong on this. You’re going to be standing up against racism while you’re on the floor. You will feel that institutional racism, but I hope that you guys stand strong and do what’s right for every single citizen across this nation.”

According to the Tulalip Tribes, more than 63 members have died from fentanyl overdoses since 2017.

In 2023 alone, the Lummi Nation had seven fentanyl overdose-related deaths, with five of those occurring in just a two-month span from September to October.

Lummi Nation Chairman Tony Hillaire testified to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in November 2023 that more than 70 Tribal members currently live in squalor with no sanitation facilities at a homeless camp in Bellingham. Therefore, some tribes have declared fentanyl and the opioid crisis a public health emergency.

“The saddest part about it is the children,” said Tulalip Tribes Chair Teri Gobin. “So many children are being left orphans from both of the parents passing away from overdose and we’re

having a lot of children being born with [fentanyl] in their system.”

In 2023, the Tulalip Tribes held the National Opioid Summit which addressed the intersection of COVID-19 and the opioid crisis throughout tribal communities. Representative Larsen was a guest at that event and heard the challenges many tribal leaders face. From those conversations, and with other stakeholders in the area, Larsen formulated his report on the opioid epidemic which he released in January of last year.

Along with that report, in addition to the PROTECT Act, Larsen proposed:

- The Workforce Opportunities for Communities in Recovery Act, which would codify, strengthen, and expand pilot grant funding for community partnerships that promote employment for those recovering from substance use, help workers transition to occupations that support those affected by substance use, and provide supportive services to program participants, such as substance use treatment, peer support services, and mentorship opportunities.
- The Closing the Substance Use Care Gap Act, which would expand access to lifesaving, community-based harm reduction initiatives and services and enhance the federal response to the opioid and fentanyl epidemic.
- The End Fentanyl Trafficking with Local Task Forces Act, which would establish a dedicated federal funding stream to help multi-jurisdictional drug task forces combat opioid trafficking in Washington state and across the country.

If passed, the PROTECT Act would

provide parity for Tribal courts to issue search warrants for certain electronic communications, including social media, by adding Tribal courts to the list of courts with “competent jurisdiction” under the Stored Communications Act.

The PROTECT Act would also expand Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) to crimes associated with drug trafficking, and amends the Bureau of Prison’s (BOP) Tribal Prisoner Program (TPP) by expanding eligibility to offenders who commit drug-trafficking-related offenses.

“The opioid and fentanyl epidemic is harming all citizens in Washington State. Our reservations are no different. Our Tribal lands are being targeted by organized crime because of the jurisdictional complexities and other vulnerabilities. The PROTECT Act of 2025 restores Tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians for drug trafficking within our reservation boundaries, helping protect not only the residents on our reservation, but all Washingtonians,” said Teri Gobin, Chairwoman, Tulalip Tribes.

In the five counties that Rep. Larsen represents, opioid-related deaths have more than doubled since 2019. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tribal communities around the nation had the highest rate of drug deaths in both 2021 and 2022.

Since 2020, more than 650 people in Snohomish County have died of opioid-related overdoses. In 2022, more than seventy-five percent of Washington’s overall drug overdose deaths were linked to opioids. Even though the United States saw a three percent decline in overdose deaths overall during this period, deaths in Washington state increased by more than 21 percent.

## WA launches brand new police use-of-force database

By KIENAN BRISCOE

**SEATTLE** — The Attorney General’s Office announced Monday the launch of the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS), which is ready to collect use-of-force data from the state’s law enforcement agencies in an effort to improve transparency, trust and evidence-based policymaking.

The exchange is a publicly available, cloud-based platform to help the public see and analyze police use-of-force data. The database, established with robust bipartisan support from the Legislature in 2021, was developed through significant collaboration with law enforcement, community leaders, and criminal justice researchers.

State law requires law enforcement agencies in the state to report incidents involving specific types of force, such as when an officer uses a firearm, Taser, pepper spray, canine, or strikes a person with a weapon or their body. Agencies must report information about the officer and person involved in these use-of-

force incidents, such as their age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Law enforcement agencies have through September 2 to begin reporting data. Going forward, agencies must submit use-of-force data monthly. Information about the outcome of an investigation of an incident will be updated within 30 days of when the investigation is complete. WADEPS does not collect personally identifiable information about community members who interact with police.

“A single location with clear, standardized and contextual information will help the public better understand the use of force in Washington,” Attorney General Nick Brown said in a letter sent to law enforcement agencies June 2. “Law enforcement and policymakers will have common tools to better analyze force and make informed decisions about policing policies and practices.”

WADEPS is operated by Washington State University under a grant agreement with the Attorney General’s Office. A key feature of the system is its ability

to put use of force in context. The public will be able to examine whether rates of force differ across different types of incidents, such as police response to an assault, traffic incident, or mental health 911 call.

“The launch of the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety marks a critical step forward in ensuring transparency, accountability, and data-driven decision-making in our justice system,” said Sen. Twina Nobles, D-Tacoma, sponsor of the original legislation. “This collaborative effort between law enforcement, community leaders, and researchers will help build trust and improve public safety outcomes for all Washingtonians. I’m so proud to have championed this work and look forward to seeing its impact.”

State Sen. John Lovick, D-Mill Creek, sponsored the bill’s companion legislation in the House prior to being appointed to the Senate in 2022.

“When we understand the cause of an issue, we can fix it,” Lovick said. “This new data exchange represents Wash-

ington state’s commitment to trust, transparency, and accountability. When to use force is one of the most difficult decisions a peace officer must face and we must all work together to ensure that people are safe, and feel safe, in our communities.”

Several law enforcement agencies were early participants in the program. Fife Police Chief Pete Fisher said his department was excited about “WADEPS’ mission to enhance transparency, accountability and real-time analysis of police use of force incidents.”

“I have a great deal of confidence that WADEPS can be a mechanism to help police and community members better understand police use of force. If employed properly, it will provide the insight needed to allow police to tailor policy, training, and response for better outcomes. At the same time, it offers a way to demonstrate to stakeholders and the public that the vast majority of police use of force encounters are lawful and reasonable,” Fisher said.

from page 1 **QUINCY**

County history that it's difficult not seeing her and her family's influence in the region.

From William P. Stewart Highway in Everett named after her great grandfather — a Black Civil War veteran who fought for the Union Army and was part of the Illinois 29th Colored Infantry; to the Civil War memorial in Snohomish also honoring Stewart; to the county's annual Nubian Jam event; to the Marilyn Quincy Community Center in Marysville; to the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee (SCBHC); to the way the Everett Public Library assembles its historical archives, Quincy has had a tremendous impact on shaping the area since her family first settled here in the 1880s before Washington was a state.

Quincy was awarded the Legacy Award at the SCBHC's Red and White banquet, appropriately named the Marilyn Quincy Award, in 2023. The award was in partnership with the city of Everett and an associated plaque will be displayed somewhere in the city at a yet-to-be-determined location, memorizing Quincy's great work for years to come.

"Marilyn Quincy was an essential ingredient to the celebration and inclusion of African Americans in Snohomish County. Her consistency, wisdom, and love made her an unbelievably valuable elder in the community. We all loved and respected her, and carried her guidance forward to make the annual Nubian Jam Festival in Everett the long running community building event that it has been for decades. With her passing the community will have to find a miracle worker to even come close to making the impact that she did. We will miss you Ms. Quincy. I will miss you Ms. Quincy," said Mukilteo Councilman Louis Harris.

Quincy had always known her family had deep roots in Snohomish County. Her mother was born in Everett in 1918 and knew that her grandparents, at least, had lived in the county for years. Her great grandfather, William P. Stewart, is buried in the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Snohomish.

When Quincy was a child, her family had the tradition of visiting cemeteries on Memorial Day to pay respect to veterans. During these visits her mother would frequently say: "one of these days I'm going to go to Snohomish and see if I can find my grandparents grave," but she never had the chance.

In 1993, during Everett's centennial anniversary, Quincy began researching her family's history in preparation for

an exhibit the city was holding, honoring resident's families who lived in the area around the time Everett became a city. Quincy thought this would be an appropriate time to carry out her mother's wishes in locating her great grandparents, to gain a better understanding of when her family arrived in town. She found them at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Snohomish, where her grandfather, who served in Illinois' 29th Colored Infantry, was memorialized as a war hero.

The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry, which was Illinois' only Black regiment during the Civil War, arrived at Galveston Bay, Texas on June 18, 1865, and was present at the first Juneteenth on June 19, when Major General Gordon Granger read General Order Number 3 informing its residents of the end of the Civil War and slavery was abolished.

Pleased to learn this, Quincy then took her research further at the Everett Public Library but was surprised to hear there was little record of Blacks living in Snohomish County at the time. She knew she had to take matters into her own hand.

Researching further, Quincy learned that her great grandfather was living in Snohomish County around 1897 although she believes he came much earlier. Her grandfather, for example, contributed to the Census when Washington became a state in 1889 so she knew her family was living here then.

Through genealogy, Quincy learned her family originated from Wisconsin where her great, great grandfather was recorded as one of the first people to buy land in the Cheyenne Valley. Quincy also learned that her grandmother's family — known as the Shepherd Family — came from slaves and were brought to Wisconsin, by their master, to set them up with a new life.

Somewhere down the line the Shepherd family moved to Washington, settling near Monroe, although Quincy has yet to find the reason why in her research. According to the 1889 census, there were three black families in Snohomish County: The Udells in the Edmonds area, the Richardsons in Monroe, and the Stewarts near Snohomish.

When Quincy was younger, there weren't many other Black families in Snohomish County, so many would get together for picnics on the fourth of July. Prior to that, Black families in the area would seldom see each other, only at funerals, and according to Quincy, the Fourth of July picnic was a way to have a sense of community and check-in with one another in a more jovial setting. One of these gatherings came

ed 2025-26 budget, Finance Director Meyer shared with the committee.

The immediate goal of the administration is to address the projected \$3 million General Fund balance shortfall by the end of 2026 to adhere to the City's reserve level requirement of "equaling not less than 2.5 months of the operating expenditures of the prior fiscal year," according to Section 5 of the Lynnwood Financial Policy. As of March 31, at the end of first quarter of 2025, the City is \$1.625 million underwater to its reserve requirement.

The City is monitoring overall taxes, licenses and permits, and fines and forfeiture revenues as sales tax (▼\$863,820) and fines (▼\$1.175 million) are coming in slightly lower (roughly \$2 million year-to-date)



to be known as Nubian Jam, on July 3, 1993, that paved the way for the eventual founding of the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee.

Quincy has endured her share of discrimination over the years. After high school she encountered difficulty landing a job. When visiting the employment office, she was told the only place that was hiring Black people was the Scott paper company and nursing homes. She chose the nursing home route where she worked for three years.

While working at the nursing home, Quincy, who shared with the Lynnwood Times she was overweight at the time, began taking an interest in nutrition and enrolled herself in Everett Community College to become a dietician.

Shortly after, she saw an ad for her dream job — working as a dietician at a local hospital. She called the hospital, explained her qualifications, and was told she would be a "perfect fit," according to Quincy, and to "get right down here for an interview." When she arrived for an interview, however, the employer said they could not hire a Black person, Quincy told the Lynnwood Times.

The incident landed Quincy on the news about six months later. In that report, the hospital explained they had hired a Black man during World War II who had taken a knife and threatened his employees. They swore to never hire a Black person again. Later, the hospital was ordered to come up with an affirmative action plan but by then Quincy had her reservations based on her past experience.

She decided to try her luck at the Boeing company instead, where she worked for three years. During this time her husband, also a Boeing employee, was

transferred to Everett so she followed — being closer to where they lived in Snohomish County anyway. The couple worked opposite shifts, with Quincy working nights and her husband working days — a scheduling conflict that "wreaked havoc" on their marriage, she once told the Lynnwood Times.

Throughout the years, Quincy also served on the Board of the Snohomish County Immigrant and Refugee Forum where she helped refugees from other countries acclimate to life in Snohomish County, was on the board of M2 Job Therapy where she helped inmates of local prisons develop job hunting and life skills to successfully transition upon release, was on the Workforce Development Board where she researched the labor market and even established training programs to encourage businesses to move into Snohomish County, and worked on the Dislocated Worker Program that helped people whose jobs had been eliminated by plant closures or large downsizing learn new workplace skills, learn job hunting skills and work with employers to hire them.

Quincy was extremely active in her church (New Life Everett) and was able to go on mission trips to Mississippi to build houses with Habitat for Humanity and distribute food, and the gulf to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She has also been able to help with local needs through several other church projects.

For her outstanding achievements in her career in the Employment Security Department, and contributions to the to the quality of life in Snohomish County and Washington State, Marilyn Quincy was honored and recognized in 2007 by the Washington State Legislature with House Resolution 4649 that was introduced by then-Representative John Lovick.

from page 1 **LYNNWOOD BUDGET**

- software replacements and contractual reductions
- Police: \$2,031,169 in delayed fleet replacements and vacancy savings
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts: \$660,337 in vacancy savings, delay fleet replacements, and contractual reductions
- Public Works: \$252,386 in savings from DBS lease termination and review of salary allocations
- Development & Business Services: \$425,856 in vacancy savings and contractual reductions

The \$2 million target for Law Enforcement in the Budget Management Plan is on top of a 5% vacancy savings rate that was applied to LPD in the adopt-

ed 2025-26 budget, Finance Director Meyer shared with the committee. The immediate goal of the administration is to address the projected \$3 million General Fund balance shortfall by the end of 2026 to adhere to the City's reserve level requirement of "equaling not less than 2.5 months of the operating expenditures of the prior fiscal year," according to Section 5 of the Lynnwood Financial Policy. As of March 31, at the end of first quarter of 2025, the City is \$1.625 million underwater to its reserve requirement.

The City is monitoring overall taxes, licenses and permits, and fines and forfeiture revenues as sales tax (▼\$863,820) and fines (▼\$1.175 million) are coming in slightly lower (roughly \$2 million year-to-date) than expected. Permit revenue from construction projects are also down as redevelopment projects such as the 18-acre Northline Village mixed-use housing, retail, office, and entertainment site that was originally scheduled to be completed in 2024, is again delayed and has yet to break ground.

As of the end of the 1Q25 (March 31,

2025) the City of Lynnwood boasts \$73,392,748 in total cash and investments, more than enough to absorb the current shortfall.

"Each department is thoughtfully managing their spending to address the current situation," said Mayor Frizzell. "At this point, Finance Director Meyer and I are confident that with our team of Directors, we have identified measures that will provide us with stable footing from which we will continue to closely monitor revenues as 2025 continues."

**WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?**

The Lynnwood Times wants to know what issues you would like us investigate Email [editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com](mailto:editorial@lynnwoodtimes.com).