

LYNNWOOD

TIMES



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Real News ⚡
Real Impact

2020's Person of the Year: Dr. Chris Spitters



Lynnwood Times photo by Luke Putvin. Dr. Chris Spitters addressing the declaration of emergency on March 5, 2020.

By **NOEL PAI-YOUNG**

The Lynnwood Times proudly presents the 2020 Person of the Year Award to Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer of Snohomish County. Dr. Spitters has been a key player in managing the coronavirus pandemic and assessing when it is appropriate for the county to move forward with Governor Jay Inslee's reopening plan. His efforts have kept Snohomish County residents safe from the coronavirus.

Dr. Spitters commendably dedicates

the Person of the Year Award to the staff of the Snohomish Health District, local governments, health care systems, and Snohomish County residents and businesses. In a statement to the Lynnwood Times, he stressed that thousands have sacrificed so much this past year to work together to fight the virus.

"Thousands in this County have sacrificed time with friends and families, lost jobs or businesses, or have lost loved ones to COVID," wrote Dr. Spitters. "That is not lost on me or

any of us, and it is also why I shy away from recognition like this. There are so many worthy people and organizations in this community that are just as deserving, if not more so."

When Snohomish County was approved for Phase 2 of Gov. Inslee's phased approach to returning to normalcy in June last year, Dr. Spitters stated, "We will be closely monitoring the data and metrics to ensure we are able to accommodate the potential increase in cases, and adapt as needed, as we begin to open Snohomish County

back up."

Dr. Spitters was taken aback when the first recognized case of COVID-19 in the United States appeared in Snohomish County.

"It was unbelievable, plain and simple," recounted Dr. Spitters. "We were all shocked and had a lot of anxiety based on reports we were hearing from overseas. This pandemic has turned out to be everything and

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Larsen, Veasey introduce bill to fight discriminatory Voter ID Laws



Congressman Rick Larsen, WA-02 D

By **RICK LARSEN PRESS RELEASE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, Reps. Rick Larsen (WA-02) and Marc Veasey (TX-33) introduced legislation to protect citizens who face disenfranchisement because of restrictive voter identification laws.

The America Votes Act establishes new federal protections for voters arriving at polls to affirm their identity by submitting a sworn, written statement, even if they do not have government-issued identification. Voters who sign a sworn, written statement can vote using a standard – non-provision-

al – ballot. The legislation is modeled on a successful Washington state law which enables voters to affirm their identity by submitting a similar written statement with a mail-in ballot.

"Congress should be looking for ways to break down barriers in states so all people can fully participate in democracy," said Larsen, a co-founder of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus. "The America Votes Act is a straightforward bill that builds on Washington state's efforts to ensure election integrity while eliminating unnecessary, discriminatory laws that disenfranchise citizens and undermine democracy."

"Voting should be made easier, not harder amid a global pandemic," said Veasey, founder and co-chair of the Voting Rights Caucus.

"But getting a photo ID in order to vote is far from simple; especially if you're in one of the 34 states with voter ID laws and are Latino, African American, poor, disabled, or elderly. The wave of discriminatory and restrictive photo voter ID laws implemented after the Shelby decision purposely silenced thousands of American voters, including minority voters across Texas. I'm re-introducing the America Votes Act

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Lynnwood's Stephanie Wright elected as Snohomish County Council Chair



County Council Chair Stephanie Wright. Photo courtesy of the Stephanie Wright.

Low (R) of District 5. She was the only councilmember nominated as chair and elected unanimously by fellow councilmembers including former chair, Nate Nehring, and Councilwoman Megan Dunn.

In a parting address to the council, former Snohomish Council Chair, Nehring reflected on the synergy of the council and its numerous accomplishments over the past year.

“One of the things I will always remember in a very positive way was how this council worked together,” said Nehring. “I feel really blessed to have the opportunity to Chair this past year. I know it sounds kinda cliché but it really was entirely a team effort.

“I have only been around for a few years but I can tell you I have heard horror stories of previous councils and certainly councils in other areas of the state don't get along or don't get things done.

“Everything I hear of those stories make me so grateful to be a part of this great team and what we have been able to accomplish together particularly over this past year, whether it has been public response to COVID, appropriating CARES Act funds, working to support small businesses and residents in need, as well as the civil unrest we seen and

the opportunity as a council to hear from our community members what can be done differently and what we can improve as a county.”

Nehring added that the county has benefited greatly with Wright's leadership over the past year.

“Your knowledge and your deep background of all sort of aspects of county government, you have been a tremendous help to me this past year, Nehring said. “As chair of the board of Health you have been a key leader throughout this pandemic.”

Wright thanked Nehring for his leadership and commented that he did an excellent job.

“Thank you for your leadership, said Wright. “You have done and amazing job. You have been calm and steadfast and worked with all the councilmembers and staff...you have done a stella job. So, looking back at your time as chair, you should be proud for all you have done for the county.

“Again, navigating us through such a unique and historic time. It has been a pleasure to work with you. I really enjoyed working with you be it budget or chair, whatever the task I have enjoyed working with you. Thank you for your services last year you've done

a really excellent job.”

Wright was elected to the Snohomish County council in 2010. She was the 2020 Council Vice-Chair, Chair of the Finance and Economic Development Committee, and Chair of the Snohomish County Health District Board. She also serves on the Community Transit Board, Aerospace Task Force, and Conservation Futures Board.

For the Puget Sound Regional Council, Wright serves on the Operations, Economic Development, and Executive Committees. For the Washington State Association of Counties, she is on the Legislative Steering Committee and as their representative to the Western Interstate Regional Board of Directors.

For the National Association of Counties, Wright is currently Vice Chair of the International Economic Development Task Force, as well as on the Community Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee, Large Urban County Caucus, and Veterans and Military Services Committee.

Prior to serving on the county council, Wright was a high school teacher at Woodinville High School, a librarian in the Northshore School District, and served on the Lynnwood City Council.

By MARIO LOTMORE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash., January 4, 2021 – At Monday's Snohomish County Council Administrative Session, Lynnwood resident and County Council District 3 representative, Stephanie Wright was elected unanimously by fellow councilmembers as Chair for the year 2021.

Wright was nominated by Councilman Jared Mead (D) of District 4 and seconded by Councilmember Sam

ESD proposed levy sees \$420 million decrease after failure to pass in 2020

By ERIN FREEMAN

The Edmonds School District (ESD) will be asking voters this April to consider approving funding a capital levy to upgrade buildings, address capacity challenges and improve existing facilities.

With a price tag of \$180 million, the six-year funding would designate a total of \$30 million per year to replace Spruce Elementary and Oak Heights Elementary while maintaining existing school buildings and complete districtwide renewal and upgrade projects.

Harmony Weinburg, the spokesperson for ESD, says that the improvement will foster learning, academic growth, critical thinking, equitable access and overall student success.

“We believe this capital levy is critical and will address the following needs: asset preservation; safety, security and accessibility; capacity challenges; and replace school buildings well past their lifespans,” ESD Superintendent Gustavo Balderas said.

A tax levy is essentially the property taxes a school district collects to balance its budget, after accounting for additional revenue sources including state aid. Yet, Washington state does not provide local schools with funding for technology or capital facilities, which is why it seeks the approval of levies so they can provide students with maintained buildings through improvements and renovations, bridging the gap.

\$1.7 billion in capital needs throughout the district was previously identified by the ESD Facilities Advisory Committee, determining last year to prioritize \$600M of projects for the February 2020 bond- which voters turned down, with only about 56% supporting it. The bond needed a 60% majority to pass.

Following the disapproval of the bond, the Edmonds School District board held a study session on August 4 to examine capital funding options and to review capital facility priorities, said Weinburg.

The board then reconsidered the unfunded projects, the size of the

earlier measure, and the impact of any new measure on future tax rates continued Weinburg. Upon review of the outstanding projects, the board decided to first prioritize the completion of Spruce Elementary. They then prioritized the replacement of Oak Heights Elementary based on age, condition, and its capacity constraints.

The board also reviewed proposed asset preservation projects (boilers, heating/ventilation, roofs, ADA requirements, exterior wall improvements) and interim capacity improvements including relocatable. The total of these projects is estimated at \$180 million.

If approved, by voters on April 27, the estimated tax rate for ESD will be \$3.36 per \$1,000.

“This is lower than what voters have approved in the past* and would maintain a steady local education tax

rate over the next four years,” said the district.

The 2020 rate was \$3.71 and the 2018 rate was \$4.76.


Voters should expect further information about the proposed levy in the coming weeks.




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LYNNWOOD TIMES
12918 Mukilteo Speedway C23, PMB-162 Lynnwood, WA 98087
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Lynnwood's State of the City Address and how challenge drives change

By ERIN FREEMAN

Mayor Nicola Smith, in her State of the City address on the morning of January 27, looked back at how the challenges presented in 2020 produced plans for 2021 in Lynnwood, including new economic development, infrastructure projects, and community equity and engagement.

Lynnwood City Council President George Hurst began the event, addressing how 2020 was fueled by a pandemic that induced both health and economic crises, and in turn, created great challenges within the community.

“The pandemic continues in 2021 and we will continue to have financial challenges. The fear of eviction will not disappear, businesses will struggle to survive and the demand for equity and justice for our diverse population will not be satisfied by superficial political promises,” Hurst said. “Still, I have hope for a better future in 2021. I believe the Mayor; the City staff and the City Council all want the best for Lynnwood.”

“2020 was a challenge, to say the least,” Mayor Smith began. “We were impacted by the global pandemic which has threatened our health and economy, we’ve witnessed political turmoil and acts of violence that have threatened our democracy, we’ve seen racial injustices and inequities brought to a national spotlight, and we have been impacted by the chaos this last year has brought upon our nation. Through all of this struggle, I see hope... 2021 brings new hope on the horizon.”

Sound Transit and Major Development

Mayor Smith then moved into the city’s strategic plan, including a continued dedication to fulfilling the community vision for the City Center and Lynnwood Link Lightrail.



nwood Link Lightrail. Sound Transit’s link extension is anticipated as a major catalyst to the growth of the city, says Smith. Construction has commenced on the city center station and parking garage.

In 2021, Sound Transit will begin the planning of the city of Everett’s link extension, the next chapter in linking the region together via light rail, says Smith. The design of the Community Transit Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit has also been approved by the Lynnwood City Council and a development agreement between the transit and Lynnwood has been approved by the council to move this project forward.

With large transportation projects in the works, the City Center is taking shape, and with the completion and continued construction of apartment buildings and hotels- that vision is now becoming a reality, she continued.

“Our vision for City Center is a vibrant central core with mixed-use residential and commercial space that is easily accessible by pedestrians, bikes, and cars,” Smith said.

A 19-acre mixed-use development agreement dubbed Northline Village is

completed, with the design expected to transform Lynnwood square into space for the community to live, work and gather adjacent to City Center Station through new opportunities in retail, entertainment, office, living, gathering

places, and community parks.

Additional development of new construction and improvements will commence, finalizing the City Center’s transformation, as well as outside of the area such as additional multi-family housing, dining, and retail.

Economic Development & Supporting Businesses

Mayor Smith also said that with an anticipated influx of new residents and commuters, the city is following its Economic Development Action Plan, to diversify the economic base, identify opportunities to grow mixed-use centers, and accommodate new retail trends.

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WAGRO: Connecting opportunities for the Latinx community

By MARIO LOTMORE

LYNNWOOD, Wash., February 12, 2021 – The WAGRO Foundation opens a physical location here in Lynnwood located at 16825 48th Ave. W, Suite 409.

WAGRO, founded by Councilwoman Dr. Julieta Altamirano-Crosby and Patrick Crosby in 2012, has been serving communities in Washington state and Guerrero, Mexico. Its mission is to develop and promote tools that elevate families by focusing on the areas of health, education, art, and science.

The name of the organization means Washington (WA) and Guerrero (GRO); Dr. Altamirano-Crosby was born and raised in Guerrero, and she currently serves as a City of Lynnwood Councilmember. She and her husband initially founded WAGRO to help Latinos and Indigenous Mexican students find academic success in Washington.

“I want to make sure everyone feels welcome here in Lynnwood,” said Dr. Altamirano-Crosby. “If you need anything, we are happy to connect you. All you have to do is email or call us.”

Daniela Altamirano-Crosby, President of WAGRO, and a recent graduate of the



The inauguration of its new office on February 8 was attended by some of WAGRO’s Board of Directors, Lynnwood City Council Vice President, Jim Smith, along with Lynnwood’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee member Josh Binda. Source: Lynnwood Times.

University of Washington in Political Science and International Relations currently leads the organization.

“Our vision as a non-profit is to be a social organization focused on creating bridges of connection through programs, services and resources with equity, inclusion and diversity being part of that ethical commitment,” said Daniela Altamirano-Crosby.

Last year WAGRO partnered with the University of Washington to assist in providing drive thru COVID Testing

at the Lynnwood Food Bank. This year it aims to promote the availability of COVID vaccinations to the Latinx community.

In 2019, WAGRO ran its a NASA WAGRO summer camp at Everett Community College, Totem Middle School in Marysville and Take the Next Step in Monroe. It is in the process of facilitating another NASA camp this summer.

Daniela also shared that her goal this year will be to bridge the gap in SAT

and ACT scores between Latinx youth and their fellow peers.

The inauguration of its new office was attended by some of WAGRO’s Board of Directors, Lynnwood City Council Vice President, Jim Smith, along with Lynnwood’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee member Josh Binda.

“WAGRO signifies hope, it signifies unity, it signifies love,” said Smith. “[WAGRO] makes it where we are all one big happy family here in Lynnwood.”

WAGRO’s other board members are: Joshua Binda, Lily Nichols, Karina Gasperin, Liz Jones, Ken Razo, Maria Casey, Lupita Zamora, and Jennifer Martin. Dr. Isabel Carrera Zamanillo, Maria Bergen and Michelle Dafne Powell serve as on WAGRO’s Advisory Board.

The WAGRO Foundation is located at 16825 48th Ave. W, Suite 490 in Lynnwood. To make a donation or to learn more about WAGRO’s opportunities visit <https://www.facebook.com/WAGROAssociation> or call 206-657-6211.

Local Black voices in business



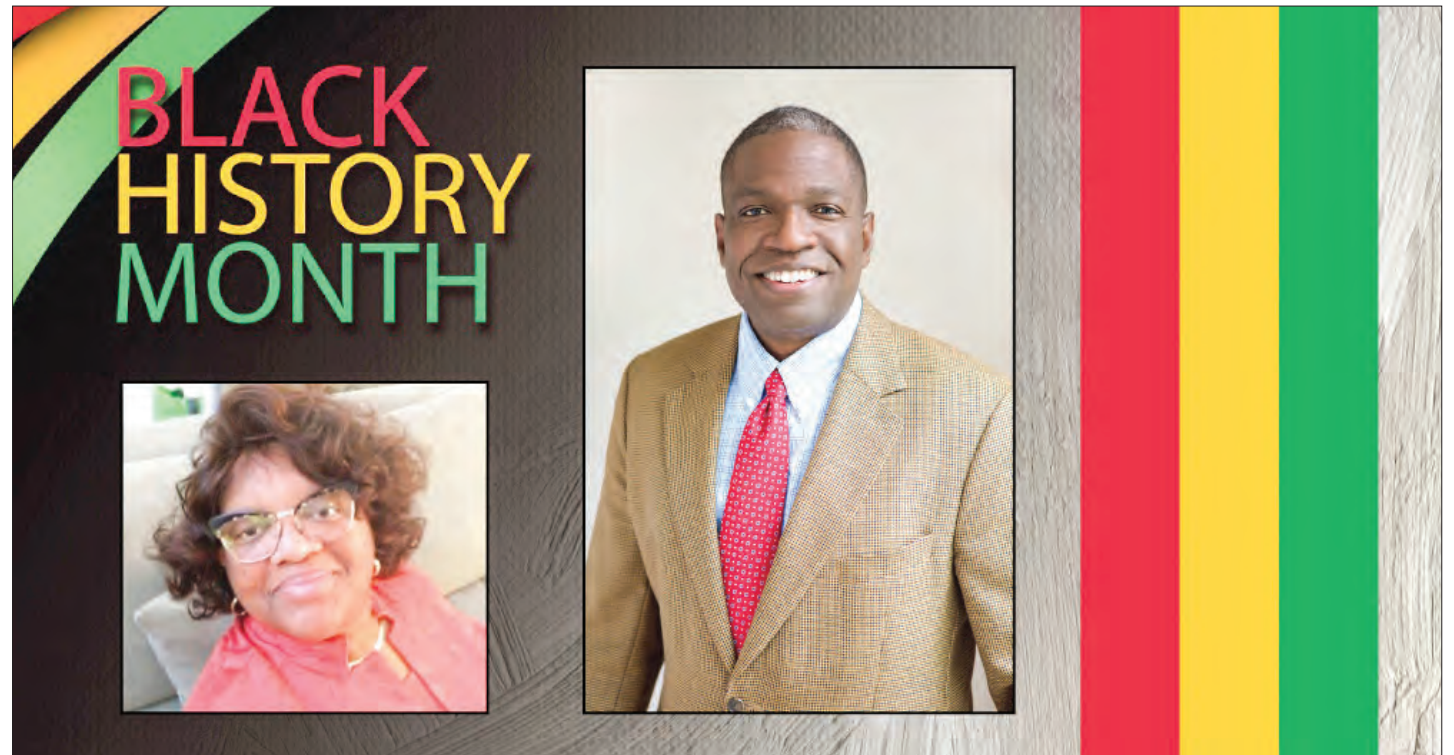
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By **ERIN FREEMAN**

Black History Month honors Black Americans and their contributions throughout February each and every year. In recognizing Black History Month, two local entrepreneurs reflect on their journeys, celebrating their accomplishments and recognizing how they broke down barriers and foraged their paths.

UW's first Black woman Civil Engineering graduate- Tanya Jimale

Tanya Jimale, the first African American woman to graduate with a civil engineering degree from the University of Washington (UW), became aware of her built environment at an early age.

During the Space Needle's construction for the upcoming Seattle World's Fair in 1962, Jimale and her father, a WWII veteran who demolished and rebuilt roads for troops in Burma, would jump into his old Ford every Saturday, driving along an under-construction road absent of traffic signal lights. Curious about it, she became attentive to observing her surroundings as they drove, noticing exit ramps curving off to the right like tree branches, lined with what she interpreted to be bean bags- really barricades to keep vehicles from driving off the sides of unfinished Interstate - 5 freeway.

"Oh, they're waiting for you to finish it," Jimale's father remarked what she questioned what they were. "I believed him. At an early age, I was told I had to fix that road but didn't know how to."

"It's amazing how your parents can influence you," she continued. "That's how I got started... I give that to my dad."

Jimale went on to pursue and graduate with a degree in civil engineering from the UW College of Engineering in 1982. While proficient in her studies, she struggled socially, being one of only a few Black students in Moore Hall, the college of Civil Engineering. Her involvement with the university was withdrawn, not an active student on campus, focusing on her academics and working to pay for her tuition.

Following her graduation, Jimale worked as an engineer for a decade but became unhappy with the mindset

and structure within the corporate environments.

"My spirit was being led towards [entrepreneurship] but I didn't know it yet," she said.

In 1993, she pivoted professions following the passing of her father, realizing her valuing the fostering of relationships over corporate expectations.

"My father died at 7:30 a.m. June 2nd, 1993," she said. I was in my office by 9:30 a.m. June 2nd, 1993. I turned in my resignation at 10 a.m. on June 2nd, 1993. I felt safe because I knew what was important to me. That was the spark of my entrepreneurship."

Recognizing she was not meant to be someone's employee but rather an entrepreneur, she founded Jimale Technical Services (JTS) in 1993, now contracting with large consulting firms and public agencies offering construction management and project control services.

She reinstated her relationship with the UW Foster School of Business over a decade later, to improve her business skills and provide practicum opportunities to graduates and other community members through JTS.

"I believe in allowing someone an opportunity to help them grow," said Jimale. "There's a passion within the African American culture to lift as we climb; you've got to bring someone along with you as you grow."

Dixon Insurance Agency, LLC – Michael Dixon

Mike Dixon, agent-owner of Dixon Insurance Agency, a captive Farmers Insurance exclusive agency, in Mukilteo, never saw himself in an entrepreneurial role.

Growing up in the Virgin Islands, a United States island territory in the Caribbean, Dixon excelled as a student, achievement he attributes to his self-pride and strong work ethic, foundational values in his parent's culture ingrained within him at a young age.

His success as a student, particularly in his advanced mathematical abilities, led to his acceptance

into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1984. Upon leaving the Caribbean and enrolling in the university in Cambridge, he had every intention to pursue a degree in engineering.

For two years, Dixon was a self-described disillusioned engineering major, quickly realizing he did not enjoy engineering. He withdrew for two years, working full time in new car sales following a stint with a vehicle locator virtual inventory startup.

There, he learned that rather than using the application of science and math to solve problems, like in engineering, he held a passion for solving problems with people, reenrolling at MIT. He then discovered business to be a much better fit, particularly in sales and marketing.

In 1990, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Management Sciences with concentrations in Finance and Economics. He went on to receive a Master of Business Administration in Corporate Financial Management in 1998 from MIT following time working on Wall Street, the Virgin Islands local government, and investment banking.

Dixon says he decided to continue his education after realizing that he wanted to create value but didn't know how or where. His continuation finetuned his interest in business, preparing him to eventually own one.

He started a business while in graduate school full-time, leading to his winning of the annual Entrepreneurship Competition at MIT. Following graduation, he worked in a variety of business and marketing manager roles, overseeing millions of dollars at bigCo companies, one of which brought him to Mukilteo in 2007.

Wanting his young children to grow up in one consistent place, similar to his upbringing, he established roots in the area. Noticing room for growth, he began applying his personal leadership to solving practical problems in the community.

"I felt like I could contribute something," Dixon said.

In 2012 he served two terms as

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Snohomish Black Heritage Committee honors Dr. King Jr.

By NOEL PAI-YOUNG

Hosted at the First Presbyterian Church located in Everett, the Snohomish Black Heritage Committee hosted an event for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The theme was, “crawl, walk, run, soar,” in reference to King’s exhortation to action for the advancement of civil rights and the fight against racism and segregation.

Chair of the Greater Everett MLK Celebration Committee and Snohomish County Human Services Case Manager, DanVo’nique Bletson-Reed, shared with the Lynnwood Times that Everett has been celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day since the first year of the holiday in 1983, a few years before it became a nationally recognized holiday in 1986.

The keynote speaker was JJ Frank, a pastor with Bible Way Victory Community Church of God in Christ and the Executive Director of Marysville’s YMCA.

Frank shared a message of the dangers of believing lies and falling into hate and division.

“Some of the hate that you see on the national level has been spilling into our communities and right on our doorstep,” said Frank. “You must turn to Jesus and seek truth.”

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth,” Frank read from John 1:14 regarding grace and truth.

Pastor Aaron Thompson from Marysville Foursquare Church followed Frank with an opening prayer recanting another story from the Book of John – Jesus speaking to the Samaritan women. This was considered culturally rebellious during the time of Jesus.

Thompson’s message reminded listeners that like Jesus, King showed courage by confronting the social barriers of his day.

Students and young adults from the Snohomish Black Heritage Committee, Black Student Union, NAACP Youth Works, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth also spoke at the event.

Ja’Syrie Darby, raised in a musical



Lynnwood Times | Noel Pai-Young. Community members remembering the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at First Presbyterian Church.

family and church worship, sang the National Anthem. A 2020 Mariner High School graduate, Darby shared her story of succeeding to have the Black National Anthem as part of high school’s tradition in celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Noah Jackson, also raised in a musical family, played piano and sang, “A Change Is Gonna Come,” by Sam Cooke. An original writer, Jackson uses music as a tool to communicate and inspire.

When speaking with the Lynnwood Times, Julien Odem, a student at Jackson High School, stated that mass incarceration and gentrification are issues that need to be addressed. He warned against miseducation and the impact it has on society.

Zoe Yates, student from Monroe High School and Black Student Union President quoted Dr. King. “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle.”

“When you have a tough conversation about racial inequality, you are making a difference. When you educate yourself on white privilege and how to be an active ally to Black people, you are making a difference,” said Yates.

Yates shared with Lynnwood Times that something she encourages all to do is to take responsibility for personal action and to embody the change they hope to see.

Representation for Black owned businesses was also present. Owner of Black Coffee Northwest Cafe and community activist DarNesha Weary was accompanied by her goddaughter who made an opening statement for Weary’s address.

“Today is the day that you start something new... Go back to your same job with a different strategy to disrupt, go back to your churches, the same building, and disrupt racism. Push the Black agenda and make sure that’s always a priority. You show up and do what you need to do,” said

Weary. Weary shared that 2020 was a hard year for her and her business because of discrimination and harassment that they’ve experienced on a daily basis – a firebomb threat to her building and the vandalizing of one of her signs with swastikas.

Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02 D) as well as Raymond Miller, CEO of Vets Place Northwest, spoke to attendees with a commitment to

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Brandy Donaghy: A U.S. Navy veteran hoping to break barriers in County Government



By MARIO LOTMORE

Snohomish County, Wash., February 16, 2021 – Brandy Donaghy kicked off her run for Snohomish County Council Position 5 last Saturday with a zoom Meet & Greet fundraising event. The event brought out scores of supporters including current County Councilmembers Megan Dunn and Jared Mead.

“Brandy is someone who is guided by strong Democratic values of course,” said Mead. “But she is also someone who is very openminded. She is intellectually curious and seeks out multiple sides to issues before she makes a decision.”

“Brandy will be the first woman elected to this county council position, this specific position,” Mead continued. “She will also have the chance to make our County Council majority female for the first time in our County’s history which is an exciting prospect and an exciting idea.

“She also is potentially going to be the first African American ever elected to the County Council in Snohomish. Which is another barrier she will be breaking.”

Donaghy moved to Snohomish County in 2011 with her family. Besides being an active church volunteer, she is

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Throughout the pandemic, while the city has been working to support current businesses, Mayor Smith revealed that many continue to struggle. She anticipates full recovery for the local small business community will take time. Lynnwood is committed to cultivating a strong business climate and fostering economic growth, says Smith and will examine its processes and culture to ensure financial stability and economic success.

Road & Infrastructure Projects

“Our city is making some major investments to improve and upgrade our critical infrastructure so that we can maintain the quality of our systems and also accommodate for growth,” Smith said.

In 2021, several projects will or have already wrapped up. The city has already completed the 36th Ave. W Improvement Project, adding a roundabout, an additional signaled intersection, sidewalks, bike lanes, improved irrigation, and landscaping.

New emergency shutoff valves have been installed in Lynnwood’s water tanks. In the event of an earthquake, water can be preserved.

“Our city continues to train and prepare for all types of disasters through our Emergency Operations Center, or the EOC, and the staff assigned to respond during major events... this team has been getting real-world experience, responding to our COVID pandemic.”

Continued PAGE 06 >>

Providence gave preferential treatment to hundreds of donors for vaccine

By ERIN FREEMAN

Everett, WA- Providence Regional Medical Center gave special early access to first-dose coronavirus vaccinations to hundreds of donors, board members, and volunteers - concurrent with a countywide vaccine shortage for residents.

On January 25, hundreds of people identified for their support and service to the Everett hospital were welcomed at an invite-only clinic administering COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines. Invitations were sent on January 19 in an email from Providence General Foundation staff- the philanthropy organization raising funds to support the healthcare systems scope.

“As a courtesy to you, we are offering a special clinic for our valued Friends of Providence, Board Members and Campaign Volunteer”...we sincerely appreciate your support and service to Providence...,” wrote Chief of Philanthropy Officer Lori Kloes in the email remarking that vaccine eligibility had opened to those 65 and over, the Seattle Times reported.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, anyone 65 and older, and all people 50 and older who also live in a multigenerational household are eligible for vaccination in Phase 1B Tier 1. This is in addition to populations eligible during phase 1A including health care workers at high risk for COVID-19 infection, first responders, people who live or work in long-term care facilities, and all other workers in health settings who are at

risk of COVID-19.

In total, 245 of more than 350 invitees received their first-dose vaccination.

All who received vaccination were eligible under the state’s current Phase 1A and Phase 1B Tier 1, spokesman Casey Calamusa said in a statement. 148 volunteers, including fundraisers and people who help with tasks around the hospital like cleaning, 21 board members and 249 “Friends of Providence, Casey Calamusa told the Seattle Times., whose membership to the Friends of Providence Donor Society opens with a minimum of \$10,000 in combined donations.

Calamusa attributed the arrangement to Governor Jay Inslee’s call for hospitals to swiftly administer their supply of vaccines, reaching out to community members they’ve been in contact with meeting the state’s eligibility criteria.

“Many of these individuals also play an important role at the hospital,” she said. “The sooner we get them vaccinated the sooner they can continue their work in our facilities.”

Governor Inslee called Overlake Medical Center’s similar scenario, inviting eligible donors to get COVID-19 vaccines unacceptable.

“If in fact, they were giving preference to some VIP list, that is not the way to do it: that’s not acceptable for us,” said Inslee in a news conference. “We need to give everybody a fair shot at the vaccine.”

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Several more city projects and private projects are currently underway, explained Smith.

Safe, Welcoming, and Equitable

Mayor Smith said that the city of Lynnwood remains committed to being safe, welcoming and livable for all, sharing that local leaders have committed to using an equity lens in community improvement and interactions.

“As your mayor, I am fully committed to creating a more equitable city, and I am joined in this work by our city council, our chief of police and department directors, and our city staff. We are committed to increasing equity and removing barriers that people may experience as they attempt to access city services, participate, and live their lives as members of this community,” Smith told attendees. “We will contin-

ue working to integrate equity into everything that we do.”

To further equity in the community, Lynnwood was the first city in Snohomish County to join the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a nationwide organization advancing racial equity in local governments. The Lynnwood GARE cohort, nicknamed Team REAL (Racial Equity Advancing Lynnwood) has created a Racial Equity Action plan to apply anti-racist learnings to policies, procedures, and projects within Lynnwood.

South Lynnwood Park, located within the most racially diverse neighborhood, will undergo major renovations after years of deferred maintenance, said Smith. Additional improvements are happening throughout the city, including new playground equipment at Spruce Park and Lynndale Skate Park. The city is also working on access improvements to Scriber Lake Park and renovation of the Water Tower at Heri-

The preferential treatment Providence applied to community members’ access to vaccinations contradicts the hospital’s standard practice and values, said Calamusa, asserting that an evaluation of the process will commence ensuring their vaccination process does not raise concerns about fairness or equity again.

“We understand that in our haste to vaccinate people quickly – including certain members of our hospital community – we created the impression that some people are able to use their access to unfairly get a vaccination appointment,” she said.

Providence Health and Services has been administering vaccinations to the general public at Everett, Mill Creek, and Monroe clinics, but dosages were redirected to Snohomish County’s public drive-thru clinics due to shortage, during the week of the special-access clinic.

Due to the deficit of Moderna vaccine dosages, three mass vaccination sites in the county temporarily closed between February 1 and 2. The site at Arlington Municipal Airport, distributing the Pfizer vaccine, stayed open, while the sites at Everett’s Paine Field, Edmonds Community College and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe closed.

The Paine Field site closed permanently, with operations reconfiguring at a new indoor mass vaccination site opened at the Boeing Everett Activity Center on February 3. It is the first indoor site to open as part of the Snohomish County Vaccine Taskforce efforts.

As of February 8, residents were unable to schedule vaccine appointments at the vaccination sites due to being at max capacity because of a lack of supply. When more doses become available, more appointments will be added said the Snohomish Health District.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers said he understands eligible residents’ frustration in securing an appointment at the county-run sites, explaining that they will only recommence scheduling when sites have dosages to administer.

“We get allocation from the state, who in turn have to get allocation from the federal government,” said Somers. “If it were up to me, we would have all our sites up and running 24/7 but we just don’t have the vaccine doses we need, and we thought it was better to have vaccinations by appointment only so we did not have thousands of people lined up and waiting for hours at the vaccination sites only to be told we didn’t have enough vaccine.”

More than 76,877 Snohomish County residents have received their first dose. Snohomish County received just over 9,000 doses the week beginning January 31, with nearly 200,000 people eligible under Phase 1a and 1b1 competing for limited slots for their first or second dose.

With a limited supply of available vaccines, only 18,416 residents have received their second dosages as of February 13, 2021.

tage Park is now underway.

All park and city facilities will also be updated to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Mayor Smith then applauded the Lynnwood Police Department’s refocused approach towards a community-policing model and its efforts to diversify sworn-in officers, integrate social workers, and the partnership with Community Health Center to reduce recidivism and improve healthcare for incarcerated people housed in the Lynnwood jail and future Community Justice Center.



“An integral part of being a safe, welcoming and livable community, is the relationship between our police department and the community they serve,” Smith said.

Connecting and engaging with the community

The city of Lynnwood’s state of address commenced similar to how it began, with a recognition of the impact the coronavirus has had on the community, ending with how it reimagined local leaders’ commitment to residents.

Mayor Smith announced that in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic, the city of Lynnwood is turning its focus on community resiliency. The model will help support all members of the community.

one for the record books,” Smith said. We will never forget this year. But as we look back, I hope we can remember how Lynnwood faced these unforeseen challenges, that our dedicated employees worked hard to support our community during this time, that community members made sacrifices for the greater good, and that community organizations rallied to support our neighbors in need.”

A Response to the State of the City from City Council President George Hurst

In an exclusive interview with the Lynnwood Times, Hurst commended the mayor’s State of the City address but shared it lacked a “key component” – housing.

“She [the mayor] mentioned all the construction we have going on... These are all market ready apartments,” said Hurst. “My concern is that what is being built in Lynnwood is either apartment buildings or 900 thousand to million-dollar homes. And we know homes for the missing middle are not being built in our city.”

Hurst shared that for years housing has been used as a tool for racial inequity and systemic racism. He would like to see the city commit to a policy in which all income levels can live in Lynnwood.

“This is the key to have real diversity, equity and inclusion in Lynnwood. It is great to have all the welcome stickers, but we need real policies to have all peoples live in Lynnwood.”

“In closing...2020 was without a doubt

Continued PAGE 07 >>

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EXCLUSIONS APPLY

from page 6 **STATE OF LYNNWOOD**

San Francisco architect Danial Parolek coined the term “Missing Middle Housing” in 2011, “to define the gap in housing between single family homes and larger condo buildings and to provide resources to enable communities to meet the growing demand for walkable urban living,” according to his LinkedIn profile.

Hurst expressed that this would increase the accessibility of housing to first time homebuyers, seniors who would like to downsize, and/or those with a moderate income by creating inventory for homes 300-600 thousand dollars in value such as: condos, townhomes, duplexes and triplexes, which are currently not being built in Lynnwood.

“Homeownership is a way to wealth building...build capital...and provide opportunities for wealth equity, said Hurst. “The city should start creating more opportunities to build wealth for BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color] groups.”

For Middle Missing Housing to be a reality in Lynnwood, the city council would need to review and change current codes and zoning Hurst told the Lynnwood Times. He shared that developers have told him the zoning in Lynnwood prohibits this opportunity for housing.

“It is something the city council has to

from page 2 **VOTER ID**

with Rep. Larsen because more must be done to reverse these unjust laws and ensure that Americans are able to safely and effectively participate in our democracy through voting.”

Restrictive voter identification laws perpetuate systemic disenfranchisement of certain populations in the United States. February is Black History Month, a reminder of the discriminatory barriers to voting Black Americans have faced since the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution passed in 1870. The Brennan Center estimates 25 percent of Black voting-age citizens do not have a form of government-issued identification, compared to just eight percent of White voting-age citizens.

Restrictive voter identification laws also disenfranchise transgender Americans who might not have identification that correctly recognizes their gender. Of the nearly 900,000 transgender adults eligible to vote in states where elections were not conducted entirely by mail during the 2020 general election, more than 40 percent had no identification documents that reflected their correct name and/or gender.

look at. We have to change our zones and codes because there isn't that much land to develop in Lynnwood.”

Continued PAGE 08 >>

from page 5 **MLK DAY**

fighting systemic racism.

“Martin Luther King, Jr. was an agitator, he was an activist, he made trouble — good trouble — necessary trouble, but he did not accept the status quo,” said Miller. “He stood up to authority... He and his followers participated in civil disobedience by peacefully protesting unjust laws and practices.”

The committee is already planning next year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event and they encourage others to get involved and attend.

from page 5 **DONAGHY**

a community educator, organizer, and has served on several boards and committees.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a concentration in Management Information Systems from the University of Washington – Bothell. Donaghy is a U.S. Navy veteran with an appreciation for the arts, enjoys cooking, and an avid reader.

“I was raised with the understanding that it's both an honor and responsibility to serve my community, and I know that I can make a positive difference on the Snohomish County Council,” Donaghy told the Lynnwood Times. “I'm so proud of those around me who have stepped forward to serve in their own ways, from the federal legislature to local small church volunteers. I'm inspired by everyone who decides to serve their community.”

Donaghy told attendees she is running to “create resilient strong communities.”

“As time goes on, we are going to see an increase in homelessness because we are going to see an end to the eviction moratorium. We already have housing issues with lack of affordable housing in the County. It is only going to get worse. We need to start building our response to that now in ways that are sustainable and will save us money going forward in the future.”

Donaghy shared that she will bring an approach that is “more proactive” than the current representative for the district.

“Being reactive doesn't help overall; it is a band aid,” said Donaghy. “It is not a long-term solution. We need to shift to be more proactive and that means building in more community resiliency.”

Donaghy is endorsed by: Jared Mead (D), Snohomish County Council Position 4, Megan Dunn (D), Snohomish County Council Position 2, Representative April Berg (LD44 D), Representative John Lovick (LD44 D), Representative Cindy Ryu (LD32 D), Everett City Councilwoman Liz Vogeli, Mill Creek Councilwoman Stephanie Vignal, Deborah Kilgore, Edmonds School District President, Mary Dickinson, Karen Guzak, and David Simpson.

“When it comes down to it though, I'm truly thankful for everyone who has placed their faith in me, and as the campaign moves forward, I look forward to engaging and earning the support of additional community groups and leaders and sharing their values in our campaign,” Donaghy shared with the Lynnwood Times.

To learn more about candidate Brandy Donaghy or to donate to her campaign, visit <https://brandyforcouncil.com/>.

Affordable Housing is Washington's No. 1 real estate problem



By

Welcome home! My name is Jeff Schumacher, a real estate broker with Keller Williams CPRE, LLC, one of the top producing offices in Washington state that provides advance technology for brokers. While being on the front lines of real estate, I am here to share with you the urgent need for affordable housing reform. Our local government needs to listen more to local professionals and individuals.

One of the main core problems to affordable housing has actually been Homeowner Association (HOA) restrictions. It is much easier for government to regulate the small business landlords rather than the big business of HOAs with its plethora of lobbying organizations, attorneys, and property management companies.

In my humble opinion, many HOAs discourage renters with strict rental caps by allowing only a small percentage of renters to live within a community. For many, this is the only option to affordable housing in some of the best school districts in Snohomish County.

During COVID-19 our State government is considering imposing a Capital Gains Tax (SB 5096) and an Eviction Ban (SB 5160) that will encourage small landlords to terminate their services which could result in renters being left with alternative sources of living such as: the streets, shelters, family, or friends.

Together as a local community, we can truly make a difference to providing affordable housing solutions. Below are a few simple ideas that require cooperation from all parties involved:

- 1) State government to make a law prohibiting rental caps of less than 40% within Homeowner Associations. The more rental units available, will increase affordable housing access.
- 2) More HOA's and property managers need to learn about the benefits of the FHA loan program which is one of the best opportunities for buyers to purchase an affordable home.
- 3) An agency should hold HOAs accountable by allowing residents to submit a complaint for:
HOA discrimination, HOA state law violations, and HOA financial fraud investigations within one year of the alleged occurrence.
- 4) HOAs should be required to provide an annual survey disclosing percentage of renter occupied units. Financial lenders have the right to know more of an accurate record of homeowner occupancy.
- 5) HOAs should be required to disclose its annual budget, income, expenses, and residences should receive a copy of all expense invoices.
- 6) HOAs should only have the authority to enforce health, safety, structural integrity, parking, and common area elements. HOA's should not be regulating aesthetics such as the color of a flower.
- 7) The State should establish homeless shelters that provide food, basic health care, showers, drug rehabilitation, psychological therapy, and work force training.

I am honored to announce that even during the challenging year of 2020, our Keller Williams CPRE, LLC firm completed over 1,400 real estate transactions and over 820 Million dollars in volume. Contact us to learn more about how my real estate firm is truly one of the top producers in Washington.

For more information about SB 5096 or SB 5160 contact the Rental Housing Association of Washington at www.RHAWA.org.

Jeff Schumacher, License 112102, Keller Williams CPRE, LLC
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from page 1 **DR. CHRIS SPITTERS**

more than we feared in terms of scope and impact on society. In many cases, it's honestly exceeded what we thought was possible."

Dr. Spitters and his team were understandably anxious as information was coming out. However, he shared that fear surrounding the uncertainty has settled and much more is known about the county's increased knowledge around the virus and its properties.

Seeing his role as a duty and a responsibility, Dr. Spitters considers the short and long-term effects of his decisions. He also models resiliency and compassion — stating it is important to keep focus as the objective is to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases.

As a powerful figure in the public eye, Dr. Spitters has faced widespread public criticism regarding pandemic-induced challenges such as isolation, and economic hardship arising in response to county orders created with the public's health and wellbeing in mind. He shared that juggling the county's pandemic-response and people's reactions to the response is a balancing act.

"You need to listen to what people are saying and take that into account," said Spitters. "We try to address those concerns where can or use the feedback to help inform future decisions when possible. At the same time, we need to keep a focus on what our north star is. In public health, that's to control and prevent the spread of any dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases."

Dr. Spitters reinforced the credit of his success to his team and the community.

"The thing with public health is that

it can be hard to prove when control efforts work," continued Spitters. "You can't always quantify what didn't happen as a result of our efforts. What has kept me sane is not hoarding responsibility or decision-making. I have a great team and I rely upon their expertise and input."

Stephanie Wright, Chair of Board of Health and County Council says she holds gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Spitters' daily commitment to serving the team and all of Snohomish County — picked off of his merit, he exceeded expectations. She described Spitters as, "approachable," and, "a true team player."

Katie Curtis, Prevention Services Director at Snohomish Health District and Carrie Parker, Prevention Services Assistant Director at Snohomish Health District, both reiterated Dr. Spitters' recollection of the beginning of the pandemic being a shock — with gruesome hours and distressing rapid changes to their workdays.

Shawn Frederick, Administrative Officer of the Snohomish Health District commented, "Dr. Spitters' calm and steadfast leadership throughout the pandemic has been critical to what we've overcome and accomplished in 2020."

According to the Snohomish Health Districts website, as of February 17, 2021, there has been a total of 28,352 confirmed COVID cases and tragically 492 related deaths in the county within the last year — numbers that could be much higher if we didn't have mitigation to the effects of the virus in place.

Please join the Lynnwood Times in thanking Dr. Chris Spitters, his team, and the community of Snohomish County.

When asked if he is considering running for mayor, Hurst told the Lynnwood Times that he has been asked to run but for now he will focus on establishing sound city policies.

"I have been asked to run and I have not decided yet. I have just been elected to be the president of the council and I really would like to focus on getting things going as far as the council," Hurst said. "The council needs to reassert itself as far as leadership and policy."

pursue his dreams, but acknowledges racial injustices need to be addressed that create barriers for others to pursue their own.

Reflecting on the realities of the racial constructs and the challenges created in the past, Dixon cited a compilation of essays he read while studying at MIT, one about the Black experience of a math prodigy during a time where it was illegal to read due to slavery.

"What would it be like to have talent like that trapped in a body trapped in a society trapped in a race structure that makes it illegal to do something you're really good at and you could benefit the world in?" Dixon reflected.

"For me, I can't imagine what that would've been like to not be able to do the thing that gives me joy, that I happen to have a talent for. Those are the things that I'm thankful for."

from page 7 **STATE OF LYNNWOOD**

Hurst continued that other opportunities for Lynnwood residents would be a tenet-landlord policy that facilitates rental inspection to make sure rental units are up to code and safe to inhabit; and diving into third party utility billing.

"We are finding that City Apartments and Scriber Lake Reserve have a third party managing the utilities...the utility credits are not being passed down to the residents. We need to look into that."

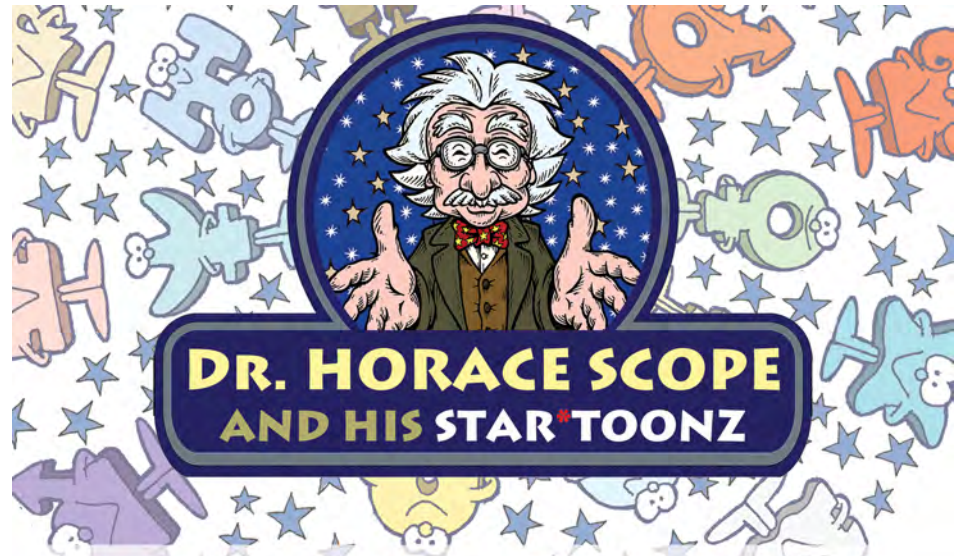
from page 4 **BLACK VOICES**

Alderwood's wastewater district commissioner.

As he became more involved, his interest in starting a local small business sparked. Dixon celebrated his Farmers Insurance Agency's grand opening on September 14, 2020, serving Mukilteo as a risk manager and advisor for life, home, auto, toys, business and personal liability.

"It's a good mix of all my interests," Dixon said. "Putting down roots in my local community, applying what I bring to bear for what I have to offer to serve my community, and make the town a better place. To be able to do all of that and make a living is a good thing."

Dixon says he feels a sense of responsibility to the country, as it has provided him with an environment to



"The Answer Always Lies in the Stars!"

On January 30th the planet Mercury went "retrograde". This means that from the viewpoint of the Earth it appears to go backwards in the sky. It's an optical illusion of course. But it can indicate that *communications, travel, contracts and other Mercury-related issues* are unreliable. Now this doesn't affect everyone - just those who have sensitive points in their birthchart where traveling Mercury is. Definitely a time for **double-checking things!**

-  **ARIES:** Backwards. Forwards. I don't really mind as long as I can move. Just don't hold me back with this kind of thing - although I'd better double-check my workout schedule I guess!
-  **TAURUS:** I don't hurry into anything anyway, so this is a bit of the "same-old, same-old" for me. That said, it'd be hard for me to change plans anyway as I am somewhat stubborn!
-  **GEMINI:** Read the small print! Read the small print! That's what I've been told in the past and it was good advice. I'm normally no good at focusing on details - too busy chatting!
-  **CANCER:** I tend to operate on my emotions. So I find that my feelings often dictate my actions. As a result, I guess it does make sense to double-check my ingredients before I cook!
-  **LEO:** I usually have others check-out on things like this, as I'm too busy being me. However, maybe I should double-check the people who are double-checking things for me right now huh?
-  **VIRGO:** Checking details is my thing. Nothing is too small to grab my attention. But I know stress like this can lead to illness - so I'd better double-check my double-checking immediately!
-  **LIBRA:** On balance I'm pretty level-headed and tend not to rush in to commit to anything spontaneously, which does slow me down. Maybe indecisiveness is not a bad thing right now!
-  **SCORPIO:** OK, so I guess I'll be somewhat cautious for a while. Although you won't know what I do when I do it - as I prefer to let the poker face conceal my actions anyway!
-  **SAGITTARIUS:** I'm pretty adventurous and speculative when I act. Although I would hate to think my travel plans could be interrupted in some way. Hmmm? Better find time to check!
-  **CAPRICORN:** I tend to be a bit of cautious type anyway, as long-term goals are normally my thing. However, being that there's a lot of paperwork involved usually, I'd better check!
-  **AQUARIUS:** Nobody tells me what to do - Mercury or otherwise. That said, if caution will protect my independence and individuality, I'll definitely check things out before going for it!
-  **PISCES:** I don't know if I have the focus to check the small print with anything, as I tend to float through life anyway. Although I am still paying for the last time it happend. Hmmm?

FEBRUARY 01 / VENUS in AQUARIUS: Affairs of the heart (or art) can be quite liberating and unusual right now.

FEBRUARY 04 / MOON'S LAST QUARTER: Go with the flow emotionally - wind down things & recharge the batteries.

FEBRUARY 09 / SATURN SEXTILE CHIRON: Past issues could surface right now and motivate long-term changes.

FEBRUARY 11 / NEW MOON in AQUARIUS: Go with the flow emotionally - time to think of new plans or objectives.

FEBRUARY 17 / SATURN SQUARE URANUS: A good opportunity to shake up the old and embrace the new.

FEBRUARY 18 / SUN in PISCES: A time to consider escaping physical realities - or creatively daydreaming even.

FEBRUARY 19 / MOON'S FIRST QUARTER: Go with the flow - start to implement your ideas for that new project.

FEBRUARY 20 / MERCURY GOES DIRECT: At last any miscommunications or delays should begin to phase out now.

FEBRUARY 25 / VENUS in PISCES: Affairs of the heart (or art) could drift into romantic fantasyland right now.

FEBRUARY 27 / FULL MOON in VIRGO: Go with the flow - a time to complete that new project of yours.

Do you want to learn astrology yourself? Why not read a good book!

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