



THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022 YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

*Serve to
 Change Lives*

CHRIS WHITACRE BIG EVENT LOGISTICS



A 1997 graduate of Eisenhower High School, Chris Whitacre has developed a unique career based upon his education and experience in structural engineering. Rather than building bridges, skyscrapers, or buildings of any sort, Chris entered the entertainment and event industry.

When we watch a live performance on television, coverage of news events such as a Presidential Inaugural Parade, or the Stanley Cup hockey finals, we are focused on the actors, players, and participants. However, for us to enjoy these productions, there is a team behind the scenes to make sure all goes smoothly and – perhaps most importantly – safely. Theater lights, theater rigging, and all the other equipment that allows the filming to take place, have to be installed correctly.

Chris is the man the producers of the Tony Awards, Jesus Christ Superstar and Annie Live on NBC, the Pope's visit to the United States, and countless other events turn to for hiring and oversight of all these skilled workers--it is Chris who ultimately says the show can go on! He will be visiting us with a box of security badges he has been issued and will use them as a springboard for telling stories about how he found his way into this business and a selection of backstage drama.

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, January 21, 2022, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Peter Finch
 Superintendent
 West Valley School District #208
Classification: Public School Administration
 Proposed by: John Adkison
 Endorsed by: Becky Scholl

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Invocation – Bob Hall
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Soni Alexander
 Program – John Baule

MLK JR. COMMUNITY CELEBRATION IS GOING VIRTUAL

Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases, Monday's MLK Jr. Community-wide Peace Walk and Celebration scheduled for Monday are switching over to a virtual event that will begin at 1:00pm. Participating in the program are many of our own members; Adrienne Garner, Rev. Robert Trimble, Dr. Trevor Greene, Honorable Elisabeth Tutsch, and the Honorable Sonia Rodriguez True as the keynote speaker. The program outline is included here. The link to attend is <https://bit.ly/3JYaGdL>.

Martin
 LUTHER KING JR.
 57th ANNUAL CELEBRATION
 JUSTICE AND EQUITY, FOR ALL PEOPLE, IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Program Outline

Welcome	Ms. Adrienne Garner
Opening Prayer	Rev. Robert Trimble
Land Acknowledgement	Dr. Trevor Greene
Master of Ceremonies	Mr. Ryan McDaniel
Pledge of Allegiance	Students from Whitney & Borge-Lincoln Elementary
National Anthem	Ms. Noel Cisneros
Negro National Anthem	Mr. Tyler Boachamp
Greetings	Councilwoman Patricia Bayers
MLK Jr. Proclamation Reading	Yakima City Council Representative
Lee Padgett Food Drive Award Introduction	Ms. Heather Hastie & Mr. Eric Diener
Spirit of the Dream Award Introduction	Mr. Ryan McDaniel
Spirit of the Dream Award Recipients	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima County Latino Community Fund Homeless Network of Yakima County
Keynote Introduction	Honorable Elisabeth M. Tutsch
Keynote Speaker	Honorable Sonia Rodriguez True
Student Speaker Introduction	Mr. Ryan McDaniel
Student Speakers	Cleopatra Kuk, AC Davis HS Elthel Alomeneh, Eisenhower HS
Closing Comments	Mr. Ryan McDaniel
Closing Prayer	Rev. W.F. Priddy
Closing Song	Rev. Robert Trimble

Presentations by: African American Dancers & Native American Dancers
Subject to Change

CITY OF YAKIMA P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all, and challenged all Americans to participate in the never-ending work of building a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's teachings can continue to guide and inspire us in addressing challenges in our communities, and the King Holiday and Service Act, enacted in 1994, designated the King Holiday as a national day of a volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, millions of Americans have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities on the King Holiday, and serving on the King Holiday is an appropriate way to honor Dr. King, meet local and national needs, bring our citizens together, and strengthen our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, the King Day of Service is the only federal holiday commemorated as a national day of service, and offers an opportunity for Americans to give back to their communities on the holiday and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, King Day of Service projects are being organized by a wide range of nonprofit and community organizations, educational institutions, public agencies, private businesses, and other organizations across the nation; and

WHEREAS, each of us can and must contribute to making our communities better with increased opportunity for all citizens, and citizens of Yakima, Washington have the opportunity to participate in events throughout our city on the King Day of Service, January 17th, 2022, NOW THEREFORE, the Yakima City Council does hereby proclaim the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday as a

DAY of SERVICE

and call upon the people of Yakima to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King Day and throughout the year.

- REVIEW -

Our Zoom meeting this week was fun and joyful that began with greetings from Bob Gerst and Courtney Beckler, followed by a wonderful solo of America the Beautiful by Charlie Robin and a prayer of hope for the weary by Amy Maib inspired by a Grace Noll Powell poem. President John oversaw a unanimous vote of approval for Neiri Carrasco, Casey Corr and Dan Sullivan as candidates for the position of board director to begin July 1, 2022. Adrienne Garner thanked those who donated food, money, and time to help with the family food box distribution taking place as part of our community MLK Jr. Day celebrations and encouraged everyone to participate in the community-wide Sunday church service and Monday virtual program. Doug Rich wrapped up Rotary business with a baseball themed sergeant-at-arm.

Our featured speaker was MLB pitcher Tyler Wells. Introduced by his friend Corey Gibson, Tyler made his major league debut for the Baltimore Orioles in 2021. He ended the season with the highest strikeout to walk ratio of all major league baseball rookies, the top ten lowest batting average against all rookies, and the lowest WHIP rate in major league history.

Tyler began his presentation by sharing that his journey began when his mom passed away from cancer when he was 4 years old of cancer. He was a troubled child and was bullied a lot. He didn't have friends and didn't get along with a lot of people; that made him an easy target. Baseball became his outlet. Through baseball he found a group of people that understood him, got to know him, and made it easier for him to socialize. It became a constant and a way to forget about the death that he was experiencing. The first 13 years of his life he lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He moved to Morgantown, West Virginia for 4 years, and then to Southern California where he finished half of his junior year and senior year.

He hasn't always been as big as he is today (6' 8" and 260 pounds). After making it through middle school, he tried out for high school baseball. As a freshman he made the JV team; he was 5' 8", wasn't great, but he loved the game. His sophomore year he continued to play on JV; he was 5' 10" and still wasn't great. By his junior year he had grown to 6' 4"; all the sudden he figured out how to throw a baseball and did it okay. He became a part of an American Legion team. They were the first people that noticed him for baseball, encouraged him to continue to pursue it, and told him if he worked hard and consistently, he had a real opportunity making a living doing it. When he moved to California, his new high school coach made it miserable. He told Tyler he was too fat out of shape and needed to go train; he

was the new kid on block but still better than their home-grown kids. He received an opportunity to play on a scout team his senior year from a local Kansas City Royals scout. He was noticed by Cal State San Bernadino College and offered a scholarship. One of the reasons he had chosen Cal State was that it was close to his family. It was good for him mentally, but it became a problem when he got too comfortable – he wasn't taking care of himself and didn't work out a ton. He struggled with adversity so much earlier in life that whenever he got comfortable it was easy to quit doing what made him good at what he was doing. In a losing game one day, the coach took his anger out at him in front of the entire team. That moment made him realize how mentally tough you had to be to pursue a dream that is so difficult. He ended up working hard his sophomore year, lost 40 pounds, and ended up doing really well. In his junior year, he continued lifting and paying attention to his nutrition. After his junior year, he was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in the 15th round.

The first year in the Twins organization he ended up gaining up a lot of weight going from 270 to 310 pounds. His mentor LeTroy Hawkins sat him down and told him that he could have all the ability in the world but needed to work hard in the off season to succeed. Tyler dedicated himself to nutrition and training. He went from 310 to 255 pounds and had the best year of his career. During spring training, he tore his UCL and had Tommy John surgery year. The recovery period for surgery is one year giving him a huge opportunity to reinvent himself. That was 2019. In 2020, the season was shut down because of Covid. Because he hadn't pitched for two years, he was selected in December 2020 in the Rule 5 draft by the Baltimore Orioles. He made his MLB debut in Fenway Park. It was nerve wracking experience, he lost feeling in his feet as he made his way to the mound, his legs were shaking, and he couldn't breathe – it was also one of the coolest experiences of his life.

Being a baseball player has provided amazing opportunities. One of those was participating with a Vs. Cancer fundraiser to raise money for pediatric cancer. He is much more than a baseball player. He wants to use his name for good and to help make the world a better place. He doesn't want to be known as Tyler Wells the baseball player, but as Tyler Wells the good person who is a positive influence in other's lives whether it is giving a ball to a child or his signature. All the adversity, negative thoughts, and depression he went through is small compared to grand scheme of everything he wants to do in this world. When the new season begins, Tyler will be the Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher – I can't wait to watch him play.