

THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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ACT SO



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Aren Roberson describes how he created the drawing he entered in the finals of the NAACP's Seattle King County Branch ACT-SO Competition, Saturday, April 30, at the Masonic Temple in the Central District. The NAACP's Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics is a program designed to encourage high academic and artistic achievement among African American high school students. The winners of Saturday's competition go onto the National competition in Los Angeles in July.

Governor Nixes Pot Measure

Gregoire cites threats from federal agents in veto decision

By Mike Baker
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Gov. Chris Gregoire vetoed key parts of a bill Friday that aimed to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries, saying she could not approve a measure that might put state workers at risk of federal criminal charges.

The state's two U.S. attorneys previously told Gregoire that state employees would not be immune from prosecution for their role in regulating the industry. Prosecutors contend that the measure would create a licensing scheme that permits large-scale marijuana cultivation and distribution.

A union that represents thousands of state employees asked Gregoire to veto the bill.

"I cannot disregard federal law and our two U.S. attorneys on the chance that state employees may never be prosecuted," Gregoire said. "What do you say to them if they are? What would you tell that employee?"

The veto came just a day after federal authorities raided at least two dispensaries in Spokane. It immediately brought condemnation from advocates who noted that other states with similar laws haven't seen state workers charged.

"Unfortunately, I don't think you can get any better than the solution that was on her desk that she chose to veto," said Shankar Narayan, legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Seattle. "She should have signed the entire bill."

Federal law still prohibits marijuana for medical uses. Gregoire said she is interested in working with governors in other states on pushing to change federal law and reclassify medical marijuana as a Schedule 2 substance, putting it on par with addictive but accepted drugs such as morphine or oxycodone.

The bill sought to address murky areas of the state's medical marijuana laws. Dispensaries have popped up all around the

Clean Green Leader Shares Secrets

Rev. Robert Jeffrey to speak at May 7 Kidney Health Fest

By Christine Carson

The Rev. Dr. Robert Jeffrey Sr. is a man who puts faith into action. As pastor at Seattle's New Hope Baptist Church, Jeffrey feels his call is to help people who live in the inner city. Part of how he does this is to dig deep, literally, into the Puget Sound soil and help produce nutritious organic food for them to eat.

Jeffrey will be speaking at Northwest Kidney Centers' May 7 Kidney Health Fest for

African American Families. He is executive director of Black Dollar Days Task Force, in which the Clean Greens Farm & Market is a project. Clean Greens brings healthy, farm-fresh produce to residents of Seattle's Central District, along with information about meal planning and how to cook the fresh food for optimum nutrition and flavor.

The Kidney Health Fest, held at Van Asselt Elementary, 8311 Beacon Ave. S. in Seattle, runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free

to the whole community. Hear Jeffrey and other community leaders in a kidney talk show emceed by Angela Russell of KIRO 7 Eyewitness News, and enjoy entertainment and free health screenings. Event-goers will also be treated to healthy food samples made by local celebrity chefs and take home a free cookbook. Although the Fest focuses on African Americans, who have a higher incidence of kidney disease than the general population, everyone is welcome to attend.

A diet rich in fresh vegetables and fruit is key in maintaining good health, especially for your kidneys. According to nutrition experts, Americans eat too little fresh produce, choosing instead to fill up on processed foods. Most processed foods have way too much salt — not good for your kidneys.

Jeffrey knows firsthand the value of eating fresh, unprocessed foods. Several years ago he became severely ill with diverticulitis, which caused

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Seattle Grabs Wright in Middle of Graduation

Drafting was beginning of busy final day for the NFL draft

By Tim Booth
AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — K.J. Wright wanted to scream. The situation dictated he whisper.

When Wright wasn't taken in the third round of the NFL draft Friday, the Mississippi State linebacker knew that Saturday could get a little odd and a little

awkward. Wright knew he was going to get drafted. The problem came with the timing.

Would Wright get the phone call he's always wanted to receive in the middle of his college graduation ceremonies?

Yep.

"As soon as I got off the phone, two minutes later I had to go up there and walk across the stage," Wright said.

The drafting of Wright was the beginning

of a busy final day of the NFL draft for the Seattle Seahawks. Picking seven times in the final three rounds, Seattle addressed mostly the defensive side of the ball after spending the first two days working to better an offensive line that was a constant problem in Pete Carroll's first season.

Seattle grabbed a trio for its secondary

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