

THE SKANNER™

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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BREATHE EASY



Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr. will be speaking out about asthma rates in Seattle Friday May 20, and Saturday, May 21, keynoting this year's Green Festival-Seattle

High Asthma Rates Among Youth

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr. speaks out on Seattle's air pollution

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, will be in Seattle Friday May 20, and Saturday, May 21, keynoting this year's Green Festival-Seattle. Linking the issues of poverty and pollution, Rev Yearwood will address rising asthma rates and other health disparities from air pollution among youth and communities of color in Seattle.

"The fact that people cannot breathe clean air is un-American," Rev. Yearwood says. "Illness and death from dirty air among our most vulnerable populations — children and the elderly, particularly in

poor communities — is a direct assault on American values of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Seattle, one of our greatest American cities, deserves better."

May is National Asthma Awareness Month. The CDC recently released a report which found that asthma rates are rising sharply across the nation: 1 in 10 children and 1 in 12 adults have asthma; for African American children, it is far worse: 1 in 6 have asthma. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Seattle is one of the top 100 asthma capitals of 2011. The Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia metro area is the

18th most-polluted in the country for fine particle pollution, according to a report released by the American Lung Association.

Yearwood is the subject of a current Discovery Network feature documentary, "Hip Hop Rev," that premiered Earth Day 2011 on the Planet Green Channel. The film captures Rev Yearwood's activism and community organizing on environmental justice and climate issues in communities of color across the nation.

The documentary highlights Rev Yearwood launching environmental initia-

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Coach's Death a Tragedy

Shooting death was called avoidable; may be self-defense

By Gene Johnson
Associated Press

AUBURN, Wash. (AP) — The small cul-de-sac of beige duplexes in this Seattle suburb gave every illusion of tranquility on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Thankful for the reprieve from Pacific Northwest rain, two women cleaned their cars. Their young sons shot water guns in the shaggy grass and dandelion thicket between their driveways. A few houses over, an Indian immigrant named Jaspal Mangat sat on her stoop. Kids played basketball in the street.

Even so, strife-weary neighbors knew the idyll was unlikely to last. The adjacent public housing complex and nearby trailer parks are filled with teenagers, and it seems hardly a weekend goes by that some aren't brawling or getting into public, profane arguments with their parents — either up the street, or outside the Boys and Girls Club, or right here in the cul-de-sac.

So it was with a mixture of frustration and alarm that residents called 911 that May 1 afternoon to report that yet another fight had broken out. But this one would end much differently — with a popular middle school coach dead; with his brother staggering on a front lawn, clinging to life; with a completely avoidable tragedy that devastated two families.

"It's a shame it did happen, but it had to happen," said Dave Maun, whose house faces the cul-de-sac. "It's been building up to this. It is not a safe neighborhood."

Shannon Shelton, 22, helped coach basketball and football at Cascade Middle School. He came from a big Samoan family with athletic brothers. One of his younger brothers, Danny, 6-foot-3 and 300 pounds, is one of the University of Washington's most prized football recruits this year. It was a point of pride that promised a new future for the family. He may have escaped harm when the shooter's gun

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Libya Ends College Funding for Students

Those studying in Washington, U.S., have nothing for tuition, expenses

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — About 2,000 Libyan students who attend college in the U.S. will lose financial support after Libya stopped funding a scholarship program when the U.N. froze about \$30 billion of that country's assets.

Among the students is Abdalhamid Alkar,

one of about 40 Libyan students at Washington State University in Pullman who will see their government support end on May 31 unless the situation changes.

"This is a big problem for all of us," Alkar said Friday. "We don't have any way to support our living here."

Student visa requirements prohibit the students from working, and lack of support from their government means the students

will be left without money for tuition and living expenses.

Alkar actually graduated in May in veterinary medicine but still needs support from the Libyan government while he waits several months for permission to get a job.

"I have no funds for that," Alkar said.

Various groups at Washington State

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