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DEAR SANTA



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Sequoia 6, has her picture taken with Santa at "Holiday Magic" Dec. 10 at the Yesler Community Center. The event provided an opportunity for kids and families to have their picture taken with Santa, make holiday decorations and receive a present donated by community members and the Country Doctor. Over 600 presents were donated to the Center.

Occupy Shuts the Ports

Movement flexes muscle across the West Coast

By Terry Collins
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of Wall Street protesters blocked gates at some of the West Coast's busiest ports on Monday, causing the partial shutdown of several in a day of demonstrations they hope will cut into the profits of the corporations that run the docks.

The closures affected some of the terminals at the ports in Oakland, Calif., Portland, Ore., and Longview, Wash., though it was not immediately clear how much the shutdowns would affect operations and what the economic loss would be.

From California to as far away as Vancouver, British Columbia, protesters picketed gates, beating drums, carrying signs such as "Shutdown Wall St. on the Waterfront" and causing longer wait times for trucks.

There were a handful of arrests so far, but no major clashes with police.

While the demonstrations were largely peaceful and isolated to a few gates at each port, local officials in the union that represents longshoremen and, in some cases, port officials, determined that the conditions were unsafe for workers.

In Oakland, shipping companies and the longshoremen's union agreed to send home about 150 workers, essentially halting operations at two terminals. In Portland, authorities shuttered two terminals after arresting two people who were carrying weapons.

And in Longview, Wash., workers were sent home out of concerns for their "health and safety."

The movement, which sprang up this fall against what it sees as corporate greed and economic inequality, is focusing on the ports as the "economic engines for the elite" in its most dramatic gesture since police raids cleared out most remaining Occupy tent camps last month.

It was unclear whether demonstrators

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Shyan Selah Wins Reality TV Show

Hip Hop Network signs motivational, inspirational Seattle-based artist

Seattle's Shyan Selah has officially signed a deal with the Real Hip Hop Network, the first ever 24 hour television network dedicated exclusively to "all things Hip Hop," to license a "behind the scenes" reality show on Selah's life, career and work in the global community. Production and filming of the show will begin January 2012.

"Life: The Reality of Shyan Selah" will be centered on Shyan Selah's work as an entertainer, activist, and entrepreneur

— which was profiled in The Skanner News in 2009. Special emphasis will be placed on the launch of his internationally syndicated talk radio show, "LIFE," which will air on the Transformation Talk Radio Network, and will feature guests from his diverse network of fellow entertainers, athletes, entertainment entrepreneurs, and social activists. The show will also cover the release of Selah's new album including the recording process; Selah's signing, mentoring and developing

new talent for his record label; and his social activism, particularly with youth and education outreach. Selah grabbed the attention of the network for his unique fusion style of Rock, Soul and Hip Hop music, particularly in his song "LOVE," which is posted on YouTube, and the fact that he's made progressive and positive movements a staple in his career utilizing music to get key globally progressive messages to the people.

"To me the truth of Hip Hop,

is it's the ultimate musical hybrid of all genres. I pride my style on being live, poetic, and rebelliously soulful. Being on this network is a blessing and I'm excited to work alongside the RHN family. It is my hope that through this show and network Hip Hop will evolve," said Selah.

"Life: The Reality of Shyan Selah" will be produced by Seattle-based Raven Media Group headed by Laurence Gordon, who will also act as

Washington Mutual Signs Settlement

Bank holding company works on its third attempt at reorganization

SEATTLE (AP) — Bank holding company Washington Mutual Inc. has agreed to a settlement with some creditors involved in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case and has filed a new reorganization plan.

Washington Mutual said in a statement late Monday that the settlement will allow it to distribute more than \$7 billion to its creditors. The settlement must still be approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the

District of Delaware.

"The comprehensive settlement announced today represents a fair and reasonable recovery for the thousands of equity holders of the company who have been following this case closely for three years," Michael Willingham, chairman of the committee of equity security holders appointed in the company's Chapter 11 proceedings.

Washington Mutual's bankruptcy case is

three years old and its reorganization plans have twice been rejected by Bankruptcy Court Judge Mary Walrath. The company is hoping to exit bankruptcy protection by the end of February. It has a hearing scheduled for Jan. 11, 2012 in which the bankruptcy court will consider approval of the reorganization plan's disclosure statement. The

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