



"Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now"

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Event

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Channel 30.

Madam Wendy Jackson led the singing of the Black National Anthem 'Lift Ev'ry Voice' and also delighted the audience with the classic, "I've come too far to turn back now." Pastor Crayton Jackson of Daniels Memorial Church of God in Christ gave the invocation and the benediction.

The Skanner's news editor, Lisa Loving, presented the Drum major for Justice Award 2012 to Karanja Crews, a teacher and the inventor of Journey to Freedom. Journey to Freedom started out as an interactive game designed to engage Black students through teaching the history and culture of African Americans. From that small beginning Journey to Freedom has become a program that works especially well with young Black men to encourage reading and promote academic success.

Accepting the award, Crews said he stands on the shoulders of those who came before him, not just Martin Luther King Jr, and other national civil rights leaders, but also the local heroes who blazed the civil rights trail in Portland, people like Avel Gordly and Ron Herndon.

Green, a former CNN journalist, now lives in Oregon. He blogs for the Huffington Post,

but his main focus is the America 21 Project, which he co-founded with economic development expert Johnathan Holifield and biotech entrepreneur Chad Womack. The project aims to link Black Americans to the structures that create wealth in America. (You can find out more at the website, blackinnovation.org)

"The lack of inclusion and economic parity in the private sector, along with lack of access to capital, severely limited options for Black Americans to generate or create wealth five decades ago. The same problem exists today," Green said.

"Our strategy is to tell the story of the Innovation Economy, its challenges and opportunities, in a manner that's easy to understand, using three core pillars: STEM (science technology, engineering and math) education and workforce development

Entrepreneurship, especially high-growth entrepreneurship

Access to Capital and Capital Formation. Our approach is to follow the solution provided by Dr. Martin Luther King. We seek to connect the disconnected and develop strong relationships across the racial and economic divide.

Unfortunately, as Green explained, Black Americans have been excluded from the

wealth creation strategies that have worked well for other Americans. And unemployment has remained twice as high in Black communities as in White – the same as during Dr. King's lifetime.

"Today we see the economic consequence of decades of isolation and disconnect due to White businesses and majority corporations keeping Black businesses and entrepreneurs at arm's length. With few opportunities to connect to those in our society generating wealth, Black America has lagged in its ability to compete and thrive economically, and the wealth gap has widened. As President Obama has said, "it isn't class warfare, it's math."

Nationally Green's organization is partnering with Rutgers Business School, CNN, Open Government TV and a growing group of potential investors, entrepreneurs and educators. The University of Portland hosted a screening of a CNN documentary on the issue. At the breakfast, Patrick Quinton, executive director of the Portland Development Commission, said the PDC will be interested in supporting the initiative as it develops.

Read the rest of this story online at www.theskanner.com



Storm

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lead to icy conditions, and Seattle officials urged people to find and clear street storm drains that could get clogged and cause severe flooding.

Olympia had about a foot of new snow on the ground by 7:30 a.m. The city could break its record of 14 inches of snow in a 24-hour period, Colman said. Areas south of Olympia could get 20 inches.

"They're getting hammered," Colman said.

Tacoma had about 7 inches of snow for the morning rush hour. Seattle had compact snow and ice on roads for commuters. Lesser amounts were reported north of Seattle.

Southeast Washington also is getting a good shot of snow with 6 to 10 inches expected in the

Palouse, meteorologist Colby Neuman said. "This will be right up with the most snow this season," Neuman said. "This has been an un-snowy winter."

High winds have begun hammering parts of the Oregon coast and causing power outages, with reports of gusts of 100 mph and more. There were no immediate reports of serious damage.

Heavy snow has been falling in Washington's mountains with up to 2 feet of fresh snow expected by Thursday. Interstate 90 across Snoqualmie Pass was shut down for much of Tuesday for avalanche control work.

Washington residents had plenty of warning as snow showers started over the weekend. With the heavy snow in sight, Seattle and other school districts canceled

classes in advance. Alaska Airlines announced late Tuesday that it canceled 38 flights into and out of Seattle and Portland, Ore. Several downtown Seattle hotels reported all their rooms were booked. Elsewhere, shoppers stocked up on groceries.

Many courts and government offices and libraries closed. Garbage collection was postponed. Sen. Patty Murray canceled her event at a Tacoma company where she planned to talk about employing veterans.

Pat Hansen and her 17-year-old daughter, Emily, were taking photos of the growing piles of snow outside the Capitol in Olympia Wednesday morning.

"I love it," said Emily Hansen, who had the day off because Olympia High School was closed,

along with most other schools in the region.

Her mom's enthusiasm was more measured. "A day or two it's fun, but after a while you start looking at accidents and slush and flooding," she said.

It was business as usual at the Capitol, where committee hearings were still being held, if not fully attended.

Some state employees drove into work, but others walked in, and at least one employee was seen cross-country skiing to the Capitol campus. The 60-day legislative session began on Jan. 9.

Associated Press writer Rachel La Corte contributed from Olympia, Wash.

C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

SEATTLE 2012



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Friday January 20

PARENTS NIGHT OUT! Every third Friday of the month enjoy three FREE hours of safe activity packed fun for your K-5th graders. 7 – 10 p.m. Celebration Church, 11840 148th Ave. SE. In Renton.

Saturday & Sunday January 21 & 22

TET – FESTIVAL – VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR! Explore Vietnamese cultural roots going back 1000 years and experience the contemporary influences of Vietnamese through live performances, hands on activities, over 20 food and game vendors. Opening ceremonies 11 a.m. Fisher Pavilion, Fisher Roof and Seattle Center Pavilion.

Wednesday January 25

SEATTLE'S 12 ANNUAL DIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT DAY CAREER FAIR: Getting America Back to Work in 2012. There are hundreds of jobs and careers available in Seattle. This is where you want to be on Diversity Employment Day! 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St.

Thursday January 26

JOIN THE SEATTLE TIMES FOR 2011 YEAR IN PICTURES! The program is free and open to the public. 7 – 8:30 p.m. Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave. For more information 206-386-4636.

Saturday & Sunday January 28 & 29

LYNNWOOD – EVERETT WEDDING EXPO: Seattle wedding professional all in one location. Many vendors will be giving away items as a promotion of the show. 10 a.m. Lynnwood Convention Center, 3711 196th St SW. Lynnwood, WA.