

THE SKANNER™

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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REVOLUTIONARY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Hundreds of people turned out in Seattle at Garfield High School for the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Martin Luther King's Birthday. This year's theme 'Recapturing MLK's Revolutionary Spirit' brought out hundreds of people to the popular annual event which included workshops, a rally and a march down icy streets to the Federal Building.

Locked Out of Wealth

Annual Skanner event focuses on start-ups, capital investments

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Black Americans need and deserve real economic change. And the way forward must be through investment in entrepreneurship and technology. That was part of the powerful message delivered Jan 16, by Mike Green, the Keynote speaker at The Skanner Foundation's 26th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

"Dr. King envisioned a time when America would invest in Americans of all races," Green said. "When all races would be empowered to work together to create a strong nation that is not only economically strong, but also strong in its character, exemplified in the dignity it extended to all its citizens."

In his address, Green announced the formation of a new group to explore what can be done in Portland: the Portland Urban Innovation Roundtable. And he called for leaders to take on that challenge.

"The Portland UIR needs committed leaders across the spectrum of the established economic ecosystem and those from the economically disconnected sectors, to work together and with The America21 Project to create a culture of urban innovation that produces exponential economic impact in disconnected communities across Portland."

About 1000 diverse Portlanders packed into the Oregon Ballroom in the Convention Center to celebrate Dr. King's life and achievements, and to hear Green speak in his honor about wealth creation.

Bobbie Foster, the Skanner's executive editor was the emcee for the event. Les Femmes, the Urban league's Young Professionals and many others volunteered to make the event a success. The convention center staff served up crab patties, topped with poached egg in béarnaise sauce and a waffle. Portland Community Media and the North Portland Multimedia Training Center recorded the event live for broadcast on

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Can Pot Bail Out State Budget?

Olympia plans first hearing this week on medical marijuana

By Jonathan Martin
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE (AP) — Chris Cody tries to be a good neighbor in White Center, joining in a Christmas toy drive and local art walks, and keeping the window of his medical-marijuana dispensary as discreet as possible.

He maintains a low profile in part because his shop, Herban Legends, is a block outside the marijuana-friendly Seattle city limits. Inside Seattle, marijuana dispensaries flourish. Outside

Seattle, there is no protective regulation.

"It's definitely tricky, causing for more than a little anxiety," said Cody, a 31-year-old carpenter.

Eight months after Gov. Chris Gregoire gutted the state medical-marijuana law with a partial veto, dispensaries have feasted or starved based on the real-estate axiom: location, location, location.

Seattle, Tacoma and a handful of other cities recognize storefront shops as resources for

medical-marijuana patients. Most don't, though, citing a muddled state law or the federal marijuana prohibition.

Legislators, still pained by the veto but pressed by cities to fix the mess, are preparing to try again. A hearing is scheduled Wednesday on SB 6265, a bill proposed by medical marijuana's champion in Olympia, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, D-Seattle, to legalize nonprofit dispensers and kick regulation to cities.

If passed, the plan could clear a legal haze hovering over store-

front shops. Although not explicitly allowed under state law, they have operated via legal loopholes, most recently under a broad interpretation of the term "collective garden."

And a new law could open the door to a statewide dispensary boom, especially in some larger cities, such as Bellevue, that have refused to allow them.

"I don't think it's fair that Seattle and Tacoma have people coming from all over the place to purchase marijuana in their

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Widespread Snowstorm Wallops NW

Businesses, government shuts down in high winds, snowfall

By Doug Esser
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A winter storm blasted the Pacific Northwest Wednesday, dumping near-record snow in some areas, hammering parts of Oregon with winds as high as 110 mph and bringing much of the region to a standstill.

From the Washington state capital in

Olympia to the Oregon coast, schools were closed, roads were clogged with snow and hundreds of accidents and dozens of flights were cancelled.

In an eight-hour period near the capital, there were 95 accidents, mostly spinouts, State Trooper Guy Gill said.

"If you get off the beaten path, you're in deep trouble," Gill said. "I saw a guy in my rear mirror. I saw headlights and tail lights

and headlights and tail lights again as he spun around off the road."

"For the first time in my career, I had to put chains on," he said. "You stay in the path laid down on the freeway."

Forecasters expect "good old rain back Friday and Saturday," meteorologist Brad Colman said. But warmer weather could

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