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Hood to Coast Race

All-Black teams make splash at annual race to the beach

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

For the first time ever, this year's Hood to Coast relay featured an all-Black men's team. The Soleful Brothers, who took part in the Portland to Coast speed walk, were aiming to win. They didn't win this year, but team leader Justin Johnson says they're determined to try again.

"For us to come in so well on our first time out and having older members, that was good," he says. "I can't wait till the next one. We're already talking about it. Next time we want to be first and this will just make us work harder."

The 31st annual Hood to Coast relay began Friday Aug. 24 at Timberline Lodge, where the runners started. The runners — 1,050 teams of 12 people — ran the full 199 miles from Mt. Hood to the Coast. All 50 states were represented as well as 37 countries. The race finished Saturday morning with first place overall going to a Japanese team from Tokyo University.

The Soleful Brothers were one of 400 teams who competed in the speed walk from Portland to Seaside. Walking overnight through the forested Coastal range, the novice speed walkers took 10th place overall, and fourth in their age category. Johnson says he and his teammates have caught the speed walking bug.

"Now we are looking at other races too," he said. "We've seen a marathon in October and the Seattle Big Climb, that is climbing stairs in a tall building. I'm going to be training with my friends all year."

A Lane Community College student who will be heading to the University of Oregon this fall, Johnson was inspired by his mom Tammie Swinson-Allen, who walks the Hood to Coast relay with the Soleful Strutters. The former Benson High School track and field star enlisted a group of his friends— Benson alumni and coaches —and

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PARTY!



PHOTO BY JOHN MORENO

Former Republican Party Chair Michael Steele, at left, chats with Republican delegates at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla. Go to www.TheSkanner.com for daily breaking news updates from the Republican convention and the Democratic convention, which kicks off immediately afterward.

Politics Heats Up in Tampa, Fla.

Catch *The Skanner News'* live coverage of the conventions

This year The Skanner News Group is partnering with the Los Angeles Wave and several other papers to bring readers all the latest news on the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

The publications will be sending John Moreno, managing editor of the Los Angeles Wave, to both conventions.

"Usually when we cover something like this I'm the front reporter and I've got a photographer," says Moreno.

"Unfortunately that's not going to be the case so I have to become the photographer, the videographer, the print reporter and the social media editor, etc. You just have to own up."

Moreno, a self-described political junkie, has been doing journalism for nine years. He worked as a copy editor when he first began at the Wave and soon moved on to entertainment coverage. Eventually he migrated to the local political beat and report-

ed on City Hall.

Since being elevated to managing editor, he hasn't gotten as many opportunities to be out in the field.

"When I get the chance to go out and cover something like these elections I jump at it," says Moreno.

This year will mark his second time covering national political conventions. In 2008, he reported from the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Moreno says the thing that

stood out to him the most from 2008 was all the excitement surrounding President Barack Obama's candidacy. Specifically, he says there were a number of celebrities, professional athletes, actor, singers and other people that you wouldn't necessarily expect at a political convention.

"That was great for a reporter because you could just walk around the arena and you would run into people you

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Obamacare: Oregon is State to Watch

Issue: Creating a better health care system that people can afford

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

In just five months, since "Obamacare" became U.S. law, Oregon has established itself as the state to watch. With a waiver from the feds that frees providers from the traditional fee-for-service payment structure, the state is on a mission to drastically reduce healthcare costs at the same

time as delivering healthcare to many more people.

"The nation is watching us, which is both gratifying and sometimes terrifying," said Bruce Goldberg, director of Oregon Health Authority, at a meeting organized by Familycare.

"If we can create a better healthcare system at a cost we can afford, that's what everyone wants for our entire healthcare

system."

So how the new law will affect us?

The goal of the law is to make sure everyone has healthcare coverage. But the program will roll out in stages.

The state reached its first major milestone, Aug. 1, with the certification of eight Coordinated Care Organizations. Five more will

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