

THE SKANNER®

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



Inside
Minority Business
Enterprise
SPECIAL EDITION
page 7—10

AME
BLOCK
PARTY

Lynne Oliphant hula hoops during the First A.M.E Community Block Party on Saturday, Sept. 28. Even though the Block Party was forced inside by inclement weather members of the community and the church enjoyed live gospel music, dancing, and food.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Care Act
Goes
Live

The new law makes
some of the biggest
changes ever

By Helen Silvis
Of *The Skanner News*

The Affordable Care Act kicked in this week as state health exchanges across the country opened for business Oct. 1. Americans now have until Dec. 15 to sign up for a healthcare plan that starts Jan. 1, 2014.

You can compare plans, find out if you can get help to pay for insurance and sign up for a plan through the online health exchanges. The Washington State Health Exchange already is up and running at www.wahbexchange.org/.

But you don't have to have internet access to apply. You can fill out a paper application, and get help from trained personal assistants or insurance agents. Get a paper application or find free help to apply in Washington, call 360-688-7700.

If you miss the Dec. 15 deadline you can still sign up through March 31. Your coverage will start soon after you sign up. After then, most people will have to wait for the new enrollment period that starts Oct. 1, 2014. The two exceptions? People who are eligible for Medicaid and businesses with fewer than 50 employees can sign up all year round.

Yakima Arrest Headache for

Free speech lawsuit triggered when man refuses to 'shut up'

By Dan Catchpole
Yakima Herald-Republic

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — It was shortly after midnight the morning of July 17, 2007, when Eddie Ford was pulled over by Yakima police.

Ford wasn't happy about it. And he wasn't shy about telling police exactly what he thought. He complied with every police order, except to be quiet. For that he was arrested.

Six years later, the case is sending reverberations across

the West.

Ford's case eventually ended up before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where a three-judge panel ruled 2-1 that he had a right to sue the city of Yakima for the arrest.

And while his attorney calls the case a win for free speech, critics say it could hamstring police officers by making them worried about being sued. The court's decision worried the city attorney's office of San Francisco enough that it filed a brief earlier this year on behalf of all

California cities and counties supporting Yakima's petition to have the case reheard by the full Court of Appeals.

"Officers need to be able to take action that serves public safety" and there's concern this ruling could make them timid to act, said Gabriel Zitrin, a spokesman for the San Francisco attorney's office.

The request for a full hearing was denied.

Yakima officials don't like the ruling, saying officers acted responsibly and within their dis-

cretion when they arrested and jailed Ford, rather than citing him for excessive noise and letting him go. But the city agreed to pay Ford \$65,000 rather than go to court over his lawsuit.

Opting to settle rather than go to trial was "strictly a business decision," said Yakima City Manager Tony O'Rourke, referring to the likelihood of an expensive and protracted court battle with an uncertain outcome.

Ford sees the case as vindica-

See SPEECH on page 3

See HEALTH on page 3

INDEX

News2,3,10,12

Opinion4,5

A&E6

MBE7-10

Bids/Classifieds11

Lawmakers Give Up Pay During Fight

Democrat, Republican lawmakers vow to share pain of shutdown

By Rachel La Corte
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Three members of Washington state's 12-member congressional delegation have promised to give up their pay during the federal government shutdown that began Tuesday.

Reps. Derek Kilmer and Suzan DelBene, both Democrats, and Republican Rep.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers, have all confirmed that they will forgo their salary for the duration of the shutdown. Members of the House and Senate make \$174,000 a year, and some in leadership roles make more.

While the three will automatically be paid during the time, they will return the amount equitable to their salary to the U.S. Department of Treasury. Since March, DelBene

has already been returning 8.2 percent of her salary each month to Treasury in response to across-the-board budget cuts, known as sequestration, that were done earlier this year.

Kilmer and DelBene announced their decision on Twitter, and a spokeswoman for the House Republican Conference con-

See SHUT on page 3