

## Breakfast

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and Pastor Wheatfall.

Hales read out a city proclamation announcing that The Skanner News Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast is now a “central event in the life of the city.”

“Dr. King helped us understand equal rights are not a destination, but a journey,” Hales said.

Highlight of the event was the keynote speaker, Interim Executive Director of Care Oregon, Bruce Goldberg, M.D.

Goldberg – who was tapped to speak at the breakfast before his appointment to

Goldberg also spoke to the controversy surrounding CoverOregon’s failed website launch, which has led to calls for the federal government to take it over.

“It’s been a disappointment for consumers, for the state, and for me,” he said. “Because here’s the thing: We have eleven health care plans that have joined Cover Oregon. We want people to be able to get to them...”

“We’re making improvements as we work to get up our full website,” he said. “I want to ask this of you – stay with us.”

(Read full speech as prepared for delivery in our opinion commentary section.)

In a departure from the usual breakfast format, Goldberg took questions from the floor from The Skanner News’ Lisa Loving.

“We’re actively signing people up and we will get everyone signed up,” he said. “We also are asking for subsidies for people who from no fault of their own were not signed up in

‘We’re actively signing people up and we will get everyone signed up’  
-- Bruce Goldberg

CareOregon – spoke about his career dedication to community health and his wide experience in addressing health disparities.

“But first, I want to say it is very personal for me, as I know it is for everyone in the room, to honor Dr. King and to reflect on his work and his legacy, and on what it means to us,” he said.

“Indeed, it is shocking and inhumane that for generations in our country – and in our state – there has been a great divide in health and health care.”

time.”

Scholarship winners for 2014, and their community sponsors, include: Kaitlan Purkapile, Portland State University, the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters; Marneet Lewis, Warner Pacific University; the Portland Division of Safeway; Selam Wako, the University of Oregon, Portland Development Commission; Shaniece Curry, University of Oregon, the University of Oregon; Alyson Knapper, Rice University, Oregon Health & Science;

## Pushout



PHOTO BY THE SKANNER STAFF

Community organizers with the Portland Students Union, the Portland Parents Union, and the Portland Association of Teachers held a press conference calling for more resources for classrooms to address school push-out as it impacts the schools-to-prison pipeline. The demonstration came in light of the Portland Public Schools’ announcement that they have a budget surplus. Read the whole story on [www.TheSkanner.com](http://www.TheSkanner.com).

Christine Trinh, Georgetown University, Providence Health Systems; Ashleigh Miller-Hayes, currently attending Franklin High School and heading to Seattle Pacific University, Home Forward; Dayja Curry, attending DeLa Salle North Catholic High School and heading to the University of Illinois, Family Care; Hanna Atenafu, Oregon State University, Legacy Health Systems; Henry Sissac, attending DeLa Salle North

Catholic High School and heading to Washington State University, Vancouver, Wells Fargo Bank; Veronica Medhanie, Portland State University, Pacific Power & Light, and Sanawit Dagne, attending Reynolds High School and on his way to Oregon State University, and Michelle Carr, Kent State University, and Kevin Jones, Oregon State University, The Skanner Foundation.

## Native

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debate over identity — over who is “Indian enough” to be a tribal member.

“It ultimately comes down to the question of how we define what it means to be Native today,” said David Wilkins, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota and a member of North Carolina’s Lumbee Tribe. “As tribes who suffered genocidal policies, boarding school laws and now out-marriage try to recover their identity in the 20th century, some are more fractured, and they appear to lack the kind of common elements that lead to true cohesion.”

Wilkins, who has tracked the recent increase in disenrollment across the nation, says tribes have kicked out thousands of people.

Historically, ceremonies and prayers — not disenrollment — were used to resolve conflicts because tribes essentially are family-based, and “you don’t cast out your relatives,” Wilkins said. Banishment was used in rare, egregious situations to cast out tribal members who committed crimes such as murder or incest.

Most tribes have based their membership criteria on blood quantum or on descent from someone named on a tribe’s census rolls or treaty records — old documents that can be flawed.

There are 566 federally recognized tribes and determining membership has long been considered a hallmark of tribal sovereignty. A 1978 U.S. Supreme Court ruling reaffirmed that policy when it said the federal

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government should stay out of most tribal membership disputes.

Mass disenrollment battles started in the 1990s, just as Indian casinos were establishing a foothold. Since then, Indian gambling revenues have skyrocketed from \$5.4 billion in 1995 to a record \$27.9 billion in

2012, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Tribes have used the money to build housing, schools and roads, and to fund tribal health care and scholarships. They also have distributed casino profits to individual tribal members.

Of the nearly 240 tribes that run more than 420 gambling establishments across 28 states, half distribute a regular per-capita payout to their members. The payout amounts vary from tribe to tribe. And membership reductions lead to increases in the payments — though tribes deny money is a factor in disenrollment and say they’re simply trying to strengthen the integrity of their membership.

Disputes over money come on top of other issues for tribes. American Indians have one of the highest rates of interracial marriage in the U.S. — leading some tribes in recent years to eliminate or reduce their blood quantum requirements. Also, many Native Americans don’t live on reservations, speak Native languages or “look” Indian, making others

question their bloodline claims.

Across the nation, disenrollment has played out in dramatic, emotional ways that left communities reeling and cast-out members stripped of their payouts, health benefits, fishing rights, pensions and scholarships.

In Central California, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians has disenrolled hundreds. Last year, the dispute over banishments became so heated that sheriff’s deputies were called to break up a violent skirmish between two tribal factions that left several people injured.

In Washington, after the Nooksack Tribal Council voted to disenroll 306 members citing documentation errors, those affected sued in tribal and federal courts. They say the tribe, which has two casinos but gives no member payouts, was racially motivated because the families being cast out are part Filipino. This week, the Nooksack Court of Appeals declined to stop the disenrollments.

Read the rest of this story online at [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com)



## Books

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Albina first gathered 500 books in a reading room in 1909.

In 1911 that collection was merged with another to form the first North Portland Library.

But just one year later, local residents donated the land for construction of the current building after Carnegie donated \$60,000 — to build a total of four libraries in Portland.

After construction, library staff worked through close neighborhood contacts —

including the water bill collector and the gas company — to build community around their programs and booklists.

In the mid-1950s, the county library system moved to expand into six larger, full-service libraries, and the North Portland Library we know today — with some 30,000 books — evolved.

The library’s Black Resource Center opened in 1987, putting North Portland Library on the map for anyone interested in reading up on racial equality and Civil

Rights, among many other related topics.

Library-lovers today often enjoy the original art of beloved painter Charlotte Lewis, who died in 1999. One of many key cultural figures in Portland, Lewis especially loved the North Portland Library and started the annual Kwanzaa celebration there in 1993.

Welch says she was surprised some few years ago when she got the library’s piano tuned for the first time in years.

“I thought it was an old player piano until

I got it tuned,” she said. “This is the library that has Steinway piano donated from the community.”

If you have library memorabilia, call the branch at 503-988-5394 or just stop by.

For more information about the North Portland Library and all the system’s offerings go to [www.MultcoLib.org](http://www.MultcoLib.org).