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Regional Edition
Pacific Northwest

Cutting Red Tape

Constantine shifts bureaucracy for emergency response

Of *The Skanner News*

King County Executive Dow Constantine last week boosted his effort to coordinate government agencies in disaster response with a newly-developed framework to make sure responders aren't tied down by red tape.

The move comes months after Constantine launched the Resilient King County Initiative, a two-year plan to improve community safety that is considered to be one of the first of its kind in the nation.

"We are better able to respond to disasters when we have a coordinated approach, follow the same protocols, and are able to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy," he said. "This approach clears the path for emergency responders to share resources across boundaries."

Much of the effort was launched last September, starting with a Disaster Recovery Leadership Summit held at the Microsoft campus in Redmond.

That gathering identified a handful of key "themes" — including a sense of urgency in drawing up better disaster plans, a "need for synchronization," and the ability to "come back better."

Attendees at that event dug into specific needs regarding community infrastructure, the healthcare sector, the economy and housing. A majority at the leadership meeting identified utilities and transportation as the most important areas where emergency planning — including built-in cooperation and interdependency — should be prioritized.

The new Regional Coordination Framework for Disasters and Planned Events "clears the legal pathway to allow cooperation among governments and tribal nations, as well as private and non-profit organizations," Constantine said in a statement.

Elected leaders and city managers were on hand for the announcement in Bellevue, joined by federal, tribal, state and local

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206 ZULU NATION

The 206 Zulu Nation celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a weekend of activities that paid tribute to hip hop culture, including the Zulu Throw Down, and the Championship B-Boy/B-Girl Battle on Saturday, Feb. 15, at Washington Hall, Seattle.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

IndieGoGo Campaign for Art

Intisar Abioto crowdsources rebuild, growth of 'The Black Portlanders'

By **Lisa Loving**
Of *The Skanner News*

Through a series of unrelated recent events, Black Portlanders have landed on the national stage.

First, ascending Atlanta rappers Young Thug and Bloody Jay released a recording in January called "Black Portland" to critical acclaim — except that some African-American people who live in Portland have their own take on what the term means.

Then last week, late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien ridiculed the City of Portland over the recent Portland Development Commission negotiations to build a Trader Joe's on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard — joking that "Portland is the Native American word for 'too many white people.'"

Portland photographer Intisar Abioto is right in the middle of it. Her photography blog, "The Black Portlanders" — celebrating one year this month — is

dedicated to telling the whole story of this very specific community of people which she compares to the Maroon communities in Jamaica.

From the destruction of the historic Black business district to the struggle for hip hop entrepreneurs to make a living here, Abioto has no trouble linking all these issues into one simple truth: African descendants in the Pacific Northwest comprise a unique community, one that has struggled even more than most, and is generally misunderstood

or written off by the mainstream culture.

"We think about it in terms of just these physical things, but what we are talking about is the growth and the blossoming of actual people — it's not just the buildings," she says.

"What does it mean, to rebuild your community again and again, inter-generationally?"

Intisar herself is rebuilding — she suffered an almost irreparable loss last fall when the hard

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Washington Coal Terminal Gets Review

Business sector says environmental regulation will hurt industry

Phuong Le
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — State and local regulators said Wednesday they'll consider a sweeping environmental review of the effects of a proposed terminal along the Columbia River in Washington that would export millions of tons of coal to Asia.

The review of the nearly \$650 million

Millennium Bulk Terminals project will consider impacts that extend well beyond the site, including global-warming effects from burning the exported coal in Asia and rail impacts as coal is shipped by train from the Rockies throughout the state.

The announcement represents a victory for project opponents, who said the decision ensures that concerns over coal dust, greenhouse gas emissions and rail traffic are

addressed.

"It's appropriate for such a massive project," said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director of the Columbia Riverkeeper. "It's encouraging to see the agencies take to heart the deep public interest in protecting our communities."

Some national and local business and

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