

THE SKANNER®

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW

For The Skanner
to scan this

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Pacific NW

featuring more news and
local information.

Soldier Finally Honored

A century later,
Medal of Honor goes
to WWI Hellfighter

Helen Silvis
Special to *The Skanner News*

One Hundred years after he earned it, Sgt. Henry Lincoln Johnson will be awarded the Medal of Honor. President Obama announced this week he will present the award to a representative from the New York National Guard on June 2. Johnson was one of the famed Harlem Hellfighters who fought during WWI. Here's his story:

In the early hours of May 14 1918, Johnson was on guard duty in France, when some 20 enemy troops attacked his post. The railroad porter turned soldier from Albany, New York, displayed outstanding bravery: using his rifle and bolo knife to single-handedly repel the enemy troops. Despite sustaining grenade and shotgun injuries, he rescued his fellow guard Needham Roberts, and saved the lives of the

He was shot three
times and sustained
11 stab wounds, but
he drove off his
attackers

other members of his troop. He was shot three times and sustained 11 stab wounds, but he drove off his attackers.

For his valor in combat, Johnson was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Golden Palm, the highest military honor in France. But because he was a black soldier during the era of segregation, his selfless courage went unrecognized back home. Johnson died penniless in 1929 at the age of 32.

For decades not a single Black serviceman from WWI and WWII had received America's highest honor. That's despite the fact that France recognised the heroic acts of

See MEDAL on page 3

SHELL NO



Michael Renaissance Moynihan performed a spoken word piece on Monday while hundreds of activists opposed to drilling in the arctic briefly blocked the entrances to Terminal 5 at the Port of Seattle because a massive oil rig owned by Shell is docked there. Activists have been protesting ever since the rig arrived including a gathering of hundreds of kayaks and other small vessels on Saturday May 16th for the "Paddle in Seattle".

School Races Draw Small Turnout

Kohnstamm barely edges out Regan in Zone 3 PPS race

By Christen McCurdy
Of *The Skanner News*

Just under 17 percent of Multnomah County voters — or 75,523 people — cast votes in Tuesday night's special election.

Low turnout is common in May elections — in 2009, just 15 percent of voters submitted ballots in May — but made for some tight results this time around.

A \$125 million bond to replace or improve failing buildings in the Reynolds

School District passed by just 275 votes. The bond will replace Wilkes Elementary, a 100-year-old building designated as having a 100 percent chance of collapse in an earthquake. It also provides for increased security measures at Reynolds High School, the site of a fatal shooting last June.

While the Zone 3 race for Portland Community College director was perhaps the tightest one tracked by The Skanner News in this election, the Zone 2 race was the most decisive.

PCC instructor Michael Sonleitner narrowly beat out Anita Yap and Courtney Wilton in the Zone 3 race, receiving 38.42 percent of the vote (5,654 votes). Yap and Wilton divided the remaining vote almost perfectly: 30.73 percent of voters marked Yap's name on their ballots and 30.07 percent went for Wilton instead. Incumbent Zone 2 Director Kali Thorne Ladd ran unopposed and 97.86 percent — or 11,003 voters — decided to reinstall her, with just over 2 percent designating a write-in

candidate instead.

Amy Carlsen Kohnstamm clinched the Zone 3 director seat for Portland Public Schools with 44.32 percent of the vote (23,062 votes), beating out incumbent Bobbie Regan by 4 percent of the vote, or 1,968 votes. Regan, who'd served three prior terms on the board, received 40.53 percent of the vote, or 21,094 votes. Kohnstamm has worked primarily in the nonprofit sector.

See ELECTION on page 3

INDEX

News1,3,9-10

Opinion2

Calendars4,5

A & E6,7,12

Bids/Classifieds11

Dems Urge President to 'Ban the Box'

Merkley, Wyden and Murray agitate for controversial jobs law

Arashi Young
Of *The Skanner News*

For millions of Americans, applying for jobs is an exercise in futility. Often, applications are thrown away before an employer has even considered the job-seeker.

The reason? A criminal history revealed on a job application.

Last week, U. S. Senators Jeff Merkley, Ron Wyden and Patty Murray joined 24 other Democratic Senators to urge President Obama to "ban the box" — referring to questions about past criminal convictions — on federal job applications.

It is the latest action in what has become a broad social movement to reduce recidivism and give ex-convicts a second chance at employment.

Ban the Box policies prohibit employers from asking about criminal records on their job applications. The National Employment Law Project proponents say the current system artificially limits the pool of qualified job seekers.

Steady employment is a key factor in reducing recidivism among ex-convicts,

See BOX on page 3