WWW.THESKANNER.COM | SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 | PORTLAND AND SEATTLE | VOLUME XXXVII, NO. 52 | 25 CENTS

the SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW

INSIDE:

Special Edition
Minority Business Enterprise 2015

2016, Jobs and Pot

Blumenauer sounds off on the issues of the day

By Christen McCurdy
Of *The Skanner News*

A looming, possible government shutdown, the upcoming presidential race and criminal justice reform were the issues addressed last week when Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Portland) visited The Skanner News office.

Blumenauer said Hillary Clinton appears to have the best chance of winning the election, "but it's fluid." The rise of Bernie Sanders' campaign – as well as Donald Trump's controversial rise in a crowded field of Republican candidates – has been "catnip" for the media, but it's hard to say how things will land.

"There's kind of an undercurrent here. People are frustrated," Blumenauer said of Sanders' campaign. He likened Sanders' ascent to the election of Jeremy Corbyn, originally regarded as a far-left fringe candidate, to the leadership of Britain's Labour Party.

He described Clinton as a solid senator and secretary of state, and someone who is smart, engaged and well-prepared for the presidency – but is concerned she hasn't found her voice as a candidate.

As for his own work in Congress, Blumenauer said he's pushing for an increase in the gas tax, deeper investment in infrastructure and criminal justice reform, and improving health care access for veterans.

"This is the first time in over 50 years we don't have a major federal transportation project in the pipeline," Blumenauer said. He wants to raise the gas tax to allow investment in transportation infrastructure that's multi-state and multi-modal, as well as improving existing infrastructure.

Such projects would help create middle-wage jobs, he said, noting most recent job growth has either been high-salary jobs or low-income service work, with middle-class jobs continuing to shrink.

Blumenauer has long been a vocal champion for drug policy reform, and is pushing

See BLUMENAUER on page 3

SHELL NO

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Royal Dutch Shell announced earlier this week that it will cease exploration in Arctic waters off Alaska's coast. The news came following disappointing results of a billion-dollar expedition, but also months of protest by environmentalists, including the "Shell No" protest shown here in a May file photo.

Groups Seek End to Drilling

Shell says search for oil in the Arctic had disappointing results

DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Royal Dutch Shell's decision to end its quest for oil in the Arctic waters off Alaska sparked jubilation among environmental activists, who said Tuesday that they will seize the opportunity to seek an end to all drilling to in the region.

But while Shell's move is a definite setback for oil companies, it does not mean offshore drilling is dead or that the Arctic Ocean has any greater protection now than it had last week.

Shell's decision gives advocates on both sides a chance to pause and consider whether Arctic drilling should continue, said Mike LeVine of the ocean-advocacy group in Juneau known as Oceana.

"Meaningful action to address climate change is almost certainly going to mean we can't keep looking for oil in remote and expensive places," LeVine said. "Rather than investing in programs like this, we need to figure out how to transition away from fossil fuels and toward sustainable energy."

Shell announced Monday that it would abandon exploration in U.S. Arctic waters "for the foreseeable future" after a well drilled this summer in the Chukchi Sea off the Alaskan coast failed to find natural gas and oil in sufficient quantities.

Royal Dutch Shell PLC spent more than $7 billion on Arctic offshore development in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas and was dogged at every regulatory level by environmental groups, which feared that a spill in the harsh climate would be difficult to clean up and devastating to polar bears, walruses, seals and other wildlife.

The next step for many environmental advocates is to establish "some sort of binding policy so that these decisions are not up to oil companies," said Cassady Sharp, spokeswoman for Greenpeace USA

See DRILLING on page 3

INDEX

News 1,2,10
Opinion 2
Calendars 4,5
A & E 6,7,9
Bids/Classifieds 11

MacLaren Industrial Arts Expansion

Correctional facility offers more vocational training, job prospects

By Arashi Young
Of *The Skanner News*

Aaron Martin defied the odds when he left the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility. Martin, a 21-year-old man, who had been incarcerated for three years, found a living-wage job just two weeks after his release.

He attributes his success to MacLaren's vocational training program that taught him metalworking, machining and computer-aided drafting.

"I had a little bit of work experience to take out into the field when I left, so I was able to gain meaningful employment where I could actually start a career," Martin said, smiling widely.

Officials at the Oregon Youth Authority hope to repeat Martin's achievement through the expansion of its industrial arts vocational training. The new facility opens to students within MacLaren starting this week.

The Moody Industrial Arts Complex at MacLaren had a successful welding program for a number of years and some ba-

See MACLAREN on page 3