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102 YEARS

Champagne Toast

Community gathers to reflect on 40 years of *The Skanner*

By Donovan M. Smith and Arashi Young

Champagne flutes were held high in a gold and maroon-bedecked room. Glasses clinked against each other as politicians, community organizers and loyal readers toasted *The Skanner News*.

This publication hosted a champagne toast to celebrate 40 years of serving the Portland community and the greater Northwest. From the very first editorial, published Oct. 7, 1975, *The Skanner News* set out to shake up the status quo, hold the establishment accountable and become a community resource for its readers.

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales delivered a short address to the packed audience. He said in many ways, the objective of *The Skanner* is as true today as it was in 1975. Hales said he appreciated the paper's push against inequality and calls for City Hall to make Portland a city of opportunity for all.

"The role of *The Skanner* in speaking

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Seattle's Homeless

NAACP urges officials to add racial lens to strategy on homelessness page 9



Movies Opening this Week

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Dr. Carl Mack, former President of the NAACP Seattle King County Branch, met with a group of young people prior to giving the keynote address at the NAACP Seattle King County Branch's 102nd Anniversary Reception. The event honored the lives of the nine Emanuel A.M.E. brothers and sisters who lost their lives on June 17 simply because of the color of their skin. Dr. Mack talked to the young people about the importance of education and staying involved in the fight for justice.

'Black Lives Matter' Under Watch by DOJ

Attorney General confirms DOJ digital surveillance of users of the hashtag

By Christen McCurdy Of *The Skanner News*

Attorney general Ellen Rosenblum confirmed Tuesday that an investigator with the Oregon Department of Justice had conducted digital surveillance on those who had used the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag on social media.

The confirmation came after Urban League President and CEO Nkenge Harmon-Johnson sent a letter addressed to Rosenblum, saying her husband, Erius Johnson, the DOJ's director of civil rights, had learned he was profiled by

his own agency. The letter, which was signed by seven other civil rights and labor leaders, was shared with media and posted to signing organizations' websites.

Rosenblum's office did not reply to *The Skanner's* request for comment, but did release a statement saying she was "outraged" by her office's use of digital surveillance.

"I recently became aware that an employee of the Oregon DOJ Criminal Division was conducting a digital search of Twitter hashtags including #blacklivesmatter, that led him to the Twitter account of a

close and trusted member of my inner circle staff, Erius Johnson Jr. I informed Mr. Johnson of this, told him that I was outraged by it, and that I had immediately ordered a stop to it."

Rosenblum also told *The Oregonian* Tuesday the investigator in question, who she did not name, has been placed on paid leave, and there may be others. She also told *The Oregonian* she has hired an investigator to look into the department's use of digital surveillance.

Harmon Johnson declined to comment, deferring to others who had co-signed the letter. Shortly after her letter posted, the

American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon put out a press release with statements from director David Rogers and legal director Mat dos Santos.

"Under Oregon law, it is illegal for state law enforcement to gather information about people's political, religious and social views, associations or activities," Rogers' statement said. "Not only is such profiling illegal, but it seriously threatens our democracy by chilling First Amendment speech and activities. We encourage the Attorney General

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Former Nursery to Become Open School East

Gov. Kate Brown appears at groundbreaking for school, which aims to help at-risk students

By Arashi Young Of *The Skanner News*

On the boundary between the cities of Gresham and Portland lies a dilapidated former nursery. The former Drake's 7 Dees on Stark Street was once a place to plant seeds and foster growth.

It may be a perfect setting for a new development – the future home of Open School East.

Last Thursday, Gov. Kate Brown,

State Rep. Carla Piluso, Open School East staff and students gathered to break ground on the site for the new school that aims to help students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Brown told the crowd that it was important that every student graduates with a plan for the future.

She said Open School shows how a school system can meet students where they are and craft a pathway to academic success.

"One size does not fit and should



not fit all when it comes to setting the stage to realize student's full potential," Brown said.

Part of the fundamental model be-

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