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Charles Bonner

Bonner Speaks at Breakfast

Attorney reflects on King's legacy, the Civil Rights Movement

Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Charles Bonner learned in school that Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves — but what he saw growing up in Selma, Ala., told a different story.

Bonner, now an international civil rights lawyer and author, was the keynote speaker at The Skanner Foundation's 30th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast Monday, Jan. 18. About 1,000 people packed the downtown Hilton's grand ballroom to listen to Bonner speak about his experience with the original Civil Rights Movement and

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MLK CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

About 5000 people participated in the 34th Annual Martin Luther King Jr Day march from Garfield High School to the Federal building in Seattle Monday. The annual celebration held Jan. 18 included workshops, a rally in the Garfield High School gym and the march.

Snyder Appeals Obama's Denial of Aid

Michigan governor argues water poisoning was a 'natural catastrophe' because 'lead contamination into water is a natural process'

DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich.— Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder asked President Barack Obama on Wednesday to reconsider his denial of a federal disaster declaration to address the drinking water crisis in Flint, saying its severity poses an "imminent and long-term threat" to residents.

Obama declared an emergency — qualifying the city for \$5 million — but deter-

mined it is not a disaster based on the legal requirement that such additional relief is intended for natural events, fires, floods or explosions.

In his appeal letter, Snyder called it a "narrow reading" and likened the crisis to a flood, "given that qualities within the water, over a long term, flood and damaged the city's infrastructure in ways that were not immediately or easily detectable. This disaster is a natural catastro-

phe in the sense that lead contamination into water is a natural process."

He said the state and city cannot meet all the needs of Flint residents. He again painted a bleak picture of the city and said the "economic injury" from the crisis is significant. Snyder said the disaster will lead to years, potentially decades of health problems and economic losses as well as infrastructure repairs that "neither the city, county or state have the ca-

capacity to conduct."

The second-term Republican, who devoted his annual State of the State speech Tuesday night to the emergency in Flint, planned Wednesday to release his own emails regarding Flint's water, which became contaminated with too much lead when the city switched its water source in 2014 as a cost-cutting measure while under state financial man-

See FLINT on page 3

Glaucoma Awareness Month

African Americans are five times more likely to develop the progressive eye disease

By Arashi Young of The Skanner News

An estimated three million people in the United States suffer from glaucoma, the leading cause of irreversible blindness. Of that three million, only half know they even have the progressive disease.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month. The campaign

brings attention to the sight-stealing disease that often goes unnoticed until there has been permanent vision loss.

Dr. Mansi Parikh from the OHSU Casey Eye Institute said African Americans have a fivefold greater risk for developing glaucoma. The condition affects Black people at earlier ages and presents a more aggressive disease course.

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Researchers are trying to find out why Blacks are more likely to develop glaucoma.



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Is 'Fast Food' a Dirty Term?

Large chains fight to set themselves apart

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Kam gives 'Sweaty Betty' Four Stars

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