

A Look Back At 2016



PHOTO BY ARASHI YOUNG

PPS Lead Crisis

At the end of May, Portland Public Schools announced the discovery of high levels of lead in the drinking water at Rose City Park and Creston Elementary Schools. The delay announcing the test results and revelation that PPS had been using the wrong kind of filter in schools inflamed a firestorm between parents and PPS officials. Multnomah County Health Department officials, who conduct regular free lead testing clinics, expanded the age parameters for children eligible for testing and increased the number of testing events throughout the summer. At the end of June, PPS superintendent Carole Smith announced her retirement. Updated lead test results were released over the summer, reporting high lead levels in 99 percent of plumbing facilities throughout the district. Pictured here are Bri Williams and her son Samir, 8, at a lead testing clinic.



PHOTO BY ARASHI YOUNG

1,000 March for Sterling and Castile

More than 1,000 demonstrators total participated in a rally that met at Pioneer Courthouse Square July 7 and surrounded a group of speakers who rallied the crowd into action following the July 5 death of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and the July 6 death of Philando Castile in Minnesota. Both were shot by police, in what NAACP President Cornell William Brooks called 21st century lynchings. Similar protests erupted in cities around the nation, including St. Paul, Chicago, Sacramento, Atlanta, Memphis, New York City, Washington D.C., Denver, and Los Angeles.



PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE

The Skanner on Display

The Oregon Historical Society Research Library exhibited its collection of photographs from *The Skanner News* Aug. 24 through Dec. 18. The exhibit featured the work of photographer Julie Keefe, whose work has appeared in *The Skanner's* print edition and on its website for more than 20 years. This exhibit draws on Oregon Historical Society Research Library's Skanner Photographs Collection, which owners Bernie Foster and Bobbie Dore Foster donated to OHS in 2013. The collection contains 17 cubic feet of photographic prints from *The Skanner's* 40-year history, including dramatic images of community events, political campaigns, sports, culture – and thousands of notable personalities.



PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE

MLK Breakfast

Charles Bonner, an international civil rights lawyer and author, was the keynote speaker at The Skanner Foundation's 30th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast 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 continued work for racial justice. The annual breakfast celebrates the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Event sponsors present scholarships to deserving students and a Drum Major for Justice award is presented. To buy tickets for this year's breakfast, visit <http://www.theskanner.com/mlk-breakfast-tickets>.

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PHOTO BY ANTONIO HARRIS

Hood to Coast

The West Coast Steppers pose for a group picture at the 2016 Hood to Coast relay event Aug. 26 and 27. The walking team walked on behalf of *The Skanner News*.