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MLK BREAKFAST



PHOTO BY ANTONIO HARRIS

About 1,000 people gathered Jan. 21 for The Skanner Foundation's 33rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast featuring King County Councilor Larry Gossett as the keynote speaker.

Gossett: Time to 'Build Bridges, Not Walls'

King County Councilor Larry Gossett describes MLK's deeper vision

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Structural racism in Seattle was more subtle than other cities, said King County Councilor Larry Gossett Monday morning at The Skanner Foundation's 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast.

Rather than legal, separate-but-equal facilities, in every neighborhood in Seattle houses were sold with restrictive covenants in their deeds, saying they could not be sold to a person of color.

"We were a highly segregated community," Gossett told the crowd of about 1,000 individuals who gathered at the Red Lion Hotel on the River on Hayden Island for the event, where

29 students were honored with scholarships from The Skanner Foundation.

Gossett, who co-founded the Black Student Union at the University of Washington and later helped organize Black Student Unions at high schools and middle schools around the Seattle area, was instrumental in changing the logo of King County to honor Martin Luther King. Originally, the county was named for William R. King, a 19th-century politician and diplomat who represented North Carolina and Alabama in Congress and served as the 13th vice president of the U.S. for six weeks before his death.

William King was also a member of one of the largest slaveholding families in

Alabama, owning as many as 500 slaves at one point. Neither the county logo – an imperial crown – nor William King's history seemed like an appropriate legacy, Gossett said, so he pushed for a change that would better reflect the area's values.

Gossett stressed the "deeper meaning" of King's life and vision. The most popular King quotes and remembrances focus on the idea of people of different races getting along – multiracial groups of children holding hands.

"For some reason, many, many Whites in our country believe that is the essence of King's dream," Gossett said.

But King's concerns were not just interpersonal.

They were structural. Segregated public facilities reinforced the notion of African Americans' inferiority and they were the law of the land.

Gossett said he's also pushed back against the idea that young people shouldn't take risks with direct action. Historical evidence – notably, the Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963, during which thousands of children walked out of school and were arrested – suggests otherwise, he said.

"It is said by most historians that it is not likely that the back of segregation would have been broken in Birmingham if not for thousands of children, ages seven to 17," Gossett

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Kamala Harris Opens Presidential Bid

By Juana Summers
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris, a first-term senator and former California attorney general known for her rigorous questioning of President Donald Trump's nominees, entered the Democratic presidential race on Monday. Harris would be the first woman to hold the presidency and the second African American.

Harris, 54, who grew up in Oak-

land, California, is one of the earliest high-profile Democrats to join what is expected to be a crowded field. She made her long anticipated announcement on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"I am running for president of the United States," she said. "And I'm very excited about it."

She portrayed herself as a fighter for justice, decency and equality in a video distributed by her campaign

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AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE CENETA

Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., arrives to speak to the members of the media at her alma mater, Howard University, Jan. 21 in Washington, following her announcement earlier in the morning that she will run for president.



PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw was interviewed by The Skanner at the annual MLK Breakfast event.

Chief Outlaw Speaks

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw talks about police recruitment, mental health and White supremacist activity

By Lisa Loving Of The Skanner

At this week's Martin Luther King Breakfast, *The Skanner News* spoke with Portland Chief of Police Danielle Outlaw about her work, her vision and issues impacting the bureau.

The Skanner News: How is officer recruitment going, and what are you looking for in your police recruits?

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw: We are looking for the nontraditional officer. Historically, we would do a lot of recruiting directly from the military, which we still do. But the nature of policing has changed so much that we are looking for those maybe with liberal arts backgrounds. We want creative problem solvers with fresh ideas, that represent not only the diversity of our community but the diversity in this country and internationally. Because they bring new ways of doing

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