

Harris cont'd from pg 1

as she announced her bid. “They’re the values we as Americans cherish, and they’re all on the line now,” Harris says in the video. “The future of our country depends on you and millions of others lifting our voices to fight for our American values.”

On ABC, she cited her years as a prosecutor

“The future of our country depends on you and millions of others lifting our voices to fight for our American values

in asserting: “My entire career has been focused on keeping people safe. It is probably one of the things that motivates me more than anything else.”

Harris launched her presidential bid as the nation observes what would have been the 90th birthday of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The timing was a clear signal that the California senator — who has joked that she had a “stroller’s-eye view” of the civil rights movement because her parents wheeled her and her sister Maya to protests — sees herself as another leader in that fight.

The opening hours of Harris’ campaign included a number of cultural touchstones aside from her decision to announce her bid on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Staffers said her timing, and the design and color of her campaign logo, were a nod to Shirley

Chisholm, the New York congresswoman who sought the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination 47 years ago this week. Upon returning to Washington, Harris spoke to reporters at Howard University, the historically Black college that she attended as an undergraduate and on Monday described as “one of the most important aspects of my life.”

Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, faced at least one question about her heritage on Monday. When a reporter, who noted she is both African American and Indian-American, asked how she would describe herself, Harris replied: “How do I describe myself? I describe myself as a proud American. That’s how I describe myself.”

She skipped the formality of forming an exploratory committee, instead going all in on a presidential bid.

She plans a formal campaign launch in Oakland on Jan. 27. The campaign will be based in Baltimore, with a second office in Oakland.

Harris joins what is expected to be a wide-open race for the Democratic presidential nomination. There’s no apparent front-runner at this early stage, and Harris will face off against several Senate colleagues.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York have both formed exploratory committees. Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota are also looking at the race.

If Booker enters the race, he and Harris could face fierce competition for support from Black voters.

Read the rest of this story at
TheSkanner.com

Breakfast cont'd from pg 1

said. More than 3,000 were put in jail or incarcerated in other public facilities, but they kept chanting King’s mantra of love.

Gossett said if King were alive today he would say, “I want to build bridges, not walls.” He also said many of the goals of King’s Poor People’s Campaign, including a jobs guarantee, and that King would likely support nationalized health care.

In earlier speeches, elected officials stressed the importance of keeping King’s dream alive, particularly in the form of improved voting access. Governor Kate Brown noted that since Oregon’s landmark Motor Voter law took effect in 2016, voter turnout among people of color has increased by 9 per-

cent. The bill registers individuals to vote once they’ve made contact with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles to get a driver’s license or identification card with an Oregon license. Brown wants to expand the law to ensure access via more government

“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

agencies, and to include postage paid ballots.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, like Brown, decried the rise in voting restrictions in other states, and along



PHOTO COURTESY OF P:EAR GALLERY

Exhibit Presents Life in Sierra Leone

P:ear gallery will present an exclusive glimpse into the life in Sierra Leone through the eyes of its youth in February and March. The opening will take place 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 7 and the exhibit will remain on display through March 29. This exhibit is a partnership between WAYout, a group working with youth in Sierra Leone, and p:ear, working with the homeless youth of our local community. This show will feature wide-ranging selection of photography emphasizing the commonalities of life viewed through the eyes of youth across the world. WAYout “Worldwide Arts for Youth” works in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world, to change the lives of the vulnerable young people through arts training and shelter. They engage and include youth by promoting artistic freedom, education and empowerment through photography, film and recording music. p:ear is a nonprofit program that works with Portland’s homeless youth through education, artistic, recreational and job training programs. For more information, visit www.wayoutarts.org or www.pearmentor.org.

Outlaw cont'd from pg 1

things than how we address our issues currently.

TSN: Do you support the creation of a non-police response to people in mental health crisis?

CO: I most certainly do. I said it as soon as I got here: Every call to which we’re dispatched to go to does not necessarily require a police officer.

The problem is that we don’t always know what we have until we get there. So there might be a time when someone is in crisis, but there might be an escalated level of threat that does require our care.

Now with that said, I do believe that there are many of those who are in crisis that don’t need police services. They need to either speak with a clinician or they need other social services provided.

We just started a pilot program in early November by placing a police sergeant in the communications dispatch center at BOEC (Bureau of Emergency Communications). That sergeant is placed there to help triage some of the calls that we receive, to not only make sure that police officers are only being sent to calls were

a police officer needs to go — but if a call goes into BOEC and it is determined that this does not need to be responded to by a police officer, that sergeant has the authority to say “No, this needs to be reserved to another agency or

“Every call to which we’re dispatched to go to does not necessarily require a police officer.

social service provider.”

So the answer to that is: It depends. We are researching a lot of options. Where I came from, before I moved up here, we had clinicians that worked for the county that were actually dispatched to the calls, and then if they determined that they needed a police officer there, then we came after that.

So there are other ways to ensure that we are not always the first responders to those who need services outside of police response.

TSN: Many people are concerned about the increase in White supremacist street actions in Portland. Does the Portland Police Bureau have a plan on that? Or is it something that you’re discussing behind the scenes?

CO: This is something that concerns everyone. But again, I want to say, I want to remind people what our roles are. Our roles are not only to be strong partners with our local law-enforcement agencies and state agencies but also federal agencies. We rely very heavily on information that we receive, for example, from federal agencies, if there are heightened threats that we need to pay attention to.

With all of that said, there are still laws that we enforce.

I think it’s important for us to educate the community on the differences between hate crimes and hate speech, and I think it’s important for people to know what our roles are in protecting everyone’s right. Regardless of how egregious or hateful some person’s speech might be, we have to focus on behavior.

Read more of this interview at
TheSkanner.com

must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway” — Merkle said it was time to change the Jericho Road, end the shutdown and stop incarcerating children at the border.

Other dignitaries attending included U.S. Sen. Suzanne Bonamici, Mayor Ted Wheeler, State Sen. James Manning, Eugene, Multnomah County Chair, Deborah Kafoury, New city council member, Jo Ann Hardesty, newly elected Garibaldi City Council Member Tim Hall, and many others.

View photos from *The Skanner Foundation’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast* on pages 6-7.