

# THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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# TRAIL BLAZING



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Two days after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his knee Portland Trail Blazers All-Star Brandon Roy held a basketball clinic at Rainier Beach Community Center. The former Garfield High School and University of Washington basketball star was joined by his friend and New York Knick Jamal Crawford at the event. The boys and girls at the camp learned basketball skills and had a chance to ask the basketball stars questions about their careers.

## Primary Surprises No One

### Obama momentum fails to lift local candidates of color

AP—Washington's "top two" primary made its debut as voters advanced candidates in dozens of state races.

There weren't any surprises in the early results.

With about 37 percent of the expected vote counted in the gubernatorial race, Gov. Chris Gregoire had about 49 percent of the vote, her Republican challenger Dino Rossi had nearly 45 percent, and both advanced easily to the general election in November.

"I feel good about where we are," Rossi said Tuesday night. "The reality is that less than half the people who are going to show up at the general voted in the primary. The bottom line is this is going to be a sprint to the end."

Gregoire cited the presidential campaign of Barack Obama as something that will help drive even more Democrats to the polls in November, ostensibly helping her campaign.

"I feel momentum is definitely with the Democrats moving to November with Barack Obama at the top of the ticket," she said.

However, reflecting the trend elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest, very few Black candidates were victorious in local elections.

Rep. Eric Pettigrew wiped out his opponent for State Legislative District 37 Position 2, with 88.28 percent of the vote.

At presstime, Republican Marco Brown was edging out his opponent for the second slot in the State Legislative District 35 Position 1, but his less-than-one percent margin is so slim, the result may change when absentee ballots are counted.

Donovan Rivers placed third in the 7th Congressional District race, with 5.18 percent of the vote. Rep. Jim McDermott will square off against Republican Steve Beren.

Mark Green, of the Commons Party, placed last in the race for Secretary of the State, which will see Sam Reed and Jason Osgood face off in November.

Dave Arnold was next-to-last in the 8th Congressional District, where Darcy Burner and Dave Reichert are neck and neck.

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## Report Tries to Assess Violence

### More resources for young people are the best solution, experts say

By William Crane  
Special to *The Skanner*

A new report says gang violence is building — five gang related murders have been investigated already this year — and the best solution to the problem is more resources for youth.

The Human Services Department of the City of Seattle commissioned The Gang Needs Assessment Project to accurately see the problem as well as assess what can be done.

"This report is trying to get a snapshot on the perceptions of the problem," said Eric

Anderson, director for Youth Development for the Human Services Department of Seattle. "We wanted to get a read on the issue going beyond crime statistics."

The report found that 77 percent of the people surveyed had a friend who was a gang member and over half knew of a family member. The report also saw a perception among youth that hand guns were "readily available and accessible."

The Human Services Department worked with local consulting firms in order to create a report that looked at the murky issue of gang and youth violence.

"We don't have any statistics related to

gang violence as it is hard to categorize them," said Sgt. Jeff Kappel, spokesman for the Seattle Police Department. "But overall, crime in 2007 was at a 40-year low."

Kappel mentioned that while the Seattle Police compiles statistics on types of crime and other factors, it is hard to tell whether a crime is gang-related until a full investigation is complete. Because of this difficulty, the need for a more qualitative report became necessary.

One of the major issues with compiling gang and youth violence statistics is calling

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## Green Job Training Program a Success

### Award-winning pilot program graduated more than 50 youth

Young adults in King County celebrated a new opportunity to learn about high wage and high demand occupations involving "green work" — jobs related to environmental and social responsibility — as part of the "Opportunity Greenway" pilot this summer.

Dozens of students graduated from the program last Friday, and King County

Executive Ron Sims praised their efforts.

"In King County we are pushing for the dream of our namesake — the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — to be reborn, by making sure that people from all zip codes and backgrounds have the same access to opportunities in the green economy," Sims said in a statement.

"The Opportunity Greenway pilot pro-

gram is an excellent example of this ethic of social justice and equity, by opening up career pathways for court-involved youth to develop livelihoods in critical fields such as green building, transportation and environmental protection," he said.

Opportunity Greenway was a six-week

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# Primary

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Treasurer Mike Murphy is stepping down after three terms, and crossed party lines to endorse Republican Alan Martin, his top deputy. Martin moved through to the general election with about 44 percent of the vote. Democratic state Rep. Jim McIntire, an economist and former House Finance Committee chairman, also advanced with about 41 percent.

Both edged out Democrat ChangMook Sohn, who was the state's chief economist for more than two decades. Sohn got only about 15 percent.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson and Randy Dorn also moved on to the November general election.

Bergeson, running for her fourth term, faced five challengers in Tuesday's primary. Dorn, a former legislator, teacher and principal, had about 30 percent of the vote in early returns. With about 20 percent of the expected vote counted, Bergeson had 42 percent.

Dorn is executive director of the Public School Employees of Washington, which

represents about 26,000 school workers who are not teachers. In addition to that group, he also had the endorsement of the Washington Education Association, the other big school employees union.

**Very few Black candidates were victorious in local elections**

"I'm excited about the number of people that voted for a change in Olympia," said Dorn, who has criticized Bergeson over the Washington Assessment of Student Learning and dropout rates. "Over the next few months, we're going to work harder and get our message out to more people."

The top two primary, which voters approved in 2004, was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year. This was the first time since 2003 that Washington voters were able to skip back and forth along party lines to pick a favorite candidate for each office. The top two finishers advanced to the general election on Nov. 4, regardless of party.

Reed predicted a 46 percent turnout, and county officials surveyed by The Associated Press supported that forecast.

# Patches Pals



King County Executive Ron Sims urges over 1,000 Patches Pals to cheer their favorite clown on JP Patches Day -- Aug. 17 -- in the Fremont neighborhood. Fans of the long-running local TV show featuring JP Patches came to the unveiling of a statue created by artist Kevin Pettelle.

# Violence

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them "gang-related." This label carries with it serious connotations and makes defining what is and is not gang violence all the more difficult.

"The problem is that we can get caught labeling people, especially the victims of the crime," said Anderson.

The report found there was concern among community members "regarding profiling of gangs as any African American youth or any youth of color gathering in a public space."

The Gangs Need Assessment Project is currently revising all their findings in order to be sure that project is not misrepresentative of the issue.

According to nwgangs.com, a website that provides gang information, there are

100-140 gangs in Seattle, comprising around 3,000 members.

"In the Northwest the only other area that rivals Seattle's gang problem is the Yakima Valley," said Brad, owner of nwgangs.com.

"We have a gang problem in Seattle, but it's not nearly as bad as other large U.S. cities."

Brad, who declined to use his last name, runs his website to provide gang information

which might not be readily available through the police department. He collects his information through a variety of resources from "going straight to source" and communicating with local gang members, as well as speaking with police officers.

"I would not compare it to the gang prob-

lem Seattle had in the early to mid 1990s," said Brad. "But since 2006 it has seemed to increase a little more each year."

To help combat the issue of youth violence, many community groups and youth programs look to reach out to kids to involve them in more positive activities. Kappel said the Seattle Police Department promotes this idea by encouraging youth to be involved with after-school programs and recreational sports.

"By ninth grade, kids are looking to associate themselves and that's where the pressure begins," said Martin Moore, mentor recruiting manager for the Community for Youth. "Instead of the peer pressure to join the Crips or other gangs, we give them the pressure to join a community of youth."

The Community for Youth is a mentoring program which pairs high school-age kids with mentors in order to creating healthy and positive relationships. Mentors work three hours a week for the youth. The pro-

gram, currently looking for new mentors, serves Cleveland, Chief Sealth and Rainier Beach high schools.

"What is unique about Community for Youth is that we are the only mentoring program in Seattle for high school-age youth," said Moore.

While many local mentoring programs, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, focus on younger kids, Moore sees Community for Youth as able to more adequately help youth at prime risk for joining gangs.

Despite differences of opinion on the severity of the issue, a key finding of the Gang Needs Assessment Project found that positive influences such as school programs, recreational activities, family and friends were all needed to help combat the problem of gang and youth violence.

For more information about Community for Youth, go to [www.communityforyouth.org/](http://www.communityforyouth.org/).

**'We wanted to get a read on the issue going beyond crime statistics'**  
-- Eric Anderson

# Green

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"learn and earn" program coordinated by King County Work Training's YouthSource, providing paid internships while students built practical job skills.

YouthSource recently won a Recognition of Excellence Award from the United States Department of Labor, which also funded this pilot program via a grant through the Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council for 2008.

The pilot program focused on exposing youth and young adults ages 16 to 21 who have had previous experience with the court system to living wage jobs in a variety of innovative environmental fields.

King County, along with private employers and community and technical colleges exposed students to a wide range of green professions, ranging from water quality protection at King County Wastewater Treatment Division to public transportation jobs such as hybrid bus maintenance at King County Metro Transit.

Students on the program's energy track received certificates of completion from representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local

46, who felt they gained as much from the program as the students.

"We've been talking about outreach to community for years, so it was great to see it really happen," said IBEW Local 46 Marine Apprenticeship Coordinator Brett Olson. "There's a major benefit to the community in helping to guide these young people in a new career direction."

The goal of Opportunity Greenway is to offer a hands-on learning approach aimed at increasing participants' basic skills while guiding the development of good work habits and attitudes needed for success in education and at work.

Officials said the program is expected to help youth in many ways, including basic skills improvement, increased understanding of living-wage "green" career opportunities, development of habits and attitudes for success in education and work, and

**Opportunity Greenway provided paid internships while students built practical job skills**

coaching on how to resolve personal, legal and family issues that are barriers to success.

The program focused on three green themes - transportation, energy and green building and natural resources.

South Seattle Community College provided a pre-apprenticeship exploration program in energy and green building at its Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center.

The natural resources track included: Water Quality and Technology, in partnership with Seattle Central Community College and Green River Community College; Summer Environmental Service Program at Highline School District's Camp Waskowitz; Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union; Salmon Creek Park Nursery and Revitalization at New Start/Salmon Creek Park and Summer Environmental and Community Service

Program in partnership with Kent Schools and Parks.

King County Wastewater Treatment Division and King County Metro Transit provided exploratory tours and other activities based on those agencies' cutting-edge work on environmental protection.

Students in the natural resources track visited the county's wastewater treatment facilities and engaged with employees who work on environmental protection in that division.

Students in the transportation track at King County International Airport received a guest presentation from a volunteer of the Climate Project, former Vice President Al Gore's effort to educate citizens on climate change, and also toured the King County Metro Transit Atlantic and Central bus bases.

Opportunity Greenway positions began on July 7 with over 50 students and wrapped up on Aug. 15.

"If everyone in Washington did this, there would be no kids left behind," Olson said. "We're committed to doing more of this work and outreach."