



Minority & Small Business



The Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Y’Nique McAllister Wright at the grand opening of her Y’Nique Touch Salon with the best friends who helped her plan the festivities. Pictured (from left) are DeSaree Hall, Wright, Celeste Tillman and Manerva Hart.

Starting a brand new business is really hard. Of course doing it during a pandemic is even harder. And when you’re the face of the next generation of historic black-owned Portland businesses, the pressure is on!

In the middle of Portland’s Alberta Arts District, at Northeast 13th and Alberta, sits the newest black-owned hair salon, Y’Nique Touch Salon.

According to owner Y’Nique McAllister Wright, this high-

Born in Tough Times New salon is face of next generation

ly-rated boutique is so much more than getting a blowout or protective hair style, it’s about the vibe, esthetics and overall experience.

“From hair to heritage, we honor and nurture the roots we grew out of,” Wright says, describing

the rich history of the arts district as well the neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland, the center of black culture in Portland.

“We are doing our part in contributing to the future by honoring the past which is evident via the

art work displayed on the walls throughout the salon,” she said. “We focus on healthy natural hair which starts with the scalps, and the integrity and longevity of a healthy hair care regimen. Hair comes in all different colors, dif-

ferent shapes, different styles, different textures, and we cater to them all.”

Services include both natural and chemically-treated hair solutions at an affordable cost.

A recent client called Y’Nique a rare find.

“I’m new to the area and I wanted a cute cut, but have never had a super short cut before. After looking on Google I came across a

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Beating the Odds for Business Start

Young woman finds success after troubled youth

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Few people could overcome Shalimar Williams’ tough beginnings and open their own business,

but with the help of some caring individuals, the Soul District, and the city of Portland, she has beaten the odds and will open Holy Beanz Coffee Shop at Northeast 26th and Alberta at the end of November.

The odds started out against Williams when she was just a kid since

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shalimar Williams is a first-time entrepreneur who will open Holy Beanz Coffee shop at Northeast 26th and Alberta in November. Embracing her Black roots, she plans to decorate the shop with memorabilia from Portland’s Black history and a hire a workforce that is also rooted in the community.



PHOTO COURTESY PACIFIC POWER

The North by Northeast Community Health Center, 714 N.E. Alberta St., receives a donation of a new electric vehicle and the infrastructure for a charging station to expand their reach into the Black community thanks to a \$45,000 mobility grant from Pacific Power in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Electric Vehicle Expands Clinic's Reach

A free health clinic serving the Black community is expanding its reach thanks to the donation of a new electric vehicle and infrastructure for a charging station from Pacific Power in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Community Health Center at 714 N.E. Alberta St. received a \$45,000 mobility grant from Pacific Power to purchase an EV and two chargers. The installation, celebrated last week, enables the clinic to expand their reach in the community by pro-

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PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

Alan Bell outside his Hana's PDX food cart. Bell is on his way of getting back into business after becoming the victim of a recent random shooting.

Food Cart Operator Mends

Makes comeback after random shooting

You can't keep a good man down.

That's the message coming from Alan Bell, the owner of Hana's PDX food cart and a mem-

ber of Portland's Black community, after he was shot multiple times Sept. 29 in a random act of violence in northeast Portland.

Bell was treated and released

that same day. He plans to heal and then return to providing New Orleans-style shaved ice, hot dogs, chili and other food de-

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The Week in Review

Effective Street Response

Portland Street Response, the city's new non-police first-response unit, demonstrated success in meeting outcome goals during its first six months, according to an evaluation by Portland State University. The report was released Tuesday for presentation to the Portland City Council.

Newberg Schools Keep Ban

The Newberg School Board doubled down last week on a recent policy to keep staff from displaying Black Lives Matter or gay pride flags, prompting strong criticism and threats to boycott the town of about 25,000 people southwest of Portland and its businesses.

Police Cleared in Lents Shooting

A grand jury last week declined to charge a police officer who shot and killed a man at Lents Park last April. Investigators said the victim, Robert Delgado, 46, produced what looked like a gun and pointed it at officers who were responding to a caller about a man with a gun.

New Street Racing Law

A new city ordinance was adopted last week that aims to curtail street racing by covering participants whether they're involved in the actual racing. In recent months, PPB cited a lack of resources and personnel as to why street racers were able to take over city streets repeatedly.

All Blazers Get Vaccinated

As the Portland Trail Blazers begin a new season, president of basketball operations Neil Olshey confirmed last week that the entire roster and basketball operations staff have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Homeless Villages Coming

Parcels of properties in three southeast Portland neighborhoods were identified last week as locations for the city's first "safe rest villages," a response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding on Portland's streets. Commissioner Dan Ryan is leading the effort to construct six city-sanctioned outdoor homeless villages by the end of the year.



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PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*

EDITOR: *Michael Leighton*

Office Mngr/Clsfnds: *Lucinda Baldwin*

Admin.Coord.: *Quayuana Washington*

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Paul Neufeldt*

OFFICEASST/SALES: *Shawntell Washington*

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Black excellence is celebrated as part of a new billboard campaign to target community violence that is sponsored by Youth Organized and United to Help, a Black-led organization founded by Imani Muhammad, a long time youth mentor and educator.

Billboards are Call to Action

Youth group's anti-gun violence campaign

In an era of gun violence, a COVID pandemic and financial uncertainty, Youth Organized and United to Help (Y.O.U.th) has decided to give its attention to what should be celebrated: Black Excellence.

In a counter-response to the school-to-prison pipeline epidemic that is evident in Oregon and across the nation, 16 billboards are being featured across the Portland area to help shape a more equitable picture of the Black experience by focusing attention on Black ingenuity, creativity and the inspirational potential of Black youth.

"We want our Black youth to know, believe and achieve Black excellence," noted Y.O.U.th's visionary founder Imani Muhammad.

The billboard campaign is part of the initial

launch of the Public Safety Village, an initiative overseen by the Portland Opportunities and Industrialization Center and Rosemary Anderson High School, in partnership with 11 grassroots, Black-led organizations.

Muhammad, a former educator and administrator for Portland area Boys and Girls Clubs, including the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, founded Y.O.U.th in 2007 in response to the shooting death of one of her 14-year-old students in northeast Portland.

The billboards, which went up this month, consist of three images: Two promote the group's brand and logo; the third is a backdrop picture of five Black youth with the words "Black Excellence."

Y.O.U.th's mission is to motivate, inspire and empower youth, family and educators to dismantle the school to prison pipeline by challenging existing systems and structures. For more information, visit youthpdx.org

Increasing Access to the Trades

Portland Community College president Mark Mitsui recently announced that PCC was adopting the Construction Careers Pathways Framework, a program that aims to head off a forecast shortage of skilled labor by increasing access to the trades for women and people of color.

Spearheaded by Metro regional government, the framework focuses on recruitment and retention of women and people of color into skilled labor jobs that have historically been dominated by white men. As the region continues to grow and workers reach retirement age, trade unions say they expect to be short of workers in



Mark Mitsui

the years to come.

The barriers the construction program aims to address include

direct barriers, like racism, sexism and harassment in the workplace, to indirect barriers, like access to child care and other supports for workers.

"This program builds stability and careers for our region's workers, and helps keep construction costs low by having a trained workforce ready to deploy on any project," said Metro Council President Lynn Peterson. "By using public projects to establish the program, we can make it easier for construction projects everywhere to use these principles and a diverse workforce."

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Diversifying the Construction Industry

Honored for economic empowerment

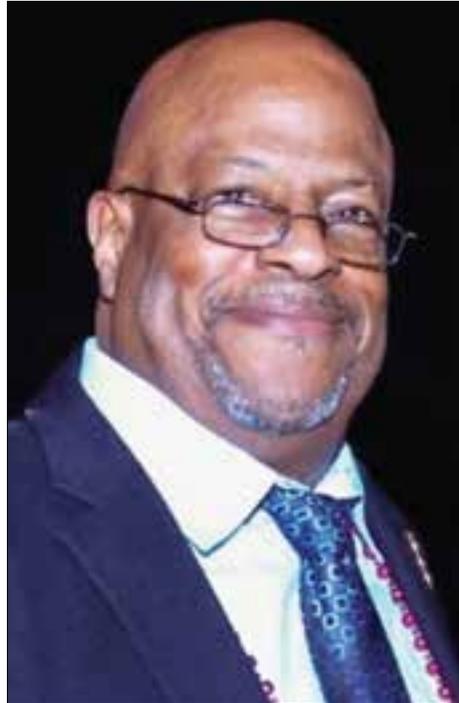
Michael Burch, a member of Portland's Black community who serves as a labor representative, was recently honored for his work to bring economic opportunities to minority and disadvantaged populations.

Burch was recognized as a trailblazer leader who personifies the Urban League of Portland's mission of equal opportunity when he was the guest of honor during the nonprofit's annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards event on Sept. 23. He was credited with being a community activist, a relationship builder, organizer, problem solver and ambassador.

The native Portlander, raised in a diverse neighborhood of northeast Portland with two siblings, is the community relations and outreach representative for the Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

A profile of Burch's life was presented as part of the Urban League celebration:

Burch came to adulthood during the Vietnam War when the draft took lots of young men from his neighborhood



Michael Burch

and those returning were often seriously injured or in body bags. Instead of waiting to be drafted, he signed up for the Air Force Reserves. After 8 months on active duty, he spent the next six years as an Air Evacuation Specialist.

Immediately after active duty he enrolled at the University of Oregon and spent the next five years earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and attending law school for one year. After college he worked a variety of jobs with increasing frustration because of

the lack of opportunities or upward mobility available to young Black men.

All his life Burch had been told education was the key to success and the doorway to opportunity. As it turned out, those opportunities were very limited and, mostly not extended to educated Black men in Portland in the late 70's. After a decade of attempting to prove his worth to a variety of employers, he decided to try a career move to something that fed his spirit instead of his pocket.

Most of this new career placed him in an alternative school setting serving low-income youth ages 16-25 years of age. After 16 years he left that setting and began his career with the Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

Burch sits on two Joint Apprenticeship & Training Councils for the Regional Council. He also serves on several boards and commissions representing the Carpenters efforts to diversify the construction industry, including Portland YouthBuilders, Constructing Hope, All Hands Raised, Metropolitan Alliance for Workforce Equity, Fair Contracting Forum and the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council.

In his spare time, he spends time with friends, fishing, drag racing, some off-roading and hanging out with his daughters and four grandchildren.



Jennifer Yruegas

Women Business Leaders Honored

Mentoring and supporting advancement

An esteemed college dean who also serves as a faculty member and attorney for Pacific University, and two Portland area firms, have been recognized for their efforts to mentor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Advertisement for affordable housing featuring a family (a man, a woman, and a child) moving into a new home. They are surrounded by cardboard boxes. The text "Welcome Home!" is prominently displayed at the top, and "Affordable housing without compromise." is at the bottom. A small house icon with the text "AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY" is visible in the bottom right corner of the image area.



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Resilience Leads to African Kitchen

New business owner adapted for success

Business owner Khadro Abdi, a refugee from Somalia who came to Portland in 2005, has demonstrated both her own resilience and the power of Portland's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Married and the mother two children, Abdi recently shared her story of creating Alleamin African Kitchen during difficult times with the help of resources backed by Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency.

Abdi was able to adapt to her new culture, language and business environment by maintaining a positive attitude, recognizing that while starting a business is complex and difficult, it's also a learning process.

Her support came from several nonprofits funded through Prosper Portland's Inclusive Business Resource Network. IBRN members Livelihood NW, IRCO and others offered help with food product devel-



Portland business owner Khadro Abdi started Alleamin African Kitchen, a micro restaurant selling fresh Somalian food, sauces and catering, in August 2020.

opment and licensing as well as legal and accounting advice.

A Small Business Development Center course inspired her to develop a unique spicy/sweet red sauce to pair with the sambusas she served at her first small restaurant. Thanks to a partnership with local grocery Market of Choice she launched her Alleamin Yanyo sauce in 2017.

In August 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, she opened Alleamin African Kitchen, a micro restaurant selling fresh Somalian food, sauces, and catering.

Her food products are now available at groceries and farmers markets throughout Portland. She is grateful for the help she's received from the network partners, saying, "They helped me with both personal and business questions. I found kindness and cultural understanding."

Alleamin African Kitchen is located at 6935 N.E. Glisan St. For more information, make an order or reach the restaurant, call 971-279-4016, use Door-dash or email alleamin2012@gmail.com

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shalimar Williams and her son, Jason, prepare for the November opening of Holy Beanz Coffee shop at Northeast 26th and Alberta. Williams is taking the plunge into business as a way to support her family and the Black community.

Born in Tough Times

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

number of stylists, but Y'nique's high rating, salon pictures and the reviews sold me," the customer said. "I felt so comfortable and at ease during my appointment. Her conversation, good vibe, music, cool space and constant reassurance during the cut made it an incredible experience! She knows her craft and I'm loving my cut!"

Hair salons may not be considered "essential" businesses to some, but Y'Nique Touch is showing that the services they provide prove Black women matter.

Black-owned hair salons have

fought to keep their doors open and survive this unprecedented and hectic coronavirus pandemic. The hairstylists matter too. Consider booking an appointment with your local Black-owned salon. When you show up, you also help Black women get their sacred spaces back.

Y'Nique touch Salon, 5011 N.E. 13th St., is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or make an appointment, call Y'Nique at 503-477-9969 or visit the website YT-salon.com.



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Beating the Odds for Business Start

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

both parents were addicts, she said, now recovered, but a close relative raised her. She still had troubles and was running with the wrong crowd as a teenager when she met Billy, a boyfriend who helped her turn her life around. Then tragedy struck and she went off the deep end.

“He was an amazing guy, he was 17 and really changed my life,” she said. “I stopped running around, got back in school, and we were going to go to college in Arizona.”

Then the worst happened. Billy was diagnosed with leukemia and died.

Williams didn’t deal well with the trauma, “completely went on a rampage” which led to more tragedy, and her world fell in completely by the time she was 23 years old.

“About 15 years ago I was in a horrible car accident, I was drinking and driving, and almost took a life,” she said.

As a result, she was sentenced to three years in prison but was released after two years. But during that time, she went to college and found solace in the prison chapel.

“My first week in there, I went to church, but it was literally just to get out of my cell,” she said. “I didn’t know anything about spirituality, or anything like that, ever.”

But she kept going back, and eventually ended up every night sitting on her bunk with a cup of coffee, reading her Bible.

“I did that for two years,” she said. “And I fell in love with who I was and fell in love with Jesus and spirituality. I like all religions in a way, like Buddhism, and I love to meditate.”

But readjusting to society was difficult after prison, and Williams struggled to find a job.

“They would pull my record up but they were not seeing a person, they were not seeing me,” she said. “I explained that I’m a real person, I’ve made a lot of mistakes, but I’m very educated, and then it was just like, no, no, decline, denied.”

But she said she got a lot of nurturing help from an esteemed couple from Portland’s African American community, Pastor Herman Greene and his wife Nike, who provided clothes and a place to stay to get her started and helped her persevere.

She eventually found work, but after her son Jason was born 11 years ago, she doubled down and worked two full-time jobs to support him and provide a home.

For the past couple of years, Williams has primarily worked as a human resources specialist, but it was still hard to make ends meet, even with two jobs, because prices



‘Y’Nique Touch Salon is so much more than getting a blowout or protective hair style, it’s about the vibe, esthetics and overall experience’, says owner Y’Nique McAllister Wright.

kept going up, and she made too much money for public assistance.

“Jason gets straight As and he’s a good kid,” she said. “But I reached a point where I said, ‘This cannot be my life. I’d watched a lot of protests and knew he was watching, and I knew I had to do something bigger.’”

And thanks to a little push, she decided to do just that.

“So I was getting my hair done — and you know the hair ladies are our therapists — and I said, ‘I’m supposed to do something. I don’t know what it is, but I’m uncomfortable in my spirit,’” she said.

When her hairdresser asked
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HIS ONLY RIVAL

OPINION

A MERICA IS BACK!..



Inhumane Treatment of Haitians We as a nation must do better

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs released the following statement on the recent treatment of Haitian refugees at the U.S.-Mexico border:

The events that took place along the southern border in Del Rio, Texas recently were deeply traumatic and disgusting to witness.

The inhumane treatment of Haitian refugees at the hands of federal agents and broadcast to the world continued a history of disparate, violent, and harsh treatment of Black people. It harkened back to Jim Crow and slavery.

Sadly, we do not need to look back to yonder years - this government-sanctioned violence continues to be exacted disproportionately onto Black, Brown, and Indigenous bodies.

No one should ever be subjected to being treated as less than human, especially when they are fleeing hunger, poverty, and violence.

The Haitian people and their country have far too long been scapegoated by the world and mistreated by many nations, including the United States. The horrific images of the U.S. Border Patrol attacking defenseless people and children is just the latest example.

The OCBA recognizes this statement is just that - a statement, words that express our deep sadness and anger at this precise moment.

The United States needs to grant temporary protected status to those seeking refuge and safety and abide by international laws on asylum. As a signatory to the 1967 Protocol, the United States has a legal obligation to provide protection to refugees.

Federal agents and others who participated in this horrific treatment must be investigated and met with justice. At this moment, the reality of America doesn't align with the dream of America - we as a nation must do better.



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Creston	4620 SE Powell Blvd	503-916-6219
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Clean Energy Grants Open

Committee to review proposals

Nonprofit organizations can now apply for grants from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund un-

til Nov. 30.

With \$60 million available in funding for clean energy, workforce and contractor development, community gardens, tree planting, and other climate projects, officials are looking for projects that provide climate solutions that help communities that bear the greatest

impacts of climate change, including low-income people and people of color.

Portland Clean Energy Fund staff members are available to help navigate the application process through information sessions, office hours, grant writing trainings, and technical assistance workshops in clean energy. Learn

more at portland.gov/pcef-grants.

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund is a historic initiative created and led by communities of color and passed by Portlanders in November 2018. It provides dedicated funding to address climate change and advance racial and social justice.

The fund is guided by a nine-member Grant Committee of diverse Portland residents.



Vendors and performers at My People's Market, 7th edition, summer 2021. Learn more and shop at mypeoplesmarket.com

Prosper Portland and its partners manage a growing portfolio of programs designed for BIPOC and women entrepreneurs. From tech startups to neighborhood shops, Prosper Portland supports a wide range of businesses that are vital to the economy of our city.

Learn more: prosperportland.us/business



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Music Legends Honored Aladdin Theater to host Hall of Fame celebration



A historical photo shows Portland's "Sweet Baby" James Benton (second from left) as a member of the Del-Tones with Eddit Fontaine (from left), Emmett Williams and Dave English. The late Blues vocalist will be honored with a heritage award at this year's Oregon Musical Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Photo courtesy sweetbabyjames-music.com.



First Lady of the Blues LaRhonda Steele.

Select musicians from Portland's African American community along with other prominent Oregonians like Kiss guitarist Thommy Thayer will be honored at this year's Oregon Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony, coming Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Aladdin Theater in southeast Portland.

The inductees include LaR-

honda Steele, Lifesavas, The Decemberists and Todd Snider. The Dandy Warhols have been named Artist of the Year and

the Album of the Year comes from the Koonce-Ross-Fraser album, New American Blues. Heritage awards will go to

big band leader Carl Smith and Blues vocalist "Sweet Baby" James Benton. Portland sup- per club owner and entertain-

er, Tony Starlight will host the show. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

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OPINIONATED JUDGE BY **DARLEEN ORTEGA**



Lifting Silenced and Diverse Voices

Run of independent films begins

The Portland Film Festival is here, a chance to explore independent films that fight to find an audience even though they often deserve it most. This year's festival—its fifth outing—will feature tracks of stories from various communities that have been historically marginalized or silenced—women's voices, black voices, Latinx voices, Asian voices, LGBTQIA+ voices, The festival will be virtual, accessible—and rich with good stories.

The opening night film is "Women is Losers," Lissette Feliciano's inaugural feature-length directing effort about the travails of a young Latina in 1960s and 1970s San Francisco. Chilean actress Lorenza Izzo (memorable as Leonardo DiCaprio's Italian starlet wife in the largely forgettable "Once Upon A Time in Hollywood") stars as Celina, a promising student at a Catholic high school who dreams of college and a career but also of romance with her soldier boyfriend Mateo. Celina doesn't live in a world that sets her up to succeed on any of those fronts; lacking much in the way of resources, family support, or sex education, her life predictably derails from there.

From its opening frame, "Women is Losers," borrowing from Janis Joplin's song of the same title, recognizes that Celina's life isn't the type of life that would occupy much screen attention—that would more likely go toward Mateo and his blond future paramour, and Celina would merely be the loser in the background. But this film invests in Celina's journey--the young single mother trying to scrap her way to an independent life at a time when an unmarried working woman needed her unemployed dad to co-sign for her to rent an apartment, when people could overtly enact policies

against extending home loans to women and Mexicans, and when low-wage work was a brown woman's only real option, no matter how brilliant she was.

Director Feliciano, inspired by conversations with her own mother, wants us to grapple with the unrelenting barriers facing women of color at the time and to connect those barriers to the struggles faced by women and people of color today. She wants us to see that being smart doesn't serve Celina the way it would if she were a white man; she ends up using her intelligence largely to navigate the incessant barriers of unhappy and oppressed parents, dismissive and unhelpful advice that fails to account for her actual options, low wages for long hours, sexism, racism, and the nonsense men are taught about what they have a right to expect from women.

Feliciano's aims are ambitious and fall into predictable pitfalls—structural barriers are extremely hard to depict without oversimplifying and turning characters into two-dimensional heroes and villains. Feliciano's approach is to embrace the struggle by occasionally breaking the fourth wall and having her characters connect the dots directly for the audience. The artificiality is meant to underline what she wants us to see; a way around the bafflement that often accompanies the actual experience of being gaslit by a system or a person wielding structural power.

The result can at times feel a bit too on-the-nose, and doesn't always support the complexity that Feliciano is hoping for. She is helped, however, by some inventive story-telling that embraces its moments of artificiality and by good work from her cast, especially Izzo, who



Chrissie Fit and Lorenza Izzo star in 'Women is Losers,' the opening independent film of the fifth annual Portland Film Festival, a virtual celebration this year because of the COVID pandemic, running Oct. 6 through Nov. 8. Photo courtesy Moon Pictures.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Remembrance

Iva Huff- Collins
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Chef Excels in Pan-African Food



It takes courage and resilience to stage a restaurant comeback during a pandemic – but that’s just what top Portland chef Fatou Ouattara has been doing.

Ouattara closed her West African restaurant, Akadi, in December and took some time to visit her family and homeland, the Ivory Coast, as well as rural villages in Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa, honing her cooking and collecting new recipe ideas. She plans to open, better than ever, later this year.

Ouattara also received the star treatment earlier this year when the Bravo series Top Chef featured her in an episode focused on Portland’s Pan-African food scene.

Her specialty Akadi sauces, which can now be purchased from New Seasons, Green Zebra and Wellspent Market, are especially good with such vegan dishes as shosho (stewed beans in a spiced red sauce), spicy okra spinach stew, veggie yasa (a variety of veggies in a yellow Dijon stew, and fufu (pounded yam).

--Prosper Portland

Portland Chef Fatou Ouattara and one of her specialty Akadi sauces.

Obituary

In Loving Memory



Shawn Penney

Shawn Penney, a longtime community activist and former president of the annual multicultural Good in the Hood celebration, died Sunday, Oct 6. He was born Oct. 10, 1973.

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The MLK Dream Run honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of social and economic justice for all. The 10th annual weekend celebration returns Saturday, Oct. 16 at Northeast MLK Boulevard and Alberta Street with a Roots Marketplace and Vendor Village, and entertainment. Race day is Sunday, Oct 17 from the same location.

It's a milestone year for the Soul District Business Associations' MLK Dream Run fundraising weekend celebration, returning Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16 -17 to the Alberta Commons shopping district at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street.

The 10th annual event celebrates a decade of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of social and economic justice for all, as he outlined through his timeless, "I Have A Dream" speech.

This year's celebration will kick off on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. featuring a Roots Marketplace, Vendor Village and entertainment through 6 p.m. Race day will be Sunday Oct, 27 from 7 a.m. to noon from the same MLK and Alberta location.

Donations raised for these events provide mentorship, coaching and workforce development training for small business owners and youth entrepreneurs

Decade Strong in the Soul

MLK Dream Run to celebrate 10 years

in Portland's historic African American community.

Funds raised over the years have been used to benefit the Soul District Youth Entrepreneur Training Programs, for example, which are designed to help low-income and minority youth (ages 16-24) improve and expand skills they need to operate successful businesses.

These youth are able to leverage these skills to secure opportunities for better employment and pathways to higher education.

For Kyrell Bishop, a SDBA youth entrepreneur program graduate and owner of GKB Services, LLC, a company that provides transport, moving and professional cleaning services, the impact of

the training he received from 2015-2018 was instrumental in putting him on a path to successful small business ownership.

"Summer internship programs through The Soul District Business Association gave me true insights into the daily operations and requirements of running a business. I learned and gained skills and connections that gave me universal qualities and capacities," he recently shared with Soul District officials.

Bishop said he saw how things worked in real-world, real-time.

"This experience inspired me to launch my own business that supports myself and my family," he said.

Everyone is invited to join the MLK Dream Run celebration and be a part of the Soul District's ongoing work to uplift Black and minority communities. You can sign up to walk, run, vendor, volunteer or donate, as individuals or groups by visiting mlkdreamrun.com/.



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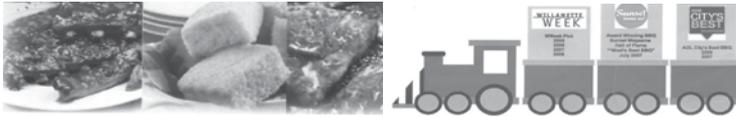
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Free trees for all Portlanders continue Portland Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry division's mission to grow, preserve, and protect the city's urban forest. Photo courtesy Portland Parks & Recreation.

Free Yard Tree Events

City promotes trees to help climate

Portland Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry division is giving away 1,800 free yard trees at five events this fall.

The Yard Tree Giveaway series helps to increase tree cover across the city. Anyone living in Portland is eligible for up to two free trees to plant on private property.

Advance registration is required at portland.gov/free-yard-trees.

"All Portlanders have felt the effects of another re-

cord-breaking year for extreme heat," notes Portland Parks Commissioner Carmen Rubio. "And science shows that trees play a substantial role in the fight against climate change. One way to cool our City and mitigate these impacts is to plant large-growing trees."

PP&R offers 16 types of free trees to choose from - large-growing, native, and evergreen trees, all of which provide the most benefits to the environment.

After registering, neighbors pick up trees, mulch, and a watering bucket at one of five Saturday drive-thru events. Staff will also deliver and plant trees for people who need accom-

modation. Since the first Yard Tree Giveaway event in 2017, Urban Forestry has given away more than 3,000 trees.

Science shows that trees play a substantial role in the fight against climate change by removing carbon dioxide and other particulate matter from the air. They help consumers conserve energy by significantly cooling neighborhoods during the summer months.

Trees also reduce stress levels and buffer noise. Trees improve our health and provide essential services for all Portlanders. They clean the air, and provide shade for people, animals, plants, and homes.

Demand Grows for Civil Engineers



New PCC degree to grow industry

The field of civil engineering has been pandemic proof and able to grow its business despite other industries being hampered by the impacts of the virus. As a result, jobs in this field continue to grow and the need for trained workers is increasing.

In response, Portland Community College has created the Civil and Construction Engineering Technology (CCET) program, offering a two-year Associate of Science degree that provides technician training for employment within the public and private infrastructure construction and maintenance fields.

The curriculum, which replaces the former Civil and Mechanical Engineering Technology Program,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Portland Community College instructor Tara Nelson supervises student Zachary McKay during a civil and mechanical engineering materials testing lab.

Women Business Leaders Honored

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and support the advancement of women in business.

The Portland Business Alliance recently announced the winners of their 2021 “A Place with No Ceiling” awards, recognizing women business leaders and women-centric businesses in the Portland metro area. This year’s honorees were Jennifer Yruegas of Pacific University, Boly:Welch, and Umpqua Bank.

Yruegas is dean of the College of Business and general counsel at Pacific University where she also contributes to the community teaching courses in law for both under-

graduate and MBA students. Her community service work in the past year included organizing more than 15 COVID vaccination clinics, providing 10,000 shots to mostly vulnerable populations.

Boly:Welch, a leading independent talent agency for the Pacific Northwest, was honored for being one of the first local companies to offer flexible schedules and a holistic work culture that celebrates employee milestones and supports employees through life’s ups and down.

As founder Pat Welch says, “We’re a human-centric company, not a metrics-driven one. Success comes from being our authentic selves rather

than being driven by just sales results. We look beyond the resume at the whole individual.”

Umpqua Bank was praised for having a number of initiatives that contribute to the advancement of women within the bank and in the community. Since 2013, for example, Umpqua Bank’s Women’s Associate Resource Group has offered members – and all women across the bank – professional development and leadership opportunities, visibility, and more.

Umpqua also seeks to further women’s advancement by supporting nonprofit organizations such as Girl Scouts, Girls on the Run, and others.

Lifting Silenced and Diverse Voices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

packs each moment on screen with intention that makes you forgive the occasional clunky dialogue. Izzo captures things about Celina that make her a heroine very worth rooting for—the stolid way she handles even moments of despair, her resourcefulness, the energy she finds in moments of exhaustion. There is also fine work here from Steven Bauer as her bitter misogynist father and Alejandra Miranda as her beleaguered mother, and Simu Liu (currently starring in Marvel’s “Shang-Chi”) appears as a bank supervisor who offers Celina an opportunity and coaching for

an unnamed price. The stagginess often does serve the material—Feliciano manages to illuminate connections that don’t receive enough attention and affords dignity and respect to a sort of heroism that is too often unnamed and devalued. The film may well cultivate the sort of curiosity and respect that will deepen conversation across generations and illuminate the abundant work that remains.

The Portland Film Festival runs Oct. 6 through Nov 8. You can find information about the films, passes, and tickets at pdxff.com.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of

color to serve in that capacity. Her movie and theater review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her review blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

Increasing Access to the Trades

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

At PCC, Matsui said the work will include setting and enforcing clear workforce diversity objectives.

“PCC understands that equi-

table access to high wage, high skill construction careers contributes to economic independence for populations that have been historically excluded from this pathway out of poverty,” Matsui said.

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Food Cart Operator Mends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

lights to his customers, and helping his community.

Bell, 42, has no idea why he was shot. Portland Police are investigating. But he is focusing on what he can control: His mental attitude and remaining optimistic.

"Everything is the first step to moving forward. I want to take the first step in a positive direction," said Bell.

Bell was born in Portland and raised in New Orleans. He decided to open his

food cart six years ago to become financially independent and to introduce Portland to the unique shaved ice called "snowballs."

"I just wanted to work on myself and be a self-sufficient Black, working man and take care of myself," Bell said. "It seemed like a cool job to have. I decided to take a leap and bet on myself. It's been going well, even through this."

Bell uses a snowball maker he imported from New Orleans that shaves ice so fine it becomes like snow. When Bell

adds the flavor picked by the customer, it's absorbed into every flake so each bite has the same taste. The unique product has drawn rave reviews.

Bell has become well known throughout the metro area as he moves his food cart between local high schools and a number of other locations. He posts each day's location on social media.

"This summer was our busiest summer to date," Bell said.

This was the first crime Bell has encountered since opening his business. The cart was damaged in the incident. Bell plans to repair it and reopen in the near future.

"My food cart is a family-friendly business. Safety has always been my first priority," said Bell. "This was a random, senseless act. I plan to come back stronger and even more positive. In the meantime, I want to thank the people in law enforcement, medical services and everyone in the community who has reached out to me."

Bell has supported his community since he opened, giving away gift cards and donating meals to essential workers and the homeless. He plans to continue that support when he reopens.

Anyone with information related to the shooting should contact Portland Police Department.

Thanks to the Portland Police Bureau's Public Information Office for this story.



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North by Northeast Community Health Center Executive Director Suzy Jeffreys and Community Health Worker Sharetta Butcher load up a new electric vehicle donated by Pacific Power with health-related materials to expand outreach on community health needs like COVID vaccines, blood pressure checks and other health information.

Electric Vehicle Expands Clinic's Reach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

viding COVID vaccines and blood pressure checks at various locations.

It's a unique, environmentally-friendly solution that the clinic hopes to expand on.

Besides helping the clinic to reduce its carbon footprint, the EV also reduces the clinic's operation and maintenance costs related to transportation. And it offers an opportunity to educate community members about electric vehicles. Additionally, the chargers will be made available to the public for charging during off-peak hours.

Eventually, the clinic hopes to acquire larger e-vehicles to provide a full array of mobile clinical services, officials said.

R. Kelly Verdict Called Overdue

Black women react to trial conviction

(AP) — For years, decades even, allegations swirled that R&B superstar R. Kelly was abusing young women and girls, with seeming impunity.

They were mostly young Black women. And Black girls.

And that, say accusers and others who have called for him to face accountability, is part of what took the wheels of the criminal justice system so long to turn, finally leading to his conviction last week in his sex trafficking trial. That it did at all, they say, is also due to the efforts of Black women, unwilling to be forgotten.

Speaking out against sexual assault and violence is fraught for anyone who attempts it. Those who work in the field say the hurdles facing Black women and girls are raised even higher by a society that hypersexualizes them from a young age, stereotyping them



R. Kelly arrives at court to face sex trafficking charges in this 2019 photo from AP. The R&B superstar was found guilty last week by a jury in New York.

as promiscuous and judging their physiques, and in a country with a history of racism and sexism that has long denied their autonomy over their own bodies.

For years, girls suffering at R. Kelly's hands were treated

as more of a punchline than a travesty, even during a trial on child pornography charges where a video, allegedly of him abusing a girl, was shown. He was acquitted in 2008.

Those who welcomed his new conviction, which came

after several weeks of disturbing testimony and now carries the possibility that Kelly will spend decades in prison, said it's a testament to the strength and perseverance of Black women, who have been the driving force, especially in

recent years, of speaking out against him and demanding attention remain on him.

Tarana Burke, founder of the Me Too movement against sexual abuse, pointed to the #Mut-eRKelly campaign, a protest started by two Black women in Atlanta in 2017 to put pressure on radio stations to stop playing his music and venues to stop allowing him to perform.

And the most widespread public condemnation followed in the wake of the 2019 docu-series "Surviving R. Kelly," executive produced by dream hampton, a Black woman.

Asked about the guilty verdict on "CBS This Morning," hampton said, "You know, I want to believe that this means that Black women survivors will be heard, but I don't want it to be dependent on a piece of media going viral or being successful." She said she thinks about "all of the stories of everyday Black girls in neighborhoods like the ones that I grew up in Detroit who don't have a predator, who don't have an abuser that was famous or rich."

Demand Grows for Civil Engineers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14
incorporates hands-on training with the latest in technology at the Sylvania campus.

"This is a new program that was created using industry input," said Tara Nelson, faculty chair of the program. "The CCET program will offer a blend of remote learning, online and hybrid courses. With the new infrastructure bill passed nationally, and the growing need to upgrade our infrastructure, we expect that the demand for technicians in this field will increase in the next several years.

Faculty will train qualified workers for jobs in local mu-

nicipalities like the City of Portland, City of McMinnville, Washington County, as well as private companies like KPFF Consulting Engineers and David Evans & Associates.

"To create this degree, we focused on what local civil engineering technicians told us they do on-the-job on a daily basis," said Greg Gerstner, CCET instructor. "The result is a more focused industry-specific degree that will create industry-ready employees. We're excited to get started."

For more information about the Civil and Construction Engineering Technology Program, visit pcc.edu/ccet/.



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The Portland NAACP is Seeking a Program Assistant for African American Women's Initiative

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The African American Women's Initiative (AAWI) is a breast cancer education, access and advocacy program transferred to the NAACP Portland by Susan G. Komen of OR & SW in March 2021. The Program Assistant will provide administrative support to the Program Manager and AAWI programs. For a detailed list of responsibilities, skills and qualifications, please see <https://www.pdxnaacp.org/about/jobs/program-assistant-for-african-american-womens-initiative>

- \$38,000 per year, paid monthly
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Submit your two-page (maximum) cover letter detailing your interest and the skills, training, experiences and education for the position with a resume and 3 references to Cynthia Fowler, Chair, Health & Wellness Committee at health@pdxnaacp.org by November 5, 2021.

The NAACP Portland 1120B branch is committed to providing opportunities for Black and other people of color. We encourage BIPOC, disabled, LGBTQI+ and younger members of our communities to apply.

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PPS -- Budget Department Director

Portland Public Schools is the largest PK-12 school district in the state of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest with an enrollment of more than 49,000 students. As Oregon's biggest, most diverse urban district, Portland Public Schools is an integral part of the fabric of our city. We work closely with our local community colleges and universities, providing opportunities for professional development and lifelong learning. If you have experience in financial and business services, we would like for you to consider joining Portland Public Schools as the **Director of our Budget Department**.

The **Budget Director** will manage and coach the budget staff in activities essential to the development, preparation, review, analysis, evaluation and administration of the District's budget. This will include overseeing staff not only in the tracking and monitoring of budget expenditures but also in the developing, modeling and reviewing potential financial scenarios. The Director will also advise senior leaders regarding financial impacts of existing and proposed budgets and support the District's planning and prioritization efforts through the creation of a long-term financial forecast. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration, or related field and five years of experience developing, monitoring, analyzing, overseeing budgets in excess of \$50 million in a full-service public agency or in the private sector.

How To Apply: Please visit www.pps.net/jobs and use job #23306

Salary Range: \$116,455 - \$139,054

NAACP Portland 1120B Branch is seeking an Executive Director!

We are looking for an individual with excellent communication, organizational, and management skills. This person must also demonstrate a commitment to the values and vision of Black liberation, racial and social justice and have experience engaging with and supporting BIPOC and other marginalized groups and community organizations. Please see <https://www.pdxnaacp.org/about/jobs/executive-director> for a detailed list of responsibilities, skills and qualifications.

- \$50,000 per year, paid monthly
- 24 hour work week
- Hybrid virtual/in office
- Independent contractor position
- Funding through December 2022 with possible extension

How to Apply

Please submit your two-page (maximum) cover letter detailing your interest and the skills, training, experiences and education that you believe makes you the ideal choice for the NAACP Portland's first Executive Director, along with a resume and three references to Lily Copenagle at assistant@pdxnaacp.org by 5pm on November 5, 2021 for consideration.

We encourage BIPOC, disabled, LGBTQIQ, and younger members of our diverse communities to apply early. Applicants must be legally able to work in the United States.

Beating the Odds for Business Start

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

what she wanted to do, Williams told her she "kind of had this idea" to open a coffee shop.

"And she said, 'Do it!'" Williams said. "So I started writing a business plan, and the more I wrote, the bigger the vision became."

Williams worked on her business plan for months, she said, but couldn't find funding until someone gave her outline to the Soul District Business Association, and the doors opened.

"And they said, 'Do you know what you've created? This is amazing!'" she said.

So Williams started working with Samuel Miller of the Soul District, who became both mentor and coach, fulfilling a quest to help create more Black-owned businesses.

Miller said Prosper Portland, the city's economic development arm, uses TIF funds for grants and loans for Black-owned businesses so they can build a foundation, an infrastructure, because Black businesses have been gentrified because of all that has happened in the past.

TIF, or tax increment funding, is a public financing method used as a subsidy for redevelopment and other community improvement projects.

"What we do is we work with Prosper Portland to navigate their resources to find business opportunities for primarily Black businesses," Miller said. "We are negotiating with them for grants, for loans, for space — all those things."

When the future Holy Beanz Coffee Shop opens in its L-shaped and 1,300 square foot configuration at 2622 N.E. Alberta St. it will proclaim the mission statement a "Purpose in a Cup," Williams said.

In addition to coffee, the shop will have merchandise, seating areas and music that gives a nod to the history of Portland's Black community, with plans to make space available to feature large photos of historic Black Portland. The front entry way will be like an art gallery for contemporary Black artists.

Williams is not only moving up in the world economically, she's looking to give back and said a percentage of her profits will go to a local nonprofit.

She'll be hiring on a part-time employee and a full-time experienced barista, and is hoping to hire people who, like her, have survived experiences like prison or abuse or are recovery.

Looking ahead as an employer instead of an employee, she said, "I've worked so hard, and I'm saying I deserve this. And it's helping people."

Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033 or email ads@portlandobserver.com

Teacher of the Year

Helping students find their voices

Clackamas High School educator Ethelyn Tumulad has been named Oregon's 2022 Teacher of the Year.

A video message from Gov. Kate Brown was played during last week's announcement event, offering personalized congratulations and gratitude to Tumulad for being an example of a shining star for helping students in need.

A first generation immigrant who came to the Pacific Northwest from the Philippines with her family at the age of five, Tumulad leans into her identity as a Filipino woman and immigrant to support students in finding their own voices, recognizing the beauty of their diversity and being unapologetically themselves.

Every student in Ms. Tumulad's classroom learns to respect one another and see the strengths in each other's differences, representatives from



Ethelyn Tumulad

the Oregon Department of Education program said.

Tumulad serves as advisor for the Clackamas High School Asian Pacific Islander Student Union, and co-leads the school's Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BI-POC) staff affinity group.

"Ethelyn infuses her classroom with community, belonging and empathy – all critical components for ensuring students feel welcome and safe," said state Educa-

tion Director Gill. "As this new school year begins and students work to make meaning of the challenging last 19 months, Ethelyn will serve as an outstanding model for Oregon educators who are working to support the social-emotional, mental and physical needs of their students."

The Oregon Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Education in partnership with the Oregon Lottery.

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FOOD



Garlic & Herb Turkey Roulade

INGREDIENTS

- 2 boneless, skinless turkey breasts
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 c. panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 c. thyme leaves
- 3 tbsp. sage
- 2 c. parsley leaves
- 6 clove garlic
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1/4 c. vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS

1. Butterfly breasts crosswise, being sure not to cut all the way through. Place a piece of plastic wrap over one open breast, and pound to a rectangle about 12" x 14" (1/4" thick). Season with salt and pepper. Repeat with remaining breast. You want your turkey to be uniform in thickness, this will make it easier to roll.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet, add panko and toast until golden brown. Transfer to a food processor, then add thyme, sage, parsley and garlic and process until finely chopped. Season with red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper.
3. Pat the turkey breast dry, sprinkle half of the garlic-herb mixture evenly over the breast and begin to roll up tightly like a jelly roll. Secure the roll with kitchen twine. Repeat with the second breast.
4. Rub the roulades all over with vegetable oil and transfer to parchment lined baking sheets.
5. Bake at 375° until an instant read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the roulade reads 160°, about 1 hour. Let cool 20 minutes before slicing.

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TO THE FAMILY FRANCHISE, KEEP RISING.

"We're down to 15% of our regular sales," reported Portland restaurant owner John Jackson, at the height of the pandemic. He opened Heroes American Café last September and was vandalized the next month during the protests that rocked downtown Portland.

Jackson is one of more than 60 Oregon/SW Washington recipients of Comcast RISE, a program to aid minority-owned small businesses.

"Receiving support from Comcast RISE certainly helped us keep going," said Jackson. The support he's referring to came in the form of free TV advertising giving Heroes Café its first TV exposure in Portland. "It was a great way to get the word out that we're still here."

"It's encouraging to see Comcast, a leader in technology and entertainment, focus on the economic divide," said Jackson. "Every bit of assistance made a difference in helping small businesses like mine survive until things started to return to normal."

Jackson opened his first restaurant after an 11-year stint in the Marine Corps during Desert Storm. His aim is to bring people together with the power of a meal. "I named it Heroes American Café to honor all heroes we know: teachers, first responders, veterans."

"I put two of the things I care about together: those who serve our communities and good food – to create a concept that appeals to all Americans, red or blue," explained Jackson. "Heroes American Café is a place where we can all come together, have a meal, forget about the world's problems, and have a few minutes of joy."

Jackson also owns another restaurant in Portland, one in Medford, and one in Grants Pass. And he's eyeing the development of fifth location, possibly in Hillsboro. "Heroes will survive this," said Jackson confidently.

TO SEE IF YOUR MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS QUALIFIES FOR COMCAST RISE, GO TO [COMCASTRISE.COM](https://comcastrise.com)