



Minority Business

Special Edition 2022

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Power Through Community Economics

Leaders of NAMC- Oregon and Black Business Association of Oregon

WRITTEN BY JAMES CADOR

Oregon's complex and often contradictory history inspires both pride and derision. For every policy achievement Oregon has earned, there has been an equal and opposite reaction. The 33rd state has a unique history that, when laid out, clearly blueprints the foundation of Oregon's modern struggles.

In 1859 we were admitted to the Union as a Free State, a fact that is an undeniable good. However, in the writing of our state constitution, lawmakers inserted a clause stipulating that Blacks were prohibited from making contracts, owning property, or even living in the State of Oregon. This clause made an indelible mark on our state's political and civic cultures, influencing how Oregonians interacted with People of Color.

Throughout its 163 years, the state has

systematically marked the Indigenous Tribes of the region, Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, and many other ethnic groups for exclusion and legal discrimination. As late as the 1970s, towns in southern Oregon, such as Grants Pass, had signs crudely threatening Black Oregonians into leaving the town by sundown. That is in living memory and speaks to the fact that Oregonians of Color had been prevented culturally and politically from establishing meaningful economic roots.

By restricting and barring entire ethnicities from participating in the economy, Oregon worked to establish sheltered markets where select companies could figuratively divide Oregon's economic engines amongst themselves. Industries like timber, construction, farming, and fishing were protected from non-white competition, leaving profound social and economic scars that have been excruciatingly slow to heal.

This history comes as a surprise to many. Still, to Oregonians of Color, that history is so tangible that sometimes, it seems to stubbornly stick like glue to whatever it touches. And that

history has clung to Nate McCoy, the Executive Director of the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors, and Lance Randall, Black Business Association of Oregon (BBAO) Executive Director.

Both believe that equity will come from economics. As a native Oregonian, Mr. McCoy has witnessed the rise, fall, and rebirth of some of Portland's cornerstone businesses of Color. This experience shepherded him to understand how community-focused economics can serve as the beating heart of thriving, vibrant communities.

However, McCoy learned that success for People of Color in Oregon is built from a foundation of mutual trust and a shared vision. From his experience, he said it is fundamental to build "real relationships with people who have gotten a chance to understand your struggles, your stories, your opportunities, and your vision." He believes that a proper "vision must be clear for any business or growing company. And NAMC is a great

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The INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

Portland Public Schools
Renames Headquarters

PPS Announces the Renaming of the District's Headquarters to Honor Former Superintendent Dr. Matthew Prophet



Dr. Matthew Prophet, former PPS Superintendent

Portland Public Schools announced that the PPS Board of Education renamed the Blanchard Education Service Center (BESC). The PPS Board of Education voted unanimously to rename the central office after Dr. Matthew Prophet, former PPS Superintendent from 1982-1992, who passed away in June. The resolution is historic, and establishes that the current building – and any future PPS School headquarters – be named after Dr. Prophet.

The unified vote by the school board followed compelling testimony by Dr. Prophet's son, Mat-

thew Prophet, Jr.; former board members who served during his tenure; and community leaders, all in support of the measure.

"My dad always spoke with pride and love of Portland Public Schools," said Mathew Prophet, Jr. "He was always very proud of the onsite professionals, the teachers, the secretaries, the custodians, the principals, the counselors and their contributions to the kids," Prophet said.

Several board members also spoke affectionately about the beloved superintendent. Board Chairman Andrew Scott said, "I graduated from Wilson in 1991,

and I got a world class education from Portland Public Schools – and I think you have to give credit to the superintendent at the time...I just remember the reverence that people at the school had for him: that when he showed up, there was just an immense amount of respect."

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero said that his team will expedite this action and take immediate steps to bring this resolution to fruition.

PPS welcomes this decision and is very excited by this new beginning.

Resources Available to Help
Students with Career Paths

PCC's new Opportunity Center being built for students and community

Tracee Wells has been helping students and members of the public connect to opportunities and navigate their career paths at Portland Community College. She recently transitioned into a new role as training and education specialist. She supports a variety of programs and services at the Portland Metro Workforce Training Center (PMWTC) in Northeast Portland. The center helps people explore careers that will provide upward mobility in an inclusive environment. PM-



Training and education specialist Tracee Wells

WTC will include 84 affordable housing units and other supportive services to be accessed by surrounding communities.

The facility is part of PCC's Opportunity Centers, which work to close opportunity gaps to give people the tools they need

to develop their skill sets and the confidence to be competitive for high-demand careers. They also help students navigate resources, find employment and connect

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ads@portlandobserver.com • subscription@portlandobserver.com

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Shawntell Washington

OFFICE MNGR/CLASFS: Lucinda Baldwin

Admin.Coord.: Quayuana Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Kenya Anderson

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Assisting Community Members Acquire Property

Eddie Lincoln is the owner of Century 21 North Homes Realty. He has been in practice for 15 years and serves new home buyers home buyers, down sizers, relocators, and commercial buyers. He works with a host of administrative staff members, principal broker and also a team of Real Estate Brokers to consult with on Real Estate deals. Century 21 North Homes Realty is a Full-Service Real Estate firm. He services all the State of Oregon and Washington and also provides information on Wealth Wave Financial Services (How Money Works Education Resources).

Mr. Lincoln noted "Real Estate is an investment and if you can afford to buy property do not hesitate. There are many tax advantages to owning property and allowing it to grow tax deferred." The office is located at 2715 SE 8th Street Suite #171 Portland, Or 97202. While the office hours are flexible the office hours are primarily between the hours 9:00am – 5:00pm. More information can be found by calling 503-789-0861 or visiting EdLincoln.com.



Eddie Lincoln Owner of Century 21 North Homes Realty

Native Owned Constuction Elevates Community

Construction business operates with dignity, honor, respect, and integrity



Leon Araiza

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Leon Araiza is an active member of the urban Native community and is the owner of Advanced Tribal LLC, a general contracting company that specializes in concrete, concrete reinforcement, rough carpentry, seismic upgrades, finish carpentry, tenant improvements, civil work, and specialty projects. Coming with 33 years of experience in the industry, Advanced Tribal was started in 2015.

Leon's experience is a testament to the ways in which we can reject internalizing messages of inferiority and instead, use those experiences to fuel our resilience. Beginning his career with the Job Corps and from there heading into the Carpenter's Union, Leon describes the treatment as "daily hate crimes." Leon realized very quickly that he was there to gain knowledge, not to make friends. "Reflecting back on it, it's not surprising that I was able to do that in the gracious manner that I did. Representing our ancestors, I come from a long line of survivors," Leon reflects. "Our people not only survived but strived in the face of adversity and oftentimes death." Eventually, Leon got enough experience that he was able to change others' perception of what he was supposed to be. "I wasn't just a Brown guy to, you know, shovel this, or pack that, or move that," he said. "I ended up starting to push work and

run crews and then run projects."

Leon always knew the type of culture that he would elevate on his own jobsites—that of belonging and self-love. "This job is not who we are, it's what we do. It's who we are that we bring to what we do." It is that belief that has been the foundation for Advanced Tribal's majority Native workforce, with nine out of ten members of the team from the Native community. As Leon sees it, "that's really something that draws us all together—our own individual experience with that culture out there that historically has treated us that way." In an act of resistance, Advanced Tribal provides something different. "As a construction company... we're into building people. And giving people an opportunity to thrive in a career and be able to take care of their families and learn a trade," he explains. "We're some of the most skilled people in the workforce. We have that critical thinking... That's how our ancestors really did survive the wilderness, the unknown world that came at them, by being able to look at the change and by figuring out, ok, this is how we're going to deal with this. And that's what we do with our workforce on our projects."

"The important thing to me is that when we go to be successful at something in a certain playing field, to not give up who we are," Leon advises. "Because at some point in time there's an exchange, that in becoming something we have to leave something behind. It's really important not to leave behind who we are and who we represent as Indigenous people."





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Isis Harris, owner of 3v3ryday Grind LLC

Looking and Feeling Good While Working

BY MOLLY WASHINGTON

Isis Harris is a Portland-native, Licensed Journeyman Electrician, and the owner of 3v3ryday Grind LLC, a branded, high visibility workwear apparel company. High visibility is crucial for fast-paced activities like construction, flagging, biking, jogging, or warehouse work, to name a few. But this company isn't just about merchandise. "Another part of the company is just bringing awareness to the construction industry, bringing awareness to the opportunity of apprenticeship and sharing my story with others so that they know that regardless of whatever obstacles you come across, you can still make whatever you need to make of your life," Isis explains. "You don't have to fit into the status quo. It's ok to blend out boldly and just be yourself"

Isis chose this type of high visibility apparel for a very specific reason. "Because going through my apprenticeship there was not the opportunity to not be highly visible. There was not the opportunity to not be seen on a daily basis regardless of whatever I wore," she recalls. Isis embraces the fact that as a Black woman, she is a unique person on a work site. "I am going to own it and embrace it and wear it, versus kind of trying to hide from it and blend into, I guess, the majority. It's ok. It's ok to be an individual, it's ok to stand out, to blend out and to be yourself."

3v3ryday Grind LLC, the creator and organizer of the 3-part Community Pulse Series, aimed to

create a family friendly community engagement experience specifically crafted to expose and educate the Black and Brown communities to specific pathways into construction-based careers. This is accomplished through hands-on workshops, speed mentoring, virtual simulation exercises, and direct access to construction industry stakeholders. The intention is to encourage intentional recruitment from these communities and offset the potential for gun violence by offering prosocial activities to at-risk youth and communities. Isis garnered support from many sponsors as well as funds from the Safer Summer PDX initiative allocated by the Mayor's Office. The next event is to be held October 15th, 2022 from 11am-5pm at The Portland Covenant Church located at 4046 NE MLK Jr Blvd, near Shaver St. To get involved, visit ShopEveryDayGrind.com.

"We can work on actually keeping people in the trades that come from diverse backgrounds and changing the construction culture to one that is more welcoming," Isis states. "Community is a big part of it. And with that, you have to be a little more visible, you have to kind of put yourself out there in uncomfortable situations which is some of what I'm doing right now. And just embracing the fact that I cannot continue to go to work everyday and not see faces that look like me and know that I'm not doing anything about it." It is without a doubt that Isis is doing something about it. And then some.

Help Students with Career Paths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to the right PCC certificate and degree programs.

PCC's Community Workforce Development Department partners with the Oregon Department of Human Services and other community agencies to provide services at these centers like PMWTC. They work closely with college programs, such as PCC Clear Clinic, Career Pathways and the Outreach and Advocacy Project, to connect students to the unique resources that will help them navigate and be successful in their

academic and career journeys.

"Many of the students are nontraditional and come through the doors of our Metro and Willow Creek opportunity centers with multiple barriers to work or school," Wells said. "My goal is to help remove or minimize as many barriers as I can in my role and through leveraging the valuable internal and external partners who come together to support equitable success."

Last year, Wells participated in a major college initiative called Yes to Equitable Student Success (YESS) that informed

the development of PCC's 2020-25 Strategic Plan. Wells served as part of a dedicated cohort of 140 staff and faculty who worked to design the new academic and career pathways in a way that keeps students and equity at the center.

"That's meeting people where they are—culturally, mentally, emotionally and trauma-informed, so as not to create any additional stress on their lives," said Wells. "We are giving them the support that they need to gain overall student success, and they feel a true sense of belonging."



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Urban Designer Expresses Artistry Through Architect



Suenn Ho

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Suenn Ho is an urban designer, sole owner of SUENN HO Design and co-founder with John Flynn of RESOLVE Architecture + Planning. The child of two Harvard-educated parents, one an artist and the other an architect, she was born in Boston and grew up in Hong Kong. Suenn recognizes the privilege of having opportunities afforded to her in early adulthood, studying and practicing architecture and design in Boston, New York City, France, Hong Kong, and ultimately settling down in Portland in 1993. "We found our place," she said.

Suenn's focus, as she describes it, is "using my design to tell stories that are seldom heard." Drawn towards stories of historical value that were never recognized or which seemed to be unimportant to mainstream culture, her goal is to bring

these stories to the forefront through design. Suenn's understanding of these missing stories is unique in her line of work and her awareness came through her Fulbright fellowship to study an "urban slum," the notorious Kowloon Walled City, in Hong Kong. What she learned after 10 months of study was that "all of the things I had learned in architecture school did not prepare me to engage with people in a way that allows them to share their incredible stories. I learned how to listen. I learned how to respectfully capture their stories, through some of the work that I have been able to expand to an audience that never thought they were worth paying attention to." This experience spurred her actively seeking out these missing stories. "There is a lot of humanity in the work we can do if we connect with the people," she explains.

Suenn is part of a team bringing these design ideas to life on Multnomah County's East County Flagship Library project. "My role is not just gathering information about the project from the people but trying to also draw from their aspirations, hopes, and dreams and be able to integrate their stories into the design process and design focus. East County is diverse with an increasingly rich culture presence within the community. It's important to draw the cultural history and heritage relevancy from these seldom heard voices and seeing how we can integrate that into the inspiration for the design team to synthesize into architecture and create relatable places to the community."

Fire Safety for Doors and More



Chris Warren

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Portland-native and Benson High School graduate, Chris Warren is the co-owner, along with Jared Amato, of Oregon Door Consultants. Always someone with an entrepreneurial spirit, Chris sought out opportunities to learn new industries, provide mentorship and coaching to others, and sees the most potential in working for himself. Oregon

Door Consultants is a specialty contracting company that focuses on furnishing and installing doors, frames, and hardware. Currently, ODC is working on projects at the Portland International Airport with the Hoffman Skanska joint venture, the Salem Public Works project with Howard S. Wright, and the University of Portland tenant improvement project, to name a few.

Chris doesn't use the word "employee" when describing the people with whom he works, they are his team members. "We're all on the same team," Chris states. "And at the end of the day, every business owner, the key to their success is taking care of those associates, taking care of the people that work with them because those are the people that allow a business to shine, allow a business to look good, allow an owner to be successful." Recognizing and appreciating his team members is key and treating his team members like family comes second nature. Chris's mantra is simple: "I'm going to value every person on my team and make sure they know that they are very much appreciated because they are the success of the business." As for budding entrepreneurs, Chris's advice is this: "Find your passion and do your passion. Some of us are set up to go work for people. Some of us are set up to control our own success and destiny and have our own free time. And I would encourage everyone that is not afraid to take the leap to have their own business. Don't exchange your time for money but control your own schedule."

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A PLACE FOR FRIENDS

Portland Native is State's New U.S. Attorney

Natalie Wight is the first Black Woman to hold the office

By BEVERLY CORBELL

Natalie Wight, who was confirmed as Oregon's U.S. attorney by the U.S. Senate earlier this month, is the first person of Black descent to hold the office, and she gives credit to growing up in Portland for her successes.

As a 1992 graduate of Cleveland High, where she played soccer, basketball and track and field, Wight said her high school experience helped give her the will to succeed.

"The people who raised me up were my teachers and my coaches, and they always pushed me to never give up," she said.

That attitude led to many successes in her life, including graduating from Notre Dame law school in 2003 and that same year joining the Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program as an attorney for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She then served as an assistant U.S. attorney in California from 2008 to 2012, when she came back to Portland to work in Oregon's U.S. Attorney's office.



Natalie Wight

"I couldn't wait to get back," she said, and one of the first things she did was get in touch with her old high school and start the Cleveland Mock Trial program, which she started with her husband, Casey Nokes, also an attorney. Some school have mock trials as part of the curriculum, but it's all volunteer at Cleveland, where the kids come in after school and on weekends.

Wight also spearheaded a mock trial program at Notre Dame, where the program for law students was pretty intense, she said, but it's more geared toward

high school kids at Cleveland.

"It's a little mix of everything, and we mostly focus on getting them ready for graduation and college and do a little of mock trial," she said. "We teach them how to evaluate a case, to be analytical and about both criminal and civil cases."

The program starts in October and ends with statewide mock trial competition at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

"We've only gone to state once," she said, "but we pride ourselves on being the runner-up every year."

In her volunteer work and in her job, where she often puts in 12 to 14 hour days, underlying it all is her love of children and her concern for their futures, Wight said.

"My vision is that I want to know how our cases affect children, both as victims and as defendants," she said. "I want to know how our work can help bring justice to kids, and at the same time support them," and that includes her own sons, ages 16 and "almost 15."

In her 18 years with the U.S. Attorneys' Office, most recently Wight served as the deputy chief of the Organized and Violent Crime Section, where she focused on child exploitation, human trafficking, kidnapping, Indian Country, robberies, assaults and other violent crimes. She also served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the office's Civil Division, defending the United States in cases involving civil rights, torts, medical malpractice, employment law and prison

litigation. She has also been a Department of Justice attorney recruitment ambassador since 2011 and the U.S. Attorney's Portland Reentry Court Coordinator since 2015.

"The reentry program is for people who have finished their sentences and they're still on probation," she said, "and we focus only on the highest risk and highest need individuals in reintegrating back into the community," she said. "They very often have serious substance abuse, and extensive criminal history and serious trauma."

Together with a team of many experts, overseen by the district court and run by a federal judge, the goal is to help them learn to succeed in life.

"I represent the prosecutor's office and work with individuals from probation and others, like mental health, as part of the reentry court team," she said. "We do a lot of work with them to help with families to get the help they need, especially women in the program, where a lot are trying to regain parental rights and get housing. It's part of my job, but quite different from my day job of prosecuting."

That helps give her life balance, she said, because not everyone gets a life sentence and helping them makes for safer communities.

"It's wonderful, but challenging," she said. "It's very rewarding and grounding to see the day-to-day that someone has to go through."

Power Through Community Economics

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

way for more businesses of Color to tell their stories and share their value propositions with the communities they support. People gravitate to people with good and very clear visions for success."

Mr. Randall emphasized that community economics is essential for establishing economic parity and economic equity in our state. Two groups he highlighted that perform exemplary versions of community economics are the Mexican American and the Asian-American communities. Randall said that generally, the Asian Community, and more specifically the Chinese American community, have what are called family clubs. "These clubs are where the community will pool, lend and donate money and resources to each other to make sure everyone in the community has what they need." He explained that a very similar system emerged from the Mexican American Community, where "relatives and families will band together under the concept of ensuring the community is taken care of."

That spirit of community economics, of it taking a village to raise a child, is precisely what

NAMC-Oregon brings to the table as a critical convener in our various diverse communities, McCoy said. "NAMC believes it doesn't just take a village to raise a child, it takes a village to raise a community. We have so many different great organizations doing amazing work, but we're siloed. We're in our own individual communities. We do not impact broader swaths of folks unless we are working together. That was the driving force behind the BBAO and our wider association partnerships."

"The fact that NAMC, an organization run by, and focused on People of Color, and the Portland Business Alliance (PBA), a largely White organization, have joined forces to put together an organization that is designed to bring about economic prosperity for the Black Community is crucial," said Randall, and is a sign that the village that Nate described is growing.

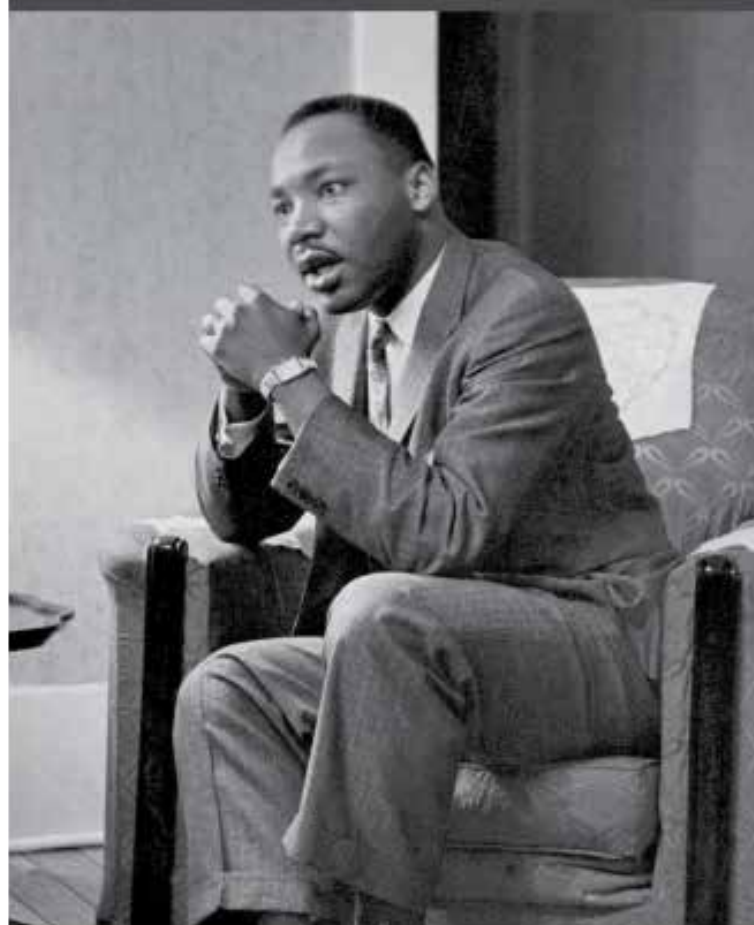
Randall continued, "BBAO's mission and vision are clear. We are an organization that is designed to bring about economic prosperity," he said. "We just need to show people what we [the Black Community] can do." The White Community has access to the lion's share of the capital and opportunity in Oregon.

"Because of our history, we're often afraid to put ourselves out there, to jump into these predominantly White spaces." Lance explained that the BBAO will fight to "make sure that we are prepared to take advantage of these opportunities." He said the end game for him isn't control or power, "the end game is equity, prosperity and everyone having what they need."

"Growth for BBAO, or any of our close association partners like LatinoBuilt, NAYA, or AGC, is growth for NAMC," McCoy said. "We are a village. A community." He emphasized. McCoy said, "To that end, NAMC and our partners are trying to zero in and set new tables that specifically address gaps in wealth creation, home ownership, and business revenue to create programs and policies for the retention and expansion of businesses of Color."

The growth of these businesses of Color, said McCoy, "is a universal benefit to us all. On the surface, it allows these smaller companies to grow, thrive, and more significantly contribute to the tax base. But more crucially, it allows our Communities of Color to ensure they have what they need so that no one falls through the cracks."

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Security Owner Provides Safety for Multiple Businesses

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Hasan Artharee, owner of Safeguard Security, grew up in the facilities management and security industries. His grandfather owned Oregon's oldest Black-owned business Coast Industries, a facilities management company, and Empire Security, a security company. Some of his earliest jobs involved working for these companies and so it was no surprise that Hasan continued the family legacy of business ownership.

Hasan earned his bachelor's degree from Portland State University and his master's degree from Willamette University, which provided the tools to understand the ins and outs of running and managing a business. Although the education he obtained provided validity, the actual experience and knowledge was learned hands-on. Leaning on generations of hard work of his family and the experience and knowledge shared, Hasan attributes that generational knowledge to his ability to navigate and avoid some of the missteps that trip up other new business owners.

Safeguard provides security services that focus on new construction, asset protection, and fire watch. The relationships with its customers have been instrumental to the success of Safeguard. Most of the businesses that Safeguard works with are repeat customers and their success is tied to the success of Safeguard and vice versa. The security industry has become increasingly more challenging in recent years but Hasan takes it in stride, evolving his employees' training to meet the needs of being a security "ambassador to the community," as he describes it. To prepare their security officers for this role, Safeguard provides empathy training and reinforces compassion, respect,



Hasan Artharee

and independent choice. "There is a different level of empathy we have to have for the community and so we try to be ambassadors whether you're somebody going to work, somebody sleeping on the street, somebody using drugs right in front of us, we try to treat them all with respect because again, you would want the same kind of treatment if you were in that situation," Hasan explains. "Empathy is huge in public safety." "The goal," he says, "is to show them that we are treating them with respect, to show them we are empathetic about their situation, and to offer them services that the City offers for them."

Building Futures in Construction

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Jeff Moreland is the President of Raimore Construction, a Black-owned heavy civil contractor, doing large infrastructure and streetscape construction projects for over 20 years in the Portland area. Originally from the west side of Dayton, Ohio, his ancestors traveled north from Georgia to escape the racism of the south.

What happens when you grow up in an environment where everyone looks like you? Black doctors, Black teachers, Black dentists, Black-owned supermarkets, Black-owned shopping center, where everywhere that you look, is a reflection of you and all that you can become? The word that comes to mind is Empowered. Jeff's answer: "I had a sense of, while growing up, of confidence in myself... everybody I knew was brilliant."

It is no wonder that in everything it does, Raimore Construction's belief in Empowerment is front and center. Over 70% of the management staff are people of color or women; 50% of the workforce are people of color or women. The company believes in training people and it looks for talent and a strong work ethic above all else. "Our people are brilliant.... Minorities are some of the most intelligent people I've been around.... That's not seen that way because some of them don't necessarily have the formal education. But in terms of just sheer intelligence and brilliance, we stack up with anybody. And to be able to give them that opportunity to show what they can actually do is what I have done because I realize that's really all it takes. This industry has locked them out of that... You can learn to be anything because you have that aptitude to be able to do that. That's the way it's always been for us but we just haven't had those opportunities. So what I do at Raimore is to make sure people get those opportunities



Jeff Moreland

and then they're able to get in where they fit in."

Not only does Raimore support its workforce in this way, but it helps people to fly. "That's what it's all about. It's not trying to be a gate keeper but it's trying to open up the flow as much as you can for our people, all of our people to benefit from the opportunities that we have historically not benefited from in construction."

After all, if you ask Mr. Moreland what has been the most instrumental in achieving the success of the business, he will tell you unequivocally – "Faith and People, just that simple."

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Aviation Program Hosted for Girls



Girls in Aviation Day

Local Youth Aviation Program Expands To Vancouver

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Airway Science for Kids provides extensive age-appropriate programs at the elementary, middle and high-school levels; opportunities for high school students to build a real plane. The Historic Trust and Airway Science for Kids (ASK) announced that programming at the Trust's Pearson Field Education Center is now operated under the leadership of Airway Science for Kids. This partnership merges education programs and resources to expand the Education Center's reach to inspire youth to pursue aviation STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) education and careers.

The expanded offerings at Pearson Field Education Center include weekly open Saturday programs, after school programs, partnership with Cascadia Technical Academy's Aviation Technology program and summer camps for youth in Southwest Washington. The partnership with The Historic Trust builds on Airway Science for Kids' current STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) education and training programs at its North Portland Aerospace Training Center, at Hillsboro and Aurora airports, and online curriculum.

"By combining these two great programs Southwest Washington youth and their families will have the best of both worlds: An incredible aerospace-based STEAM program with a connection to our community's rich and diverse aviation history," said Temple Lentz, CEO of The Historic Trust.

Airway Science for Kids was founded by Pearson Field pilot and aviation educator Bob Strickland to create equity and opportunities through aviation STEAM education. It has inspired and opened doors for thousands of youth, welcoming to all, with a focus on kids of color, kids living on low-incomes, girls, and other kids who may face barriers.

"This partnership opens up more education and opportunities for our youth, and we are looking forward to working with volunteers, community partners and supporters of Pearson Field Education Center to best serve Southwest Washington youth," said Julia Cannell, Executive Director, Airway Science for Kids.

This year's Girls in Aviation Day took place on Saturday Sept. 24. This event is part of the Trust's Special Saturday series, sponsored by Columbia Credit Union. More information can be found at <https://www.airsci.org/> and <https://www.pearsonfielddeduction.org/>.



WORK THAT MATTERS
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Crowds gathered at the first-ever El Festival de Mariachi event presented by Unitus Community Credit Union

Unitus Credit Union Presents El Festival de Mariachi Event

Hispanic and Latino heritage and culture celebrated with more than 2,500 guests

“Otra! Otra!” or in English “Another, Another!” That’s what many guests in attendance cheered for at the conclusion of the first-ever El Festival de Mariachi event presented by Unitus Community Credit Union at Ron Tonkin Field in Hillsboro

last Sunday, September 25. The free, public event aimed to recognize and celebrate Hispanic culture. “We could not be more thrilled with the success of our first ever El Festival de Mariachi,” said Steven Stapp, President and CEO at Unitus Community Credit Union. “We are overwhelmed at the support and appreciation for the event from the musicians, attendees, vendors, and community partners. People I spoke with were grateful that Unitus recognized the Hispanic Community and its culture, and that we created a safe space for celebration. They recognized our efforts to help unite

our community and celebrate the diversity within it. It’s just one of the reasons we say, ‘there is more that unites us.’”

The event drew more than 2,500 guests who came from all over the state to celebrate Hispanic culture with food, drinks, entertainment, and local vendors selling authentic cultural attire, accessories, décor, and much more. Unitus raffled off free gifts to attendees, including prizes from local Hispanic artisans and vendors. Kids learned new techniques with artists from IDEAL PDX. Performances from Mariachi Portland, Ballet Folklórico México En

La Piel, Mariachi México En La Piel, and Oregon High School mariachi bands from Hillsboro, Glencoe, and Forest Grove had guests out of their seats as they danced with one another into the evening. To help close out the event, a performance from special guest Gemanereida, and her captivating voice.

If you missed the culturally vibrant and exciting family-oriented event, there is good news. Unitus announced that El Festival de Mariachi will now be an annual event, with 2023 promising to be even bigger and better!

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By 2022 Tony Award-nominee **Christina Anderson**

**the ripple, the wave
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Feb 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

Lauren Yee’s
Young Americans
Mar 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Madeline Sayet’s
Where We Belong
Mar 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tarell Alvin McCraney’s
Choir Boy
May 14 @ 2 p.m.

William Shakespeare’s
**A Midsummer
Night’s Dream**
Jun 30 @ 7:30 p.m.

Ready Set Go Books for Kids



14-year-old young author, Leyla Marie Fasika Angelidis, and award-winning children's book author Jane Kurtz

14 year old author and writing coach produce books geared towards Ethiopian Children

Leyla Marie Fasika Angelidis is a 14-year-old young Black author from Seattle, Washington, who has co-authored 8 bilingual books featuring stories about life in Ethiopia. Her books are available in multiple languages including Amharic, Kiswahili, and other African languages. This Ready Set Go bilingual book series is written, illustrated, and published specifically with Ethiopian children in mind. She has accomplished all of this with the help of Jane Kurtz who is her writing coach. Leyla, her mom, Ellenore Angelidis, are the founders of Open Hearts Big Dreams (OHBD), a non-profit organization that creates, publishes and distributes bilingual culturally appropriate early reader children's books. With the help of Jane as creative director, their focus is to increase literacy and a love for reading in Ethiopia and beyond. Leyla learned from her mom that children in Ethiopia don't always have the chance to go to school, learn to read, and some children have never held a book in their hands. Her response was "That's not fair, mama. You need to fix it."

The three of them traveled to Malaysia for the 38th IBBY In-

ternational Congress. While they were there Kurtz was presented with the prestigious IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award, and Open Hearts Big Dreams accepted funding as the nonprofit that Kurtz selected for that portion of the award. Kurtz is being honored for her volunteer work promoting international literacy initiatives for over two decades.

Through her work in Ethiopia, most recently with OHBD, Kurtz has, in the words of award jury president Sylvia Vardell, "planted the seeds of literacy all over Ethiopia," the country where she spent most of her growing-up years. Vardell highlighted that Jane's collaborative work with OHBD and others, "addresses the challenges of multiple official languages; lack of books reflecting Ethiopian culture, history, and landscape; obstacles in the translation, publication, and distribution process; and the insufficient professional opportunities for ed-

ucators and librarians." Kurtz is also an award-winning children's book author and holds a faculty position at Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Children's and YA Literature. She now lives in Portland, Oregon.

OHBD creates and publishes culturally appropriate bilingual books and distributes them to readers in Ethiopia and around the world. Kurtz heads the OHBD creative team that coordinates writing, illustration, design, and Amharic translation of the books. These books are printed in Ethiopia to help build local capacity and to make them more affordable. Another 30,000 copies of these books have been distributed globally through print on demand.

To learn more about programs carried out by Open Heart Big Dreams, exploring volunteer opportunities, making a donation, or purchasing books can visit the OHBD website at OpenHearts-BigDreams.org



Coolio performs on day three of Riot Fest on Sept. 18, 2022, at Douglass Park in Chicago. (Photo by Rob Grabowski, AP Photo)

Death of Hip Hop Legend

(AP) — Coolio, the rapper who was among hip-hop's biggest names of the 1990s with hits including "Gangsta's Paradise" and "Fantastic Voyage," died Wednesday at age 59, his manager said.

Coolio died at the Los Angeles home of a friend, longtime manager Jarez Posey told The Associated Press. The cause was not immediately clear.

Coolio won a Grammy for best solo rap performance for "Gangsta's Paradise," the 1995 hit from the soundtrack of the Michelle Pfeiffer film "Dangerous Minds" that sampled Stevie Wonder's 1976 song "Pastime Paradise" and was played constantly on MTV.

"I'd like to claim this Grammy on behalf of the whole hip-hop nation, West Coast, East Coast, and worldwide, united we stand, divided we fall," he said from the stage as he accepted the award.

Born Artis Leon Ivey Jr., in Monessen, Pennsylvania south of Pittsburgh, Coolio moved to Compton, California. He spent some time as a teen in Northern California, where his mother sent him because she felt the city was too dangerous.

He said in interviews that he

started rapping at 15 and knew by 18 it was what he wanted to do with his life, but would go to community college and work as a volunteer firefighter and in airport security before devoting himself full-time to the hip-hop scene.

His career took off with the 1994 release of his debut album on Tommy Boy Records, "It Takes a Thief." Its opening track, "Fantastic Voyage," would reach No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100. A year later, "Gangsta's Paradise" would become a No. 1 single.

His career album sales totaled 4.8 million, with 978 million on-demand streams of his songs, according to Luminate. He would be nominated for six Grammys overall.

And with his distinctive persona he would become a cultural staple, acting occasionally, starring in a reality show about parenting called "Coolio's Rules," providing a voice for an episode of the animated show "Gravity Falls" and providing the theme music for the Nickelodeon sitcom "Kenan & Kel."

He was married to Josefa Salinas from 1996 to 2000. They had four children together.



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Steps for the Youth Education and Community Engagement Our mission is to educate, inspire and enrich lives through dance. We strive to engage with our community by; partnering with local schools, encouraging creativity in a safe environment and providing opportunities and resources for youth of all backgrounds. Steps for Youth's (SFY) leadership team consists of Women of Color who know firsthand how meaningful it is for students to see themselves reflected in their teachers and leaders. SFY values the importance of representation and we employ a roster of teaching artists and staff who are racially diverse and who reflect the community we serve. After and In-School Program Steps for Youth offers local schools



Steps Dance Instructor and students

and organizations a diverse array of dance classes. Styles include, creative movement, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary. These classes take place in the school and typically last 8 - 10 weeks. Students learn dance concepts, technique and choreography. Steps for Youth provide a teaching artist and music.

The program closes with an informal performance for family,

friends, teachers and community members showcasing the techniques and concepts learned over the semester. All abilities, skill levels, and dance backgrounds are welcome. Dance Scholarships Steps for Youth offers scholarships to students who demonstrate natural abilities and have the passion to pursue dance professionally. Students attend up to 13+ classes a week; participate

in performances, workshops and summer intensives.

DanceAbility Program DanceAbility is the study of movement improvisation for all people; people with and without disabilities, for mixed abilities and mixed experiences. With a focus on sensation, the way your body feels when it moves rather than technique, this class is truly accessible for everybody. Advanced dancers

can research new ways to experience their bodies in movement while brand new dancers can get to know how their bodies move, maybe for the first time. Our main focus is on creating a dance culture that is inclusive and builds community. Whether you have never danced before or you are an advanced dancer, you will benefit and have fun!

BIPOC Youth Dance Program This program is offered to students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Steps for Youth programs provide an inviting space for children to be encouraged by their teachers, engage with their peers, and foster collaboration. Whether children are inspired to participate recreationally or driven to follow a professional path, Steps for Youth strives to uplift students and create a more accessible art form. Community Dance Events We offer donation based community dance events for youth throughout the year. The day is filled with movement based classes and healthy snacks and water are provided. Events include, Youth Day of Dance, Full Circle and more.

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**PORTLAND
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Bringing Black Joy: Presenting “Chicken & Biscuits”

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY DARLEEN ORTEGA



Portland Playhouse has opened its 15th season with “Chicken & Biscuits,” a comedy that is specifically and joyfully Black. One could not ask for a more delightful night at the theater.

Playwright Douglas Lyons (who previously appeared on stage in Portland in the national tours of “The Book of Mormon” and “Dreamgirls”) sought to mine the humor, music, and theatricality of Black church for his first play. It’s terrain he knows well; both he and director Cycerli Ash-Barlocker (a gem of Portland stages, including in Profile Theater’s heart-stopping recent production of “Sweat”) are PKs themselves—that’s “preacher’s kids,” for the uninitiated, and in the Black church tradition that likely means spending some part of most days in church.

The setting of “Chicken & Biscuits” is not just Black church; it’s a Black church memorial service—and those of us with church backgrounds know that only weddings compete with funerals for most drama in church. Here, two sisters gather to enact their familiar conflicts at their father’s memorial. The oldest, Baneatta (Valerie Yvette Peterson, balancing anxiety with imperiousness), is now the church’s first lady; her husband Reginald (Donterrius Ruff, whose moves including knowing when to stop forward and when to step back with equal deftness) is assuming the role of head pastor in the church her father led. The younger sister, Beverley (a hilarious Brittney M. Caldwell), stakes the opposite pole of respectability; indeed her choices of wardrobe and demeanor equate dominance with outraging her sister.

Naturally, there are other family conflicts in evidence too. Simone, the daughter of Baneatta and Reginald, is nursing her own set of hurts and grievances; Treasure Lunan (last seen powerfully embodying Aunt Ester in Portland Center Stage’s excellent production of “Gem of the Ocean”) imbues Simone with surprising complexity and depth. Her brother Kenny decides to bring his white boyfriend Logan along, even while

both know to expect “reverse ‘Get Out’” passive-aggression from Kenny’s family members, who can’t bring themselves to remember Logan’s name or acknowledge his importance to Kenny. Chidube Egbo imbues Kenny with gentleness that deteriorates into exasperating but understandable deference to the family norms, and Austin Comfort makes the most of his many comedic moments as the alien invader boyfriend. Beverley’s teenage daughter, La’Trice (Ashlee Radley having the best time), has no intention of taking anyone or anything seriously.

Their simmering conflicts predictably come to a chaotic boil—which is fun for us at least. Portland Playhouse may be ideal setting for the play’s West Coast premiere; what better place than the intimate space of this former Black church to plunge us into the humor and drama of church and family conflict. Ash-Barlocker clearly knows her way around this material, enlisting music and physical comedy to show us good people who are loveable even at their worst and respecting the characters enough to see beyond type. Wanda Walden brings her reliably good instincts to the costume design, and the cast (including Tamera Lyn as a visitor who may or not be a surprise to everyone) make the fun infectious, evincing signs of a community built with care.

It’s hard to imagine that the big Broadway house where assistant director Charles Grant first experienced this play held it as well; Portland Playhouse feels better designed to held the play’s intimate energy in a believable way, though we probably have Broadway to thank that the play found its way to us at all. This show may feel simple, but it is also delicious, just like a good meal of chicken and biscuits. It plays through October 30.

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.



Chicken and Biscuits actresses Brittney M. Caldwell & Treasure Lunan

Full set of outfits worn by the Jackson 5. Rebecca Sapp, GRAMMY Museum.



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CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

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Work includes, but is not limited to demolition of hardscapes, utilities, UST decommissioning; demolition of 48,000 SF school building, including abatement of all hazardous building materials and material salvaging, structural fill and regrading of site.

Obtain complete solicitation documents at this link: <https://www.plans.j2b.com> after September 27, 2022. Information found anywhere else may not be accurate. It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the previously noted link for any addenda, updates, and award notification.

Pursuant to RCW 39.04.105 copies of all bids will be made available upon request to bidders after opening. Submission of bid constitutes consent to disclose of the same. Attention is called to the provisions for prevailing wages and 15% mandatory apprenticeship requirement as set forth in the solicitation documents. Submit questions and substitution requests in writing to the solicitation contact: Amanda Chezem at achezem@vhausa.com.

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Homelessness Not Improving in Oregon



Tents line the sidewalk on SW Clay St in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 9, 2020., (AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldyer)

People with disabilities sue city over blocked walk ways.

(AP) —People with disabilities in Portland, Oregon, have sued the city, saying they can't navigate its sidewalks because of sprawling homeless encampments. The federal class action lawsuit says the city has violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by allowing homeless people's tents to block city sidewalks, making it difficult for people using wheelchairs, walkers or canes to use them.

"The entire class of persons with disabilities are regularly deprived of the benefits of services of the city of Portland," said John DiLorenzo, lead counsel for the plaintiffs. The

plaintiffs include nine people with disabilities and a caretaker. Among the plaintiffs is Keith Martin, a 71-year-old Portland resident who has used a wheelchair since having a stroke three years ago.

"I couldn't get to my breakfast in the morning because there was a tent covering the whole sidewalk," Martin said. "I was forced onto the street and narrowly missed a streetcar that came around the corner."

Oregon's homelessness crisis has been fueled by a housing shortage, the coronavirus pandemic and high drug addiction rates. The class action suit seeks to require the city to clear all sidewalks of tent encampments and debris, and to construct, purchase, or otherwise provide for emergency shelters in which to house the unsheltered persons who may be affected.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's office said the mayor is meeting with the city attorney before providing comment. Plaintiff Steve Jackson, 47, is legally blind and uses a cane to

walk. He said tents prevent him from navigating the sidewalk and accessing bus stops.

"Often there's tents blocking the entire sidewalk, where I don't see them because they weren't there the day before, and I hit the tent and then people are mad at me and think I'm attacking them," Jackson said during a news conference.

The Portland City Council declared a state of emergency on homelessness in 2015 and has extended it five times since then. The measure, now set to expire in 2025, reduces the bureaucratic hurdles surrounding the creation of homeless shelters.

This year alone, Wheeler has issued four emergency declarations to address homelessness issues. Most recently in August, he expanded a previous declaration that prohibits camping along high-speed corridors such as highways to include key walking routes to K-12 schools. Oregon lawmakers earlier this year approved a budget that includes \$400 million to address homelessness and housing.



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Painting with a Purpose

By MOLLY WASHINGTON

Leticia Nunez has focused her career on helping her community. Started in 2017, Leticia is the owner of Columbia River Painting, a residential and commercial painting company, her platform to uplift and economically empower the Latinx community.

Leticia keeps her pipeline of work full through sheer will, determination, and persistence. From large projects with large contractors that bring in significant revenue, to small projects with affordable housing providers that typically don't pencil out, all projects have value "To me, it's not the size of the project. It's the satisfaction of helping the families," Leticia notes.

For Leticia, success for her company is not measured with money or profit. "It's, for me, seeing that my crew has enough jobs to keep them busy all year round, and that they have livable wages, and that there's enough work on the horizon to keep them busy for the next 2 or 3 years. To me, that's success." Her focus is not on how much she takes home, but on her responsibilities. "As of today," Leticia explained, "we have 19 employees. 19 employees means that I have to provide a secure job for the next 2, 3 years for 19 families. And it's a big responsibility."

"I always wanted to do something that I feel was connected to my community in Portland," she said. "The painting company just happened." After learning about some grants for home repairs through Latino Network, the idea for a painting company took off. Although she didn't believe



Leticia Nunez

she'd make any money with her company, she wasn't deterred. That wasn't her goal anyway. "This is how I support the community," she said. "I won't make any money from the very beginning and that's fine with me, but I'll be doing something that I feel proud of doing, connecting with the community, learning a little bit more..." Leticia recalls the impact of a work slowdown a few years back and in order to keep her crew employed, she had them paint her own house. Twice. And then a friend's house. And another friend's house. Work eventually picked back up and now Columbia River Painting is a profitable company that has a strong pipeline of projects, with enough work on the horizon to provide security for 19 families and counting.



Renise Kelly (teeth whitening technician and dental hygienist) Tisha Aspirations (owner) Miranda (stylist)

Hair and Teeth Services Under One Roof

Natural Hair and Extensions has been in business for 7 years. However, the Independent Contractors and Commission Professionals have over 40 years experience. They desire to provide customers with the best experience with a passionate professional. The business consists of hair barber Mario Woods, color and curly hair specialist Kailia Smith, protective style stylist Miranda Hardy, Tooth Gem and Teeth Whitening technician Renise Kelly and Tisha Aspirations

who is the owner and specializes in Hair Loss and extensions.

The Beauty Supply Store is located in the Pearl District at 634 NW 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97209. It is the First Black Owned Beauty Supply Store in the Pearl District. Operation hours are 8am - 3pm Tuesday- Friday and 8am-5pm Saturdays. Community members can reach out to 503-841-6220 for an appointment or visit their website at Naturalhairandextensions.com

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Carpentry at its Finest



A+ plus Carpentry Crew

Rody Gonzalez, owner of A+ Finish Carpentry, is originally from the southern area of Mexico. Coming from a humble beginning, he migrated to the United States in 2000. All of the tools he has now as a person he credits to the example set by his mother, which was rooted in persistence and hard work. "The United States is like a magnet that attracts all kinds of people. Just the possibilities that we have here in this country, the opportunity to have a better life, that was the main attraction," Rody recalled.

With a background in carpentry from his youth, Rody was inspired to gain more knowledge about the equipment, how to use the tools, learn to read blueprints, and ultimately how to build houses. His experience grew and Rody started his company in 2004, specializing in finish carpentry, wood and metal stud framing, drywall, mud and tape, and painting. For Rody, the definition of success is "the economic improvement of my team and looking forward to going to work."

Rody looks at every day as

an opportunity and sees abundance all around. The people he works with have a similar mindset. "As an immigrant, we are really hungry for opportunities to be successful. And success can be defined differently, everybody has their own definition. For me, it's that-to improve our economic status, the guys that work for me, to improve their lifestyle status. Personally- to have my kids have a place to come home. We achieved that already, we have a house... when I was a kid I lacked that part. But that's awesome, they come in and just throw their shoes all over the place but they do that because they have a place where to do that." I know what he means, my kids' shoes are everywhere and he's right, I find comfort in that too. What Rody is really talking about is safety and security and for Rody, looking forward to going to work is really rooted in knowing that he is providing that safety and security. Not only for his own family but for many other families in his community who are hungry for these opportunities too.

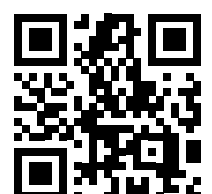
Free one-on-one resource navigation for your small business

The Portland Small Business Hub is a free resource for local small business owners, supported by federal American Rescue Plan funds allocated by Portland City Council to help Portland businesses and communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession.

The Hub is a collaboration between Prosper Portland and local service providers and offers culturally specific small business resource navigation.

The Hub also connects business owners to financial relief programs and provides one-on-one assistance for applying for loans, grants and other funding opportunities.

Schedule a free virtual appointment today!
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Obituary



Freda V. Love-McEwen

3/22/37 - 9/22/22

Mrs. McEwen was born in Gainesville, Texas in 1937, and moved with her family to Vanport, Oregon in 1943. As a child, Mrs. McEwen saw the Vanport flood dyke break. After the Vanport flood, the family relocated to a four-plex off Burnside and then was the first Black family to integrate the Eastmoreland neighborhood in 1956. Our family received death threats for many years, we remained in the neighborhood until 2012.

Freda was a lifelong scholar earning several college degrees including one in Russian literature, she spoke Russian fluently and a PhD in psychiatry from the University of Oregon. Along with speaking Russian, Mrs., McEwen spoke French, and German. Mrs. McEwen was a world traveler, her favorite places were Nigeria, Morocco, and Switzerland. Mrs. McEwen owned and operated Pandata Incorporated a Women owned, minority owned computer hardware and support services. With their largest contract belonging to "HUD" the federal office of housing and development. Their offices were based in Portland. She was a for-

mer basielus and active member of the Zeta Sigma Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Mrs. McEwen was the first Black female employee at the downtown main post office building, and the Oregon locations of Montgomery ward. Freda's 85 years cannot fully be summarized here, she was a formidable woman, who always reminded us how far Black America had come in her lifetime, and often reminded us of our strength.

Freda's Husband, Graham McEwen, parents Finnis Vernon Love Sr and Mildred Jackson Love, Her Aunt Rozelle Jackson Yee, and her two brothers Finnis Vernon Love Jr and Franchot Virgil Love and proceed her in death. She is survived by her sister and business partner, former Cleveland Rose Festival Princess Faith Victoria Love, me her niece Estelle Lavespere who are also members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. and her brother Franchot's sons Edward William Love and Forrest Vernon Love and our youngest and most dear little Love, her great niece Naiyah Imani Love.

Tattoo Shop Celebrating its Second Year Anniversary



Staff of Gold Sparrow Tattoo Shop; Jazmin Hernandez, Bree Barnett, Douglas Lamb, Jake Acree, Kimber Teatro

Gold Sparrow Tattoo shop opened up in August of 2020 and is now celebrating their two year anniversary. Jake Acree and Douglas Lamb opened Gold Sparrow Tattoo. They had worked together for quite a few years and when Covid-19 shut everything down we decided to pursue our own space in the Portland tattoo landscape. They also have three other artists who Tattoo at Gold Sparrow. The other Tattoo artists are Kimber Teatro, Bree Barnett, Jazmin Hernandez and cosmetic tattoo artist Kimberly Hamilton-Lamb.

The shop offers flash tattoos or custom designs. They aim to offer people a relaxed

comfortable and easily approachable experience when it comes to tattooing. When looking for a tattoo shop or artist it's always important to look at portfolios and see the work that that individual is creating and that it your expectations for the tattoo you want to receive. The tattoo shop is located at 3430 N. E. 41st Ave., Portland, OR 97212 on the corner of 41st and Fremont in the Beaumont Wilshire neighborhood next to Folly. Appointments or walk-ins are welcome. They can be reached by phone at 503-327-8885. For more information please visit their website at www.goldsparrowtattoo.com.

In Loving Memory

Iva Huff- Collins

Sunrise: September 26, 1938

Sunset: September 24, 2007

You are really missed

Love your family



Thomas Griffin

Born 3/20/1953 ~ Passed 9/29/2022

Services at Willamette Cemetery

Oct 13, 2022 1:15pm

Upgrades to be made to Pride Plaza



Pride Plaza on SW Harvey Milk St.

American Rescue Plan grants \$1.2 Million to Portland Oregon for redevelopment

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to the city of Portland, Oregon, to support the recovery of the tourism sector through recreational structure improvements and beautification. This grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan. Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici announced that the grant will be used for the redevelopment of Pride Plaza.

"I deeply appreciate the Biden Administration's support for the redevelopment of SW Portland's Pride Plaza. This project is a win for making Portland safer and more livable for people living and working downtown, as well as visitors," said Congressman Blumenauer. "It will also support small businesses which are still recovering from the pandemic. This grant ties the pieces together to accelerate downtown's revitalization."

The funding will support upgrades to a significant anchor for pedestrian travel through downtown and used to support construction of a new, 32,000 square foot park. These improvements, at the junction of SW Harvey Milk Street and West Burnside, between SW 12th Avenue and SW 10th Avenue, are the first stage of the larger plan to redevelop O'Bryant Square and the surrounding area.

"I am grateful that Pride Plaza will receive this significant funding from the Biden-Harris Administration to revitalize a central meeting spot in Portland," said Congresswoman Bonamici. "This investment will help create a more welcoming space for the people of Portland and others who visit the area. I look forward to the project's completion and will continue advocating for the resources our community needs to help our city and its people and businesses thrive."

The area is part of the developing Green Loop which is a 6-mile pedestrian corridor connecting people throughout the heart of the city. The City of Portland and its partners have designed Pride Plaza as an LGBTQ+ friendly neighborhood gathering space with street art, public seating, community activities, and expanded space for businesses into the street.

Happy Birthday
Talunaka Washington



From your Dad and Family



Happy Birthday
Shirley Bailey

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Please visit the Business Contracting area of our website at the above address to learn about specific opportunities, or for information about resources such as free training, technical assistance, and workforce hiring and training programs.

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Procurement and Contracts Manager
503.802.8541
Celeste.King@homeforward.org

Peter Garcia
Sr. Procurement Coordinator
503.802.8549
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Carpentry	Painting	Apparel and Silk Screen	Advertising and Design	Development/Owners Representative
Drywall	Maintenance	Consulting	Flagging	and many more!



NAMC-Oregon is a non-profit community-based organization whose mission is to advocate and support design and construction related businesses owned by People of Color and to provide business development through education, training, and community building. design and construction related businesses owned by People of Color and to provide business development through education, training, and community building. #BuildingBridgesBreakingBarriers

To learn more or to get involved, send us an email info@namc-oregon.org

