

# street roots

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WEEKLY JUNE 26-JULY 3, 2015 STREETROOTS.ORG

## The complex State of Black Oregon

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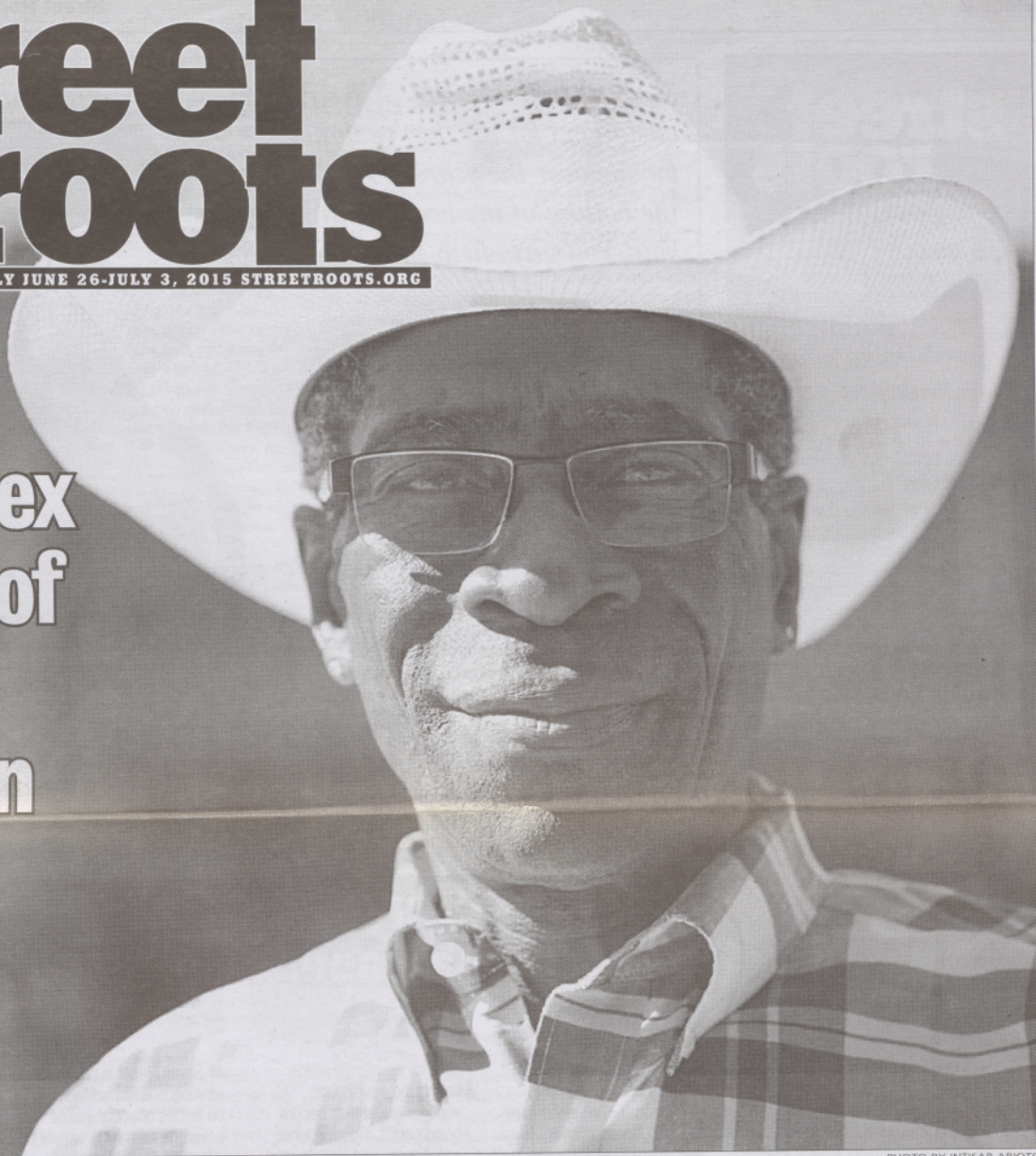


PHOTO BY INTISAR ABIOTO

Leon Ransom, a native Pendletonian, runs the only black-owned business in Pendleton. His parents were sharecroppers in Mississippi before moving to Eastern Oregon, where his father took a job on the railroads. His story is one of many compiled for the State of Black Oregon 2015 report, produced by the Urban League of Portland.

**"I think what my childhood experience does is allows me to be a mythbuster when it comes to, 'Oh, well, Portland is so great now; it's so much better than it ever was before.' That's not true for a lot of Portlanders."**

— NKENGE HARMON JOHRISON  
PRESIDENT, URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

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