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order to avoid distracting from the overarching narrative that reintroduces the story of people of color within the bigger story of Astoria.

Meanwhile, the panels are deliberately placed in such a way as to prevent seeing the whole exhibit in its entirety, forcing the visitor to navigate the obscured stories with deliberation.

Vaughn created “Blocked Out” with two goals in mind: to put the stories of people of color back into the history of Astoria and to document sites of racial discrimination incidents as well as systematic practices that created exclusion. “By having documented sites,” Vaughn said, the exhibit can “map this history in the spaces that we know and interact with every day.”

Even so, Vaughn added, the exhibit, including the map, “is woefully incomplete” because of how difficult it is to obtain documentation. “The klan rallies at Columbia Field were out in the open,” Vaughn said, pointing to photographic evidence; discriminatory practices in hiring or real estate were less so.

The nonprofit, Oregon Black Pioneers, which researches, recognizes and commemorates the culture and heritage of African Americans in the state, advised on the Black historical context for the installation. “This history is difficult to hear, but so important to learn,” said Zachary Stocks, the organization’s executive director and an Astoria resident. Discrimination was not limited to Blacks in Astoria, Stocks points out; Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Hawaiian and Native Americans experienced racial discrimination as well. “The exhibit is just one example of ways we can better inform people about how diverse our city actually has been over the decades,” he said. “The

New ‘Fire!’ exhibit opens at Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum

ILWACO, Wash. — The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum has announced the opening of a new exhibit, “Fire!,” on view now through March at the museum.

While the region is known for its wet weather, fire has also been a part of life on the northern part of the Long Beach Peninsula.

Early accounts indicate Indigenous peoples utilized controlled burning to steward the land. As the peninsula grew in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, wooden buildings for homes, hotels, canneries and



Peter Korchnak

A news clipping from the late 1800s is part of the exhibit.

more we can learn about the many ethnic groups that shaped this place, the more we can respect their memory and tell their stories through our historic spaces.”

In this sense, Vaughn added, the exhibit challenges the “false presumption that Astoria is white because it’s always been white – that’s just false.”

While “Blocked Out” began as a temporary exhibit, the positive response from the community as well as its unfinished nature make the case for making it permanent. While there is no exact plan, Vaughn said, “this is too important of a story to limit to just a few months.”

commercial buildings were susceptible to fire.

This exhibition features photographs, objects and stories on many of the fires that shaped the area.

The exhibit focuses on the Nahcotta fire in 1915, the Ilwaco High School fire of 1936, the Keystone Cannery fire, Sid’s Market fire in the 1960s and the 2006 fire at Ilwaco’s Fire Department.

The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Virtual 4-H baking workshops planned

4-H in Clatsop and Clackamas counties is sponsoring virtual classes in 4-H food project exploration in January.

Anyone can join 4-H educators each Tuesday in January for interactive baking focused on Blue Ribbon 4-H foods exhibits. Registration is required and space is limited. Register at: bit.ly/Explore4HBaking

Younger participants need an older youth or adult to join them. Participants are encouraged to only sign up for classes they can attend as classes will not be recorded.

Participants can attend via Zoom to

learn new skills and techniques. They will receive a kit with materials needed for the 45-minute sessions. The kits are free for those who can pick them up at the Oregon State University Extension Service office in Astoria or \$10 each for participants who do not live in Clatsop County.

Classes, held from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, are as follows: Oatmeal cookies from scratch, Tuesday; Muffins, Jan. 11; Champion coffee cake, Jan. 18; Baking yeast bread, Jan. 25.

For information and questions, contact Sandra Carlson at 503-325-8573.

CrosswordAnswers

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