

# COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS

## Freedom Fighter Wins Pardon

Gabriel Prosser, who was hanged in Virginia for leading a failed slave revolt in 1800, has won a symbolic gubernatorial pardon.

Prosser and 34 supporters were executed in Richmond on Aug. 30, 1800, after two slaves revealed the planned uprising in Richmond, Va., known as Gabriel's Rebellion.

In an informal pardon, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said Prosser was motivated by "his devotion to the ideals of the American revolution — it was worth risking death to secure liberty."

"Gabriel's cause — the end of slavery and the furtherance of equality of all people — has prevailed in the light of history," Kaine wrote to the Virginia chapter of the NAACP, which sought the pardon. "It is important to acknowledge that history favorably regards Gabriel's cause while consigning legions who sought to keep him and others in chains to be forgotten."

Prosser promoted an uprising by thousands of slaves 31 years before the better-known Nat Turner insurrection in Southampton County.

Gabriel's Rebellion was snuffed out by Gov. James Monroe, the future president, who was tipped off by a slaveholder. Prosser and his followers were hanged.

King Salim Khalfani, Virginia State Conference executive director of the NAACP, said Kaine's action properly honors Prosser and his followers "as women and men of integrity who fought for freedom."

"In the capital of the Confederacy, where monuments to the traitors of the Union are maintained with tax dollars, this is a momentous occasion," Khalfani said.



## State Bill Bans Housing Discrimination

Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries will soon enforce laws banning discrimination in housing.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Margaret Carter and signed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski changed Oregon law to allow local investigations and en-

forcement of the federal Fair Housing Act.

Currently, allegations of housing discrimination are handled by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development out of its Seattle office.

"This is a good day for all

Oregonians who face potential discrimination in matters of housing," said Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner.

"Senate Bill 725 will improve enforcement of federal housing discrimination laws and increases local control without spending any ad-

ditional General Fund or state dollars."

Support from the legislation also came from the Urban League of Portland, the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, the City of Portland and the Fair Housing Council of Oregon.

## Sunshine is a Provider for All Seasons

More than 80 years ago, officers and volunteers of the Portland Police Bureau started delivering a few dozen holiday food boxes to families in need in the Portland area.

Today, the Portland Police Sunshine Division carries on the tradition of distributing emergency food, but the need has grown from a few dozen deliveries to thousands made all year-round.

Needed supplies also come from the division's emergency clothing room where racks of jackets are donated by Nike, Target and Pendleton Woolen Mills.



Sergeant Lori Drew of the Portland Police Sunshine Division carries food boxes through the division's North Portland warehouse.

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## Voter Purge Challenged

(AP)--The NAACP has filed a civil-rights lawsuit challenging a purge of Louisiana voters the state claims are registered in other states following Hurricane Katrina.

On June 15, Louisiana Secretary of State Jay Dardenne announced that his agency was mailing notices to 53,554 voters saying they must give up their registration in other states or risk losing the right to vote in Louisiana.

Dardenne said the state had compared Louisiana voter roles with those of other states and identified people with identical names and dates of birth.

Voters were given one month to prove they had canceled their out-of-state registrations. After that, they had to appear in person at their voter registrar's office with documentation that their non-Louisiana registration had been canceled.

## Tools for Small Businesses

The Oregon Small Business Fair will take place Saturday, Sept. 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

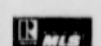
The free event features 45-minute workshops for small-business owners and those thinking about becoming small-business owners taught by agency and industry experts, attorneys and CPAs.

Presentations cover licenses, taxes, regulations, e-commerce, record keeping, marketing, networking, finding qualified workers and tips for construction contractors. For more information, contact Linda Repp at 503-329-4260.



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