

Week in The Review



Discovery's Final Flight

Thousands gather to witness the final laps of NASA's Discovery on Tuesday, when the space shuttle took its final mission from Kennedy Space

Center in Florida just after dawn, and then up the east coast to Washington. Discovery, the fleet of NASA's three surviving shuttles, took its last spaceflight in March 2011.

Lotto Winner Charged

A Michigan woman who won a million-dollar lottery, but continued to receive welfare benefits, is now charged with



fraud, the attorney general said Tuesday. Amanda Clayton, 25, collected thousands of dollars in state assistance for months after she won \$1,000,000 in the 'Make Me Rich' game sponsored by the Michigan lottery.

Gas Prices Up

Oregon's average gas price, which is higher than the national average, stands at \$4.06 a gallon, up from \$3.84 a year ago. According to the website Oregongasprices.com some of the cheapest gas in the state is in

Ontario, where a gallon is \$3.75.



Timbers Prepare

Although the Portland Timbers have scored only eight goals this season, the Timbers have begun to prepare to break their slump on Sat-

urday, April 21 at Jeld-Wen Field, where they will go up against the league's only undefeated team, Sporting KC.

Oregon Represents

The 27,000 runners in Monday's 2012 Boston Marathon included Central Oregon residents, who completed the physical challenge. First to finish from Oregon was Redmond's Monty Gregg, 40, whose time over the 26.2-mile course was 3 hours, 20 minutes, 2 seconds. Gregg finished 1,818th overall.

Voices of First Families

continued ▲ from front

whom accompanied her to the interviews with the families, she said, "They spoke to me like it made perfect sense for me to be there."

According to Wulff, the majority of the families migrated to Vancouver to work in the shipyards, and then after the war—they stayed.

The larger Vancouver population often doesn't realize this community exists, she said. "This book is not only for Vancouver, but also for the community itself."

Before World War II, Vancouver was practically an all-white town. There were too few African Americans to even count within the city at the time," she said.

As more men left for the war, and more people migrated into Washington to work in the shipyards, old time residents began to get used to having more diversity around them.

"The war took over, and everybody was suddenly working on the same thing," she said.

"But Jim Crow was still in force after the war," she said. "Although they didn't want to leave, they felt shut out."

Wulff said there were 9,000 African Americans in Vancouver at the end of the war. "But that went down really quickly because Vancouver didn't make it easy to stay," she said.

Still, she said, African American migrants saw something spe-

cial about the surrounding city.

It was individual determination for a better and more just future that catalyzed them to make Vancouver their home, she said. "I found out it was their persistence, inventiveness, optimism and their sense of community and family."

Wulff said, however, the African American community deserves to be recognized for their brave actions, which are responsible for growing tolerance throughout history.

"They gave up the comfort of close association," she said. "And they decided to live anywhere they could find a house and convinced neighbors diversity is a good thing."

Although she said there were

several roadblocks throughout the writing process, which felt sometimes extremely difficult, in the end she believes the book turned out great.

At Clark College, NAACP Vancouver Branch #1139 hosted a reunion event on Saturday for the narrators to speak and celebrate the publication.

Assistance from the original families, as well as from Clark County Historical Museum, Clark College, Washington State University, Clark County YWCA, USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, and several local churches, contributed to the project's success.

"We hope this book will encourage others, especially young people, to preserve their cultural

heritage for the benefit of future generations," said Cornetta Smith, First Families project director and original family member.

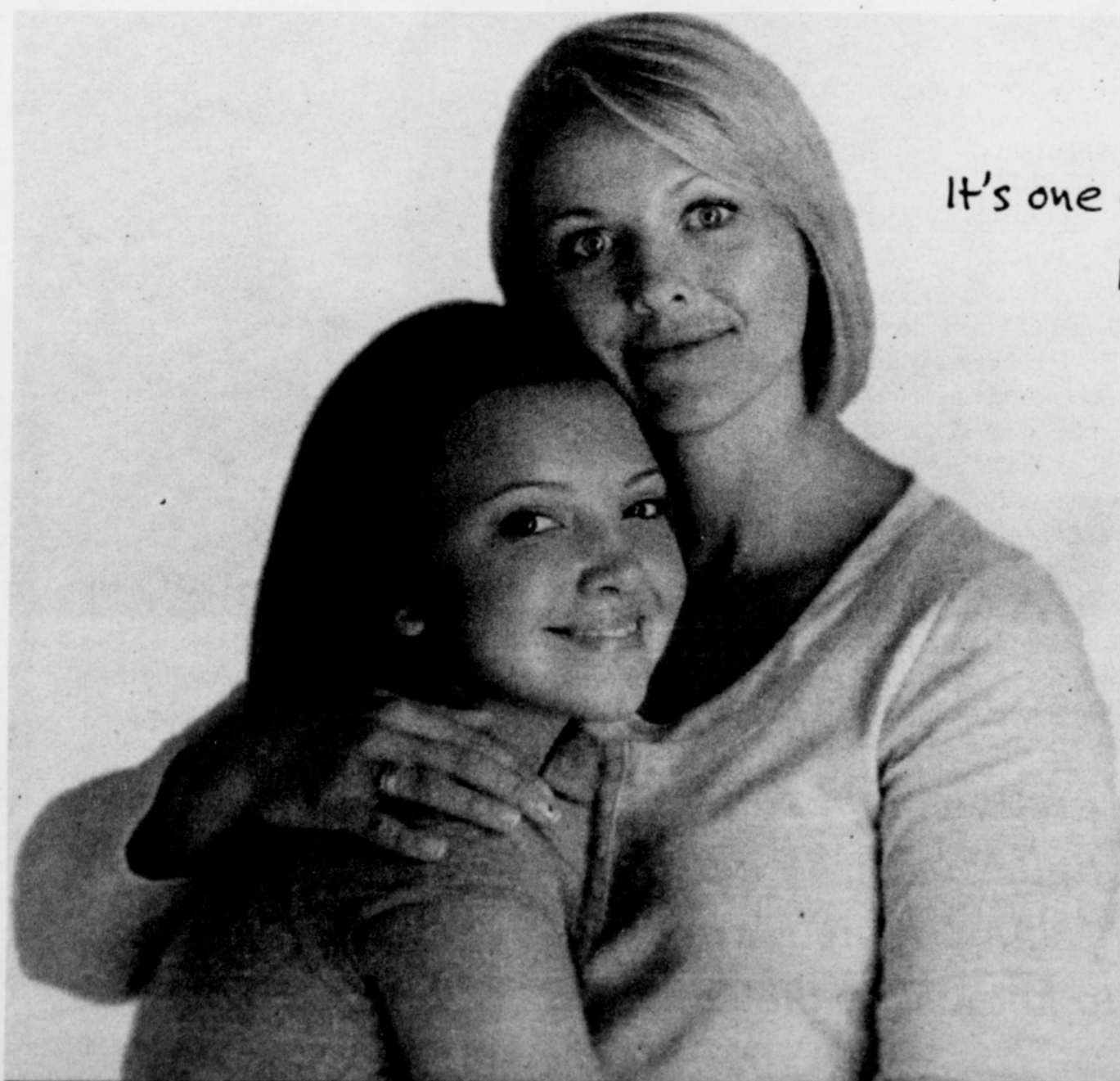
Wulff agreed.

She said part of the initial mission of the project was to create a model for other communities to tell their stories through.

"These families stayed here after the war because this place felt like home to them," Wulff said. "Their determination to settle throughout the city, rather than all in one place, was a compliment and a gift to Vancouver. It's time this gift was acknowledged."

First Families of Vancouver's African American Community: From World War II to the 21st Century will be available through several local volunteer distributors and online.

For more information, visit naacpvanc.org or email naacpvancouver@gmail.com.



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