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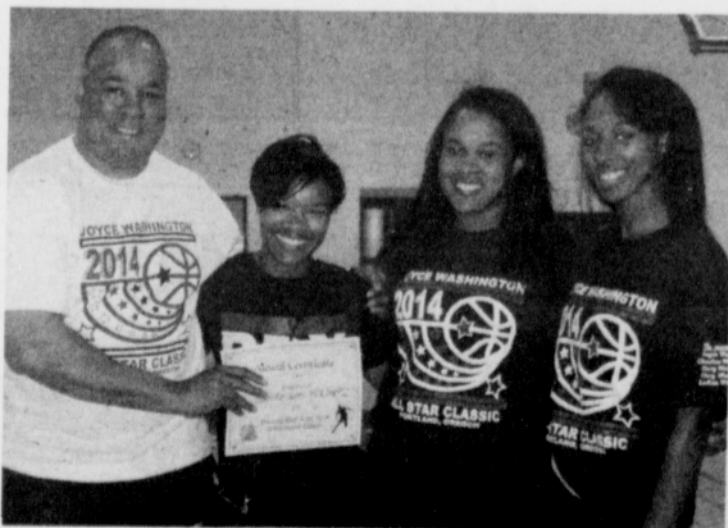


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JOYCE WASHINGTON CLASSIC

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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

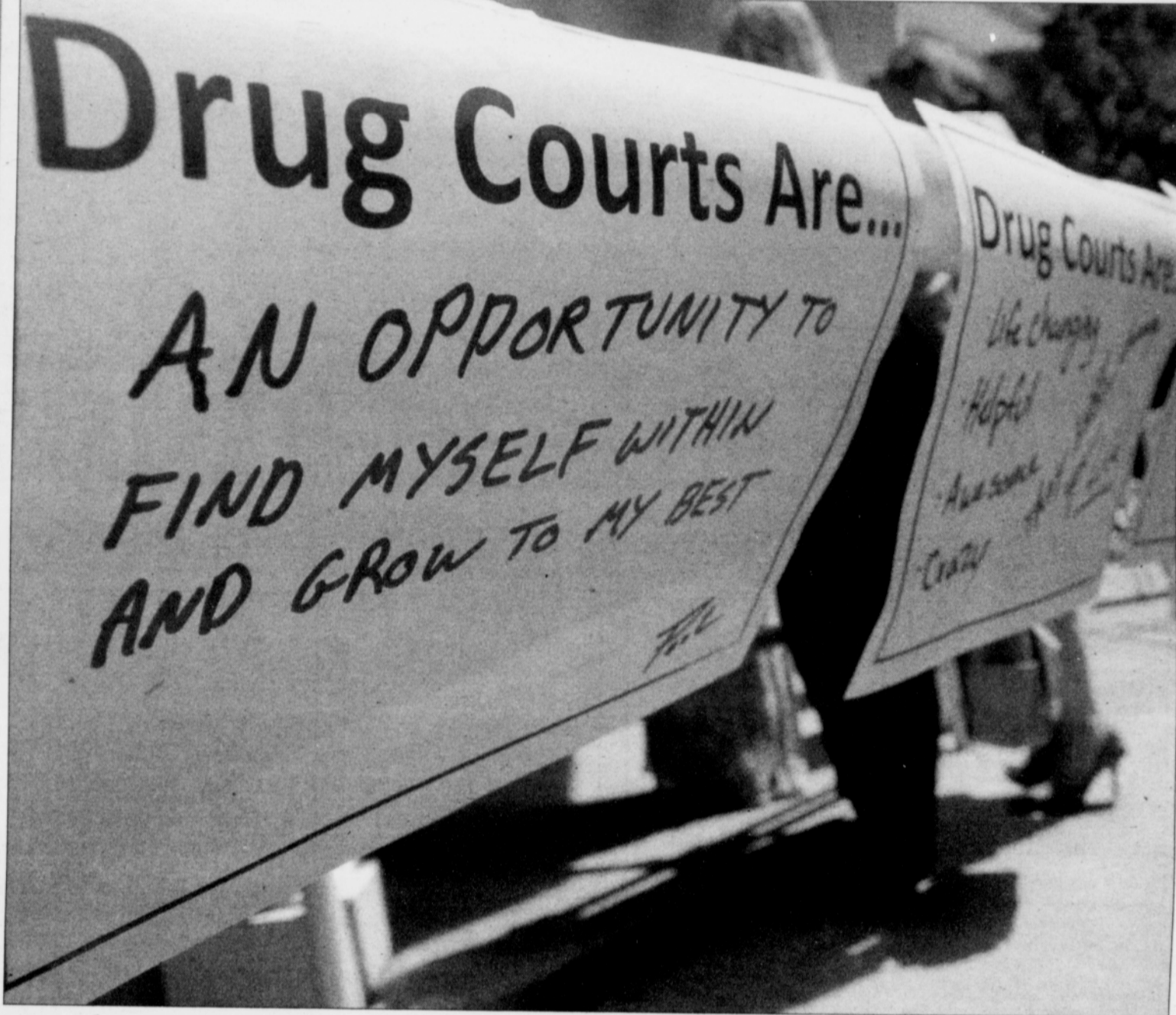


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A public celebration of Clark County's seven drug courts which help people turn their lives around with special rehabilitation programs in lieu of jail time is celebrated in Vancouver.

Drug Courts Turn 15

Advocates praise corrections programs

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For 15 years now, Clark County has operated seven Drug Courts under the heading of Therapeutic Specialty Courts. The accomplishments of the courts were recently celebrated by public officials, advocates, graduates and the public at large during a special ceremony at Esther Short Park in Vancouver.

It's something Jared Sanford, chief executive at Lifelines Connections and one of the celebration speakers, called proof that treatment works.

"It's effective, it changes lives, and saves taxpayers a hell of a lot of money," Sanford said.

Lifelines Connections is a non-hospital based intensive inpatient treatment service, and partner to the courts program.

Officials say 1,070 graduates of the specialty courts have saved more than 72,000 jail beds in the past four

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Beloved Entertainer Remembered

Janice Scroggins dies at the age of 58

Portland jazz, blues and gospel fans are mourning the loss of one of the city's most beloved entertainers.

2013 Oregon Music Hall of Fame Inductee Janice Scroggins died May



Janice Scroggins

27 at the age of 58.

The keyboardist began playing piano at 3-years-old. She came from a family of church musicians. Her accolades include playing alongside other renowned musicians from Portland's urban music scene, such as Linda Hornbuckle, Mel Brown, Curtis Salgado and Thara Memory.

In 2000 Scroggins was nominated

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