

# Sweet History

## Couple broke racial barriers in business

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

You can't go there now, but the sweet treats of Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen are once again an Oregon hot spot. Co-owned by Hurtis Hadley Sr. and his wife Dorothy

Hadley, the historical bakery is currently the subject of an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown.

Founded in 1977, Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen was not only the sole black-owned business in the city of Milwaukie at the time, it was the first black-owned bakery in the entire state of Oregon. The full-line bakery offered specialty breads, assorted pastries, and creative birthday and wedding cakes to their


Husband and wife Hurtis and Dorothy Hadley stand next to an exhibit featuring their former bakery, Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen, now on display at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown. Founded in 1977, the Hadley's full-line bakery made them the first black owners of a bakery in the state of Oregon.

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hungry patrons.

"Put a little Soul in your Roll" was the shop's slogan.

"It was like a frontier," Hadley Sr. said, "Some of the businesses were very receptive and sent flowers our opening day."

But not all were happy to have an accomplished black couple in their midst at the time, or black people at all in the mostly white town. Hadley was even falsely singled out as robbing a white business owner at one point just as the business was just getting started.

After that tough first year, however, Hadley proudly says business

and the general reception he and his wife received improved.

"After the first year, we had a good reception from the community. We had lots of customers coming!" says the Jefferson graduate.

For eight years the couple operated Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen. In 1985, the two were forced to shut their doors because of an economic recession, one of "casualties" during Ronald Regan's tenure as president.

All in all, they call their historical run a good one though.

The Oregon History Museum exhibit, which began on May 25, will

run for the next six to eight months in the Madison Room, which is used for meetings and small receptions, with an adjacent terrace and view of the South Park Blocks.

Admission is free for residents of Multnomah County, and for active and retired military personnel and their families through Sept. 1. On Saturday, June 21, a special Community Day gives free admission for everyone. Otherwise, general admission at the museum is \$11 for adults; \$9 for senior citizens and students over 18; \$5 for youth 6 to 18; children under 5 are admitted free.

## The Week in Review

### Benghazi Militant Captured

President Obama says a Libyan militant suspected in the deadly Sept. 11, 2012, attack on Americans in Benghazi will "now face the full weight of the American justice system." Ahmed Abu Khattala was captured Sunday, marking the first U.S. apprehension of an alleged perpetrator in the assault that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

### SPU Student Remembered

Hundreds of friends and family members honored Paul Lee, the local student killed at Seattle Pacific University, during a memorial Sunday in Beaverton. Lee, a freshman at SPU, was killed in a shooting at the school June 5. His friends, family and teachers said he was "always happy" and "a ray of light."



### Shooting at Conga Club

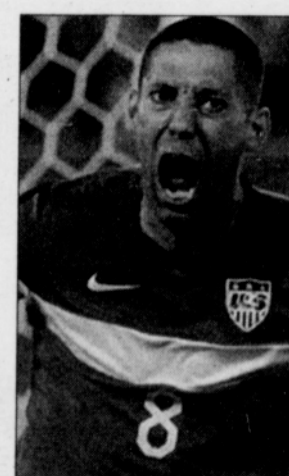
Police are investigating the eruption of gunfire which broke out at the Conga Club in northeast Portland early Monday. There were no reports of injuries.

### Largest Graduating Class

With more than 6,000 students, Portland State University accounted for the largest graduating class in the state of Oregon this year. The grads received their degrees Sunday in back-to-back ceremonies at the Moda Center. The 2014 PSU class represented 44 different states, 51 nations, with ages ranging from 19 to 72.

### America Defeats Ghana!

Clint Dempsey scored in the first minute and rookie substitute John Brooks scored a late game winner as the U.S. defeated Ghana 2-1 Monday in the World Cup opener for both teams. The victory gave the Americans a measure of revenge against the tiny West African county that knocked them out of the previous two World Cups.



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## Summer Engagement List Grows

After seeing The Portland Observer's 'Activate Summer!' story last week detailing a list of community resources for young people to take advantage of this summer, the folks at the northeast non-profit Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative wanted to let you know of some of the things they are doing to keep kids engaged.

Youth can learn the importance of staying active and healthy with PCRI's "HEAL Camp" which is now in its third year. The group will also host its Maya Angelou Arts Camp last this summer for people aged 5-18 to explore their imagination and

creativity for a full two week camp.

PCRI is also giving the Portland Roots Festival more room to grow; sponsoring an Aug. 10 celebration at Pioneer Courthouse Square to promote healthy living through some of the traditional food practices of African people. The festival will feature some of Portland's tastiest Afro-food vendors, a variety of fun and educational health-related activities for the whole family, and plentiful information from local health based organizations.

To learn more and sign up for the special camps, visit PCRI's website at [pcrihome.org](http://pcrihome.org)