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### Eugene NAACP

*Local Leader  
says police used  
excessive force  
on sister*

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### Straight Outta Compton

*Hip hip biopic set  
to be a box office  
hit this weekend*

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# The Portland Observer 45

'City of Roses'



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Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity *years of  
community service*



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local genealogist and historian Stephen Hanks stands on Larrabee Avenue in the Rose Quarter, one of the last vestiges of a street that was once central to a long forgotten African American community. Hanks showcases early black history in Portland with his public walking tours.

## Tours brings African American history to life

A local genealogist and historian is bringing local African American history to life with his community tours project.

Stephen Hanks takes groups on walking tours in downtown Portland to showcase some of the first places where black people lived in the city and state.

"I realized people didn't know just how

# Our Roots Run Deep

long black people had been a part of Oregon," Hanks explained. "But we've been here, we'll keep being here, and our roots run deep."

Just how deep those roots run became clear to Hanks when he was doing ancestral research, trying to figure out how many, if any, black people lived in Portland when Oregon became a state in 1859 and during the early years following statehood.

After going through old Census records, city directories, books, and news articles

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