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Mother of Juneteenth Dies

Clara Peoples brought celebration to Oregon

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Clara Peoples, a beloved community leader, educator, and mother of Portland's annual Juneteenth celebration, died Monday, Oct. 5.

Born in Muskogee, Okla. on Sept. 8 1926, Peoples grew up with a passion for community service and spread her efforts to Oregon when she moved here in 1945.

Peoples was surprised to learn that Juneteenth, the celebration of the end of American slavery, was not celebrated in this part of the country. She introduced the holiday to her fellow workers at the Kaiser Shipyards, and later helped to initiate Portland's annual citywide Juneteenth celebration in 1972.



Clara Peoples with her great-granddaughters (from left) Tamia Robinson and Kiyara Tolston at Portland's annual Juneteenth festival in 2010. The photo was originally taken by the Oregonian and shared on social media.

She eventually became known as Portland's "Mother of Juneteenth." She also gave years of service as an active and dedicated community leader. She was a counselor at the former John Adams High School in northeast Portland and she helped fight hunger in our community as well as multiple other good works.

Peoples is survived by her several family members, including

five great grandchildren. End of life services will be held Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Bethel A.M.E. Church, 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave., starting with a family viewing at 9:30 a.m., a public viewing at 10 a.m., and a funeral services starting at 11 a.m., with a repass following. Guests are encouraged to bring canned food for donation to Community Care, the organization that Peoples founded.

The Week in Review

Missing Cargo Ship and 32 Crew Members

The U.S. Coast Guard was investigating the sinking of a cargo ship and looking for 32 missing crew members who vanished last week near the Bahamas. Officials said the ship sank in the brutal seas and high winds of Hurricane Joaquin.

Devastating Floods in South Carolina

Fourteen people were killed from massive flooding in South Carolina since Saturday and at least 10 dams have breached or failed in the state and in North Carolina. Officials said the record rainfall has caused billions of dollars in damage and brought 175 water rescues so far, with more than 800 people in temporarily housed in shelters.

Rihanna calls Dolezal 'a bit of a hero'

Rachel Dolezal, the former Spokane NAACP leader who resigned earlier this year after being accused of lying about her race, was widely criticized for representing herself as black. But Rihanna wasn't

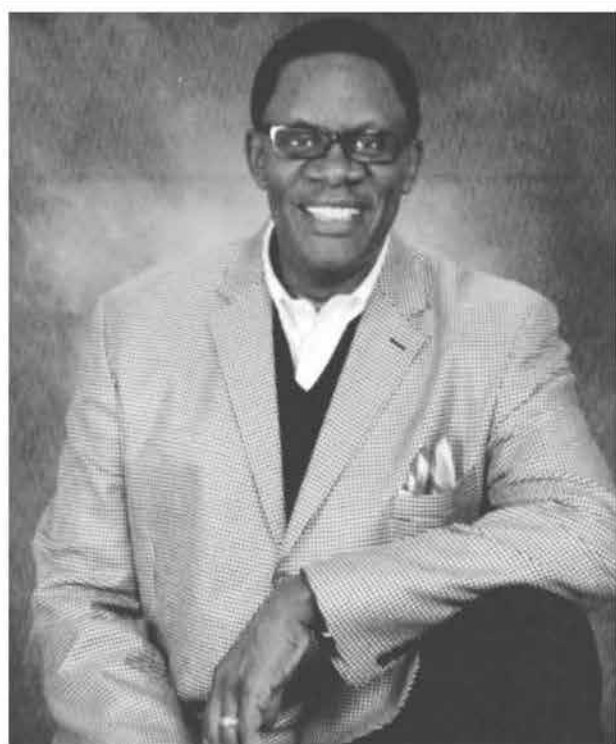
one of those critics. "I think she was a bit of a hero, because she kind of flipped on society a little bit," the 27-year-old pop star told Vanity Fair in a wide-ranging interview published Monday.

Publisher Calls Slaves 'Workers'

A big time publisher came under fire this week for selling and distributing history text books in Texas that described African American slaves as "workers." The story went viral after the mother of a student shared footage of the McGraw-Hill text book, which also described the Atlantic Slave Trade as "immigration" and avoided any mention of enslavement whatsoever.

Carter to Help Resolve King Family Dispute

Former President Jimmy Carter is stepping in to help resolve a legal battle over the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s traveling Bible and 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, a statement from Carter indicated Monday. A string of legal disputes have divided the King heirs in recent years, but Bernice, Martin III and Dexter released a joint statement expressing optimism after their meeting with Carter.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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sure your employer would just as soon not have expenses like that. Speak to your employer today about having a Chiropractic consultation. If you have had a lifting injury or suffer from pain, why don't you call us today. A life of suffering is indeed a wasted life. Don't let it be yours.

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