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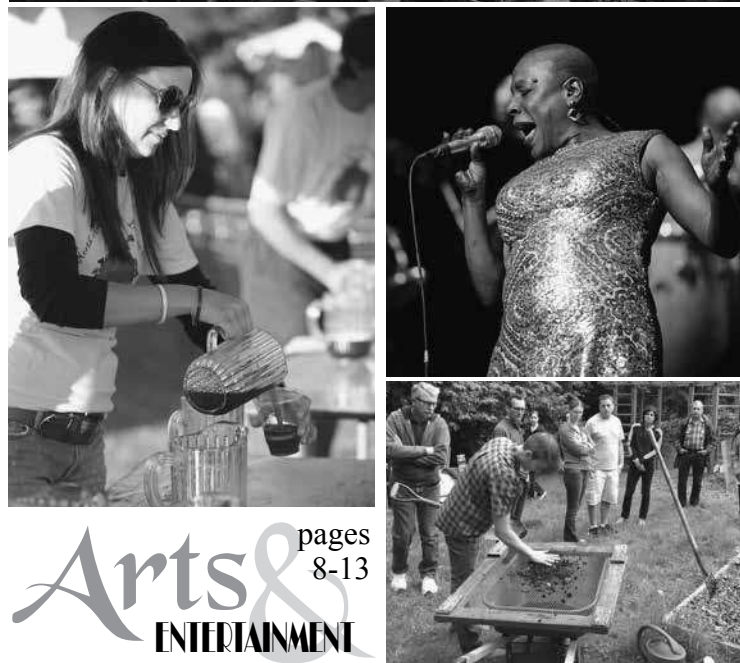
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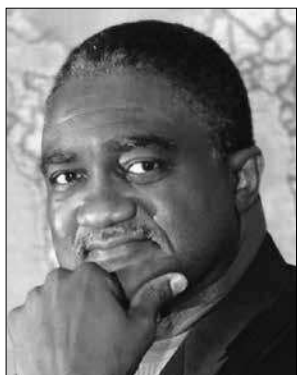
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LOCAL NEWS



Police investigate a triple shooting in the parking lot at Exotica International Club for Men in April of last year. (KATU photo)

Club Owner Sues City

Claims exotica venue was shut down unfairly

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Donna Thames, a former owner of a strip club catering to the black community, seeks to prove the closing of her business was less due to criminal activity and more due to the color of her clientele.

A near 50-page lawsuit filed by Thames in the U.S. District Court on Aug. 12 details what she feels

has been a longstanding, systemic attack against black-owned businesses by the city of Portland and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, with her Exotica International Club being the most recent victim.

Exotica closed in July 2015 pending regulatory pressure from both city and state officials, who felt a shooting in Exotica's parking lot that left three men wounded made the location unsafe. Thames feels differently, to the tune of the \$22 million she's asking for in her suit.

"The city of Portland, working

in partnership with state liquor authorities, has a long and shameful history of knowingly and intentionally targeting black clubs with all of their regulatory power in a concerted effort to drive the clubs out of business," the complaint reads.

The lawsuit also cites the Fontaine Bleau and Seeznin's Bar as previous victims of the "insurmountable obstacles to success of black club owners catering to black people and clubs offering entertainment and playing music

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Noble Peace winner to share life experiences

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize after speaking out in support of education and surviving being shot by the Taliban while traveling home from school, will make a rare appearance at Theater of the Clouds at the Moda Center on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

She will be addressing the audience about her life experiences and will take part in a question and answer session.

In October 2012, the then 15-year-old Malala was shot while travelling on a school bus with her friends in her hometown of the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan.



Evening with Malala Yousafzai

Following the attack, she was flown to Birmingham, England to receive treatment at the specialist

Queen Elizabeth hospital, and by March 2013 she had made a remarkable recovery and was well enough to return to school.

Malala's bravery and unwavering dedication to her cause has seen her honored throughout the world. She was named one of 'The 100 Most Influential People in the World' in 2013 by Time magazine. She is also the author of the international bestseller "I am Malala," which has been published in over 27 countries.

Tickets can be purchased at the Rose Quarter Box Office, by calling 800-745-3000 or online at www.rosequarter.com.