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Brandi Webber, owner of Imagination Station Daycare Center, completes a Portland Development Commission program for minority-owned small businesses. Also pictured are Tory Campbell (left) and Tavo Cruz of the PDC.

Tools for Business Growth

The Increase Project, PDC's pilot program to provide minority-owned small businesses with the tools for growth and expansion, recently recognized its first class of graduates.

Each graduate spent almost 40 hours in class, as well as countless additional hours completing prep work and assignments, engaging in peer-mentoring meetings, and writing individual growth plans. Next steps: implement those plans and take the business to the next

level.

Congratulations to Michele Sanders, Attic Journals; Jamaal Lane, Champions Barbering Institute; Salud Gonzalez, Don Felipe Products; Jasmine Tran, Essence; Jamaal Hale, Good Green Printing; Rachel Hestmark, Hestmark Designs; Brandi Webber, Imagination Station Daycare Center; Ro Tam, Tanglewood Beverage Company; Corinne Phillips, Pretty Petals; and Jessica Chan, WinkPens.

Wheeler's Black Leader

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the top press aide for current Democratic nominee for Vice President Tim Kaine, who at the time was the Governor of Virginia.

“We are fortunate to have a highly skilled manager, policy expert, and proven leader in this role. I expect a high degree of experience and professionalism from my staff and Maurice Henderson is the right person to help me build and lead the team,” Wheeler said in an official statement.

Henderson doesn't have a set start date for the position, but will immediately merge with Wheeler's administration as he transitions into office this January.

Wheeler also reassigned current Chief of Staff Tom Rinehart into the Chief Administrative Officer and director of the Office of Management and Finance position. Rinehart will begin his position Oct. 1, which entails seeing over finance, revenue, human resources and other essential city government affairs.

Club Owner Sues City

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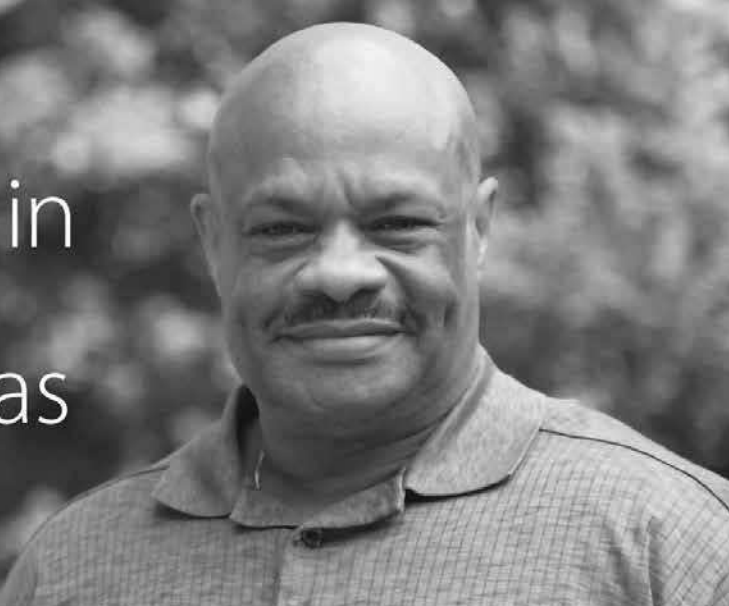
appealing to black people.”

Other issues Thames says she experienced since her takeover of Exotica in 2010, included “draconian” liquor restrictions placed on the club, and an incident with OLCC officer that led to Thames being held in custody for resisting arrest and interfering with a peace officer. The Multnomah County District Attorney determined the arrest was unjust and refused to charge her and she was released, according to the complaint.

strip club on Northeast Cully and Prescott, just a 10 minute drive from Exotica's old location at 240 N.E. Columbia Blvd., has seen both homicide and sexual harassment allegations and remains seemingly untouched by the OLCC - a point Thames makes in her lawsuit.

She also points to a grim statistic that despite a 6.3 percent black population in Portland, there are only three black-owned bars or clubs, and none of them cater to black youth in the city or the hip-hop music usually associated with the culture.


Club Skinn, a white-owned



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