

# Portland Observer Year in Review

Looking back at top stories of 2017



### Resistance

**Jan. 25** – With some contentious standoffs between demonstrators and Portland police, tens of thousands join a broad coalition of civil rights and progressive groups to resist the newly installed Trump administration by spilling onto the streets for a weekend of protests and discontent.



### Resilience and Triumph

**Feb. 8** – The Billy Webb Elks Lodge, a historic center of Portland's black community, embarks on a membership drive to bring new life to the longtime community space that was born from Portland's segregated past and is a key social landmark today.

### Our Contaminated Harbor

**March 8** – The community gets an update on plans to cleanup 11 miles of contaminated waters and shoreline along the Willamette River. The Portland Harbor Superfund site addresses a century of toxic dumping and unhealthy wildlife.



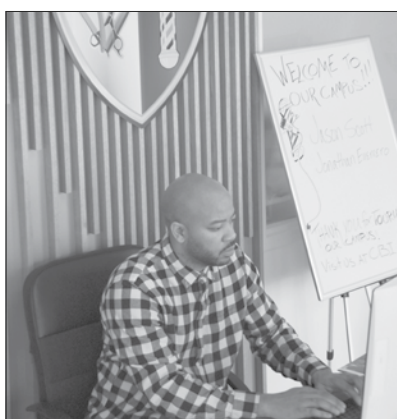
### 'I Marched in Selma'

**Feb. 22** – Celebrating Black History Month, J.J. Moore, longtime owner of Affordable JJ Lock and Key in northeast Portland, recalls the beatings and arrests he faced when he participating in the historical Selma to Montgomery marches 52 years ago.



### Best in State

**March 15** – Jefferson High School celebrates winning a state basketball championship, the ninth in school history, after a 70-67 win against Clackamas High School.



### Growing the Brand

**March 22** – Jamaal Lane, a long time barber and founder of Champions Barbershop grows his brand by opening Champions Barbering Institute, a vocational school for training barbers at 424 N.E. Killingsworth St.



### Priced Out

**April 12** – As rental and housing prices continue to rise, Portland's black community is being hit hard in the struggle to stay housed. "When it rains for Americans, it's pouring for black Americans," said Denetta Monk, housing specialist with the Urban League of Portland.



### Mayor on the Issues

**April 26** – New Mayor Ted Wheeler lays out his vision on housing affordability, police reform and other topics during a visit to the offices of the Portland Observer, Oregon's longest serving minority publication.

### Reo's Ribs Up in Flames

**May 10** – Reo's Ribs is boarded up after an overnight fire guts the landmark building at Northeast 42nd and Sandy Boulevard. African-American business owner Reo Varnado speculated that the fire, started outside the building, could have been racially motivated.

