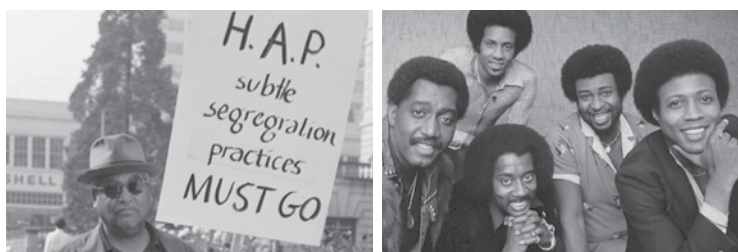


The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2



Black History Month page 2



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT pages 10-13



METRO page 11

CALENDAR page 15



OPINION pages 16-17

CLASSIFIEDS pages 18

This page Sponsored by:

Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?®



A ribbon cutting ceremony marks the merger of two community-driven banks as the former Albina Community Bank becomes the newly named Beneficial State Bank branch on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Pictured are Randell Leach, president and chief operating officer of Beneficial State Bank, and Kat Taylor, the bank's co-founder and chief executive officer.

Community-Driven Banks Merge

Combining the financial strength and clout of two financial institutions is intended to boost banking services to low and moderate-income communities, and provide financing for renewable energy, affordable housing, and women and minority-owned businesses.

A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the merger of Albina Community Bank with Beneficial State Bank on Thursday. Leaders for the combined financial institution gathered to celebrate at the newly renamed Beneficial State Bank branch office on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boule-

vard. Attending the ceremony were Randell Leach, president and chief operating officer of Beneficial State Bank, and Kat Taylor, the bank's co-founder and chief executive officer. Customers and local residents also joined the festivities.

Running for Public Office

Maxwell enters county commission race



Sharon Maxwell

Sharon Maxwell, a successful business owner and recognized community leader from Portland's African American community has announced plans to run for Multnomah County Commissioner in the upcoming May Primary.

Her campaign will kickoff Wednesday with a scheduled 11 a.m. rally in the lobby of the Margaret Carter Technical Education Building on the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland.

Maxwell has been a trailblazer for breaking social barriers. She entered Portland's male- and white-dominated construction field after graduating from PCC's Skill Center construction program 25 years ago. She later formed

promising to tackle discrimination complaints in county workplaces.

Maxwell said employees should never be disparaged in the work environment or feel threatened to speak up for themselves in fear of retaliation, humiliation or loss of livelihood.

Maxwell grew up in north and northeast Portland and continues to reside here. She attended Portland Public Schools in her early years and became a journey-level carpenter and sprinkler fitter after receiving her PCC construction skills training. She went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree from Warner Pacific College in 2015 and said she completed an accounting degree this year.

She is the mother of four adult children and the grandmother of her four loving grandchildren.

This will be Maxwell's second attempt at public office after running for the Portland City Council in 2014.

In her new campaign announcement, Maxwell said she is running for office on a platform to strengthen families and push for policies that support families. She also pledged to promote transparency and accountability in how the county spends public tax dollars,