

2019 Year in Review

*A look back
at some of our
top stories*

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'It Looked Like a River'

March 20 – A major supply water main break sent a geyser of water gushing into the middle of Northeast Skidmore Street, inundating several blocks and flooding nearly a dozen residential basements. "It looked like the Deschutes River right here," said Kevin Hendrickson, a neighbor.



Crowned Champions

March 13 – The Benson High School girls basketball team and coach Eric Knox celebrate the program's first state championship after dethroning two-time defending champion Southridge, 66-42 in the state 6A tournament.

De La Salle's New Home

April 3 – St. Charles Parish Priest Elwin Schwab outlines plans to allow De La Salle North Catholic High School to relocate permanently from the Kenton neighborhood to the former St. Charles Elementary building at Northeast 42nd and Emerson in the Cully Neighborhood. The move would take place in 2021 after the school's current lease ends.



Shootings Bring Response

April 17 – Civil rights organizers Hector Hinojosa and Lynn Marzette were on a quest to improve police transparency and ensure unbiased law enforcement after an unusually high number of officer-involved shootings involving people of color in Vancouver and Clark County over the past few months.



Opportunity to Serve

May 8 – Michelle DePass (left) and Shanice Clarke, two well-qualified candidates from the African American community, speak out on the issues as they vie for a seat on the Portland School Board. DePass went on to win the May primary and became the first black member in a decade on the seven-member governing panel.



Apology for Noose

May 29 – Natural Grocers apologized after a miniature noose was found hanging from a car's rear view mirror in the parking lot of the store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Neighbors traced the image to an employee at the store and posted it online.

Parkrose Coach a True Hero

May 22 – Parkrose Football Coach Keanon Lowe is hailed as a hero for taking the gun from an armed student at the northeast Portland school, preventing what could have been a tragic school shooting. The former college football star at the University of Oregon received nationwide praise for his actions.



Hail Queen Mya!

June 12 – Mya Brazile of St. Mary's Academy is crowned 2019 Portland Rose Festival Queen, an amazing accomplishment for the 18-year-old senior and the fulfillment of a childhood dream. Her selection was announced just ahead of the Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.

Highest Academic Honor

June 12 – Madison High School graduate Taj Ali (left) is congratulated by long time educator and mentor Michael "Chappie" Grice for becoming Valedictorian of his Class of 2019, the highest-scoring senior academically, and one of the few male black students to achieve this honor in the history of Portland Public Schools.

