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# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY INTISAR ABIOTO/COURTESY PORTLAND PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Billy Webb Elks Lodge's designation on the National Register of Historic places celebrates not only the history of one of Portland's most important Black fraternal institutions, but also a building that previously served as a "Colored" YWCA, African American USO center, and Portland branch headquarters of the NAACP.

## Black Historic Sites Approved Recognizing Portland's African American experience

The National Park Service has recognized the historic significance of Portland's African American experience through a pair of new listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first listing — African American Resources in Portland from 1851 to 1973 — is a 191-page document that elevates the eligibility of historic sites associated with Portland's Black history for listing in the

National Register. The second listing — the Billy Webb Elks Lodge — specifically recognizes the importance of the 1926 Williams Avenue YWCA building

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Under fire for massive delays, the Oregon Employment Department has launched a new informational website to help workers navigate unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## New Website to Help Job Claims

### Employment Department under fire for massive delays

The Oregon Employment Department has launched a new informational website aimed at improving customer service for the record number of Oregonians applying for and receiving unem-

ployment benefits.

The new site, unemployment.oregon.gov is designed to help Oregonians more easily find information on the new programs created by the CARES Act; whether they might qualify for unemployment benefits; how to apply; and what's different during the pandemic.

"We've heard the many Oregonians who've said we need to do a better job communicating about their benefits and the unemploy-

ment claims process," said David Gerstenfeld, acting director of the Oregon Employment Department. "Our goal with this new website is to provide clear information so people can file their claims, avoid unnecessary delays, and get their questions answered without having to call us," he said. "We know that ultimately Oregonians need their claims processed, but we also want to ease some of the commu-

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