50TH Anniversary Edition ———



Black Women Leaders - Circa 1989 – Joyce Washington (left), the late former Portland Observer publisher, and Gary Ann Taylor, the late former Portland Observer circulation director and business manager, were essential to the success of the newspaper's early years.



The People's Observer was an African American publication in Portland in 1944, led by William H. McClendon, a prominent member of Portland's civil rights community. Although McClendon was not involved, the Portland Observer today traces its roots to McClendon's original publication.

The Portland Observer: Did you Know?

BY FELECIA SLIDER FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Observer is Oregon's

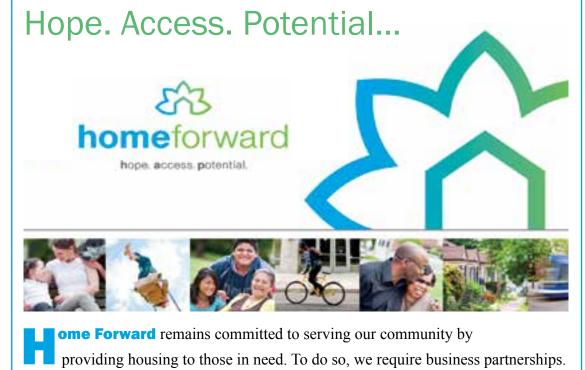
oldest continuous black publication. • The Portland Observer was started in 1970 by Rev. Alfred Lee Henderson of

- Portland's Bethel AME Church. • In 1989, it was purchased by Joyce Washington. Under her watch, the Portland Observer staff grew from four to 11 employees, and circulation grew from about 1,500 copies in 1970 to more than 20,000 in 1995.
- Joyce Washington was a child when her family moved to Vanport, the community built to house shipbuilding workers on the Columbia River during World War II. She studied sociology at Portland Community College and Portland State University.
- After she took over the weekly, Washington had to run the paper out of her home for a while.
- The paper's corporate name at the time,

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Portland Observer Staff through the Years

Alfred Henderson, 1970s; Founder Joyce Washington, 1980s-1990s; Publisher Charles Washington, 1990s-2000s; Publisher Mark Washington, 1980s-2020; Publisher Cory Washington, 1990s; Promotions Gary Washington, 1990s; Technical Assistant Leonard Latin, 2000s-2020; Ad Representative Michael Leighton, 2001-2020; Editor Gary Ann Taylor, 1990s-2000s; Office Manager Lucinda Baldwin, 2000s-2020; Office Manager Dean Babbs, 1990s; Graphic Design/Layout Paul A. Neufeldt, 1990s-2020; Creative Director Pamela Jordan, 1990s; Reporter/Writer Neil Heilpern, 1997; Reporter/Writer Lee Perlman, 1997-2008; Reporter/Writer Wynde Dyer, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Jayme R. Cuti, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Katherine Kovacich, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Nicole Hooper, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Katherine Blackmore, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Sarah Blount, 2000s; Reporter/Writer Isaiah Bouie, 2000s; Photographer Raymond Rendleman, 2000s; Reporter Jake Thomas, 2000s; Reporter Cari Hachmann, 2010s; Reporter Donovan M. Smith; 2012-2020; Reporter Danny Peterson, 2010s; Reporter Beverly Corbell, 2020; Reporter



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