

Relics of Past Coming Down

Grant murals seen as promoting racist culture

Historic mural art from Grant High School's auditorium that many students saw as relics of a racist culture narrative are coming down.

The Portland School Board has approved Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero's recommendation to remove the two larger than life works depicting Native Americans and white settlers on each side of the school's auditorium stage.

The decision at the Nov. 17 school board meeting came more than a year after the student-led Indigenous Peoples Student Union made a request to remove the 90-year-old murals. Both students and community members have called the murals hurtful to Native Americans and other students for portraying stereotypes deemed historically inaccurate.



90-year-old murals depicting Native Americans and white settlers will be removed from Grant High School's auditorium after the school district determined they were problematic for not rising to standards for promoting racial equality and social justice.

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The Week in Review



Red House Eviction Enforced

At least seven people gathered to support a local Black and Indigenous family on North Mississippi Avenue fighting a foreclosure of their historic home over claims of fraud and deceit were arrested for trespassing early Tuesday when law enforcement officers worked to "re-secure" the "Red House" and adjacent property where protesters have camped for months.

Remedies for Police Violations

One week after U.S. District Judge Marco A. Hernandez found the city of Portland in contempt of his restrictions on police use of less-lethal impact munitions during protests, the judge has set a Jan. 8 hearing to determine what "practical remedies as opposed to punitive" ones to impose. The judge's order came in response to a suit filed by Don't Shoot Portland, a Black-led nonprofit that advocates for social and racial justice in the city.

Call for Justice in Vancouver

About 200 demonstrators gathered Sunday in Hazel Dell, northeast of Vancouver, to protest the death of Kevin Peterson, a 21-year-old Black man who was fatally shot by Clark County sheriff's deputies during a drug sting operation on Oct. 29. Organizers made speeches calling for justice for Peterson, and his father, Kevin Peterson Sr. thanked the crowd for their support, including donations that have created a fund for his daughter.



Tolbert to Lead Vancouver NAACP

Jasmine Tolbert, a Vancouver native and long time champion of social justice issues, has been elected the new president of the Vancouver NAACP.

On Nov. 21, the local chapter held an election for officers. Members overwhelmingly elected Tolbert who previously served as branch vice president. In other positions, Joseph Hernandez was elected the chapter's new vice president; Ruby N. Lewis as secretary and Bryant Enge as treasurer.



Jasmine Tolbert

Tolbert is a graduate of both Clark College and Washington State University-Vancouver and serves on the Board for the YWCA of Clark County. She is also a member of WSU Vancouver's Equity Diversity Advisory Board.

In her statement for election as Vancouver NAACP president, she pledged her commitment to racial equity.

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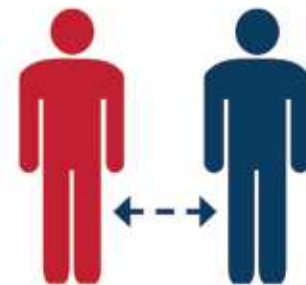
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