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# 2021 Year in Review

## TriMet Names First Black GM



**June 23** --Citing his commitment to safety, service and the community, Sam Desue Jr. is named the new General Manager of TriMet, becoming the first Black leader in the transit agency's five-decade history. Desue has extensive experience at transit agencies, including Portland, Seattle and Kansas City.

## Temps Soar to 108, 112, 116



**July 7** – Multnomah County Commission Chair Deborah Kafoury orders a study to the county's disaster emergency response after at least 67 people died of heat-related illnesses during a protracted heat wave. Record-breaking temperatures of 108, 112 and 116 were recorded between June 27 – and July 3 in Portland.

## Journalism's Highest Honor



**July 7** – Mitchell S. Jackson, Portland native and Portland State University alumnus, is awarded the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor for writing about the life and death of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man shot and killed after being racially profiled and chased by three armed white men while he was out jogging in Glynn County, Georgia,.



## 'We had No Choice but to Jump'

**July 7** -- A horrifying fire erupted at a multi-unit apartment in the Sullivan Gulch neighborhood of northeast Portland during the predawn hours of July 4, killing at least two people and leaving several others injured. Neighbors described seeing people trapped by flames. "We had no choice but to jump," survivors said.



## Grieving for Teen Killed

**July 21** – The shocking violence of a mass shooting downtown leaves the community in shock. Makayla Harris, 18, a recent graduate of Grant High School, is killed in a drive-by shooting downtown. She is remembered by friends and family for her kindness and good personality.



## Community Confronts Gun Violence

**Aug 4** – Joe McFerrin II, administrator for two long time education programs serving the Black community, is getting help from other Black leaders to bring down gun violence. McFerrin is leading an effort called The Village to reach more youth with focused programs and education, aiming to bring gun violence way down, just like a coalition of local nonprofits did in the late 1980s and 1990s. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



## IF YOU LOVE SCHOOLS, LAYER UP

Layered health and safety measures like getting vaccinated, wearing face coverings and improved airflow and circulation, can keep Oregon school doors open through the challenges of winter. Learn more at [Oregon.gov/readyschools](https://Oregon.gov/readyschools).



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