

Black Exhibit Installed



PHOTO BY JOE MABEL

Clark County Historical Museum (former Carnegie Library), Vancouver, Washington.

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area. The timeline shares just a few stories of the many Black people who have contributed to this place we all call home.

"The NAACP Vancouver branch is excited to partner with the Clark County Historical Museum for the "Black History Highlights of Southwest Washington" exhibit," said NAACP Vancouver Branch president, Jasmine Tolbert, "Systemic racism in Clark County and all over this country has made it so Black History and narratives have not always been told, I'm grateful for the Clark County Historical Museums time and commitment to telling all of the history in Clark County."

"Black History Highlights of South-

west Washington" will be open through 2024.

The exhibit was made possible through the generous time, knowledge, and funding of the Vancouver NAACP, based on the timeline originally composed for the exhibit, "The Lost Ark of African American Art, History & Experience in Vancouver and the Northwest," held annually at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library since February 2018.

The Vancouver NAACP Vancouver Branch was founded in 1945 and works to disrupt inequality, dismantle racism, and accelerate change in key areas including criminal justice, health care, education, climate, and the economy.

For more information, visit NAACPvancouverWA.org.

Deadly Confrontation

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as Benjamin Smith. Detectives were working with prosecutors to review potential charges, police said. It wasn't immediately clear if Smith had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

According to reporting on OPB, the shooter approached a group of women protesters calling them "violent terrorists" and spewing other "misogynist vulgarity."

Smith's roommate, Kristine Christenson, told The Oregonian that Smith often criticized the Black Lives Matter movement, the COVID-19 mask requirement, crime in the neighborhood and homeless people living near the park by their apartment.

Authorities also identified the victim Tuesday as Brandy "June" Knightly, 60, and said she died of a gunshot wound.

Friends and relatives said Knightly was well-known for helping people in the city's active protest movement.

Her friend Kathleen Saadat told the newspaper that Knightly was dedicated to acting on her values of justice and fairness.

"She was a warm, giving and kind person who spent time trying to think of things she could do to make the world better and to make herself better in the world," Saadat said.

Knightly was known as T-Rex by other protesters, often driving people to and from different points during demonstrations in Portland and surrounding towns and paid particular attention to helping

people with disabilities or others who were vulnerable, friends said.

Knightly's wife, Katherine Knapp, said Knightly first got involved in racial justice protests when demonstrators marched near their home after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police in May 2020.

Portland City Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty, the first Black woman to serve on the City Council, issued a statement saying it appeared the alleged shooter was a man with white supremacist sympathies.

"There is a history and pattern of threats of violence against activists, including myself. As a community this is deeply wounding and distressing," Hardesty said.

The commissioner said she was taking a pause from her campaign for re-election to review her own safety protocols.

"We know this has a chilling effect on civic engagement, and we will keep fighting for a world where we all experience safety on our streets and in our daily lives," she said.

Police earlier described an "extremely chaotic scene" at the northeast Portland park and described a confrontation between an armed area resident and protesters, some of whom were also armed.

Authorities said most people left the scene without talking to officers.

Social media flyers show that at the same time as the shooting, a march was planned for Amir Locke, a Black man who was fatally shot by police in Minneapolis.

-Associated Press contributed to this story.

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