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2023 Year In Review

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Helping Women and Children through Life Hurdles

April 19 - Youtheary Sim joined the Union Gospel Mission of Portland in January of 2023 as the new Director for LifeChange for Women and Their Children. LifeChange is a long-term residential recovery community for single women and women with Children who are escaping homelessness, addiction and abuse. Women and children in LifeChange receive a safe home, counseling, education, and life-skills training allowing them to heal from trauma and live a healthy, independent life.

All About Flagging

May 17 - All About Flagging celebrated its 10 year anniversary. As a Black, woman-owned, small business in Oregon, its journey has been one of triumph, tragedy, strength and resilience. This 10 year achievement is an incredible testament to continuing the legacy and vision of owner and founder Reynelda Hayes (1961-2022). All About Flagging is an Oregon-based flagging and traffic control company that was founded in May 2013 by Reynelda Hayes.



Nike Gives Back

May 3 - In a move of unprecedented philanthropy, retired Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife Penny donated \$400 million to benefit Portland's Black community. Specifics of how the money will be spent are still being determined, but will be initially invested in North Portland's Albina neighborhood through a new nonprofit called the 1803 Fund, according to Willamette Week.



Portland Fire Chief Announces Retirement

June 21 - Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone announced her retirement from Portland Fire & Rescue, effective July 12, 2023. Starting as a line firefighter with PF&R in 1995, Chief Boone earned her way up the ranks in Emergency Operations, holding positions as Lieutenant, Captain/ Staff Captain, Battalion Chief, and Bureau Safety Chief. She also brought executive level experience to the job, having served as the Deputy Chief of Logistics/ Management Services Division and the Division Chief of Medical Services & Training.



Black Rodeo at the Portland Expo Center

June 7 - Portland-based professional photographer Ivan McClellan has been going to Black rodeos around the country, documenting the unique culture, elevating stories of the rodeo athletes, and developing lifelong friends along the way. Ivan McClellan, along with Councilor Vince Jones-Dixon of the City of Gresham and a team of volunteers, brought the inaugural Eight Seconds Juneteenth Rodeo to the Portland Expo Center on June 17th.



The Village Comes Together for Students

Aug. 2 - The UNCF "Each One Teach One Jazz in the Garden" Luncheon was held on July 23, 2023. This annual fundraiser brings the village together to celebrate the achievements of students, the work of community leaders, partners and sponsors that raise funds to support UNCF's Portfolio Project and scholarships. The mission of the UNCF Portfolio Project is to increase the number of minority and low-income college and scholarship applicants.



Oregon Lets Drivers Fuel Their Own Cars

Aug. 16 - (AP) For the first time in 72 years, Oregon motorists can grab a fuel nozzle and pump gas into their cars on their own, since a decades-old ban on self-serve gas stations has been revoked. Gov. Tina Kotek signed a bill allowing people across the state to choose between having an attendant pump gas or doing it themselves.