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Alberta Street Racism

Diner claims she was humiliated, turned away from café

By Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

An Italian restaurant on Alberta Street, hit this week by a lawsuit alleging denial of service on Valentine's Day, has mostly positive reviews.

But *The Skanner News'* look at the restaurant's Yelp turned up a second allegation of denial of service by another customer that same night.

Kathleen Hampton, a 50-year resident of the Alberta Arts District and a small business booster, filed a lawsuit last week against Enzo's Café Italiano, alleging that she was denied service on Valentine's Day and humiliated in front of other customers; she is asking for \$100,000 in damages.

She has also moved to file a complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, which enforces civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in commercial establishments.

The lawsuit follows two other recent discrimination complaints against local businesses, starting with the Ambridge Center where the manager refused to allow Black PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays) to hold a history month event.

The second case involves McMenamin's Kennedy School, where African American grassroots organizer Sheila Warren of the Portland Parents' Union initiated a Change.org petition alleging a server at a restaurant there wrongly accused the group of leaving without paying after a business meeting with Portland Public Schools representatives last month.

The Ambridge Center case has been resolved through mediation; Warren says she is currently working on a response to the Kennedy School incident and she's calling for others with similar experiences to contact her at simplysheilas@msn.com.

While news reports so far this week have made Hampton a subject of public ridicule, a quick scan of Enzo's Yelp page shows several unhappy customers on that night – as

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

The Northwest African American Museum celebrated seven years in operation on Sunday, March 8. The party featured cake and champagne. Yasmeen, 2, and her sister Talia, 4, share a piece at the party. Find out more about the museum at www.naamnw.org.

Moms Call For 'Ceasefire,' Peace

A string of street shootings – one fatal – follows their call-to-action

By Donovan M. Smith
Of The Skanner News

Emotions were high at a press conference called by the mother of the late Quintrell Holiman, who took his own life during a standoff with Portland Police this month.

Her message was a simple one, a message of peace.

Gizelle Holiman called the press conference on Friday at Bethel A.M.E church also to clarify a rumor she says was spreading on social media—that

her son was in fact killed by officers on the scene.

"My son made the decision to take his own life," she said. The Oregon State Medical Examiner ruled 26-year-old Holiman's death a suicide a day after he died. Police records said Holiman had fired at officers before fatally turning the gun on himself.

As the rumor got steam, calls for vengeance against the police followed.

"I'm begging you please leave the police alone," the elder Hol-

iman pleaded. "If everybody loves my son like they say, put the guns down."

Holiman's son was a documented member of the Hoover Criminals gang in Portland and had recently been released from prison. She theorizes the fear of returning to prison and recent familial stress led him to take his own life.

"He'd decided 'I'm not going back to jail,' he'd been having problems with his daughters' mother, and he couldn't take it anymore," she says.

Three mothers who'd lost their sons to gun violence, including Kimberly Dixon, Lucy Mashia and Josephine Carter-Holmes, also joined Holiman in her plea for the violence to cease.

"Instead of putting your arms up to shoot somebody, put your arms up to wrap around somebody," Holiman said.

The call for peace was unfortunately followed by a string of violence. Around midnight March 9, a fight broke out along

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Ferguson Report Resonates Across US

Pasco joins growing list of communities addressing police violence

By Gene Johnson, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Felix Vargas read the Justice Department's report on Ferguson, Missouri, and thought some of it sounded awfully familiar: a mostly white police department overseeing a mostly minority town; questionable uses of force; officers ill-equipped to deal with mentally ill residents.

They're the same issues his heavily Hispanic community, the agricultural Washington city of Pasco, has confronted since the fatal police shooting of an immigrant farmworker last month.

"We know Pasco is only the most recent area where this has happened," said Vargas, chairman of a local Hispanic business organization called Consejo Latino. "We have a national problem. We continue to

struggle with this issue of policing."

Ferguson has become an emblem of the tensions between minorities and police departments nationwide since Darren Wilson, a white officer, shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, last summer. The Justice Department cleared Wilson of criminal wrongdoing, but in its

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