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Garden to Honor Lives

Community member grows food, flowers for healing

Donovan M. Smith
Of The Skanner News

A local gardener is commemorating lives lost and cultivating healing in Portsmouth Community Garden.

Galadriel Mozee is transforming her plot at the Portsmouth Community Garden in North Portland into a memorial for Black people lost to police violence, terrorism, and white supremacy after running a successful crowdfunding effort.

Mozee says she set up the campaign in the days following the massacre of nine people at the historically Black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina last month.

"I was feeling really overwhelmed and just saddened by all the loss of life. Especially after the killings in the church, I was trying to think of a way that I could give back to my community in a way that's meaningful for me," she says.

Shortly after Dylann Roof's attack at the historic church more than 2,500 miles away, Mozee set up a GoFundMe account for the memorial and within 24 hours, the project had been fully funded.

"I set it up and I knew that my friends would donate and then a friend texted me, 'Have you looked at your GoFundMe?' and I said no," Mozee recalls. "I came back and looked and I couldn't believe that in just a few hours it had already exceeded the goal."

The \$350 that Mozee asked for will purchase an abundance of plants: strawberries, sunflowers, lavender, coneflower, yarrow, bleeding heart, sage, borage, motherwort, red clover, oregano and thyme -- in addition to other native herbs and flowers.

Mozee will also place rocks around the garden bed, each bearing the names of Black people whose lives have each been cut short due in systemic racist violence.

Most of what Mozee is choosing for the garden, she says she chose with a mindfulness of their healing qualities.

With the money raised, Mozee says she

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SUPPORT RALLY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Hundreds of people, including many members of the clergy, showed up at First AME Church in Seattle on Tuesday, July 7, to call for an end to violence and show their support for the people of Charleston, S.C. Following a short rally at the church, people marched in solidarity with the Charleston 9 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park. Marcelas Owens, shown here, who was 11 when he had his picture taken next to President Obama as he signed the Affordable Care Act into law, was one of the speakers at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. The event was organized by the Seattle King County NAACP and Washington Christian Leadership Coalition.

Summerworks Program Kicks Off

Program aims to address youth unemployment with paid internships

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

About 750 local young people will gain work experience, financial literacy and a professional network this year through Summerworks, a paid internships program that kicked off Monday.

This workforce development initiative combats youth unemployment. According to Summerworks, there are more than 34,000 young people in the area who are not working or in

school.

These numbers are getting worse with time, as youth employment rates have dropped from 44.4 percent to 26 percent. Summerworks estimates that only 12 percent of low-income youth and youth of color are employed.

According to the youth employment non-profit Urban Alliance, early work experiences mean youth are less likely to drop out, have higher grades and lead to greater lifetime earnings. These experiences can keep youth from becoming discon-

nected from work and school.

In contrast, disconnected youth have a harder time getting a job and are more likely to be incarcerated. A Queens College research study on at-risk youth determined that every 20-year-old that was disconnected with school and work cost the economy \$704,020 over his or her lifetime. The losses are from lower wages, less tax revenue and higher government spending.

Summerworks Director Heather Ficht says there are fewer opportunities for youth

employment which makes it harder for kids to find jobs.

"It's a national crisis, the lack of youth work opportunities. When was the last time a kid bagged your groceries at the grocery store?" Ficht says. "There just aren't really kid jobs when there are 60,000 adult job seekers out there to compete with who have relevant work experience."

Summerworks pays each internship minimum wage for 180

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Who's Burning Black Churches?

Arsonists hit at least five Southern congregations in recent weeks

By Bethania Palma Markus
Special to the NNPA
from The Westside Gazette

At least five Black churches burned overnight recently and three fires have been attributed to arson.

The June 17 shooting at Charleston's Emanuel AME was perhaps the deadliest attack on a Black church since the 1963 church

bombing by the Klan in Birmingham, Ala. that killed four children. Since then, another specter from America's violent racist history is again rearing its head -- setting Black churches ablaze.

At least three have been intentionally set on fire in recent days, according to a survey of news reports compiled by the Daily Kos.

On June 22, someone set fire to College Hills Seventh Day Adventist Church in Ten-

nessee, according to local WATE. The arsonist placed bales of hay outside the church doors and lit them ablaze, fire officials told the station. They also burned the church van.

On June 23, God's Power Church of Christ in Georgia was intentionally set on fire, authorities told ABC News. Electronics and other equipment were also stolen in the early morning fire. Authorities told report-

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