

**Events & Announcements**

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

**Youth Curator**

Renowned Seattle Artist Al Doggett works with Leland Adams, one of 10 young people participating in the Northwest African American Museums 2016 Dr. Carver Gayton Youth Curator Program. The youth curators who range in age from 14 to 19, are working on projects that relate to The Harmon & Harriet Kelly Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper, which is on display in the museum through April 17. The youth curators exhibition Artist Studio: Drawing Attention Outside the Lines, opens April 2. A reception will be held from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

**Briefs** cont'd from pg 4

third state in the nation to have an elder abuse prosecutor of this nature.

During the 2016 legislative session, which just concluded, funding for the elder abuse unit was Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum's highest priority.

"I want to thank the legislature for demonstrating its commitment to combatting the unprecedented growth of elder abuse and financial exploitation of Oregon's seniors. This new elder abuse unit will assist local law enforcement and all 36 district attorneys in Oregon in the investigation and prosecution of these cases. They will develop training materials and best-practice policies that will improve the identification, investigation and prosecution of elder abuse. I am confident that when we look back on this investment, we will see real progress in the fight to protect Oregon's most vulnerable adults," said AG Rosenblum.

Currently, the Oregon Department of Justice houses two other statewide resource prosecutors for Domestic Violence and DUII. This will be the first resource prosecutor to also include investigative resources.

**Seattle News Briefs****Registration Now Open for Youth Conference**

Bellevue Youth Link will host the all-city Youth Involvement 2016 Conference on Friday, March 25, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE Sixth St. Since the early 1990s, the city has hosted the biennial youth involvement conference to give Bellevue teens an opportunity to learn leadership skills, identify youth priorities in the community and connect to volunteer opportunities.

"YIC is planned by youth for youth to set the path for the future of Bellevue," said Helena Stephens, parks and community services family, youth and teen services manager. "The conference invites all teens - from public, private and home schools - to share ideas and learn new concepts to make Bellevue a great place for young people."

Registration must be received by March 11. Space is limited to the first 300 registered participants. Registration is available online at [www.youthlink.com](http://www.youthlink.com). For more information, please call (425) 452-2846.

This year's conference theme is "Hello, I am \_\_\_: Moving Beyond First Impressions."

Bellevue middle school and high school teens will focus on our community's growing diversity and explore topics related to identity.

Featured speakers include Tamam Waritu, a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker and prom-

inent youth trainer, and Terrence Roberts, a civil rights hero who helped desegregate Central Little Rock High School in 1957 as part of the Little Rock Nine.

Parents, business leaders, youth workers and adults interested in youth needs are invited to attend the free conference.

Teachers and youth group leaders are encouraged to participate with their classes.

A continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

The event is an excused absence in the Bellevue School District, and students may earn six community service hours for attending.

Bellevue Youth Link is a national award-winning partnership of the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools that engages young people in community leadership.

Through Bellevue Youth Link, teens and adults have teamed up to develop youth programs and projects including: Bellevue SkatePark, Ground Zero Teen Center, Bellevue Youth Court, Youth Connections, Teen Closet and Youth Volunteer Corps.

**Washington State Recognized for Innovation in Serving Incarcerated Veterans**

For the third consecutive year, Washington State has been recognized as a Pillar of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The award was received for an Innovative State Program for Incarcerated Veterans and was presented by VA Secretary Robert McDonald to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) for their collaborative work serving incarcerated veterans.

"I am incredibly proud of the dedication shown by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Governor Jay Inslee.

"These innovative programs are providing opportunities and tools for veterans to get back on their feet and once again become productive members of their community."

Approximately nine percent of the state's prison population are veterans and of those 65% have honorable or general under honorable discharges, making them potentially eligible for federal VA benefits. Twelve percent of the incarcerated veteran population entering prison are receiving disability or pension benefits and need to file paperwork with the federal VA to adjust these benefits during incarceration.

WDVA and DOC have partnered since 2010 to help incarcerated veterans understand the importance of self-identifying their veteran status to prevent overpayment of federal VA benefits, and in some cases to allow for a portion of their disability compensation to go to their family during incarceration.

**Community Calendar 2016****Seattle Metro****FRIDAY, MARCH 11**

**FAMILY BIKE NIGHT: FREE!** Come out to Rav - Eck for our Family Bike Night! Everyone will learn about bike safety, maintenance, get info on joining a bike club and much more. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Ravenna Eckstein Community Center, 6535 Ravenna Ave. NE.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**

**FLASHLIGHT EASTER EGG HUNT & NONPROFIT BENEFIT:** 4th Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt & Benefit for the Shining Heart Foundation & Armstrong Racing. 5,000 eggs, silent auction, live music, prizes and much more. \$7.00 per person at the door. Please bring your own flashlight. This event is for 13 years of age and older. 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Skokomish Valley Grange Hall, 2202 W. Skokomish Rd., Shelton.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13**

**FREE HOMEBUYER CLASS:** Learn about the steps in today's buying process. Learn how to not make the deadly mistakes that homebuyers make, tax credits, how to obtain down payment assistance and much more. 1 p.m. Fairway Independent Mortgage, 4717 S. 19th, lower level conference room, Tacoma.

**LAKEMONT PARK RANGER - LED HIKE** - This lovely trail winds through green corridors alongside Lewis Creek as we ascend and descend through the park. All ages welcome. Free. 10 a.m. - noon, Lakemont Community Park, 5170 Village Park Drive SE, Bellevue.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**

**TEEN SOCIAL HOUR:** Long day at school? Nothing to do after school? Well, come to the Rainier Beach Branch Library and hang out with your friends and other teens your age. Play video games, board games, listen to music and more. You must be 12 to 18 years old to attend. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Rainier Beach Library, 9125 Rainier Ave. S.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

**FREE COMMUNITY EGG HUNT:** Hey kids! Don't miss the Egg-Citing opportunity to celebrate Easter in your community. The egg hunts will be separated by age. We will have 30,000 eggs, tons of prizes, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny and much more. Egg hunts are for children one to 10 years old. Visit [www.lovebellevue.com](http://www.lovebellevue.com) for more information and to pre-register. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Lake Hills Elementary School, 14310 SE 12th St., Bellevue.

**TEEN ACTION FAIR:** Please join the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center for the 3rd Annual Teen Action Fair, a youth-led celebration. Showcasing young leaders who are inspiring positive change. 10 a.m., Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center, 440 5th Ave. N.

**Black Diamond's 'Soup Ladies' Years of Public Service**

Since 2003, first responders and emergency workers responding to emergencies around Washington have had the pleasure of a home cooked meal while on the job, courtesy of The "Soup Ladies" of Black Diamond. In honor of the years of service the ladies have given to the people of the State of Washington, Councilmembers Kathy Lambert and Reagan Dunn were joined by their Council colleagues today in proclaiming February 29 to March 5 "Soup Ladies of Black Diamond" week in King County.

The "Soup Ladies" have built a reputation of outstanding service to others, dedication, and delicious home cooked meals for the last 13 years. In 2015, the ladies provided 7,500 meals to first responders, search and rescue teams, and military personnel engaged in emergencies and disasters.

They have served meals at the front lines of the Oso Landslide, and to fire crews in Auburn and Puyallup. The Soup Ladies are there for rescues, freeway accidents, and many more instances where emergency workers are putting their lives on the line to protect the public.

Mama Passarelli and the Soup Ladies have also reached out to help on a national level when called, providing meals to emergency crews responding to Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy.