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James Posey

## Equity Contracting Panel: No Confidence

News that companies of color in the construction field rejected city

By Lisa Loving  
Special To The Skanner

The city of Portland Equitable Contracting and Purchasing Commission, set up to address racism in the awarding of government construction contracts, voted to reject city leadership at its meeting last month.

However, almost no one knew it until Oregonlive.com reported the city's Bureau of Internal Business Services, which oversees the panel, failed to post the video of the meeting or the written minutes until targeted by a Freedom of information request.

See CONTRACTING on page 3



Shane Satterfield is a roofer who owes more than \$30,000 in debt for an associate's degree in computer science from one of the country's largest for-profit college companies that failed in 2014.

## For-Profit Colleges

Conflicts of interest uncovered

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## Kam Williams Reviews 'The Young Messiah'

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# RISING VOICE ORATORY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Naima Mohaba, a seventh-grader at Orca K-8 School in Seattle, is hugged by fellow Orca student Sela Kaifoto after learning Mohaba won first place in the sixth and seventh-grade division at the first annual We.App Young Artist Academy's First Annual Rising Voices Oratory Competition. The competition took place March 12 at South Shore Pre-K through 8 School. Scholars from Mountain View Elementary School, Orca K-8, South Shore and Summit Sierra Charter School presented original speeches about current issues confronting society.

## Mayoral Candidates Sound Off on Justice

Housing, police accountability, mental illness key issues at forum

By Arashi Young  
Of The Skanner News

The City of Portland is at a precipice of livability: skyrocketing rents turn families out into the street, Black people experience disproportionate representation at every step of the criminal justice system and those with mental illness risk mistreatment and death at the hands of the police.

Portland's city slogan is "the city that works" – but the larger question is, "For whom does it work?"

This question was at the

heart of the mayoral candidate forum for social justice held March 10 at Maranatha Church. Ted Wheeler, Jules Bailey and Sarah Iannarone squared off on the issues of police accountability, homelessness, mental illness and economic equity.

The Skanner News was among the sponsors of the event, along with the NAAACP, the Mental Health Association of Portland, In Other Words Feminist Community Center, Street Roots and others. A racially diverse crowd of more than 200 people attended the event.

A related controversy preceded the discussion itself. Instead of having an open forum for all 12 candidates who've filed for candidacy, only the three best-funded candidates – those who had raised \$5,000 or more by March 8 – were invited to speak at the event. Moderator Jason Renaud, co-founder of the Mental Health Association of Portland, said the format was necessary to bring about an in-depth discussion.

"We are not having an open debate and big panel, we are trying to have a quiet discussion – our issues

are quiet and our issues are fragile," Renaud said.

The decision caused tension in the activist community, with some pointing out the irony of restricting participation in a social justice forum based on who had enough money to speak. Other mayoral candidates Dave Schor, Steven J. Entwisle Sr., Deborah Harris and Jessie Sponberg sat in the front row and protested their exclusion – silently for the most part, though Entwisle and Sponberg each interjected once during the discussion.

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## Mississippi Flag Comes Down

Oregon lawmakers asked state to remove Confederate emblem before pulling flag in Salem

By Christen McCurdy  
Of The Skanner News

When Bree Newsome – an activist and filmmaker associated with the national Black Lives Matter movement – scaled a flag pole at the South Carolina state house last June and removed the Confederate battle flag, she sparked a national conversation. Activists and lawmakers across the

country started to ask why the flag is still prominently displayed at so many government buildings, in the south and elsewhere, when it's widely recognized as a racist symbol and was embraced by Dylann Roof, who killed nine people during a prayer meeting at a Black church last summer.

In Oregon, the conversation zeroed in on the presence of the Mississippi

See FLAG on page 3



AP PHOTO/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

Oregon lawmakers waited to see if Mississippi would change its flag design – possibly to this proposed change – before removing the state's flag from the Capitol grounds in Salem.