



This weekend marks the second annual Black Restaurant Day – an informal event meant to drum up support for Black-owned businesses.

Supporting Black-Owned Restaurants

Some business owners say promotion helped – others, not so much

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

The second annual Support Black Restaurant Days happens this weekend – with more than 6,600 Portland-area residents having responded on Facebook they intend to be at the event

According to the Facebook event page, another 3,600 people said they might support these establishments and an additional 10,000 people have been invited, so more than 20,000 potential diners have been informed.

But how many people have actually

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Turkey made its first major foray into Syria this week.

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TAKING THE PLUNGE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

People cooled off in Lake Washington when summer finally arrived in Seattle in the third week of August. In a summer marked by a lack of hot days, the temperature broke a record Aug. 19, hitting 95 degrees in Seattle.

SOAR Offers Alternatives for Black Students

Program to offer cultural education, tutoring, homeschool support

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

More than 50 parents, educators, children and other community members crowded into the basement of a North Portland church Saturday, traveling in 100-degree heat to learn more about the School of African Roots – which a coalition of community groups is organizing in order to help Black students succeed in school.

Organizers are con-

cerned about low graduation rates among African American students in Portland Public Schools, and want to help improve the success of students within the system – as well as providing support for families who choose to home school.

A year from now, organizers hope to have a year-round school. But for now, SOAR will offer after-school and weekend programs offering cultural education, tutoring and support at the Abbey Art

Center at 7600 N. Hereford in Portland.

Groups including the All African People's Revolutionary Party, the Black History Legacy Project and the Black United Fund – as well as educational institutions like Portland Community College and Portland State University – are all listed as sponsors of SOAR.

Organizer Ahjamu Umi told the crowd SOAR builds on a centuries-old tradition of Black-focused educational projects –

and cited schools created by Marcus Garvey and the Black Panthers as examples.

“We don’t believe education is about getting a degree and making more money. If you’re in school, it’s because people 50 years ago fought and bled for the right for you to be there. No matter how smart you are, you’re born in debt,” Umi said.

In addition to offering programs in Black histo-

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Walidah Imarisha Leaves for Stanford

Author and activist reflects on her time in Portland – and hopes to stay engaged

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

Writer, historian and activist Walidah Imarisha has been a fixture in Portland for more than a decade. She is also known for her poetry, spoken word performances and for holding the monthly vigil for Keaton Otis, who was killed by Portland Police in 2010.

Recently she authored a nonfiction book focused on criminal justice issues, “Angels with Dirty Faces: Three Stories of Crime, Prison and

Redemption.”

Imarisha has taught writing and poetry to a variety of ages and groups within many communities, including working with the African American group in McLaren Youth Correctional Facility.

She also created an Oregon Black History timeline in partnership with Oregon Humanities and Portland State University’s Black Studies Department. This research has brought national attention to what has been described as Oregon’s racist, White nationalist history.

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Walidah Imarisha