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A NEW DAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Chair Deborah Kafoury (left) and Commissioners Sharon Meieran, Jessica Vega Pederson, Lori Stegmann and Loretta Smith pose at a swearing-in ceremony Tuesday. The new board of commissioners is the first all-female, majority-minority board in the county's history.

All-Women, Majority-Minority Board of Commissioners Sworn In Tuesday

New County Commission aims to represent diversity of the county

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

Tuesday marked a milestone for Multnomah County with the swearing-in of three new commissioners to its county board. For the first time in the county's history, the board is comprised of all women, with the majority of its members being people of color.

In a morning ceremony, the county welcomed

Asian-American Commissioner Lori Stegmann of District 4, Commissioner Sharon Meieran of District 1, and Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson of District 3, who was elected in 2012 as the first Latina in the Oregon House of Representatives.

The board is rounded out by African American Commissioner Loretta Smith of District 2, who has held her position since 2010, and County Chair Deborah

Kafoury.

"District 3 is really at the heart of Multnomah County," Jessica Vega Pederson told *The Skanner* shortly after being sworn in. Pederson's diverse district encompasses the western edge of Portland's Laurelhurst neighborhood, south along the city's thoroughfare Cesar Chavez Boulevard, and East at 148th Avenue. "I think being a woman of color and representing my district is a re-

ally good fit."

Pederson, who lives in East Portland with her family, said her primary goals include, "making sure that we're serving all people of Multnomah County in a way that is equitable and allows access to prosperity."

She also added that the variety of perspectives and backgrounds of the commissioners will likely

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Pam Grier to Visit Portland's Black Film Festival

Festival to include variety of old classics and newer works

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

In recent years, the studio system has come under fire for its glaring lack of diversity.

Remember Oscar night 2015? Not a single person of color was nominated across all four acting categories. While it's only slightly improved for minorities amidst the top ranks of Hollywood, the often independent yet nevertheless bona fide Black film industry, continues to persevere.

So leave it to Portland's Hollywood Theatre to ring in a new year by toasting excellence in African American filmmaking. The annual 2017 Portland Black Film Festival will run for two weeks (Feb. 9 - 22) at the historic cinema, presenting a host of old classics, new documentaries and one very special guest.

"As with every year, the Portland Black Film Festival strives to showcase a diverse and eclectic selection



Writer James Baldwin, featured in new documentary 'I Am Not Your Negro'

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PHOTO BY THAD DRAGON/27 (CC BY SA 3.0) VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Millions of women's rights supporters are expected march in Washington, D.C. and at solidarity marches around the world on Jan. 21.

Women Gear Up to March

Jan. 21 event includes marches in D.C., Portland, Seattle

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

Women's rights supporters across the country — and all over the world — are ready to march.

Based on registration numbers so far, millions of women will turn up for the Women's March on Washington in Washington D.C., and tens of thousands will participate in solidarity marches in Portland and Seattle.

Marches will take place Jan. 21, the day after President-elect Donald Trump is scheduled to be inaugurated.

"This isn't a protest against Trump,

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AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS

In this Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014 file photo, President Barack Obama, center, greets supporters at a campaign event for U.S. Senate candidate Gary Peters and gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich.

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