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INSIDE:
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Special Edition

LEGISLATIVE DAY



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY
Omar Shabazz (left), Deerk Rasheed, Imam Muhammad A. Najieb, Imam Mikal Shabazz, Waleed Sadruddin, Hakeem Muhammad, Wesley Salauddin (Johnson), and Wali Lucas (standing behind line) pose for a photo at a Feb. 18 open house to raise funds for a new physical space for the Muslim Community Center of Portland.

Muslim Community Center Awaits New Home

Modular structure expected to arrive at N. Killingsworth and Vancouver site in March

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

The Muslim Community Center of Portland hasn't had its own meeting space for more than three years, but expects to settle in next month in a modular structure on North

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PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED
Joy Sanders reacts to Karen Johnson from the Black Alliance of Thurston County during her speech about the importance of passing HB 1529 out of committee, during the Charles Rolland African American Legislative Day Feb. 20 at the capital in Olympia. The annual event brings the Black community to Olympia to talk to their legislatures and the Governor about issues of particular importance to the community. SB 1529 deals with recommendations from the joint legislative task force on the use of deadly force in community policing.

'Amplify' Works to Elect People of Color

Progressive initiative seeks to train, embolden candidates

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

In the spirit of disrupting the status quo of "politics as usual," the organization Color PAC has joined forces with Progressive Majority Washington to jumpstart a new initiative for transformational politics.

And the timing couldn't be better. In the Trump era of rising White nationalism and politics guided by big money, Amplify is setting a defiant example in

the Northwest region. The organization works by recruiting, training and electing into public office candidates from underrepresented communities, like people of color, women and LGBTQ individuals. Because, says Amplify, all people should have equal access to lead, not just those with wealth and privilege.

"Amplify has definitely been an answer to a lack of demographic representation," said its Portland-based deputy

director, Mario Parker-Milligan. "But it also (signifies) a need to have individuals who are not beholden to corporations or outside influence, which can sway their ability to make decisions that positively impact their communities."

With reach in both Oregon and Washington, Amplify hopes to challenge policies that do little to serve marginalized communities.

"We have recognized that on a national, state and

local level, we have decision-makers in office that have not been reflective of the communities they are representing," continued Parker-Milligan.

And underrepresentation, says the Coalition of Communities of Color, is at the heart of inequity.

"Right now, we have an out-of-balance system that is full of barriers preventing people — particularly people of color and women — from running for of-

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Trump to Meet With CBC

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Kam's Oscar Picks

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Champions Opens Barbering School

10-month course includes training on all types of hair — and the business aspect of barbering

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

Many people may not realize that the ancient craft of barbering harkens back 6,000 years. Or that a "barber-surgeon" in medieval Europe was trusted not only with a haircut, but the amputation of a limb or the extraction of a bad tooth.

These are just some of the lit-

tle-known origin stories taught alongside the traditional art of barbering at Champions Barbering Institute. With a recent grand opening on Jan. 10, the institute proudly holds its title as the only barbering-specific career school in Oregon.

While Portland is teeming with hip salons and edgy haircutters, along with a plethora of cosmetology and beauty schools, Champions' insti-

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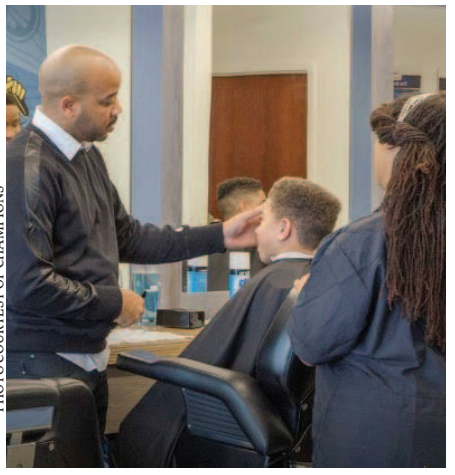


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAMPIONS
Champions Barbering Institute, the first barbering-focused school in Oregon opened Jan. 10.