

Bulletin

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Black congregations, local briefs, and a section called "Salem Notes," which includes African American community events in the state capital.

At the time of its publication, it was still illegal for Black people to even move to Oregon. That law would hold until 1926.

“My hope is that if we find some additional newspapers, we'll discover even more about what these women were doing’

Dr. Kimberly Jensen – history and gender studies professor at Western Oregon University – discovered the newspaper while researching for an upcoming article for the Oregon Historical Quarterly about citizenship and civil liberties of Oregon women during the First World War.

Yet tracing the paper's back story – and the whereabouts of additional issues – has been challenging for Jensen, to say the least.

"The People's Bulletin" is not referenced at the research library of the Oregon Historical Society; nor is it among the Rutherford Family Collection at PSU Library's Special Collections, which includes a number of newspapers such as Beatrice Morrow Canady's "The Advocate," pertaining to the Black community. Special Collections received a grant last year to preserve Oregon's Black newspapers.

"In general, a lot of that ephemeral history in Portland just sadly disappeared," said Cris Paschild, PSU archivist and head of Special Collections. "It wasn't actively collected by repositories and it wasn't recognized as historically significant for a long time, so in

a lot of ways it was really dependent on individuals to maintain materials."

What Jensen does know is that "The People's Bulletin" was published by the Portland branch of the Oregon Colored Women's Council – formed in 1912 – with Ruth Flowers

listed as the paper's associate editor. Her husband Ralph Flowers was one of Portland's first African American civil service employees, according to Jensen.

The Oregon Colored Women's Council would later grow into the Oregon Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a conglomerate of as many as 17 different civic and political groups established in Oregon at the turn the twentieth century.

According to records, "The People's Bulletin" became the official mouthpiece of the federation, whose members included Hattie Redmond, head of the Colored Women's Equal Suffrage League, and Katherine Gray, who become its first president. The bulletin was also adopted by the Colored Women's Republican Club, founded by Lizzy Weeks.

While women's social clubs and civic organizations were considered pillars of community building in early Black Portland, little has been uncovered about the council's publishing activities.

Read the rest of this story at
TheSkanner.com

Miss Black Oregon Talent Teen

Grant High School Student Skylar Pierce-Smith, Class of 2018, is the reigning Miss Black Oregon Talent Teen. Skylar will be going to Washington, DC on July 1 to represent Oregon and compete for the National title of Miss Black USA Talent Teen 2017. Skylar's talent is dance, her athletic showcase is cheer, and her platform is anti-bullying.

If people want to support Skylar, they can visit <http://www.missblackusatalentteen.org/contestants> to cast their vote. VOTE for Oregon Skylar P. Votes are \$1.00 ea. \$1.00 = 1 vote; \$5.00 = 5 votes; \$10 = 10 votes etc. There are no maximum number of votes a contestant may receive, and each dollar spent supports the scholarship program. The People's Choice winner will be announced the night of the pageant on July 1, 2017. Online voting ends 11:59 p.m. on June 30.

Skylar will participate in the Juneteenth Parade and Celebration Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade June 17 and the 25th annual Good in the Hood multicultural music and art festival and parade June 24.



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Paratroopers

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more airborne units, in peace and war, than any other parachute group in history."

On June 3, Oregon officially commemorated the heroism of the 555th at the Siskiyou Smoke-jumper Museum, located at the Illinois Valley Airport in Cave Junction.

The commemoration was spearheaded by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, which has worked to boost local business, develop tourism, and propose a number of historic markers.

In 2015, the IVCDO partnered with the National Park Service to commemorate the invention of the Viewmaster by Oregon inventors William B. Gruber and Harold J., with a historical marker at the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve.

This month, its efforts have brought the Triple Nickles (the spelling derives from old English) out of the clandestine corners of Oregon history. The 555th "have never been recognized all these years, so this is really Oregon's official recognition of the Triple

Nickle story," Roger Brandt, chair of the IVCDO, told *The Skanner*.

A fight on two fronts

In 1942, with the U.S. military still segregated, most African American soldiers were relegated to menial jobs with little

“The Triple Nickles served in more airborne units, in peace and war, than any other parachute group in history

expectation of achieving higher skilled posts. Between 1942 and 1943, some 5,000 Black troops were sent north to help build the Alaska Highway and install the companion Canol pipeline.

Even a Black lieutenant or sergeant was forced to live, eat and sleep in separate quarters from his White counterpart. The reality was a fight on two fronts – one against the enemy aboard and the other for civil rights at home.

At first largely an experiment – as the racist opinion of the time suggested African American soldiers lacked the courage to jump out of planes, said Brandt – the paratroop unit was formed to-

wards the end of 1942 through a recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Negro Troop Policies. Constituted in February 1943, the 555th was initially formed as a company.

After several months of train-

ing in Fort Benning, Georgia and later in North Carolina, the unit was activated on November 25, 1944 as the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion – all members were Black, from the commanding officer down to the privates.

Operation Firefly

At the open of 1945, the battalion was sent to the West Coast on a secret mission, known as Operation Firefly. The dangerous assignment was to exterminate some 9,000 balloons released by the Japanese, each carrying four to five bombs designed to ignite forest fires on the coast.

Read full story at TheSkanner.com

Jackson

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Fletcher was injured.

"It was their Samaritan spirit that showed just who we really are," Jackson said to a small gathering of reporters and faith and community leaders in Augustana's sanctuary Friday morning.

He also said there have always been "counter-cultural" reactionary forces determined to fight racial progress, and that when oppressive structures are changed, hearts and minds will follow.

And he urged community members opposed to racism and not to "fight fire with fire" or give racists an audience.

"We'll have our own day to march, and we'll not be afraid," Jackson said. "We'll show our faces, and we'll tell the world, 'This is who we really are.'"

The press conference came two days

before a well-publicized Patriot Prayer gathering of far-right militia groups in downtown Portland – and three planned counter-demonstrations in

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the same area, the largest of which was organized by a coalition of dozens of progressive organizations.

Asked if he was specifically urging activists not to counter-demonstrate the following Sunday, Jackson said, "If you plant two seeds in the ground of equal strength, the plant that grows will be the one with more light." He also

said Americans need to contend with a complex, unique racial history and work together to fight hate.

Ultimately, counter-demonstrators at the June 4 event outnumbered far-right demonstrators by approximately 10 to one, surrounding Terry Schunk Plaza on three sides in downtown Portland. Fourteen people were arrested Sunday afternoon and police shot tear gas and stun grenades at counter-demonstrators after reports of projectiles being shot into the street.

Reporters from Oregon Public Broadcasting and *The Oregonian* also captured video and photos of Oath Keepers – a militia group participating in the Patriot Prayer demonstration – assisting with Sunday arrests.

At 4:30 p.m. after permits for at least two of the demonstrations had expired

and protesters began filtering into the street, police detained 200 to 300 demonstrators and at least seven reporters for both local and national media downtown. Both demonstrators and reporters wrote on social media that police photographed their IDs before releasing them from the kettle and told them they may be charged with a crime later.

Tuesday Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman said on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Think Out Loud" that such demands aren't consistent with PPB policy and hinted one of the other jurisdictions present may have asked for IDs. Immediately after the interview, OPB reported Marshman had contacted the station again to confirm PPB had in fact demanded and photographed ID evidence.