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Diversifying the Green Energy Sector

Communities of color and low-income people are left out of the green economy

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
 Of *The Skanner News*

NAACP branches in Portland, Eugene and Corvallis are looking to pass a policy that will improve energy efficiency in communities of color and for people of low-income.

While Oregon is recognized as a national leader in renewable and clean energy policies, the NAACP says populations of lesser means are not reaping the benefits.

“The beneficiaries of our current energy policies are primarily White, middle-class or upper-income individuals,”

See **ENERGY** on page 3



Congressional Black Caucus declines second meeting with Trump, but some, including Al Lawson (D-FL), beg to differ.

CBC to Trump: No Thanks

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BOOK REVIEW: 'Book of Black Heroes'

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REMEMBERING CHARLEENA



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Charleena Lyles family gather around her coffin to say their final goodbyes at her memorial service July 10 at New Hope Baptist Church. Hundreds of family and community members attended the service to honor the life of the 30-year-old pregnant mother of four who was killed by the Seattle police after she called them to her home on June 18. Speaking during the service, Charleena's father said "I love Charleena, and the police just snatched her from my life, and I want justice. I want justice for her and mainly for her children."

Kenton Library Launches 'Curious Minds'

Weekly summer program teaches youth about Black innovators in STEAM

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
 Of *The Skanner News*

This summer, the Kenton branch of Multnomah County Library is hosting a program that will introduce young learners to the works and achievements of African American scientists, engineers and inventors.

Called Curious Minds,

the event runs from July 8 to Aug. 26, every Saturday from 3 to 4 p.m.

For eight weeks, youth from grades K - 5 are invited to explore subjects in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) through activities and experiments, while learning about the Black innovators working behind the scenes.

“My goal is to let young

people know that African Americans have always been in STEAM fields – and hopefully inspire some kids to believe they can do it too,” said library assistant Lanel Jackson, who designed the program.

Jackson is currently working on outreach to spread the word about Curious Minds, as she admits the Kenton neighborhood has changed in re-

cent years, with far fewer school-aged children.

During Saturday's first session, participants learned about geosciences and rocks through the work of Zelma Maine Jackson, one of a few Black female geologists on the West Coast.

Through her specialization in uranium deposits

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Highlights From the 2017 Legislative Session

Bills on immigration, grand jury recordings, health pass during final week

The Skanner News Staff

The Oregon Legislature officially adjourned last week, closing a contentious five-month session in which Democrats – which hold the majority in both houses - fought over how to balance the state's \$21 billion budget and how to fix roads and bridges throughout the state. Some hard-fought reforms – including increased renter protections and environmental regulations – failed. Other changes advocates have sought for years, like a requirement that grand jury hearings be recorded, will finally come to pass.

Here's a rundown of bills the Legislature reviewed this year and how

they fared.

Housing

House Bill 2004, which would have banned no-cause evictions statewide and lifted the state's ban on rent control, passed out of the House of Representatives but died in the Senate. (The Portland City Council banned no-cause evictions earlier this year.)

Criminal Justice

House Bill 2355, which directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to start recording data on the age, race, ethnicity and sex of a person contacted during a traffic or pedestrian stop, passed. The bill follows HB 2002, which passed in 2015 and made profiling illegal – but advocates who served on a committee cre-



PHOTO BY M.G. STEVENS (PUBLIC DOMAIN) VIA WIKIPEDIA
 The Oregon legislature closed an eventful session July 7, passing a landmark transportation bill and some long-fought reforms in criminal justice and education.

See **LEGISLATURE** on page 3