

News.....	3,8-10	A & E.....	6-7
Opinion.....	2	New NAACP President...	10
Calendars.....	4-5	Bids/Classifieds.....	11



Portland commuters board TriMet bus.

TriMet to Introduce Low-Income Fare

New state funds will also expand bus services

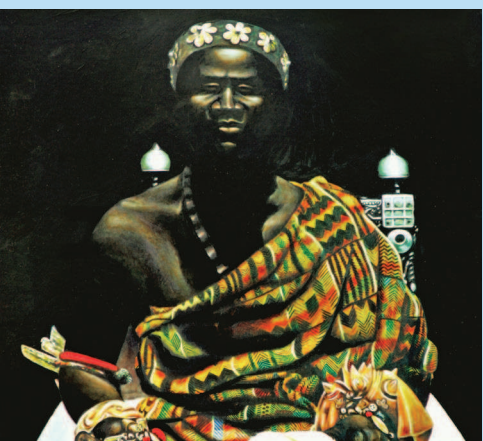
By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

TriMet has announced it will be adopting a low-income fare program — a plan which has been bouncing between the transit agency and local advocates.

The program, said TriMet, has been made possible through the passing of Oregon's transportation package which, at \$5.3 billion, funnels investments into transit across the state. Alongside a low-income fare, TriMet will also expand bus service.

"We couldn't, as a region, move forward until a funding mechanism was

See **TRIMET** on page 3



"African Prince," featured in Frison's exhibit.

Local Mural Artist Exhibits

page 7

Black Seniors Walk Down Memory Lane in Portland

page 9

NEW CHIEF SHARES NEW VISION

Mike Myers, Portland's New Fire Chief, Pilots New Program for Managing Emergencies

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

When Mike Myers left the Las Vegas Fire Department 2013, where he'd served as chief since 2011, he found he was nowhere near ready for retirement.

Myers, now 50, moved to Chicago, then to Montgomery, Florida, but found himself restless and decided to re-enter the job market.

"It was just boring," he said of retirement.

First he moved to St. Charles, Missouri, outside St. Louis, and took a job in that city's fire department. Then Portland Fire and Rescue an-



Portland Fire and Rescue Chief Mike Myers has announced a pilot project he hopes will help the department better identify and address public health issues.

nounced it was searching for a new chief, and he jumped at the chance. Myers and his wife — with whom, for several years, he ran a travel blog that featured photos of the couple kissing at destinations around the world — had been eager to relocate to the Northwest.

"We didn't want to go just anywhere," Myers said.

Myers is evaluating Portland's fire department top to bottom, looking at hiring practices, training and emergency response.

He's also proposing a way to respond to non-emergency calls he says hasn't been tried anywhere else in the United States.

Myers said about 80 percent of

calls the fire department responds to are urgent, but not in a category that would require a paramedic's response — including non-emergency medical calls. Numbers released by Portland Fire & Rescue in response to a request for more detailed list "rescue and EMS," which made up the largest category in fiscal year 2016-17 numbered 52,341 out of 85,866 total calls. At 61 percent)it is the largest total category, but doesn't break the calls into emergency or non-emergency categories.

But categories that clearly don't qualify as emergencies made up a large share of the remaining 39 percent of calls. These include "good in-

See **CHIEF** on page 3

Portland NAACP Makes Bid to Host National Conference in 2020

Travel Portland estimates the conference would add \$6.7 million to local economy

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

Representatives of the NAACP Portland Branch and Travel Portland made a bid Tuesday to host the organization's national conference in 2020.

Branch president Jo Ann Hardsy, along with representatives from Travel Portland and Metro, traveled to Baltimore this week for the 108th

annual NAACP conference, where national organizers accepted bids for the 2019 and 2020 conferences.

A Friday press release announcing the local branch's plan to bid acknowledged Portland, which Census figures say is Whitest major American city, may be a counterintuitive choice for the event. Recent conference hosts include Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Houston —

See **NAACP** on page 3



The NAACP Portland Branch put in a bid this week to host the organization's national convention in 2020. Portland hosted the 69th National Convention in 1978 at Memorial Coliseum. Pictured here speaking at that event is Benjamin Hooks, who served as executive director of the NAACP from 1977 to 1992.