

Restaurants cont'd from pg 1

motion didn't appear to cause much increase in business, but in 2016 listed businesses did see an increase in sales during the event.

"The second year was incredible," Travis told *The Skanner*.

Travis, who has helped coordinate and acted as a spokesperson for the event this year and last

ed cooking for events, starting his own catering company in 2009 and eventually expanding to restaurants.

'It takes money to start a business'

Travis told *The Skanner* he's never taken out a bank loan, and that thinking outside the box is the primary thing that's kept him in business.

“I wanted to prove to myself that I could make my business work without capital

year, said organizers also hope the event will increase lasting awareness of Black-owned restaurants and Black cuisines in the city.

The event's website currently lists 69 restaurants. Website administrator Devra Beth told *The Skanner* that since the list was created in 2015, 19 Black-owned restaurants have closed — but 12 new restaurants have opened.

Travis has served fried chicken, brisket and ribs — along with classic soul-food sides like collards, candied yams and baked beans — at his current location, inside the Ranger Tavern in St. Johns since 2013. Previously, he owned Mack & Dub's Excellent Chicken & Waffles and Mack & Dub's Breakfast Club. Both were located on Northeast MLK, Jr. Blvd.; Mack & Dub's Chicken & Waffles burned down in 2012.

(Portland Fire and Rescue described the fire as an arson in its investigation report, which does not identify a suspect or motive.)

Travis grew up in Portland, in a large family that gardened and cooked.

A musician and music promoter — he's one-half of the marijuana-themed hip-hop duo Mack and Dub and the Smoking Section — Travis start-

"I wanted to prove to myself that I could make my business work without capital," he said. "To this date, I haven't had to seek help from a financial institution."

He added, though, that for many minority business owners, access to capital is a major barrier to getting into business and staying in business.

"It takes money to start a business, money to make that initial investment. Plus, in most situations, it takes time — often months to years — to ramp up sales until profits can be obtained. And so, often times, upfront money is needed to bridge that time gap until if/when the business becomes profitable," said Robin Wang, executive director of Ascent Fund-ing.

In addition, Wang said, most new businesses are financed with household wealth, and statistics show staggering racial disparities in household wealth in the U.S.: according to 2013 figures released by the Economic Policy Institute, a White family with at least one college-educated parent averaged \$180,500 in household wealth, versus \$23,400 in household wealth for Black families with the same amount of education.

Read the full story at
TheSkanner.com

Albina Jazz Festival

Saxophone player Devin Phillips plays with Chris Brown on drums at the Albina Jazz Festival Aug. 13. Phillips and Brown were part of a 12-band roster that played all day Aug. 12 and 13 at the Stingray Café in Portland. The Stingray is situated in the Left Bank Building, which in 1945 housed the Dude Ranch, one of Portland's first jazz clubs. The Dude Ranch was open less than a year but quickly became the stuff of legends during a period when Portland's Albina neighborhood was known as "Jump Town" or Black Broadway. Nationally known musicians including Louie Armstrong and Count Basie to play in clubs that mostly lined North Williams Avenue. The scene also motivated dozens of local jazz musicians, many of whose talents were on display at the two-day festival. Festival organizer Stephen Hanks, who also runs the Portland Pioneers of Color Walking Tours, said he created the festival to pay tribute to the history of jazz in Northeast Portland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN HANKS

Attack cont'd from pg 1

brutally stab to death two men on MAX, and injure a third. All three were attempting to protect two young African American women from his racist threats.

Following the recent hate-fueled violence in Charlottesville, Va., Hester — whose story was shared anonymously in May — was prompted to come forward to the press Friday to share her personal story about what she witnessed as a lack of police protection against neo-Nazi attacks.

The recounting of her story was supported by a coalition of interfaith and community leaders at the Billy Webb Elks Lodge in North Portland. Rabbi Ariel Stone of Portland Interfaith Clergy Resistance and activist Teresa Raiford were both on the panel.

Pastor E.D. Mondainé, of North Portland's Celebration Tabernacle Church, opened by remarking that the intent of the conference was "not to demonize Portland Police, but simply to ask the central question as to why this was allowed to happen to any citizen, but especially this woman of color."

"Portland has been crowned the Queen of White Cities. The Whitest city in America," continued Mondainé, who added that Portland has a unique opportunity to turn the scales of injustice around.

Hester's disturbing account was an attempt to prove that the

fatal MAX stabbings on May 26 "were not only preventable, but were the direct result of ineffectual, racially biased policing by Portland Police," reads the coalition's statement to the press.

Defending herself against Christian's racist taunts on the MAX, Hester told him to lower his voice. He responded with more hateful threats: "You don't have a right to speak, you're Black. You don't have a right to be here. All you Muslims, Blacks, Jews, I will

“I should feel safe in Portland. I don't

kill all of you," she recounted.

She knocked on the door of the MAX operator for help, but received no response.

Hester recalled how the ranting went on for three stops, while not one of the 25 or so people on the train spoke up.

When Hester was preparing to get off the train, "he told me, 'Bitch, you're about to get it now.'" Christian then hit her in the head with a Gatorade bottle.

Fighting back, she pepper sprayed him and kicked him in the groin.

After leaving the train at the Rose Quarter stop, Hester sat on a bench to catch the Green Line. She explained how two TriMet workers, who apparently witnessed

the entire incident, did nothing.

Meanwhile, Christian stopped at a nearby drinking fountain to wash the mace from his eyes.

When two police officers arrived, Hester said she relayed the encounter to the police and pointed to her assailant.

(According to Portland police, in their summary account of the May 25 events, Hester did not identify Christian as the assailant immediately, but another witness did point him out.)

Hester claims that one of the officers said, "No, I asked him (Christian). He said he had nothing to do with it."

Only when the MAX operator backed her story, did the police believe her, she said.

Officer Nelson Glaske then asked Hester — who was bleeding from her eye — for her I.D., but not for Christian's.

Glaske told Hester they were waiting for another officer to arrive; during that time, however, Christian left the scene.

Hester claimed one of the officers made a small effort to catch up with the suspect in his patrol car. When the officer returned to the TriMet stop, he told Hester he did the best he could.

Hester replied by saying, "Catch him, because he's going to harm or kill someone."

The next day he did.

Read the full story at
TheSkanner.com

Eclipse cont'd from pg 1

reported in any of the other states, though some had the misfortune of having rain or clouds during the celestial event.

Officials had warned that up to 1 million visitors could come to Oregon, which has only 4 million residents. They don't have estimates yet of how many actually showed up.

"I think that we didn't have any of the issues or major public safety concerns that we kind of whiteboarded and what-iffed throughout the planning process: what if a major fire erupts, what if there's some kind of transportation disaster ... what if there's a supply chain issue and we can't get fuel into central or rural parts of Oregon," Phelps said. "None of those things

played out."

There were some traffic jams as many eclipse watchers, who had come to

U.S. Interstate 5.

Some towns were bracing for huge numbers of visitors, but fewer came.

“I'm still basking in the glow of really what was an incredible experience in terms of being able to see the eclipse and a positive and safe experience throughout Oregon for everybody

the 70-mile (112-kilometer) wide band of total eclipse over many hours and several days, headed home at the same time. At the traffic peak, it took over four hours Monday afternoon to get from Salem, the state capital that was in the total eclipse band, to Portland, just 50 miles (80 kilometers) away on

Up to 50,000 people had been expected to overwhelm Mitchell, one of Oregon's tiniest towns with 150 souls. Local residents worried they wouldn't be able to service them all. But only 2,000 showed up, *The Bulletin* newspaper reported.

"Thank God," Karen Osborn, co-own-

er of Wheeler County Trading, told the Bend newspaper.

Mayor Vernita Jordan said the economic boost for Mitchell, which sits between the John Day fossil beds and the mountainous Ochoco National Forest, was welcome.

"Winter is very slim for them. If they can get a boost now, that's going to mean they can survive through the winter, maybe," she told *The Bulletin*.

It is too early to tell how many visitors came and how much they spent. Tourism is a big revenue generator in this Pacific Northwest state, bringing \$11.3 billion in direct travel spending in 2016, according to a report published by the Oregon Tourism Commission.