



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY
Danielle Outlaw was sworn in Monday as Portland's 48th chief of police, and the first African American woman to serve in the role.

Chief Outlaw Steps Into New Role

New PPB chief talks about hate crimes, homelessness and the DOJ settlement

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Danielle Outlaw was sworn in Monday as Portland's 48th Police Chief, and the first African American woman to serve in the role. Outlaw was selected in August following a nationwide search that included a round of interviews with representatives from stakeholder groups, including the Urban League of Portland, the NAACP Portland Branch, the Portland Police Association and the Portland Business Alliance.

Outlaw steps into a position that has

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COURTESY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Tricia Tillman, former public health director of Multnomah County.

County Reveals Plan on Racism page 9

Vanport Essay Contest Winners page 2

THE LESSONS OF VANPORT

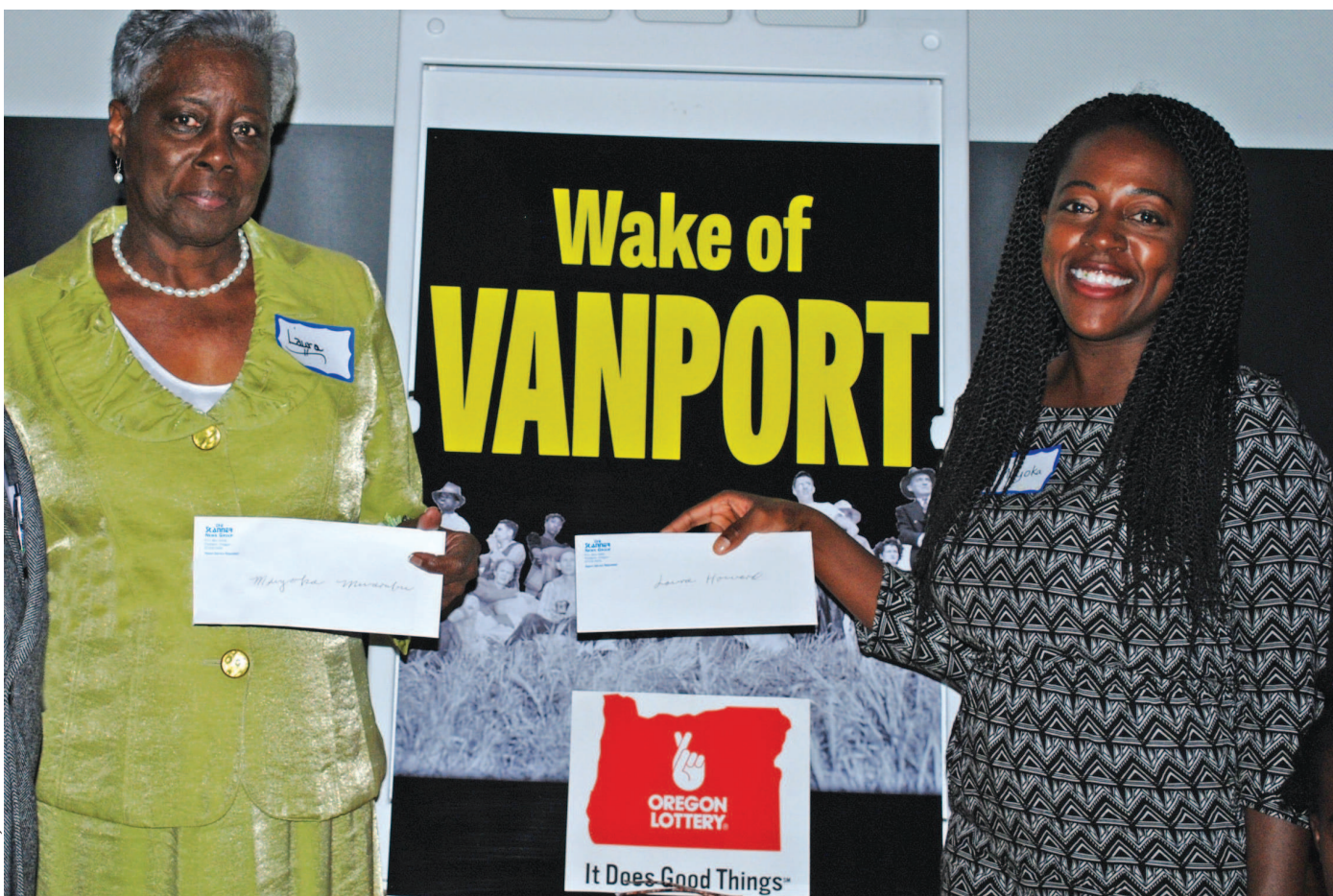


PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Laura Ann Howard, left, and Muyoka Mwarabu pose with envelopes, each containing a \$1,000 check and a \$25 gift card to Portland Sweet Jam during a screening of "The Wake of Vanport" Sept. 29. Howard and Mwarabu were the winners of an essay contest on the lessons of Vanport. Their essays appear on page 2 of this issue.

Essay contest winners, survivors discuss Vanport's lessons at screening

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Two Portland women received \$1,000 each and \$25 gift certificates to Portland Sweet Jam restaurant on Sept. 29 at the latest screening of "The Wake of Vanport," The Skanner Foundation's series of short films interviewing survivors of 1948's Vanport flood was sponsored by the Oregon Lottery.

The collection of short films screened is the second collection created since "The Wake of Vanport" began. Bernie Foster, publisher of *The Skanner News*, told the crowd he expects to add more films to the series next year.

Laura Ann Howard and

Muyoka Mwarabu, whose essays appear in this week's edition of *The Skanner*, were the winners of an essay contest on the lessons of Vanport.

Howard reflected on her experiences as a Vanport survivor; Mwarabu wrote about discovering the Vanport story as an adult, after learning nothing about Black history in her Oregon history classes growing up. Both essays are on page 2 of this issue.

"The idea is to get young people involved so it doesn't die," Foster said.

"Vanport was so much more than just a flood," said Zita Podany, author of "Images of America: Vanport."

She said the temporary city was the largest pub-

lic housing project in the United States, created to house the influx of workers who moved to the Portland metro area to work in shipyards during World War II. That emigration also included the first large influx of African American residents to Oregon, and while city blocks in Vanport were segregated, public facilities — such as schools, childcare centers and businesses — were not. In Portland, on the other hand, many businesses were segregated.

Originally, she said, the town was colloquially referred to as Kaiserville, in honor of its founder, Henry J. Kaiser. But state law prevented Oregon cities from being named after living people, so the name

was changed to Vanport, a portmanteau of Vancouver and Portland.

The community boasted 9,942 housing units, as well as a post office, an administration building and public facilities like grocery stores, movie theaters and roller rinks.

"It was supposed to be temporary. It was going to be taken down after the war's end," Podany said, but due to a massive housing shortage, many residents stayed. After the war they were joined by Japanese-Americans who had been incarcerated in internment camps.

At the time of the flood, there were 18,000 residents registered as living

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Oregon Students Score Above National Average on SAT

The number of Black students taking the SAT almost doubled from last year

By Melanie Sevcenko
Of The Skanner News

While Oregon graduation rates are still hovering in the basement of the national ranking, its students have made noticeable improvements on their SAT exams, according to the College Board which administers the college entrance test.

During the 2016-17 school year,

young Oregonians who took the SAT outperformed their fellow students nationwide.

Participation from Oregon students in Advanced Placement (AP) tests also saw an increase, reports the College Board.

On average, Oregon public school students scored 555 — on a range from 200 to 800 — on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SEJ

Jefferson High School's graduating class of 2015