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portion compared to the national average of 527. In Math, too, Oregon students fared well, scoring on average 543, several notches over the national average of 517.

In the Portland Public Schools district, 872 students took the SAT, with an average total score of 1159, breaking down as

30 more students than last year. Their scores improved too, which are graded on a scale of one to five. In 2015-16, 72 Black students scored above three, compared to 89 who scored above three this school year.

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“I am most encouraged by the increased participation among student groups that have been historically underrepresented

589 on Reading and Writing and 570 on Math.

Participation in the test was up this year across all groups, compared with the number of registered test-takers from the 2015-16 school year.

Last year 151 African American public school students took the SAT. This year the number almost doubled, with 279 African American students having completed the SAT.

Even so, with 1,316 African-American 12th graders in Oregon, that means only 21 percent of them took the test; while Black students only represent two percent of all test takers.

Moreover, of the entire student population of Oregon, only 2.4 percent are Black/African American, according to 2016-17 data from the Oregon Department of Education.

Also in the 2016-17 school year, 247 African American students in Oregon took an AP exam,

I am most encouraged by the increased participation among student groups that have been historically underrepresented,” Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor said in a statement.

The improved performance, cited Noor, can likely be attributed to a number of state-wide plans and programs aimed at closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for underserved student populations, as well as addressing culturally responsive practices.

They include implementing new ethnic studies programs, the English Learner Outcome Improvement Plan, and the African American Student Success State Plan. Passed in 2015 as HB 2016, the plan works to improve academic disparities experienced by Black students in Oregon, from early childhood through post-secondary education.

Outlaw cont'd from pg 1

seen high turnover in recent years: the national search that led to her hire was a campaign promise from then-candidate, now-Mayor Ted Wheeler following the resignation of Larry O’Dea, who replaced Mike Reese after his 2015 retirement. O’Dea had been arrested on criminal charges involving a shooting in eastern Oregon; he was later cleared. O’Dea was briefly replaced by Donna Henderson, who served just over a month before retiring. Mike Marshman was promoted to interim chief and applied for the permanent position, but announced his retirement shortly after the city announced Outlaw had been selected. Police Bureau veteran Chris Uehara was sworn in as acting chief at the end of August.

Outlaw comes to Portland from Oakland, where she served as deputy chief. She holds a bachelor of arts in sociology from the University of San Francisco and a master’s degree in business administration from Pepperdine University.

Outlaw granted interviews with several local media outlets, including *The Skanner*, Tuesday. This interview had been edited for space and clarity.

The Skanner News: Have you had a chance to meet yet with representatives from Portland’s communities of color?

Danielle Outlaw: So outside of the initial meetings with them, I have not yet – but I have an action-packed next two weeks to get out there and meet with everyone. I’m actually looking forward to it because we’ll have a little

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more time now. I’m looking forward to getting down to the meat and potatoes and really picking their brains and finding out what we all need to do to move forward.

TSN: Portland and other police bureaus around the country have drawn some criticism for how they’ve handled protest – including excessive force against protesters and how potential

conflicts have been handled between protesters and counter-protesters. What do you think are best practices when it comes to large crowds and protests?

DO: If you want to say “best practices,” there are some things that work well. But there’s no cookie-cutter approach to how we deal with civil unrest, and they really need to be taken on a case-by-case basis: who the crowd is, numbers, what we’re dealing with, what resources we have available to us. I’m very cognizant about saying what works well in a previous agency and forcing this agency to do the same, because it’s not always the same.

But with that said, I will also offer that one of my priorities is to make sure that I review past incidents from here, how we dealt with them, to look at policy – because sometimes it’s policy that dictates how members react and respond – to take a look at how we train and just some critical review of what’s worked well, what we can do to maybe improve, and then compare that to some other case studies with some other agencies around the country to find out what’s worked well. It’s not about one particular thing that you should or shouldn’t

do.

TSN: Portland has also been under DOJ supervision for several years. But Jeff Sessions is saying that he’s not interested in continuing that. However, Mayor Wheeler wants to continue the reforms that were outlined in the settlement. Do you have a position on that, and do you see yourself having a role in making sure those reforms go forward as they were already laid out in the settlement?

DO: I am all for introspection. I am all for accountability. I think it’s important, whether we are doing really well or really terribly, for us to self-assess – to stop, take a break and say, Okay, how can we improve? That’s with the DOJ or without the DOJ. It just so happens that the DOJ is here, there’s a settlement agreement. I think good leadership requires that and it’s my responsibility to drive that, whether the DOJ was here or not. We’re doing it because it’s the right thing to do. We’re not doing it because a federal judge or a court or any overseeing body is making us do that.

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Som Subedi Named 2017 Park Champion

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) was recently awarded the National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) 2017 Park Champion of the Year Award. The award, which recognizes an employee of a park and recreation agency’s efforts to educate their members of Congress or their staff on the importance of investing in local parks and recreation, was presented this past Wednesday night to PP&R’s Som Subedi at the 2017 NRPA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Subedi, a former refugee and the coordinator of PP&R’s Parks for New Portlanders program, hosted Grace Stratton of Senator Ron Wyden’s office at the Bureau’s WALK with Refugees and Immigrants event on Aug. 20, which featured around 1,000 participants. A congratulatory letter from Senator Wyden was read at the award ceremony. In spring 2018, Subedi will travel to Washington, D.C., to advocate for parks and recreation on Capitol Hill.

Vanport cont'd from pg 1

in Vanport – down from 40,000 during the war years – although there is no way of knowing how many were present when the dam broke, she said. She added that due to a combination of heavy snow pack that winter and an unusually warm spring, areas throughout the Columbia River Basin – including Washington and Idaho – flooded that weekend.

On Saturday, May 29, 1948, the Red Cross and the Housing Authority of Portland met to decide whether to evacuate Vanport. Other sections of the Portland metropolitan area had already been evacuated, but the Red Cross said they could only find temporary lodging for 6,000 people and never came to a decision.

The two entities decided to table the decision until Monday. On Sunday, the dike broke.

“Whenever there’s a disaster like that, it tends to pull out people to be very helpful,” Podany said.

Vanport survivor June Reinan took the stage after Podany. Reinan, whose name was June Walker during the years she lived in Vanport, lived in the Vanport project

“Other sections of the Portland metropolitan area had already been evacuated

when she was a single mother struggling to support two little boys. She was able to relocate her children to a family member’s house in Portland, but decided to go back. A man on a boat helped her get back into her house to retrieve a watch. Later, Reinan said, she moved into another government-subsidized housing project and became close friends – “like family” – with a woman living

next door. The neighbor went on to introduce Reinan to her brother, whom Reinan subsequently married.

“Then we really were family,” she said.

James Arcenaux, who just moved back to Portland after a long stint in Las Vegas, told the

crowd that when he was nine years old, he had to give up his bedroom to make room for someone who had evacuated for the flood. He was reluctant, and also said he thought he was the only person who had to do it, but later met others who had hosted Vanport evacuees.

“When you do something for somebody else, it all comes back to you,” Arcenaux said.