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## Hundreds Expected for Black Women's Gathering

Oct. 28 marks the official revival of the largest congregation of Black women in more than two decades

By Melanie Sevckenko  
Of The Skanner News

**M**any years back, during what was known as the annual Black Women's Gathering in Portland, a woman stepped up to the open mic, as was tradition for the event.



Joyce Harris

As both a symbol and a powerful component of the gathering, the microphone was for any woman to speak what was on her mind. This particular woman, however, just screamed until she was embraced by her fellow attend-

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Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of "Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles."

## Interview with 'Mojada' Lead Actress

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## Update on Puerto Rico

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# SIT UNTIL IT STOPS



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

A small group of people meditated in the rain in front of the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct Oct. 21 to draw attention to the killings of Charleena Lyles, Tommy Le, Giovonn Joseph-McDade and others by the police. The organizers plan on continuing the silent protest every Saturday "until the city and county implement policies for non-lethal engagement in our communities."

## Safety and Justice Challenge Moves Forward

Grant includes \$750,000 for culturally specific programming

By Kate Nancy  
For The Skanner News

**M**ultnomah County plans to create a treatment shelter for women involved in the criminal justice system, and will create culturally specific programming for African American women with a new grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Early this month Multnomah County received \$2 million from the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to reduce reliance on jails. The grant

is part of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), which offers financial and technical support to jurisdictions implementing data-driven strategies to eliminate ineffective, inefficient and unfair practices in local justice systems.

That funding includes \$750,000 allocated for programming that caters specifically to African American women who are on probation, have charges pending in mental health court or are awaiting a competency hearing in criminal court.

Abbey Stamp, executive director of Local Public

Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), said the new round of funding from the MacArthur Foundation will support the development of a new treatment shelter for women involved in the criminal justice system.

According to Stamp, the shelter will be loosely modeled after a transitional housing facility for men on Northwest 5th Avenue and Glisan Street. The Stabilization for Treatment Preparation Housing Program (STP) offers psychiatric care, legal assistance and a number of other resources to men with men-

tal health issues.

"STP has been widely successful and a wonderful resource for people in need of stabilization," Stamp said.

Careful to note the women's shelter is "still a concept, for now," Stamp says programming will be designed to focus on culturally-specific, trauma-informed services.

"Trauma characterizes a lot of women in the criminal justice system," said Erika Preuit, adult services director for the Department of Community Justice. "It's a huge pathway

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## Forest Service Employee Fights a Different Kind of Fire

Joey Jones helps keep remote communication networks secure

By Christen McCurdy  
Of The Skanner News

**J**oey Jones loves nature and the Northwest, so when he left the military, working for the U.S. Forest Service seemed like a natural fit.

But Jones' job isn't what one might picture when one imagines working for the Forest Service.

He's a network operations supervisor who works in Portland but supervises a team of about 20 people, who work remotely from all over the country, to monitor and repair

the Forest Service's information networks.

"What makes the Forest Service unique is usually, where our business takes place is where no one else is at," Jones told *The Skanner*.

Supporting communication networks in places where firefighters or other workers have poor cell phone signal, or low-bandwidth Internet connections — but still need to communicate with colleagues quickly and frequently — is key, he said.

"So for example, where these fires are taking place across the nation, there's no infrastructure there.



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Joey Johnson manages network operations for the U.S. Forest Service.

There's no Verizon, there's no AT&T out in these locations. So that's a

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