

Comedy cont'd from pg 1

and was crowned “Portland’s Funniest Person” in 2012. He was voted into the *Willamette Week’s* “Portland’s Funniest 5” in 2013 while releasing his first comedy album *I Black Out* the same year. In 2016, Nathan recorded his second album, *Because*, on distinguished record label Kill Rock

family or on the road.

TSN: Have you been auditioning for network shows?

NB: Yeah, it’s actually funny. I’m new to it all, so it’s weird seeing new shows come out and seeing all the people that are picked over you, but it’s pretty great. [I’ve au-

“I’m excited to talk to, especially, a Portland crowd because I can say some stuff that I have had a harder time in other areas talking about

Stars. He has opened for national headliners such as Dave Chappelle, Damon Wayans and Maria Bamford – and he’s the creator and host of “The Hamster Village,” a podcast about interracial relationships.

The Skanner News talked to Brannon about performing in more conservative parts of the country, L.A. auditions and what makes Portland audiences squirm.

This interview has been edited for space and clarity.

The Skanner News: The bio on your website says you’re “originally out of Portland, Oregon.” Are you still here?

Nathan Brannon: No, no. I moved about a year ago. I’ve kind of been all over the place.

TSN: Are you in L.A.?

NB: Part time. My family lives in a different town so I kind of commute when needed, for auditioning and showcases and stuff like that, but it’s not my center. I kind of split time everywhere.

TSN: You’re just kind of on the road all the time?

NB: Yeah, for the most part. I’ve been in L.A. for pilot season, I’m there when there are auditions, but the rest of the time I’m either with my

ditioned for] “Saturday Night Live,” Showtime, NBC, Comedy Central. “SNL” has been the biggest one. It kind of goes nonstop during this time of year.

TSN: Are you looking forward to being back in front of a Portland audience again?

NB: Yes, yeah I am. I’ve had a lot of experiences [on the road] so it’s always gonna be nice to kind of bring those stories back. There’s been a lot of really weird stuff. I moved right before the election. The town that my family is in, it’s a very nice town – a progressive small town. But it is surrounded by more conservative areas. So in the middle of doing shows in that area, some of the audiences are really, really crazy. I’m excited to talk to, especially, a Portland crowd because I can say some stuff that I have had a harder time in other areas talking about.

TSN: Do you mean talking about the election or talking about politics?

NB: Yeah. I’ve done shows where it was very apparent that White supremacist groups were in town and they weren’t happy about me being there – things like that.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com



PHOTO BY BERNIE FOSTER

Outlaw Formally Sworn In

Portland’s new police chief Danielle Outlaw was formally sworn in Jan. 22, during a ceremony at the Oregon Historical Society.

The oath of office was given by Carmen Sylvester, the first Black woman patrol officer to be hired by the Portland Police Bureau in 1974. Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes, pastor of the Allen Temple, delivered the invocation, while Mayor Ted Wheeler and actor Russell Hornsby gave remarks. Hornsby is best known for his portrayal of Detective Hank Griffin on the Portland-based NBC series “Grimm.”

Outlaw has been on the job since October, and is the 48th Police Chief since 1870, when the Metropolitan Police Department was formed. She was selected as Chief of Police in August by Wheeler, following a national search. As a 19-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department, Chief Outlaw is the third woman to be police chief in Portland and the first African American woman to hold the position.

Amazon cont'd from pg 1

The store is yet another sign that Amazon is serious about expanding its physical presence. It has opened more than a dozen bookstores, taken over space in some Kohl’s department stores and bought Whole Foods last year, giving it 470 grocery stores.

But Amazon Go is unlike its other stores. Shoppers enter by scanning the Amazon Go smartphone app at a turnstile, opening plastic doors. When an item is pulled off a shelf, it’s added to that shopper’s virtual cart. If the item is placed back on the shelf, it is removed from the virtual cart.

Not everyone can shop at the store: People must have a smartphone and a debit or credit card they can link to be charged. Amazon said families can shop together with just one phone scanning everyone in. Anything they grab from the shelf will also be added to the tab of the person who signed them in. But don’t help out strangers: Amazon warns that grabbing an item from the shelf for someone else means you’ll be charged for it.

There’s little sign of the technology visible to customers, except for black boxes, cameras and a

few tiny flashing green lights in the darkened, open ceiling above.

One shopper, Paul Fan, tested the technology by turning off his phone and taking items and put-

“It’s such a weird experience, because you feel like you’re stealing when you go out the door

ting them in incorrect spots. The app was still able to tally up his items correctly.

Want to return something? Trying it to return a bottle of kombucha Monday didn’t mean returning anything to the store – just clicking “return” on the receipt, and a refund was supposed to appear soon. A customer service representative said to toss out or donate the item.

At 1,800 square feet, Amazon Go resembles a convenience store, except for a kitchen visible from the street where sandwiches and ready-to-cook meal kits are prepared. A small section features products from the Whole Foods

365 brand. There’s no hot coffee or hot food, but microwaves are available for customers who want to warm something up. Beer and wine is in a cornered-off section where a staffer checks ID before anyone enters.

The store has other employees, too, who make food, stock shelves and help customers. On Monday, workers were on hand to help shoppers find and download the Amazon Go app and guide them through the exit.

The company had announced the Amazon Go store in December 2016 and said it would open by early 2017, but it delayed the debut while it worked on the technology and company employees tested it out. By lunchtime on day one, Amazon’s no-lines hope was thwarted, at least outside the store: There were at least 50 people waiting to enter, in a line that stretched around the corner.

Peter Gray, who said he typically shops online and avoids physical stores, stopped by Amazon Go on Monday morning after seeing it on Twitter.

“Just being able to walk out and not interact with anyone was amazing,” he said.

Study cont'd from pg 1

ter for Women’s Welfare at the University of Washington, the “standard” – which has been calculated for 39 states over the past 21 years – is considered to a more factual representation of poverty than the Federal Poverty Level.

Other key findings include:

- 34 percent of households in Multnomah and Washington counties are not meeting the standard.
- The percent of households in Multnomah County not meeting the standard is up 11 percent from 2008 and Washington County is up 7 percent. The increase is attributed to significant increases in the cost of child care and housing.

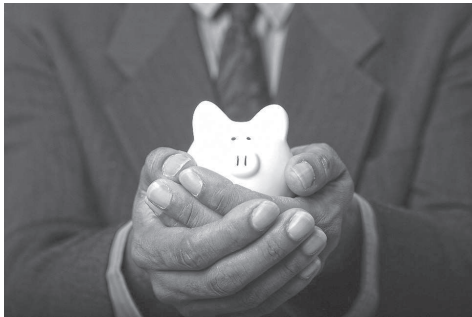
- The standard for one adult, one preschooler, and one school-age child in Portland (\$31.57 per hour) is the most comparable to Chicago (North Side), Ill; San Diego, Calif; and Raleigh, N.C.

“Minority households occupy a greater share of those not meeting self-sufficiency

- Renter-occupied households are 50 percent more likely to not meet the standard compared to owner-occupied households.

- Minority households occupy a greater share of those not meeting self-sufficiency.
- In 2014, 25 percent of households with inadequate income were minorities; in 2017 that share has increased to 37 percent.
- Just one in three households led by single mothers meet the standard.
- Households in East Multnomah County are 29 percent more likely to not meet the standard compared to West Multnomah households.

- Among those households not meeting the standard, 76 percent have at least one person working.
- Less than half of households with



A parent working full time and earning any of the 2017 Oregon minimum wages will fall short of meeting the standard for a family with a child.

a high school diploma meet the standard, while over 80 percent of households with at least a Bachelor’s have adequate incomes.