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KING COUNTY APPROVES LEGAL ASSISTANCE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Harriet Walden, with Mothers for Police Accountability, speaks during a King County Council Meeting Jan. 29. Walden testified in favor of an ordinance that would provide the families of people killed by the police with an attorney at the inquest held to determine the facts leading up to a police involved fatality. After hearing emotional testimony overwhelmingly in favor of the ordinance the council voted unanimously to approve it.

Black Lives Matter Vancouver Seeks Volunteers

Vancouver, Evergreen public schools have partnered with the organization to celebrate Black History Month

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Black Lives Matter Vancouver has partnered with two Clark County school districts to formalize their Black History Month celebration — and the organization is seeking volunteers to help gather feedback.

Previously, the school districts celebrated Black History Month less for-

mally and, according to residents, not consistently.

“Last year, I had people reach out to the school and they were told that teachers could, at their own discretion, participate in Black History Month or not. It was about whether it fit into what they were doing,” said Cecelia Towner, the founder of Vancouver’s Black Lives Matter chapter. “There was nothing schoolwide, districtwide — and there was no tracking

of what they were doing.”

Towner has been working with the school district to provide some district-wide programming, including stories which will be read over the loudspeaker in schools every morning, and inspirational quotes. Evergreen High School’s Black Student Union will also be holding an Empowerment in Unity social event Friday in conjunction with the BLM chapter.

Towner is also seeking volunteers to contact the schools throughout the month to solicit stories — hopefully “feel-good stories” — about how the Black History Month celebration is going.

Spokespeople from both school districts said they’ve always celebrated Black History Month, but are doing so more formally this year.

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Midwife Aerlyn Pfeil on Aiding Rohingya Refugees

Pfeil spent two months in a Bangladesh refugee camp with Rohingya survivors of sexual violence

By Melanie Sevcenko
For The Skanner News

To date, more than 650,000 members of the minority Muslim Rohingya community have taken refuge at the Kutupalong camp in Cox’s Bazar in southern Bangladesh.

In the final week of August 2017, hundreds began making the deadly journey over the mountains from

their homes in Myanmar’s northern province of Rakhine, after facing persecution at the hands of the Myanmar military in the form of systematic rape, murder and arson.

Last October, Portland-based midwife Aerlyn Pfeil traveled to the Kutupalong camp with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders, a global health organization that brings medical care to

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PHOTO BY AERLYN PFEIL

The Kutupalong refugee camp in southern Bangladesh is home to hundreds of thousands of minority Muslim Rohingya. In August 2017, they began fleeing their homes after an outbreak of brutal violence at the hands of the Myanmar military.



PHOTO VIA TRIMET

TriMet introduced its e-fare program, Hop FastPass in 2017 and in February retailers and its website will stop selling paper tickets and passes, offering FastPass cards instead.

TriMet Rolling Back Paper Passes

Agency continues to push electronic fare system — but the rollout is bumpy

By Christen McCurdy
Of the Skanner News

TriMet will end the sale of paper passes in stores and through the website this week — though tickets will still be available at kiosks at MAX stations. Riders paying in cash can continue to do so at MAX ticket kiosks and as they board buses.

It’s part of the transit agency’s slow conversion to Hop FastPass, a system that allows riders to buy and preload

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CREATIVE COMMONS/PIXABAY

Research has also revealed that Chicago students, on average, repeatedly outperform their peers outside the city.

Chicago Public Schools Are Closing the Gap

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Kam Reviews ‘Mama Africa’

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