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FIGURING HISTORY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Jordan Allen studies a painting by artist by Robert Colescott at the Seattle Art Museum. Colescott is one of three artists whose work is featured in the Seattle Art Museum's exhibit Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas. The large paintings represent three generations of black artists whose work questions the narrative of American history. The exhibit will be on display through May 13.

Could Portland Adopt Municipal Broadband?

After net neutrality repeal, a local group is pushing for a public provider

Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

A small group of Portlanders wants local government to offer Internet access as a public utility. They have the ear of a few government officials, one city council candidate and the co-chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon — but the plan is still in the nascent stages.

Municipal Broadband Portland held a rally in December and one in January to voice support for a municipal Internet provider. Those rallies were small: the first attracted 40 and

the second attracted about 30, according to Michael Hanna, an organizer with the group. The Municipal Broadband PDX Facebook group currently has 1,800 members, though.

But Portland residents are interested in the concept again in part because of the Federal Communication Commission's December vote to repeal net neutrality, opening the door for private Internet providers to block competing applications, slow connection speeds or offer higher speeds only to customers who are willing to pay more.

"The repeal of net neu-

trality has sparked a wildfire across the nation," Hanna said.

Earlier this week Oregon's House of Representatives passed a law requiring state agencies to sign Internet service contracts with providers that abide by net neutrality practices. While Municipal Broadband organizers support net neutrality, they see net neutrality as a symptom of the bigger problem: that two private companies, Comcast and CenturyLink, hold a near-monopoly (and in some neighborhoods, a monopoly) on Internet access in the city. Advocates for making Internet access

a public utility say access is critical for daily life activities and for getting ahead in society, that building out and maintaining a fiber network would create jobs and that revenue could help pay for needed services.

The idea isn't unique to Portland, and the idea is not new, said Russell Senior, president of Personal Telco, a Portland-based nonprofit wireless network and member of Municipal Broadband Portland. Russell, along with Hanna and Roberta Phillip-Robbins, are working

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Kathleen Saadat Releases First Album at 77

The civil rights activist teams up with Pink Martini's Thomas Lauderdale to play jazz standards

By Melanie Sevcenko
For The Skanner News

At 77 years old, Portland's legend of civil rights activism, Kathleen Saadat, is making her recording debut after a lifetime of singing behind the scenes.

With an international release date set for March 2, "Love for Sale" is a 10-track album of jazz standards featuring Saadat's lead vocals and

arrangements by Thomas Lauderdale. It also includes performances from members of his Portland-based "little" orchestra, Pink Martini — an ensemble that fuses classical, Latin music, pop and jazz.

As one of Oregon's most respected social and political activists, Saadat has advocated for equality and social justice for over 40 years. Her dedication has assisted marginalized

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COURTESY OF PINK MARTINI & HEINZ RECORDS

Singer and civil rights activist Kathleen Saadat with Pink Martini's Thomas Lauderdale.

IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF OREGON

No livestock will be permitted on said real property. An easement reserved over the rear 5 feet of each lot for utility installable maintenance.

Until such time as public mains for sewage disposal are available, disposal shall be by means of septic tanks of such type, construction, location on the lot, and tile disposal field as to be in accordance with the requirements of the Oregon State Board of Health.

No person of any race other than those of the Caucasian or White race shall use or occupy any building on any lot. Except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a district tract domiciled with an owner or tenant.

No dwelling house shall be used or occupied other than for strict residence purposes. All buildings shall be completed and painted in one year from time construction thereof is commenced. No building or any part thereof be erected, maintained or used as a premises for flats, apartments, manufacturing, or commercial uses.

No fence more than 36 inches in height shall be placed or constructed within 3 feet of any street laid out or established or dedicated.

A restrictive covenant from a 1941 deed in Portland's Hillsdale neighborhood, states that "No person of any race other those of the Caucasian or White race shall use or occupy any building on any lot" in the housing tract.

Law Makes It Easier to Remove Racist Restrictions From Deeds

HB 4134 passed out of the Senate Monday

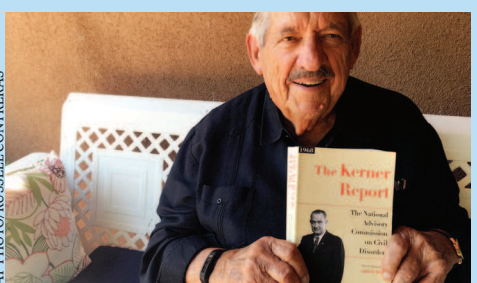
By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

This week the Oregon legislature passed a bill that would make it easier to remove racist language from property deeds.

House Bill 4134 passed out of the Senate Monday and heads toward the governor's desk this spring. Under the new law property owners would be able to remove discriminatory restrictions in their deeds by petitioning their county's circuit court with no fee.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Julie Fahey

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Former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris, of Oklahoma, holds a copy of "The Kerner Report," as he discusses the Kerner Commission, a panel appointed by President Johnson in 1967 to examine the causes of the 1960s riots. Harris is the last surviving member of the Kerner Commission and he says he remains haunted that its recommendations on U.S. race relations and poverty were never adopted.

Study Findings on US Inequality Released

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BOOK REVIEW: When They Call You a Terrorist

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