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ALL THAT JAZZ



VIDEO STILL, COURTESY OF CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND
Joyce Harris, moderator of City Club of Portland's Friday Forum, "How Oregon Is Failing Black Students."

How Oregon is Failing Black Students

Educators rallied during a City Club of Portland Forum to discuss barriers and solutions to Black Student Achievement

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
For *The Skanner News*

According to state testing standards, two-thirds of Portland's Black students are failing their classes. Furthermore, that daunting statistic has been persisting over the last decade, says the EcoNorthwest report Black Student in Oregon, which was commissioned by local
See STUDENTS on page 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Northwest Tap Connection Instructor Rachel McKinney performs with her students during "All That's Jazz," the 2018 fall recital and fundraiser for Northwest Tap, a race- and social justice-oriented dance studio, Dec.1 at the Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center at Rainier Beach High School.

Portland Woman to Appear on 'Great American Baking Show'

Cheryl Norris spent three weeks in England filming the intense-but-friendly competitive baking show

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

Cheryl Norris began learning to bake when she was six or seven years old, helping her mother make chocolate chip cookies in the kitchen. She moved on to cakes, pies and breads — and this winter she'll be featured as one of the contestants on

the fourth season of "The Great American Baking Show," which premieres this week on ABC.

Norris, a Portland native, had previously applied to be part of the show, an American counterpart to the hugely popular "The Great British Bake Off." She didn't make the cut, but learned from the experience and applied again,

this time being interviewed via Skype and then flying to an audition with a cake, a Danish pastry and a loaf of bread on the plan.

"I had this beautiful cake, walking through the airport. I was telling security, 'Don't tilt it!'" Norris said. At the audition, she and other hopefuls did more baking — this time in a commercial kitchen — and

two weeks later, Norris learned she had the job.

Norris was on the road when she got the call: "I screamed so loud, they said, 'We're pretty sure you broke one of our ear drums.' I had to pull over because I was so excited," Norris said.

Norris, who works as a reliability engineer for
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MICHAEL GIBSON/NETFLIX VIA AP
This image released by Netflix shows Kurt Russell in a scene from "The Christmas Chronicles," currently streaming on Netflix.

TV Provides Holiday Joy

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Doctor Recommended Toys Include Empty Boxes
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Wisconsin GOP Votes to Weaken Democrat Who Defeated Walker

Legislation will shift power to the GOP-controlled legislature and away from governor's office

By *Scott Bauer and Todd Richmond*
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin Republicans pushed through protests, internal disagreement and Democratic opposition Wednesday to pass far-reaching legislation that would shift power to the GOP-controlled Legislature and weaken the Democrat who defeated Republican Gov. Scott Walker last month.

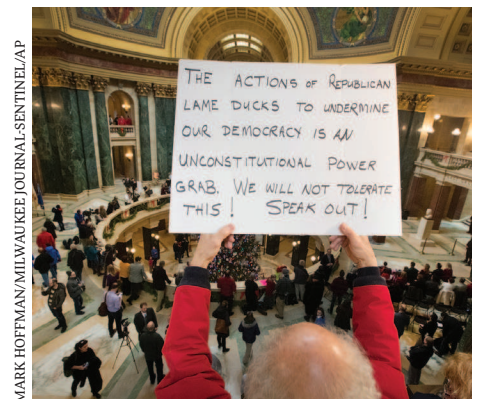
The vote, coming after an all-night debate, was the height of a lame-duck legislative session aimed at reducing the authority of the office Republicans will lose in January.

Governor-elect Tony Evers and Democratic Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul warned that resulting lawsuits would bring more gridlock when the new administration takes over.

Walker has signaled his support for the bill. He has 10 days to sign the package from the time it's delivered to his office.

Republicans were battered in the midterm election, losing all statewide races amid strong Democratic turnout. But they retained legislative majorities thanks to what Democrats say are gerrymandered districts that tilt the map.

"Wisconsin has never seen any-



MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL/AP

People protest the legislature's extraordinary session during the official Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol in Madison, Wis., Dec. 4. Demonstrators booed outgoing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, at times drowning out a high school choir.

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