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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRINK COMMUNICATIONS
April Johnson is now recruiting foster families of color to help serve foster youth in the Portland area.

New Agency Seeks Foster Parents of Color

Youth Unlimited aims to provide culturally specific care to children of color

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Denzel Davis is 28, single and has no children of his own. But a year ago he decided to look into becoming a foster parent and, through a chance meeting, got involved immediately.

Last December, Davis was going to a coffee shop for an event relating to foster care and met April Johnson,

See FOSTER on page 3



DONALD REYBISHOP/GREEN HEFFA FARMS INC. VIA AP
In this September 2018 photo provided by Clarendia "Cee" Stanley-Anderson, Stanley-Anderson and her husband, Malcolm Anderson Sr., pose for pictures of their hemp-farming business, Green Heffa Farms, Inc., in Liberty, N.C.

Is a Hemp Boom Ahead?

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A James Baldwin Classic Comes to the Big Screen page 6

CREATIVE YOUTH HOLIDAY CARNIVAL

A little girl works on a painting of a Kwanzaa candles during the Creative Youth Holiday Carnival Dec. 15 at Midtown Center. The event features creative activities for children, including a youth talent show, DIY decorations, painting, dancing and youth vendors.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

County Library Jumpstarts Initiative to Support Black Families

Multnomah County Library was awarded \$148,000 from Meyer Memorial Trust and is seeking community consultants

The Skanner News

Multnomah County Library has committed to a two-year initiative to better serve African and Black families in the area.

Funded by gifts to The Library Foundation — which funnels dollars into Multnomah County Library programs and services —

the initiative was awarded \$148,000 from Meyer Memorial Trust, as well as \$89,000 from additional donors including as the Collins Foundation.

"It's really a continuation of our work to deepen the library's commitment to equity and inclusion," Annie Lewis, Early Childhood Services Manager, told The Skanner. "This grant

is about advancing the library's goal to center the (Black) community in the way that we offer our services, so that we can assure we're being culturally responsive and accountable to the community."

The effort stems largely from a 2011 library research grant, "Preparing African American Children for Kindergarten

Readiness," which showed that Black families do not always feel welcome and included in educational institutions, as well as in libraries.

Local educators recently convened on a related subject for a City Club of Portland Friday Forum that discussed how Oregon is failing its Black students.

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AP Investigation: Migrant Kids Held in Mass Shelters

Some 5,400 detained migrant children are sleeping in shelters with 1,000 other children

By Garance Burke and Martha Mendoza
Associated Press

Decades after the U.S. stopped institutionalizing kids because large and crowded orphanages were causing lasting trauma, it is happening again. The federal government has placed most of the 14,300 migrant children in its care in detention centers and residential facilities packed with hundreds, or thousands, of kids.

As the year draws to a close, some

5,400 detained migrant children in the U.S. are sleeping in shelters with more than 1,000 other children. Some 9,800 are in facilities with 100-plus total kids, according to confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by The Associated Press. Three months after President Donald Trump took office, the same federal program had 2,720 migrant youth in its care — most in shelters with a few dozen kids or in foster programs.

Until now, public information has

See KIDS on page 3



AP PHOTO/ANDRES LEIGHTON

Migrant teens walk inside the Tornillo detention camp in Tornillo, Texas, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018. The Trump administration announced in June 2018 that it would open the temporary shelter for up to 360 migrant children in this isolated corner of the Texas desert. Six months later, the facility has expanded into a detention camp holding thousands of teenagers.