

Black History

Black History Month News Briefs

Renton Residents Offer Virtual Tour of African American Historical Sites

Renton residents John Houston and Benita Horn will share the accomplishments of the city's Black community members throughout history on this virtual tour. From 7 - 8 :30 p.m., Renton Highlands Library, 2801 NE 10th St, Renton.

Renton Library Hosts 'The Wiz' Screening

Diana Ross plays Dorothy, a high school teacher who's transported to the land of Oz, where she meets a host of characters (a scarecrow, a tin man, and a cowardly lion) who join her on the Yellow Brick Road as she searches for "the Wiz."

Catch a free screening of this 1978 Wizard of Oz parody with a slice of free pizza during the Renton Highlands Library's Black History Night Monday Screening. From 4 -6 P.M. Renton Highlands Library, Renton Highlands Library, 2801 NE 10th St.

King County Hosts Lecture on the Rise and Fall of 'Black Wall Street'

Historian, author and founder of the award-winning historical website BlackPast.org, Dr. Quintard Taylor, will present a lecture, "The Epic Rise and Tragic Fall of 'Black Wall Street,'" from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Maleng Regional Justice Center 3rd Floor Rotunda, 401 4th Ave. N. in Kent. Light refreshments will be provided.

"Black Wall Street" was the thriving Greenwood community of Tulsa, Oklahoma, that in 1920, boasted 600 Black business, including several dozen restaurants and grocery stores, six private airplanes, a hospital, a bank, law offices and a bus system.

North Portland Library Screens 'Where the Heart Is' Feb. 24

In Elijah Hasan's "Where the Heart Is," nine Black Portlanders recall mixed experiences detailing the journey to a place they've come to feel is and call home. The film will be screened from 2 to 4 p.m. in the meeting room of the North Portland Library as part of the library's celebration of Black History Month.

Hasan will be present for a conversation about the film following the screening.

New OPB Documentary Tells the Stories of Oregon's Black Pioneers Who Helped Shape the State

OPB will premiere a new historical

See BRIEFS on page 11

Matthew Henson

Explorer Matthew Henson spent nearly 20 years trekking the frozen north with his more famous colleague Robert Peary, including the 1909 expedition that claimed to reach the geographic North Pole.



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Henson was born in Maryland to sharecroppers and grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. He was hired by Peary as a personal valet in 1887, and Henson first accompanied him to the Arctic in 1891. In 1908-1909, Henson also accompanied Peary on the Greenland expedition that claimed to reach the geographic North Pole, even planting the flag at the spot, but the claim the Peary expedition reached the pole was debunked in 1989. Henson served as navigator and craftsman and, like Peary, had a relationship with an Inuit woman. They had a son, Anauakaq.

The 1909 expedition brought Henson some fame. He published a memoir in 1912, "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole." He became the first African-American lifetime member of The Explorers Club, was awarded a duplicate of the Peary Polar Expedition Medal, and was received at the White House by President Harry Truman and President Dwight Eisenhower. But Henson's achievements didn't receive the same recognition Peary's did. He spent the rest of his life working at the U.S. Customs House in New York.

Henson died in 1955. A U.S. Navy ship, the USS Henson, a Pathfinder class oceanographic survey ship, is named in his honor, as is a conservation center in Washington, D.C., and a National Geographic Society scholarship. Maryland has several schools and a state park named for Henson, as well.



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TRIMET

From Northeast to Northwest, the new Line 24 is best

Northeast Portland is getting a faster connection to Slabtown, Good Samaritan, Providence Park and more. Starting March 3, Line 24 will be extended across the Fremont Bridge through Northwest Portland to West Burnside.

Line 24 is just the start. Visit trimet.org/new24 to see Line 24's route plus the other new ways to go by transit rolling out March 3.

