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year terms that are unpaid but notoriously time-consuming, with previous board members comparing them to full-time jobs, often with overtime. Only one incumbent, Amy Kohnstamm of Zone 3, is running for re-election.

Watson emphasized that Black Voices United aims to be a safe place

Schultz, an event coordinator running in Zone 7, praised Zone 2 candidates Shanice Clarke and Michelle DePass, saying he would not have entered the race if either of them were running in his zone.

Clarke, the youngest school board candidate, is program coordinator for the Pan-African Com-

“We need better teacher training on how to deal with Black boys in particular

where Black community members can ask questions they might feel intimidated to ask elsewhere. During the two-hour event, Thompson gave candidates two minutes each to answer audience-submitted questions in addition to questions drafted by the organization.

Andrew Scott, the deputy chief operating officer at Metro and former director of the Portland City Budget Office, is running unopposed in Zone 1. A PPS graduate, Scott said he grew up at a time of relative prosperity in the district — aware that it was not evenly spread.

“We owe the entire district and community the same opportunities I had,” he told the audience, later criticizing the lack of wraparound services available to students who are often dismissed as disruptive, adding, “How do we decriminalize the behavior of our students?”

Scott will be replacing Julie Esparza Brown, the only current school board member of color. Scott, who is White, said he had waited to file, hoping other candidates from more diverse backgrounds would enter the race.

Similarly, Robert

mons Student Center at Portland State University. She consistently emphasized the efficacy of restorative justice in schools and its notable reduction on the rate of student suspensions. She identified herself as someone who had “experience with trauma that interrupted schooling,” and addressed the stark disparity in how often students of color are disciplined compared to their White classmates. “I don’t want to see kids under seven being suspended,” she said to applause.

DePass is the community engagement and policy coordinator for the director of the Portland Housing Bureau. She said she comes from a family of PPS teachers that is also a “prison-affected” family, and spoke of hiring more Black teachers with equally high expectations for every student.

“We need better teacher training on how to deal with Black boys in particular,” DePass said, adding that in doing classroom observation, she often noticed “problems of interpretation” in how teachers responded to students of color.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

ACT-SO Competition

Akila Griffin 17, a junior at Lincoln High School explains how she created her video game *Kiro's Story* during the finals of the Seattle King County ACT-SO competition April 20 at MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center. Students could compete in a variety of categories including performing arts like oratory, contemporary and classical vocals, and music -instrumental, visual arts like drawing, photography and filmmaking, computer science, physics and other STEM pursuits. Those receiving gold medals will get an opportunity to compete for scholarships and prizes at the National Competition during the 110th NAACP National Convention in Detroit in July. Other young people not receiving gold medals are also selected to go along as observers so they can be better prepared to compete in next year's competition.

Fontaine Bleu cont'd from pg 1

ference with a business and intentional infliction of emotional distress after his nightclub, the Fontaine Bleu, shuttered following a shooting at the end of 2013. The city and the OLCC immediately acted to suspend the club's liquor license — which attorneys have noted is an uncommon response to a shooting.

“What happened to Mr. DeWalt was the city asked the OLCC to immediately suspend his liquor license. The city in its entire history has only asked the OLCC to do something immediately, five times, and twice were Black owners,” attorney Jesse Merrithew said. The other club in question was Seenzin's, a bar on 82nd Avenue operated by Sam Thompson. After a shooting occurred in a parking lot across the street in a parking lot, the city asked for restrictions on Thompson's liquor license and required him to have three security staff present during all open hours.

The case has since gone through a series of rulings and appeals; said the legal team has not been

given an indication as to when the court will respond to the latest motion.

DeWalt told *The Skanner* he has operated night clubs in a verity of locations, including, Houston, Oklahoma City and St. Louis but

“The city in its entire history has only asked the OLCC to do something immediately, five times, and twice were Black owners

never received treatment like he did in Portland, where he lived only briefly. He said the club, which was located on Northeast Broadway, received numerous noise complaints after it first started operating, and that when police visited to talk to him, they used racial slurs to refer to the

Fontaine Bleu's clientele.

He also told *The Skanner* that in the process of discovery attorneys have determined police suspected there would be violence on Nov. 9, 2013, when Durieul Harris, 30, was killed and Frederick Glenn Conner, 44, and Shelia Renee Shelby, 50, were wounded outside the Fontaine Bleu. But they didn't warn him ahead of time.

“The Portland police had a fear that something was going to happen but they never told me,” DeWalt said. “The Portland police never came by to tell me. They were just going to let that event play out.”

After the initial suspension, there was a hearing DeWalt had the opportunity to attend and the overseeing judge took it under advisement. But then OLCC director Steven Marks withdrew the first suspension and issued a second one, effectively resetting the administrative clock, Merrithew said.

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Study cont'd from pg 1

proaches to minimize flood risks and heat islands including both low- and high-tech solutions.

In Los Angeles, the city painted several streets white to reflect sunlight and minimize heat absorption. Any initiatives designed to address both urban heat islands and flooding is certainly something to consider and green space creation does just that.

“Planting trees or constructing green roofs would both be great ways to minimize the urban heat island and also to slow runoff from intense rainstorms,” said Jillian W. Gregg, a researcher with Oregon State University's Department of Crop and Soil Science. “Plus, there will be evaporative cooling from the moist soils and transpiration from the foliage that will absorb some of the moisture and also return a portion back to the atmosphere which would help some with the flooding.”

Consequently, proximity to green space is an important factor in determining an area's risk of extreme heat

“Portland's tree canopy is not distributed evenly throughout the city and is correlated to income

and flooding. But there's a high correlation between wealth and an individual's access to canopy coverage in Portland.

“Portland's tree canopy is not distributed evenly throughout the city and is correlated to income. West of the Willamette river tree canopy is 56 percent, while east of the Willamette tree canopy is only 21 percent. Tree canopy in

individual neighborhoods varies from 5-70 percent. This vastly uneven distribution means that tree services and benefits are not accessible to many of Portland's residents,” according to a recent Portland Parks & Recreation report.

The PSU study concluded that the more affluent neighborhoods in Portland (those situated in the SW, central NE, and in the western hills) had the lowest combined risk of extreme heat and flooding.

Pacific Northwest residents should expect more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change. The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute's 2019 assessment, models suggest increases in winter precipitation and, by midcentury, western Oregon may experience a 10 percent increase in extreme precipitation.

“In places where flooding is already a



PHOTO IGANNA LAZARECK

Flooding in the Alberta neighborhood

problem and relocation efforts and climate change adaptation strategies are already underway, the expected 10 percent additional rainfall with the more intense storms will only add to the difficulty of responding to these flooding events,” Gregg told *The Skanner*.

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