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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Portland Observer 45

'City of Roses'



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PHOTO BY ANDIE PETKUS

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia of Portland (center) is honored for her work to bring better health outcomes to communities of color, especially mental health services, during an Oregon Historical Society reception in her honor. She draws support at the event from Self Enhancement founder Tony Hopson and Kay Toran, president and chief executive officer of Volunteers of America Oregon.

Making History, Impacting Change

Doctor works to improve mental health services

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With every generation, African Americans celebrate new victories at the forefront of intellectual, political, artistic and social frontiers.

Here in Portland, Dr. Alisha R. Moreland-Capuia, is one such leader and a game-changer in the field of medicine.

Dr. Moreland is the first Oregon-born African American woman to become a board certified and licensed psychiatrist. Her work has been recognized for changing the way mental health is provided and accessed by people of color.

The Oregon Historical Society presented her with a "Making History, Impacting Change" award last week for addressing mental health care needs for diverse popula-

tions as it relates to work on issues of criminal justice, community and education.

"We are in the heart of criminal justice reform and health care transformation, and one of the things that connects those two is mental health," Dr. Moreland-Capuia says.

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The Week in Review

Big Night at the Grammys

Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift and Alabama Shakes were the biggest winners at Monday's Grammy Awards ceremony that, due to the recent deaths of some seminal stars, felt as much a tribute to music's past as its present. Lamar scored five Grammys for his breakthrough hip hop album "To Pimp a Butterfly," the night's biggest haul.



Obama Fights for Pick

After the weekend death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Barack Obama said Tuesday he would nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy who is "indisputably" qualified. He called on the staunch Republican opposition in the Senate to rise above "venom and rancor" and give the nominee a vote.



Arsenic Hotspots Worry

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer asked federal environmental regulators Friday to act now to respond to public health concerns over dangerously high levels of cadmium and arsenic in southeast and north Portland. The heavy metals have been traced to discharges from stained glass manufacturing plants whose air emissions fall into a regularity loophole.

Higher Minimum Supported

A committee of the Oregon House approved steep increases to the minimum wage Monday night, sending the bill to the full chamber for a final vote.

The proposed legislation would raise wages over the next six years to \$14.75 in the Portland area, \$13.50 in semi-urban areas including Bend and Eugene, and \$12.50 for sparsely populated areas.

Officer Pleads Guilty

A Portland police officer has resigned from the force and pleaded guilty to official misconduct, eight months after a woman visiting from Las Vegas said he arrived at her Pearl District hotel room to follow up on her domestic assault complaint, stripped naked and ordered her to give him a massage. Jeromine Palaoro, an eight-year veteran of the police bureau, will receive 18 months of probation.

Stabbed at Transit Center

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed in a fight involving 20 people at the Hollywood Transit Center Monday around 5:30 p.m. The victim was found suffering from traumatic injuries and was taken to a Portland hospital. Witnesses reported seeing several people run away from the scene and get on a westbound MAX train.

Unruly Woman Floods ER

A woman is accused of flooding the emergency room at Gresham's Mount Hood Medical Center because she was reportedly angry that she had not been discharged yet. Police say Laura Samuel, 33, of Sandy, broke the telephone in her hospital room, and then used its battery to shatter a fire alarm and brake a sprinkler head, unleashing 60 gallons of water per minute into two bathrooms, the adjoining hallway, and three hospital rooms.



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What's on your list today?®

LOCAL NEWS



Civil rights advocates are calling on local officials to reform the criminal justice system in Multnomah County where a new report finds an overrepresentation of people of color at every stage in their journey through arrests, prosecutions and sentences.

Locked Up by Race

Unfair outcomes found across the board

A new report shows what many people already suspected: People of color are negatively impacted in greater numbers relative to whites at every stage in the journey through the criminal justice system in Multnomah County.

The disparity is especially hard on local African Americans, who are 320 percent more likely than whites to have their crimes accepted for prosecution, 500 percent more likely to spend time in jail, and 600 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison, according to the Racial and Ethnic Disparities report.

The findings were produced by an independent researcher at the request of Multnomah County and released Thursday with some of the participants of the study, which included leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union, Metropolitan Public Defender, Oregon Justice Resource Center and Partnership for Safety and Justice.

The data was collected by those working within the criminal justice system. It was funded by a \$150,000 grant through the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge.

"People are being punished in Multnomah County for being black," said Jann Carson, associate state director of the ACLU. "While we aren't surprised to see this evidence of racism in our criminal justice system, we are disappointed."

The participating organizations are calling for action to be taken to change the clearly biased outcomes the report reveals.

"We want to see measurable goals in place to

address discrimination by the system," said Lane Borg, executive director of Metropolitan Public Defender Services, "and we want senior leadership in Multnomah County and the city of Portland taking personal responsibility for fixing the problem."

Bobbin Singh, executive director of Oregon Justice Resource Center, believes this report should be just the start of monitoring the extent of the racial disparities in the county's criminal justice system.

"What this report says very clearly is that if you are black and in Multnomah County, you will be punished more often and severely when intersecting with the criminal justice system," said Singh. "All county and city stakeholders must take ownership of this systemic discrimination and the profound disparities reported."

He said it's important to determine how "discretion is used within the criminal justice system, particularly in parts of the system where decisions are made behind closed doors and without much oversight."

The report also confirms the kind of racial disparities found in a 2011 report on youth tried as adults in Oregon.

"Communities of color deserve a system that is fair, just and unbiased," added Andy Ko, executive director of Partnership for Safety and Justice. "The problem is systemic and has long-lasting consequences for individuals and our communities."

The non-profit organizations lending their support pledged to continue to act as watchdogs to ensure change happens. The county will be able to complete for a second round of funding to help execute some reform plans over the next two years, with the next round of grants offering between \$500,000 and \$2 million annually.

Who I Am: Celebrating Me

Production moves to Portland Center Stage

The 10th anniversary of the black history play "Who I Am, Celebrating Me" written, directed and produced by native Oregonian Shalanda Sims, and performed by a community of youth and adult artists, moves to a new venue this year.

This show, which in the past has been presented at Jefferson and Reynolds high schools, and Pacific University, will take place this year at Portland Center Stage, downtown, on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at pcs.org.

You're invited to be entertained, informed and delighted as the group shares stories of some of our unsung heroes in the African-American community chronicling our voyage from Africa to present day.



The black history play "Who I Am, Celebrating Me" is performed by a community of youth and adult artists to share stories of unsung heroes in the African-American community and chronicle our voyage from Africa to present day.

The producers of the play relevant today and the answer though the picture may have date on your watch, the stories say people always ask why is those that ignore history are changed on your screen or and struggle are still real and the atrocities of the past are destined to repeat it and al- newspaper and the time and present in today's society.



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Making History, Impacting Change

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A key to the delivery of better mental health care to communities of color is bringing down the walls of shame for patients, and increasing the number of providers and services available to meet the needs of minority and other disadvantaged populations, she says.

Moreland-Capuia, went to Stanford University for undergraduate school, then to medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., before coming back to her hometown to do her residency at Oregon Health and Sciences University. She completed a fellowship at OSHU that was focused on addiction services.

Born and raised in north and northeast Portland, most of her family still lives in the area. She credits her family's ability to secure housing, and to become homeowners, as one of the reasons they are still here.

"I myself still live in the neighborhood," she said of her passion for the city, graduating from Jefferson High School and attending King Elementary and Harriet Tubman Middle School. "I was nurtured here so it's natural for me to return to that."

She described her work as



PHOTO BY ANDIE PETKUS

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia (second from right) is surrounded by her colleagues from Oregon Health Sciences University as she draws support for the honor she received from the Oregon Historical Society for her pioneering work as a physician of color in raising awareness of mental health needs as it relates to issues of criminal justice policies, community and education.

something she is passionate about, and says she hopes the recognition she receives will support others to follow in her path.

"That's a big deal for me because we just don't have enough African American mental health providers. For me, inspiring others

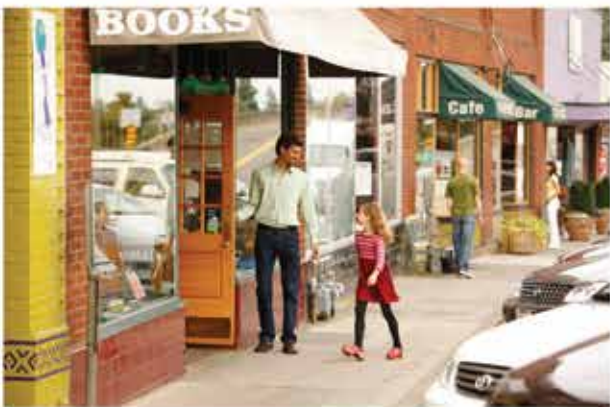
to become the first in their field, the first to discover something, to remind everyone there are still new frontiers for us to innovate, to inspire, and to serve, that is incredible to me."

Moreland-Capuia was recently listed as one of the "40 under 40"

by the Portland Business Journal. She is only 35. She recalls the words of actress Viola Davis at this year's Emmy Award when she says "This is not an issue of talent. This is an issue of opportunity."

She astutely points out that

there is no shortage of black people who can and should be doctors, painters, educators, lawyers, astronauts, and professionals of every variety, "Once we give those students the opportunities they need and deserve, we will see them succeed."



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Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church has a call out for young singers to join rehearsals for a special 60 voice junior choir to celebrate Easter.

Junior Choir Rehearsals Call

BY ALEX WISE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Young singers are needed to celebrate Easter in song, friendship and fellowship.

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is organizing a special 60 voice children's choir and play for Easter Sunday. Music directors Brother Raymond Burell III, Sister Julianne Johnson-Weiss, and Brother Kenneth Berry

are looking for children and teens ages 4-14 to sing with them.

The four rehearsals will be Saturdays from March 5 to March 26, 10-11 a.m., with lunch served afterwards. Easter is March 27. There will also be a day set aside during the last week of February for the performers to come to the church and be fitted for special choir robes, robes that are

a gift to the Little Angels Junior Choir.

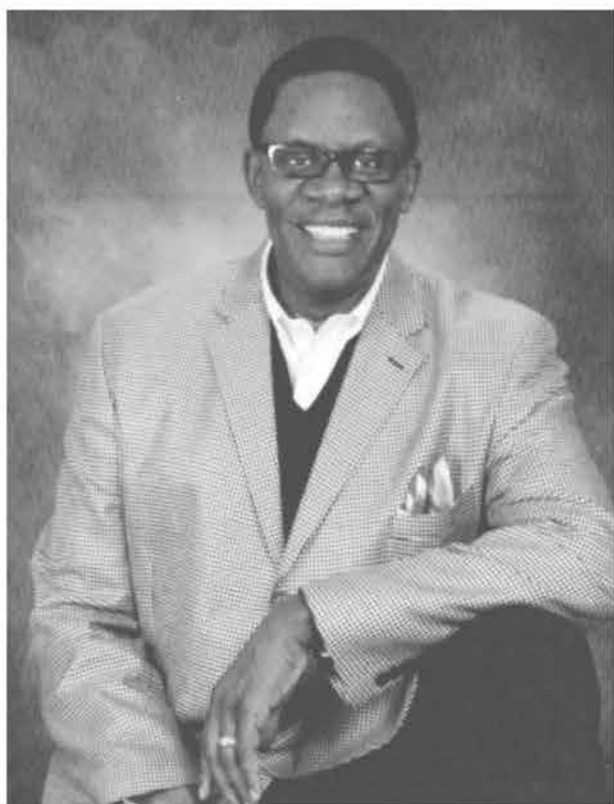
Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is located at 3138 N Vancouver Ave, and transportation from north and northeast Portland will be available for rehearsals.

Parents and guardians who are interested are asked to contact Raymond Burell at 503-593-5285 or the church office at 503-282-9496.

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There's a proposal to move Kevin J. Duckworth Memorial Dock located on the Eastbank Esplanade, downtown, to another site downstream at Swan Island. Public comments on the plan are now being taken.

Duckworth Dock May Move City department wants out of dock upkeep

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

The downtown core may be losing its public dock on the Willamette River with a proposal to move it to Swan Island.

The Oregon State Marine Board is soliciting public comment on the proposed relocation of the Kevin J. Duckworth Memorial Dock from its current location on the Eastbank Esplanade, upstream of the Steel Bridge.

The dock was dedicated as a memorial for Kevin Duckworth after his death from heart failure in 2008. The beloved former Portland Trail Blazer was fan favorite who loved to boat and fish for salmon in the downtown core. It was constructed a few years earlier as part of the Oregon Convention Center as a short term and day-use facility for recreational boaters. Management of the dock was by Portland's Department of Transportation.

Now PDOT is facilitating a request by Daimler Corporation to move the dock to a greenway along the Willamette River near where the company plans to build a new headquarters on Swan Island, according to John Brady, PBOT communications director.

Brady says the city's transportation department doesn't want to be in the dock business, and under the proposal, maintenance and security would be transferred to Portland Parks and Recreation at the new site. Upkeep could eventually be assumed by Daimler, the Swan Island truck maker, depending on future negotiations, but the dock would still be maintained for public use, Brady said.

The proposed new location would connect to the North Portland Willamette Greenway trail about 2.75 miles downstream from its current location. The site would include a 200 foot slow-no wake zone and allow short-term overnight and day use tie-up

for recreational boaters, official said.

Daimler is building its waterfront headquarters on Swan Island, a \$150 million project that the German-owned company says will result in 400 new, high-wage, white-collar jobs. It will receive \$20 million in public support for the project.

The Marine Board will host a public meeting on the dock moving proposal on Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Portland Building, Room C, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave. to receive oral and written comments from interested parties.

A submission deadline for written comment is also on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. You can email Janine.belleque@state.or.us or mail your correspondence to Janine Belleque, Boating Facilities Manager, 435 Commercial Street NE, Suite 400, P.O. Box 14145, Salem, OR 97309-5056.



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A deadline is approaching for local students to apply for free tuition at community colleges as part of the first 'Oregon Promise' grant.

Free Community College Opens Doors

Deadline nears for 'Oregon Promise' grants

BY ERIC TEGETHOFF

High school seniors have less than a month to apply for the first "Oregon Promise," a state grant covering tuition for community colleges, trade and technical schools.

Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher or have passed the GED within six months of applying for college, no matter their immigration status.

Jennifer Satalino, director of The College Place Oregon, which provides students applying to college with financial advice, said this is a major door-opener.

"We're kind of hoping this is a 'rising tide floats all boats' situation," she said. "We really want to encourage with this program -- with this Oregon Promise -- that idea that college is there, and there's a way to pay for it."

There is \$10 million set aside for the program. It's estimated that from 4,000 to 6,000 students will receive grant money.

The Oregon Promise has some

caveats. Students also must apply for federal or state aid and accept any funds offered to them. The grant then will cover any leftover costs. Undocumented students who have lived in the state for three years are eligible to apply as well. These students can't apply for federal aid, and Satalino said the Oregon Promise lifts an enormous burden from their shoulders.

"The idea that none of our students have to worry about the first two years of college is absolutely amazing," she said. "It's more than a light at the end of a tunnel."

Oregon is the first state to follow Tennessee, which saw a 10 percent increase in college enrollment last year. Like recipients in Tennessee, Bob Brew, executive director of the Office of Student Access and Completion, said students don't have to use the grant for the traditional community-college route.

"The money can be applied toward the tuition cost of any credit-bearing class or career technical education class," he said.

Students can apply at oregonpromise.org. That website also has a link to federal- and state-aid applications.

--Oregon News Service

Black History Month Tours

For Black History Month, the "Hidden History of Albina" serves as a primer to the controversial debate about whether gentrification and displacement are good or bad for the community.

The tour highlights the vast cultural transformation of the region, beginning at Little Big Burger, and hearing from speakers at the Sons of Haiti Lodge, the North Northeast Business Association, the Urban League of Portland, and the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

"As a native black Portlander I

see the issues we face," said Urban League organizer and tour speaker Llondyn Elliot. "These are very different than the struggles of white natives, and drastically different from transplants. I think it's important for both groups to know and understanding what has happened for both awareness and so they are not repeating history again."

Upcoming tour dates are Saturday, Feb. 27 and Friday, March 4. For more information, contact Know Your City executive Cameron Whitten at 503-890-5716.

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Strong Start for International Film Fest

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY JUDGE
DARLEEN ORTEGA



Normally by this point in my Portland International Film Festival itinerary, I would have seen something I didn't like! But so far this year's slate has been very strong. Of the films I've seen, here are the ones that will play again, in my order of preference:

"The Clan" tells the story of a notorious Argentine crime family whose patriarch, Arquimedes Puccio, worked for the police during the Videla regime in the 1970s, when kidnapping was used as a matter of state control. When the regime fell in 1981, Puccio continued the family business, switching targets to wealthy families who were often part of his own family's social set, holding his captives for ransoming and then killing them after receiving payment. As depicted here, he did so with a sense of entitlement -- he was above the law, and assumed democracy would never last. And indeed, he carried out these activities for several years before he apparently became expendable. With good psychological insight, the film depicts interlocking circles of cynical control; Puccio's control of his children and wife (who could not have missed what was going on in their own home--and who were even enlisted to help) operates under the guise of love and close family ties, yet leaves no room for question or negotiation. The day-to-day decisions of his wife and children (and especially his sports-hero son Alejandro) to alternately cooperate and participate and turn a blind eye are a curious combination of manipulated and chosen -- and the film offers little glimpses of the broader circles of manipulation and control necessary to enable the police corruption and wealth inequities that were Puccio's stock in trade. It's a fascinating window into a notorious part of Argentine history, with insights that go beyond its specific time and place. The film plays on Feb. 23 and Feb. 27.

Although **"The Judgment"** feels manipulative in spots, its two lead performances draw you into the father-son conflict at its center. Mityo is about to lose his house near the Greek-Bulgarian border that he once patrolled as a young soldier in the 1980s. Back then the Soviet agenda was to keep people in -- but now the border issues involve keeping people out. His desperate economic circumstances (the cause of which is revealed in bits and pieces over the course of the film) have fed the

growing resentment of his teenage son Vasko and drive Mityo to take on work with the same cruel colonel he served back in the Soviet era and who now cynically smuggles immigrants from Syria. The immigrants themselves don't figure much in the story; the focus, rather, is on Mityo's past, the idea of borders and debts that finally come due, and the fragility of life. The harsh landscape and the relationship between the father and son make this story compelling and, in moments, quite moving. The film plays again on Feb. 23.

Director Patricio Guzman's approach to documentary filmmaking is quite distinct--meditative, grounded in place, poetic, and willing to look deeply. His latest, **"The Pearl Button,"** carries through some of the themes addressed in **"Nostalgia for the Light,"** which was an examination of the search for meaning in the stars and the search for the disappeared in Chile. Using a similar ruminative approach, guided by his calm, deliberate narration, Guzman muses on how Chileans have become so disconnected



Egyptian actress Menna Shalabi stars in 'Nawara,' a feature film that offers a subversive window into post-Mubarak Egypt.

from the water that surrounds them (the country has 4,000 miles of coastline), and uses water as his vehicle for exploring the soul depths of the forgotten victims of Chile's dark colonial past and more recent brutal dictatorship. This isn't a search for answers as much as a search for questions, sitting with stories of the lost way of life of Chile's original inhabitants, listening to the experiences of native peoples in their languages, and also lingering on the sounds and sights of the water that connects past and present together. It plays again on Feb. 20.

"Rams" depicts two sheep-herding brothers in the mountains of Iceland, each lovingly tending the sheep in their legacy breed but living adjacent to each other without speaking for 40 years. It's a stark and lonely



'The Clan' tells the story of Argentina's notorious Puccio family, a hard-hitting crime saga where kidnapping is used as a matter of state control. The movie plays again on Feb. 23 and Feb. 27 as part of the Portland International Film Festival.

life, with all the humanity of the two men invested in their animal charges. We are never told of the dispute that separates them, but gradually see differences between the two; one is a hard drinker and a more volatile personality, but the animosity between them is clearly shared. When an infection is detected among sheep in the area that requires slaughter of all the local herds, the stubborn brothers continue to fight the crisis and each other until a shared objective moves them together. Observant, funny, and at times quite moving, it garnered a top prize at the

together, her daily trips to fill jugs from a communal faucet for her grandmother, and her regular trips to the hospital where Aly's father, sick with cancer, camps out in a

corridor for weeks awaiting a bed. These all contrast with her affable relationship with a family whose dog eats better than she does and whose matriarch eventually offers her enough money to live on for a year to guard the house and make it look lived in while the family flees abroad. The trajectory of this story finds subtle ways to underline how revolution doesn't necessarily unfreeze longstanding social inequities. The film plays again on Feb. 24.

"Heavenly Nomadic" offers a simple and atmospheric look into the life of a horse-herding family in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan. Three generations live under cover of the same yurt -- grandparents, mother, and a seven-year-old daughter -- and all feel the absence of the child's father, son to the grandparents, who drowned a few years before. The mother does

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Celebrate's Black History Month

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Portland-based R&B singer Redray Frazier has got a bunch of Portland dates coming up so you have no excuse to not check out at least one.

R&B Singer Lays It Out

Portland-based Redray Frazier lays it all out on the title track of his new rocking R&B album, "Blood in the Water."

A musical pedigree, the New York native spent time singing gospel music in his father's Baptist church, touring the country as front-man for a soulful rock band

and performing as part of David Byrne's band.

You can catch his eclectic background as a solo artist when he takes the stage at two upcoming performances, Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Laurelhurst Public House and Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Secret Society Ballroom.

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Dael Orlandersmith brings her powerful new memoir play 'Forever' to Portland Center Stage.

Harrowing tale on Portland stage

"Forever" won't last forever in Portland – so you might want to get your tickets soon. The show stars Pulitzer Prize nominee and performer Dael Orlandersmith in her powerful new memoir play that runs through March 20 at Portland Center Stage.

"Forever" is a harrowing tale about Orlandersmith's troubled youth in Harlem and the rocky path she forged out of it. She illuminates in acid-etched

Forever

detail her fraught relationship with her mother, who was abusive and alcoholic but also set an example in her hunger for books and music and her dream of a career as a dancer, described a review from the New York Times.

The play begins in Paris at the

famed Père Lachaise Cemetery, where strangers from around the world make pilgrimages to the graves of legendary artists such as Frederick Chopin, Marcel Proust, Richard Wright, Edith Piaf and Jim Morrison. As she visits the resting places

of her idols, Orlandersmith is moved to investigate the complex legacy she received from her mother and their often haunting life together.

Riveting and powerful, "Forever" is about family – the ones we are born into; the strange way powerful bonds are formed with people who, though unrelated by blood, come to feel like family; and the legacies that shape us all.

Tickets may be purchased at pcs.org, by calling 503-445-3700, or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office, 128 N.W. 11th Ave.

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Cascade Festival of African Films -- Portland Community College's Cascade



Festival of African Films is a free and open to the public screening of new films from across the African continent. The month-long festival offers Portlanders a rare opportunity to see Africa through the eyes of Africans. Most screenings take place at the Moriarty Auditorium at PCC's Cascade Campus, 735 N. Killingsworth St. For complete screening information, visit africanfilm-festival.org.

Black History Gospel Fest -- First A.M.E Zion Church, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave., will host its first ever first Black History Month Gospel Celebration, on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. Music through the ages will be featured, from the Negro spirituals to today's contemporary gospel, featuring choirs and praise teams from local area churches. This is a free event open to all.

Black Film Festival -- The Portland Black Film Festival is now showing at the Hollywood Theatre in northeast Portland showcasing the cinematic achievements of African-American stars, filmmakers, and the black experience. There will be a Saturday, Feb. 27 screening of the 1973 Blaxploitation classic "Black Caesar" with star Fred "The Hammer" Williamson in attendance. Admission is \$8. For a complete festival schedule, call the theater at 503-281-1142 or visit hollywoodtheatre.org.

Portland International Film Festival -- The month-long Portland International Film Festival is now underway with a schedule of 96 feature length films and 62 shorts from 48 countries. The annual festival is sponsored by the Northwest Film

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Center, located inside the Portland Art Museum, downtown. For more information and a complete schedule, visit nwfilm.com.

Alice's Jazz Odyssey -- Tumble down the rabbit hole as Alice's adventures through Wonderland are transformed into a spectacular jazz odyssey! The NW Children's Theater and School presents an original jazz musical of the story based on the book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." Shows continue through Feb. 28 at the NW Children's Theater and School, 1819 N.W. Everett St. For tickets, visit nwcts.org or call the theater box office at 502-222-4480.



Norman Sylvester -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his band plays Friday, Feb. 19 at the Blue Diamond; Saturday, Feb. 20 at the 45th Street Pub; Friday, Feb. 26 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, Feb. 27 at Clyde's.

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Fourth Sunday Jam Night -- A friends and family variety comedy show in a Saturday Night Live format with local recording and performing artists, bands, dance crews, poets, and drama groups, takes place each fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. at Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver Ave. The free event is open to the community.

Discount Tickets -- Local low-income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Exploring Hip Hop Culture

Have you ever wondered how modern hip hop has integrated into American culture? Join a cutting-edge conversation on the cultural connections between black music and everyday life during a Black History Month talk at Warner Pacific College.

Daymond Glenn, vice president for community life, chief diversity officer and assistant professor of urban studies at the private, south-east Portland school, will examine the complexity of hip-hop culture and its implications for understanding the experiences of black boys in schools and society.

The free and open to the pub-



Daymond Glenn

lic lecture is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the McGuire Auditorium, 2219 S.E. 68th Ave.

Glenn is part of an editorial team of scholars for the national Journal for Hip-Hop Studies. He is also author of "Critical Condition: Black Males and Multiculturalism in Higher Education," a book that discusses the challenges, complexities, and possibilities of black men and multiculturalism in predominantly white institutions of higher education.

For more information, call the Warner Pacific Office of Diversity at 503-517-1271.

Celebrating Local Hip Hop

Portland hip hop personality Cool Nutz brings an album release party to the Ash Street Saloon, 225 S.W. Ash St. this Friday, Feb. 19 to celebrate two new projects, "NPY" and "Collabos II." Both projects are set to be released officially on Tuesday, Feb. 23, but rap lovers can enjoy an early listening if they come to the show.

Cool Nutz, aka Terrance Scott, has released two new tracks, "Yaper" and "Best & Worst" fea-



Cool Nutz

turing Slum Village and Bosko to positive reviews and coverage from national and regional press outlets. The album release party will feature Maniac Lok, Drae Steves, Chris Lee, Mikey Vegaz, and other special surprise guests.

Doors to Friday's party, hosted by DJ Fatboy, open at 8 p.m., with the show starting at 9 p.m. The event is 21+ over only and tickets are \$10 in advance, \$14 at the door. To find tickets, visit collabos2.bpt.me.

Smokey Joe's Café

"Smokey Joe's Café," a toe tappin' and finger snappin' musical directed by and starring Julianne Johnson-Weiss, a popular singer and actress from Portland who also moonlights as a music professor, comes to the Brunish Theater, downtown.

The play is centered around the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s when Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller were the most successful songwriting team in popular music, writing featured hit songs like "Stand by Me", "Love Potion #9", "Hound Dog", "Jailhouse Rock", and "On Broadway" for R&B groups like the Coasters and the Drifters.

"Smokey Joe's Café," opens Thursday, Feb. 18 and plays through March 6 at the Brunish Theater, located inside Antoinette Hatfield Hall, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$25-40 at stumptownstages.org or call the box office at 800-273-1530.



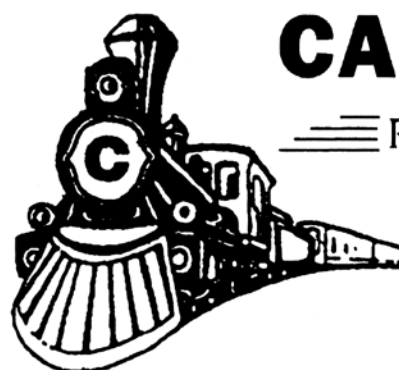
Julianne Johnson-Weiss

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NOTICE OF WAIT LIST OPENING

Vancouver Housing Authority

SKYLINE CREST All Bedroom Sizes

Bid Date by Lottery: February 23rd, 2016

Vancouver Housing Authority will open an online waitlist for Skyline Crest Apartments. Skyline Crest is located at 500 Omaha Way, Vancouver, WA 98661. Skyline Crest consist of 137 duplexes and fourplexes. The community includes an active Community Center with activities for residents of all ages and a Boys and Girls Club is scheduled to open Spring 2016. All vacant units are newly remodeled. Applicant's income must be at or below 50% of area median income. At least one person in the household must be a US citizen or legal resident. To learn more about Skyline Crest, please see our website at www.vhausa.com.

Applications will be available online only starting at 9:00 am February 16th, 2016. To apply, visit our website at www.vhausa.com. Selection will be by lottery, the first lottery drawing will be on or after February 23rd, 2016. Subsequent lottery drawings will be made as needed. Applications not drawn by lottery will remain in the applicant pool for future lottery drawings. Your chance of getting a voucher is the same no matter when you apply before the lottery drawing.

Only online applications will be accepted. If you do not have internet access, a number of local agencies have agreed to provide computer access. A list of addresses and open hours are available on our website at www.vhausa.com or at our office located at 2500 Main St, Vancouver, WA 98660. There is never a fee to apply. If someone asks you for money to apply for housing, please report it to the Housing Authority immediately.

Vancouver Housing Authority, in accordance with various Federal and State laws, does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, familial status or sexual orientation. Vancouver Housing Authority will make reasonable accommodations to individuals whose disabilities require accommodation in order to enjoy full and equal access to our programs and services.

Если Вам нужна помощь прочитайте это письмо, пожалуйста позвоните по телефону 360-993-9344 и оставьте Ваше имя, номер телефона и язык на котором вы говорите.

Si usted necesita ayuda leyendo este documento, por favor comuníquese con VHA al 360-993-9544. Deje su nombre, número de teléfono y el idioma que habla.

New Portlanders Program Specialist

SALARY: \$4,983.00 - \$6,643.00 Monthly

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement's (ONI) New Portlanders Program Specialist is one of two positions responsible for coordination of the City's immigrant and refugee civic engagement program.

Responsibilities include recruiting City agencies to collaborate on Equity in Practice projects; training for Portland's immigrant and refugee communities' formal and informal organizations on organizational development, strategic and annual budget planning.

To view full announcement visit:
www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs.

Wastewater Operations Specialist

SALARY: \$26.63 - \$31.04 Hourly

This position performs a variety of specialized technical tasks in support of Operations, Wastewater Treatment Group, and Bureau of Environmental Services management. Work involves the assembly of data from shift reports and processing that data into a variety of regulatory and operations reports.

Responsibilities include performance of process control functions and NPDES spreadsheet summaries, plant operations records, periodic reports and personnel schedules.

To view full announcement visit:
www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs.

Maps and Records Supervisor

SALARY: \$5,496.00 - \$7,330.00 Monthly

The Maps and Records Supervisor supervises technical staff engaged in producing and maintaining maps and infrastructure data through the use of GIS, CAD, and other related technologies. Plans, supervises and evaluates work of assigned staff. Establishes performance requirements and regularly monitors performance and provides coaching. Works with assigned staff and other bureau and City staff to ensure GIS data and corresponding records are published, stored and archived as appropriate.

To view full announcement visit:
www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

#12-16 (RFQ) PROFESSIONAL

SERVICES FOR THE EVERGREEN TRAIL PROJECT

Bid Date: Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

The City of Vancouver (the City) is seeking Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) of qualified consultant teams or individuals to perform the necessary professional services for environmental processes and permitting, geotechnical investigations, project management/coordination and other related professional services as outlined in this RFQ for the Evergreen Trail Project.

Request for qualifications packets may be examined at Vancouver City Hall, Customer Service Desk, 1st floor lobby, 415 W. 6th Street, Vancouver Washington 98660. Request for Qualifications packets may be obtained from the Builder's Exchange of Washington website at <http://bxwa.com>. Click on Posted Projects, Goods and Services, City of Vancouver and Projects Bidding links. These are available for viewing, downloading and printing on your own equipment free of charge. You may also link to the Builder's Exchange website through the City of Vancouver's Projects Currently out for Solicitation page.

Technical questions regarding this Request for Qualifications may be directed to the Project Manager, Hassan Abdalla at (360) 487-7704 or by e-mail at hassan.abdalla@cityofvancouver.us. General procurement questions can be directed to Scott Cramer, Senior Procurement Specialist at (360) 487-8426 or by email at scott.cramer@cityofvancouver.us.

Sealed responses will be received by the Procurement Services Manager of the City of Vancouver, Washington up to the hour of **3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 16th, 2016**. Responses delivered later will not be accepted. The City of Vancouver is not responsible for delays in delivery.

All responses to this request that are mailed through the United States Postal Service shall be addressed to the Procurement Services Manager, City of Vancouver, P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, Washington 98668-1995. Please be advised that USPS deliveries requiring a signature may not be delivered in a timely manner as our receiving point is not staffed at all times and may not be available to sign at the time of delivery. Hand-delivered responses or responses not sent through the USPS, shall be delivered to the Vancouver City Hall, Customer Service Desk, 1st floor lobby, City of Vancouver, 415 W. 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington 98660. The United States Postal Service will **NOT** deliver to the street address.

The City of Vancouver in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises, as defined in 49 CFR part 26, will be afforded full opportunity to submit qualification statements in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex in consideration for an award.

All responses shall be placed in a sealed envelope, which is clearly marked **"RFQ #12-16 EVERGREEN TRAIL PROJECT"**. **Responses by EMAIL or FAX will not be accepted.**

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities.

The City of Vancouver reserves the right to cancel this request or reject any and all responses submitted or to waive any minor formalities of this call if the best interest of the City would be served.

No respondent may withdraw his response after the hour set for the opening thereof, unless the award of contract is delayed for a period exceeding ninety days (90) days.

Kevin Yin,
Procurement Services Manager

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PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of TriMet Public Hearing and Open House for Proposed Service Changes

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Mt. Hood Community College – Maywood Park Campus

10100 NE Prescott St., Portland, OR 97220, Rooms 305 & 311

To see all the details and weigh in on these and other proposed service changes, visit trimet.org/betterbus or stop by our public hearing/open house.

Proposed Service Changes

Line 21-Sandy Blvd/223rd Ave: Add weekday trips during rush hours.

Line 36-South Shore: Run buses on Jean Road to Jean Way and Boones Ferry Road to better serve the Lake Oswego Commerce Center, Walmart, and other employment. Discontinue service on Pilkington Road, Childs Road, 65th Avenue and McEwan Road due to low ridership.

Line 63-Washington Park/Arlington Heights: Add Saturday and Sunday service to provide trips through Washington Park and neighboring areas.

Line 71-60th Ave/122nd Ave: Split into two bus lines. One line will continue to run on its current routing and frequency along 60th Avenue between Parkrose Transit Center and Clackamas Town Center. The other line will be re-named and re-numbered and will continue to run between Parkrose Transit Center and SE 94th and Foster with additional trips during the weekday rush hours.

Line 83-Washington Park Loop: Discontinue service. The Washington Park TMA will provide a free shuttle through Washington Park during the summer months.

Line 87-Airport Way/181st: Add weekday mid-day trips between 182nd/Powell and Gateway Transit Center.

Line 97-Tualatin/Sherwood: New bus line running between Tualatin and Sherwood along Tualatin Sherwood Road with weekday rush-hour service.

If you require materials in alternative formats, sign language interpretation or other communication aids, call TriMet's Senior and Disabled Citizen Information at 503-962-2455 (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays) or TTY 711 for Oregon Relay Service, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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RELIGION

Plans set for Pastor's 20th Anniversary

Dynamic leader perseveres in health battle

BY JOHN LAMPKIN

Rev. Dr. W. G. Hardy Jr., the dynamic and beloved pastor of the Highland Christian Center, continues to enjoy life while battling against a terminal cancer diagnosis he received last year.



Rev. Dr. W. G. Hardy Jr.

The northeast Portland church, a diverse and historically African-American congregation, will celebrate and honor Hardy's 20th year as pastor during a weekend of pastoral anniversary events, March 18-20.

Hardy is currently on sabbatical while going through medical treatment at Cancer Center of America in Phoenix, Ariz. Church leaders say he had a stellar year in 2015, despite the illness, with some of the highlights including the quality time he has shared with family; an educational and spiritual journey abroad to Africa and a visit to Washington D. C. with the National Congressional Black Caucus. He was honored in 2015 by a Pastor Hardy Day of Recognition by Mayor Charlie Hales and Councilman Nick Fish; and Concordia University bestowed

their highest honor on Hardy, the Christi Crux Award, for significant contributions he has made to the church in general and Concordia University in particular.

Pastor Hardy continues to support education, healthy living and diversity as chief executive officer of The Highland Haven, non-profit organization. He and the Highland congregation were able to host the recent Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, as he continues innovative ways to build the Kingdom of God. A new billboard ministry campaign on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard invites the community to HCC weekly worship and healing services.

The 20th Pastoral Anniversary weekend will feature special guest speaker, Pastor Clinton House of Las Vegas, Nev. on Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m.; a Youth Night will be held Saturday, March 19, also at 7 p.m.; and there will be two special Sunday services on March 20, at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. with special guest Dr. Michael Stevens of North Carolina; and DaNell Daymon of Seattle, as guest choral director. All of the events will take place at the Highland Christian Center Campus, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. For more information contact the church office at 503-287-9567 or go to hcclive.com.



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Carmen Pettiford, Les Femmes President 503.830.5732

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CALENDAR February 2016

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

<div>1</div> <p>Freedom Day Robinson Crusoe Day First meeting of the U.S. Supreme Court (1790)</p>	<div>2</div> <p>Groundhog Day Bottle Cap Patented in 1892</p>	<div>3</div> <p>Elmo's Birthday (Sesame Street Character) Vietnam War Ended (1973)</p>	<div>4</div> <p>Facebook First Launched in 2004 Vacuum Day Rosa Parks born, 1913</p>	<div>5</div> <p>Weatherman's Day Disaster Day Hank Aaron born, 1934</p>	<div>6</div> <p>Babe Ruth born, 1895 Monopoly Board Game Goes on Sale in Stores, 1935</p>	<div>7</div> <p>Charles Dickens born, 1812 Laura Ingalls Wilder born, 1867</p>
<div>8</div> <p>Mardi Gras Chinese New Year - Year of the Monkey Boy Scouts' Day Jules Verne born, 1828</p>	<div>9</div> <p>National Weather Service Est. (1870) Toothache Day</p>	<div>10</div> <p>Umbrella Day Ratification of the 25th Amendment in 1967 (Presidential Succession)</p>	<div>11</div> <p>Thomas Edison born, 1847 National Inventors' Day</p>	<div>12</div> <p>Abraham Lincoln born, 1809 (16th President)</p>	<div>13</div> <p>Get a Different Name Day First Public School established (1635)</p>	<div>14</div> <p>Valentine's Day Ferris Wheel Day</p>
<div>15</div> <p>President's Day Susan B. Anthony born, 1820</p>	<div>16</div> <p>Nylon Patented By DuPont in 1937 King Tut's Burial Chamber opened in 1923</p>	<div>17</div> <p>Random Acts of Kindness Day National P.T.A. Founder's Day (1897)</p>	<div>18</div> <p>Pluto, Discovered By Clyde Tombaugh in 1930</p>	<div>19</div> <p>Phonograph Patented By Thomas Edison in 1878</p>	<div>20</div> <p>John Glenn Orbits Earth in 1962 (in the Friendship 7 space capsule.</p>	<div>21</div> <p>Malcom X Assassinated (1965) Washington Monument dedicated (1885)</p>
<div>22</div> <p>George Washington born, 1732 Be Humble Day World Thinking Day</p>	<div>23</div> <p>International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day U.S. Flag raised at Iwo Jima (1945)</p>	<div>24</div> <p>Steve Jobs born, 1955 Wilhelm Carl Grimm born, 1786</p>	<div>25</div> <p>Quiet Day Artist Pierre Auguste Renoir born, 1841</p>	<div>26</div> <p>Levi Strauss born, 1829 William F. Cody born, 1846 (Pony Express Rider)</p>	<div>27</div> <p>Henry Wadsworth Longfellow born, 1807 International Polar Bear Day</p>	<div>28</div> <p>Public Sleeping Day Gold Seekers arrived in San Francisco (1849)</p>

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This is a Leap Year if there is a 29th in February



OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

Remember Black History All Year Long

BY JILL RICHARDSON

As the rest of the nation celebrates Black History Month this February, I'm taking a graduate level course I call "Dead White Men."



It's actually a classic theory class that covers a number of influential thinkers, like free market theorist Adam Smith and the famous French observer of American democracy, Alexis de Tocqueville. It's a good class. But the thinkers we're studying are all dead white men.

In fact, they weren't just white and male. They were all members of an elite that was rich and formally educated.

There's nothing inherently wrong with that: They were all great thinkers, and their contributions to human knowledge are indisputable. But their views of the world were developed based on their unique positions in society. As a result, they had some easy-to-recognize blind spots.

What's missing in the canon of classic literature taught in the United States are the views of everyone else who built our nation: African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans,

and so on.

How would the theories we use to understand our economy, government, and society differ if we'd recorded the thoughts of marginalized people along the way?

For example, in *The Wealth of Nations* — the seminal book that defines capitalism — Adam Smith asserts that the poor fac-

point, not experiencing it himself, Smith didn't seem to think it was that bad.

Smith goes on to describe how individuals each act in their own self-interest. Without any mastermind in control, that lets the free market work as though it were steered by an "invisible hand." The role of government in aiding the capitalist economy, according to Smith, is minimal.

and sugar from colonies in the Caribbean, nearly all of it produced by enslaved Africans and their descendants. Not to mention that the original inhabitants of the New World that produced this bounty were largely driven off their land by colonial governments.

Some "invisible hand."

That doesn't necessarily nullify the conclusions Smith made,

of the non-white peoples who were marginalized, enslaved, and exploited to the same prestige enjoyed by white writers like Smith? Wouldn't we all better understand how the world works — and how to make it work better?

To some extent, of course, this is impossible. Many black and Native American contemporaries of Smith, or even poor whites, were illiterate, and they're now long dead. But surely we can begin to recognize and correct our mistakes now.

Relegating black history to just one month of the year — and treating it as if it's something separate from American history more broadly — does a disservice to us all. It reinforces the wrongheaded idea that we're a white nation, and that the history of other people is only a part of our own inasmuch as it affects whites.

It's great to have a month highlighting black history and the achievements of African Americans. But if any of us, regardless of race, wish to fully understand our own history as a people, then black history must be included on a level playing field with white history — all year long.

Jill Richardson is an author and columnist for *OtherWords*. Distributed by *OtherWords.org*.

What's missing in the canon of classic literature taught in the United States are the views of everyone else who built our nation: African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and so on.

tory workers living in England during the Industrial Revolution had better lives under capitalism than even a wealthy African prince.

Those factory workers, however, were living in squalor, in utter misery. From his vantage

Here, he misses the enormous role of the British Empire.

During the Industrial Revolution, Great Britain exported wheat from its colony India even during famines, causing millions of Indians to starve to death. Cotton came from the United States

but it shows a hole in his theory that's never accounted for. We tend to accept Smith's ideas as they are, without noting this flaw or analyzing how it might make his ideas inaccurate in any way.

What if instead, the United States elevated the perspectives

Connecting the Dots in the Opioids Crisis

The role race plays in the war on drugs

BY KASSANDRA FREDERIQUE

Every year, hundreds of thousands of family and friends bury loved ones because of the ongoing opioid overdose crisis happening across the United States — a crisis that could have been largely prevented. Researchers and health professionals link today's predicament to the explosion of opioid prescriptions in the 1990s when there was an increased prescription drug usage of medications to treat pain like OxyContin and from youth experimentation.

Now, as awareness of this problem surfaces, prescription opioids become harder to access, leading addicts to turn to heroin, which is often cheaper and more readily available. But the origins of this crisis began long before the 1990s.



It existed relatively unaddressed within communities of color for at least 20 years prior with little response by way of government support or resources.

Perhaps our biggest drug policy reform failures stem from the historic, unrelenting structural racism inherent in the way our nation responds to the drugs crisis. Today, there are national and statewide taskforces with millions of dollars allocated to address and eradicate the "heroin and opiate" epidemic ravaging the middle and upper classes. Just last week, President Obama proposed \$1.1 billion to combat the problem.

Blacks and Latinos stand by, watching as public health officials rush to bring an abundance of resources in to help predominantly white communities, but we haven't forgotten how a similar amount of money was allocated to helping the police rush into our neighborhoods — not to help those of us dying from drug use — but to

arrest or remove unsightly black "junkies" from the public streets. The outpouring of sympathy we are seeing for the loss of white lives is and has been utterly absent for the black and brown lives lost due to drug overdoses.

If we had allotted a fraction of the care and capital in the 1970s

tal overdose deaths passed vehicular deaths. But why did it take so long for this shift to happen? One reason is that the people who were dying of heroin, for the most part, were perceived to be poor blacks and Latinos. And this largely unaddressed crisis is just more evidence that in the U.S., black lives

rated by decades of public health policies focused on reducing stigma and promoting treatment over punishment.

Structural and institutional racism uplifts whiteness and does so at a steep cost to those who are its intended targets. It is precisely because black lives didn't matter

It has sparked an increase in public education and awareness, which started after accidental overdose deaths passed vehicular deaths.

to those in the Black and Latino communities struggling with addiction, we may not have the opioid epidemic we do now. Naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug, is being offered over the counter in pharmacies across the country. It has sparked an increase in public education and awareness, which started after acciden-

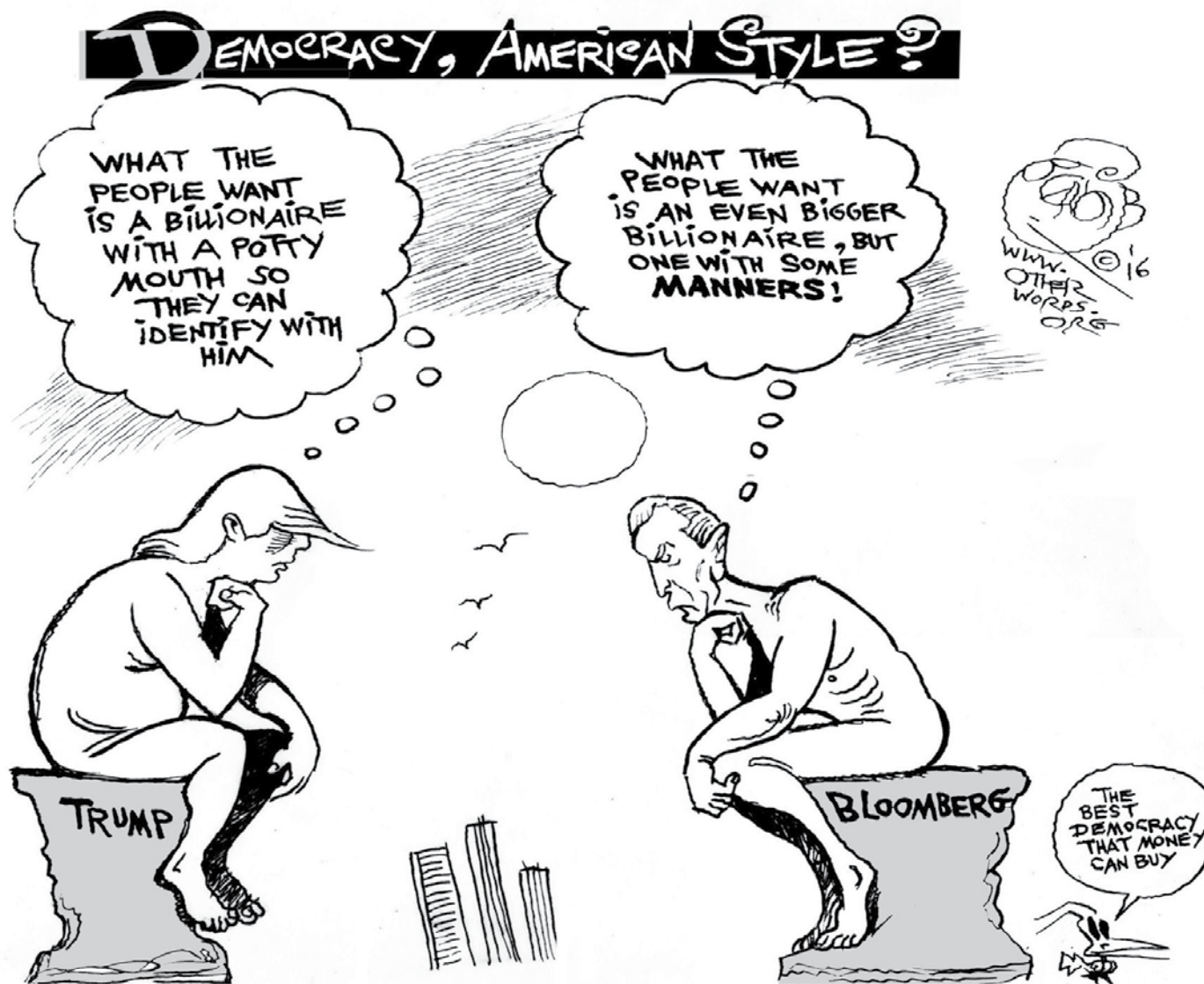
do not matter.

If black lives mattered, our government would not have tolerated a decades-long defeat in the war against drugs. If black lives mattered, Naloxone would have been available in every urban, health clinic starting in the 1970s. If black lives mattered, today's overdose crisis would be amelio-

for decades that white upper middle class people are dying in staggering numbers today. It's time to seriously take the call to honor black lives because when our lives matter, everyone benefits, including whites.

Kassandra Frederique is the New York state director for the Drug Policy Alliance.

OPINION



Gun Violence a Critical Public Health Issue

No time for talking and debating

BY BRIAN L. PAULING

100 Black Men of America, Inc. recently participated in a televised discussion on gun violence called "The Gun Fight." Since the taping of that show, gun violence in our communities has become even more personal because it has again directly impacted more of the youth we mentor.

Zaevion Dobson had been a mentee of 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville, Tenn. since he was 8 years old. The standout high school football player was attending a gathering of teammates and friends when a gunman drove by opening fire. Without regard for his own life, Zaevion dove on top of three young ladies to shield them. He gave his life that day. Weeks later in Washington, D.C., another one of our youth was walking down the street, when a car pulled up and one of its passengers said, "If you want to live, you need to run." He began running, and they began shooting.



The mentee was shot, but unlike Zaevion, he will survive. But with what scars?

I realize that there are many contributing factors to this carnage in our communities and no single answer to end this rampant disrespect for life. Too many people merely want to debate gun policy and gun laws, while

and ethnic demographic nationally. The FBI's 2014 Crime in the United States report found that 82 percent of whites murdered by guns were killed by other whites. Similarly, 90 percent of blacks murdered by guns were killed by other blacks.

The mental and physical health effects of gun violence, however, impact us all. If we don't stop the rhetoric and start investing in

provide guidance on setting and achieving goals, and demonstrate how to diffuse situations before they escalate to tragic consequences.

Our economic empowerment programs promote job skills training, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Our health and wellness initiatives increase students' school attendance rates, which have a direct impact on their ability to learn, earn and succeed. That's why education reform is one of our top priorities, and we are pushing hard in our advocacy efforts with local and national policymakers to ensure that every student in every community has access to high-performing schools and high-quality teachers.

Gun violence cut short the life of Zaevion Dobson, one so full of hope and promise. The time for talking and debating is over. We must take swift and decisive action to end this crisis in our communities before another precious life is needlessly lost.

Brian L. Pauling is national president and chief executive officer of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. To learn more about the organization and find a chapter in your community, visit 100blackmen.org.

The mental and physical health effects of gun violence, however, impact us all. If we don't stop the rhetoric and start investing in interventions that impact young people's lives, we will continue to suffer consequences of gun violence in cities nationwide.

our children are being murdered at places they are supposed to be – homes, churches, schools and playgrounds.

Gun violence is a critical public health issue impacting communities of every economic stature

interventions that impact young people's lives, we will continue to suffer consequences of gun violence in cities nationwide.

The mentoring services by 100 Black Men of America teach youth how to make better choices,



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Strong Start for International Film Fest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

all the heavy lifting that keeps the family in the horse-milk trade, and her in-laws fear the attention of a local meteorologist who is clearly sweet on their daughter-in-law. Her older son visits on holiday from his education in the city and, though the family way of life is prized by all, it seems unlikely to that he will return. This is an occasion to sink into a beautiful and unfamiliar world feeling the encroachment of change. Plays again on Feb. 20.

"April and the Extraordinary World," based on a graphic novel,

is a science fiction story set in an alternative reality, in which human technological progress is halted with the steam engine. Its main character is an orphan who comes from a long line of scientists who sought to formulate a serum that would perpetuate forms of life; her great grandfather only got so far as to make animals talk, which is how she came by a very charming talking cat. It's an extraordinarily inventive premise rendered in charming, hand-drawn animation -- and if the plot bogs down in over-complication at times, it is in most ways a real treat. Its American theatrical release will likely be

dubbed in English; I much prefer seeing films in the original language, and this subtitled French version including Marion Cotillard in the title role makes its alternative-Paris setting come alive. Plays again on Feb. 17.

"Landfill Harmonic" isn't necessarily a great film (though it's a perfectly fine one), but it is definitely a great story. A gentle and unassuming environmental engineer, Favio Chavz, went to work in a huge landfill in the capital of Paraguay, and was struck by the thousands of poor families who eke out a living sorting through the garbage for recyclable materi-



"Heavenly Nomadic" a dramatic film about a horse-herding family in Kyrgyzstan.

als that they can resell. Children in these families, he saw, lacked the means to dream -- and he reflected on the role that music had played in opening his own soul. Chavez began teaching music to the local kids, but lacked sufficient instruments -- and in truth, a violin costs more than a typical house for this population. Then his genius led him to another gentle and unassuming local man with a talent for building things, and that man (also possessed of a dogged determination) found ways to build quite usable instruments out of scraps from the landfill. Thus was born a quite talented children's orchestra that eventually caught the attention of the world media and the band Megadeth, and gained opportunities to tour around the world. A more humbling and inspiring story would be hard to come by. Plays again on Feb. 20 and 21.

"Above and Below" takes as its premise that there are people among us who are already, in a

sense, living in a post-apocalyptic world. It follows a handful of them -- a military vet participating in an experiment to simulate life on Mars in a remote part of Utah; a man who lives alone in an abandoned military bunker in Arizona; and a couple who take shelter in Las Vegas storm drains, a necessarily temporary existence that lasts only between rains. The director of this documentary takes a hands-off view of his subjects, mostly allowing them to talk about their day-to-day experience -- and I'm not sure the film adds much in the way of insight. Still, sitting with someone's story always has a purpose, and these folks on the fringes don't readily find an audience otherwise. Plays again on Feb. 24.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

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