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**Ballots Due**  
*High turnout  
expected*  
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**It Starts  
With You**  
*Community-based  
learning for local  
youth*  
See Metro, page 11

# The Portland Observer 46

'City of Roses'



Volume XLV  
Number 44



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Wednesday • November 2, 2016



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**46**  
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Nearly 70 years of Gordly family history and memories live in the walls of their childhood home at 4511 N. Williams Ave. Historical pictures (clockwise, from left) show parents Beatrice and Fay L. Gordly; the family's red couch where brother Tyrone Gordly sits next to his sisters Avel and Faye, Faye's new born daughter Michelle on her lap and Avel's young son Tyrone; Jefferson High School students sitting outside the home after an educational tour; and Avel and Faye as children.

## Preserving Black Portland Gordly family home to be cultural center

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dreams of a historic center to honor of

the black community and dispel Portland's designation as the "whitest major city in America" is the force behind a plan to

transform the home of one of Portland's most prominent African American figures into a home base for recognizing and pre-

serving the city's most repressed population.

On North Williams Avenue sits the childhood home of Oregon's first African American female senator, Avel Gordly and her sister Faye Burch, a small business owner and advocate.

The home has remained in the fami-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



# Corrections Facility Complaint

A complaint letter was sent to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee Tuesday calling for an external Department of Justice investigation into the practices at a local corrections facility.

Former employees of color at the Larch Department of Corrections in Yacolt claim they were discriminated and retaliated against after speaking up about

inappropriate contact between female employees and inmates, discriminatory hiring practices and nepotism.

Earl Ford, the executive director of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, sent the letter to the governor following a Legislative Listening Session.

Ford is also asking for the removal or transfer of current Larch

Department of Corrections Superintendent Lisa Oliver-Estes. He provided names of people he feels are suitable replacements, but wants a nationwide search for her replacement to occur.

Ford also insists on meeting with Inslee and other key Clark County legislators, demanding a list of available dates as soon as possible.

# The Week in Review

## PSU Footballer Arrested

A Portland State University football player faces charges in connection with the robberies of three convenience stores, the Duniway Market in southwest Portland and two east side Plaid Pantries. Jonathan David Boland, 19, was arrested last week. Investigators are also looking for two other suspects, Saadiq T. Calhoun and Emma M. Ogden, both 19.

## Malheur Protestors Win

Ammon Bundy and six other defendants in the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge last January were found not guilty Thursday of all counts, including conspiracy, theft and possession of firearms on federal property. Eleven co-defendants had previously pled guilty and the trial for seven other co-defendants will take place early next year.

## St. Johns Bike Fatality

Investigators have arrested a driver for criminally negligent homicide in the death of an avid bicyclist on the St. Johns Bridge. Mitchell Todd York, 55, was killed Saturday when he was hit by a vehicle driven by Joel Aaron Schrantz, 42. Police said he was driving on bald tires which caused him to lose control and fishtail into York.

## Party Offices Vandalized

A 47-year-old Ohio man was ar-

rested Monday and charged with criminal mischief for dumping a truckload of manure outside the Democratic headquarters in Lebanon, Ohio. This is the second time this has happened at the same political office, the first took place in 2012.

## Rock Sioux Kindred Protest

Hundreds of Portlanders gathered near Lloyd Center Monday to rally in solidarity with the protestors at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The demonstrations are fighting against the North Dakota Access Pipeline, where sacred land and access to water for tribes would be destroyed.

## Polls Flex as Election Nears

Just days before the Tuesday, Nov. 8 general election, the highly debated presidential race is seeing some movement in polling. One national poll out Tuesday showed Democrat Hillary Clinton now trailing Republican Donald Trump, 46 percent to 45 percent.

## Mystery Virus Strikes

Doctors in Washington are puzzled as a ninth child was taken to a Snohomish County hospital with symptoms of acute flaccid myelitis, a rare virus that is said to have already killed a 6-year-old Bellingham, Wash. boy over the weekend. Doctors are not sure where the virus started and how it's spreading.

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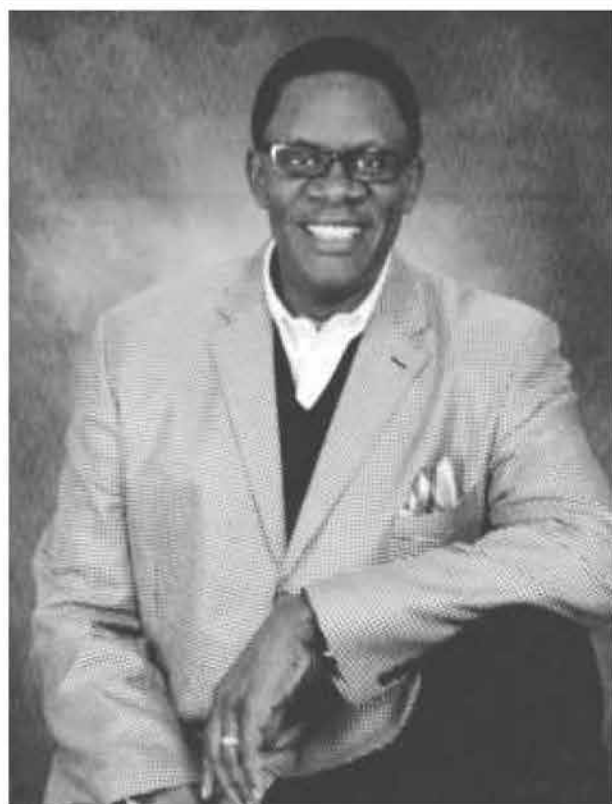
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early stages, so do Chiropractic checkups. Detected early, spinal defects are not only easier to treat, but may save a lot of pain and money, as well as reducing the chance of a disabling spinal disorder. To arrange for your checkup, or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, call our office at the number below.

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This page  
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What's on your list today?

## High Turnout Expected

Voting deadline  
Tuesday, Nov. 8  
at 8 p.m.

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The final countdown is on to elect a new president and decide the many local and state issues facing voters. In Oregon, ballots must be mailed in time to reach county elections offices by the voter deadline, which Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. If the ballots are not in the mail by Friday, voters are advised to hand deliver them before the deadline at an official county ballot drop off box or the county elections office.

The Multnomah County Elections Office expects this election to have the highest voter turnout in history. In preparation, the office



has taken steps to make the voting process easier. In the event that a voter hasn't received their ballot yet or needs a replacement, the Order Ahead Replacement Ballot Service was created to streamline the course.

The Elections Office has even extended its usual hours for serving the public. Instead of closing at 5 p.m., the office will be open until 7 p.m. weekdays from now until Election Day, with the office

also opening on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Voters are instructed to use only black or blue ball point pens when marking ballots. Using a felt tip pen or marker, for example, tends to bleed through the paper and leave unintentional marks on the ballot, elections officials warn.

It will only take one first-class stamp to get the ballot from your home to the elections office, and voters now have the option of tracking their ballot like a package. Multnomah County voters can sign up to receive alerts, such as once their ballot has been received or if any additional information is required for processing, by going to [multco.us/elections/track-your-ballot](http://multco.us/elections/track-your-ballot).

For other questions and information about the election, visit [mcelections.org](http://mcelections.org) or call the elections office at 503-988-3720.

## Oregon Civil Rights Lawyer Sues Discrimination claim rooted in racial profiling by white co-workers

Oregon's top civil rights lawyer has filed a federal lawsuit against his boss and others in the state Department of Justice over allegations of racial profiling after learning that his colleagues surveilled his Twitter account because one of his posts turned up in a search for the Black Lives Matter hashtag.

Erious Johnson, the department's civil rights director, said in the Oct. 26 lawsuit that the January 2015 tweet included a picture of the logo of the hip-hop group Public Enemy. The logo depicts a black man in silhouette in the crosshairs of a gun, but a state investigator mistook the black man for a police officer and wrote to his supervisor that Johnson could be a threat to police, court papers say.

That mistake led Johnson's colleagues within the department to compile a report on him and comb through his Twitter posts — all without his knowledge and while he continued to work alongside them, according to the lawsuit filed in Eugene.

In a separate civil rights complaint filed with the state earlier this year, Johnson said the surveillance wouldn't have happened "had I not been a black male" and "had my Twitter activity involved matters other than the lives and experiences of black people."

"I have been subjected to racial



Erious Johnson

discrimination and a hostile work environment for engaging in protected social media activity," Johnson wrote in his four-page complaint.

He also noted: "All of the individuals involved in perpetrating said racial discrimination and hostile work environment are Caucasian."

An outside investigation ordered by state Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum earlier this year found that the surveillance activity violated state law and department policies. Rosenblum is running for re-election on Nov. 8.

In a statement late Wednesday, spokeswoman Kristina Edmunson said Rosenblum considers Johnson a "valued member of her inner-cir-

cle staff" and had fired the state investigator who conducted the social media investigation.

Two other agency officials involved in the scandal have been replaced and anti-bias training will begin in a week, Edmunson said.

The incident began when the state investigator used a new computer program to search for social media posts in the Salem, Oregon area that included the hashtag Black Lives Matter and (expletive) the police.

The investigator had received the new program and was testing it out, said Johnson's civil rights attorney, Beth Creighton.

Johnson was only informed of the surveillance in October in a meeting with Rosenblum, who had become aware of the situation two weeks earlier and realized her investigators had overstepped.

"It's an incredible sense of betrayal. Now he's wondering what else they're looking into and who he can trust," said Creighton, his attorney. "It's a really important thing to be able to trust people when you're working in that kind of environment and advocating on civil rights issues in the state."

Johnson has continued to work at the state Department of Justice, Creighton said.

--Associated Press



# Street Tree Survey Completed

## Volunteers map health and diversity of plantings

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry staff and more than 1,300 volunteers have surveyed and mapped nearly every planted street tree in Portland -- almost 220,000 in all, covering all 96 of the city's neighborhoods.

The effort is key to help inform how PP&R manages Portland's urban forest going forward.

The trees, which are planted in the public rights-of-way, rather than on private property, have also been measured, identified, and each one's health rated as part of the city's first comprehensive inventory of street trees.

Findings from the tree inventory, which was completed in September, will be presented at the 2016 Tree Inventory Summit, a free public event this Saturday,



A measurement is taken of a street tree planted in the public right-of-way during an inventory of street trees in Portland.

Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Mt. Scott Community Center, 5530 S.E. 72nd Ave.

"Trees are a vital part of our city," says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "They

improve our health by cleaning the air we breathe and reducing summer heat impacts, provide habitat for wildlife, and make our neighborhoods more walkable and beautiful. I am pleased

that the Urban Forestry staff and our valued volunteers worked so hard on the Street Tree Inventory. Their work will help inform and guide stewardship of this valuable public asset."

Workers and volunteers spent approximately 17,000 hours on the project from 2010 through September 2016. Reports for individual neighborhoods are already available on Urban Forestry's web page. Residents are encouraged to check-out the information for their local street trees.

Preliminary findings from the survey have already been influencing the city's tree-related policies. For example, Portland is vulnerable to significant tree losses from pests and diseases as a result of a very high count of maple trees along city streets. Urban Forestry now requires property owners to plant alternative species when replacing and planting new street trees.

Also, given the low percentage of evergreen trees being planted, Urban Forestry has increased the number of evergreens on its approved planting lists from a handful to more than 20, and is encouraging evergreen planting.



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# Redeeming the Soul of America

## Lecture on race, justice and reconciliation

A pastor who is part of a new generation of ministers committed to community advancement and social justice activism will be the featured speaker when Concordia University hosts a public event to address racism, injustice, inequality and discrimination.

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago practices and teaches a Black theology that calls attention to the problems of mass incarceration, environmental justice and economic inequality.

He will join representatives of Oregon's Black, Latino, Asian and



Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III

Native American communities to discuss racism as they experience it today, during a public lecture on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at Concordia, located at 2811 N.E. Holman St.

The lecture, "Redeeming the Soul of America: Race, Justice and Reconciliation," is sponsored by the Collins Foundation, a signature event of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, to explore issues related to religion and social ethics.

For tickets and more information, visit [emoregon.org](http://emoregon.org) or call 503-221-1054.

## Fresh Chance Career Fair

Long term underemployed or unemployed residents looking to turn their lives around by making a living wage are invited to a special job fair this week sponsored by the community organization Straight Path, Inc.

The diverse northeast Portland organization serves the African American community and other populations to help individuals and families that have been stricken by poverty, institutionalization, criminal history, substance abuse and other issues affecting background checks and employment.

The group invites the public to its Fresh Chance Career Fair on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Portland Community College Metro Workforce Training Center, 5600 N.E. 42nd Ave. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 15 employers will be partici-

pating, including TriMet, Portland General Electric, Goodwill, UPS and other companies dedicated to

inclusion and diversity.

For more information, contact Straight Path's Clarence Larkins at 503-309-0663 or [Clarence@straightpathinc.org](mailto:Clarence@straightpathinc.org).

### The Law Offices of Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

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Attorney at Law

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3 A.M. - 7 A.M.  
TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.  
TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
REV. AL SHARPTON  
(KEEPING IT REAL)

1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
KENNY SMOOV

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
D.L. HUGHLEY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
MIKE SHANNON

#### SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.  
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6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL  
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# OPINION

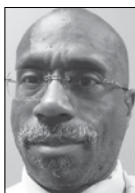


## Disarming Racist and Anti-immigrant Attitudes

### Healing the divisions of wedge politics

BY ISAIAH J. POOLE

Since 2011, Maine's bombastic Republican Gov. Paul LePage has given America a taste of what it might be like to live under a Donald Trump presidency.



Like Trump, LePage has made outrageous comments against immigrants and communities of color. They include telling the NAACP to "kiss my butt," publicly complaining about "guys with the name D-Money, Smoothie, Shifty" selling drugs and impregnating "young, white" girls, and blaming "illegals" for spreading diseases like HIV — all while cutting funding to cities that offered health care and other assistance to undocumented immigrants.

After five years of LePage practicing an extreme form of wedge politics, people like Ben Chin are working to heal the resulting divisions in Maine.

Chin, the 31-year-old grandson of an undocumented Chinese im-

migrant, has been working with the Maine People's Alliance to rally support from white working class neighborhoods for a series of progressive ballot measures this November.

Countering the racist and nativist appeals of candidates like LePage and Trump, their goal is to get people to reject the politics of scapegoating immigrants and people of color and to instead focus on the real causes of — and solutions to — their economic distress.

"We're starting out a conversation in which we're making it clear we're on their side," Chin said in a recent phone interview. "That's the foundation that gets laid for whatever comes next."

These conversations are based on the research and experience of a broad range of grassroots organizations that have been struggling to get working-class white voters across the nation to see beyond the color line.

Chin got a personal taste of division politics when he was racially caricatured during his 2015 run for mayor of Lewiston, Maine. During his campaign, a local businessman paid for billboards that said, "Don't vote for Ho Chi Chin. Vote for more jobs not more welfare."

Since then, Chin's turned his

political focus to ballot initiatives that include increasing the state's minimum wage and levying a 3 percent tax on household incomes over \$200,000 a year.

Chin and his fellow Maine People's Alliance members don't have a "silver bullet" set of talking points that disarms the people they encounter with racist or anti-immigrant attitudes. Instead, they focus on questions that get people to think about their economic anxieties in a deeper way.

One question they ask is, "Why do you think some people are poor and other people are rich?"

That opens up a discussion about the ways a small group of the wealthy and powerful are stacking the economic deck against ordinary people of all colors, with their black and brown neighbors feeling it the most because of America's history of systemic racism.

Chin said he was particularly struck by a recent conversation with a voter in Auburn, Maine. The voter was undecided about whether to support a referendum that would increase the state's wage to \$12 an hour by 2020.

"One of his ideas was that 'certain people' were going to get a wage increase," Chin said. "We tried to unpack that."

They talked about his life experiences and whether he really believed that increasing the minimum wage was about helping some "certain" group of undeserving freeloaders.

Chin said that though this voter wasn't a "raging justice activist" by the end of their conversation, he was more thoughtfully considering the minimum wage.

Conversations like these are happening in many states around the country this election season, as progressives grapple with the mainstreaming of racist and nativist appeals by Trump and other far-right politicians.

These types of empathetic conversations are the nemesis of the conservative-corporate elite who have engineered extreme wealth inequality and, for too many, the disappearance of the American dream.

The last thing politicians who benefit from wedge politics want to see is working people across the nation transcending racial and cultural lines, and realizing those same politicians are the common source of their pain.

Isaiah J. Poole is the communications director at People's Action. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



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# OPINION

## Nat Turner's Mental and Military Motivations

### Resistance was constant and two fold

BY EZRAH AHARONE

Nate Parker's movie *The Birth of a Nation* has revived the question: What caused Nat Turner's 1831 uprising? Turner, first of all, was not a deranged



misfit who acted outside of a historical context of previous African freedom fighters. Throughout slavery's duration, resistance was not only constant and fatal, but two fold, Africans equally resisted both slavery and Americanization.

Contrary to popular "feel good" versions of history, the "fight against slavery" should not be presumed as a "fight to become American." For enslaved Africans like Turner, Americanization was the obstacle -- not the vehicle -- to the freedom they sought.

A largely overlooked factor that forged Africans into Americans was their inability to muster enough weapons to militarily free themselves from Americaniza-

tion. Along with the 2nd Amendment which allowed whites to bear arms, slavery was also backed by America's military, which is why 800 soldiers deployed against Turner. Within this context of warfare (which fomented at least 313 recorded armed uprisings), there is provable evidence that Africans became Americans -- not by virtue of winning the Civil War -- but by virtue of prior military defeats.

CNN Town Halls won't discuss this, but numerous captives were already soldiers in Africa beforehand, who like Turner, held deep monotheistic beliefs. Once in America these battle-tested troops launched guerilla forms of warfare whenever possible, using whatever weapons possible, with clear theological convictions that fused spirituality with revolution. Naturally, after being forcibly uprooted 5,000 miles from long-lived kingdoms and cultures, they deemed Euro-Americans as new adversaries, and Americanization was certainly not their goal.

This explains why tens of thousands of Africans militarily fought with the British against America

during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Plus, another 100,000 fled or died fleeing to join British forces. Conclusive stats are unknown, but from a sheer combat perspective, the Revolutionary War could be framed as the largest uprising of Africans who ever unified to militarily free themselves from Americanization, including Africans reportedly owned by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Despite being defeated, it is still necessary to credit legitimacy to such Africans, beyond distorted narratives that label Turner an "African American" even though men like him sought America's military downfall. Olaudah Equiano (an Ibo, captured at age 11, who published the first surviving "slave account" in 1789: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*) wrote, "When you make men slaves, you compel them to live with you in a state of war." Once freed in 1792, he bolted like lightning to England.

Haiti's independence (1804) ignited further military motivations. On July 4th, 1804, instead of recognizing US independence, hundreds of blacks in Philadelphia stormed Independence Hall to live

Haitian independence vicariously. Flanked in military formations, they carried swords and attacked whites for two days, chanting "We will show them [whites] St. Domingo [bloodshed like Haiti]."

So, by the dawn of his 1831 uprising, Turner was just one cog in a long continuum of such idealists. Other notable military operations involved Fort Mose in Florida (1738-1763); the Stono Uprising in South Carolina (1739); the German Coast Uprising in Louisiana (1811); Negro Fort in Florida (1815); and David Walker's Appeal (1828) advocated revolution and religion (even though Walker was more an assimilationist than sovereignist).

Men like Turner also equated themselves to other hemispheric freedom fighters (in nations like Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Columbia) who gained independence, including Euro-Americans. For example, before being hanged for their 1800 planned uprising, one of Gabriel Prosser's soldiers retorted, "I have nothing more to offer than what General [George] Washington would have had to offer, had he been taken by the British and put to trial. I have adventured my life in endeavoring to obtain the

liberty of my countrymen, and am a willing sacrifice in their cause." Translation, he meant, "Bring It: I stand upon universal principles of freedom that -- just like you -- I will never compromise."

Interestingly, in a 60 Minutes interview, Nate Parker paralleled Nat Turner to George Washington in terms of their shared idealisms to "Birth a Nation." From this perspective, whether you agree or disagree with Turner's guerilla tactics, his comparative cause to end tyranny was no less honorable than America's founders.

Tyranny however can be a very peculiar and subjective creature, since "one man's tyranny can be another man's liberty." Hence, George Washington, who enslaved and tyrannized over 300 Africans is deified on Mt. Rushmore as a hero, while conversely, Nat Turner who fought against slavery's tyranny is demonized as a savage. To this contradiction, James Baldwin once quipped, "In the U.S., violence and heroism have been made synonymous . . . except when it comes to blacks."

*Ezrah Aharone is an adjunct associate professor of political science at Delaware State University.*

## His Bigoted Majesty Protects Harmful Language

### The ridicule of preferred pronouns

BY JILL RICHARDSON

A University of Michigan student has officially changed his personal pronoun to "His Majesty."



The student, who is politically conservative, did so to call attention to and ridicule the university policy which allows students to select their own designated personal pronouns.

A personal pronoun is the term others use to refer to you when they don't use your name: he, she, her, him, they, them, etc. The English language doesn't offer a gender-neutral singular pronoun other than "it," but we generally do not use the objectifying term "it" to refer to people.

Most of us are assigned a sex at birth -- male or female -- and we grow into the corresponding gender identity that matches our sex. That gender binary dominates

our western social structure and is instilled in us from birth.

From the moment the doctors told my mom "It's a girl," I began to identify as a woman. It's a privilege that I've never felt the categories of "man" and "woman" constrain me in any way. I embrace my womanhood. I am attracted to men.

But that's not so for all Americans.

Society viewed Caitlyn Jenner as the all-American masculine ideal until she publicly came out as a transwoman. And some people don't feel like they belong to either gender at all. The "norm" of binary classification doesn't account for people who are transgender, intergender, genderqueer, agender, or genderfluid.

As an educator, I have students of all backgrounds in my classes. And I've learned it's not wise to make assumptions about my students.

It's not my business who's questioning their gender or sexual orientation, or who grew up poor, or who has a mental illness -- but

all of those situations and more may be going on in my students' lives.

They're all my students. I want to make our classroom a comfortable environment for learning, and that includes referring to them by the personal pronoun they identify with.

His Majesty, at the University of Michigan, is attempting to show that students who change their pronouns are doing so arbitrarily, with no basis in reality.

His Majesty is likely a straight white man. If so, he's probably never had to deal with misogyny, homophobia, or racism. He's likely never had to act a role prescribed by society as masculine even though it didn't fit the person he knew himself to be.

Often it's people like him -- those in the most privileged demographics of our society -- who balk at "political correctness."

It's silly, they may think, even arbitrary, as His Majesty contends. Or it's an annoying way that people try to police the behavior of others for no good reason.

But political correctness is not

an end in itself. There are real harms inflicted upon those whose identities are erased by society. And they start with homo and transphobic jokes, language, or publicity stunts -- calling yourself "His Majesty," for example -- at the expense of transgender and genderqueer people.

Those who oppose "political correctness" are simply trying to remain at the top of an unjust society and shield themselves from their own intolerance.

Preferred personal pronouns help to ensure that already marginalized groups are not excluded

and recognize the real pain that insensitivity causes. And while you may not personally understand the life experiences of someone very different from you, that doesn't mean you can't be kind to them.

In short, another phrase for "political correctness" is "not being a jerk," and the University of Michigan is taking the right steps in helping to foster a safe learning environment for every student.

*OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It.*

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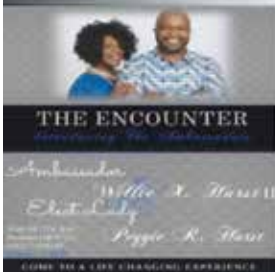
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Portland Fire and Rescue personnel give a lesson on fire suppression to students from the Youth Disaster Academy at Benson High School in northeast Portland.

# Preparing for Disaster

## Benson students learn preparedness

Portland Public Schools, in partnership with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, Portland Fire & Rescue and Oregon Office of Emergency Management, recently engaged approximately 100 Benson High School students in emergency preparedness skills training.

The fire and rescue contingent gathered at the northeast Portland school during the Oct. 20 Oregon Shakeout, an event designed to encourage folks

to engage in emergency preparedness activities at home, work, school, in faith communities and neighborhoods.

Students from Benson's Youth Disaster Academy participated in several activities, including a drop, cover and hold drill to prepare for a major earthquake. Other safety instruction included hands-only CPR, an introduction to search and rescue and medical triage, small fire suppression, radio communications and an overview of local hazards.

Students also received copies of a new comic book about tsunamis, Oregon Emergency Management collaboration with Dark Horse Comics of Portland.

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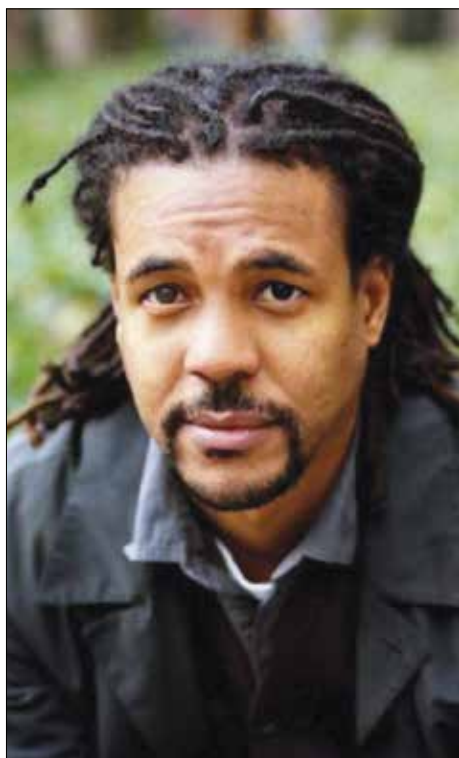
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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Colson Whitehead



Yaa Gyasi

## Portland's Book Festival

Wordstock to connect authors to readers of all ages

On Saturday, Nov. 5, readers of all ages will come face to face with hundreds of authors and book vendors as Wordstock:

Portland's Book Festival is held at six venues surrounding the Portland Art Museum, downtown.

There will be events for kids and adults, including 15 writing workshops for aspiring and established writers, food carts and live music. Two free workshops for young writers are planned.

The lineup of authors scheduled to at-

tend is diverse. African-American authors of national acclaim will headline some of the events, writers like Colson Whitehead of New York who wrote "The Underground Railroad," and Ghana-born and Alabama raised author Yaa Gyasi who wrote "Homegoing," a portrait of the slave trade.

Wordstock is sponsored by Literary Arts, a community-based nonprofit literary organization. Advance tickets are \$15 and admission is free for those 17 and younger. A full lineup is available at literary-arts.org.

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

### Fort Vancouver Veterans

**Parade** -- The Fort Vancouver National Trust will host their 30th annual Veterans Parade at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, rain or shine. A ceremony preceding the parade, beginning at 10 a.m. will take place at the fort's Marshall House lawn with featured speakers. The public is encouraged to attend and support veterans and troops.

### Confronting a Shameful History



-- Ryun Yu stars in "Hold These Truths," a play about a civil rights hero from Seattle who fights government orders during World War II to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. Plays through Nov. 13 at Ellyn Bye Studio. Tickets start at \$25. Visit pcs.org, phone 503-445-3700 or

stop by the box office, 128 N.W. 11th Ave

**Clothing Closet** -- Each first Saturday of the month, a complimentary breakfast and clothing drive takes place at First AME Zion Church, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave. The goal is to clothe and feed Portland one person at a time. For more information, call Nydia Campbell-Pullom at 503-317-1089.

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

**El Muerto Vagabundo** -- Latino theater group Milagro explores homelessness in a play about a homeless orphan who makes a Day of the Dead offering to summon his parents and a tramp who mistakenly takes the offer for himself. Now playing through Nov. 6 at El Centro Milagro, 525 S.E. Stark St. Tickets are available at milagro.org or 503-236-7253. Discounts for students, seniors, veterans, groups and residents with Oregon Trail cards.



### Norman Sylvester

-- 'Boogie Cat' Norman

Sylvester and his band play Saturday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. for the toy run benefit at Trail's End Saloon in Oregon City; Friday, Nov. 11 at the Rouge Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Spare Room.

### Democracy's Blueprints

-- The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and other bedrock documents that laid the foundation of American democracy are on view in a new exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown, through Feb. 1.



**Blast Off to Space Exploration** -- The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) take guests through an out-of-this-world experience with Journey to Space: The Exhibition, featuring hands-on experiences that will give visitors an up-close look at what it takes to live, work, and survive in the extraordinary environment of space. The Exhibition runs through Jan. 8. To learn more visit omsi.edu.

**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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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland businessman Mims Rouse Jr. and longtime Portland educator Carolyn Leonard oversee a pilot educational program at First AME Zion Church to help African American males and men reach their full potential.

A pilot program geared to African-American boys and men to help them achieve better results in reading skills and study habits is a new community-based approach that backers hope will unlock barriers and help our young people reach their full potential.

Portland businessman Mims Rouse Jr., founder of the African-American XY Program LLC, is enrolling student participants in his education enhancement initiative "It Starts with Them" at First AME Zion Church on the corner of North Vancouver Avenue and Skidmore Street.

The program's three main goals are awakening African-American boys and men to their full potential, closing the wealth gap between blacks and their peers, and serving as a positive response to anecdotal evidence and statistical data revealing a cradle-to-grave incarceration pipeline for African-American males.

Currently open to 8th graders and beyond, including college level and adult learners, the ultimate goal is to serve our young people and adults with proven educational methods at churches serving the black community at home and around the county, as well as other organizations.

Mims says too many young black males and African American men are woefully unprepared educationally

# It Starts With Them Community based learning serves local youth

because they are left behind by an inadequate education system, social environment, and/or the political power structure.

He cites statistics that show in reading skills, only 10 percent of African American boys in the 8th grade have reached the benchmarks for educational proficiency. Compared to white males, black males are overrepresented by 600 percent in the prison system while making up only 6 percent of the general population.

The keys to success, Mims says, is having the right mixture of reading skills and study habits, external support from family members and the community, and a healthy sense of self-worth.

To ensure the success of "It Starts With Them," he sought counsel from highly regarded teachers, education administrators, pastors, activists, parents and others in the Portland community.

Combining positive adult mentoring with proven education strategies are resources that can help keep a child from being swept into the prison pipeline at an early age, breaking a vicious cycle, Mims says. "We must resist the low lying fruit of building more prisons as a solution to this crisis."

For a calendar of events and to learn more about "It Starts with Them," visit the program's website at [AfricanAmerican-XY.com](http://AfricanAmerican-XY.com) or send an email to [Contact@AfricanAmerican-XY](mailto:Contact@AfricanAmerican-XY).



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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## The How and the Why

Gwendolyn Duffy and Karen Trumbo are a mother and daughter who explore feminism in 'The How and Why,' now playing through Nov. 19 at Coho Productions, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. The fascinating play is a collision of two sharp minds in an emotional debate from playwright Sarah Treem, the writer of *House of Cards* and *In Treatment*.

PHOTO BY  
OWEN CAREY



Singer-songwriter Chaz Bundick of Toro Y Moi filming on the Trona Desert of Southern California.

## Grounded to Music and Nature

A singer-songwriter from South Carolina who has a new live album and concert film performed under the stars of the Trona Desert of Southern California is bringing his national concert tour to Portland.

Chaz Bundick and his band

Toro Y Moi will perform Wednesday, Nov. 9 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N. Russell St.

"Live from Trona," was filmed amidst the reddish-orange monoliths of the Trona Desert where the band is perfectly at one with its surround-

ings, making the production not only a breathtaking audiovisual experience, but one that evokes an appreciation for the magic of the wilderness.

Bundick says of his music and nature, "They are just the two essential parts of life."



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A rare 35 mm screening of 'Mr. Holland's Opus,' the 1995 hit that was filmed at Grant High School starring Richard Dreyfuss, will be presented on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland.

## Encore for Mr. Holland's Opus

### Special screening for Portland made film

On Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland, All Classical Portland and Edmund Stone of The Score present a rare 35mm film screening of the highly acclaimed and locally filmed "Mr. Holland's Opus."

The family-friendly drama starring Richard Dreyfuss as a high school teacher on a mission to

share his love of music with his students was filmed in the summer of 1995 at Grant High School.

Featuring composer Michael Kamen's "An American Symphony" (Mr. Holland's Opus), which won the 1997 Grammy for Best Instrumental Arrangement, the film also received several Oscar nominations. Subsequent to the movie's success, Kamen also created the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, which has helped deliver music instruments to hundreds of underfunded school music programs.

The Hollywood Theatre will

celebrate the 20th anniversary of the release of the film with this special screening. Portlanders who participated in the making of the film are encouraged to bring their production stories to share following the movie in a moderated discussion led by Portland film archivist and Hollywood Theatre Board Member, Greg Hamilton.

Tickets are \$8 and available at [hollywoodtheatre.org](http://hollywoodtheatre.org) or by calling 503-281-4215.

## Poet Advocates for Youth

A community poet shaped by his experience of growing up black in Portland and being the youngest of four brothers in a single parent household is on a mission to advocate for youth through his writings and actions.

Montrell Goss, also known as "God's Instrument" is working on book number five since he published his first book, Judgement Day, a compilation of personal opinions about faith, struggle and life when he was just 20-years-old.

Goss found himself having to make decisions early on in life about the kind of man he wanted to become. His teenage years were filled with extracurricular activities that allowed him the opportunity to work with his peers and others younger than him. By 19, he started to get stronger in faith and that's when he got serious about his writing.

As an adult, he remains committed to a vision of change and youth advocacy through his writing while also mentoring youth as a way to give back to the community.

Goss believes that people



Montrell Goss

shouldn't let yesterday stop them from being better people today.

Stay tuned for the release date for his new publication. For more information, visit [gospelnerdzinc.wixsite.com/godsinstrument](http://gospelnerdzinc.wixsite.com/godsinstrument).

## Obituaries



### In Loving Memory

#### Barbara J. Daniels

Barbara J. Daniels of Portland died Sept. 30, 2016. She was born July 16, 1932 in Kansas City, Mo.



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These opportunities are open to First Opportunity Target Area (FOTA) residents: This area includes the following zip codes located primarily in N, NE and a small portion of SE Portland: 97024, 97030, 97203, 97211, 97212, 97213, 97216, 97217, 97218, 97220, 97227, 97230, 97233, 97236, and 97266, whose total annual income was less than \$47,000 for a household of up to two individuals or less than \$65,000 for a household of three or more.

Visit [oregonmetro.gov/FOTA](http://oregonmetro.gov/FOTA) for the complete job announcement and a link to our online hiring center or visit our lobby kiosk at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland.

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## Senior Construction Diversity Coordinator (BOLD LETTERS)

Are you passionate about social equity, construction and real estate development? Are you interested in creating new economic opportunity historically disadvantaged and underutilized contractors through catalytic projects across Portland? PDC is seeking a dynamic professional with the skills and experience to manage PDC's construction equity program in close collaboration with internal and external partners.

The Senior Construction Diversity Coordinator reports to PDC's Development Manager; works closely with PDC's real estate and development project managers; and ensures equitable construction, workforce, and apprenticeship objectives are met within all PDC real estate projects. Key responsibilities include acting as ambassador to contractors, developers, public agencies, community organizations and PDC staff to understand barriers within the contracting industry; identify and advertise opportunities; develop partnerships and increase positive outcomes on projects in which PDC invests. The Senior Construction Diversity Coordinator designs and implements new programmatic approaches, develops new strategic partnerships, ensures compliance with policy objectives and evaluates performance against project and program goals.

The ideal candidate will be an expert in construction with significant knowledge of regulations regarding workforce, certified firms and affirmative action with at least seven years of related experience. They will have strong interpersonal skills, demonstrated success in working with diverse partners, and excellent communication skills. They will enjoy analyzing, organizing and reporting on complex information using spreadsheets and be have strong negotiation and facilitation skills. They will be committed to social equity, build and maintain positive and productive relationships and be committed to the agency's mission of creating economic growth opportunity for all.

The selected candidate will oversee the agency's next disparity study to support PDC's equitable contracting efforts. The candidate will also manage implementation of new software to publically report on contracting outcomes and work with colleagues and partners to develop programs/initiatives that increase the diversity of prime contractors on PDC projects.

Under minimal supervision, plans, coordinates, and implements PDC's Equity Policy, Procedures and Specifications on all PDC real estate projects. Leads internal and external outreach, training, and implementation to achieve more equitable outcomes in PDC's real estate projects. Develops partnerships with public, private, and community-based organizations to maximize participation of women and minorities in all aspects of PDC-sponsored real estate development and construction. Provides expertise and innovative ideas to improve contracting plans and implementation. Oversees the development and maintenance of appropriate databases and reports to track compliance with business and workforce equity goals. Develops and coordinates PDC programs to increase minority and women prime contractors. Administers PDC contracts, grants, and sponsorships with and represents PDC to organizations that support minority and women contractors, journey workers and apprentices. Reports project and program progress and outcomes to internal and external stakeholders. Projects and programs are highly visible and subject to considerable interest by key stakeholders.

Coordinates with internal staff, project related development teams, and partners in the contracting field to achieve PDC's real estate and construction equity performance. Administers changes and recommendations to the business and workforce components to PDC's Equity Policy and accompanying administrative procedures.

### Salary

\$ \$79,590 - \$104,805 annually

**To apply:** visit [www.pdc.us](http://www.pdc.us) for the complete job announcement and a link to our online hiring center. PDC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Please note: this recruitment closes on November 13, 2016.

## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

### Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters Project Structural Steel

Structural Steel Furnish and Install

**Bid Date: November 15, 2016 at 2:00 PM**

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on October 27, 2016 at 1:00PM at the JE Dunn Office

Bid Documents are available electronically at the following FTP site  
Address: <ftp://ftp.jedunn.com>

Username: hhdh | Password: 13083700-2016

Contact Kyle Boehnlein with any questions

[Kyle.Boehnlein@JEDunn.com](mailto:Kyle.Boehnlein@JEDunn.com) | (503) 972-6181



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# Preserving Black Portland

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ly since its purchase in 1949 and remains an important piece of the family’s history. Gordly and Burch recall a time when the neighborhood was the center of African American culture and predominately populated by black people – a history that newly developed condos, brew pubs and boutiques have seemingly erased.

“I remember walking down the street and stopping in all of the black businesses. They all knew us and knew our family,” says Burch. “It was very much home for us and we miss all of that being on Williams Avenue. We miss this generation being able to experience that as we did.”

The seed to make the home a community space happened during a bus tour organized two years ago to showcase the continual changes to the historically black neighborhoods along the Williams and North Vancouver Avenue corridors.

Burch and Gordly shared the nostalgia for the old black belt of the city with an array of Portland leaders at the time who would echo their concerns, including representatives from Portland Development Commission, the mayor’s office, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Tony Hopson of Self Enhancement Inc.,

the Urban League of Portland, Maxine Fitzpatrick of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives and longtime black business leader Paul Knauls, the unofficial “Mayor of Northeast Portland.”

“We didn’t want to be a part of this change; we wanted to do something to support the community that’s there,” says Burch. “We had no interest in selling out to the highest bidder who would turn it into a doggie daycare or an ice cream shop,” adds Gordly.

After discussions with the PDC and other potential partnering organizations on the possibility of their former home becoming an African American cultural center, the sisters’ idea eventually worked its way to Mayor Hales, who expressed full support of their concept.

“We were looking at ways to keep this an integrated community. You’re not going to find a lot of people of color living in those condos,” says Burch. “We’re very supportive of keeping some semblance of history.”

Such support, along with the obvious need to appreciate and preserve Portland’s black culture, led the PDC to approve by a 5-0 vote last month to bring the center to life. The project is backed by three nonprofits, SEI, the Portland African American Leadership Forum and the Oregon Historical Society. SEI and PAALF will serve

as the legal buyers of the house, located at 4511 N. Williams Ave.

According to a report drafted by PDC Executive Director Kimberly Branam, PDC will provide a \$495,000 commercial property redevelopment loan for purchasing and converting the home into a cultural center. The commission will also provide an additional \$82,000 grant to support PAALF’s preparation of a business and redevelopment plan, obtaining permits, maintenance, utilities, etc.

“It’s a really unique circumstance and the PDC felt that given the uniqueness of the situation and the interest of the community, OHS and the partnership with PAALF that it was important enough for us to support,” says Branam.

It was previously reported by the Willamette Week that PDC’s financial involvement “violates” PDC’s loan guidelines. While Branam acknowledges the somewhat unorthodox investment, she says no violations technically occurred.

The decision was more so a slight bending of rules; a bending deemed necessary by all parties involved to fight back against the state’s known trouble with race relations. Branam is confident in PDC’s decision and insists that the money the commission has provided could be paid back by sell-

ing the home, if it comes to that.

“There are no violations, there were some exceptions to PDC rules for granting this kind of investment, but those were exceptions they chose to make due to their valuing of the project,” says Gordly. “It was wrong for anyone else in the community to pick up that verbiage and say this violates anything. It’s disrespectful.”

Gordly and Burch have been strong proponents of using allotted public resources to build more affordable housing to address a housing crisis that impacts people of color and other disadvantaged residents and fight the displacement caused by gentrification.

“We certainly have done our part to ensure there is additional housing, more housing that black people can return to. The cultural center is a mark of our place in history and of black people’s place in Oregon history,” says Gordly. “I reject the notion of backlash. It’s a misunderstanding of appreciating who we are as activists and people who live here.”

Examples of housing and cultural preservation exist nationally, like the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum that contains over two million artifacts mainly focusing on African American culture in Southern California and the West Coast.

The Gordly House as a cultural center is in its very early stages so it’s undecided when it will open, how it will be ran and exactly

what will be featured in it. Branam says the ideal outcome would be to have the center open in the next three to four years, but is leaving the ultimate plans to PAALF.

PAALF imagines it as a general meeting space for black organizations, a home base for them and their PAALF Leadership Academy and a resource space for artifacts specific to black history in Oregon, like church records, books, articles and photos. The advocates envision members of the black community being trained as community archivists and docents, opening African American relics to the public and giving informative guided tours of center.

Gordly and Burch wish to remain involved in the project but from a supportive distance, seeking above all else to be sure that the African American history of north and northeast Portland is truly remembered.

“The history I think we’re concerned about preserving is more than the house -- it’s the street, the neighborhood and the corridor and making sure that those stories are not lost,” says Gordly. “It’s significant for a black-owned property to have been in its family hands for that long. We would hope that black people that have remaining properties on Williams or anywhere else be thinking intentionally about how to hold on to and transfer that wealth to make sure it stays in that family and in that community.”



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# It Does Good Things™

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CALENDAR November 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	<div>1</div> <div><b>National Author's Day</b> <i>Electric Light Bulb Patented (1879)</i> <b>National Family Literacy Day</b></div>	<div>2</div> <div><i>Daniel Boone born, 1734</i> <i>International Space Station Opened in 2000</i></div>	<div>3</div> <div><b>National Sandwich Day</b></div>	<div>4</div> <div><i>Gail Haley born, 1939</i> <i>First Wagon Train Reached California (1841)</i></div>	<div>5</div> <div><b>Guy Fawkes Day</b></div>	<div>6</div> <div><i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> <i>National Nachos Day</i></div>
<div>7</div> <div> <i>Hug-a-Bear Day</i> <i>Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867</i></div>	<div>8</div> <div><b>Young Reader's Day</b> <i>X-Ray Day, discovered on this day in 1895</i></div>	<div>9</div> <div><i>Capital Punishment abolished in the U.K. in 1998</i> <i>Great Boston Fire 1872</i></div>	<div>10</div> <div><i>Sesame Street Debuted in 1969</i> <i>First iPod Sold in 2001</i></div>	<div>11</div> <div><i>Remembrance Day In Canada</i> <b>Veteran's Day</b></div>	<div>12</div> <div><i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Women's Rights Leader, was born in 1815</i></div>	<div>13</div> <div><i>Mom's and Dad's Day</i> <i>Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982</i></div>





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