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Happy New Year!

The Portland Observer 47

'City of Roses'



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PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

McCoy Academy Founder and Executive Director Becky Black and Director of Program Development Katie Carpenter stand in front the school's life-size mural of Martin Luther King Jr. as they look for support to save the academy which is facing displacement from plans to demolish the King Neighborhood building that houses the academy.

Counting on a Miracle

McCoy Academy faces closure

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

McCoy Academy, a non-profit private high school serving underserved students in Portland for more than a generation is facing closure. The landmark 110-year-old house converted into a school on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard where McCoy is headquartered was recently sold to make way for condominiums.

The construction plans by new owners of the building have placed the school in jeopardy, according to school leaders. A desperate fundraising campaign to help save the school has been launched. An estimated \$50,000 will be needed for McCoy to pay for a lease on a new building and another \$4,278 to pay off the outstanding debt on its current site.

Named after the late Gladys McCoy, a former Multnomah County chairperson, school board member, and the first African American elected to public office in Oregon, McCoy Academy has been a

community fixture since 1988, providing a safe space where disadvantaged students are given the opportunity to graduate from high school or get a GED.

Many of its students face considerable challenges: Criminal backgrounds, gang ties, substance and alcohol abuse, anxiety, teen pregnancy and homelessness. They come to McCoy with holes in their education and unstable family lives. They often have behavioral issues after facing problems as children. Many of the students have been expelled from other schools or have had a difficult time functioning in

larger schools with multiple class rooms and teachers. McCoy students get one-on-one support and someone to listen, to trust and believe in their potential.

Without a building, the 15 students currently enrolled in the school will have few options, and according to McCoy Academy Director and Founder Becky Black, will face the likely prospect of not finishing their education. There's an even longer waiting list of students who would like to attend the school

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Harmful Mass Incarceration

A new women's prison won't solve the problem

BY BOBBIN SINGH
AND JULIA YOSHIMOTO

As we prepare to enter a new year, Oregon's prison system is facing up to the real-world impact of mass incarceration. The U.S. locks up more people per capita than anywhere else on the planet. While awareness of the deeply damaging impacts of trying to use prison to solve many of our social problems is thankfully growing, we aren't working fast enough to restrain prison growth in our state.

Oregon, for example, faces the prospect of opening a second prison for women due to overcrowding at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, south of Portland. Coffee Creek opened in 2001 and is currently the only prison for women in Oregon. It was designed to house 1,253 women, with a maximum capacity of 1,280 inmates. When those numbers are exceeded,



BY BOBBIN SINGH

ed, the additional prison capacity must be accommodated at the Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum Security Annex in Salem.

Unfortunately, for many months now there have been more than 1,280 women at Coffee Creek. Something must be done to address this overcrowding for the safety and well-being of the women housed there and the staff working there.

The Department of Corrections' proposal to open a second women's prison to solve overcrowding comes with a substantial price tag. It would cost nearly \$4 million to get OSP-Minimum ready to open to women and a further \$17.5 million to run it for two years. So far, legislators have been unwilling to support this huge cost and have in-

stead encouraged stakeholders in the criminal justice system to look for ways to reduce the women's prison population enough to remove the need to open OSP-Minimum.

It wouldn't take much. A reduction of just a few dozen women would be enough to avoid opening a second prison and it's about time that Oregon started tackling the over-incarceration of women.

Consider the facts of female incarceration in Oregon as recorded by the impartial Oregon Criminal Justice Commission: In the last 20 years, the women's prison population has tripled. While other states have woken up to the ineffectiveness of incarceration as a way of

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Emmett Till Bill Signed

President Obama signed the Emmett Till Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act Tuesday to allow the Department of Justice and the FBI to reopen civil rights crimes committed before 1980. The bill is named after the Chicago boy who was kidnapped and lynched in Mississippi in 1955 for whistling at a white woman.

Princess Leia Actress Dies

Carrie Fisher, the child of Hollywood royalty, author, screenwriter and actress who rose to fame with her role as the intergalactic heroine Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" film series, died Tuesday after suffering a heart attack aboard a plane a few days earlier. Fisher was 60 years old.



Driver Dies Hitting Bus

An elderly woman possibly hit the gas pedal instead of the brakes before colliding with the back of a TriMet bus Saturday afternoon.

The Week in Review

Portland Police said Jeanne Carroll Lincoln, 88, died after her Honda car rear-ended the bus on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Alberta Street.

Trooper Shot Investigating

An Oregon State trooper remained in critical condition Tuesday after he was shot multiple times by a murder suspect in Sherwood on Christmas night. Trooper Nic Cedberg was shot by Hames Tylka in a shootout after Tylka murdered his estranged wife, police said.

Woody Guthrie Song on Vanport Flood found

A lost folk song about one of Oregon's worst disasters, the Vanport Flood, was found by a music historian in Seattle. The song was written by famous American folk singer Woody Guthrie, well known for his "This Land is Your Land" and who inspired generations of musicians. Guthrie lived briefly in southeast

Portland's Lents neighborhood.

North Carolina Boycott

North Carolina's NAACP President called for an economic boycott of his state last week in protest of what he calls the state's "constitutional overreach." It comes after Republican lawmakers passed new laws to limit an incoming Democratic governor's power, and the state's prior HB2 bill which he has called "anti-worker, anti-civil rights, and anti-LGBT."

Funding for Gateway Green

Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Portland Parks & Recreation Director Mike Abbate announced last week \$2 million for the first phase of Gateway Green, a new park situated between I-84 and I-205. "Gateway Green will be a regional destination in park-deficient east Portland, and a working example of how active recreation can be balanced with natural restoration and preservation," Fritz said.



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What's on your list today?



Andrea Miller, executive director of the Causa, a Latino immigrant rights organization in Oregon, testifies before the Multnomah County Commission in support of 'sanctuary county' resolution reaffirming the local government will not cooperate with federal enforcement of immigration laws.

Sanctuary County

Board on notice for welcoming immigrants

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County has reaffirmed its commitment to serving all residents regardless of immigration status by passing a resolution making it an official 'sanctuary county.'

Joining hundreds of other counties, cities and states across the

nation, the county board voted unanimously Thursday to adopt a sanctuary resolution meant to build trust with immigrants by assuring them that the use of county services like health clinics, libraries and other services will not be used against them in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

President-elect Donald Trump joining hardline Republican lawmakers in Congress are threatening to pull federal funding from any county, city and state which adopts similar measures. The President has the power to divert

funding, but it would take measures passed by Congress to cut off federal funding to states, cities and counties, officials said.

Commissioner Loretta Smith, commented: "I have no idea what the repercussions are, but when you are standing for the right thing, and to do the good thing for your community, you always are on the right side of policy, and politics, as well."

There is no precise legal definition of "sanctuary," but it has its roots in Jewish, Christian and Common Law. The United States' Sanctuary Movement

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Flu Hits Oregon Strong and Early

Still time for flu shot protection

Influenza cases are rising in Oregon, and although the increase is expected this time of year, Oregon Health Authority officials say it shows flu season is off to a strong and early start. Most of the cases have been influenza A, this season's predominant flu type.

Hospitalizations for flu-like illnesses have jumped sharply in recent weeks.

"While this is shaping up to be a heavy flu season, this uptick during this time of the year is fairly typical," Dr. Paul Cieslak of the Oregon Health Authority said. "Flu season doesn't usually peak

until late February or early March, so people can and should get their flu shots."

Flu is a virus that causes mild to severe respiratory illness. The virus kills thousands of people in the U.S. each year. People who are at higher risk of severe illness or death include children, adults older than 65, pregnant women and those with chronic medical conditions or weak immune systems.

The flu vaccine is the best protection against flu. It can take up to two weeks to become effective, so getting it earlier in the season is ideal. That said, it's not too late, since flu season usually lasts until spring. Vaccinations are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

Other ways to help prevent flu

includes staying at home and limiting contact with others if you are sick; that includes staying home from work or school when you are sick. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue out when you are done.

Wash hands with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may have flu germs on them. Avoid getting coughed and sneezed on.

Flu vaccine is available from health care providers, local health departments and many pharmacies. To find a flu vaccine clinic, visit flu.oregon.gov.

*A look back at some
of our top stories*

2016 Year



Building a Workforce

Jan. 27 -- State Rep. Lew Frederick promotes education in the trades and breaking a cycle of poverty in the African American community during a discussion with a group of industry leaders at Portland Community college's Swan Island Trades Center.



Black Lives Matter Founders

Feb. 3 -- Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opai Tometi, the founders of Black Lives Matter, the largest anti-racism moment in recent history, share their vision for justice at a Black History Month event at Portland State University.



Inside Ferguson

Feb. 24 -- Portland author and entrepreneur Devin S. James shares his personal story in a new book about trying to bridge the racial divide between officials in Ferguson, Mo., and an enraged black community after the police shooting death of Michael Brown.



Time Runs Out

March 2 -- The city of Portland takes legal action against Joseph "King J" Harris, a long time activist in the African American community to enforce a nuisance complaint and clear away the possessions in his yard, on his porch and surrounding almost every square foot of his 1904 home.



Policing in Focus

March 9 -- Attorney General of the United States, Loretta Lynch, President Obama's chief law enforcement official, visits the Rose City to recognize Portland's efforts to address police issues such as the 2012 lawsuit settlement to curb excessive force against the mentally ill.



Rebuilding Lives

March 16 -- The Miracles club, a non-alcoholic social club providing support services and housing in the African American community and its adjacent "A Heavenly Taste Café, are reintroducing themselves after some recent changes.



Blazer Legend Hired

April 6 -- Portland basketball icon Terry Porter, the beloved former Trail Blazer and 17-year NBA veteran is named head men's basketball coach at the University of Portland.



We Live in Fear

April 13 -- A string of shootings spray bullets through three homes across from Peninsula Park pushing an elderly black couple living across the street to plead for an end to gun violence while local law enforcement pledge to step up efforts to combat local gangs.

in Review



Vanport Mosaic Festival

May 18 -- Damaris Webb, Laura Lo Forti and S. Renee Mitchell promote the inaugural Vanport Mosaic Festival, a series of events, including a reunion of former residents of a community that brought a mix of races to Portland to work at the shipyards during World War II.

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Right to Return Home

April 27 -- Attempting to fix a troubled housing history in the city, Portland Community Initiatives, Inc. (PCRi) and the Portland Housing Bureau pioneer a new campaign to build 1,000 affordable housing units to help mostly people of color and low income residents of north and northeast Portland who have been displaced by gentrification.



Gender Barriers Hold True

May 25 -- A new effort between the state of Oregon and Oregon Tradeswomen will attempt to bring more diversity to construction work by increasing apprenticeship retention rates of women and people of color.



Lofty Dreams and Aspirations

June 1 -- Sekai Edwards, a graduating senior at Jefferson High School and a student enrolled at Self Enhancement, Inc., is accepted to attend the prestigious Julliard School in New York to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting.



Third Death at Strip Club

June 22 -- A dancer is killed during a confrontation with a female acquaintance at the Skinn strip club, reviving community concerns over a Cully Neighborhood establishment that has now experienced three murder in the last five years.



Horror, Anger and Healing

June 15 -- Hundreds of people gather in front of the Embers, a historic gay nightclub in the Pearl District to show solidarity with Orlando, Fla., just hours after the worst shooting massacre in U.S. history left 50 dead at Orlando's Pulse LGBT nightclub.



Roadblocks at the Courthouse

May 11 -- David Rogers, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, authors a new report showing how uncontested district attorney races are a factor in tapping down criminal justice reform in the state.



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OPINION



Foreign Influence and the Integrity of Our Democracy

A duty and obligation to investigate

BY MARC H. MORIAL

In 1840, President Martin Van Buren was fighting for re-election. He ultimately lost his presidential bid to a war hero, William Henry Harrison, who easily won over the widely unpopular Van Buren, nicknamed, "Van Ruin," for presiding over the nation during an economic depression.

The presidential campaign of 1840 was heavy on image, and light on substance, painting Van Buren as an elitist and Harrison as an everyday man. Harrison—accused of being helped by British bankers during his campaign—won the Electoral College vote and an extremely close popular vote.

In 1888, Grover Cleveland was favored to win his presidential re-election campaign, but ultimately lost the presidency because he appeared partial and



subservient to British interests. The voters turned against him and his perceived British sympathies. While he managed to win the popular vote, he lost the Electoral College vote, and, hence, the presidency.

If the past is prologue, history suggests that Americans resent the interference of foreign governments and interests in our presidential elections. As evidence of Russian tampering via cyber-attacks and hacking continues to mount, and President-elect Trump has tapped Rex Tillerson as his Secretary of State—who Trump described as doing "massive deals in Russia" and was awarded the "Order of Friendship" by Vladimir Putin—it is the duty and obligation of our Congress to thoroughly investigate whether or not Russia has interfered with our election process to tip the scale for a Trump win and, in the process, undermine and sow distrust in our democracy and its institutions.

President Obama has ordered a full intelligence review of the

alleged Russian hack into the Democratic National Committee and other Republican sources to be completed before inauguration day. In a break with Trump, the top two Republicans in Congress have lent their support to a bipartisan congressional effort to investigate the alleged Russian cyber-attacks. Calling any breach of American cyber-security measures "disturbing," Sen. Mitch McConnell added that, "the Russians do not wish us well...It defies belief that somehow Republicans in the Senate are reluctant to either review Russian hacking, or ignore them."

Trump and his associates have dismissed the allegations of Russian interference, painting them as "ridiculous," and "another excuse." Trump has—quite characteristically—explained away the legitimate concerns of our institutions, political leaders, the press and the people by blaming the Democrats for disseminating conspiracy theories because "they suffered one of the greatest defeats in the history of politics in this country," to conceding that if there was any interference or

hacking, "they have no idea if it's Russia, or China, or somebody. It could be somebody sitting in a bed someplace," he said in a televised interview.

Trump, and I'm sure many of his supporters, see the investigation into possible Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election as an attempt to—yet again—delegitimize his recent win. But the president-elect would do better to understand that to not thoroughly investigate these allegations would leave a permanent stain on his administration, his tenure and his motives. To not look into these allegations seriously would further erode public trust in the already embattled mechanics of our democracy. If domestic voter suppression sits on one side of the coin, the unwanted influence of a foreign power in American elections sits on the other. Rather than enrich us, and our system of representative government, both serve to undermine true democracy.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

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.

OPINION

Unable to Distinguish Facts from Opinion or Lies

2016, the year of 'post-truth'

BY JILL RICHARDSON

"Post-Truth." The Oxford English Dictionary named this its word of the year for 2016.

This was a year when campaign lies — most, though not all, coming out of the Donald's mouth — were so numerous that fact checking became nearly impossible.

Yes, each individual statement could be fact checked. But there were so many rapid-fire falsehoods that it was impossible to debunk them one by one on TV without devoting entire shows to just that.

And, far too often, nobody even cared if their preferred candidate was untruthful. The Internet was awash with fake news that was more popular than the real news.

One fake news story told Trump



supporters that the pope had endorsed Trump, while another one told Clinton supporters that he'd denounced Trump. In reality, he did neither.

Things have hardly gotten better since the election, with Trump making false claims about "millions" of "illegal voters" and denying intelligence assessments that Russia intervened on his behalf. This is a difficult time to teach social sciences, because students often cannot distinguish between fact and opinion.

A sociology professor I know posted on Facebook a line from a student's final paper: "If colored people would just follow the law, they wouldn't get shot by the police." A real student actually wrote that and turned it in.

As a professor, you have to grade students with political views different from your own fairly. But in addition to the offensive racial

term, this student's statement makes a claim that can be proven true or false with evidence.

As the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts."

Research can determine whether police shootings of people of color are due to law breaking by people of color or not. In this case, the evidence doesn't support the student's conclusion.

The professor failed the student — not for his or her opinions, but for failing to do the assignment well. What do you want to bet the student will respond by calling the professor "biased"?

I'm only a lowly teaching assistant, but I grapple with the current environment in my classroom too.

This semester, I led students in a discussion of same-sex marriage. We wrote each argument for and against legalizing same-sex marriage on the board. I asked students

to determine which ones were opinions, and which made empirical claims that could be proven true or false with evidence.

Sociology can't really evaluate opinions, like the claim gay marriage is "unnatural," or the competing one that same-sex couples deserve the dignity of marriage.

It can, on the other hand, scientifically evaluate whether children of same-sex couples turn out okay (they do) or whether humans use marriage only for heterosexual procreation (they don't).

By the end of class, I had a list of claims made by the anti-same sex marriage camp listed on the board, all of which were demonstrably false. Not one was true.

Was I biased?

I must say, even though I personally support marriage equality — as do the majority of Americans nowadays — I felt uneasy teaching this lesson. I do my best to keep my personal political views out of the

classroom, even on subjects I care strongly about.

Instead, I wanted my students to distinguish between facts and opinions, and apply their knowledge from the semester to evaluate the accuracy of empirical claims. But I knew it'd be easy to accuse me of "bias."

A disgruntled student could even submit me to the "Professor Watchlist" — a right-wing website taking aim at professors conservatives disagree with.

In this post-truth world, it no longer matters whether a statement is factual. If you don't like someone's facts, you can accuse them of "bias" and counter their truth with a story you got from a fake news site.

Especially when you've got the president-elect cheering you on.

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. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

What Part of "Never Again" Does He Not Understand?

A hysteria that ignores history

BY JOHN LAForge

Asked last year whether he would require American Muslims to register in a database Donald Trump said he "would certainly implement that -- absolutely." During a Nov. 16 appearance on Megyn Kelly's Fox News show, former Trump spokesman Carl Higbie said a registry of Muslims would be "legal" and that "We did it during World War II with the Japanese."

"You're not suggesting that we go back to Japanese internment camps are you?" Kelly asked. "I'm not proposing that at all," Higbie said, "But I'm just saying there is precedent for it." To this Kelly declared: "You can't be citing Japanese internment camps as precedent for anything the president-elect is going to do."

But of course he could, because Mr. Trump appears to win support by boastfully saying and doing anything that produces a roar from the mob -- crowing about sexual assault, torture, shooting people in the face, bombing civilians, deporting millions -- no matter how unlawful, bigoted, sexist, hateful or dishonest it sounds.

The so-called "precedent" includes the bitter irony that many imprisoned Japanese-Americans



had sons in the military fighting against fascism in Germany and Italy. Muslim-Americans likewise have thousands of children in the US armed forces. Yet Khizr and Ghazala Kahn, the parents of Humayun Khan -- an Army captain who died in a car bombing in Iraq in 2004 -- were viciously belittled by Trump, using the same bigotry with which he attacked Federal Judge Gonzalo Curiel, absurdly calling him "Mexican."

News coverage of Higbie's Muslim registry "precedent" balloon neglected to mention that arresting 3 to 11 million undocumented immigrants (Trump calls this whole class "Mexicans") would also require a mass police-state internment program like the WWII crimes visited upon Japanese-Americans. The media also ignored the fact that the US government has officially memorialized an apology for the WWII mass arrests and detentions, and has erected a monumental promise never to do any such thing again. The National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C., pledges never to repeat this overtly racist chapter of American history.

The national media's ignorance or omission of this national monument is partly understandable. It's not noted on any of the DC tour maps I consulted. The memorial is a permanent reminder of the shameful arrest and imprison-

ment-without-cause of more than 120,000 Japanese-American civilians. What's more, for a city like Washington, which is crowded with mostly self-congratulatory monuments, the internment memorial is a vanishingly rare, direct and unambiguous admission of wrongdoing by the government.

Inscribed in the memorial's elegant marble pedestals are President Reagan's words: "Here We Admit A Wrong. Here We Affirm Our Commitment As A Nation To Equal Justice Under The Law." Also carved in stone is this pledge from the late Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii: "The Lessons Learned Must Remain As A Grave Reminder Of What We Must Not Allow To Happen Again To Any Group." In 1988, Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act which apologizes on behalf of the government and declares that the mass arrests were based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." This sounds familiar.

In The Underside of American History, historian Roger Daniels writes about early 1942 that: "Racist feelings were intensified by wild rumors of sabotage and espionage, and a variety of groups demanded the expulsion of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast." The US Army and the War Relocation Authority forces then used house raids to detain and ship 120,313 Japanese-Americans to hastily-built, barbed wire-circled prison camps -- many built in the

desert.

Today's advocates of Trump's "database of Muslim residents" should consult the 1983 federal commission on the mass detentions of World War II. It found there was "no military necessity for the mass imprisonment of the Japanese Americans and that a grave injustice had been done."

The US started down this road immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, when more than 2,000 people in the country were arrested in secret. The Justice Department refused then to issue a list of names or the number of those incarcerated, arguing that "national security interest" outweighed the public's right to know. During these secret arrests, U.S. Rep. John Conyers,

D-Mich., visited the Krome detention center near Miami and found it astonishing that "...the Immigration and Naturalization Service is fixated on detaining and rounding up countless Arab-Americans without any justification."

But Trump would rather we forget US history, ignore Reagan's apology, and break Senator Inouye's promise. Today's wartime hysteria, fueled by Trump's baseless accusations against immigrants, helps some ignore our history, especially if it is ugly, and consider repeating it even if we've promised "never again."

John LaForge, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is co-director of Nukewatch, a peace and environmental justice group in Wisconsin.

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2016 Year in Review



Spreading Cultural Harmony

July 6 -- Carolyn Leonard, an inspiring Portland school administrator, educator and community activist, is honored for a lifetime of work of looking past skin color to promote peace and equality.



Homeless Fight Evictions

Aug. 3 -- Residents along the Springwater Corridor in southeast Portland fighting eviction receive a month long extension to move out as Mayor Hales sets a new date for disbanding non-sanctioned homeless camps.



PCC Hires New Leader

July 27 -- Mark Mitsui, a leader from President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative and a former Seattle educator is named the new president of Portland Community College.



Allen Temple Rebuilding

Aug. 17 -- Allen Temple CME Church holds a groundbreaking ceremony to rebuild the historic African American church more than a year after electrical fires severely damaged the northeast Portland property.



Standing Up to Violence

Aug. 24 -- A local band of brothers document racial harassment on a MAX train by one rider against a young mom and her family and then took action to prevent future violence, showcasing how heroism, fear and racism can collide in powerful ways.



Youth Mentoring from the Start

Sept. 7 -- Portland's Coalition of Black Men celebrates 28 years of making a difference in the lives of young black males by connecting them early on in life through mentoring and positive influences.



A Path for Kids to Grow

Sept. 21 -- Friends of Baseball, a Portland group promoting Little League for boys and girls, works to break barriers for kids unable to participate in team sports while also trying to reach, engage and nurture more children.



Alberta Commons

Nov. 23 -- Colas Construction, an African-American and family-owned business, starts construction on the long vacant corner of Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the future home of a Natural Grocers market and a second retail space.



Rebuilding Trust

Dec. 7 -- Roslyn Hill and Sara Wittenberg promote an Alberta Main Street history markers project to recognize and celebrate the contributions of African Americans along a street long associated with gentrification while strengthening cultural ties.



Battle Lines Grow

Oct. 19 -- When police were ordered to remove protesters from City Hall who were upset over a new police union contract that did not meet the activists demands for greater accountability, a violent encounter ensued with officers deploying pepper spray and pushing a large group of activists out of the building.



Yes for Affordable Home

Oct. 26 -- Measure 26-179, a Portland proposal to levy bonds to build new housing and purchase and rehabilitate existing housing to maintain affordability, prevent displacement and allow residents to remain in their homes, draws support from housing advocates and then passes at the polls.



Rattled by Trump

Nov. 16 -- Thousands of people stunned by Donald Trump's win in the presidential election set off on a week of daily protests in Portland that were mostly peaceful but also tinged with some of the largest and most destructive protests against Trump in the country.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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.



Popular Holiday Tradition -- Each house on Peacock Lane in southeast Portland has been decorating for Christmas for decades. Located between Stark and Belmont, one block east of Cesar Chavez Boulevard, the light displays runs nightly through Dec. 31, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. The lights stay on until midnight on New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31.



people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

History Hub

-- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the



Teen Late Night Returns -- A popular Teen Late Night program through Vancouver Parks and Recreation is back. Young people between the ages of 11 and 18 are invited to enjoy a safe night of free recreational activities every Friday night at either the Fistenburg or Marshall community centers.

Norman Sylvester

-- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 8 p.m. at Billy Blues in Vancouver; and Friday, Jan. 13 at 9 p.m. 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 Sunday, 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.

Breakout Tuesdays Hip Hop -- JAMN 107.5 and Cool Nutz from the Breakout Show present Breakout Tuesdays each third Tuesday of the month at the Ash Street, 225 S.W. Ash. The shows will feature performances from some of the top rappers from the Northwest. Hosted by Juma Blaq and DJ Fatboy.

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.

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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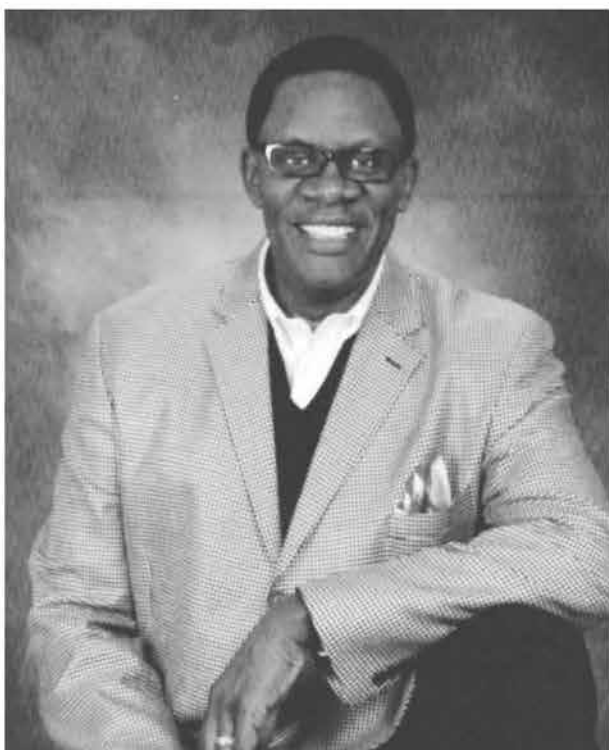


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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Participants in a First Day Hike on New Year's Day last year at Silver Falls State Park. Oregon Parks and Recreation will repeat the free event again this New Year's Day on Tuesday, Jan. 1 at 21 Oregon State Parks.

First Day Hikes at Oregon Parks

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department joins America's State Parks in sponsoring First Day Hikes in 21 Oregon State Parks on New Year's Day. Park rangers or volunteers will lead most of the hikes. Day-use parking fees will

be waived for all visitors participating.

"This is us helping people have a little fun and remember your parks are there for you any time of year," says Lisa Sumption, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department director. "Fun, healthy, memorable ... bundle up and enjoy your first walk of the year with a state park ranger."

You can visit the Oregon State Parks website for directions to each of the participating park at oregonstateparks.org. Visitors are asked to plan for inclement weather,

and reminded to remember the binoculars for wildlife viewing.

Some of the parks around Portland and northwest Oregon participating in First Day Hikes include L.L. "Stub" Stewart Memorial State Park; Milo McIver State Park; Tryon Creek State Natural Area; Guy Talbot State Park; Champoeg State Heritage Area; North Santiam State Park; Silver Falls State Park; Cape Lookout State Park; Depoe Bay Whale Watching Center; Fort Stevens State Park; and Oswald West State Park.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

August Wilson's 'Fences' on Big Screen



Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in a scene from, "Fences," the story from Pulitzer Prize winning black playwright August Wilson of an African-American father who struggles with race relations while trying to raise his family in the 1950s. The show opened in theaters on Christmas day. Washington and Davis have been nominated for a Golden Globe awards for best actor and supporting actress for their roles.

Obituary



In Loving Memory

Bervin Lionel Johnson Sr.

Bervin Lionel Johnson Sr. was born in Longview, Texas on Nov. 27, 1958. He died Dec. 17, 2016 after a battle with cancer.

Services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 8725 N. Chautauqua Blvd. Viewing will be at Terry Family Funeral Home, 2337 N. Williams Ave., on Tuesday, Jan. 3 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Library to Ring in New Year

Have you ever wanted to get loud in the library? Beaverton's Main Library at 12375 S.W. Fifth St., invites you to get Loud in the Library for a night of festivities on

New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. The entire building will be transformed into a place for noisy celebration.

The scheduled entertainment in-

cludes mini golf, laser tag, a photo booth and dancing the night away with DJ and event host Doc Titus from the Party Doctor. Delicious food and drinks from locally owned

Uptown Market will be served.

While the party is intended for adults, all ages are welcome. A single ticket is \$30 and a couples' ticket for two is \$50. All proceeds will benefit Beaverton City Library through the work of the Beaverton Library Foundation.



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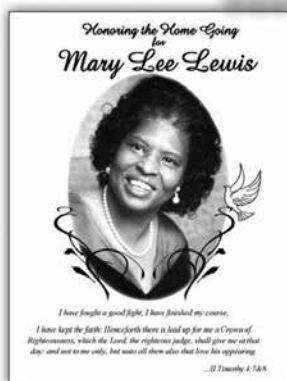
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PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The building housing McCoy Academy at 3802 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd has been sold to developers and the non-profit private high school serving underserved students in Portland for more than a generation is facing closure.

Counting on a Miracle

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

McCoy operates under an umbrella organization called Oregon Outreach and has other branches in Molalla, Scappoose, Vernonia and Rainier. But, the Portland site is special to the students, neighbors and the black community.

A longtime sanctuary from gang violence and one of the first drug free zone in Portland, McCoy Academy started off as the first charter school in Portland in response to the city's first gang-related shooting at Columbia Villa. The academy has one of the longest histories of serving children in Portland who face economic, employment and social hurdles by giving them access to an accredited academic program, mental health services, drug and alcohol counseling and resources towards planning for college.

Many McCoy graduates are the first in their family to get a high school diploma. Most of them go onto community college, Portland State University or join the military.

"What's beautiful about our program is we work in such a small setting with the students for multiple hours a day. We get to really know the student. We get to know what's going on in their life and at home," said Katie Carpenter, McCoy's director of program development and educator.

The King Neighborhood As-

sociation would like to save the building from the wrecking crew, but it's not very likely they can stop another giant box of condominiums as a replacement, adding to the explosion of other developments in gentrifying Portland.

TVA Architects which has designed a number of new properties in the area, including the King Street Lofts, MLK West and a new development at Northeast 13th Avenue and Alberta Street, is in the planning stages for constructing a 5 story, 89 unit complex with parking.

Mary Garofalo from Everett Custom Homes, which is overseeing the development, said each unit will be priced at market rate, supporting a demand for multi-family housing options within the city's core.

McCoy has faced its own challenges over the years. It was the first alternative school in Portland before it was granted a charter, and barely more than a year later the first to have its charter revoked. A City Club of Portland report from 2002 notes: "While the Portland School District maintains a public position of co-operation and support for charter schools, charter school advocates charge that the district actively works behind the scenes to challenge efforts to establish charter schools in Portland."

Despite all the odds, McCoy has kept its doors open by the generosity of the community through

donations and fundraisers. 400 students have graduated from the school since 1988, kids who otherwise would have not earned a high school diploma.

McCoy's founder and executive director remains committed to the students in her charge. She has aligned her entire life to helping kids that society has given up on, a dedication that has earned Becky Black a Breakfast of Champions Educational Award from the Portland Red Cross; an A.F. Gray Award for Achievement from Warner Pacific College; a Virtue of Generosity Award from incarcerated students at the Hillcrest Youth Facility; a 972nd Point of Light award from President George H.W. Bush; and a Lewis Hines Award for Services to Children in a honor she shared with former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Last year, she was presented the Mayor's Spirit of Portland award.

On the current fundraising to save the school, Black told the Portland Observer, "Right now we're trying to raise enough money to keep alive what we have. The ideal would be to have enough money to bring in all the students who are calling us, knocking on the door and wanting to come in."

McCoy Academy has set up a donation button on their website to make contributions. Visit oregonoutreach.org/our-schools/mc-coy-academy/

Sanctuary County

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

began in the early 1980’s as an interfaith movement and was based upon the 19th century Quaker safe houses that helped many slaves escaped to freedom

on the Underground Railroad. The entire state of Oregon is a “sanctuary” state. Oregon law provides that, “No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use

agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.” The law means that local police can’t ask for documentation to verify the im-

migration status of a person that has not been arrested and they cannot arrest someone solely because they are in violation of immigration laws. Incoming Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler supported the sanctuary movement in his campaign for mayor and after Trump’s election in November.

“We will always see ourselves as a sanctuary city, and we will continue to be welcoming to everyone,” he said. “President-Elect Donald Trump will be the president of all of America, and that requires an understanding of the values that drive Portland and other cities. These are our values.”

Harmful Mass Incarceration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

solving social problems, Oregon’s female imprisonment rate has become higher in recent years than the national average. Yet overall, crime rates in Oregon are near historic lows since the 1980s. How to explain this discrepancy? Have women suddenly begun committing many more serious and violent crimes that might justify locking up more of them for longer? No, what is in fact happening is that women are being

punished more severely for the same non-violent offenses than they would have been years ago. Most of the incarceration of women in Oregon is for property crimes, often driven by drug addiction. The arrest rate of women for property crimes fell 40 percent between 1995 and 2014. Yet, women’s average length of stay in prison in Oregon for property crimes has risen from 17 months to 22 months in the last decade. Measure 57, Oregon’s law on sentencing offenders in repeat

property crimes, combines with other sentencing legislation and case law to result in women receiving much harsher sentences than they would have gotten for the same crime years ago. The legislation was sold to voters as proper punishment for the irredeemable criminal who has ignored previous attempts at reform. But in reality, charges are stacked up against women appearing in court for the first time in a way they can be deemed a “repeat property offender” and sent away to Coffee

Creek Correctional Facility having never received a chance to do better. As advocates for women prisoners, we’re not asking for a double standard that offers more lenient treatment of women. We want recognition and reform of the laws and practices that have a disproportionately large impact on women and their families. We and the many other supporters of criminal justice reform in Oregon accept that property crime laws are facially neutral. But the sentencing data speaks for itself: these laws do have a disparate impact on women.

Oregon needs to face head on the clear links between addiction, mental illness and property crime. We need to understand that simply locking women up cannot cure the root causes of crime that so many criminal justice experts consider to be a public health issue. We should look for a new approach for women who can be safely and appropriately held accountable in other ways than imprisonment. Bobbin Singh is the executive director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, and Julia Yoshimoto is the attorney and project director for OJRC’s Women in Prison project.



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CALENDAR December 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>12</div> <div><i>Barbara Emberley</i> born, 1932 <i>Hovercraft</i> Patented (1955) Poinsettia Day</div>	<div>13</div> <div>National Cocoa Day <i>Susan B. Anthony</i> dollar coined in 1970</div>	<div>14</div> <div><i>First Miniature Golf</i> Course Opened, 1929 <i>South Pole</i> Discov- ered, 1911</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Bill of Rights Day Underdog Day <i>David McCord</i> born, 1897</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Beethoven’s Birth- day (1770) <i>Boston Tea Party</i> Anniversary (1773)</div>	<div>17</div> <div><i>Wright Brother’s</i> <i>First Flight</i> (1903) National Maple Syrup Day</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Wear a Plunger On Your Head Day <i>Baseball</i> great <i>Ty</i> <i>Cobb</i> born, 1886</div>
<div>19</div> <div>Oatmeal Muffin Day <i>Dickens’ A Christ- mas Carol</i> pub- lished in 1843</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Games Day <i>Electric Light</i> demonstrated in 1879</div>	<div>21</div> <div><i>First Day of Winter</i> Humbug Day Bright Side Day National Flashlight Day</div>	<div>22</div> <div><i>First Christmas</i> Lights, 1882 <i>Mercury Thermome- ter</i> Invented, 1714</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Roots Day <i>Federal Reserve</i> System established (1913)</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Hanukkah Begins Christmas Eve National Egg Nog Day <i>Apollo 8</i> reached moon, 1968</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Christmas National Pumpkin Pie Day</div>
<div>26</div> <div>Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins National Whiners Day</div>	<div>27</div> <div><i>Ingri d’Aulaire</i> born, 1904 Visit the Zoo Day <i>World Bank</i> created (1945)</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Card Playing Day <i>Iowa</i> became the 29th state (1846) National Chocolate Day</div>	<div>29</div> <div><i>Texas</i> became the 28th state (1845)</div>	<div>30</div> <div><i>Tiger Woods</i> born, 1975 <i>Author Rudyard</i> <i>Kipling</i> born, 1865</div>	<div>31</div> <div>New Year’s Eve</div> <div></div>	



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SPORTS



CJ McCollum at the recent dedication of the CJ McCollum Dream Center, a new educational space with books, computers and other activities at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Advancing Education and Literacy

McCollum earns NBA Cares Award

Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum has received the NBA Cares Community Assist Award presented by Kaiser Permanente in recognition of his efforts to promote education and literacy throughout Portland.

The award recognizes an NBA player each month who best reflects the passion that the league and its players share for giving back to their communities.

McCollum is being honored for his work to encourage youth in their education and career development, with a particular focus on

improving literacy.

In collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro, McCollum opened the first CJ McCollum Dream Center at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in November. In addition to personally designing and funding the space, McCollum selected the new amenities featured including: 200 books, 12 computers and headphones, a flat screen TV, a printer, furniture, flooring and artwork.

McCollum also helped develop the center's programming which includes a speaker series, and special coding, literacy and exploration clubs to engage youth

in diverse educational and career opportunities.

McCollum is set to open two more Dream Centers in the spring and fall. McCollum has also worked with Portland Public Schools with his CJ's Press Pass program, mentoring more than 30 high schoolers specifically interested in journalism.

"Being an NBA player has provided me with an incredible platform to make a difference in the lives of so many people," said McCollum. "Since my arrival in Portland, the community has embraced me, and I'm incredibly fortunate to be able to give back to young people throughout the city for years to come."

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