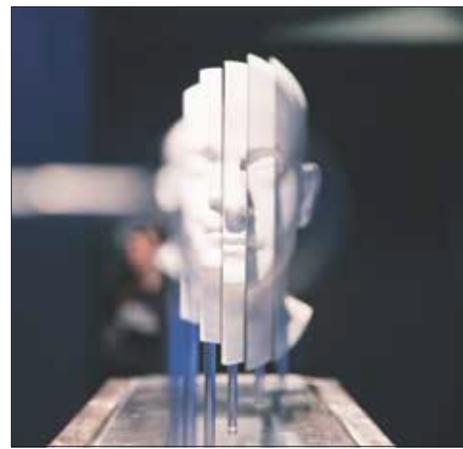


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**Black Leaders:
Open Tubman**
*School board’s delay
called a ‘betrayal’*
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**Nothing As It
Seems**
*OMSI illusion
exhibit to challenge
your senses*
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Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 46



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Wednesday • November 15, 2017



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dontae Blake, an ex-gang member who turned his life around, said it felt like a stigma getting lifted when Portland Police stopped keeping records of suspected and known gang members. Blake helps at-risk youth get out of gang life by engaging in violence prevention work as a community outreach specialist.

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New police practices, technological advances, and years of advocacy by civil rights advocates pushing for a change have culminated in the Portland Police Bureau’s decision to phase out using a gang designation database as a law enforcement tool, which was officially halted last month.

Though Portland police said gang lists were never made public, the more than 20-year-old practice of tracking suspected and known gang members was determined to be unfairly and disproportionately impacting minorities,

No More Gang Lists

How advocates, new practices
and technology bought change

a position held for years by national and local civil rights groups like the NAACP and American Civil Liberties Union.

The gang designations also did not necessarily distinguish between a non-criminal gang member and ones with a criminal history. Of the 359 “criminal gang affiliates” that Portland police flagged, as of last year, 81 percent were part of a racial or ethnic minority, officials said.

Black Male Achievement, a group associated with the Portland Office

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Racial Tensions Flare

A clash with racial tensions broke out between two groups at an I-5 overpass in Vancouver Monday afternoon. When Antifa members held a sign over the overpass to remember Mulugeta Seraw, a PSU student from Ethiopia who was killed by three white supremacists 29 years ago, members of Patriot Prayer went to the next overpass and displayed a "It's OK to be white" sign, sparking heated arguments, but no reports of physical violence.



Multnomah County Sells Empty Wapato Jail

Wapato Jail, the never used lockup in north Portland, was sold for \$10.8 million Thursday by Multnomah County commissioners to a medical equipment distribution company. Commissioner Loretta Smith was the only no vote because she said the jail should house a homeless shelter

The Week in Review

or similar service.

School District Administrator Fired

Second in command at Portland Public Schools Youseff Awwad has threatened a lawsuit after he was fired last week by school superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero. Awwad was investigated in August for being involved in a consensual relationship with a subordinate, but he said it had been disclosed to then-superintendent Bob McKean.



Bodies Found in Forest Park Identified

The bodies of missing Aloha teen Annieka Vaughan and 23-year-old Zachary Peterson, a sex abuse suspect, were found in Forest Park last week. Authorities determined Peterson fatally shot Vaughn then killed himself.

Trump Packs Court with White, Male Judges

President Donald Trump is slowing the transformation of

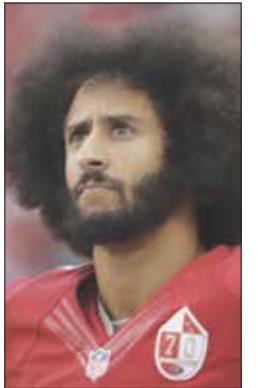
a judiciary that reflects the nation's diversity by nominating white men to America's federal courts at a rate not seen in nearly 30 years. The Associated Press reported Monday that 91 percent of Trump's nominees are white and 81 percent are male so far.

Sports Instructor Arrested for Child Sex Abuse

Shuddhodan Man Ranjit, 51, turned himself in on Thursday for sex abuse after multiple accusations by children sparked a warrant for his arrest, officials said. The Beaverton man operated a Taekwondo studio.

Named "Citizen of the Year"

GQ's "Citizen of the Year" has been granted to Colin Kaepernick, the free agent quarterback for his conscientious objection of racial inequality and police brutality. The former 49er sparked protests by NFL players and other athletes when he began kneeling during the National Anthem.



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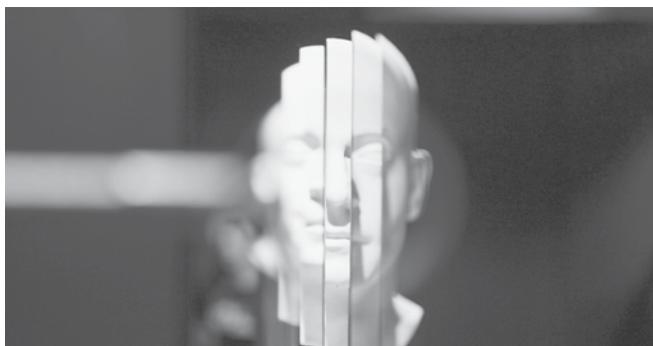
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FOOD



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What's on your list today?™



An artist's rendering shows the future Blackburn Building with its health clinic and affordable housing units coming to Northeast 122nd and Burnside.

Housing and Health

Integrated services will help residents stay housed

A Portland nonprofit serving people impacted by homelessness, poverty and addictions, is celebrating the beginning of construction for the third of three buildings for its Housing in Health initiative, a pioneering commitment

from local hospitals and health organization to supportive, affordable housing.

Central City Concern also announced that the building, at 25 N.E. 122nd Ave., will be named the Blackburn Building in honor

of their retired president and chief executive officer, Ed Blackburn.

Blackburn, who recently retired after 26 years at Central city Concern, was instrumental in pulling

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Black Leaders: Open Tubman

School board called out for 'betrayal'

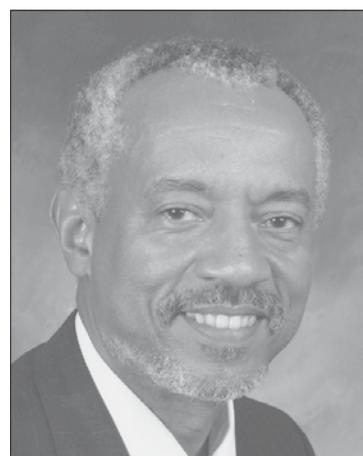
BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

African American community leaders are calling on Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero to "take steps immediately" to allow Tubman Middle School to open next fall, calling into question recent concerns over the safety of the building and grounds.

Guerrero is slated to address the issues when he attends a news conference on Thursday at Self Enhancement Inc. organized by leaders in the black community who are calling the potential second major delay on the re-opening Tubman by the School Board a "betrayal."

"It is our hope that [Superintendent Guerrero] will be able to bring the school board to its senses," Albina Head Start Director Ron Herndon told the Portland Observer. Herndon helped originally open Tubman in the early 1980s.

Joining Herndon in atten-



Ron Herndon

dance will be Self Enhancement founder and chief executive Tony Hopson, and Dr. Leroy Haynes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance.

"Harriet Tubman Middle School is a very significant cultural landmark for the black community. Right now, this community does not have a middle school. There can't be a delay in Tubman's reopening. We just want to make sure that PPS understands how vitally important this is to our community," Hopson said in a press release.

Last month, the school board voted on an amendment that could

possibly delay the opening of Tubman until the 2019-20 school year, an additional year from a proposed opening that was already delayed by a year. The reason was to give the district more time to study environmental hazards such as air pollution, due its proximity to I-5, and any possible foundational instability.

Tubman is a school with deep ties to the African American community and would be the only middle school serving kids in the historic black neighborhoods of inner north and northeast Portland if it were to open as proposed.

Last week, Portland Public Schools released on its website records of air pollution testing at Tubman, which was compiled in preparation of the Faubion K-8 school that occupied the building last year.

The records largely indicated no harmful levels of pollutants detected; a Department of Environmental Quality fact sheet, which summarized EPA monitoring of the school from 2009 to 2011, had air toxics measured as "below EPSC's level of concern."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Ex-gang member Dontae Blake heads a non-profit, Live Free, where he takes at-risk youth on camping excursions in Bend to get them out of the gang life.

No More Gang Lists

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

of Equity and Human Rights, was one of the civil rights organizations that has been advocating for eliminating the gang lists.

"It's an excellent policy change," said C.J. Robbins, the group's program coordinator. "It's a piece of a much larger puzzle. I'm definitely encouraged by the movement."

Robbins thinks the new policy will encourage police officers to see black members of the community as individuals a bit more. The old policy also was not helping people trying to escape gangs or anyone experiencing the stigma of being labeled a gang member.

Dontae Blake was an ex-gang member who has taken responsibility for his past and successfully lived criminal-free for the better part of a decade.

He said eliminating the gang lists improves his attitude toward police, dusting off an old idea that police were "just bad dudes that [...] want to kill us in the streets."

"It means something to me that on a piece of paper, somewhere, it don't just say, 'There's Dontae Blake, he's a Crip.'" Blake told the Portland Observer. "Personally it feels good to have a stigma off my back.

Blake has been doing anti-gang outreach for Unify Portland, a violence prevention program for at-risk youth for more than two years now. Since 2010, he has been men-

toring younger gang members to help them get out of a life of crime by taking them on camping excursions in Bend for his non-profit, Live Free.

Lieutenant Andrew Shearer of the Portland Police Bureau feels that eliminating the gang lists has already increased community trust, and he said the new policy has not negatively impacted law enforcement efforts.

Shearer said the bureau's decision came as the culmination of conversations in the past couple of months with the bureau's Tactical Operations Division, which Shearer leads; the Gang Enforcement Team, many of whom also advocated for the change; and newly appointed Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, Portland's first African American woman police chief.

Though a gang designation database was a police tool once thought to help solve crimes, newer technology has rendered it largely obsolete, Shearer said. He cited technological advances in forensic shell casing analysis that can now link bullet casings to specific parts of the city and to specific weapons as one example.

"In the previous year, we've only had about seven gang designations leading up to this. So it's not something that's really used as much as it once was," Shearer said.

Gang designations were also once thought to increase officer safety. However, Shearer said police endangerment is now mitigated by flagging individuals with a violent

or weapons history, instead of simply using a gang affiliation by itself, as an indicator of a potential threat.

"The reality is there are people who are involved in some of these organizations who may not be actively involved in criminal activity. And we need to focus on those that are," Shearer said.

Police reform advocates for groups like Black Male Achievement are looking for more progress in terms of ex-gang members who are now peace-abiding citizens transitioning back into society, since many of them report having difficulty meeting their needs, like finding gainful employment and shelter.

"I think, you know, our view in the future will be towards meeting those needs, towards making sure that the policies, practices and procedures that need to be addressed for them to be thriving [will occur]," Robbins said.

According to a 2016 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report of Multnomah County, African Americans are six times more likely than whites to be jailed. African American unemployment rates were also seven percent higher than whites from the years 2010-2012, according to Poverty in Multnomah County report from 2014.

According to national statistics from Center for American Progress and Crime & Delinquency, African Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be arrested than whites and 49 percent of black men will be arrested at least once by age 23.

Housing and Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

together the Housing is Health initiative, the culmination of years of leadership and relationship building.

The two-story health care facility will serve 3,000 people each year with recovery and mental health services, as well as targeted primary care services. The clinic will include a pharmacy and 52 units of respite care, including 10 units of palliative care. Additional housing will include 90 units of transitional housing and 34 permanent homes.

During last week's ground-

breaking ceremony, community member and Central City Concern client Mike Holevas described his journey from high school science teacher to addict, to a person in recovery working toward wellness and self-sufficiency. He once bought drugs on the very corner where the Blackburn Building will be.

"This corner now can be the site where thousands who are suffering—and believe me, we suffer—can come for transformation, healing; families will be restored," he said. "I'm so proud to be part of something that will bring hope and healing to thousands of people

like me."

Additional speakers included representatives from the Housing is Health initiative's six hospitals and health organizations, including, Adventist Health Portland, CareOregon, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals; Oregon Health Sciences University, Providence Health and Services; and Legacy Health.

"The Housing is Health collaboration is an excellent example of health systems recognizing the impact housing has on an individual's health," said Dr. Rachel Solotaroff, Central City Concern president and chief executive officer. "They've united for improving health outcomes as well as the common good of our community."

Affordable Housing Plans for Kenton

Property sits next door to light rail line

TriMet has selected Reach Community Development to develop more than two acres of land in the Kenton neighborhood for affordable housing, the second major affordable housing project the transit agency has sponsored on the Interstate Yellow Max light rail line of north Portland.

The community housing organization will construct approximately 200 affordable housing units with the anticipated groundbreaking next fall. The project is supported by \$10 million in property taxes reserved for the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area and awarded by the Portland Housing Bureau. REACH proposes to leverage the city's investment with four percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits and state issued tax-exempt bonds.

The site, located at the corner of North Argyle Street and Denver Avenue, meets TriMet's goal of maximizing density to support increased transit ridership and fully activate the area surrounding the station. The first site on the Yellow Line developed for affordable housing was the Patton Park Apartment building on Interstate Avenue near the Killingsworth Street MAX Station, a building that provides 54 units for low-income residents.

"We're excited by the opportunity to have more housing, especially affordable housing near good transit service," said TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane. "It's truly a win-win for the community."

Reach has started to engage the Kenton community to obtain feedback through public meetings.

"This is an opportune site to develop housing that will connect people to the amenities that support success and foster community," said Kurt Creager, Director of the Portland Housing Bureau.

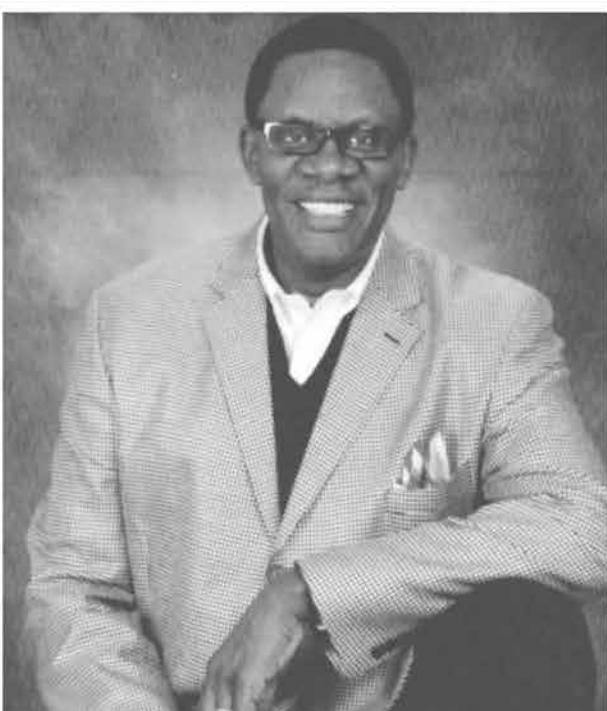
Black Leaders: Open Tubman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A February 2016 test for Cadmium showed "there were no detectable levels of either cadmium or arsenic reported for any of the

air and soil samples;" and radon testing was completed in 2016 with the conclusion being "no radon levels met an action level, no further action is required for 10 years."

Air pollution from I-5 and claims that the school could slide into the freeway were both brought up to delay Tubman's original opening in the 1980s, Herndon said.



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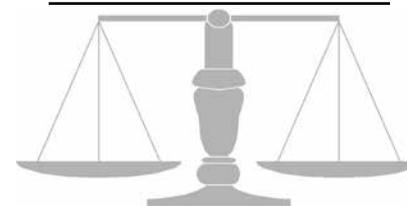
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Youth of the Year

Benson junior dedicated to giving back

Teya Shearer, a junior at Benson Polytechnic High School and 11-year member of the Regence Boys & Girls Club in New Columbia of north Portland, has been named Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro's Youth of the Year.

During the selection process, a panel of judges heard speeches from each of five Metro area youth candidates, conducted one-on-one interviews, and then announced the winner last week at the Youth of the Year Luncheon at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum.

"The Club has positively shaped my life in so many ways. They have always been a family to me and the whole community," Shearer said.

Teya grew up in the New Columbia neighborhood and is dedicated to giving back and advocating for social justice in her community. She volunteers with Health Occupations Students of America, Rosa Parks Elementary



Teya Shearer, junior at Benson High School, was named 2017-2018 Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro

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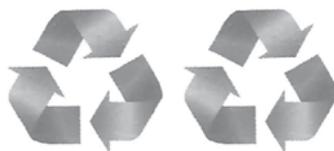
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School, Charles Jordan Community Center, and for her club. She is also a member of the Women's Empowerment Club at Benson High School. After high school, Teya plans to attend Occidental College to become a doctor.

Along with the title, Teya received a \$1,000 scholarship and will continue on to represent the Portland Metro Clubs at the Oregon State Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year competition in March to be held in Portland.

Throughout the year, Portland-Area Clubs select a Youth of the Month. From those selections, a young person is chosen to represent their local club as Youth of the Year. All four runners-up received a \$500 college scholarship.

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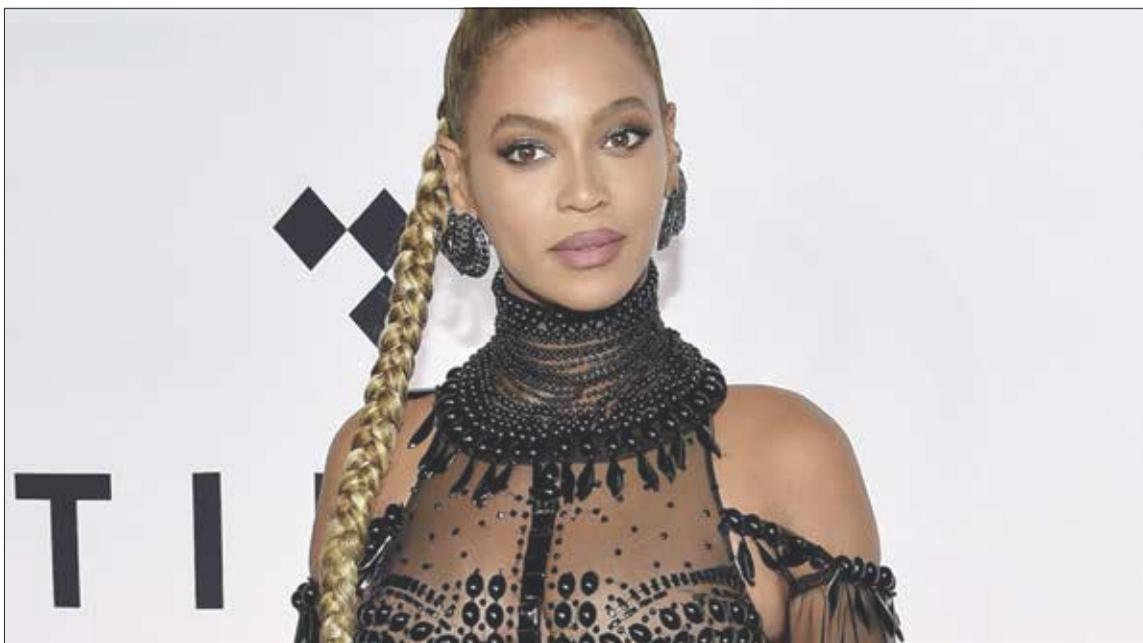
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Beyonce joins the live-action cast of 'The Lion King.'

Cast for 'Lion King' Adaptation

(AP) - Beyonce Knowles-Carter is joining the cast of "The Lion King" to voice to role of Nala.

The Walt Disney Studios revealed the main cast for its upcoming live-action and CG adaptation of its 1994 animated classic last week and confirmed the months old rumor that the pop superstar

would be lending her voice to the project.

Some had been previously announced for the film including Donald Glover as Simba and James Earl Jones as Mufasa. Other cast include Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar, Alfre Woodard as Sarabi, Seth Rogen as Pumbaa, Billy

Eichner as Timon and Keegan-Michael Key as a hyena.

Jon Favreau, who brought Disney's CG and live-action adaptation of "The Jungle Book" to life, is set to direct. The film is slated for a July 2019 theatrical release.



R&B Influenced Sound

San Francisco Bay Area-based producer Giraffage is back on the scene with his third full-length album, 'Too Real.' Known for his dreamy, sample-based and R&B influenced sound, Giraffage plays Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St.

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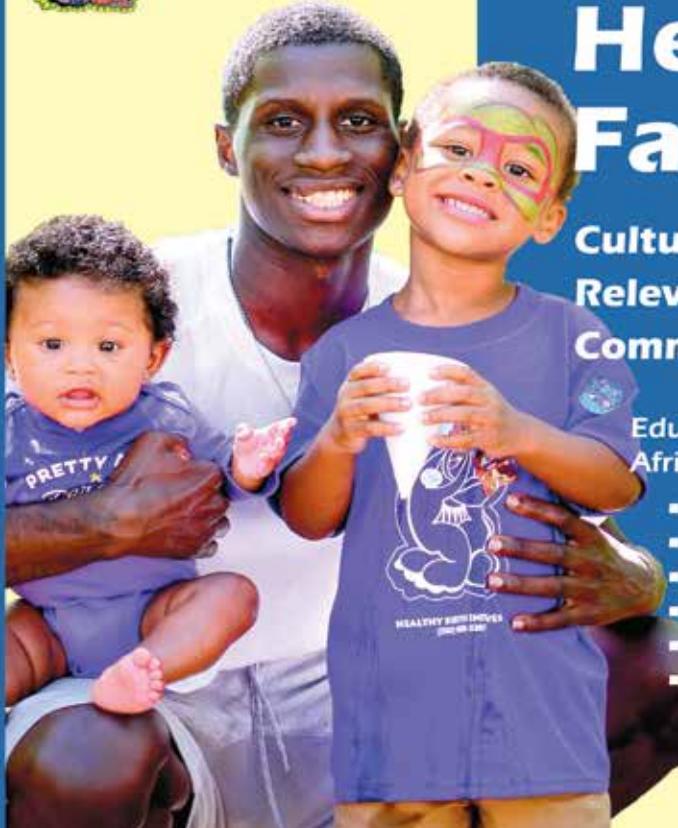
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Monica Fleetwood (from left), Kate McLellan and Bram Allahdadi star in Lakewood Theatre Company's 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' now playing through Dec. 10.

Compassion and Justice

Revisiting themes of compassion in justice that are as resonant today as when the play was set in the 1930s, Lakewood Theatre Company presents the timeless drama 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'

Set against the backdrop of Depression-era Alabama, To Kill a Mockingbird follows the journey of a young white girl whose father has been appointed to defend a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. This enduring drama of right, wrong, and all the grey areas in between, provides a poignant look at the human spirit, and the courage it takes to follow what you think is right and understand life from someone else's perspective.

Performances run through Dec. 10. The theatre is located at Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit lake-wood-center.org.

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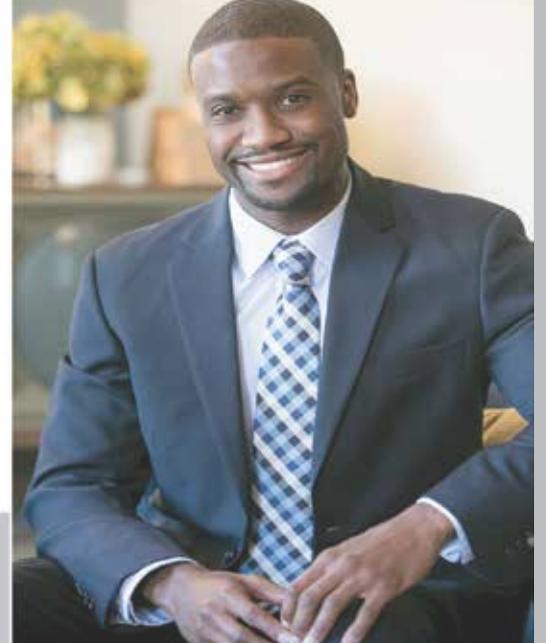
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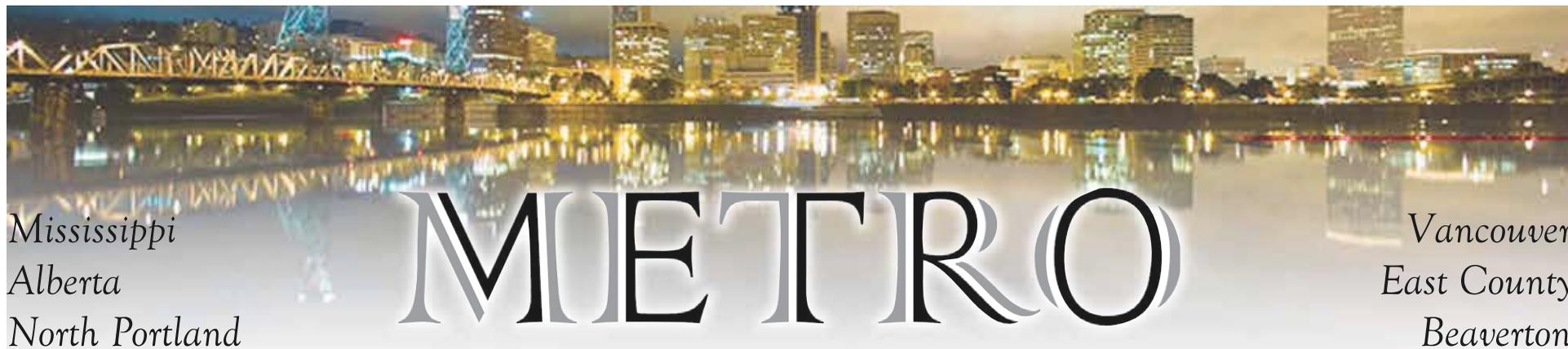


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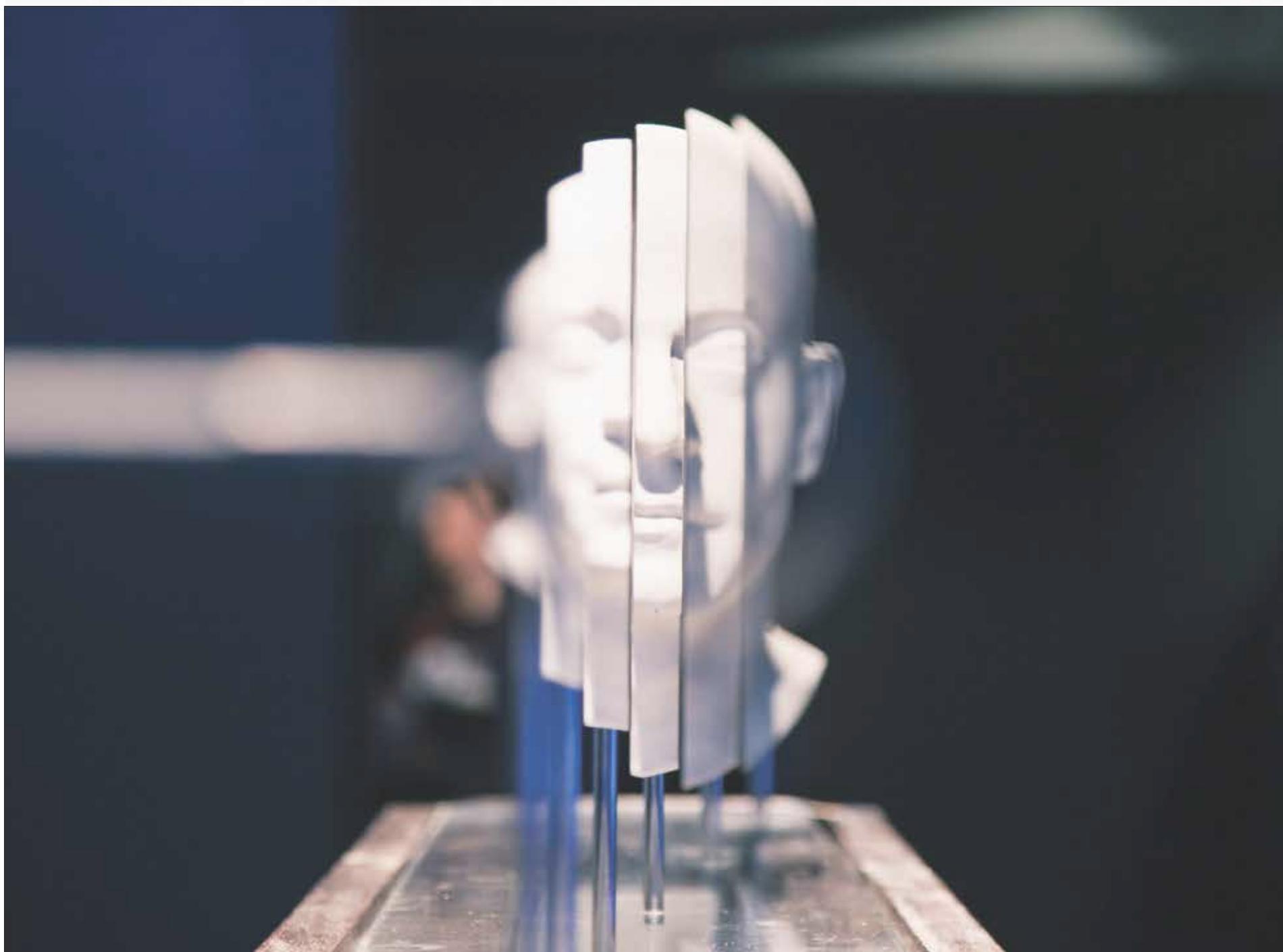
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Sensory deception, complex sounds and optical illusions await guests at OMSI's newest feature exhibit "Illusion: Nothing As It Seems," opening Saturday, Nov. 18 and running through Feb. 19.

Is Perception Reality?

'Illusion: Nothing As It Seems' new OMSI exhibit

Should you always believe what you see? Can you trust your senses? Is anything really as it seems?

These are just a few of the questions guests will entertain at "Illusion: Nothing As It Seems," a mind-bending new featured exhibition opening at the Oregon Museum

of Science and Industry on Saturday, Nov. 18.

"OMSI is a place where we spark people's curiosity in the hope they will discover new things. I hope this exhibit will inspire future scientists, artists and, maybe, a few illusionists as well," said Nancy Stueber, OMSI

president and chief executive office.

The exhibit is designed to make guests question reality and their perceptions of the world through techniques used in magic, neuroscience, biology, physics and technology. It investigates how perception underpins the way we see, feel,

think and understand the world and shows how what we perceive is often radically different from the reality of what we observe.

With more than 40 installations that deceive the senses, "Illusion" runs through Feb. 19. For more information, visit omsi.edu.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Discover and learn more about Native American culture when Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center hosts a Native American Heritage Month celebration, Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Native Culture and Holiday Crafts

Families can discover and learn more about the many contributions of Native Americans to the larger American cultural mosaic during a Native American Heritage Month celebration, Saturday, Nov. 18

at Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center located east of downtown Vancouver at 4600 S.E. Columbia Way.

Enjoy browsing a native holiday craft marketplace and

performances from native dancers who will walk the runway in native regalia and share their personal stories.

The events will take place between 11:30 am and 4:30 p.m.



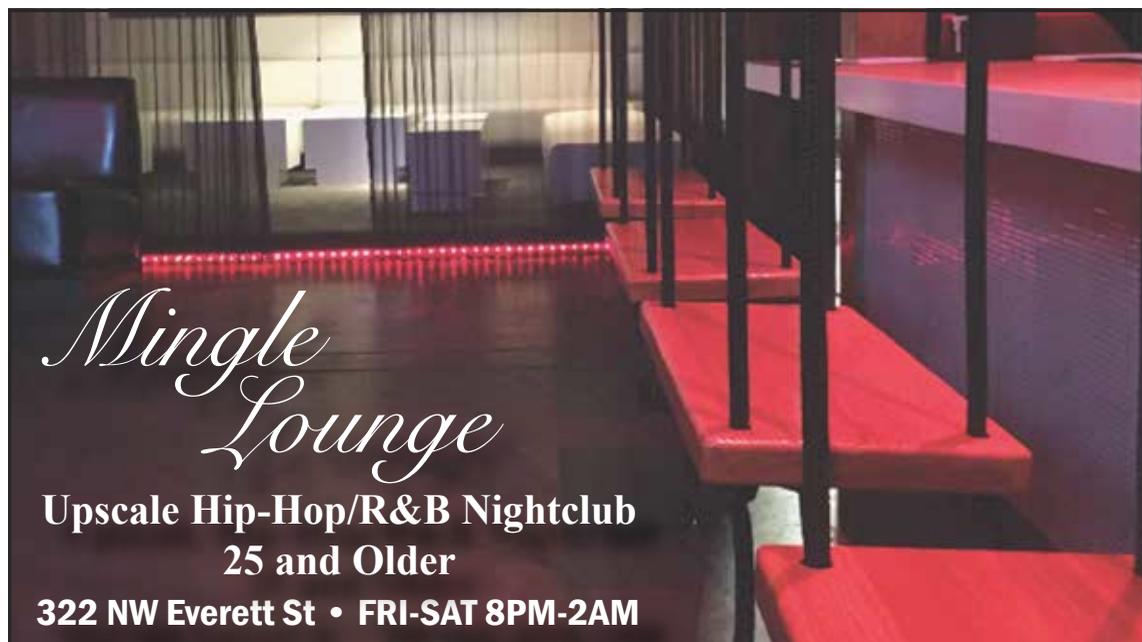
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Celebrate with Whole Foods

-- The holiday season is definitely not the time for added stress and complications. At Whole Foods Market, 1210 N.W. Couch St, you will find a holiday table with staff who are ready to assist and make your holiday life easier. This table is your "Holiday Central" where you can order everything from a turkey to dinner rolls to a full holiday meal.



Family Movie Night

-- Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave., presents two film favorites for Thanksgiving week when it holds a Movie Family Night on Saturday, Nov. 25. The screenings will begin with a 4 p.m. showing of the "The Wiz" and a 7 p.m. showing of "Coming to America." Tickets at the door are \$5 per film or \$8 for both. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Next Generation Bluesman -- Visionary young blues star Selwyn Birchwood celebrates the release of his new album 'Pick Your Poison,' with a performance Wednesday, Nov. 15 at Portland's Jack London Review, 529 S.W. Fourth Ave. Tickets are \$10. Visit jacklondonrevue.com.

Christmas Tree Permits -- You can skip the lot and explore the forest while finding this year's holiday tree. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest east of Vancouver is selling \$5 personal-use Christmas tree cutting permits, which include a map of cutting areas and instructions for cutting trees. For more information, call 360-891-5001.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Nov. 17 at the Blue Diamond; and Saturday, Nov. 25 at Clyde's.

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 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?"



Zoo for All

-- The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a new discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.



Discount Tickets -- 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.

Table Set for School Arts Fair

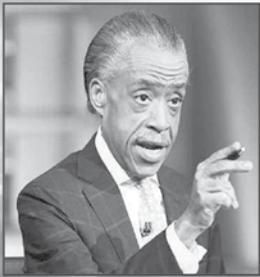
Preparations are underway for one of the more popular arts fairs in Portland, the da Vinci Arts Middle School Arts Fair, with proceeds supporting the school located at 2508 N.E. Everett.

With 55 juried artists, student and alumni student artists and a school brimming with artistic and creative expression, the 13th annual event takes place at the school on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be fine art, boutique crafts, ceramics, clothing, paintings, pottery, photos, food and more. Admission is free. Live music, a cafe and student artwork for sale will also highlight the event.

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 Rev. Al Sharpton 10am - 1pm	<p>12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON</p> <p>3 A.M. - 7 A.M. TOM JOYNER</p> <p>7 A.M. - 10 A.M. TONI TERRELL</p> <p>10 A.M. - 1 P.M. REV. AL SHARPTON (KEEPING IT REAL)</p> <p>1 P.M. - 3 P.M. KENNY SMOOV</p> <p>3 P.M. - 7 P.M. D.L. HUGHLEY</p> <p>7 P.M. - 9 P.M. PAPA SMURF</p> <p>9 P.M. - 12 Midnight MIKE SHANNON</p>	<p>12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON</p> <p>3 A.M. - 6 A.M. TOYA BEASLEY</p> <p>6 A.M. - 12 NOON SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL WANGELA</p> <p>12 NOON - 1 P.M. HIGHLAND C.C. LIVE BROADCAST</p> <p>1 P.M. - 4 P.M. PAPA SMURF</p> <p>4 P.M. - 12 Midnight DOUGLAS WILLIAMS</p>
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OPINION

Honoring the Diversity of Troops on the Battlefield

What history shows us about race

BY CHRISTOPHER KELLY

History teaches us that all races have fought in wars and that all have won and lost wars at various times. The lie of white (or European) supremacy was thoroughly discredited at the battles of Little Big Horn (1876), Adwa (1896), Tsushima Strait (1905), Pearl Harbor (1941) and, finally, on 9/11 (2001).

At Little Big Horn in eastern Montana Custer's 7th Cavalry was destroyed by a Sioux Army led by Crazy Horse that outnumbered his by about three to one. Custer, who had graduated at the bottom of his class from West Point, had declined to bring a gatling gun as it would only slow him down.

In 1896 the forces of Ethiopian Emperor Menelik II decisively defeated Italian Colonial forces at the Battle of Adwa. Ethiopian independence was preserved. Adwa inspired many subsequent African anti-colonial struggles but it also inspired a thirst for vengeance with Mussolini who brutally invaded Ethiopia in 1936 and erected a

statue of himself on the Adwa battlefield.

At Tsushima Strait in 1905, a Japanese fleet annihilated a Russian fleet that had sailed half-way around the world from Europe to Asia in order to confront the Japanese. Two thirds of the Russian ships were sunk. A peace, brokered by Teddy Roosevelt, ended the Russo-Japanese war shortly afterwards. TR became the first American President to win a Nobel Peace prize.

At Pearl Harbor in December 1941 the Imperial Japanese navy achieved strategic surprise catching the US fleet while it was anchored at Battleship Row in Hawaii. Over 2,400 Americans were killed that day.

On 9/11 nineteen al-Qaeda terrorists from the Middle East managed to hijack four domestic U.S. airliners and crash them into the twin towers and the Pentagon. All four commercial planes were fueled for cross country flights making them hugely dangerous missiles. The hijackers used knives and box cutters to terrorize the crew and capture the cockpits within a narrow time window that morning. Commercial airline cockpits were, at the time, lightly secured and airline crews were trained

to accede to hijacker demands in hopes of getting the planes safely back to an airport. Nearly three thousand were killed on that day of horror.

Today the United States has, without question, the strongest military in the world. Ethnic diversity has been a key ingredient for American military success from the very founding of our nation. Crispus Attucks, of African and Wampanoag heritage, has been hailed as the first casualty of the American Revolution when he was killed by British troops in the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770.

Nearly five percent of the Continental Army were African American. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans would serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. More would serve as Buffalo soldiers in the Indian Wars on the western frontier. Even in the segregated Army of World War II African Americans distinguished themselves in units such as the Tuskegee airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion ("Triple Nickels").

Over and over again minorities that have faced discrimination and persecution in the United States have proven themselves on the battlefield by fighting valiantly for a country that sometimes mistreats them.

In the 19th century Irish immigrants to the U.S. faced a strong nativist backlash epitomized by "No Irishmen need apply" and the Know Nothing movement. They responded by forming the Irish Brigade ("Fighting 69th"), led by General Thomas Meagher, that won battle honors at Antietam and Gettysburg.

Faced with actual imprisonment after Pearl Harbor, around 14,000 Japanese-Americans would form the 442nd Infantry Regiment which earned nearly 9,500 purple hearts fighting mainly in the Italian campaign. The most decorated unit in the U.S. Army in World War II had a simple motto: "Go For Broke".

Native Americans have been fighting alongside and in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Oneida and Tuscarora joined the Patriot cause during the American Revolution. Today a disproportionate number of Native Americans serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

President George W. Bush recently said that "bigotry and white supremacy, in any form, is blasphemy against the American creed". Bigotry and white supremacy, aside from being terrible policy, are also symptoms of historical ignorance.

Christopher Kelly is an American history writer based in Seattle and London.

Drilling for Oil near Native Communities like Mine

Tax cuts threaten sacred places

BY BERNADETTE DEMIENTIEFF

Right now in Washington, D.C., Congress is making decisions that will affect my future and that of my people — the Gwich'in Nation of Alaska and Canada.

A critical part of our ancestral homelands, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — one of the world's last untouched places — could be lost to the thirst for oil.

Some in Congress want to open the area to drilling and use the revenue to offset tax cuts for the wealthy. Meanwhile, President Trump is quietly permitting companies to take the first steps towards drilling here.

The Arctic Refuge, home to wildlife and vast lands essential to my people's survival, has been reduced to a line item.

I'm disturbed that the push to drill has been allowed to over-

shadow our human rights. The Gwich'in people have relied on

the lands of the refuge for thousands of years. These lands provide everything we need to live and thrive — our food, our clothing, our tools, everything.

My people have always subsisted on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, whose calving grounds are in the coastal plain. This is why we call the coastal plain "the sacred place where life begins."

This place is vital for the survival of my people. We are caribou people. Our elders say that what befalls the caribou befalls the Gwich'in. If they go, we go. Part of us will die with them, and the other half can't survive without them.

Our identities as indigenous people are at stake, and decision makers at the highest levels must take that into account. My people, history, culture, and our fu-

ture must factor into the decision making in Washington.

I'm also disturbed to hear politicians talking about "directional drilling" to justify opening this area as part of the budget. That is, they're planning on placing drills just outside the boundaries of the refuge and drilling sideways to reach oil under this special place.

Directional drilling is billed as safe and clean technology. It's not. There is no safe drilling.

Such drilling would allow massive oil infrastructure to squeeze the borders of the refuge, while drills could be sunk into the coastal plain, the heart of the refuge, in the name of exploration. That would disturb the caribou calving grounds and hinder the migration patterns of already declining herds.

And what hurts the caribou ultimately hurts my people.

The Gwich'in Nation has been fighting this fight since it first came up 40 years ago. That's why every two years, the

Gwich'in come together to reaffirm our commitment to protect the coastal plain of the refuge from drilling.

Last year, people came from the 15 villages that make up the Gwich'in Nation. We danced. We sang. We were well provided for, and I felt that our ancestors were sitting there with us. Now tribes across Alaska are coming together again against drilling.

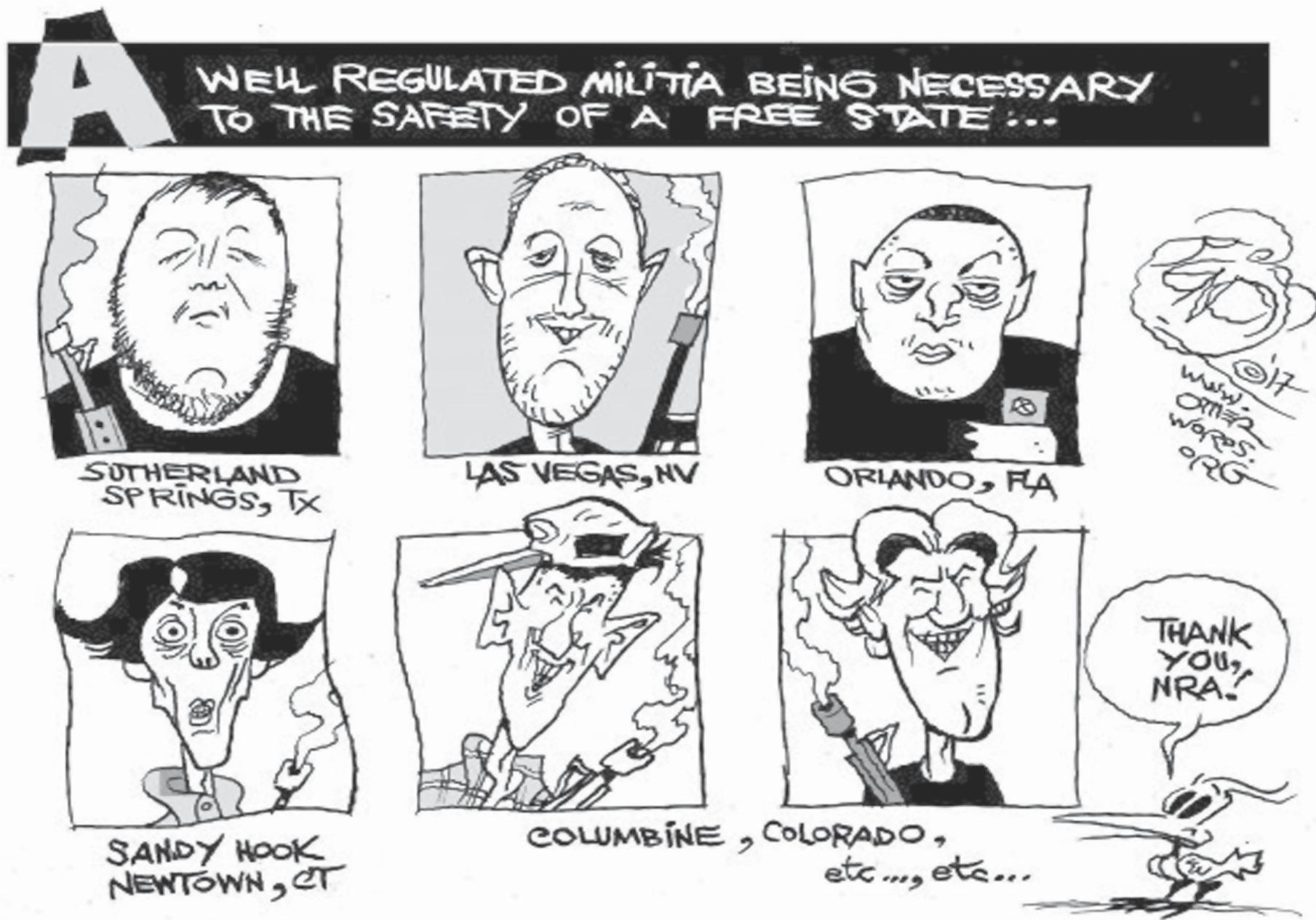
We have a moral responsibility to protect this land for our children and grandchildren. This isn't a game. Real lives are at stake — our lives — along with special places that are too sacred to drill.

Congress must take drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge off the table. It's up to all of us to protect this sacred place for generations to come.

Bernadette Demientieff is the executive director for the Gwich'in Steering Committee. She represents the Gwich'in nation from both sides of the border in the U.S. and Canada. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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



Preventing Gun Deaths and Protecting Gun Rights

Gun control shouldn't be this hard

BY JILL RICHARDSON



Before the gun lobby or its sycophants in Congress bring out their usual talking points for why we can't ever have common sense gun reform, I'd like to shoot one of them down. No pun intended.

We just saw what happens when a bad guy with a gun is met by a good guy with a gun. In Sutherland Springs, Texas, when a mass shooter attacked churchgoers, he was eventually confronted by another armed civilian.

But before the good guy got there with his gun, 26 people were fatally wounded.

I've already heard discussions about fixing the problem by having more people bring guns to church, as the attorney general of Texas recently suggested.

What about other ways to prevent gun deaths? How about any solution other than "more guns"?

Every time I hear discussions about one reform or another — universal background checks, banning high capacity magazines, banning assault rifles, etc. — I hear the exact same talking point: Criminals can get around those rules.

You could ban assault rifles, or the high capacity magazines that allow people intent on mass murder to shoot more bullets before they need to stop to reload. Perhaps some criminals would just get them illegally.

Not all mass shootings could have been prevented by background checks. For example, the Sandy Hook shooter stole guns from his mother, who legally acquired them. Background checks wouldn't have stopped him.

Here's the thing: These hypothetical arguments don't need to be hypothetical. We can study them and make an informed choice.

Which reforms will simultaneously preserve freedom for hunters, gun enthusiasts, and other law abiding citizens who want to own

firearms while also keeping guns out of the hands of criminals?

If there's any will at all to reduce the death toll from guns in this country — more than 33,000 deaths a year — no doubt the country that sent a man to the moon can figure out how to do it without violating citizens' rights.

Furthermore, just because a law may not prevent all shootings doesn't mean it won't prevent some shootings.

I've even heard a gun advocate say that regulation won't work because it would only stop people who are too stupid to get around them from obtaining a gun.

You know what? That sounds good to me. If we can prevent every single shooting perpetrated by a stupid person, I'm for it. That's still fewer people dying overall. It won't get us down to zero, but refusing to do anything just because it's a partial solution is ridiculous.

Each little bit of progress we make is a human life saved. It's an entire family whose lives aren't torn apart and changed forever. It's two fewer grieving parents and four fewer grieving grandpar-

ents. It's more children who grow up with their parents alive.

I don't have a stake in which method we use to reduce gun violence so long as we pick something that works. It would be nice if law-abiding gun enthusiasts would help.

So let's actually look at the data to find out how it can best be done. In fact, let's lift the congressional

ban that's prevented the Centers for Disease Control from examining a lot of that data for the last 20 years.

Preferably before another year passes and another 33,000 Americans are dead. 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.

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CLASSIFIED/BIDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFQ) FOR

General Contractor Services

Rock Creek Campus –

Child Development Center / Step One (1)

Proposals due 2:00 P.M., December 7, 2017

Notice is hereby given that Portland Community College ("PCC" or "College") is requesting sealed proposals from contractors with the knowledge and expertise to provide General Contractor services associated with the construction of the Rock Creek Campus – Child Development Center, approximately 7,844 square feet of indoor space with an overall footprint of approximately 9,440 square feet, located at 17705 NW Springville Road, Portland, OR 97229. Required services include utility and site work, complete building construction (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, security, etc.) and construction of 2 exterior play areas along with modifications to the hardscape and landscape. The construction type is V-B and the building will have a full sprinkler system. The College has selected a two (2) step solicitation process:

Step One (1): RFQ Proposal

The College seeks interested vendors to submit (un-priced) proposals for the Rock Creek Campus-Child Development Center project construction services. The RFQ proposal will be evaluated and scored by committee members who will make a recommendation to select the most responsive qualified proposers.

Step Two (2): Invitation to Bid (ITB) Proposal

The ITB will be released and distributed to selected proposers from the 1st step of this two-step process. The selected proposers will be asked to submit a competitive best value bid based on the ITB requirements, project specifications and drawings. The bid(s) will be evaluated and scored by committee members. The recommendation for contract award will be given to the bidder with the highest evaluation score.

Sealed RFQ proposals (Step 1) must be received in the issuing office, PCC Bond Program, 9700 SW Capitol Hwy, Suite 260, Portland, OR 97219. Deadline for submitting a RFQ proposal will be no later than **2:00 P.M., December 7, 2017**. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The description of the project, requirements, and specific conditions for this RFQ is available to download from the PCC Solicitation Opportunities link: <http://www.pcc.edu/purchasing>. Interested proposers who are not equipped to download the document may request a copy of the RFQ by contacting Sandy Wanner, Purchasing Specialist, phone: 971-722-8411 or by sending an email to swanner@pcc.edu. (The website will require you to register then submit. The email you use to register is where your "Download" RFQ will be sent).

State of Oregon Prevailing Wage Rates for Public Works Contracts in Oregon shall be utilized for all labor involved in this Contract, including Wage Rates and Certification of payroll as required by the Bureau of Labor & Industries.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive irregularities. The College may also reject any proposal not in compliance with the prescribed public procedures and requirements, and may reject for good cause any and all proposals upon finding of the College that it is in the best public interest to do so.

Each proposal must contain a statement as to whether the bidder is a resident bidder, as defined in ORS 279.029.



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FOOD



Simple Vegan Burger by Paul A. Neufeldt (makes 1 dozen)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup mixed dried beans (at least 3 types)
- 1/2 cup nutritional yeast
- 1/2 cup quinoa
- 1/4 cup red rice flour
- 1/2 cup ground dried mushrooms
- 1/2 cup grated carrot
- 2 tablespoons Soup Spice Mix
- 1/2 cup dried seaweed cut into 1/4 inch by 1 inch strips
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 cup whey water

DIRECTIONS:

1. Put beans, quinoa, mushrooms and Soup Spice Mix in a saucepan with 3 cups water, bring to a boil then let simmer on medium for an hour. Stir periodically.
2. Pour entire contents of saucepan in a blender. Add soy sauce and whey water. Blends well, some chunks are okay.
3. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix thoroughly by hand.
4. Set oven to 250f. Bake in a large greased casserole pan for half an hour. Let cool, then store in covered container until used to make burgers (makes about a dozen).
5. Burgers may be frozen, separated by cooking parchment, in a sealed container.
6. Fry burgers on medium heat with olive oil until browned on both sides.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 National Nachos Day <i>James Naismith, Inventor of Basketball, born, 1861</i>	7 Hug-a-Bear Day <i>Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867</i>	8 <i>X-Ray Day X-Ray was discovered on this day in 1895</i>	9 First 'Rolling Stone' magazine is published in 1967 Great Boston Fire 1872	10 ☾ <i>Sesame Street Debuted in 1969</i> Veteran's Day (Celebrated)	11 Remembrance Day In Canada Veteran's Day	12 <i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Women's Rights Leader, was born in 1815</i>
13 Mom's and Dad's Day <i>Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982</i>	14 Young Reader's Day National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day	15 America Recycles Day Pack Your Mom Lunch Day	16 <i>Jean Fritz born, 1915</i> <i>Fall of the Inca Empire (1533)</i> Button Day	17 Homemade Bread Day <i>Lewis & Clark Reached Pacific, 1805</i> Take A Hike Day	18 ● <i>Antarctica discovered in 1820</i> William Tell Day	19 <i>Gettysburg Address Delivered in 1863 by President Lincoln</i> <i>Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1917</i>

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