



**Black
Nativity**
Portland
theater group
presents
powerful play
See A&E, page 7

**Remembering
Steve Jones**
Local standout
had impact in
two pro leagues
See story, page 14



Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 48



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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity



Culturally competent doula training in Portland is geared toward reducing health disparities in and improving birth outcomes in the African American community and increasing the number of doulas of color. Long time Portland doula and midwife Shafia Monroe (right) leads the training session providing education, resources and emotional support.

Improving Birth Outcomes

A new journey for a Portland entrepreneur

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A Portland midwife, public health expert and business woman with decades of culturally-competent birth experience has taken on a new role in her journey to improve health disparities and reduce infant mortality in the African American community.

Shafia Monroe moved to Portland in 1991 and founded the International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC), a non-profit to honor the legacy of the 20th Century African American midwife, reduce infant mortality and increase the number of midwives and doulas of color.

Now as the non-profit organization grows into a new



Shafia Monroe

direction, Monroe is taking over the group's Full Circle Doula Birth Companion training program as a private business. Under the nameplate Shafia Monroe Consulting/Birthing Change, she becomes the only woman and minority-owned emerging small business owner in Portland providing doula training.

Monroe told the Portland Observer she is "ecstatic and proud" to take on this new role.

The word "doula" is Greek and literally means slave women. In the late 1970s, research confirmed that when a laboring woman has a female support as a doula, her labor shortens, with reduced intervention, less Caesarean sections, better breastfeeding rates in the first hour of birth, and the mother and father felt more satisfied with their birth experience.

Monroe said doulas are not medical staff, they are not midwives or doctors, but work with them to help the mother during labor and birth. Doulas offer education, resources and emotional support, and help with writing birth plans and what to bring to the hospital. Doulas can come to your home after the birth to help with postpartum support with baby soothing tips, light house-keeping,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Livability Grants Awarded

Projects promote shared prosperity

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Prosper Portland, the city of Portland's urban development agency, is awarding \$1.7 million in Community Livability Grants, leveraging \$11 million in private investment, to promote projects with shared prosperity benefitting communities of color and people with low incomes.

The successful applicants were from five urban renewal areas across the city and had proposals that honor local culture and history, support expansion of workforce services facilities and improve community centers and services, officials said. They also commit to making a good faith effort to hire minority-owned, woman-owned, disadvantaged or emerging small businesses and organizations.

Among the 21 grant recipients are several serving the African American community, including a \$280,000 grant to Allen Temple Church to help rebuild a fellowship hall and provide space for community programs, classes and public events; a \$129,000 award

Billy Webb Elks Lodge to expand services, and \$300,000 to Constructing Hope, a nonprofit that plans to expand its training facility which prepares participants to do construction work through a pre-apprenticeship program.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church will receive \$42,500 to assist with roof replacement;

The Portland Miracle Revival Church Restoration Outreach Community Center will receive \$38,000 for storefront improvements to increase community engagement with the organization's social services; and Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church will receive \$32,500 for renovation of the church's interior to encourage a more optimized and efficient use of space.

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PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*

EDITOR: *Michael Leighton*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: *Rakeem Washington*

ADVERTISING MANAGER: *Leonard Latin*

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PUBLIC RELATIONS: *Mark Washington Jr.*

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES: *Shawntell Washington*

news@portlandobserver.com • ads@portlandobserver.com • subscription@portlandobserver.com

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The Week in Review

North Korea Fires 15th Ballistic Missile of 2017

North Korea launched its 15th ballistic missile of 2017 on Tuesday, according to a U.S. official, marking the latest act of provocation by the hermit nation and its first test in over two months. On Aug. 8, Trump threatened the regime with "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

High Court Rejects Mississippi Flag Lawsuit

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme court turned down hearing an appeal from a black attorney who was lost a lawsuit against the state of Mississippi, claiming the Confederate symbol on the official state flag was "an official endorsement of white supremacy."

Michigan State, Duke Crowned PK80 Champs

Sunday concluded the Phil Knight Invitational 80, a Thanksgiving holiday weekend college basketball tournament at the Moda Center and Memorial Coliseum that saw 16 teams compete to celebrate Nike Founder Phil Knight's 80th birthday. In the championship bracket, Michigan State beat North Carolina, 63-45; and in the runner up bracket Duke beat Florida, 87-84.

Man Dies in Hit and Run on North Fessenden

Police are looking for the driver of a dark BMW sedan involved in a hit and run collision that killed a pedestrian on North Fessenden Street Sunday. A witness told police the driver was speeding down the street when it happened and fled. Community members administered CPR for the victim, but he was later pronounced dead by emergency medical responders, officials said.

Speed Tied to I-5 Fatal; Responding Officers Hurt

Police said speed was the blame for a fatal crash involving two vehicles on I-5 near the Interstate Bridge Sunday. Two North Precinct officers assisting at the scene were injured when a passing motorist crashed into their vehicle, one was transported to the hospital for serious injuries, officials said.

Trump Makes Pocahontas Crack with Navajo Code Talkers

President Donald Trump turned a remark about 'Pocahontas' into a racial slur at a White House event honoring Navajo code talkers from World War II Monday. The quip came in reference to Sen. Elizabeth Warren in an aside that received swift backlash shortly afterward.

Net Neutrality Rollback Would Reverse Obama

Federal Communications Commission chairman Ajit Pai last week announced a proposal to roll back rules set in place by the Obama Administration to ensure equal access to the internet. The regulations prohibit Telecom companies like AT&T and Verizon from slowing down the delivery of websites in favor of speedier networks for higher paying customers.



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The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

page 6

FOOD




METRO page 9




Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 7-11



OPINION pages 12-13

CLASSIFIEDS pages 14

CALENDAR page 15

This page
Sponsored by: **Fred Meyer**
What's on your list today?



PHOTO COURTESY ALEX CHIU

Portland Artist Alex Chiu creates a mural at the 82nd Avenue Max Station to embrace the diverse culture and ethnicities of east and outer east Portland.

Celebrating Diversity

Artist's work reflects on a new generation

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If you've caught the bus or train from the 82nd MAX station lately, you might've noticed some colorful changes. TriMet commissioned local artist Alex Chiu, 33, to do a mural there, which was completed this fall.

A son of Chinese immigrant accountants, Chiu said he tried to reflect the growing diverse culture and ethnicities of east and outer east Portland, which is where the station is located.

A professional painter, educator, and stay at home dad, he drew much of his inspiration from his daughter, who he saw as a symbol of the next generation, and painted her image as a reflection of that growing diversity.

Chiu also enlisted the help of representatives of the Asian Pacific

American Network of Oregon, a community organizing group; the Morpheus Youth Project, which provides art and humanities activities like hip hop dancing, journalism, and painting to at risk youth; and the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization.

East and outer east Portland have seen a rising number of ethnic minorities compared to the city as a whole, according to a 2013 study from Portland's Bureau of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Winters Named Minority Leader

Sen. Jackie Winters, a long time African American lawmaker and business owner, has become the first black lawmaker to head one of Oregon's major political caucuses.

Winters, a Republican representing the Salem area, was named Minority Leader this month by a vote of her party colleagues in the Senate.

She becomes one of just a few black women to hold a caucus leadership position nationwide, and also is Oregon's longest serving lawmaker, first elected to



Jackie Winters

the House in 1999.

Winters was elected to the Senate in 2003 where she rose to be vice chairwoman of the committee that writes the state budget, the Ways and Means Committee.

She most recently has battled health problems, a heart attack in 2016 and lung cancer, and is continuing treatment for cancer.

The pick has drawn praise from Democratic leaders in the Legislature, where their own Majority Leader is also a woman, Ginny Burdick.

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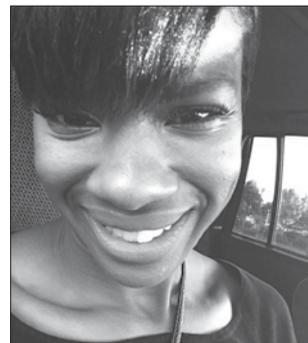
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Skipping Meals Doesn't Help

Do you ever have one of those days where your time is occupied with everything else but food? How many times have you ever caught yourself finding that dinner is your first meal of the day? We all know that not eating is unacceptable and that we are supposed to eat but that is sometimes easier said than done. Here are five things to consider when you don't eat:

1. Your metabolism rate will slow down and you will not burn any fat. It is counter-productive to work out if you are not eating. Food is fuel and your body needs fuel to burn. It can only burn your "reserves" for so long and trust me... your reserves are not that plentiful.
2. If you don't eat any protein, you will not grow any muscles. This applies to everyone and not just those in the body building profession. Protein can also come in a non-meat form. Eggs, nuts, beans and quinoa are excellent sources of protein.
3. Missed meals cause cramps. A horrible tightening of your stomach can take place after a long session of not eat-



Fitness with 'JJ'

BY JANITA 'JJ' JONES

ing. When you are starving, the likelihood of choosing something healthy as a snack or a meal becomes slim. You might also be dealing with the effects of being "Hangry," that combination of hungry and angry can cause some people to be unbearable.

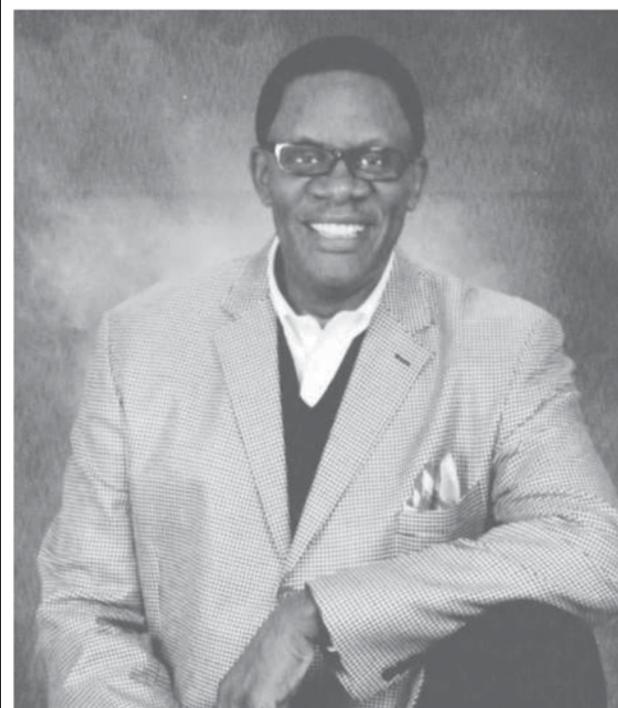
4. Eating too little will cause fatigue and low energy, making your meetings, tests, appointments and daily tasks challenging to complete. Speaking for myself I know that I cannot effectively parent if I have low energy. My children require me to be ready and alert.

5. You could get really sick. Fainting, dizziness and headaches are symptoms of Hypoglycemia, the result of low glucose levels. Muscle spasms and

heart dysrhythmias are symptoms of Hypokolemia or low potassium. These conditions can be prevented with eating.

Let's be clear... When I say eat, I mean healthy food options. However, if you have to grab a McChicken on the run don't feel guilty about it. Think about how you can be better prepared for a snack attack next time.

Janita "JJ" Jones is a fitness professional and sports journalist for the Portland Observer. Find her cheering on her alma maters the University of Nevada and Benson High School, chasing after her baby dragons, coaching amazing athletes or teaching exercise classes. She can be reached via email at jj@theportlandobserver.com.



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Your leg pain is likely related to a problem in your lumbar spine, although it is hard to pinpoint exactly what triggered your pain. You might have had a pre-existing condition made worse by a recent injury. The good

news is this type of pain often resolves on its own or with chiropractic treatment. If the pain lasts longer than a few weeks, or if you have noticeable weakness in your leg or foot, talk to a doctor about getting an MRI.

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PHOTO COURTESY ALEX CHIU

Mazzy Chiu stands in front of an image of her likeness that was created to celebrate cultural diversity for a Max Station mural on 82nd Avenue by her artist father Alex Chiu.

Celebrating Diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Planning and Sustainability.

“As an Asian American, I’ve felt and observed rising political and racial tension in America. The reason why I chose to paint a diversity of people is because the image of diversity is what I feel makes America a beautiful place. I believe that the US is a

country that embraces all people. People of color and marginalized people deserve representation in all forms; television, movies, art, political office, and leadership positions. I hope to depict that in my artwork as well,” Chiu said.

Chiu currently teaches classes for the public access cable TV organization Open Signal, including stop-motion animation for chil-

dren, using iPads. He said he wants to do more public art pieces as well.

“I’m looking for more opportunities to...kind of highlight communities that need to be seen and need to be heard. I am looking to try to do more work along those lines and work for the community,” Chiu said.

Alex can be reached at alexdoodles.com, for more information.

Improving Birth Outcomes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

making meals, helping with baby baths and running herbal baths for the mom. Doulas work in all birth settings, hospitals, homes and birth centers. It is up to the parent where she chooses to birth.

Monroe says she is committed to keeping the ICTC Full Circle Doula Birth Companion curriculum intact. Only the name will change to SMC Full Circle Doula Birth Companion training to reflect the new ownership.

The instruction will continue teaching about all the aspects and stages of pregnancy, from fertility and reproduction to postpartum and breastfeeding. The instruction is geared to be inclusive to everyone, as pregnancy is just

one aspect of women’s health, and the instruction covers nutrition, healthy movement, breast health and information on healthy menstrual cycles.

All women can benefit from the training, Monroe says, as it is “a passage to womanhood” and “normalizes birth” and other areas of women’s health. Even three men and one transgender man have trained with her to become full circle doulas.

The cultural competency element is a large part of the program. Monroe makes it a point to address the consequences of systemic racism in society. She points to issues that can contribute to unhealthy outcomes for expectant mothers, such as food deserts, racial profiling in the justice sys-

tem and the medical profession, and the stress that comes from not being able to access culturally competent doulas.

As her consulting business moves forward, Monroe hopes that the services become more mainstream, that the community grows to include more national trainers, and that health institutions will seek her doula graduates as stellar persons to have in their company with unique skill sets.

“This business adds value, not just to people and families of color, but to the entire city of Portland,” she said.

For more information about Shafia Monroe Consulting/Birthing Change, and the training sessions offered, visit shafiamonroe.com.



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FOOD



Lamb and Butternut Squash Stew

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces ground lamb
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- 8 ounces 90% lean ground sirloin
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1 1/2 cups chopped peeled butternut squash
- 1 cup chopped onion 2 garlic cloves, minced

- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon each ground coriander and cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon each ground paprika and cinnamon
- 1 cup unsalted beef stock
- 3 cups chopped kale
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 450°.
2. Heat a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add lamb, beef, and 1/4 teaspoon salt; cook 5 minutes or until browned, stirring to crumble.
3. Add all ingredients. Stir in kale; cook 1 minute or until kale begins to wilt. Stir in lamb mixture.
4. Cover and bake at 450° for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Portland's African American PassinArt theater group presents *Back Nativity*, a retelling of the classic nativity story in song.

Classic Nativity in Gospel

Portland theater group presents powerful play

PassinArt: A Theatre Company is bringing to the stage *Black Nativity*, a moving and powerful play written by playwright, novelist, and poet Langston Hughes retelling the classic nativity story in song.

Traditional holiday carols are performed in a gospel style with a few additional songs selected for the show. This unique, powerful holiday musical is appealing to everyone regardless of their cultural backgrounds.

Director Jerry Foster says he hopes the audiences come from all ethnicities, ages and backgrounds to celebrate the holidays.

"This piece has been called the black community's gift to the world," Foster said. "We like to think of our production as a gift to Portland, a way we can all come together."

Black Nativity performances begin Friday, Dec. 1 and run through Dec. 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays 3 p.m., at The Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 N.E. Mallory Ave.

Admission is \$20 with group rates for 10 or more at \$15 per person. For tickets, visit passinart.org

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Portland's Singing Christmas Tree is a 350-voice choir performing contemporary and traditional holiday music at the Keller Auditorium with shows continuing through Sunday, Dec. 3.

Singing Christmas Tree

55th annual show includes Jefferson Dancers

BY PIERCE GIRKIN

Portland's Singing Christmas Tree is lighting up Keller Auditorium for its 55th season with an all-new lineup of songs and performances, as well as some old fan favorites.

The 350-voice choir performs a two-hour show that showcases both contemporary and traditional holiday music with performances Thursday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 3 at Keller Auditorium.

The production will also include dance numbers by the Jefferson Dancers, special performances by local actors and musicians, and a cinematic "living nativity" - a Hollywood-esque version of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

No production of the Singing Christmas Tree is identical year-to-year, said Wes Waltermann, director

and CEO of Portland's Singing Christmas Tree. Waltermann spends countless hours during the off-season making sure each year's show is new and exciting.

The Singing Christmas Tree held its debut performance at Benson Polytechnic High School in 1962 with a modest budget of \$500. Since then, the show has grown substantially, and has had to relocate multiple times to accommodate increasing audience sizes. In 1968, the Singing Christmas Tree settled into Keller Auditorium, and has been there ever since.

In the spirit of holiday charity, the Singing Christmas Tree organization makes sizeable donations to various youth programs and high school music programs, including Doernbecher Children's

Hospital, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and the Snowman Foundation.

Despite many of the show's explicitly religious themes, the organizers and producers of the Singing Christmas Tree have made great efforts to foster inclusivity among religious and secular audience members.

The second half is more religious in nature, with a live-scored nativity performance and a handful of gospel tunes. The "cinematic nativity," as the producers call it, may be the crown jewel of the Singing Christmas Tree.

Tickets for Portland's Singing Christmas Tree are on sale now through Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts website.

Pierce Girkin is a writer from Metro.

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Holiday Breakfast Theater



The Peppermint Bear stars in Lakewood Theater's Holiday Magic Breakfast theatre program.

Santa's workshop is in a tizzy when his chair and then magic jingle bells go missing.

Lakewood Theatre Company presents an all-new version of their annual Holiday Magic Breakfast Theatre production with the presentation of the Peppermint Bear and the Giant Elf.

Performances take place at 11:30 a.m. in Lakewood's community meeting room on Dec. 2, 9, 10, 16, 17, 22 and 23. There will also be 9:30 a.m. shows on Dec. 9, 16, 22 and 23. The theatre is located at the Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. Advance reservations are required by calling the box office 503 635-3901 or order online at lakewood-center.org.



Mississippi
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Vancouver
East County
Beaverton



Portland Parks and Recreation is a proud partner in a new youth basketball league assisting Somali youth and other immigrant teens embrace the popular game while helping them meet the challenges of life and achieving their dreams.

Thriving on the Court

Immigrant youth start new basketball league

A new basketball league is geared toward Portland's immigrant population and focused especially on helping youth of Somali and east African descent meet the challenges of life in a new country and achieving their dreams.

"We are so excited to have the support of Portland Parks and Recreation, which is providing both the space and enthusiastic support for our youth basket-

ball league," says Jamal Dar, executive director of the African Youth Community Organization.

The league, which is also supported by Nike and other partners, provides structure for the teen players and a safe, supportive environment where staff and volunteers reflect the cultural communities of immigrant and refugee youth.

Currently the league has 40 teens playing and 60 on the waiting list in the inaugural year of the program. The players are originally from Somalia or neighboring parts of east Africa. Games played each Friday at the Montavilla Community Center in

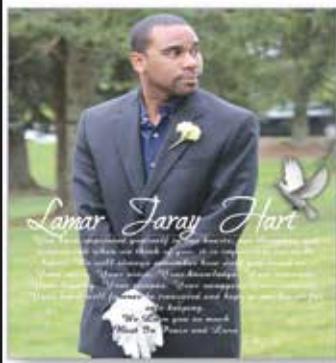
southeast Portland started earlier this month and end in early February.

Dar hopes to grow the program by adding more sponsors, companies, foundations and volunteers.

"It is both gratifying and frustrating to have 60 teens on the wait list," he said. "Were delighted at the enthusiasm, but dismayed we can't get them all a spot right now."

For more information or to offer financial or volunteer support, contact AYCO youth coordinator Omar Mohamed at Omar@aycoworld.org or AYCO Executive Director Jamal Dar at Jamal@aycoworld.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



OMSI's new exhibit 'Under the Arctic: Digging into Permafrost' addresses the subject of climate change as viewed through the lens of a thawing arctic using exciting interactive features such as an Alaskan permafrost tunnel replica, fossil research stations and interactive games.



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Arctic Thaw Up Close

Explore real Ice Age fossils, ancient ice cores, and engineering challenges posed by a thawing arctic at OMSI's newest exhibit "Under the Arctic: Digging into Permafrost."

Addressing the subject of climate change as viewed through the lens of a warming arctic using exciting interactive features, the exhibit takes you into an

Alaskan permafrost tunnel replica, fossil research stations and interactive games.

"Climate change can be hard to wrap your head around. For a lot of people who don't experience its effects, it feels abstract or distant – like something in the future," said Allyson Woodard, an exhibit developer with OMSI. "This exhibit is an opportunity

to make the impacts of climate change tangible - you can see it, touch it, and even smell it."

Permafrost is soil that has been frozen for at least two years, and it traps an enormous amount of carbon dioxide. As it thaws, carbon is released into the atmosphere, which in turn has drastic repercussions for the planet.



Kids Flick 'The Cat Returns'

A schoolgirl bored by her ordinary life inadvertently saves the life of Lune, prince of the cat kingdom in 'The Cat Returns,' a Japanese film of fantasy and fable with English subtitles, screening Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. as part of the Northwest Film Center's Kid Flicks series at the Portland Art Museum. Admission \$6 for children; \$8 for students and seniors and \$9 for adults.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Da Vinci Arts Fair -- The popular da Vinci Middle School Arts Fair, with proceeds supporting the school at 2508 N.E. Everett, takes place 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 are other highlights.

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.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 p.m. at the Mock Crest Tavern; Sunday, Dec. 3 at 9 a.m. at the Elsinore Theater in Salem; Friday, Dec. 8 at 9 p.m. at Catfish Lou's; and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 9 p.m. at the Spare Room.



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.



To Kill a Mockingbird -- Revisiting themes of compassion in justice that are as resonant today as when the play was set in the 1930s, Lakewood Theatre Company in Lake Oswego presents 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' the journey of a young white girl whose father has been appointed to defend a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. Now playing

through Dec. 10. For tickets, call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit lakewood-center.org.

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.

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7 A.M. - 10 A.M. TONI TERRELL	6 A.M. - 12 NOON SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL W/ANGELA
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3 P.M. - 7 P.M. D.L. HUGHLEY	4 P.M. - 12 Midnight DOUGLAS WILLIAMS
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OPINION



A Mass Murderer's Love Song to Trump

And a sorry deal for our national interest

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

"We've had a great relationship," exulted a giddy Donald Trump, following his two-day schmooze-



fest in Manila with the thuggish Philippine president, Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte, who calls himself a "toughie," brags that he's

personally killed many people and likes to compare himself to Hitler. He's been on a murderous rampage since his election last year.

Trump didn't bother his authoritarian buddy with any unpleasant talk about those rampant human rights abuses.

his authoritarian buddy with any unpleasant talk about those rampant human rights abuses.

Instead, the Duterte-Trump get-together was one of mutual praise and even affection. Indeed, Trump was delighted when Duterte impulsively grabbed the microphone at a gala state dinner and serenaded Trump with a love ballad, crooning: "You are the love I've been waiting for."

In fact, Duterte had earlier demonstrated that love when he named Jose Antonio to be his trade representative to our country. Antonio, a Philippine real estate mogul, happens to be a partner with our president in the luxurious new Trump Tower, now under construction in Manila. Cozy, huh?

Hugging up Duterte might be good business for Trump, but it's a sorry deal for our national interest — and it's an insult to our people's support of human rights.

OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. He's also the editor of the populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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In the name of eliminating the drug trade, Duterte has unleashed a massive military assault across the country, not merely targeting dealers, but also anyone alleged to even use drugs. His onslaught is a human rights atrocity, with untold thousands being executed in what are antiseptically termed "extra-judicial killings" — that is, murders. Yet the present president of the United States says Duterte is his new buddy. Trump stressed in their official discussions that the Philippine president can count on him and the U.S. (which includes you and me) to be a friend. And, as a friend, Trump didn't bother

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

Outstanding Mentors and Role Models

No success without a successor

"You are where you are today because you stand on somebody's shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It's the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give." – Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.



BY MARC H. MORIAL

When I began my career in public service 25 years ago, I was fortunate to have outstanding mentors and role models, most notably my own parents.

Ernest "Dutch" Morial and Sybil Morial were – and my mother continues to be – tireless activists and advocates for civil rights and social justice. I grew up in the movement, and was inspired by heroes such as Whitney M. Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Height.

I first sought elected office in the era of Douglas Wilder, the first black governor of Virginia, and Carol Mosely Braun, the first black wom-

an elected to the U.S. Senate. The management guru Peter Drucker said "there is no success without a successor," and while I humbly pray that I may represent the success of my mentors and role models, I recognize that all of us are part of a continuum.

We launched Urban League 25 to recognize and encourage the best and brightest leaders under 40 – the next generation of Dr. Mae Jemisons and Colin Powells and Barack Obamas.

When I was appointed president of the National Urban League, I remember well that one of my concerns when I joined was whether we would be able to replace the giants of the movement, the disciples of Whitney M. Young, with peo-

ple who are not only qualified and committed, but who also recognized the needs and the potential of a rapidly-changing political, technological and social landscape.

We have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. Young people are joining the movement at an unprecedented rate, and several of our affiliate CEOs have risen from the ranks of our Young Professionals.

It is these young men and women, and their counterparts in business, science, government and the arts that we will to recognize with Urban League 25.

From corporate to government to media and technology, Urban League 25

honorees are those who are unwilling to accept the status quo. They are change agents who have reinvented business models for a new era. They believe unreachable summits do not exist. Their objective is simple yet ambitious: To redefine and power the digital revolution.

In the coming weeks, we will begin soliciting nominations for our first Urban League 25 honorees. It's a project that is close to my heart, and I look forward to celebrating the excellence that fuels not only our movement but our national institutions and culture.

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

Tax Cuts at the Expense of Vulnerable Children

Speak up loudly and stop this unjust proposal

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

I hope you will speak up loudly and do whatever else is necessary to stop Congress' hugely unjust Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that rewards billionaires at the expense of poor babies and corporations at the expense of vulnerable children. Millions of America's children today are suffering from hunger, homelessness and hopelessness. Nearly 13.2 million children are poor – almost one in five. About 70 percent of them are children of color who will be a majority of our children by 2020. More than 1.2 million are homeless. About 14.8 million children struggle against hunger in food insecure households.

Millions of young children need quality early childhood programs during their critical years of early brain development but only 5 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are

enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start serves only 46 percent of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.

The majority of all our public school fourth and eighth graders cannot read at grade level; over 70 percent of Latino and 80 percent of black children cannot read at grade level in fourth or eighth grades.

Every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected and the number of children in foster care is increasing rapidly in some parts of our country from out-of-control opioid use.

And what are our callous and morally blind and money greedy political leaders doing to address grim child survival needs in our wealthy nation? Making it worse by seeking to enact tax cuts for billionaires and millionaires and powerful corporations, hugely increasing the national deficit, and imposing emasculating and deep cuts in essential lifegiving investments for children and families.

Both the House and Senate are working hard to move millions and millions of low- and middle-income children and families backwards and to line the pockets and fill the coffers of powerful special interests.

Congressional Republican claims that these massive tax cuts will help the middle class are lies. The Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation says more than two thirds of the nearly \$1.5 trillion cost of the House bill would go to the wealthiest families and businesses. Families with annual incomes under \$75,000 would (on average) see a tax increase in 10 years, while families making more than \$1 million would see a tax cut.

And more than three million low-income children, many U.S. citizens, in hard-working immigrant families currently benefitting from the Child Tax Credit will lose it entirely with the new requirement that all families file their income taxes with a Social Security Number rather than the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number many taxpaying immigrant families now use.

The House-approved bill also would eliminate a number of existing credits that currently help children and families at the bottom and in the middle of the income range. It ends tax credits or deductions for employers offering child care to working parents; high cost medical treatment for children

and adults with severe medical needs; reimbursement for public school teachers who purchase supplies for their classrooms out of their own pockets; student loan interest and other higher education assistance; and help to find jobs.

Charitable contributions that help service programs for vulnerable children and families will likely decrease as the percentage of taxpayers who itemize deductions is expected to decline because of changes in the House bill to eligibility for the standard deduction.

It gets worse. Senate Republicans use their tax bill to continue their cruel efforts to destroy the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate requiring most Americans to purchase health care or pay a penalty as they file their tax returns. This will "save" \$338 billion for the rich and leave millions of children and families without health insurance beginning in 2019 and 13 million children and adults without health insurance over the next 10 years while raising premiums for millions more.

The \$1.5 trillion ten-year deficit both House and Senate bills will allow will undermine the health and well-being of

millions of children and is just Part I of theft from the minds and bodies and spirits and hopes of children. In Part II we will see additional huge cuts in Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, child care and Head Start, education, Pell grants, and other crucial child investments.

Although polls reflect public skepticism about these unjust tax cuts for the very non-needy rich, Congressional Republicans and the President are recklessly zooming full speed ahead. Every American who believes in fairness must stand up and stop their indefensible massive giveaways to the least needy and richest among us at the expense of the most needy and vulnerable young and old.

In his last Sunday sermon at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned that "America is going to hell if we don't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life."

If this horrifically unjust tax bill passes we will be well on our way there!

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund.

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Steve "Snapper" Jones (right) as a member of the Denver Rockets of the old American Basketball Association in the early 1970s.

Steve Jones Dead at 75

Local standout had impact in two pro leagues

Steve "Snapper" Jones, former Portland Trail Blazers player, team announcer and later NBA broadcaster, died Saturday after reportedly battling a lengthy illness. He was 75.

Known as much for his work on the sidelines as his performances between them, Jones was a staple of the NBA on broadcasts. As a collegiate player, he played for the University of Oregon from 1961-64, leading the team in scoring during the 1963-64 season. Born in Alexandria, La., but raised in Portland, Jones was a standout player locally at Franklin High School, leading his squad to a state championship in 1959.

His younger brother Nick Jones, also a highly-touted player at Franklin and later Oregon, played for the Golden State Warriors and was a member of the Trail Blazers Community Relations staff for several years.

Steve Jones played 64 games in a Trail Blazers uniform during the 1975-76 season, averaging 6.5 points per game in what would be his final year as a player.

The bulk of his pro career was spent in the American Basketball Association where Jones was a three-time All-Star and played



Steve "Snapper" Jones

for five franchises. His nine-year ABA/NBA pro career spanned 704 games, with an impressive 15.2 points per game average.

His broadcasting resume included work for ESPN/ABC, TBS, TNT, Fox Sports Net, USA Network and NBC, where he was an analyst for the "NBA on NBC" for more than a decade. Jones was also part of numerous Trail Blazers broadcasting tandems, including Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame honoree Bill Schonely.

"Steve was as positive and good-natured a broadcasting partner as I could have had," said Schonely of Jones, who would be a broadcasting fixture with the Trail Blazers for 26 years. "He loved to call me 'Pops' as a nickname, and we worked very well together on Trail Blazers games during some of the early years of the franchise. He was a terrific guy."

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CALENDAR November 2017

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

	<p>1 National Author's Day All Saint's Day National Family Literacy Day</p>	<p>2 Daniel Boone born, 1734 Internat. Space Station Opened in 2000 National Deviled Egg Day</p>	<p>3 National Sandwich Day</p>	<p>4 Gail Haley born, 1939 National Candy Day</p>	<p>5 Daylight Savings Time Ends Guy Fawkes Day</p>	
<p>6 National Nachos Day James Naismith, Inventor of Basketball, born, 1861</p>	<p>7 Hug-a-Bear Day Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867</p>	<p>8 X-Ray Day X-Ray was discovered on this day in 1895</p>	<p>9 First 'Rolling Stone' magazine is published in 1967 Great Boston Fire 1872</p>	<p>10 Sesame Street Debuted in 1969 Veteran's Day (Celebrated)</p>	<p>11 Remembrance Day In Canada Veteran's Day</p>	<p>12 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Women's Rights Leader, was born in 1815</p>
<p>13 Mom's and Dad's Day Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982</p>	<p>14 Young Reader's Day National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day</p>	<p>15 America Recycles Day Pack Your Mom Lunch Day</p>	<p>16 Jean Fritz born, 1915 Fall of the Inca Empire (1533) Button Day</p>	<p>17 Homemade Bread Day Lewis & Clark Reached Pacific, 1805 Take A Hike Day</p>	<p>18 Antarctica discovered in 1820 William Tell Day</p>	<p>19 Gettysburg Address Delivered in 1863 by President Lincoln Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1917</p>
<p>20 Mexican Revolution Day Traffic Light Patented in 1923</p>	<p>21 Leo Politi born in 1908 Mayflower Compact Signed in 1620 World Hello Day</p>	<p>22 Stop the Violence Day John F. Kennedy Assassinated in 1963 (35th President)</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day National Cashew Day</p>	<p>24 Black Friday Darwin publishes 'The Origin of Species' in 1859</p>	<p>25 Andrew Carnegie born in 1835 Crescent Dragonwagon born in 1952</p>	<p>26 Charles Schulz born in 1922 National Cake Day</p>
<p>27 Pins and Needles Day Astronomer Anders Celsius born, 1701</p>	<p>28 Tomi Ungerer born, 1931 Magellan reached the Pacific (1521)</p>	<p>29 Madeline L'Engle born, 1918 King Tut's Tomb Opened (1922)</p>	<p>30 Mark Twain born, 1835 Stay At Home Because You're Well Day</p>			

Building Community Ties



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New Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw (left) gets an introduction to members of the local African American community, including Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington and Portland Community College Cascade Campus President Karin Edwards, during a Women of Faith luncheon Edwards recently hosted.



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