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Portland Observer

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

J.T. Flowers grew up in northeast Portland to become a Yale graduate, and now becomes one of America's celebrated Rhodes scholars, as he was just awarded one of the most prestigious academic fellowships in the world to study at Oxford University in England.

A Rhodes Scholar

**Portland student soars to
new academic heights**

BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

JT Flowers, a 24 year old Portlander who went to Lincoln High School and grew up in the heart of Portland's historic African American community, has just been awarded one of the most celebrated academic scholarships in the world, a Rhodes fellowship. He becomes one of only 32 other Americans selected each year to study at Oxford University in England, the United Kingdom's top-

ranked university and one of the worlds' most prestigious.

"It doesn't quite feel real," Flowers told the Portland Observer. "I'm still trying to process exactly what this means for both myself and my community. Above all else, this process has been humbling beyond belief. I was as shocked when I found out as I am today"

Since last summer, Flowers has been working at U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer's Portland field office as a liaison for the congressman's constituents. Flowers comes to work in a suit and tie every day, proudly brandishing his class ring from another prestigious university, Yale, his Ivy League alma mater in which he earned a political sci-

ence degree.

Flower's thesis at Yale examined gaps in Portland's sanctuary city law for undocumented immigrants. And last year, he won a Truman scholarship to pay for graduate-level studies for government or public service careers. In spite of these achievements, Flower hasn't forgotten his roots.

"Ultimately, I'm just a kid off the block of northeast Portland," he said. "I try to commit every waking second I have to giving back to the people who have got me where

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Dozens of people fill conference room to get information about jobs and construction contracts for the Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project and the Gladys McCoy Health Department Headquarters.

Networking for Jobs

County recruits for courthouse, health department builds

Multnomah County is getting out the word to connect job-seekers with opportunities as the coun-

ty moves ahead on two construction projects, a new courthouse and health department offices,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Guilty Plea in Russia Probe

Former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about conversations with Russia's ambassador, a sign that the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller is intensifying. The plea provides the clearest picture yet of coordination between Flynn and other Trump advisors in their contact with Russian officials to influence international polity.



Trump Embassy Move to Jerusalem Called Dangerous

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned President Trump Tuesday that moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would risk the peace, security and stability of the Mideast and the world. Abbas said Trump called him Tuesday to say he in-

The Week in Review

tends to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Embattled Conyers to Resign



Embattled Democratic Rep. John Conyers said Tuesday that he'll step down from his seat in Congress amid a nationwide reckoning over sexual harassment in the workplace. Conyers, who was the longest serving member of the U.S. House, was facing investigation into multiple allegations that he sexually harassed women who worked with him.

ate the business.

Def Jam Founder Steps Away



Def Jam Records founder Russell Simmons said Friday that he is stepping away from his companies following a second sexual misconduct allegation. Screenwriter Jenny Lumet said she was prompted to speak out after Simmons' denial of a separate 1991 allegation of misconduct by another woman.

Governors for Kids Health

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown joined Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper Tuesday to lambast the GOP Congress for letting the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expire. States are being forced to dip into their own budgets to keep children and pregnant mothers on their health insurance plans, and many could have to end that coverage unless Congress acts soon. Nearly nine million children across the country are at risk.

Jim Nabors Dead at 87

Jim Nabors, the actor best known for playing the character Gomer Pyle on "The Andy Griffith Show" in the 1960s, died Thursday in Hawaii. He was 87.

Court Allows Travel Ban

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to fully enforce a ban on travel to the United States by residents of six mostly Muslim countries pending a ruling from two cases winding through the federal courts. The lower courts have continued to find problems with the policy.



Embers Gay Nightclub Closes

Embers Avenue, a Portland dance and drag show venue that has served Portland's LGBTQ community for around 50 years, closed suddenly on Friday. Representatives of the beloved venue said Steve Suss, the main owner of the club, had a massive stroke and could no longer oper-

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What's on your list today?



An artists' rendering of a proposed 240-unit affordable housing complex coming to the heart of the Lloyd District. The government-backed project won the backing of the Portland City Council last week, but just days later was showcased by the city as an example of federal financial supports for low income housing that may be lost due to tax legislation moving through Congress.

Affordability for Now

Investment example of what may be lost in future

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A proposed 240 unit, 12-story mixed-use complex reserved for lower income tenants, the largest affordable housing investment in Portland for decades, is an example of creating needed housing with federal financial supports that may be unavailable in the future because of tax legislation moving through Congress.

The Portland City Council gave the financial green light to build the housing last week in the Lloyd District on a vacant lot known as Block 45 on Northeast Grand Avenue. It approved \$5.6 million dollars from the Portland Hous-

ing Bureau to support the project which is led by Home Forward, the housing authority for Multnomah County.

Scheduled for completion in 2019, the housing will leverage \$56 million in outside public and private resources, including federal tax credits and tax exempt bonds, according to Portland Housing Bureau Communications Manager Martha Calhoun.

"It represents a partnership between the city of Portland and Home Forward and Multnomah County. It's going to, when all said and done, it's going to be the largest affordable housing development [in Portland] in at least a

decade...possibly ever," Calhoun told the Portland Observer.

But on Tuesday, the Housing Bureau with local and state leaders, were pointing to the project as an example of affordable housing investment incentives that could be lost in the future because of changes to the federal tax system proposed by Republicans in Congress.

Negotiations between competing House and Senate bills may lead to Oregon losing hundreds of millions of dollars in tax credit revenue in the future that will jeopardize the development of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Oregon Ballet Executive Hired

Oregon Ballet Theatre has hired Michel R. Greer as its new executive director, a former professional dancer who went on to complete degrees in economics and education to pursue a career in business management and later become the executive director of the Portland Opera in Portland, Maine.

Greer is a native of Missouri who spent the early part of his life at some of the world's most prestigious dance institutions, including the Interlochen Arts Academy, Joffrey Ballet School and the Royal Ballet School of London.



Michael R. Greer

He danced professionally for six seasons with Ballet West in Salt Lake City. A fluent Mandarin speaker, he and his family have enjoyed life in both the USA and mainland China.

Greer joins the Oregon Ballet Theater's Artistic Director Kevin Irving, who recently signed a five year contract renewal to lead the company as it moves forward with plans to build on its programmatic success, expand its school, and further advance community education outreach initiatives.

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Affordability for Now

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

thousands of affordable housing units across the state, according to Tim Collier of Home Forward and Denis Theriault of the Multnomah County Office of Homeless Services.

Multnomah County alone could lose close to \$200 million in funding that would affect close to 1,800 housing units in the county, officials said.

"The GOP tax bill is cruel and backwards," said U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. "As Portland and cities across Oregon face housing crises, this bill would bankrupt critical programs that support affordable housing and families who need it most, all while giving massive tax breaks to the rich."

The Block 45 project will provide 220 housing units to folks at 60 percent or below the area median income—that's \$44,820 a year—and 20 "deeply affordable" housing units to folks at or below 30 percent of the area median income. The building will also set aside housing units specifically for survivors of domestic violence. It will also provide resident services, community space, and the ground floor will contain a retail store, Calhoon said.

The estimated construction cost of \$284,600 per unit did raise some eyebrows when it was approved last week, but the price will be worth it for a building that lasts 100 years and is sustainable, according to City Commissioner Nick Fish who disputed claims from outside contractors who said

they can build Block 45 for half the proposed price.

Fish was critical, however, of plans that did not offer permanent supportive housing with social services for homeless folks and added an amendment that orders housing officials to meet once again with a proposal to include supportive housing—the funding for which is yet to be determined.

Located on the western half of a block bound by Northeast Grand Avenue, Hassalo, Sixth Avenue and Holladay, Block 45 has stood vacant since the city bought it back in 1989.

The property is ideal for public transport, within easy reach of the downtown corridor by streetcar and Max line.

"It's going to do a lot of great things," Calhoon said.

Networking for Jobs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

downtown.

An open house was held earlier this month in a networking event for members of the public to learn about the county's capital construction projects.

It began with introductions from project managers, contractors, subcontractors, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship experts each describing a substantial need for many kinds of workers and skill sets: pipefitters, truckers, caulkers, carpenters, masons, laborers, sheet rockers, sheet metal workers, project engineers and 3-D modeling experts, among other vital roles.

"We're looking for people who have experience and those who don't have experience. We're willing to train and teach," one apprenticeship manager said.

The event was co-hosted by Hoffman Construction, JE Dunn Construction and Construction Apprenticeship and Workforce Solutions.

Both the Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project and the Gladys McCoy Health Department Headquarters in Old Town/Chinatown have broken ground and set ambitious goals to provide opportunities for apprentices and for minority, women, service-disabled veterans and emerging small businesses.

"We've put some things in place so we can achieve those goals," said Faye Burch of FM Burch and Associates, an equity and inclusion consultant. "We're taking responsibility for developing these job opportunities and people."

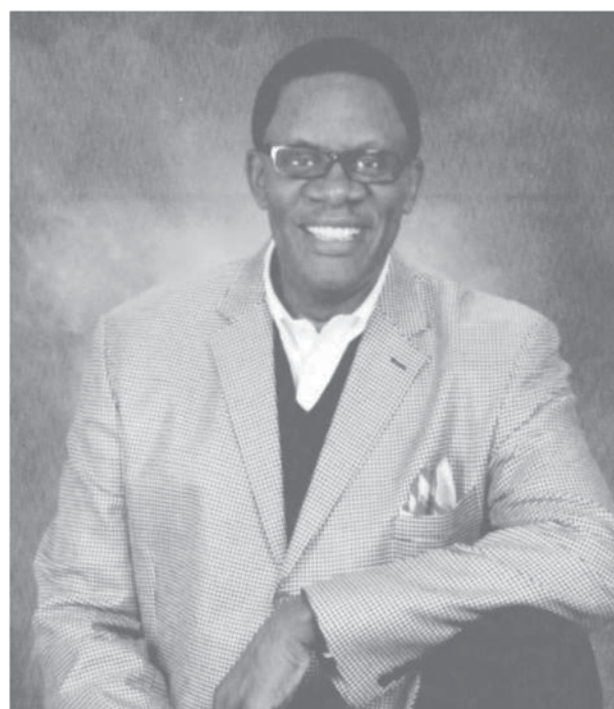
Opportunities exist for people as young as 18 years old, Burch stressed. Prospective candidates

can have a high school diploma or a GED and can enter the field through pre-apprenticeship programs like Constructing Hope, Oregon Tradeswomen Inc., Portland Youthbuilders Program or Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center.

Trainings range from six- to 12-week classes. After basic training classes, students work on actual construction projects to discover areas of interest. Some programs have direct entry to union and non-union work.

"Apprenticeship is a pathway for many out of poverty, and an opportunity to be self-sustaining for minorities and women," Burch said. "These are jobs that pay a competitive wage with opportunity for growth."

For more information on Constructing Hope call 503-281-1234, Oregon TradesWomen call 503-33-8200, Portland YouthBuilders call 503-286-9350.



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Consult a chiropractor if the curvature of your upper back causes pain or discomfort.

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J.T. Flowers gives credit to family members, coaches and teachers for his academic success. He personally thanks his mom, Jeana Woolley (pictured), a grandmother who helped raise him, and a teacher, Mark Halpern, as the people who motivated and supported him to become the man he is today.

A Rhodes Scholar

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

I am now. So that's my mother, my grandmother, my coaches, my teachers, my friends, my community, and the city at large."

Flowers said he was only a "sub-par student academically when he was heavily recruited for playing basketball back in high school. But After a torn ligament at the beginning of his junior year, colleges began pulling scholarship offers. The only school that stuck with him through the process of turning his grades around to an acceptable level for college was Yale, Flowers said.

An assistant coach there told him the path he would need to take to even stand a chance of getting admitted. That involved performing at his best during his senior year, taking advanced courses, then applying for and attending a boarding school on the east coast called Choate Rosemary Hall and performing well there, too.

"I kind of put my head down, plowed my way through school [...] and then ended up getting into Yale," Flowers said.

He continued playing basketball at Yale his freshman year, but sustained another injury, a separated shoulder, that rendered him

unable to play. For Flowers, basketball had been an "escape" from the rough neighborhood of his upbringing, but now it was a burden. That's when he said he really had to do some soul searching.

"Because I had so heavily rooted my conception of myself in my identity as a basketball player that I didn't know what I was without basketball, I had to figure out who I was and what I stood for, uh, and what I cared about and what I was interested in."

One of the ways Flowers found his identity was through spoken word poetry. He joined a group called Word Performance Poetry.

"That afforded me the opportunity to take a deep dive, uh, not only into evaluating and reflecting on the experiences that have shaped me into the person I am."

He realized his background of coming from a low income family and black community ignited a passion in him for studying access to opportunity and socio-economic mobility, hence the political science degree.

Flowers invested his mind in academics, created an organization, "A Leg Even," that offers mentoring, tutoring, and faculty support to low-income students like himself at Yale.

"People from my neighborhood [...] we're so rarely afforded the second chance that I was extended," Flowers said.

Flowers said the neighborhood he grew up in was plagued with gang violence, drug related crime, and lack of educational and economic opportunities for African Americans like him.

"I remember being in like second or third grade and inviting kids over to my house for a play date and having them come back to me and be like, 'oh my parents said they don't feel comfortable with me going over to [laughs] to your house...it's not safe over there,'" Flowers remembered.

Flowers' future is bright. He plans on pursuing two master's degrees—one in Comparative Social Policy and one in Public Policy—and starts his Oxford studies in October 2018. After his studies, he plans to return to Portland indefinitely.

Flowers credits his mother, Jeana Woolley, his grandmother who helped raise him, coaches, and a teacher, Mark Halpern, as the people who motivated and supported him to become the man he is today.

"I stand on the shoulders of so many. Know that I will never forget that," he said.



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A sign prohibiting the blocking of any pedestrian movement sparked protests after they were placed in front of the flagship Columbia Sportswear store, apparently in response to the company's chief executive complaining about public nuisances, downtown. Critics say 'no-sit zones' criminalize homelessness. (KGW photo)

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'No Sit' Resistance to Mayor

Protestors say response criminalizes homeless

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

About 40 protesters rallied against so-called 'no-sit zones,' designated sections of city sidewalks where blocking pedestrian traffic is prohibited, at a demonstration Saturday outside the Columbia Sportswear flagship store, downtown.

Portland's Resistance, the group that organized the protest, called 'no-sit zones' a means of 'criminalizing homelessness' and criticized Mayor Ted Wheeler for authorizing eight more city blocks with those designations last week, including two blocks near the Columbia store on Southwest Broadway. Two blocks near the Safeway on Southwest 10th and three more near the downtown Galleria were also posted as 'no-sit zones.'

Wheeler was urged to repeal the policy.

About two weeks prior, Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle wrote an op-ed in the Oregonian complaining about conditions downtown, saying his employees regularly get their cars broken into and one even received a death threat, and said he may have to move the store to a different location if things don't change.

Critics have noted that Boyle has contributed thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to Wheeler.

According to news reports, Wheeler authorized the Portland Bureau of Transportation to add eight new no-sit zones after sitting down with about 75 members of the Portland Business Alliance, an organization that originally requested that 90 blocks of 'no-sit zones' be implemented.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation has the authority to prevent people from sitting on downtown sidewalks if pedestrian safety concerns or design issues justify it, according to city policy. The Portland Police Bureau, however, has not been instructed to enforce the new signs, according to the Portland Mercury. The policy has been implemented in the

past. In 2013, then-mayor Charlie Hales instituted no-sit policies to combat a protest encampment in front of City Hall.

Other cities in Oregon have been flirting or experimenting with similar restrictive urban zone policies. When Eugene's restricted dogs on public property in specific areas of the city's downtown, the majority of citations were issued to homeless people, the Register-Guard reported. Medford also proposed an 'exclusion zone' expansion, which would have prohibited people with civil offenses from being in certain areas of the city for 90 days, but it was voted down by the Medford City Council.

A Multnomah County count in February estimated that 4,177 people in the county were homeless; either in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or unsheltered. That's nearly a 10 percent increase compared to numbers from two years ago.

Oregon's overall homeless population has increased by six percent over the past two years, according to a statewide point-in-time count of homeless folks done in January.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



The beloved holiday tradition featuring boats decorated with festive lights will be visible from the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp on the Columbia River across from the Portland Airport on scheduled nights in December.

Viewing for Christmas Ships

Space is available for the public to view the annual Christmas Ships parades by visiting the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp on the Columbia River across from the Portland airport.

A beloved holiday tradition featuring boats decorated with festive lights, parades will be visible from the boat ramp, a public park operated by Metro regional government, on Wednesday, Dec. 6; Thursday, Dec. 7; Friday, Dec. 8; Wednesday, Dec. 13; Thursday, Dec. 14; Friday,

Dec. 15; Tuesday, Dec. 19; Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 21.

On those dates, weather permitting, the ships are scheduled to sail from Gleason boat ramp at 6 p.m., returning approximately 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. The boat ramp will close 8 p.m. on those nights.

Parking at Gleason boat ramp is \$5/car, \$7/bus or free with the purchase of an annual parks pass.

Santa Cuts at Moore Street

The Salvation Army is partnering with local stylists to give kids confidence and a special treat for Christmas.

"Santa Cuts" will return to the Salvation Army's Moore Street Community and Worship Center on Wednesday, Dec. 14 to give local children ages 0-18 a haircut for free. On a first come first serve basis, the local non-profit Hands of Favor will be providing the haircuts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The community center is located at 5325 N. Williams Ave.

In addition, youth and families will receive free hair care products and hair care education -- and have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus!

Something as simple as a haircut can leave a lasting impact on a family, and for some kids, they've never had a good cut or style because it is too expensive. Volunteers working this event want every child to feel special and providing them a new haircut can help them feel like a whole new person.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Kwanzaa traditionally consists of a week of celebrations focusing on cultural heritage and key family and community values and ends with a feast and the exchange of gifts.

Kwanzaa Celebration at Kaiser

African American employees with Kaiser Permanente are inviting the community to join them for a celebration of Kwanzaa, the holiday honoring the culture and traditions of people of African origin or descent.

The annual Kwanzaa event is

free thanks to the Kaiser Permanente African American Professional Association and is open to all ages, friends and family. It will take place on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Kaiser Permanente Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave.

There will be hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages, raffle and prizes. Space is limited and those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP with how many people will be attending by sending an email to whitney.b.pettigrew@kp.org.

Allen Temple Rebuilding Social

Supporters working on raising capital to complete the remodeling of Allen Temple CME Church invite the community to join them for a special holiday social reception. The historic African-American congregation is rebuilding after a 2016 electrical fire caused major damage.

The fundraiser will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to

8 p.m. at Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), 6329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. RSVP by Friday, Dec. 8 to Michelle Harper at 503-548-3083 or allen-temple@qwestoffice.net.

The church's honorary capital campaign committee is led by Maxine Fitzpatrick, executive director PCRI; Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Allen Temple senior pastor and presid-

ing elder; Kay Toran, president and chief executive officer of Volunteers of America of Oregon; Dr. Karin Edwards, Portland Community College Cascade Campus president; Jim Francesconi, vice president of Moda Health; Mary Monnat, president and CEO of Lifeworks NW; and Nate McCoy, executive director of the National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

The amazement from more than 1.6 million brightly colored lights is an experience you don't want to miss. ZooLights, the Oregon Zoo popular walk-through winter wonderland is now showing through the holidays.

Zoo's popular holiday light display is back

ZooLights is back! The Oregon Zoo's walk-through winter wonderland of more than 1.6 million colored lights has opened for its 30th season and is more popular than ever.

"Attendance has been off the charts the past several years," said Ivan Ratcliff, the zoo's guest services manager.

This year marks the 30th ZooLights for Ratcliff, who started working at the zoo in 1982 and has been involved with the light display since its inception. He has five tips to save money, avoid lines and get the most enjoyment out of your ZooLights experience:

Bigger Than Ever

1. Start your festivities early in the season. Most ZooLights visitors come on weekends and the weeks when school's out. But if you come on weeknights early in the season, you can avoid the crowds and save money. Value Nights — Monday

through Thursday, through Dec. 14 — ZooLights visitors get a \$5 discount on admission.

2. Ride MAX to the zoo. On non-Value Nights, the zoo offers a \$5 admission discount for visitors who take TriMet (proof of ridership re-

quired). MAX is a great way to get to the zoo as the Washington Park stop lets you off just in front of the zoo entrance.

3. Show up fashionably late, unless you're driving. The big rush at ZooLights is usually from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you come after that, you can avoid some of the crowds. But this strategy only works if you're taking MAX. The main parking lot and even the shuttle lots fill up fast, especially on weekends.

4. Buy your tickets online. You can buy your admission tickets in advance and bypass the line at the front gate. You can also buy zoo train tickets ahead of time for scheduled 15-minute intervals — that way, you spend more time enjoying the lights and less time in line. To purchase online tickets, go to oregonzoo.org/zoollights.

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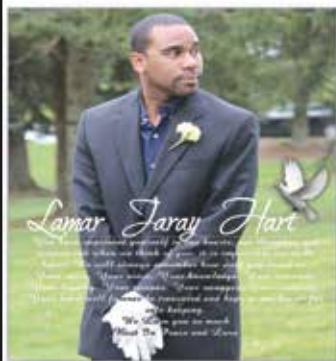


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A ceramic piece by Cathi Newlin's for Guardino Gallery's 'Little Things' show.

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Little Things Gallery Show

The ever popular "Little Things" holiday group show at Guardino Gallery is back for its 17th year.

The premise is simple. Artists submit work that would fit into an imaginary cube that is 7



by 7 inches. And that includes the frame or stand. No other limitations. Every year is a surprise, with new artists added each year.

The show, which runs through Dec. 24, is geared to holiday sales and changes as artists bring in new work or simply sell out as the show progresses.

It's a great opportunity to "give the gift of art" at affordable prices by local artists as holiday presents or to decorate your own special corner or cubbyhole. A wide variety of art mediums will be represented.

Guardino Gallery is located at 2929 N.E. Alberta St.

Gesine Kratzner uses polymer clay for her 'Little Things' creation.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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.



Priced Out Screenings -- "Priced Out," the new documentary about Portland gentrification and its impact on the black community by Portland filmmaker Cornelius Swart will screen during two nights at Kennedy School on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Wednesday, Dec. 13. Shows are at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. both nights with open discussions following each screening. Tickets \$5-\$10 available at the door.

Black Nativity -- Portland's African American PassinArt theater group presents Back Nativity, poet Langston Hughes' retelling of the classic nativity story in song. Shows run through Dec. 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. at The Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 N.E. Mallory Ave. For tickets, visit passinart.org or JP's Custom Picture Framing & Gallery or Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, or call 503-235-8079.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Dec. 8 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Spare Room; Friday, Dec. 15 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Half Penney in Salem; Friday, Dec. 22 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, Dec. 23 at Clyde's and Sunday, Dec. 31 at CatFish Lou's.

Holiday Breakfast Theater -- The Peppermint Bear and the Giant Elf star in an all-new version of Lakewood Theater's Holiday Magic Breakfast theatre program. Performances at 11:30 a.m. in the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego on Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17, 22 and 23. There will also be 9:30 a.m. shows on Dec. 9, 16, 22 and 23. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. Advance reservations are required by calling the box office at 503 635-3901 or order online at lakewood-center.org.

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 Sunday, 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

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

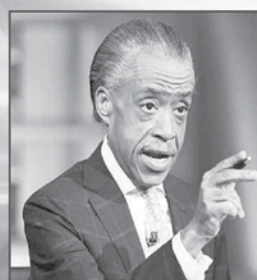
\$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber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

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9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
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SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.
TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON
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OPINION



Members of the Zimbabwean Parliament in Harare celebrate after Robert Mugabe's resignation. (AP photo)

Zimbabwe and Where it All Went Wrong

The people shall govern

BY FUNGAI KUMBULA

Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in as Zimbabwe's second president on Nov. 24, replacing his former boss Robert Mugabe who had led the nation in southern Africa since it gained political independence from Britain in 1980. For more than a decade, but more increasingly as the 1970's came to a close, Zanla and Zipra guerrillas had waged a war to give the African-majority the right to vote, a right that the successive settler colonial governments denied them.

So, when Mugabe was finally sworn in as Zimbabwe's first African prime minister in 1980, his election, seen as the culmination of the war, was cheered by millions not only in Zimbabwe but throughout Africa and the wider African community. Sadly, the circumstances surrounding his departure can only have left all these people wondering as to where it all went wrong.

I returned to Zimbabwe in 1981, leaving friends and colleagues at Portland State University (Black Studies and Biology Departments, African Students Association), Portland Observer, KOAP-TV, Black United Front, Talking Drum Bookstore, church, high school and other community groups and neighbors in northeast Portland.

Like thousands of others making the trek back home, I felt we had the golden opportunity to show the world how a modern African economy can be run, having learned from the errors our broth-

ers and sisters on the Continent had made, errors that hobbled Africa's development in spite of an abundance of riches.

The early years were encouraging: I remember bragging about the laboratory facilities at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School's Department of Immunology, where I worked, that they were comparable to those I had had access to at the then Charles Drew Post-Graduate Medical School at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Los Angeles.

The words from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, "These truths are self-evident that all men (and women) are created equal with certain inalienable rights among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" were reverberating in my head, as they did to fellow returning residents in other sectors who were just as impressed.

Though coming off a protracted war, Zimbabwe's economy in the early going was still second only to apartheid South Africa's. Hope was infectious; everybody rolled up their sleeves and went to work and for the next decade. It seemed Zimbabwe's economy had started on a sustained upward trajectory. Zimbabwe was then known as the breadbasket of the 14-member Southern Africa Development Community and we used to entertain our brothers and sisters from around Africa traveling to Zimbabwe on shopping trips.

We also had experts from all over Africa, the U.N. and the rest of the world working in the country. With South Africa still under minority apartheid (Jim Crow) rule, Zimbabwe became an ex-

ample to the efforts to resolve South Africa's problems. One of the most damning indictments of Mugabe's 37 years at the helm was that Zimbabwe's 2017 gross domestic product had shrunk to half of what it had been in 1997. Even discounting population growth, these figures imply, on average, that every Zimbabwean is 50 percent poorer today than 20 years ago.

Throughout his 37-year reign, the bedrock of Mugabe's support has always been the security services (army, air force, police and intelligence) so it is instructive that, when the end came, it was the Zimbabwe Defense Forces that played a pivotal role. It all started with a falling out between two camps in the ruling Zanu-pf, one loyal to then vice president Mnangagwa and the other loyal to Grace Mugabe, the former president's wife, each jostling for its preferred candidate to succeed the 93-year-old Mugabe when he finally vacated Zimbabwe State House. As the battle intensified, Mugabe fired Mnangagwa as his deputy in both party and government, which seemed to leave the way for his wife to succeed him.

Mnangagwa fled Zimbabwe saying he feared for his life, and his supporters were purged from both party and government. The ZDF placed Mugabe under house arrest and on public broadcast announcements insisted that this was not a coup.

Mugabe refused to resign, as had been expected once the army presented him with his options. Veterans of the liberation war then called for demonstrations to demand Mugabe resign and Zimba-

bweans poured into the streets by the hundreds of thousands throughout the country. Still Mugabe remained defiant. Zanu-pf then met and voted to recall Mugabe (effectively withdrawing his mandate as leader) and called for Mnangagwa to be re-instated. Mugabe stayed put. Parliament met in joint session to debate a motion on impeachment and it was only during this debate that Mugabe sent his letter of resignation.

When the Zimbabwe Speaker of Parliament read the letter, the whole Assembly erupted in cheers, cries of joy and dancing, scenes that were repeated once the news filtered into the public gallery, the streets of Harare and, ultimately, the rest of the nation. Mnangagwa returned from exile, was appointed leader of Zanu-pf and ultimately sworn in as President of Zimbabwe.

While it is too early to tell whether Mugabe's departure actually heralds the dawn we mistakenly believed had arrived when we gained political independence nearly four decades ago, or it is another false start, this much is already clear: No post-Mugabe leader will ever again be allowed the same leeway to abuse our trust, impoverish our people, make us the laughing stock of the world.

The past heady few weeks have reignited that original fighting national spirit that delivered Zimbabwe in the first place. We owe it to our many supporters across the world, the African community, Africa, ourselves and our children.

Fungai N Kumbula is a former resident of Portland and Zimbabwe. He currently resides in Silver Spring, Md.

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

Rent Control, Gun Control and Impeachment

What would Nelson Mandela do?

BY LEW CHURCH

The excellent editorial cartoon and commentary about gun control (Preventing Gun Deaths and Protecting Gun Rights, Portland Observer, Nov. 15 issue) highlights the need to not lose heart when advocating for what the mainstream media tends to characterize as “impossible” goals.

At Portland State, our activist coalition has been discussing strategy and tactics with this in mind for three issues: Rent control, gun control and impeachment. We believe each of these is vital, and more importantly, achievable sooner, not later.

The Italian Marxist organizer Antonio Gramsci once said, “The challenge for modernity is to live life without illusions and without becoming disillusioned.” In terms of political issues in which the powers that be insist “will never change,” we at PSU have found it useful to ask, what would Nelson Mandela do?

I was one of the organizers of five pickets in Portland in support of the American Friends Service Committee’s anti-apartheid Coke boycott, before the white minority, racist government was overthrown in Pretoria. Some of us at PSU (now elders) believed that when the suffragette movement, and when the anti-slavery movement initially got started, the powers that be (usually white

male capitalists and their media brethren) would insist in the UK, for example, that to abolish slavery would be to destroy the jobs of thousands of UK workers, dependent on the slave trade for their industrial output and paychecks.

Likewise, suffragettes and anti-apartheid activists later on were

“Rent raisin’” Rod is now being challenged by two Democrats in the May Primary.

Portland Gray Panthers, based at PSU, is happy to endorse Kayse Jama of Unite Oregon to replace Monroe. The incumbent would be wise to follow the example set by Portland City Council member (and millionaire) Dan

Do we think housing and public safety (freedom from gun violence) are important enough issues to launch grassroots, mass movements, like the anti-apartheid, anti-slavery and pro-suffrage movements? Does the success of those decades-long organizing movements give hope (rather than despair?) to those of

ter she won the popular vote by almost 3,000,000 votes. Trump brags about grabbing women by their privates, trashes Gold Star families and John McCain, despises Black Lives Matter and Colin Kapernaek, and says there are “good Nazis” and good protestors on both sides of the racist marches at Charlottesville.

Trump says Judge Roy Moore is a GOP stalwart, but Senator Franken is sketchy. Trump also adds that NFL players who protest racism “should be fired.” Trump’s right wing practices mirror his TV celebrity, game show rhetoric.

What would rent control, gun control and impeachment look like? With enough grassroots support, these things are totally possible. After 27 years in jail in South Africa to secure voting rights for black folks, and then to become that country’s first black president -- many of us believe that Nelson Mandela would say if you organize long enough, and with strategy, tactics and a timeline -- you can win.

Rent control can be legal in Oregon, not just New York City or San Francisco or Berlin. Gun control can be legal in the world’s “best democracy.” And, we can eject a fascist, racist, sexist profiteer from what belongs to the people, in a democracy, our White House in Washington, D.C.

Lew Church is coordinator of Portland Gray Panthers and founding publisher and editor of two Portland State activist papers, the PSU Reargard and PSU Agitator.

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told by those in power that giving the vote to women and black folk would destroy the smarter, more accomplished white male power structure that creates wealth for lesser folks.

Today, when it comes to the issues of rent control, gun control and impeaching Trump -- activists hear doomsday scenarios from those with something to lose by such changes.

In Oregon, rent control was blocked in Salem earlier this year by a blue dog Democrat and landlord state senator, Rod Monroe.

Saltzman -- by simply announcing he is retiring, Let Jama go to work for tenants, for immigrants, for people of color, for workers and the poor in our state capital.

In terms of gun control, I was able to write a funded grant (generously supported by the northwest’s McKenzie River Gathering) for a pro-gun control conference at PSU. I believe that Australia and European countries have acted to stop gun violence. As we know, the NRA, the Republicans and Trump -- are refusing to do so.

us who believe that rent control and gun control alike are sorely needed today?

But what about impeaching the current occupant of our White House? Are the offenses against our country and the world tantamount to ‘high crimes and misdemeanors’? Moreover, like rent control in Oregon and gun control in Estados Unidos -- is impeachment a ‘feasible’ and desirable goal? We believe it is.

Collusion with Russia is treason. Trump still wants to “lock” Hillary up, at his rallies a year af-

Invest in Treatment, Mental Health and Better Medicine

The pain behind opioid abuse

BY JILL RICHARDSON

Donald Trump recently declared the opioid epidemic a national public health emergency. At first I thought, is this the first time I approve of something Trump has done?

Alas, no. And here’s why: Nine years ago, I lost my brother to a heroin overdose.

My brother and I each grew up suffering trauma, and it profoundly affected each of our lives. For my brother’s part, he dealt with his unbearable pain by using drugs. He died before he could get help.



In my case, I shut down, lost my imagination, cut off my ability to feel both emotions and physical sensations, and lost my ability to have close intimate relationships with others, whether platonic or romantic. I’ve suffered daily migraines for 23 years now.

I went to doctor after doctor for my migraines, tried 20 different prescription drugs, mental health counseling, Botox injections, and more.

There are just two drugs that help my migraines: opioids and medical marijuana.

Until recently, my only option was the opioids, which I get legally from a doctor’s prescription. This is how many people get addicted.

My tolerance to opioids grows quickly. I try to use them less than once a month in order to avoid needing higher doses to quell the pain. At most I use them once a week, but even then, I start needing higher doses quickly just to make the pain stop.

Since I’m in pain every day, I can see how someone could get hooked. If I had popped a pill every time I had a migraine instead of rationing out my meds, I could’ve been one of the unlucky ones too.

Fortunately, I’ve gotten medical marijuana in the last few months, and it’s changed my life. I use it legally and responsibly. I don’t drive or work while using it. Now I can get pain relief as needed without worrying about form-

ing a life-ending addiction.

My brother used marijuana too, but he lacked the option to use it legally. Instead, he was arrested for it, which didn’t improve things for him.

In my decades of going to primary care doctors, neurologists, and even psychologists, nobody noticed my trauma. My brother suffered on his own too.

If we want to get serious about the opioid epidemic, we need to increase the availability of mental health help in a big way. We should have more counselors in schools, and we should train teachers to be more sensitive to and aware of children suffering from trauma, and doctors to be more aware of it in patients.

Importantly, we should also de-

criminalize marijuana throughout the nation and get serious about medical research on the drug. When the alternative for many is opioids, there’s simply no excuse to maintain the prohibition on pot.

Meanwhile, we must keep funding Medicaid, so that the most vulnerable Americans have access to medical care too — including addiction treatment, which barely one in 10 addicts gets.

But what does Trump say? Build his wall.

Trump’s right about the problem, but dead wrong about the solution.

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

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Obituaries

Homegoing Celebration Perry Allen

A homegoing celebration for Perry Lee Allen, who died Nov. 23, 2017, will be held Thursday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Church, 8501 N. Chautauqua Blvd.

She was born July 31, 1925 one of three siblings to parents Amos Wright and Mary Elizabeth Green. Educated in Chicago, she graduated high school from the De La Salle Institute. She met Lucious in Chicago and they married in Vancouver and from this union they were blessed with 14 children. She was also a mother figure to many others throughout the years.



She and her husband always welcomed neighbors and friends with open arms into their home, offering help in any way they could. She along with everyone else always excitedly anticipated her yearly birthday block party celebration.

Mother Allen worked as a nutritionist at King School, Waddles restaurant, and for many years as a volunteer for elections. She loved to pray and would constantly walk through her home while talking to her heavenly father, whom she has joined. Her words were always "love and pray."

You will never be forgotten mom! We will continue to love and pray.

In Loving Memory Adelbert 'Delbert' Williams

Adelbert (better known as Delbert) Lee Williams was born Jan. 10, 1958 to the proud parents Ethel Williams and Adolph Williams. He attended Boise Elementary and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1975.

He was the fourth son of nine brothers, Jimmy (deceased), Ronald, Peter, Mi-



chael, Darrell, Kenny and Adolph and three sisters, Anita, Valeria and Sheila. A father of six sons, Adelbert Jr. (Tito), Jay Shawn, DeAngelo, Domi-

nique, Brandon and Matt and a daughter Krystal Adell Penny. On March 26, 1993, Delbert married the love of his life Elnetta Woods. To this union they conceived three of their six sons.

Delbert was a talented young man, who enjoyed fishing, singing and had a great passion for boxing. He had an awesome boxing career and retired from professional boxing as a Pacific Northwest Champion. On Nov. 19, 2017 Delbert transitioned to his heavenly home after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, sons, daughter, brothers and sisters and a host of nieces and nephews and grandchildren

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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

CALENDAR

1 Eat a Red Apple Day Rosa Parks Day World AIDS Day	2 <i>David Macaulay</i> <i>born, 1946</i> National Fritters Day <i>Artist Georges Seurat</i> <i>born, 1859</i>	 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities National Roof-Over- Your-Head Day
8 National Brownie Day <i>Inventor Eli Whitney</i> <i>born, 1765</i>	9 <i>Ball-Bearing Roller</i> <i>Skates Patented in</i> <i>1884</i> First Christmas Seals Issued in 1907	 10 Human Rights Day <i>Emily Dickinson</i> <i>born, 1830</i>
15 Bill of Rights Day Underdog Day <i>David McCord born,</i> <i>1897</i>	16 <i>Beethoven's Birthday</i> <i>(1770)</i> Boston Tea Party Anniversary (1773) Las Posadas	17 Ludwig van Beetho- ven baptised (1770) Wright Brother's First Flight (1903)
22 First Christmas Lights sold in 1882 <i>Mercury Thermome-</i> <i>ter Invented in 1714</i>	23 Roots Day <i>Federal Reserve</i> <i>System established</i> <i>(1913)</i>	24 Christmas Eve National Egg Nog Day <i>Apollo 8 reached the</i> <i>moon (1968)</i>
29 <i>Texas became the</i> <i>28th state (1845)</i>	30 <i>Tiger Woods born,</i> <i>1975</i> <i>Author Rudyard</i> <i>Kipling born, 1865</i>	31 New Year's Eve <i>Artist Henri Matisse</i> <i>born, 1869</i>

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