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2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Special Edition

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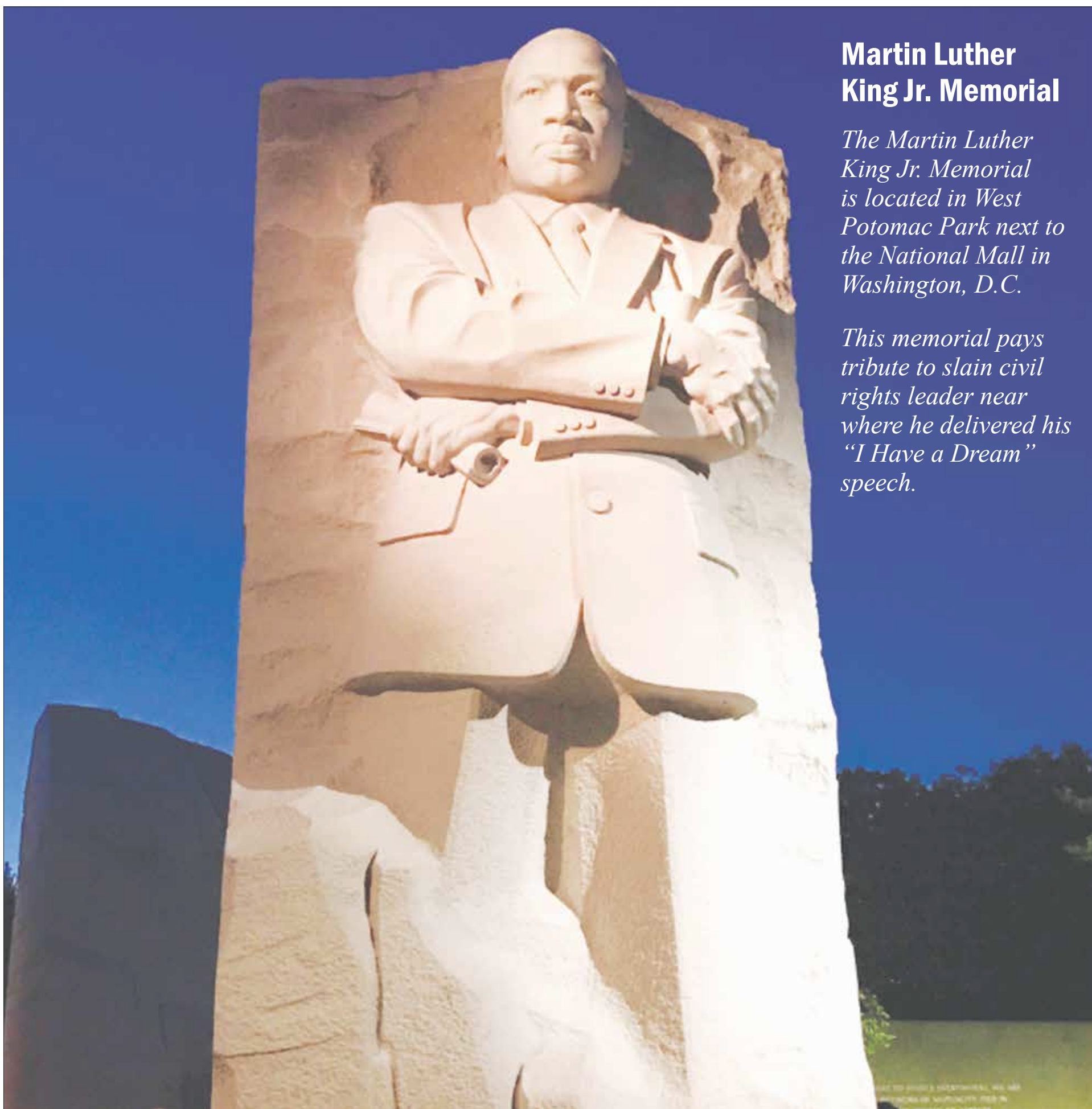


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Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is located in West Potomac Park next to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

This memorial pays tribute to slain civil rights leader near where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.



Man Killed at Fernhill Park

Responding to reports of gunfire, Portland police found a man dead in Fernhill Park in northeast Portland Monday just after 9:30 p.m. There was no immediate information on the cause of death or the person's identity. Police are asking anyone with information to call them at 503-823-0479.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Oprah Winfrey accepted a lifetime achievement award Sunday night at the Golden Globes film and television awards and her inspiring and stirring speech reverberated nationwide with calls for her to run for president. CBS This Morning co-host Gayle King said on Tuesday "I do think she's intrigued by the idea."



The Week in Review



Deadly Flooding in California

At least eight people were killed and 25 injured in weather-related incidents in southern California, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday. The state has been drenched with severe rain, flash flooding, debris flows and mudslides just weeks after several fires tore through the area.

Motel 6 Accused in Lawsuit

A lawsuit filed last week by the attorney general of Washington alleges that the hotel chain Motel 6 regularly supplied guest lists and personal information of guests to U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which used the information to target people for arrest, including guests with "Latino-sounding names." The suit criticizes the "unfair, deceptive, and discriminatory practices" of the hotel chain in the state.

Coast Oil Drilling Raises Alarm

Conservation groups raised alarms after the Trump administration Thursday announced it would allow oil and gas drilling off U.S. coasts, including Oregon, Washington and California. A public comment period will follow. There hasn't been an offshore lease sale in federal waters off of Oregon or Washington since 1964.

Trump Disbands Voter Panel

President Trump disbanded his voter fraud commission last week, blaming states that

have refused to provide voter information to the panel. Critics saw the commission as part of a conservative campaign to strip minority voters and poor people from the voter rolls, and to justify unfounded claims made by Trump that voter fraud cost him the popular vote in 2016.

Singer Vereen Apologizes

Tony Award-winner Ben Vereen apologized to female actresses Friday for "inappropriate conduct" while he directed a production of the musical "Hair" in Florida three years ago. The apology came after the New York Daily News reported several actresses at The Venice Theatre alleged sexual misconduct by Vereen, including unwanted kissing and making demeaning and degrading comments.



"We may have all come on different ships,
but we're in the same boat now."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Rakeem Washington

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Leonard Latin

Office Manager/Classifieds: Lucinda Baldwin

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: Christa McIntyre

REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: Danny Peterson

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mark Washington Jr.

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES: Shawntell Washington

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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon Senate Minority Leader Jackie Winters grew up in Vanport and Portland's Albina community before embarking on successful career in business and politics that took her to Salem. She reflects on her life and her priorities in government during an interview with the Portland Observer.

On Equality and MLK

Jackie Winters earns respect from all sides

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The ideals that Martin Luther King Jr. espoused and lived by are personal for Sen. Jackie Winters, but one episode in her own life brought it all into sharp focus.

Winters, 80, was recently named minority leader of the Oregon Senate, the first black woman to hold that position.

But long before she got into politics, Winters built a minor restaurant empire, opening several versions of Jackie's Ribs in Salem and the Portland area. It was when she decided to open a Jackie's

Ribs on Southwest Broadway that it hit her. She was opening a business "right smack in downtown Portland," where blacks faced discrimination just a generation before.

"My son didn't understand. He said, 'Well, this is not the first Jackie's you've opened, so why are you getting so emotional about it?'" she said.

"I said to him that he has to understand that when we were in Vanport and also the early in settling into Portland, there were places we could not eat," she said. "There were places we could not

even sit to eat as a kid," she said. "These kids (today) don't understand what was going on."

Winters was born in Kansas, moved as a small child to Vanport where she survived the infamous Vanport Flood, and grew up the Albina neighborhood of Portland.

"We had a lot of small businesses and had over 100 social clubs in Portland," she said, describing African American participation in commerce and community gatherings at the time. Before the flood, Vanport was a vibrant, self-suffi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Promoting Black Male Achievement

Community
driven group
fights for
progress

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Black Male Achievement, an organization that runs within the city of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights, has been fighting to improve the life outcomes of black men and boys since 2014.

Among its many efforts, the group recently helped push Portland Police to eliminate the compiling of lists of suspected gang members because they unfairly targeted residents of color and were not effective in curtailing crime.

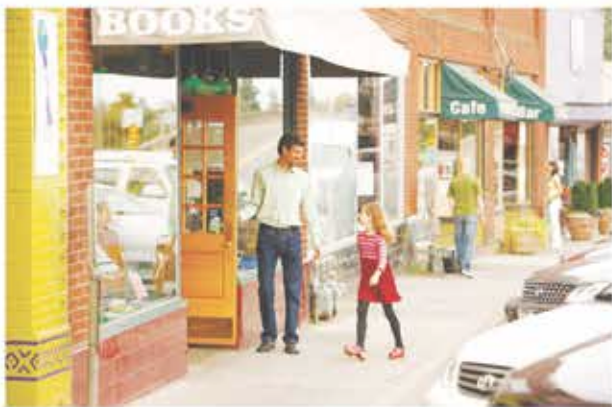
"We're in the city so the Portland Police Bureau is part of the same entity. So we have a ton of opportunity there," C.J. Robbins, Black Male Achieve-



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

C.J. Robbins works to improve life outcomes for black men and boys at Black Male Achievement, a community-driven organization within the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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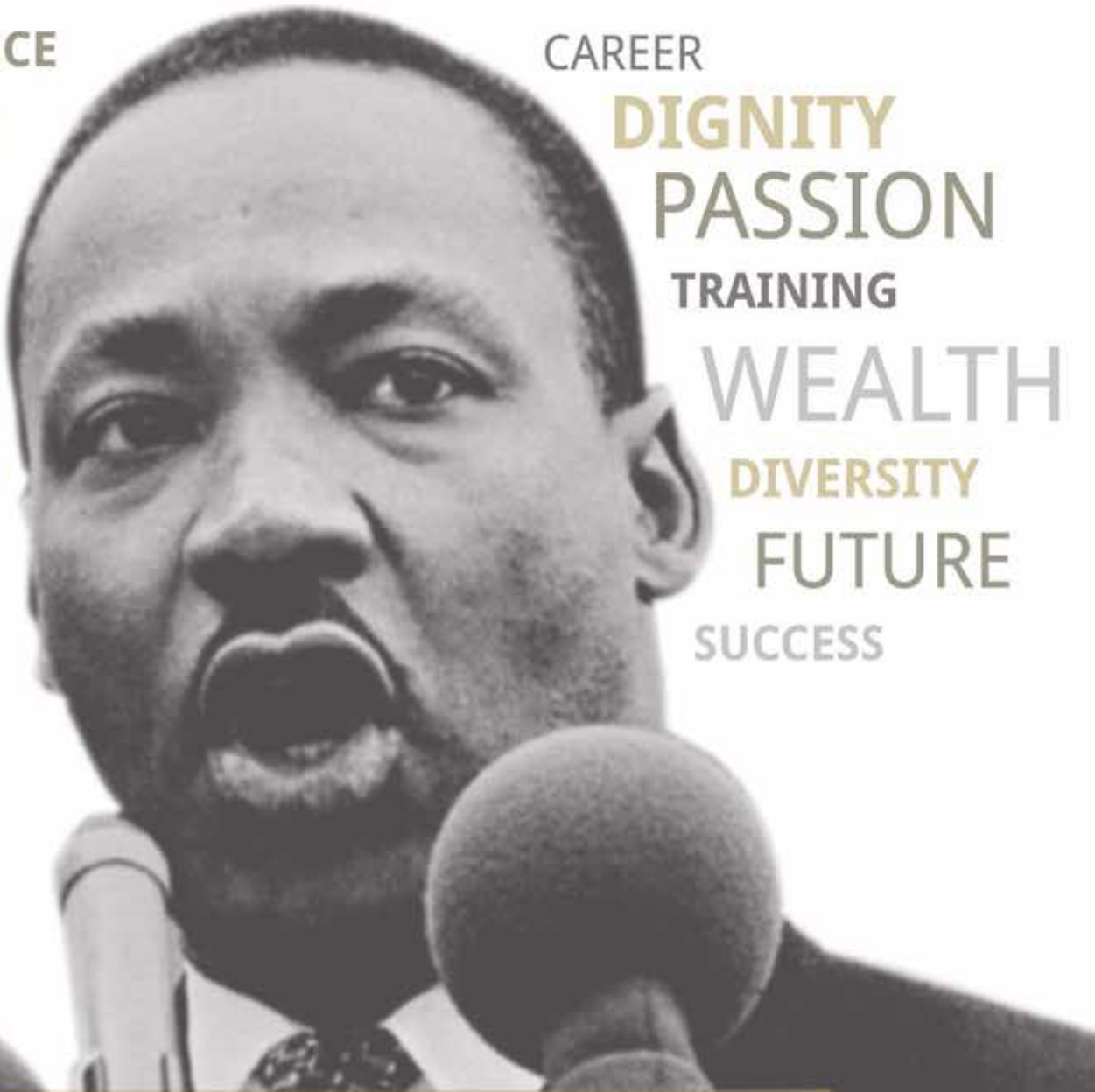




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“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” - MARTIN LUTHER KING

Remembering Her Roots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cient town, “A total community and we had our own schools, had our own shopping centers,” she said.

Winters was first elected to the state House in 1998, re-elected in 2000 and elected to the state Senate three times, in 2006, 2010 and 2014. Her term is up in 2018, when she plans to run again.

“I think I’ve already filed,” she said.

Before running for office, Winters worked for Gov. Tom McCall and later for Gov. Victor Atiyeh. She joined the Republican Party of McCall and Atiyeh because back then, she said, they were the ones who got things done.

“It was the McCall years. That’s who I was working for, working with, and that’s who I learned from,” she said. “And I saw those who were willing to open up their doors for jobs were Republicans. I saw those that were willing to give a helping hand up were Republicans, when I was with Tom.”

That contrasts with the perceptions of many about the current national GOP agenda, but during a recent visit to Portland, Winters declined to discuss the national



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A few days after being elected as Senate Minority Leader and the first African American to lead a legislative caucus in Oregon, Sen. Jackie Winters embraces the man she replaced, Sen. Ted Ferrioli during a December meeting in Portland. Ferrioli left the post to join the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

stage.

“I’m not there,” she said firmly. Winters entered the political arena

from working at the state capitol, but she got her interest in politics long before from her father.

“I heard about politicians practically all my life from my dad,” she said. “He never ran for office, but he would discuss politicians and could tell you about most of who was running, whether they good, bad or indifferent.”

One politician her father particularly liked was former Vice President Charlie Curtis, who served as vice president under President Herbert Hoover following a career in Kansas politics. The reason her dad liked Curtis so much was that he was a minority: as a member of the Kaw Nation and the first person of non-European descent to reach second highest seat in U.S. government.

“Charlie Curtis was part Native American, so that was very special to him,” she said.

Winters had two black colleagues early in her Senate term. Sens. Margaret Carter and Avel Gordly were Portland Democrats but also long time friends, groundbreakers on the state political scene, and the three of them held sway for several years as the leading black women in the state capitol.

Carter and Gordly left the Senate around 2009, but working with them was an experience Winters treasures.

“We worked together the entire time that they were there and we all three served on Ways and Means together,” she said. “Either one of them held the gavel or I held the gavel. We still communicate with each other. It was a close relationship that was developed by the three of us that had nothing

to do with party, at all.”

Winters may have less in common with some current members of the Senate than with Carter and Gordly, but using cooperation, convincing and collaboration is the way Winters works.

“You can’t get anything done unless you’re bringing others with you, and so that means you have to work both sides of the aisle,” she said. “When I was in the executive branch, those are the lessons that you learn. No one has a lock on any one issue.”

“There are 90 of us and we don’t all think alike. And so you’ve got to start being convincing in your point of view,” she said. “And sometimes, you have to say, ‘OK, I think what you’re saying has value, but it’s not all one way or the other. It doesn’t exist in families and it doesn’t exist in politics.’”

Winters’ accomplishments and awards are many, too many to list, and on top of being a state senator, she’s long been involved in community leadership. She chaired Salem’s first \$1 million United Way campaign, was twice awarded Salem’s Distinguished Service Award, founded Oregon’s first food share program, and helped establish the Oregon NW Black Pioneers Association to raise money for student scholarships. She has served on the Salem-Keizer Blue Ribbon Committee for Excellence in Education, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon College of Education Foundation, now the Western Oregon University Foundation.

Winters toured the with a tap-dancing troupe as a teen, and still goes out to dance in the clubs every chance she gets, which helps keep her young, she says.

“I tap danced all the way from Albina to the statehouse,” she likes to joke. But her colleagues, even on the other side of the aisle, don’t expect her to be sidestepping any issues, said Senate President Peter Courtney.

“Sen. Jackie Winters has an inner strength that is unmatched. She has faced hardship. She has experienced suffering. She has triumphed over every challenge,” he said. “She’s a true Republican and a true Oregonian. Jackie’s wisdom and sense of fairness will make her an exceptional leader and will help make the Legislature work.”

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, said she has known Winters for years, before their time together in the Senate.

“She is a dedicated public servant who puts the interests of Oregonians above all else,” Burdick said. “As a woman of color, she has broken many glass ceilings, her current position being just the latest. She commands deep respect from both sides of the aisle and I am looking forward to working with her for the benefit of all Oregonians.”

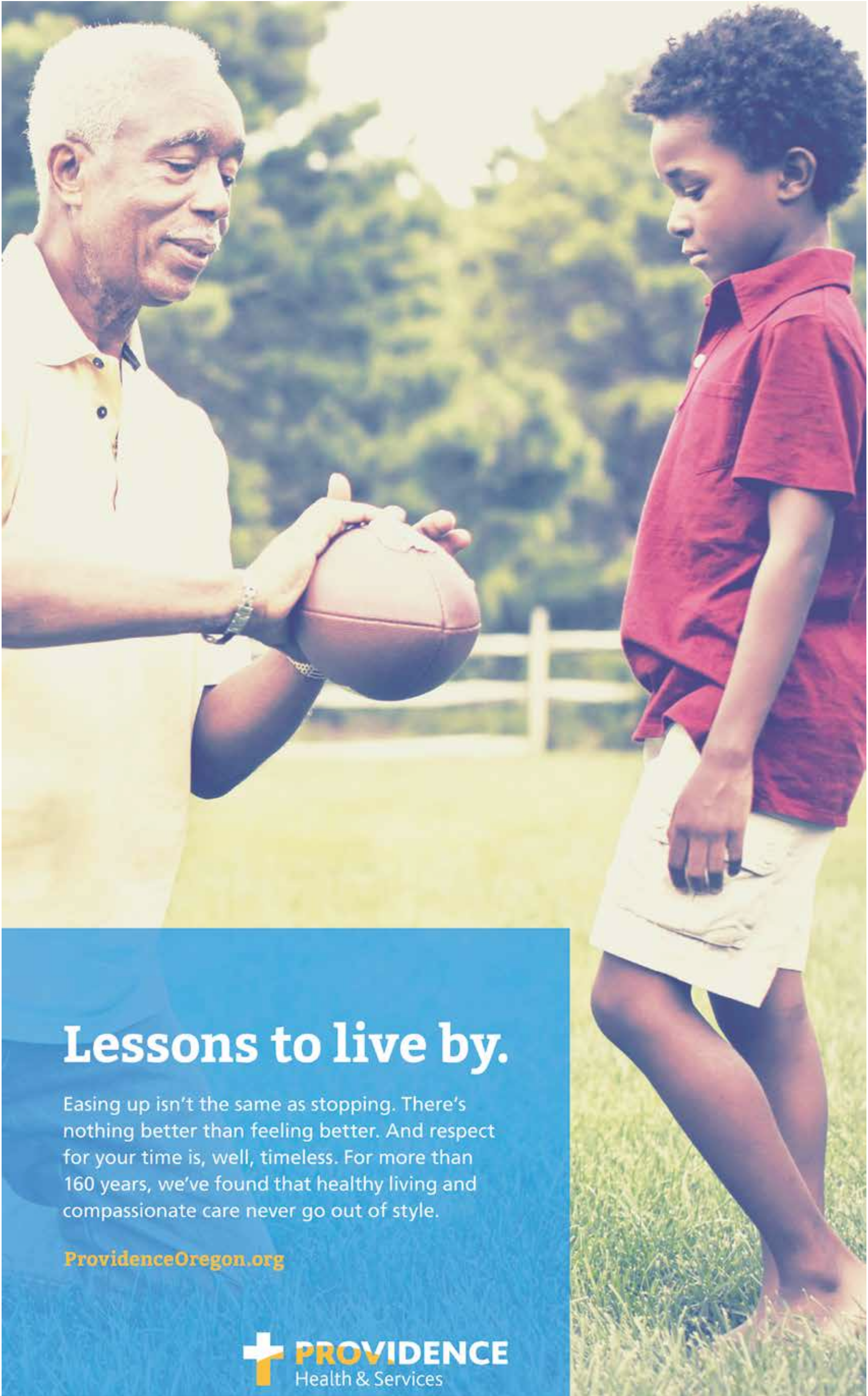
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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- Martin Luther King Jr.

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MLK Powell Butte Project

In honor of the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as a national day of service, volunteers are invited to join The Nature Conservancy in restoring Portland Parks & Recreation's Powell Butte Lower Floodplain at a work party taking place on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Powell Butte, an extinct cin-

der cone volcano, rises near the headwaters of Johnson Creek. The park is comprised of 608 acres of meadowland and forest. Volunteers will be planting and mulching native shrubs during this event. No experience is necessary and families are encouraged to join.

Registration is required at nature.org/oregonworkparties.

*“Only in the
darkness can
you see the
stars.”*

--Martin Luther King Jr.



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Promoting Black Male Achievement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ment's coordinator, told the Portland Observer.

Robbins works with a 20-person steering committee led by black male leaders of the community who focus their efforts on the justice system, employment, education and family stability.

The group's economic development subcommittee, led by my Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Director Joe McFerrin II, recently helped improve the success rates of young men of color in high school completing work-readiness training.

The county-sponsored Summerworks job training program improved its success rate of African American youth completing internships from 17 percent to 90 percent.

Last year, the group's Family Stability subcommittee coordinated a healing summit for black men and boys experiencing trauma to improve home life.

Robbins said there's more work to do.

He credits Antoinette Edwards, director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, and Erika Preuitt, director of Adult Services Division of Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice, as two influential figures, among many others, in the early stages of Black Male Achievement's formation.

Robbins came on board in 2015 after being a stay-at-home dad for a year. Before then, he worked with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, which is a non-profit working to secure the future success of at-risk youth through employment training, education, mentoring, and family outreach. Before then he was a law stu-

dent.

He said he was inspired to do direct public service or policy work, instead of pursuing a career as a lawyer from the experience he gained working under the supervision of a defense attorney in law school.

"I saw a very broken system," he said. "I saw way too many, especially young men, who were black and brown who were coming in at a point where they had no options. And I could see that there are clear signs the person needed help, long before they stepped into the courtroom."

Robbins said he jumped at the opportunity to work with Black Male Achievement because it aligns with his values and affords him a chance to address some of the issues he'd witnessed assisting with court cases.

Ongoing issues the organization is currently trying to reform are Measure 11, Oregon's mandatory sentencing law that allows minors to be tried as adults for violent crimes, and how school resource officers are used in public schools.

The group's Justice System subcommittee is focused on reforming the way Measure 11 is used in courts. The mandatory sentencing law that Oregon voters passed back in 1994 sets mandatory sentences for 21 violent crimes and mandates that youths be charged as adults for those crimes.

But, Robbins said, the way it's been applied has been problematic. He said there has been a tremendous disparity in the number of charges against black youth when compared to similarly situated white youth.

A report from 2011 by Partnership for Safety and Justice and Campaign for Youth and Justice confirmed that while the black youth population of

the state was around 4 percent, they represented 19 percent of Measure 11 indictments.

Another area of focus is on the prevalence of police officers in public schools. There is currently at least one school resource officer for each high school in Portland Public Schools.

"We just don't think they're safer with police there, ultimately," he said. "Police should come in when there is a crime and they are investigating it. They shouldn't be sitting in a school waiting for the crime to happen," Robbins explained.

According to the Portland Police website, the officers are meant to keep youth out of the criminal justice system through "mediation, dialogue and accountability" and to "serve as a resource and role model for our city's families and schools."

According to a 2011 study from Southeast Missouri State University, however, school-assigned police officers were unable to dislodge youths' already negative perceptions of police officers. What's more, a 2012 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics showed that, on a national scale, school-based arrests disproportionately affect black boys.

Robbins calls on community members who are interested to get involved.

"People of all walks of life are needed in different ways," he said. "We need people to be joining in our effort, even if it's just staying informed about what we do."

Anyone interested in getting involved, becoming a steering committee member or subcommittee member can check out the Office of Equity and Human Rights' Black Male Achievement website, portlandoregon.gov/oehr/66514.



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The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Oregon's Civil Rights Years

Black Pioneers share exhibit 'Racing to Change'

The Oregon Black Pioneers exhibit "Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years," opens to the public on Monday, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Jan. 15, at the Portland Historical Society, downtown.

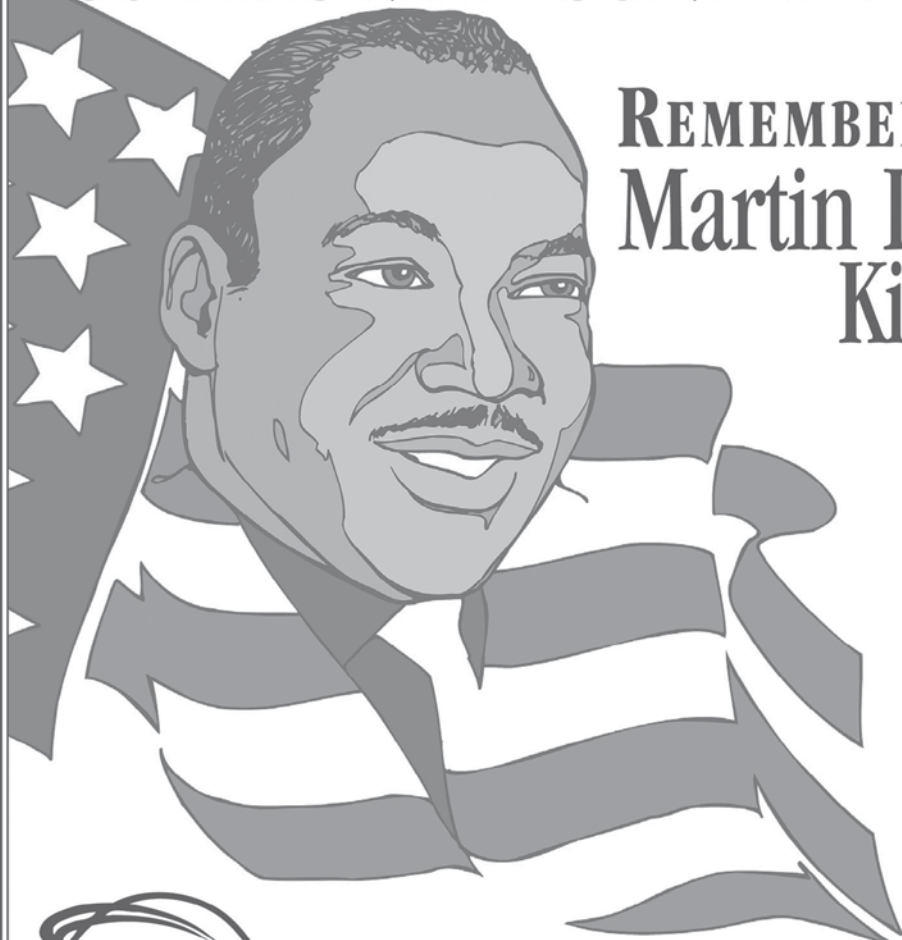
In celebration of the holiday and the opening of the exhibit, admission to the Oregon Historical Society museum will be free for the entire day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The showing is a groundbreaking exhibit and associated programs about the courage, struggle and progress of Oregon's black residents during the civil rights movement in Oregon in the 1960's and 1970's.



PHOTO BY ALLEN DELAY/COURTESY OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Nate Proby of United Minority Workers (right) administers an oath to Francis Newman during a voters registration drive in 1972 at the former McDonalds restaurant at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Fremont Street.

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The exhibit, on view through June 24, will engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds as it traces how housing and employment discrimination practices affected Oregon's black populations and spurred the civil rights movement in Oregon.

Racing to Change showcases an exciting period in Oregon and national history--while the 1960s and 1970s were filled with cultural and social upheaval, conflict, and change, it was also an era of celebration, experimentation, and achieve-

ment for African Americans.

Through the Civil Rights Movement, young people made their voices heard, and were propelled to be catalysts for change within their communities. The exhibit also shares how established, vibrant black communities held together in the face of public works funded demolition of homes and businesses, disruptive school integration measures, and other challenges.

"We hope that visitors to

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*Our lives
begin to end the
day we become
silent about
things that matter.*



--Martin Luther King Jr.



Protests against racism erupted in Portland and across the nation this summer.

PHOTO BY SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Bias Perceptions Grow Amid Racial Progress

For some, Obama's election upset social order

BY ERIC TEGETHOFF

The number of white Americans who believe they face discrimination is on the rise, raising the question of how this might affect the country.

According to a recent poll, 55 percent of white Americans believe their group experiences racial discrimination.

Clara Wilkins, an assistant professor of psychology at Wesleyan University who studies prejudice, says this perception has grown rapidly since Barack Obama was elected president in 2008.

For many, Obama's election was a sign of racial progress, but Wilkins says a subset of white Americans saw this as upsetting the social order.

Somewhat counter intuitively, her research finds people who believe the country is fair and just also are more likely to perceive discrimination against white people in the wake of Obama's election.

"For people who think society is fair, they're the ones who sort of tend to think that the order of society where whites have greater access to wealth, power, status, etc. - that is legitimate

and it's fair and it's not based in bias," she states. "And so, if you reject those beliefs - you think that it's not fair - then those are the people who actually welcome social change."

As Wilkins notes, the reality is that vast inequalities in wealth and electoral representation still exist for racial minorities.

She says the growing number of hate groups nationwide after Obama's election is one of the dangers from the perception of prejudice against white people.

The Southern Poverty Law Center identifies a number of white supremacist groups in Oregon.

Wilkins and a colleague at Wesleyan have been able to measure the growing perception of bias.

In one of their studies, participants either read an article on racial progress or one that had nothing to do with race.

Those who read the article on racial progress were more likely to believe white people experience discrimination.

And according to Wilkins, further research

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A photo from city of Portland archives and from an Oregon Black Pioneers exhibit opening at the Oregon Historical Society shows Sandra Ford of the Portland Black Panthers during a Feb. 14, 1970 demonstration at the U.S. Courthouse in support of repressed peoples.

Oregon's Civil Rights Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

this exhibit will be inspired by the efforts of national and local civil rights activists and ordinary people who sacrificed their time, talent, and sometimes their lives for socioeco-

omic change. Most of all, we hope to encourage visitors, through their own personal capacity, to contribute to the fight for justice, equity, and inclusion in their respective communities," said Kim Moreland, exhibit co-leader.

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From January 12 to 18, we'll lend a hand at book banks and food banks. We'll help refurbish a mental health center for youth and provide dental clinics for low-income adults. And we'll pause to reflect on Dr. King's message of service, equality, and community.

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—Martin Luther King Jr.



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People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Perspectives in Leadership

Blazers executive to address young professionals

The Urban League of Portland Young Professionals, a volunteer group helping build a pipeline of young new leaders who consider Portland as their home, will host a free career and leadership discussion for young professionals on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Moda Center.

Co-sponsored by the Portland Trail Blazers, the event will feature Michael Lewellen, an African American and Blazers vice president of communications, as guest speaker. The event, "Leadership Narratives, Transition Moments that Shaped my Career," will start with a networking opportunity at 5 p.m., followed by a discussion and question and answer session with Lewellen.



Michael Lewellen

Before directing the Trail Blazer's corporate communications and public engagement strategies in 2012, Lewellen held senior positions spanning 30 years with companies like Nike, Turner Sports, Fox Sports Net, Black Entertainment Television, and NBC Universal as a media strategist, reputation manager, sports and entertainment publicist, and brand communicator.

The National Black Public Relations Society honored Lewellen in 2005 with its highest honor – the Founders Award – for his achievements in the public relations profession, one of many the honors he's received throughout his career.

The Urban League of Portland Young Professionals encourages young professionals to empower their communities and change lives through the Urban League Movement and encourages volunteerism in the areas of advocacy, civic engagement, and leadership development.

Service Projects Honor King

Clark County Parks is seeking volunteers to assist with two service projects at Lacamas Lake Regional Park in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, volunteers will team up with the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance for trail maintenance, and

on Monday, Jan. 15, volunteers will partner with Clark County Parks to remove non-native Scotch broom and English ivy.

Having two work parties for this national day of service will offer greater opportunity for volunteers to give back to their community and honor the legacy

of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The events will take place rain or shine and volunteers should wear long pants, closed toe shoes weather-appropriate clothing. Tools, gloves and light refreshments will be provided.

To register for either event, go to clark.wa.gov/public-works/volunteer or call 360-397-6118, extension 1627.

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Bias Perceptions Grow Amid Racial Progress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

shows this group isn't likely to stay on the sidelines.

"The problem is that for these people who really think that the order of society should be a particular way - what they experience by perceiving bias is that they should do something to re-establish that order," she states.

Wilkins says demographic projections showing that white Americans will become the minority in the next few decades is contributing to the idea that white people are under attack.

She says while fighting back against this perception is hard, the best way might be to downplay the idea of competition between different groups of people.

Eric Tegethoff is a reporter for Oregon News Service.

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Interfaith leaders in Portland are following in the path of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by forming a "Beloved Community of Oregon" organization to bring people together. Clergy from the group gathered last January for a silent march and mediation to respond to a new era of hate speech, hate crimes and racial profiling.

Bringing People Together

Interfaith group inspired by MLK

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A group of local religious leaders of different faiths, known as the Beloved Community of Oregon, is now hosting monthly meetings for the public in an effort to bring people together. Influenced by the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who promoted love, respect, and justice, these forums are planned with a commitment to justice for all in mind.

The Beloved Community began in September 2001 when members of the United Church of Christ and the Muslim community decided to meet weekly over lunch in an effort to bridge divides.

The community grew to include members of other religious institutions, and they continued to meet weekly since then. This last spring, they

started monthly forums for the public in an effort to create dialogue an increasingly divided political climate and to foster more community engagement.

The purpose of the forums is to help people move past their fear of difference and deepen their community relationships while learning about and working towards a cause for the greater good.

Each monthly forum is held on the fourth Sunday of the month in a different location and takes on a certain issue or theme. Past forums have focused on gun violence, immigrant and refugee voices in public policy, and the history of how borders in Middle Eastern countries got drawn and how that impacted colonial dominance.

Guest speakers have in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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Albina Ministerial Alliance Annual City-Wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Program



Theme: ***“Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”***

When: Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Maranatha Church 4222 NE 12th Avenue, Portland, OR 97211

Speaker: Dr. Marvin Lynn

Dean of Graduate School Education at Portland State University
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Speaker ~ Poetry ~ Music

Sponsored By: **The Albina Ministerial Alliance** • Information: (503)287-0261

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when one’s must take a
position that is neither
safe nor politic nor
popular,
but he
must take it
because his
conscience
tells him it is right.”*

--Martin Luther King Jr.

Church Events Celebrate Dr. King

This weekend two Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church will honor the late civil rights leader by holding a “Salute to Greatness” student scholarship and civic awards luncheon on Saturday at 12 p.m. and an “Empower the Dream” interfaith gathering and speaker series on Sunday at 2 p.m. Both events are open to the public.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler will be the keynote speaker during Saturday’s ceremony as local high-school students of noteworthy achievement and

community leaders who have a significant, positive impact on our city are honored.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith will keynote Sunday’s gathering which will also feature addresses by Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish, Oregon Sen. Law Frederick, and former Sen. Margaret Carter. Both events are inspired by Dr. King’s 1968 sermon two months before his assassination, in which he proclaimed, “Let me be remembered as a drum major for justice, peace, and righteousness.”

Bringing People Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

cluded Bobbin Singh, executive director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, Kelly Weigel, executive director of the Western States Center, and Ramon Ramirez, president of Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United, one of the largest organizations representing the Latino community in the state of Oregon.

Rev. Hector Lopez, a former

pastor of the Ainsworth United Church of Christ and founding member of the Beloved Community, said that his hope for these forums as they continue is for “people to come and be inspired enough to go out and be the Beloved Community in their own circles and organizations.”

For information on upcoming forums, visit the Facebook page of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and look under the events section.

The 50th Anniversary of Dr. King’s Assassination

On View: Black History 101 Mobile Museum
Visiting exhibition of artifacts representing (but not limited to) slavery, politics, Jim Crow, science, religion, education, music, sports, and civil rights.
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Professor Griff
Co-founding member of the hip hop group Public Enemy.
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 17
Clark College
Gaiser Student Center
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Putting At-Risk Kids on Path to Non Violence

Youth mentor speaks from experience

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dontae Blake, 43, is an ex-gang member from northeast Portland trying to reconcile his past by connecting younger gang members to nature in an effort to prevent them from going down the same path he once walked down.

Blake has been working for over two years with a non-profit organization whose aim is to decrease community violence by doing outreach for at-risk youth and creating pathways to education, careers, mentorship and community service. He takes kids on nature excursions that include whitewater rafting, mountaineering, wildlife viewing, and hiking trails in the central Oregon area around Bend, through the program, Unify Portland, Living Free.

"I haven't had a disappointed kid yet. It's like watching a kid



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dontae Blake speaks from experience as he works to reduce gang violence in the community through a program called "Unify Portland, Living Free." A former gang member, he has turned his life around and now works with an organization creating outdoor excursions for at-risk kids, helping them develop skills and interests that lead to productive lives.

Portland area.

Blake started mentoring at-risk youth back in 2010 while attending Central Oregon Community College in Bend, using his own tuition money and food stamps to fund the excursions. When he came back to Portland after college, he started attending Community Peace Collaborative meetings held every other Friday at the North Portland Police Precinct, organized by the City of Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

Formerly known as Portland's Gang Task Force, the public forum changed its name in 2014 to Community Peace Collaborative. The meetings are designed to intervene and prevent youth violence in Multnomah County by building support networks for youth and families, according to the Office of Youth Violence Prevention website. Community members such as individuals, law enforcement, businesses, city bureaus, faith communities, and neighborhood coalitions have participated in the meetings.





Outdoor excursions in the central Oregon area around Bend provide mentoring and recreation opportunities for at-risk youth as part of the "Unify Portland, Living Free" program born through the Community Peace Collaborate, Portland's anti gang effort.

at Christmas," he said. "They just turn into kids, even active, young active gang members."

Blake was one of hundreds of people taken off a gang designation list after the 20-year-old practice was phased out by the Portland Police Bureau in October.

Mentoring and recreation programs, which are Living

Free's flagship services, were listed as two of the top strategies suggested by community leaders to reduce the gang problem in Portland, second only to jobs and job training, according to a Multnomah County Comprehensive Gang Assessment from 2014. The same report stated that there were around 133 gangs in the

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AFROFUTURISM & POSSIBILITIES FOR OREGON



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Walidah Imarisha

College Hosts Keynote Scholar

The community is invited to hear Portland scholar and activist Walidah Imarisha speak at Western Oregon University for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative dinner on the school's campus in Monmouth on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

"We chose Walidah Imarisha because of her scholarship and background," said Emmanuel Macias, educational advisor for the college's student enrichment program. "Walidah brings insights and perspectives to issues facing communities most marginalized by systems of oppression. We look forward to learning and growing from her address."

Imarisha is an educator, writer, public scholar and spoken-word artist. She has presented statewide as a public scholar with Oregon Humanities' Conversation Project on topics such as Oregon's Black history, alternatives to incarceration and the history of hip hop. Her nonfiction book *Angels with Dirty Faces: Three Stories of Crime, Prison, and Redemption* won a 2017 Oregon Book Award.

Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for general admission (including dinner) and can be purchased at the Werner University Center front desk or in disability services.

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*“That old law about
‘an eye for an eye’ leaves
everybody blind.
The time is always
right to do the
right thing.”*



--Martin Luther King Jr.



Children at a free breakfast program in 1969 sponsored by the Portland Black Panthers at the Highland Community Church of Christ. Organizer Kent Ford sits with the children.

PHOTO COURTESY
OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Explore the Radical Legacy of MLK

Free event at WSU Vancouver

The public is invited to Washington State University Vancouver on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to participate in "Reclaiming Our King: The Radical Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr." The free event with lunch included will take place from noon -- 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15 in the Firstenburg

Student Commons.

Guests will be invited to participate in a community reading of King's anti-imperialist speech "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" delivered April 4, 1967 at the Riverside Church in New York City.

A member from Anakbayan Portland will present about the organization's "Take Back our Education" platform and black/Filipino solidari-

ty. Anakbayan Portland aims to unite Filipino youth of all backgrounds to achieve genuine freedom and democracy in the Philippines.

The event will conclude with a keynote address, "Kent Ford, Elder Street Fightin' Statesman." Ford is a founding member of the Portland Chapter of the Black Panther Party--Portland Panthers. In 1969 he and other Portland Panthers helped organize a free breakfast program

at the Highland Community Church of Christ that fed up to 125 children and the Fred Hampton Memorial People's Health Clinic that extended free medical care five evenings a week.

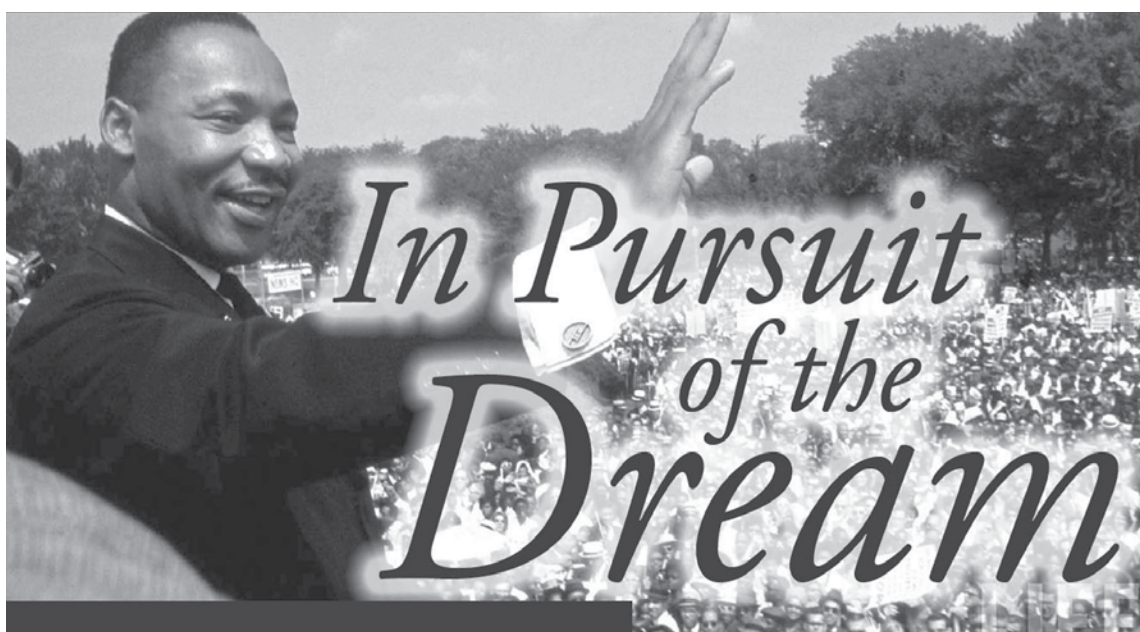
WSU Vancouver is located at 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave. in Vancouver, east of the 134th Street exit from either I-5 or I-205, or via C-Tran bus service. Parking is free on holidays.

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— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Khalid el-Hakim and his Black History 101 Mobile Museum. The exhibit comes to Clark College in Vancouver on Wednesday, Nov. 17 in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday.

Clark College Revisits 1968 MLK events on history and culture

Clark College in Vancouver will honor the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday, Jan. 17 with two free and open to the public events that focus on African-American history and art.

The activities were planned under the theme "1968" in reference to the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King and how that year shaped American history and culture.

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum will be on exhibit in Gaiser Student Center on Clark's main campus for the special day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Founded by Khalid el-Hakim, this is an award-winning collection of over 7,000 original artifacts. The selection on display will focus on the major events and per-

sonalities of 1968, including artifacts related to the 1968 Olympics, Muhammad Ali, Arthur Ashe, the Black Panther Party, Shirley Chisholm, and numerous musical artists who were performing during that time. Supporting material from the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the Jim Crow era will provide additional historical context.

Additionally, there will be a multi-media presentation delivered by Professor Griff, one of the founding members of the hip-hop group Public Enemy, about how the events of the late 1960s helped shape that group's art. Griff will speak at 1 p.m., also in Gaiser Student Center.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

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

6 A.M. - 12 NOON
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL
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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Louise Matthews

A celebration of life service for Louise M. (Blakely) Matthews will be held Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 8501 N. Chautauqua Blvd.

She was born April 22, 1938 and died Jan. 9, 2018.

Survivors include her daughters, Rev. Renee Ward and Alescia F. Blakely; sister Dr. Allison Blakely (Shirley); and grandchildren Brandon L. Blakely, Arya P. Morman and Zion D. A. Ward.

For more information, visit the Terry Family Funeral Home website at terryfamilyfuneralhome.com.

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Dismayed by Failure to Fund Kids' Healthcare

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congress needs to reauthorize a federal healthcare program for children called the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP to help low and middle income families. That was the rally cry last Friday as a group of Oregon elected officials joined the public for a demonstration on the steps of the World Trade Center in downtown Portland.

The lawmakers included Oregon Democrats, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, Gov. Kate Brown, and U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici.

About 9 million children across the country, including over 100,000 in Oregon and over 23,000 in Portland, benefit from CHIP coverage. Congress' reauthorization of the funding for the program is now over 100 days past due, legislation that has traditionally seen bi-partisan support.

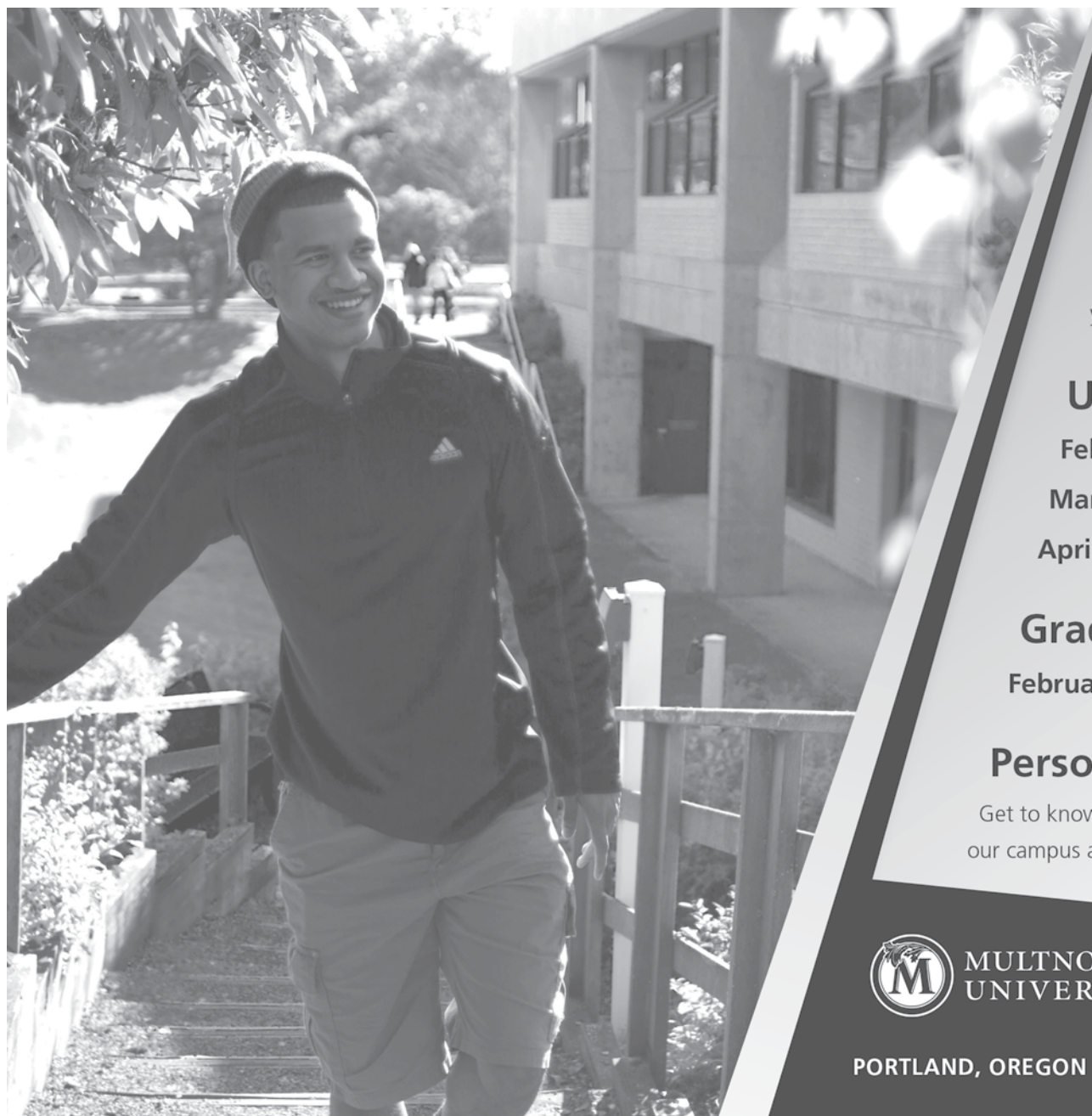
"As a mom and a member of Congress, I am dismayed



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Advocates rally on the steps of the World Trade Center in downtown Portland calling on Congress to fund a federal healthcare insurance program for children in low income families.



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— Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Marijuana Directive Denounced

New policy may not have much impact

New federal guidelines on prosecuting marijuana crimes probably won't lead to a crack-down on personal and medical uses of the drug in states where it is legal like Oregon, but the new policy by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions got strong denunciations from state and local officials when it was announced last week.

Sessions reversed an Obama-era directive of non-interference with states that have legalized marijuana. Instead he will now leave it up the discretion of local federal prosecutors on how they try cases in their jurisdictions, encouraging them to focus on shared public safety objectives.

Ellen Rosenblum, Oregon's Attorney General, said she would do everything within

her legal authority to protect Oregon's marijuana industry within its "carefully considered state regulatory requirements."

She said the industry has created over 19,000 jobs throughout the state, adding over \$1 million in revenue to schools, to public safety, and to drug and alcohol treatment in Oregon in the last year and a half.

Billy J. Williams, the U.S. Attorney for Oregon, responded to the new guidelines by saying he will continue working with federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement in Oregon to stem the overproduction of marijuana on the black market and "the diversion of marijuana out of state, dismantling criminal organizations and thwarting violent crimes in our communities."

That statement appears to recognize that under Oregon Law there's not sufficient local support to enforce federal prohibitions against personal and medical use of the drug.

Dismayed by Failure to Fund Kids' Healthcare

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

by the failure of Congressional leadership to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program for the long-term," Congresswoman Bonamici said. "Republicans just added about \$1.5 trillion to the debt with their tax bill and they are now insisting that we cut prevention and public health programs to pay for children's health insurance. That's wrong."

A bipartisan bill that would extend CHIP passed unanimously by the Senate Finance Committee, but the Senate majority has not allowed it to see the floor. Instead, Congress included a three-month extension of the program in an appropriations bill passed last month.

"Federal leaders should unite, put aside political gamesmanship and fund the CHIP program," Gov. Brown said. "Unfortunately, majority leadership in Congress is focused on looking out for the wealthy and well-connected. Here in Oregon we're focused on the people, not the powerful."

A pediatrician at the rally, Ben Hoffman, told the Portland Observer he's seen the impact the uncertainty of the funding has had on families.

"People are scared. People don't know what they're going to do if they lose their healthcare," Hoffman said.

"For those of us who are in the trenches, we have to look these families in the eyes, these parents, and help them come to terms with what they might do if they lose access to health insurance. It's really a horrible thing...the message needs to get to DC that we can't hold these families hostage."

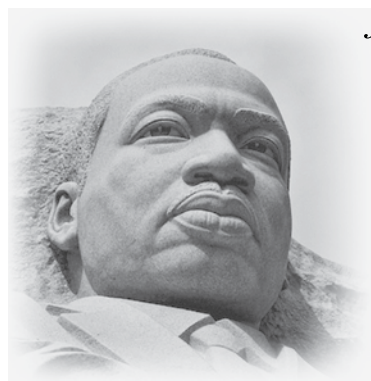
Sen. Merkley told the Portland Observer his thoughts were on the next steps needed to address the issue with other lawmakers.

"It needs to part of the comprehensive funding package. Right now, the government is running out of money on January 19th so we expect this package to be put together over the next few days...we need to have a lot of pressure applied," Merkley said. "It's absolutely outrageous that my Republican colleagues have been focusing on raiding the treasury for the rich while neglecting working Americans."

Prior to a three month temporary extension of the program, Gov. Brown had directed the Oregon Health Authority to extend coverage of CHIP in Oregon through April using leftover funds to cover it.

The CHIP program, called Oregon Healthy Kids in Oregon, covers kids and pregnant women from low to middle income families whose income is too high to receive Medicaid, but too low to purchase coverage themselves.

Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.



--Martin Luther King Jr.

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PHOTO BY LORI MARTIN/LORIBYDESIGN.COM

Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington receives an award of appreciation from Pastor C.T. Wells of Emmanuel Temple Church during a Dec. 31 ceremony.


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February 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Braking Cycles Cafe at 3354 SE Powell Blvd., Portland

Mark Washington, publisher of the locally owned and operated Portland Observer, was recognized for his community service and honored during a Dec. 31 celebration at Emmanuel Temple Church, a diverse and historic African American congregation serving north and northeast Portland.

“In honor of your family legacy, in appreciation for your many years of service to our community and specifically for the many unsung sacrifices made by the Portland Observer, one of

the oldest African American newspapers in the state of Oregon, the family of Emmanuel Church salutes you,” a church proclamation read.

Washington has worked at the newspaper for decades. He became publisher after his brother Chuck Washington died in 2015. The family has operated the Portland Observer since 1989 when their mother Joyce Washington, a beloved community leader, purchased the historic publication and served as publisher until her death in 1996.

In Loving Memory



**Carl Edward
Gibson Sr.**

**April 1, 1960
- Jan 5, 2017**

Pledge Calls on Restoring Trust



The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners as pictured in a photo from last January when the governing body started the year as the first such group in which all members represented women and minority groups for the first time ever. After some recent tensions on the board, a new statement signed by each commissioner focuses on restoring trust.

County Commissioners tap down on conflict

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON

PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

After some recent tensions on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, a new statement focuses on restoring trust, signed by each member of the governing panel.

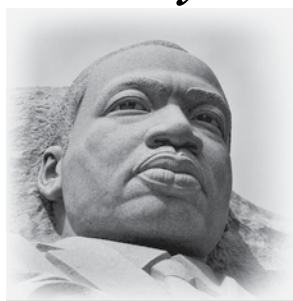
Multnomah County Board Chair Deborah Kafoury came under fire last month when she gaveled a board meeting to a close, shutting down a line of questioning by Commissioner Loretta Smith and ending the meeting with a vulgar remark aimed at her colleague. The only African American member of the panel, Smith was raising concerns about institutional racism in the county as she opposed the appointment of the county's chief operating officer, Marissa Madrigal, to serve in Kafoury's absence if she were to ever leave office or was otherwise unable to serve. Kafoury later explained she felt a responsibility to defend county staff and apologized for expressing her feelings in the way she did.

The new statement, issued by the full commission on Monday, said Smith and Kafoury met face-to-face for the first time since the Dec. 21 board meeting and took an important step toward restoring trust.

"The Chair apologized to Commissioner Smith in person and both agreed they are stronger working together," said the statement.

"As county commissioners, we are accountable to the public and to one another. Toward that end, we will begin a formal quality improvement process to improve communication. We are committed to putting our energy going forward into the many critical issues facing the county. We know that to accomplish that, we must maintain and vigorously uphold a professional, respectful work environment."

Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.



--Martin Luther King Jr.



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Trail Blazers hope for a better world in which we can live in peace and harmony together.

"The only time we should look back to yesterday is to look at the positive things that were accomplished to encourage us to do better things today and tomorrow." – Stevie Wonder



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Honoring King and Building Community

Volunteer events to pack the MLK weekend

More than 1,500 volunteers will fan out this weekend across the greater Portland metro area in service to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Working with local non-profits and schools, the volunteers will help out more than 65 community-based projects as part of the MLK Weekend of Service, held Jan. 12 – 15 by the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and organized by the nonprofit's volunteer program, Hands On Greater Portland.

The event is presented by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and supported by adidas, Bank of America, The Boeing Company, Daimler Trucks North America, Intel, JP Morgan Chase and



Volunteers pack food donations as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of Service organized by the United Way of the Columbia Willamette.

Umpqua Bank, with special thanks to U.S. Bank.

Volunteer projects will include restoring and refurbishing classrooms, gardens and

play spaces at schools and community centers, sorting food and clothing, serving meals and doing home repairs. The majority of these projects

support United Way's agenda to invest in our region's kids so they are free from poverty and free to reach their potential.

For a full list of volunteer activities throughout the weekend, you're encouraged to visit unitedway-pdx.org/mlk.

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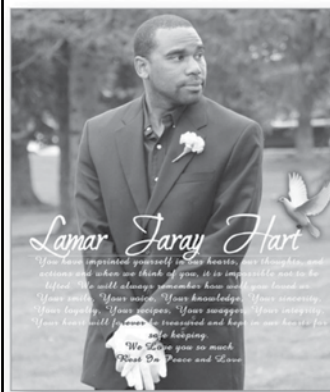
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The Portland Observer

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CALENDAR

January 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>○1</div> <div>New Year's Day <i>Betsy Ross born, 1752</i> <i>Paul Revere born, 1735</i></div>	<div>2</div> <div><i>Isaac Asimov born 1920 (Astronomer, author, scientist)</i></div>	<div>3</div> <div>Festival Of Sleep Day <i>J.R.R. Tolkien born, 1892 (author)</i></div>	<div>4</div> <div>Trivia Day <i>Isaac Newton born, 1643</i></div>	<div>5</div> <div><i>First Woman Governor Inaugurated 1925 (Nellie Ross)</i> <i>George Washington Carver Recognition Day</i> <i>National Bird Day</i></div>	<div>6</div> <div>Bean Day <i>Epiphany (Christian Holiday)</i> <i>Sherlock Holmes born, 1854</i></div>	<div>7</div> <div><i>First U.S. Presidential Election held, 1789</i> <i>Old Rock Day</i></div>
<div>☾8</div> <div><i>Elvis Presley born, 1935</i></div>	<div>9</div> <div><i>First iPhone introduced in 2007</i> <i>National Apricot Day</i> <i>National Static Electricity Day</i></div>	<div>10</div> <div>Make Your Dreams Come True Day <i>First Meeting of United Nations General Assembly in London, 1946</i></div>	<div>11</div> <div>Milk Day <i>Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Pacific Ocean, 1935</i></div>	<div>12</div> <div>Work Harder Day <i>Author Jack London born, 1876</i></div>	<div>13</div> <div>Poetry Break Day <i>Michael Bond born, 1926</i></div>	<div>14</div> <div><i>Secret Pal Day</i> <i>National Dress Up Your Pet Day</i> <i>The Revolutionary War ended (1784)</i></div>
<div>15</div> <div>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Born in 1929 (Observed Third Monday) <i>Hat Day</i></div>	<div>●16</div> <div><i>Prohibition began in 1920</i> <i>National Nothing Day</i></div>	<div>17</div> <div><i>Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) born, 1942</i> <i>Benjamin Franklin born, 1706</i></div>	<div>18</div> <div><i>Raymond Briggs born, 1934</i> <i>Marks the beginning of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial</i></div>	<div>19</div> <div><i>Artist Paul Cezanne born, 1839</i> <i>Popcorn Day</i></div>	<div>20</div> <div><i>Inauguration Day (Every 4 years)</i> <i>Cheese Day</i> <i>First traffic rules published (1900)</i></div>	<div>21</div> <div><i>National Hugging Day</i> <i>First flight of the Supersonic Concorde (1976)</i></div>
<div>22</div> <div><i>Brian Wildsmith born, 1930</i> <i>National Blonde Brownie Day</i></div>	<div>23</div> <div><i>Measure Your Feet Day</i> <i>National Handwriting Day</i> <i>National Pie Day</i></div>	<div>☾24</div> <div><i>Eskimo Pie Patented, 1922, Christian Nelson</i> <i>Gold Discovered in California At Sutter's Mill, 1848</i></div>	<div>25</div> <div>Opposite Day <i>First Winter Olympics held, 1924</i></div>	<div>26</div> <div><i>Australia Day (first settled, 1788)</i></div>	<div>27</div> <div><i>Lewis Carroll</i> <i>National Geographic Society Founded (1888)</i></div>	<div>28</div> <div><i>Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist)</i> <i>National Kazoo Day</i></div>
<div>29</div> <div><i>Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936)</i> <i>National Puzzle Day</i></div>	<div>30</div> <div>Franklin D. Roosevelt born, 1882 (23rd President)</div>	<div>○31</div> <div>Backwards Day <i>Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Baseball Great)</i></div>	<div>Got belly dance? We do! shimmymob.com Takes place 5-12-18</div> <div></div>			



Martin Luther King Jr.

“Keep Alive the Dream” Tribute

World
Arts event
largest MLK
celebration

Oregon’s largest salute to Martin Luther King Jr. will once again come on the anniversary of the civil rights hero’s birthday and the national holiday that honors his contributions to racial progress in America.

The 33rd annual “Keep Alive the Dream” event by the World Arts Foundation will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, the national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and last until 6 p.m., on the campus of the Highland Christian Center,

7600 N.E. Glisan.

The celebration will include special performances that showcase local and regional talent. Honored speakers will include local and state leaders. Sponsors include Portland Public Schools

Providence Health Services, Enterprise Holdings, the Portland Association of Teachers, TriMet and others.

The nonprofit World Arts Foundation was established in Portland in 1978 to promote and preserve African-American contributions to American culture, and to support community education through the interface of arts and education.

For more information, contact Kenneth Berry at 503-816-9001 or Sunshine Dixon at 503-995-8803.

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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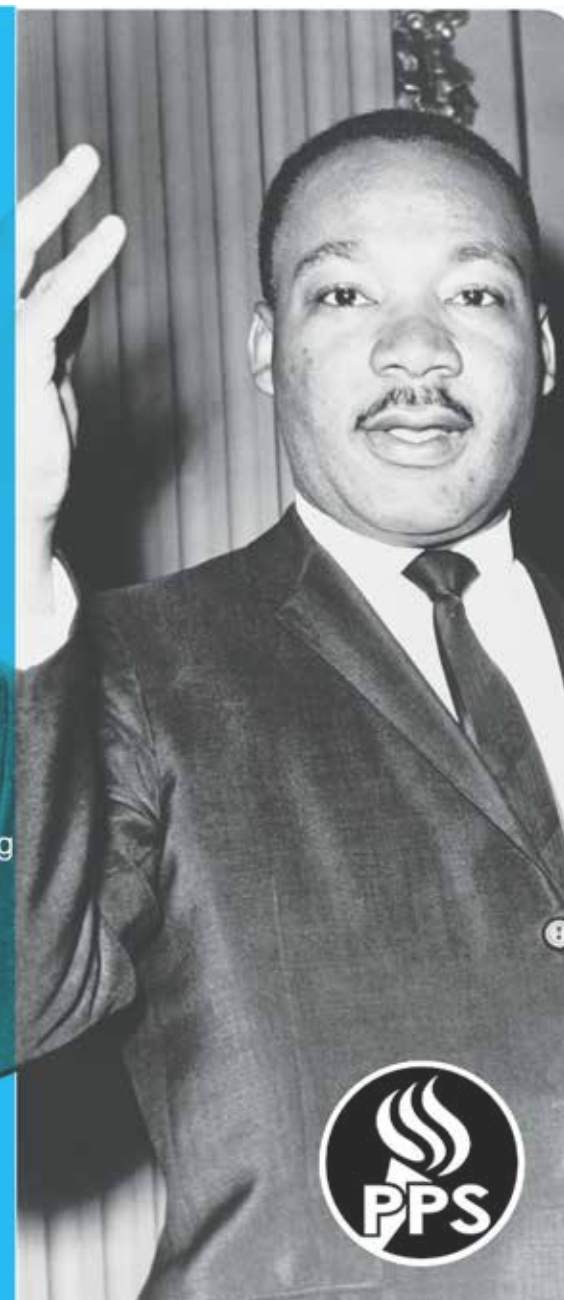
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OPINION

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Dreams of Owning a Home in My Neighborhood

Pathway 1000 presents a path forward

BY SOMMER MARTIN

The thought of attending a work event on a Saturday morning was making my foot swell. Thoughts of staying home with a hot cup of tea, self-help book, blanket and home-cooked meal were out the window, as my company, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI), was hosting its second Pathway 1000 Homeownership Education Forum at the Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center, a few miles away from my mother's house, with whom I live with, begrudgingly.

Let's face it, I am in my early 30's, I work full-time, and the only affordable place for me to reside in Portland is a shared living space with ye ole Mother Hen. It is as lively as it sounds.

It was incredibly grey that Saturday morning. The drive over was slow with the melodic sounds of rain. The movement from windshield wipers made me even sleepier. More hateful, I arrived at the location a few minutes early, to see a small number of cars scattered like confetti around the parking lot.

After parking, I noticed a woman walking briskly to the event space trying to escape rain and wind, all the while trying to keep her outfit dry and her hairstyle intact. I giggled to myself. 'I feel you, sis.' My umbrella went up, and I jogged to the front door.

Inside were a few people sitting, standing and milling about, snacking on delectables from our continental Panera Bread breakfast. I made a beeline towards the food and found a cozy spot next to Jackie Butts, Homeownership Program Manager for the Portland Housing Center, one of our featured guest



PHOTO BY SUZANNE VEAUDRY/PCRI

Sommer Martin considers the possibilities of home ownership during a Pathway 1000 Home Ownership Education Forum by Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI)

speakers. After a brief conversation catching each other up on our lives, I began to see more people from the community tickle in. But my coffee had not yet taken effect and I was set on everybody within a five mile radius knowing I was only there for work, and that I would prefer to be in my bed.

Maxine Fitzpatrick, PCRI's executive director, walked in and there was a visible sigh of relief from Yvette Davis, the organization's Homeownership Program Coordinator. The show could not start without Maxine.

Introduced to a room full of eager ears, Fitzpatrick spoke about her initial 5-year commitment to PCRI and Portland, and how she ended up staying another 20 years. She spoke of PCRI's homeownership initiative, Pathway 1000, which will involve building 1,000 units of affordable housing. The new construction

sites are in north and northeast Portland and include townhomes, space for commercial businesses, and The Beatrice Morrow and King Park apartments.

With comedic timing laced with facts about generational poverty in the black community, Portland specifically, Fitzpatrick described how Pathway 1000 would combat generational poverty through job training, improving educational pursuits, and homeownership.

"The city reneged on its urban renewal plan, but you have a right to return to your neighborhood," she explained.

I thought, "What is keeping me from owning a home in my old neighborhood?"

My family owned the four bedroom two bath home I grew up in. I knew nothing about what it took to keep our house up and running, how it helped our family financially, or the

home buying process. I just remember how it felt. It felt good to come home from school, and know our house was ours. It felt good not "living on top" of other people in an apartment complex. It felt good investing in our neighbors and vice versa. It even felt good witnessing the pride my mother took in her garden.

We ended up selling the house. The reasoning behind doing so was that there was too much space and not enough people to inhabit it after my brothers and I moved out. We didn't think far enough into the future of how this sale would affect all of us. Our beautiful home now belongs to a white family, and each of us either rent rooms or reside in apartment complexes.

Just thinking about not having our family home anymore was so upsetting. I could feel the anger begin to radiate from my kneecaps as the words from Hosea 4:6 crept into my mind, "My people perish from the lack of knowledge."

A concise yet informative YouTube video from John Hope Bryant of Operation Hope, followed. Bryant was speaking with Roland Martin, host of NewsOne, about the rules of economic liberation and how we, as black people, "didn't get the memo," about building up our credit scores.

"We are living in economic slavery right now," Bryant said.

Wow. What a sobering statement. As an undergraduate student from Oregon, I remember arriving for college in Tennessee, and the first thing I did was apply for a credit card. I did not read any of the small print, compare credit cards or anything. I just started swiping. And you get a meal! And you get a meal! And you get a meal! My friends and I would go shopping, and I would apply for credit cards in the store. Swipe, swipe, swipe! In my mind, this was free money. Free money with no responsibility was my mindset for the next few years. Those decisions I

made then, are the reasons why I am where I am financially now. I have to clean up what I've messed up.

After the video, Wyman Winston of WHEDA took the podium. "Make a conscious decision not to be a tenant," he said. I began to sit up a bit straighter. "It's cheaper to own a home than to rent. Homeownership will keep more money in your pocket. You have to begin with your sense of who you are. What are you doing?"

Hmmm. .what am I doing? Sitting on my mother's couch, under a blanket, drinking tea, reading self-help books and eating homemade food. These things sound like fun, but I could be doing all these things in my own home.

Jackie Butts' presentation on the partnership between PCRI and the Portland Housing Center interrupted by daydreaming. The center provides Getting Your House in Order classes, culturally-specific financial education for African-American and Hispanic people, in addition to homeownership counseling.

Butts took us through a Five C's of Credit exercise. She encouraged us to look at our finances, our budget, and get homeownership counseling because, "with homeownership counseling, you are 30 percent less likely to go into foreclosure."

In the end, I thought the forum was a success. It forced me to look at my finances and homeownership differently. It helped me imagine what I want to see change in Portland. I want to see black and brown people walking their dogs, in their neighborhoods, riding their bikes, going to their stores, buying from their businesses, and taking their children to their neighborhood schools. I feel empowered to be an active member of an economic movement in my city where I get to see people who look like me, thriving.

Sommer Martin is media coordinator for Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI)

Never Give Up Fighting for What You Believe In

Let courage, faith and hope guide you

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

This is a time to stand and fight for the futures of our children and the soul of our nation with all our might! I am strengthened every morning by reading these words over my kitchen sink — based on a poem first published in 1905 and anonymously adapted over the years. Its bottom line: Never, ever give up



fighting for what you believe in. *If you think you are beaten, you are; If you think that you dare not, you don't; If you'd like to win, but you think you can't. It's almost a cinch that you won't.*

If you think you'll lose, you've lost;

For out in the world you'll find success begins with a fellow's will. It's all in the state of mind.

Full many a race is lost; Ere even a step is run, And many a coward falls;

Ere even his work's begun. Think high and your deeds will grow; Think low and you'll fall behind. Think that you can and

you will. It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are; You have to think high to rise. You have to be sure of yourself, Before you can win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, But sooner or later the man who wins, is the fellow who thinks he can.

I also share a prayer of surrender: O God, Thou knowest that I cannot read, understand, or retain all I think I need to know.

Remember for me and understand for me what I do need to know. O God, Thou knowest I am bone weary and worn down after

many years of labor. Be Thou my strength, energy, and perseverance.

O God, Thou knowest that my internal nerve and voice quaver unconfidently amidst all those who speak with unjust certainty. Be Thou my confidence and clarity and anchor.

O God, Thou knowest how scattered are my thoughts and activities that tire me out and drain my energy. Be Thou my focus and order my words and steps to meet our children's needs.

O God, Thou knowest my dreams and hopes for the children of America and of the world and the

many child dreams and hopes that violence, homelessness, hunger, poverty, and drugs turn to dust. Be Thou my and their dreamkeeper and grant them hope and help in our times.

Thank You, God, for hearing my cries as You heard Hagar's long ago.

You do not need to know precisely what is happening or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the challenges and opportunities offered by the present moment and embrace them with courage, faith, and hope.

Let's keep building the nation and world all our children need and deserve.

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

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

What You Really Need to Thrive in College

What no one told me about being 'first'

BY BRANDON TERRELL

I was reared and schooled in Detroit, where poverty and oppression eloquently danced while violence and crime serenaded the communities.

The crime and oppression in my neighborhood drove me to submit a college application that changed my life's trajectory. I wasn't going to college to become an adult; I faced mature challenges and struggles long before filling out my college applications. For me, higher education represented an escape from adult struggles.

But, I couldn't escape the financial challenges. For first-generation college students like me, the responsibilities designed for mature adults were often delegated to us adolescents. Now that I'm in graduate school, I have some distance and perspective on what first-gens really

need to thrive at a four-year college.

And, despite some model programs at universities, I fear the current political climate and threatened budget cuts will only make it harder for first-gens to obtain a four-year degree.

I know from experience my journey as a first-gen and non-traditional undergraduate college student is devastatingly common.

No one in high school or college spoke to me about the financial realities of being a student who couldn't rely on family for support. FASFA, Pell Grants and loans were foreign concepts. The conversations I had growing up rarely involved college. We talked about who was buying dinner that night or who needed to get a job to help pay bills.

Survival was the goal. By the time I applied to college, I had already tangled with life and boxed with oppression, discrimination, stereotypical beliefs, and negative ideologies, all while juggling school, plus a job or two.

Life had prepared me for college. But the challenges never stopped

coming.

Even as I struggled to pay tuition and buy meals when the food courts closed for the weekends, I often got calls from relatives who needed help buying groceries. Relief started with me. I had no safety net - I WAS the safety net.

Completing college required a survival balancing act-maintaining my GPA, bridging gaps back at home, and navigating collegiate bureaucracies while carefully responding to microaggressions and prejudice in majority white spaces.

Spectators would classify the underlying factor of our motivation as "grit" or "determination," but for many first gens, our motivation is simply survival. We have no choice.

Missing an assignment, being too tired to attend a bio lecture after working more than 30 hours a week, failing a 300 level course, or even missing a tuition payment created a slippery slope back to the environment that suffocated dreams.

But we are a population colleges cannot afford to lose, as we represented 36 percent of students seeking a four-year degree nationwide in 2012.

Politicians, educators, social workers, counselors, and administrators must address the intersecting social and cultural challenges that precede our applications, accompany us to college, and follow us even after securing a degree.

Access to college and financial aid is not enough to secure a better quality of life for students coming from low-income backgrounds. The gap is widening with only 14 percent of the most economically disadvantaged students earning a bachelor's degree, according to a 2015 federal study.

We need a different support system to thrive in college-mentors, help with living expenses, travel costs, tutors, flexible schedules, and emotional support from other students who feel isolated, but are coping with similar struggles.

We need to stop talking about college attainment in simplistic ways. It takes so much more than grit.

Brandon Terrell is currently attending graduate school at Eastern Michigan University, after graduating there in 2015 with a bachelor's in psychology.



The Connection between Racial and Economic Justice

Dr. King's legacy honored with new campaign

BY LEE SAUNDERS

Today's economy is rigged against working families and in favor of the wealthy and the powerful. That's not by accident. CEOs and the politicians who do their bidding have written the rules that way, advancing their own interests at the expense of everyone else.

Now, they're trying to get the rigged system affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. In a few months, the justices will hear a case called Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, which would make so-called "right-to-work" the law of the land in the public sector, threatening the freedom of working people to join together in strong unions.

The powerful backers in this case have made no secret about their true agenda. They have publicly said that they want to "defund and defang" unions like the one I lead. They know that unions level the economic playing field. They know that unions give working people the power in numbers to improve their lives and communities, to negotiate a fair return on their work while keeping the greed of corporate special interests in check.

Union membership is especially important for communities of color, historically providing a ladder to the middle class, helping them earn their fair share of the wealth and the value they generate. More than half of African-Americans make less than \$15 per hour. But belonging to a union is likely to lead to a substantial pay raise and superior benefits. African-American union mem-

bers earn 14.7 percent more than their non-union peers. The union advantage for Latinos is even greater: 21.8 percent.

When unions thrive, everyone benefits. Wages, protections and labor standards for all working people rise. In New Jersey, my union has set up a training fund that provides young people a pathway to high-demand nursing careers. The result is not just good jobs, but a better health care system. In Minnesota, teachers' unions speak up together

to make sure their students get the resources they need to succeed.

Meanwhile, right to work isn't just anti-union; it actually has its roots in the racial brutality of the Jim Crow South. The misleading term was coined by a Texas oil lobbyist named Vance Muse, an unapologetic white supremacist who thrived on pitting workers of different races against each and feared that they would find solidarity with one another. "From now on," Muse

there are no civil rights." It was during a labor struggle - a strike by AFSCME sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee - that Dr. King was assassinated in April, 1968. To mark the 50th anniversary, AFSCME has launched a grass roots education and mobilization campaign initiative called I AM 2018 - to honor the courage and carry on the legacy of both Dr. King and the sanitation workers.

The Janus case and the pursuit of



"In New Jersey, my union has set up a training fund that provides young people a pathway to high-demand nursing careers. The result is not just good jobs, but a better health care system. In Minnesota, teachers' unions speak up together to make sure their students get the resources they need to succeed."

once said of unionization and workplace integration, "white women and white men will be forced into organization with black African apes whom they will have to call brother or lose their jobs."

By contrast, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who made the connection between racial and economic justice central to his philosophy, saw through the "false slogan" of right to work. "Wherever these laws have passed," he said, "wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and

right to work is all about people with substantial money and power hoarding even more money and power for themselves. It is strong unions that create greater freedom and opportunity for everyone, helping working people of all races get a fair shake, a strong voice and a chance to achieve the American Dream.

Lee Saunders is president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a union of 1.6 million public service workers.



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26 at Clyde's and Satur-
day, Jan. 27 at the Rogue

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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people who live in Oregon?," and "How can
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OMSI Exhibit on Arctic Thaw -- "Digging
into Permafrost" is a new exhibit at OMSI
addressing 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 re-
search stations and interactive games.

Zoo for All -- The Oregon Zoo has launched
"Zoo for All," a new discount program that
provides \$5 admission for low income indi-
viduals and families. Visitors may purchase up
to six of the \$5 tickets by brining a photo ID
and documentation showing they participate in
low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card,
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Discount Tickets -- Low income families and
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unique program called Music for All. Partici-
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land Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and
Portland Vocal Consort.

Priced Out Documentary -- Portland film-
maker Cornelius Swart's investigative and per-
sonal look at how skyrocketing housing prices
are displacing Portland's black community and
reshaping the entire city. 'Priced Out,' gets two
free open-to-the-public screenings, Wednesday,
Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6
p.m. in the Moriarty Arts and Humanities build-
ing at Portland Community College's Cascade
Campus in north Portland.

Edgar Allan Poe Homage -- The Poe Show
returns to Clinton Street Theater o n
Sunday, Jan. 14 for a no holds barred
variety show in homage to Edgar Allan Poe on
what would be his 208th birthday. The
show will feature local musicians, actors and
filmmakers, as well as a new feature, a popup
artist's gallery called The Night Gallery that
will feature Poe-themed art from around the
world. For more info, visit poeshowpdx.com.

History Hub -- Oregon Historical Society ex-
hibit for young people explores the topic of

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Supporting other entrepreneurs of color in the city, Portland hip hop artist Swiggle Mandela (front and center) stars in his recent hit music video 'Stoopid Burger,' in recognition of Portland's number one-rated burger joint, a food cart turned restaurant that is African-American owned and operated.

Swiggle Mandela's Cross Promotion

Local rap star takes 'Stoopid' to the next level

If you support local black-owned businesses, independent artists, and great music you should definitely be listening to Swiggle

Mandela.

The Portland native recently released a trailer for a new song he's calling "Stoopid Juice." It is the sequel to his locally loved hit "Stoopid Burger" named after Portland's number one burger joint, "Stoopid Burger," a food cart turned restaurant that is owned and operated by other local members of the black

community and is now located at 2329 N.E. Glisan St.

Swiggle Mandela is a prominent Portland hip hop artist known for his versatility in music. He is also constantly innovating and bringing new business models to a vibrant growing entertainment scene in the city.

"I feel like my music video for

'Stoopid Burger' and the trailer to 'Stoopid Juice' are basically commercials for the restaurant and I feel it's important for entrepreneurs of color to support each other," Swiggle Mandela said. "I think it's very important to represent entrepreneurship in my music, especially for people of color."

The song "Stoopid Burger"

touches on many social issues such as gun violence and mass incarceration. While the music is fun and modern, it also has very deep messages.

You watch the music video "Stoopid Burger" and the trailer for "Stoopid Juice" on YouTube.com, Facebook or Instagram by searching Swiggle Mandela.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY RUSSELL J. YOUNG/TEATRO MILAGRO

A new play at Teatro Milagro, Portland's premiere Latino theater space, explores dual identities, whether that's bilingual, bi-national, bicultural, etc.

New Play Explores Dual Identities

A new play explores the role that individuals with a dual identity—whether that's bilingual, bi-national, bicultural, etc.—face in the world, but not in our world and not in a way that you'd expect.

Written by New York Based playwright and director Georgina Escobar, Bi- will see its 2018 world premiere on Friday, Jan. 12 at Teatro Milagro, Portland's premiere theater space at 525 S.E. Stark St.

Drawing inspiration from the book Flatland by Edwin Abbott and set in the year 2073 in Tierra Plana, a nation of squares, walls, boxes, and other shapes with

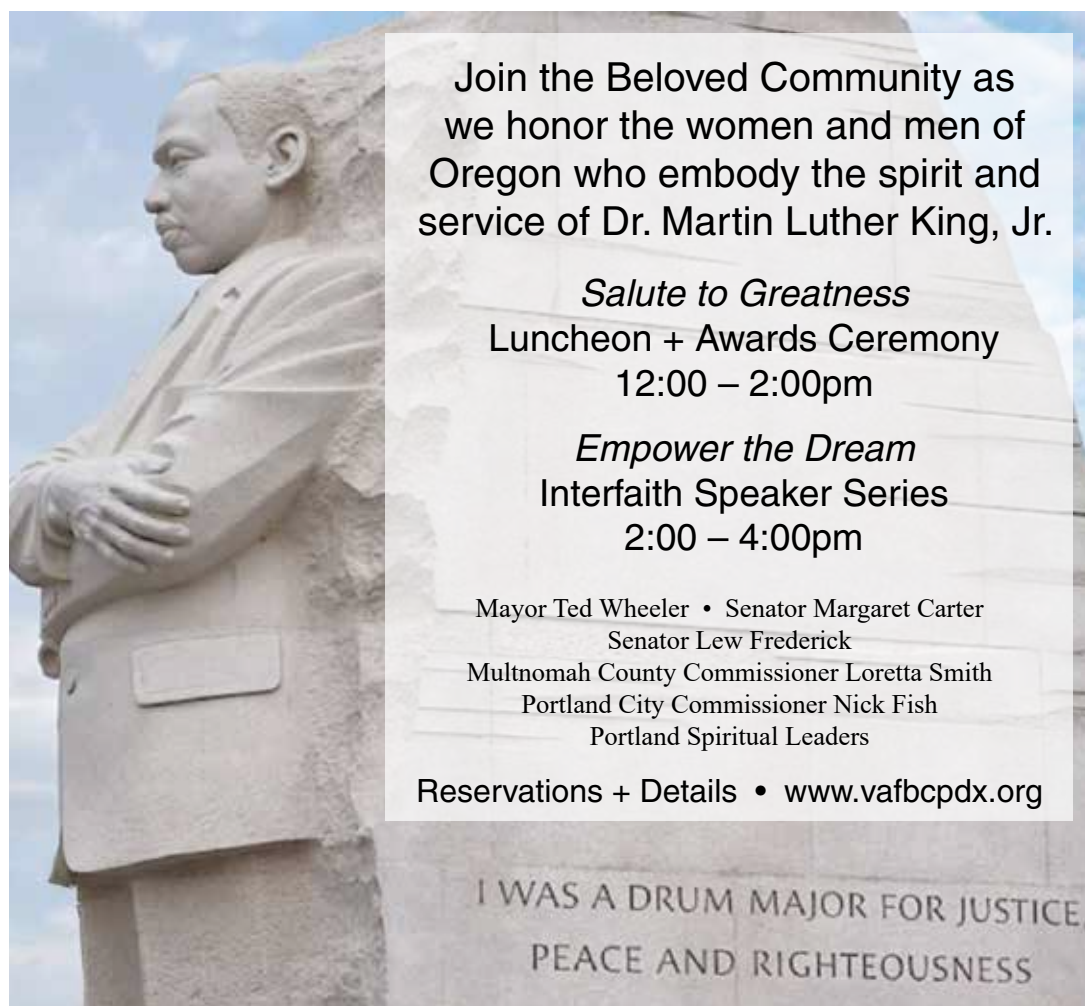
multiple identities, but are only assigned a singular one by their government.

Dañel Malán, who co-founded Milagro with her husband José Eduardo González in 1989, helped develop the play with Escobar, who is originally from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The play is co-directed and choreographed by Portland-based performance artist and instruct Gabriela Portuguese, who also founded cultural arts education center Latin Groove PDX Productions.

Shows run through Jan. 20. For tickets and more information, visit milagro.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A new documentary "Sighted Eyes/Feeling Hurt," on the life of Lorraine Hansberry, a black writer, feminist and outspoken trailblazer at the height of the Civil Rights movement, gets a screening in Portland with the film's director in attendance on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Monday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum. The film premieres nationwide on PBS on Friday, Jan. 19 at 9 p.m.

Revealing Portrait of Activist Artist

A new documentary on the life of Lorraine Hansberry, a black writer, feminist and outspoken trailblazer at the height of the Civil Rights movement gets a free screening in Portland with the film's director in attendance.

"Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" will be shown at Whitsell Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The screening, with director Tracy Heather Strain in attendance, will be in advance of the film's national premiere on public television later in the week.

Hansberry led an active life, befriending James Baldwin, inspiring Nina Simone, break-

ing barriers from Broadway to Hollywood, being monitored by the FBI, and seeking love on her own terms, all before her untimely death at age 34.

Drawing upon multiple archives, the film goes deep into the stage and screen productions of Hansberry's landmark work "A Raisin in the Sun," about at black family in her hometown Chicago. We hear from Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Louis Gossett Jr., and others involved in its productions.

The film's title comes from Hansberry's view that "one cannot live with sighted eyes and feeling heart and not know or react to the miseries which afflict this world."

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY ARTMATTAN PRODUCTIONS

Miriam Makeba, one of the first musicians out of Africa to win international stardom, is the subject of the film 'Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba,' one of the many music documentaries featured this month at the Reel Music Festival sponsored by the Northwest Film Center.

Celebrating Musicians and Film

Reel Music Festival opens Friday for January run

The Northwest Film Center's 35th annual Reel Music Festival kicks off this week with documentaries about some of music's most legendary acts, celebrating jazz, blues, rock, soul, classical, avant-garde and every genre in between.

The month long lineup includes films about everyone from rock legend Eric Clapton, to one of rock music's founding fathers, Fats Domino, to alt rock sensa-

tion Deer Tick, folk legend Bob Dylan and singer Sammy Davis Jr., among many others.

Miriam Makeba, an African singer famous for blending Afro-pop, world music, and jazz to reach audiences all over the world, will be one of the subjects explored in the film "Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba." Her life, music and political message of fighting against racism and poverty and promoting peace and justice are examined through rare footage of her electric performances and interviews from famous friends like Harry Belafonte, Paul Simon, Angélique Kidjo, and husbands Stokely Carmichael and Hugh Masekela.

Also featured are films on the

legendary Cuban group Buena Vista Social Club," an exploration of electronic music pioneer Suzanne Ciani, and "Mr. Handy's Blues," a portrait of W.C. Handy (1873-1958), called the father of blues, who brought the genre into the mainstream and first made it commercially viable.

The Reel Music Festival opens Friday, Jan. 12 and runs through Jan. 30 at the Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium, located at the Portland Art Museum, downtown. Tickets and more information about each film of the festival, including trailers, descriptions, and play-times, can be found at nwfilm.org



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A photo by Disney and Marvel Studios' shows Chadwick Boseman in a scene from "Black Panther," in theaters on Feb. 16.

Black Panther Movie Excitement

(AP) — People around the country, from superhero fans to black culture connoisseurs, are waiting with excitement for the debut of Marvel's "Black Panther" movie.

"Black Panther" viewing parties are already being scheduled, people are discussing what African garb looks best for opening night and Twitter says "Black Panther" was one of the most tweet-

ed-about movies of 2017, the only movie on the list that hadn't premiered yet.

The excitement is due to the character's unique space in the superhero world.

The Black Panther is considered the first black superhero, introduced as a supporting character in Fantastic Four in 1966 and later featured in his own book.



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SUB BIDS REQUESTED

Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR) Electrical Trade Partner

JE Dunn Construction invites written and sealed proposals for qualified Trade Partners to provide preconstruction and design-assist services for Electrical Work on the PACR project. Upon successful preconstruction participation, the intent is to award the Trade Partner a contract to furnish and install the Electrical scope of work

Proposals due 2:00pm PST January 12, 2018

A complete copy of the RFP can be obtained by emailing Robert Means at Robert.Means@jedunn.com.

Proposals must be delivered to JE Dunn Construction, Attn: Robert Means, 424 NW 14th Ave, Portland, OR 97209.



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JE Dunn Construction reserves the right to select the best value response, negotiate with multiple proposers, or reject all responses. This is an Equal Opportunity and encourages Minority, Woman, Veteran, and Emerging Small Business participation.

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annually. Deadline date: January
12, 2018

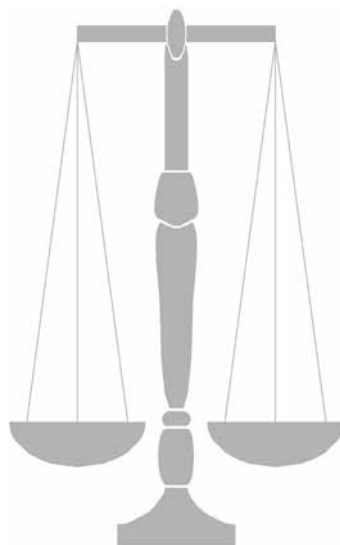
**Supervisor of Security Services, full-
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Arts, \$53,540.00 - \$77,633.00
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SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

Brio apartments **117 N Failing Ave., Portland, OR** **New 96 unit, six story, 55,764sf group living apt bldg.**

Bids Due: 01/26/18 at 2 PM PST

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Plans are available at <http://seabold.net/brio-lofts>

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Adoption of Serenity Nicole Mill :
DOB: 11/30/2017, by and through : Case No. 17-A-39
An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc. :

NOTICE OF PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS

To: Darius Allen, the named biological father of a Child born November 30, 2017, in Fulton County, Georgia

You are hereby notified that a Petition to Terminate Your Parental Rights has been filed in the above-styled Court by An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc. through its attorneys.

The mother of the child has surrendered her rights to the child to the Petitioner, An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc., and the Petitioner intends to place the child for adoption.

Pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 19-8-10, 19-8-11, 19-8-12 and other pertinent laws, you are advised that you will lose all parental rights to this child, and you will neither receive notice of nor be entitled to object to the adoption of the child, unless, within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this notice, you file a Petition to Legitimate the Child, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 19-7-22 and give notice in writing of the filing of such Petition to this Court and to the attorney listed below. You must prosecute the action to final judgment. You are further advised that if you intend to object to this Petition, you must file an Answer to the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights within thirty (30) days in the Superior Court of Thomas County, Georgia. You are urged to immediately retain legal counsel to assist you in this matter.

You should contact the attorney for Petitioner, Chris E. Ambrose, Silvis, Ambrose, Lindquist & Coch, P.C., 220 S. Hansell Street, P.O. Box 1557, Thomasville, Georgia 31799, telephone 229-228-4258 for further information. All notices to or correspondence with the Petitioner and copies of all pleadings or proceedings you may file in any court in regard to the above-referenced Child should be served upon him.

Dated this 20th day of December 2017.

SILVIS, AMBROSE, LINDQUIST & COCH, P.C.

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Exhibit A

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

4th & Grant Apartments **2211 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR** **New 108-unit, 6-story, 57,302 sf apt bldg.**

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Members of Portland's Groovin' High Steppers enjoy the group's Chicago-style steppin' dance classes and social events.

Groovin' Steppers Beginner Classes

Groovin' High Steppers, Portland's premier Chicago-style steppin' group, is reaching out to the community to inform folks about a new six week steppin class series for absolute beginners!

The weekly one hour class will begin on Tuesday, Jan 30 at 7 p.m. and run through March 6 at the (Com)Motion Dance Studio, located at 4522 N. E. 42nd Ave. and Prescott.

Registration is required and the price is affordable, but space is limited. You can sign up for the class at groovinhighsteppers.com. For more details, call Denise at 503 819-4576 or Hernandez at 206-683-4101.



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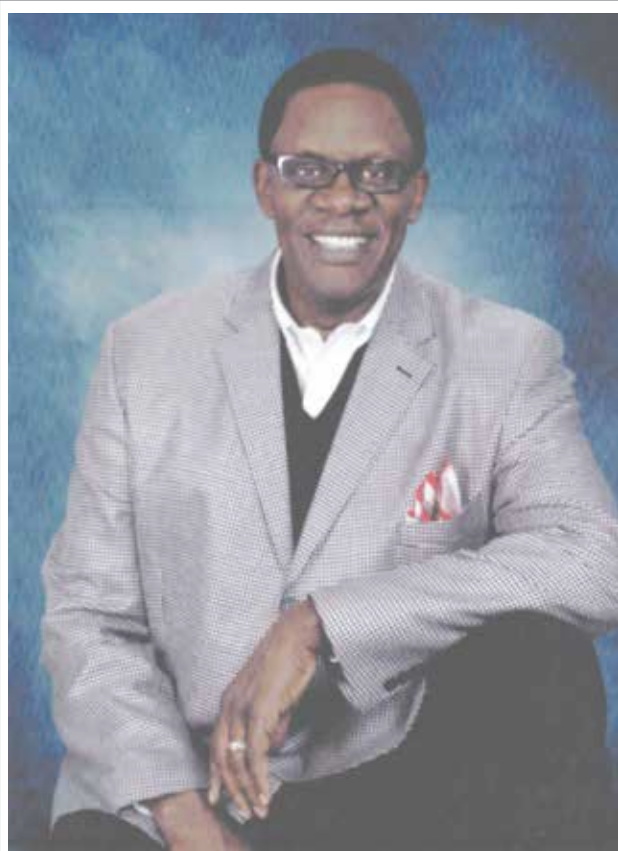
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