



## River Keepers

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open festival of  
new works*

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# Portland Observer

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BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

# March for Justice

A peaceful march for freedom, unity and justice led by young people in the community in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday fills both sides of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Monday. The 4th annual Children's March for Social Justice was sponsored by the grassroots organization Don't Shoot Portland. Along the way demonstrators waved signs for justice, chanted Black Lives Matter and celebrated the late civil rights leader by playing Stevie Wonder's homage to Dr. King, "Happy Birthday" on an external speaker and reading King's "Letters from Birmingham Jail" at the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial sculpture at the Oregon Convention Center where the march concluded.



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# Trump's Rhetoric Backlash

## Uses words laced with profanity and racism

President Trump has once again garnered worldwide criticism for profane and racist comments, this time about African countries and Haiti during an Oval Office meeting with several members of Congress to discuss bi-partisan immigration plans.

"Why are we having all these people from sh\*thole countries come here?" Trump was quoted as saying when the discussion



Donald Trump

turned to immigrants from Africa. He also condemned immigration from El Salvador. "We

should bring in more people from places like Norway," he added.

The statement occurred on the eve of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday and King's daughter, Bernice King, expressed her condemnation of the comment on a Facebook live video Friday. "We've heard so many things from him via Twitter and otherwise that have been troubling to our humanity," the activist said.

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a non-partisan organization addressing

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## The Week in Review

### False Alarm in Hawaii

Hawaii officials faced widespread criticism after a false alarm warning about an imminent missile attack that urged residents to "seek immediate shelter" on Saturday morning. State officials canceled the alert six minutes later, but many people didn't get the message and people flooded the streets in fear across the state, searching for cover. Honolulu's 911 system received 5,500 calls.

### Olympian Accuses Team Doctor

Four time gold gymnast Simone Biles is the latest Olympian to accuse former USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar of sexual abuse, joining over 125 other women and girls who say they were also abused by the doctor during routine exams. Nasar faces decades behind bars for seven counts of criminal sexual conduct after pleading guilty in November.



### Sitting Out State of Union

Congressman Earl Blumenauer announced last week that he will not be attending the upcoming State of the Union address, saving himself

from "listening to yet another destructive and divisive speech" by President Trump. Instead, the Portland Democrat released in statement saying he will be working at home listening to the concerns of fellow Oregonians.

### Coastal States Say No Drilling

Oregon's Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden have joined 20 of their colleagues asking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to exempt Oregon and other impacted states from any new offshore oil or gas leases. The letter comes on the heels of a Trump Administration plan to dramatically expand drilling leases in coastal states. But a few days later, Zinke granted a special exemption to Florida, citing tourism interests.

### New Homeless Day Center in Vancouver

Vancouver City Council approved the purchase of a \$4.3 million building last week to help provide homeless services within the city. The 25,000 square foot building is a former Fish and Wildlife building and is located in the heart of the city.

### Semi Plunges into Columbia

A semi-truck on Interstate 84 crashed into an SUV and veered out of control, splashing into the Columbia River, about a mile east of Corbett, Monday night. Three people were injured, including the truck driver.

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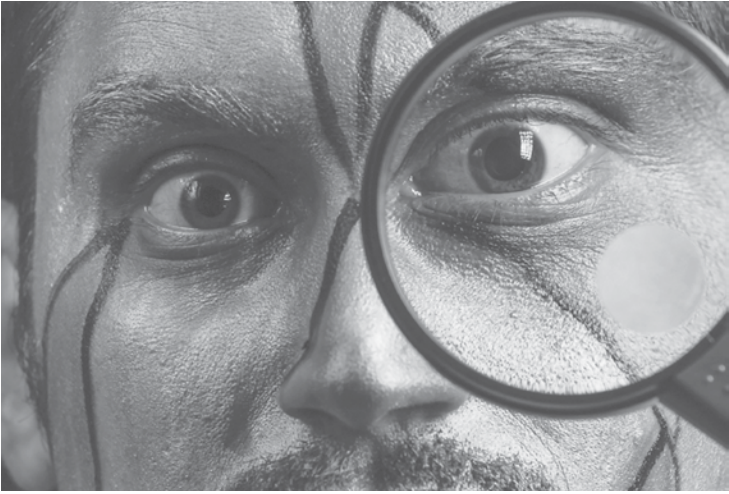


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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Citizen advocates representing the Portland Harbor Community Coalition apply pressure to make sure the EPA's Superfund Site cleanup plans to remove toxins in the Willamette River are carried out and benefit the community. Pictured (from left) are coalition members Rahsaan Muhammad, Jackie Calder, Cassie Cohen, Donovan Smith and Bob Sallinger.

# River Keepers

## Citizen activists keep watch on EPA cleanup plans

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community advocates are raising alarms to how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to evaluate future cleanup work as plans move ahead to isolate and remove decades of toxic pollutants from the Willamette River.

A sampling plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund site was supposed to track the progress of the cleanup by determining the levels of toxins and contaminants that continue to pass through the

food chain from fish and wildlife, determining impacts from the cleanup work.

The EPA is moving to enforce the industries, governmental agencies and private utilities responsible for the pollution to pay for the cleanup, identified along 11 miles of waterway, from the Broadway Bridge, downtown, to nearly the river's confluence with the Columbia River. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality also shoulders responsibility for the cleanup efforts. The

first phase of work is expected to take 13 years, with a total cleanup timeline that could take 50 years or more, and estimated to cost about \$1 billion, Kevin Parrett, one of DEQ's clean-up plan managers, told the Portland Observer.

In the Willamette's current state, fish and wildlife can pick up contaminants from pollutants in the water and from the land, and public health department officials recommend that people limit consumption of resident fish, especially young children, women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant in the future, and immune-deficient people.

A rough draft sampling plan released last June would have included sampling resident fish like carp and small mouth bass and wildlife like crayfish and the eggs from fish-eating osprey birds, as well as migratory fish like salmon and sturgeon.

That was a robust and comprehensive plan compared to a new sampling plan released by the EPA in December which is to only sample small mouth bass.

"Bottom line is we think that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# River Keepers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

this is by and large not a good sampling contract," said Cassie Cohen, executive director of the Portland Harbor Community Coalition. "It's a sampling contract that benefits the polluters more than it benefits the health of the river, or the health of the people."

The advocacy group's mission is to keep the clean-up efforts on track and to make sure the work benefits the community. Members

are especially concerned about impacts on people who rely on the river for sustenance and the disproportionate impact of exposure to toxins in local African American, Native American and immigrant communities.

A group of companies with historical ties to steel making, chemical manufacturing, and iron works, identified as Schnitzer, Evraz, Arkema and the Marine Group were identified in EPA documents as the parties who ne-

gotiated with the agency to create the sampling plan.

Members of the coalition said the same companies met with EPA officials in secret earlier this year to try and delay clean-up efforts another 5 or 10 years. Their participation was only made public with the release of the sampling plan.

"The sampling plan that's emerged is problematic. We are definitely concerned that these four polluters were able to significantly weaken what we'd expected to see in the sampling plan," said Bob Sallinger, a member of

planning plan was made without a public review process and "speaks to the lack of transparency" of the federal agency. No explanation was given as to why those four industries were chosen in the negotiations out of the over 150 private and public organizations identified as responsible polluting parties, including Port of Portland, Chevron U.S.A., Inc., Phillips 66 Company and the Union Pacific Railroad.

"Ultimately it's, you know, it's the health of the river and the health of our community that was undermined by this process,"

"By cooperating with the state, tribal nations, other federal partners and the responsible parties, we will keep the cleanup moving toward our shared goals of reducing risks to people and the environment, and returning the Lower Willamette to a healthier and more vital working waterway for all," EPA administrator Scott Pruitt said.

In addition to small mouth bass tissue, the sample plan will test river sediment and surface water for contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls, a cancerous chemical that also causes

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*Bottom line is we think that this is by and large not a good sampling contract. It's a sampling contract that benefits the polluters more than it benefits the health of the river, or the health of the people.*

— Cassie Cohen, executive director of the Portland Harbor Community Coalition



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the coalition and the conservation director for the Portland Audubon Society.

According to Sallinger, more extensive testing is the best way to evaluate future risks to the community and provide the information necessary to determine "whether the cleanup reaches its goals or not. And so this is a pretty important piece of the puzzle," he told the Portland Observer.

"There needs to be additional data collected and we're going to be pressing EPA to identify the party for collecting those important remaining data," the DEQ's Kevin Parrett said, echoing Sallinger's point.

Sallinger said the new sam-

Sallinger said.

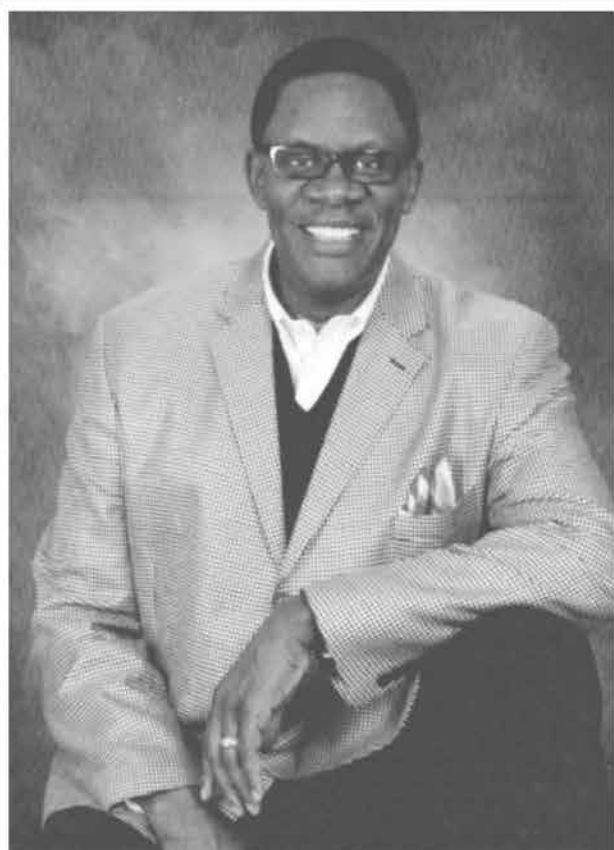
The sampling plan comes a year after the EPA made a Final Record of Decision for the Superfund Site, an official plan to get the river cleaned up. Since then, the Trump Administration has proposed budget cuts to the EPA as well as mass buyouts in the agency. The agency lost over 700 employees, including 200 scientists last year.

But in early December the EPA announced the Superfund Site as one of 21 sites it plans to target for "intense and immediate action" across the country. And EPA has stated that it is committed to sticking with clean up plans laid out in the record of decision.

reproductive issues. The toxins have accumulated in the river over the better part of a century from industrial lumber mills, shipyards, and chemical manufacturing.

Sallinger holds on to hope that there may be opportunities to remedy the deficiencies in the EPA's sampling plan as negotiations with responsible parties continue to unfold over the next several years.

"What we hope to see going forward is a lot more transparency and we hope that the EPA will come back and realize that the [wildlife] sampling that was omitted needs to be restored," he said.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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Loretta Smith



Charles McGee

# Election Campaign Kickoffs

Smith goes for city council; McGee for county commission

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, the only representative from the black community in local city or county government, made her campaign for a future open seat on the Portland City Council official Saturday; and Charles McGee, an activist parent from the black community, announced that he will run to replace Smith.

Smith is running for the position held by Dan Saltzman who is not seeking re-election. She kicked off her campaign with supporters Saturday at the Urban League of Portland's Multicultural Senior Center in northeast Portland.

A former and long time representative from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's Portland's office, Smith has become known for fighting for the most vulnerable of her constituents during her two terms on the county commission, helping fund health and human services and summer jobs for youth.

"Loretta is running to help those who are being left out of our new prosperity, and left behind with rising rents and expenses," said a statement from the Smith campaign "She knows that we need to look out for those across our city who are struggling if Portland is going to remain a place where everyone can live, work, and play."

Smith will face an immediate obstacle to her campaign. A petition submitted to the the Multnomah County Circuit Court on

Tuesday seeks to keep her name off the ballot. Seth Woolley of the Pacific Green Party alleges she violated county charter rules for campaigning for the office before she was eligible to run and should resign.

McGee made his campaign official a few days earlier for the seat Smith holds, representing north and northeast Portland on the five member county commission.

"What we need is a leader with a passion and understanding for this community, a vision for a better tomorrow, and a proven track record for getting it done for north and northeast Portland. I believe – with your support – I can be that leader," McGee said.

If elected, McGee would be the first African-American man to serve on the Multnomah County Commission. He grew up in northeast Portland attending Portland Public Schools. In 2005, as a freshman at Portland State University, he ran for the PPS Board. Although he didn't win, the campaign channeled his drive to create change for Portland's underrepresented students.

In 2006, McGee co-founded the Black Parent Initiative, where he continues to serve as executive director. BPI works to help black parents achieve financial, educational, and spiritual success and advocates for public policy to address educational disparities for young people of color in Portland schools.

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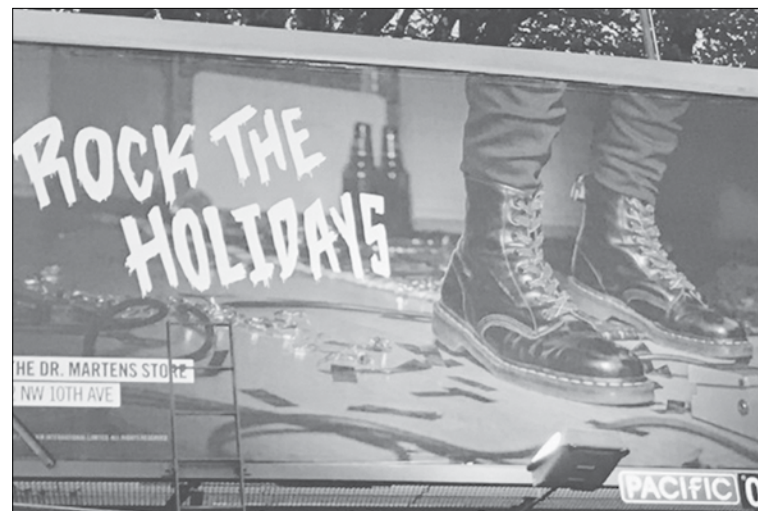
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The King Neighborhood Association is complaining that a billboard on Northeast Sandy Boulevard and other locations carries a racist message. (KATU photo)

## Billboard Called Racist

### King Neighborhood asks for new message, apology

A seemingly innocuous billboard advertising Dr. Martens boots that has popped up around northeast Portland and in other locations has been called out as harboring a racist message. The billboard, which reads "Rock the Holidays," features a picture of boots with red laces, a symbol of white supremacy, activists said.

In a letter from the King Neighborhood Association directed to Pacific Outdoor Advertising, the company responsible for putting up the advertisement, the citizen-directed group explains how red-laced boots

have been used as racist imagery for a person who has violently attacked a person of color.

The letter cites the Southern Poverty Law Center's online guide to skinheads, which states that "racist skinheads will often randomly attack non-whites to 'earn' their red laces."

"Consequently, your billboards are offensive to us, our neighbors and our neighborhood," the letter states. "Surely you would not let your billboard portray the burning crosses of the Ku Klux Klan, yet Dr. Martens' display is simply a more subtle communication of a similar message," the letter added.

The letter calls for the billboard to be taken down, an apology message to be posted in the same spot and that the advertising company "publicly disavows" the racist message of the image.

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TOM JOYNER

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

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
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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.  
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6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
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W/ANGELA

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## Pastors as Advocates for Social Justice

### Haynes and Bethel honored for community service

Two African American Portland pastors dedicated to advocating for social justice and social change, Dr. LeRoy Haynes of Allen Temple CME Church and Rev.

Dr. T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church, were recently honored for their longtime work in the community.

In December, Haynes and Bethel were awarded the Lowenstein Trust Award, named after Steve Lowenstein, a late Portland leader, activist, Jewish scholar and former Peace Corps member who advocated for civil rights and was a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



## Obituary

# Our Beautiful Mother

## Pearl Smothers Mashia

A quiet and lovely lady passed our way. She shined for many years -- a beacon of light! There was so much to be done, so much to learn during her Christian journey -- family, friends to cherish. She would like to say she needed more than the 94 years she was given, but she wasn't one to be greedy.

Pearl Smothers Mashia was born Sept. 3, 1923 to parents, Rosalie Haley Smothers and Will Henry Smothers in Bains, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Surrounded by her loving family, she entered into eternal rest on Jan. 8, 2017, passing angelically as she looked up



into the face of God.

Mother Pearl accepted Jesus Christ as her personal savior and was baptized at the tender age of 5. She loved the word of God and worked diligently in the church from childhood until God called her home.

In 1965, she relocated her family from New Orleans to

Portland (7 girls and 3 boys) and immediately joined New Hope Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. A.A. Newton.

A faithful servant, she was a member of Usher Board #1, a Sunday School teacher and president of the New Hope Mothers' Board. She was a

member of the Sermonette's singing group and served the Portland/Vancouver Gospel Music Workshop Chapter.

She was a dedicated member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Mothers and Patroness Club. She studied the Bible daily, completing a Bible Study Fellowship classes twice, always wanting to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

A great seamstress, she worked at Meier and Frank in Ladies Alterations, retiring at age 65. Never one to sit idle, she began working as "Grandma Pearl" with the Foster Grandparent Program as a volunteer.

She was an attendance secretary at P.O.I.C.-Rosemary Anderson High School until she was 90 years old!

Mother Pearl leaves to cherish her memory, her children; Pearl Thomas, Donna Harris (Antonio), Anita Craig (Donovan), Rose Mashia-Jones, AJ Mashia (Joanie), Lucy Mae Mashia, Eric Mashia (Magdeline), Linda Mashia-Jones, Ava Mashia and Lance Mashia (Charlene).

Preceding her in death were her parents; three brothers, Henry (Gertrude), Leon and Charles Smothers; son-in-law Willie Thomas Sr.; and grandson Leonard James Irving Jr.

She leaves to mourn 24 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great children and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Home Going services will be Saturday, Jan. 20 at 10 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Viewing will be Friday, Jan. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at her home church, New Hope Missionary Baptist.

# Katz Public Tribute

## Art Museum to host celebration of life

Loved ones, colleagues and admirers of the late Portland Mayor Vera Katz will have a chance to celebrate her life on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum.

Katz died on Dec. 11 at the age of 84 due to complications from leukemia and kidney failure. Elected in 1972 to the Oregon legislature, she became the state's first woman speaker of the house and only the second in the nation to lead a state house of representatives, serving what was then a record three terms.

In 1993, she became Portland's third woman mayor, leaving office



Vera Katz

in 2005 after three terms. Upon her retirement from 32 years in public life, The Washington Post's David Broder saluted the "feisty" Katz as "one of the pioneers and paceset-

ters for the women's movement, education reform, health care and urban planning."

Because his mother was known to shy away from pomp and circumstance, Katz's son, Jesse Katz, said the event will be an unpretentious and uplifting tribute.

"Mom always said that the most important thing to her was to make a difference," said Jesse Katz, a Los Angeles author and journalist. "Based on the condolences I've received these past few weeks, I can see just how many lives she touched—how profoundly she inspired others to do more and be better."

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations in Vera Katz's honor be directed to Lan Su Chinese Garden, or your favorite local arts organization or public school foundation.

# Boys & Girls Club Advocate Remembered

## Club to hold memorial service

Family and friends are mourning the death of Linda K White; a long time child activist and a retired manager of the Blazers' Boys and Girls Club. She died peaceful-



ly at home Jan. 5, 2018 after battling complications from diabetes.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. at the Blazers' Boys and Girls Club; 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Blazers Boys and Girls Club in memory of Linda K. White.



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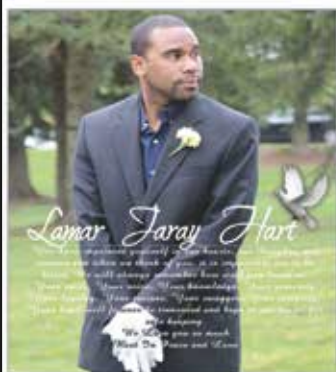
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## OMSI's Space Science Overhaul

### New content and program focus

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) has some exciting new updates to its stellar space science program.

With support from a NASA-funded grant focused on sharing the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education with underserved communities, the museum recently completed new content and programs.

OMSI's 25-year-old planetarium received an overhaul from top to bottom: new seats and carpet, dome cleaning, a new laser system and a new projection system.

"The public's expectations are much higher now with their exposure to multimedia presentations, which is why planetariums like ours are changing to address those expectations," said Jim Todd, the space science director at OMSI. "The

new projection system will take us to a new level and allow us to be even more creative in the type and variety of programming we offer."

The fully-renovated planetarium will enable Todd and his team to actively practice OMSI's mission of inspiring curiosity in people of all ages and backgrounds through deeply immersive and engaging space science programming.

"We will continue to develop and deliver shows that we can tie in with current and upcoming events like eclipses, meteor showers, visible planets and more," said Todd. "The universe will never look the same."

The OMSI team collaborated with Portland's Rose City Astronomers, Rosa Parks Elementary School, Libraries of Eastern Oregon, and Science-Works Hands-On Museum to develop the new content.

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PHOTO BY RUSSELL J. YOUNG

Written and directed by Georgina Escobar, "Bi-" casts a lens on where we come from and who are we becoming, raising the question, 'What is your bi-dentity.' The play is presented by Teatro Milagro for Portland's Fertile Ground, a city wide festival of new works at performance venues across the city through Jan.28.

# Fertile Ground for New Works

## A city wide festival for artistic creators

Now in its ninth year, the Portland-grown Fertile Ground City-wide Festival of New Works flourishes in a town of prolific playwrights, abundant actors, innovative dancers, talented designers and adventuresome producers.

For the next 11 days, and at all times of the day and night, new "acts of creation" from Portland's artistic community will thrive on stages, nooks and crannies all over the city, beginning Thursday, Jan. 18 to Sunday, Jan. 28.

Fertile Ground is an incubator for new work in all forms and stages of creation offering theatre and dance, workshops, staged readings, readings and multidisciplinary events.

The breadth of creative work comes from seasoned theatre and dance companies alongside spunky, young art-creators of every ilk.

Key producers for the 2018 festival include Artists Repertory Theatre with the world premiere of "Magellanica," Milagro with the world premiere of "Bi-," along with works from regularly producing companies like Echo Theatre Company, Lakewood Theatre and

Theatre Vertigo.

"Fertile Ground offers a place where everything that can be created by Portland artists is welcome," said Nicole Lane, festival director. "It is also a chance to inform audiences about the creation process, and to introduce Festival supporters to new artists, companies and a variety of art forms."

A full list of Fertile Ground events is available by visiting online at [fertilegroundpdx.org](http://fertilegroundpdx.org).





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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## Kids Flicks: The Eagle Huntress

Among the isolated Kazakh tribe in the mountains of northwest Mongolia, only men have practiced the long tradition of eagle hunting. "The Eagle Huntress" presented as part of the Northwest Film Center's Kid Flicks series, showcases the first female in 12 generations of her family to become an eagle hunter. The inspiring film captures her courage to train amid the rejection she received from older members of her community. Shows Saturday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum. Admission \$9 general; \$8 students and \$6 for children.



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Legendary hip hop choreographer Rennie Harris returns to Portland's White Bird Uncaged with a thrilling new work 'Lifted!' The show will also feature Portland-based gospel singers.

## Jaw Dropping Funk and Hip Hop

Portland's White Bird Uncaged series welcomes back legendary hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris with his world-famous company, the Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater and his new work "Lifted."

Last performing with White Bird 10 years ago, the Philadelphia-based group is acclaimed for an exciting repertory showcasing funk, breaking, popping and locking, along with oth-

er jaw-dropping hip-hop moves.

Four performances, including a 2 p.m. Saturday matinee, will be held Jan. 25-27 at Lincoln Hall at Portland State University. Tickets are selling fast.

A special feature of the production will be the inclusion of a live Portland-based gospel group led by celebrated vocalist Alonzo Chadwick, and supplemented by two gifted dancers from Portland, Donna Mation and Rashad Pridgen.



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Norman Sylvester

-- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester Wednesday, Jan. 17 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Friday, Jan. 19 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, Jan. 26 at Clyde's and Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains.



**Priced Out Documentary** -- Portland filmmaker Cornelius Swart's investigative and personal 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 building at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

**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 research stations and interactive games.



**Exploring Dual Identities** -- "Bi," a new play that explores the role that individuals with a dual identity, whether that's bilingual, bi-national, bi-cultural, etc., face in the world, but not in our world and not in a way that you'd expect, is now showing through Saturday, Jan. 20 at Teatro Mi-

lagro, Portland's premiere Latino theater space at 525 S.E. Stark St. For tickets and more information, visit milagro.org.

**Nehalem Winterfest** -- Portland jazz legend Mel Brown and his talented quartet will join Oregon's own Quarterflash, fiddle virtuoso Kevin Burke and other musicians for the first annual Nehalem Winterfest music festival on the Oregon Coast. The event is held Friday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 4 at the new Nehalem Performing Arts Center. Brown performs Sunday. For tickets and more information, visit ncrd.org.

**History Hub** -- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?" "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?" and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

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

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

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# OPINION



## Enabling White Supremacy Takes Place Every Day

### We can't afford to delude ourselves

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

Most black folk might get offended if it is suggested that they are enablers to white supremacists. Yet, this enabling takes place every day.

In 1966, I was a 20-year-old Marine Corps draftee-recruit at Parris Island. I also was applying to get into the Marine Corps' aviation program similar to what was depicted in the film "An Officer and a Gentleman."

As a part of the application process, I had to be interviewed by a Marine colonel. At one point, the white colonel, who was seated behind his desk, asked me "Who do you admire more, Jackie Robinson or Cassius Clay?" A black master sergeant, who was standing behind the seated colonel, gave

me the "Don't be a fool" look. That look made me know what answer the white man wanted to hear, so I loudly affirmed, "Jackie Robinson, sir."

Having lived most of my life in the segregated South, I knew danger lay in making white people feel uncomfortable, particularly a white man with power over my future.

A year later, I was a freshly minted lieutenant receiving flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and I never gave any thought to the fact that I had enabled that white colonel in maintaining his sense of racial superiority.

Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful to that black master sergeant for keeping me from falling into a white superiority trap. The wrong answer would have sent me to Vietnam as an infantryman.

This little drama took place

almost 52 years ago, but there are times today when people of color feel the need to play the white superiority game for the sake of survival. Moving forward in the world as it exists, black folks must develop strategies that tear down notions of white supremacy so there no longer will be a need to tell white people only what they want to hear.

We must yank white people out of their comfort zones by emphatically and unapologetically making them feel uncomfortable. Many black folks are in positions where they can do this and still survive. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is doing it. And while he is paying a high price, he still survives.

White supremacy and racial microaggressions intrude into the lives of people of color every day and we must begin to push back. It is important to push back even if we cannot do it in as visible a fashion as Colin

Kaepernick. Particularly, these assaults can be challenged successfully in private settings and in one-on-one interactions with our white "friends" because they often do not realize that their actions are based upon notions of white supremacy as well as implicit bias.

In this era of Trump, America is growing uglier and white supremacy is resurging. If people of color do not push back, we will lose our opportunity to ever speak freely and live freely in this country.

We can't afford to delude ourselves into believing people of color have the freedom to speak and live freely in America. I knew I did not have those freedoms in 1966 when it was clear that I could not correct that white colonel and answer his question by saying, "His name is Muhammad Ali."

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.



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](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

# OPINION

## Look at What We've Done with Apprenticeships

### Bridging the gap for job readiness

BY ODIE DONALD II

Over the last decades, many American inner cities have seen an economic resurgence. Buoyed by millennials and people's desire to shorten their daily work commute, neighborhoods and communities that were all but pronounced dead two decades ago now find themselves flush with new businesses and residents.

This is no more evident than here in the District of Columbia, where the economic recovery of the city has been nothing short of breathtaking. However, as many have noted, this growth has not been equally beneficial to all residents.

While policymakers and advocates search for answers and solutions to this problem, there is one time-tested and



proven tool that should be a key part of any workforce development strategy -- apprenticeships.

Introduced in the 14th century, apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, teaching workers the practical and theoretical aspects of highly-skilled occupations. Apprenticeship programs can be sponsored by employers, labor groups, or employer associations.

Traditional apprenticeship programs have been primarily relegated to labor fields, such as carpentry or pipefitting, but there are a growing number of companies offering them in high skill and high wage fields, such as IT and engineering.

While we understand that the wage and employment gaps cannot be completely closed until the educational and systematic inequalities in this country are addressed, strong apprenticeship programs can help bridge the gap between the shortcoming of our education system and job readiness for high

wage sectors.

Urban policymakers should make a strong investment in funding apprenticeship programs that help those from their most underserved communities enter into career fields with strong earnings and growth. By providing strong hands on training in high wage and high growth fields, such as tech or entrepreneurship, policymakers can help residents who may not have received adequate educational preparation build key job skills and find stable employment.

Furthermore, in a political environment where big initiatives can often be hard to implement, apprenticeship programs have long had bipartisan support. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that over 91 percent of all apprentices retain employment upon completion of their apprenticeship.

Here in the District of Columbia, we have committed to increasing the number of registered apprenticeships. In September, we awarded approximately \$400,000 in grants to local businesses

and community-based organizations that target the IT, construction and infrastructure industries.

Apprenticeship DC promotes both pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship work-based learning models. Over the next year, we will work with local business owners and community advocates to build upon this effort and target resources to maximize the number of apprenticeships available for our communities.

Through this initiative and the D.C. Infrastructure Academy, we hope to prove that we are committed to ensuring that all District residents are able to participate in the growing economy.

As officials and policymakers in other urban areas deal with their own economic gaps, I hope that they will take a look at what we have done here in the District with our apprenticeship programs and embrace this model as a strong workforce development tool.

*Odie Donald II is director of the DC Department of Employment Services.*

## Hollywood Won't Destroy Sexism, But We Can

### Oprah gives a voice to the voiceless

BY RAZAN AZZARKANI

This month's Golden Globes were the first awards ceremony held since #MeToo went viral. To commemorate it, celebrities brought social justice activists along as their plus-ones, and many more wore black to show support with the Time's Up movement, a new Hollywood initiative to purge the industry of predators.

While I'm sure they mean well, repairing the damage is going to take more than wearing black.

After all, Hollywood has collectively spent years perpetuating a rape culture, a sexist culture that did absolutely nothing for women of color, working women, women in the gay and trans communities, women of diverse religious backgrounds, and others. In fact, it often did the absolute opposite.

Elite men accused of abusing women have not only repeatedly gotten away with it — they've been praised for their work, given awards, and offered new jobs. Men such as Woody Allen, Casey Affleck, Johnny Depp, Bill Cosby, and Harvey Weinstein. Only recently have

some faced some sort of consequences.

But then there was Oprah.

Oprah Winfrey won this year's Cecil B. DeMille award for "outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment." The first black woman to get the prize, she accepted her award to a standing ovation — and gave a rousing speech that inspire

She talked about the women who aren't talked about: the domestic workers, the women working for minimum wage, women who have

who don't have the luxury of being the famous, rich, mostly white women with more power to speak.

No longer will women have to remain silent and endure because "this is what men do" or believe these are experiences that come with being a woman. No longer will women have to be shamed into silence because they aren't believed, because they're not rich enough, white enough, pretty enough, whatever enough to be believed.

The solution isn't, as some are al-

Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Women like Anika Raihan and Leilani Ganser, young activists I've had the pleasure of working closely with. They were brave and courageous enough to publicly fight back against their abusers after receiving little to no help from their university campuses where the assaults took place. Despite stigma, backlash, and struggle, Raihan and Ganser continue to fight every day for justice, for themselves and for women everywhere.

The solution is to support organizations that give voice to women of color and other marginalized groups — organizations such as Know Your IX, National Domestic Workers Alliance, INCITE!, and Mending the Sacred Hope.

Even Hollywood's getting wise, the New York Times reports. Time's Up set aside a \$13 million legal fund "to help less privileged women — like janitors, nurses, and workers at farms, factories, restaurants, and hotels — protect themselves from sexual misconduct and the fallout from reporting it."

"Speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have," Oprah said. Until "nobody ever has to say 'me too' again." A new day is indeed on the horizon.

*Razan Azzarkani is the executive assistant at the Center for Global Policy. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*

*The solution is to support organizations that give voice to women of color and other marginalized groups — organizations such as Know Your IX, National Domestic Workers Alliance, INCITE!, and Mending the Sacred Hope.*

no choice but to be silent about their abuse because they have a family to feed. "For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up," she said.

Oprah gave a voice to the voiceless,

ready demanding, for Oprah to run for president. The solution is to listen to women everywhere, and empower female activists in their work.

Women like Tarana Burke, senior director of Girls for Gender Equity and founder of the #MeToo movement, and





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## Pastors as Advocates for Social Justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

community role model for human rights and social justice work.

Bethel and Haynes are known for tackling issues of racial inequality, justice system reforms, violence, gang issues, gentrification, minority contracting, homeless assistance and health care inequities. They serve as volunteer advisory members on a number of community panels, some involving city, county and regional governments.

The two pastors separately moved to about Portland 20 years ago. Each of them grew up in segregated communities in the South. In Portland, they have both worked to end criminal justice inequities and bring about reforms by working with prisons to support families, reduce recidivism, and assist former inmates in their return to a constructive community life, among many other social justice efforts.

Haynes' Allen Temple provides homelessness assistance, gives

people in need access to clothing and other essentials for everyday life, and provides self help assistance with job interview preparations, employment training programs, and housing application assistance. Both churches partner with the Oregon Food Bank to provide meals to struggling community members.

Pastor Haynes has actively supported efforts to address health care inequities by providing HIV/AIDS outreach and support. Rev. Bethel has advocated for a healthier community by supporting environmental protection and strengthening public investment in urban parks for all.

"When reviewing nominations for the Lowenstein Trust award, it is always heartening to see the range of outstanding work being done in Portland. Pastors Haynes and Bethel truly exemplify the spirit of the Steve Lowenstein award through their commitment to effectively serve those most in need," Lowenstein Trust Chair Joe Hertzberg said.

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# Trump's Rhetoric Backlash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

racial discrimination, released in a statement saying, "It is no surprise that we have seen a spike in hate crimes and hate violence across the country because we have a President who, without hesitation, expresses racial animus toward people of color."

The NAACP also joined a

chorus of others who derided the comment:

"As our nation fights to move forward, our President falls deeper and deeper into the rabbit hole of racism and xenophobia. The United States' position as a moral leader throughout the world has been thoroughly damaged by the continuous lowbrow, callous and unfiltered racism repeatedly

espoused by President Trump," the NAACP statement said.

Just last month Trump stereotyped people of color in Haiti and Nigeria saying they lived in huts and had AIDS.

"This has white supremacy written all over it—yet again," the multi-racial group Advancement Project added.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden

Tweeted his condemnation as well, saying, "Donald Trump's disgraceful comments prove that he does not even know what makes America great."

President Trump later denied that he used the words mentioned.

The comments came about during a meeting at the Whitehouse Oval Office organized by Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin and South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham to discuss a

bi-partisan plan for Dreamers, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. About 700,000 Dreamers will face deportation March 5 due to the President's revocation of DACA.

This is not the first time President Trump has drawn international criticism for racist remarks. Last year Trump did not immediately condemn racist violence in Charlottesville Virginia, and later said that there were "very fine people on both sides."



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## CALENDAR

### January 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>☾ 8</div> <p><i>Elvis Presley born, 1935</i></p>	<div>9</div> <p><i>First iPhone introduced in 2007</i> National Apricot Day National Static Electricity Day</p>	<div>10</div> <p>Make Your Dreams Come True Day <i>First Meeting of United Nations General Assembly in London, 1946</i></p>	<div>11</div> <p>Milk Day <i>Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Pacific Ocean, 1935</i></p>	<div>12</div> <p>Work Harder Day Author Jack London born, 1876</p>	<div>13</div> <p>Poetry Break Day <i>Michael Bond born, 1926</i></p>	<div>14</div> <p>Secret Pal Day National Dress Up Your Pet Day <i>The Revolutionary War ended (1784)</i></p>
<div>15</div> <p><b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;</b> Born in 1929 (Observed Third Monday) Hat Day</p>	<div>● 16</div> <p><i>Prohibition began in 1920</i> National Nothing Day</p>	<div>17</div> <p><i>Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) born, 1942</i> <i>Benjamin Franklin born, 1706</i></p>	<div>18</div> <p><i>Raymond Briggs born, 1934</i> Marks the beginning of the Lewis &amp; Clark Bicentennial</p>	<div>19</div> <p><i>Artist Paul Cezanne born, 1839</i> Popcorn Day</p>	<div>20</div> <p>Inauguration Day (Every 4 years) Cheese Day <i>First traffic rules published (1900)</i></p>	<div>21</div> <p>National Hugging Day <i>First flight of the Supersonic Concorde (1976)</i></p>
<div>22</div> <p><i>Brian Wildsmith born, 1930</i> National Blonde Brownie Day</p>	<div>23</div> <p>Measure Your Feet Day National Handwriting Day National Pie Day</p>	<div>☾ 24</div> <p><i>Eskimo Pie Patented, 1922, Christian Nelson</i> <i>Gold Discovered in California At Sutter's Mill, 1848</i></p>	<div>25</div> <p>Opposite Day <i>First Winter Olympics held, 1924</i></p>	<div>26</div> <p>Australia Day (<i>first settled, 1788</i>)</p>	<div>27</div> <p>Lewis Carroll <i>National Geographic Society Founded (1888)</i></p>	<div>28</div> <p><i>Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist)</i> National Kazoo Day</p>
<div>29</div> <p><i>Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936)</i> National Puzzle Day</p>	<div>30</div> <p><b>Franklin D. Roosevelt born, 1882 (23rd President)</b></p>	<div>○ 31</div> <p>Backwards Day <i>Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Baseball Great)</i></p>				





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# FOOD

## Butternut Squash Swiss Chard Tart with Olive Oil Crust

### Crust Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups whole wheat pastry flour
- 3 Tbsp. pine nuts, toasted and chopped
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 cup Arbequina or Arbosana EVOO
- 3 Tbsp. ice water

### Tart Ingredients:

- 3 cups peeled and cubed butternut squash
- 4 tsp. Arbequina or Arbosana EVOO
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch Swiss chard, trimmed and thinly sliced (about 5 cups)



- 1 Tbsp. Traditional Balsamic Condimento
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2-1/2 oz. Gruyere cheese, finely grated

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups. Level with knife.
3. In a food processor, combine flour, 1-1/2 Tbsp. nuts, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper, and baking powder. Pulse to combine.
4. Combine 1/4 cup Arbequina EVOO and 3 Tbsp. water in a small bowl. With processor on, slowly add oil mixture through the food chute. Process until dough is crumbly. Sprinkle dough into a 9-inch pie plate coated with cooking spray. Press dough evenly into bottom and up the sides of pie plate. Bake at 400 degrees until lightly browned, about 20-24 minutes.
5. Combine cubed squash and 1 tsp. Arbequina EVOO on a rimmed baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Toss. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes, stirring just once.
6. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add remaining 3 tsp. (1 Tbsp.) Arbequina or Arbosana EVOO to the pan and swirl to coat. Add onion and garlic. Saute 7 minutes. Add chard, Traditional Balsamic Condimento, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Cook 3 minutes or until chard wilts.
7. Combine the chard mixture with the eggs and 2 oz. cheese in a large bowl. Add squash and remaining half of the nuts. Toss gently to coat. Pour the squash mixture into the crust, and sprinkle with the remaining cheese.
8. Bake tart at 400 degrees until the filling is set, about 20-25 minutes.



## Garlic Butter Acorn Squash

### Ingredients:

- cooking spray
- 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 1/4 cup butter, divided
- 4 teaspoons minced garlic, divided
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Place each squash half in the baking dish, cut side down.
3. Bake squash in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Flip squash over and place 1 tablespoon butter and 1 teaspoon garlic into each squash. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Bake squash, cut-side up until tender, about 20 more minutes. Cool for about 5 minutes before serving.



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